

Omi Salas-SantaCruz, Ph.D.

They/them pronouns.

Research & Teaching Interests

- Latina & Abya Yala Indigenous Feminist Philosophy
- Cuir, Quare, Jotería, & Trans of Color Critique
- Decolonial feminist epistemologies & pedagogy
- Trans co-formations/co-motions & assemblages
- Social /Critical Theory in Education & Educational Philosophy
- Decolonial Trans* Feminism
- Qualitative methods (Feminist, Indigenous, & Decolonial).
- Critical Phenomenology in Education Research

Academic Appointments

The University of Utah

July 2024-

Assistant Professor of Educational Theory/Philosophy of Education
(Emphasis on gender & sexuality).
Department of Education, Culture, & Society

The Pennsylvania State University

August 2023 to May 2024

Inaugural President's Postdoctoral Fellow in Transgender Studies.
State College, PA
Intro to Queer Latinx Theory

Stanford University

December 2021 to April 2022

Palo Alto, CA
Chicana/o/x Latina/o/x Studies Program
Lecturer, Intro to Trans Latinx Studies.

Education

University of California, Berkeley.

May 2022

Ph.D., in Education with Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory and Women, Gender, & Sexuality.
Berkeley, CA
AERA-Queer Sig Dissertation of the Year Award 2023

University of California, Berkeley.

May 2019

Master of Arts in Education
Berkeley, CA

Columbia University in The City of New York.

May 2014

Master of Arts in Sociology
New York, NY

University of California, Berkeley.

May 2013

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology & Public Policy minor (summa cum laude).
Berkeley, CA

Publications

Journal Articles:

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2023). “Nonbinary Epistemologies: Refusing Colonial Amnesia and Erasure of Jotería and Trans* Latinidades.” *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*. 51: 3 & 4. p.78-93.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2023) “Decoloniality & Trans* of Color Educational Criticism.” *Theory, Research, and Action in Urban Education*. Special Issues on Queer & Trans* Futurities in Educational Research & Practice. Vol.8:1.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2020). “Terca, pero no pendeja: (Re)fashioning Stubbornness, Refusing Violence, and Transformative Gestures in Higher Education.” *Association of Mexican-American Educators Journal*. Special Issue on Chicana Latinx Queer/Trans Pedagogies in Education. <https://doi.org/10.24974/amae.14.2.357>

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2019). “Soy Trans*fronterizx.” *Border-lines: Journal of the Latino Research Center*. Vol. XI. University of Nevada, Reno.

Book Chapters:

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2021). “Trans- Studies in Education Research.” In K. K. Strunk & S. A. Shelton (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Queer Studies in Education*. Brill. <https://brill.com/view/title/61619>

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2021). “Trans* Ethnic Studies (T*ES).” In K. K. Strunk & S. A. Shelton (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Queer Studies in Education*. Brill. <https://brill.com/view/title/61619>

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (2021). “Queer and Trans* of Color Critique, Decolonization, and Education.” In Cris Mayo (ed.), *Oxford Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality in Education*. New York: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.1336>

Forthcoming Journal Publications:

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (Jan 2024). “What is decolonial trans* feminism and what can it do for Queer/trans BIPOC Education Research?” *Journal of Queer and Trans Studies in Education (JQTSIE)*.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (Jan 2024). “Imperialist Feminism,” “Colonial Dysphoria,” & “Colonial Gender Continuum.” Glossary on Materialist and Decolonial Feminisms. *Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research*, *كل: مجلة لأبحاث الجسد و الجندر*.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. & DiPietro, P.J. (Jan 2024). “Decolonial Trans* Feminism. Glossary on Materialist and Decolonial Feminisms. *Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research*, *كل: مجلة لأبحاث الجسد و الجندر*.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (accepted). “My Pronoun is Fuck ICE: The Geopolitical & Pedagogical Implications of Decolonial Trans Feminisms.” *International Journal of Qualitative Studies of Education*. Special Issue on Planetary Entanglements: Geopolitical, Decolonial, and Relational Theories and Methodologies.

Forthcoming Book Chapters & Book Reviews:

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (accepted). “Jotería Literacies and Coalitional Possibilities.” Encyclopedia of Social Justice in Education. In Cortez, A. & Lizárrage (Eds.), *Language, Literacy, Youth, and Culture: Encyclopedia of Social Justice in Education*. Bloomsbury.

