

Movement Building and Movement Leadership in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities

Winter 2020 Speaker Series

Presented by the

UCLA Asian American Studies Department and Asian American Studies Center

Hear innovative movement building activists and leaders share their personal experiences and perspectives on a range of approaches and issues of critical importance today.

Free and open to the public. All events will be held at 2125 Rolfe Hall.

February 13, 2020 | 4:30-5:50pm

BUILDING WORKER AND COMMUNITY POWER IN THE LA LABOR MOVEMENT

Emily Reyes, United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA)

Emmelle Israel, National AFL-CIO

Emily Reyes is a fifth grade teacher at Crescent Heights Social Justice and S.T.E.A.M Magnet Elementary School. She is chapter chairperson of United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) and a VP Board member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA). She is a native Los Angeleno, mother, and UCLA Alumna, B.A., Asian American Studies, 2005.

Emmelle (pronounced "Emily") Israel worked for the past 10 years with local and national labor groups, most recently as a Communications Specialist with the National AFL-CIO. As a communications staffer, Emmelle focused on empowering working people to tell their own stories about how they organized and won better conditions in their workplaces, as well as spreading the news about union victories to help inspire others to take a stand for their rights at work. She currently serves as the Chair for the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance's (APALA) Young Leaders Council and is on the Executive Board of APALA Los Angeles.

February 20, 2020 | 4:30-5:50pm

MOVING BEYOND CRITIQUE: CREATIVE INTERVENTIONS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS OF COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Mimi Kim, Cal State Long Beach

Mimi Kim is Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work faculty at California State University Long Beach. Her research expertise is in the areas of social movements and community organizing with an emphasis on domestic violence and sexual assault in communities of color. She is a long-time anti-domestic violence advocate in Asian immigrant and refugee communities and remains active in the promotion of community organizing, community accountability and transformative justice approaches to violence intervention and prevention.

February 27, 2020 | 4:30-5:50pm

YOUTH, LEADERSHIP AND SELF-CARE IN MOVEMENT COMMUNITIES

Tavae Samuelu, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Tracy Zhao, API Equality-LA

Tavae Samuelu is the Executive Director for Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC). She's passionate about liberation work and supporting the political consciousness and growth of youth. Tavae was born and raised in Long Beach, CA, and moved to the Bay to attend UC Berkeley where she majored in Ethnic Studies which she credits for her introduction and commitment to social justice.

Tracy Zhao is the Executive Director of API Equality-LA. Prior to joining as staff, Tracy was involved with API Equality-LA as an intern, volunteer, and Steering Committee Co-Chair. Tracy has worked with many progressive coalitions and community groups in Los Angeles on issues ranging from trans and queer immigrants' rights, decolonizing Western science, and training young API organizers in direct action organizing.

March 12, 2020 | 4:00-5:50pm

PROTEST THROUGH STORYTELLING

Nā'ālehu Anthony, Filmmaker, *Moananuiākea: One Ocean. One Canoe. One People*

Nā'ālehu Anthony is a Native Hawaiian from Ka'a'awa, O'ahu and is the founder of Palikū Documentary Films - a production company that focuses on documentaries and oral histories with a special emphasis on Hawai'i and its people. Anthony has a vast array of experience in the film industry and has been immersed in the Hawaiian community throughout his life. Nā'ālehu's other great passion is being a part of the voyaging community. As a crew member since 1996 and more recently as a captain aboard Hōkūle'a, his voyaging experiences have shaped and defined him as a person and has been a focal point for his films.