Salas-SantaCruz, O. (forthcoming, 2024). Invited review of “Rising Up, Living On: Re-Existences, Sowing and Decolonial Cracks” by Catherine Walsh (2023). *Women Studies Quarterly*.

Invited Lectures/Talks

- **The George Washington University, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Initiative.** Spring 2024. Invited lecture on Nonbinary Epistemologies to course Latin American Studies. Invitation from Associate Professor Manuel Cuellar.
- **Michigan State University, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Partnership.** Spring, 2024. “JoteríaCrit: New Decolonial Educational Possibilities.”
- **University of Galway, Irish Centre for Human Rights.** Spring 2024. Beyond Colonial Boundaries: Nonbinary Thinking Methods. (Week-long seminar for Ph.D. students).
- **Transformative Pedagogies: Reimagining Queer/Trans Educational Theory and Practice through Decolonial Feminist Metaphysics.** Spring 2024. University of Utah, Department of Education, Culture, & Society.
- **Programa Nacional Estratégico del Agua (Pronaces Agua). Consejo Nacional de Humanidades, Ciencias y Tecnologías de México.** Spring 2024. El agua, cuerpos, complementariedad, dualidad y equilibrio: Entendiendo las ontologías, epistemologías y formas de gobernanzas indígenas. || Water, bodies, complementarity, duality, and balance: Understanding Indigenous ontologies, epistemologies, and forms of governance.
- **Barnard College, Department of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies.** Spring 2024. Invited Lecture on Nonbinary Epistemologies to course: Sociology of Sexuality. Invitation from Dr. Ileana Jimenez.
- **San Francisco State University, Department of Latina/o Studies.** Spring 2024. Wellness-Territorio: joyas, transbuchas, travas, muxes, jotería entre-otrxs terquedades que curan.
- **UMass Boston, Department of Gender & Women Studies.** Spring 2024. Constellations of Existence: Decolonial Approaches to Trans* Knowledge, Pedagogy, & Practice.
- **Penn State University, Department of Geography.** Spring, 2024. “Wellness-Territorio: A Decolonial Feminist Geographical Method for the Study of Trans* Student World-Making.
- **University of California, Los Angeles.** Fall, 2023. Invited Lecture on Nonbinary Epistemologies to course: Honors Seminar in Chicana/o & Central American Studies. Invitation from Professor Laura Chavez-Moreno.
- **University of California, Los Angeles.** Fall, 2023. Convocation Speaker, School Education, and Information Sciences. “Becoming Terca Scholars: Stubbornly Insisting on Change & The Transformative Journey of Graduate Education.”
- **Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences.** Fall, 2023. Lecture on Diversity Education Opportunity, Office of Multicultural Affairs.

- **Hamilton College, Department of French, and Francophone Studies.** Spring 2023. “The X in LatinX is not up for debate, but if you insist.”
- **University of California, Santa Cruz.** Fall, 2022. “Decolonial Trans Methodologies for Resistance Studies in Education.” UCSC Education Department Colloquium, University of California, Santa Cruz.
- **Penn State University, Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Speaker Series.** Fall, 2022. “Inventadas/Inventada: Addressing the Coloniality of Transgender through Jotería Selves.”
- **UNC Greensboro, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.** Fall, 2022. “New Work in Trans Latinx Studies.”
- **Williams College, Creating Connections Consortium.** Summer, 2022. “Things No One Told Me About Grad School.”
- **UTE Euroinnova, Quito, Ecuador.** Spring, 2022. “La Universidad Frente a la Violencia de Género.”
- **Birzeit University, UC Berkeley, & Ghent University. Bridging Decolonial and Materialist Feminism Series.** Spring, 2022. “The University & The Colonial Gender Continuum: Murderous Transgender Inclusions and The Cultivation of Trans* Wellness as Resistance.”
- **Williams College, Creating Connections Consortium.** Summer, 2021. “My Gender is Sin Vergüenza: Trans* Latinidad, Inclusion & Belonging in Higher Education.”
- **Critical Race Studies in Education Association, Southern Illinois University.** Fall, 2021. “Addressing Anti-Blackness in Trans Diversity Initiatives.”
- **University of California, Berkeley Student Cooperative.** Spring, 2022. Lecture on Anti-Oppression & Anti-Racism Beyond the Gender Studies Classroom.
- **University of Houston, Clear Lake Campus. College of Human Sciences and Humanities.** Spring, 2021. First-Year Seminar and Humanities Programs. “From the Streets to the Classroom: Trans of Color Politics, Resources, and Possibilities.”
- **University of California, Berkeley Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Division of Equity & Inclusion.** Spring, 2021. Invited Panelist, “Critical Approaches to Transformative Justice & Trauma.”
- **University of California, Berkeley Student Cooperative.** Fall, 2020. “Creating Trans Inclusive Student Housing.”
- **NorCal T-Camp.** Spring, 2019. “Trans*itioning on the UC Campus.”

Conference Presentations

- Presenter, “Remembering to Streetwalk: Nonbinary Epistemologies and Intersubjective Theorizing,” American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2024.
- Presenter, “Decolonial Brown Trans* Commons,” American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2024.
- Presenter, “JoteriaCrit: Constructing New Decolonial Educational Possibilities,” American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2024.
- Presenter, Presidential Session: “Latinx Epistemologies and Decolonial Thiking: Trans* and Queer Futures 3.0,” American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2024.
- Presenter, “Yaaaaas Jota! Decolonial Communication & The Pleasure of Jotería Self-Talk. Association of Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS). Cal State, Los Angeles, 2024.

- Co-Presenter, "Jotería Crit: Constructing New Decolonial Educational Possibilities. " Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2023.
- Presenter, "Jotería Futures." AERA Queer SIG New Directions in Trans/Queer Latinx Studies.
- Presenter, "My pronoun is Fuck ICE" AERA Latinx Studies, 2023.
- Presenter, "Abnormal and Unnatural: Disrupting Trans* Pathologizing in Academia and Beyond." Center for Race and Gender. University of California, Berkeley, 2020.
- Presenter, "(Re)fashioning Stubbornness in the Face of Institutional Violence." Center for Race and Gender Research Symposium. University of California, Berkeley, 2020.
- Co-Presenter, "Queering Love Across Subjectivities, Temporalities, & Decolonial Imaginaries." QGrad Conference. University of California, Los Angeles, 2020.
- Presenter, "Terquedad: Remembering a Trans of Color Critique." Association of Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS). Portland, Oregon, 2019.
- Presenter, "The Politics of Trans Student Inclusion." American Educational Research Association (AERA), Toronto, Canada, 2019.
- Roundtable Presentation, "Indebted Criticism." American Educational Research Association (AERA), Toronto, Canada, 2019.
- Presenter "Understanding Queer Zones on University Campuses." AERA Queer SIG. New York City, 2018.
- Co-Presenter, "Intercultural Trans*-lation." AERA, 2018.
- Presenter, "Bodies in Process: Trans Politics and Possibilities in the College Campus." Berkeley Center for Race and Gender. University of California, Berkeley, 2018.
- Presenter, "The Transgender Child Must Be Defended." American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2018
- Discussant, "Intergenerational Jotería Activism." Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship. Minneapolis, MN, 2017.
- Co-Presenter, "Metida en Todo: Knowledge Sharing, Mothering, and Understandings of Indigenous Diaspora Discourse." AERA, San Antonio, 2017.
- Presenter, "Caution: Trans Students Cruising. Past Glories, Current Tensions, and the Making of Spatial Gender Performances at U.C., Berkeley." UC Berkeley, MCC 5th Annual Research Symposium, 2016.
- Presenter, "Queers in Court: Social Determinants of Procedural Justice." Department of Sociology Graduate Student Symposium. Columbia University, 2014.
- Presenter, "Reflections of the Public University Across Time and Space: A Case Study of the University of California, Berkeley." UC Berkeley Sociological Symposium, 2013.
- Presenter, "From Ivory Tower to Corporate Tower: The Social Consequences of Institutional Isomorphism at the University of California." University of Oslo, Norway, 2012.
- Presenter, "The Hidden Costs of Diversity: Admissions and Group Struggles for Socioeconomic Inclusion at UC Berkeley." Pacific Sociological Association. San Diego, CA, 2012.

Teaching Assistantships

University of California, Berkeley.

Education, Gender, and Trans-feminist Activism in Mexico, Department of Ethnic Studies.	Summer 2020
Gender, Sex, and Power, Department of Gender & Women's Studies.	Fall 2020
The Crafting of a Nation: Race, Gender, Nation, Department of Ethnic Studies.	Summer 2019
The Politics of Educational Inequality, Graduate School of Education.	Fall 2019
Cultural Representations of Sexuality, Department of Gender & Women's Studies.	Spring 2017
Race and Ethnicity Inside Schools, Graduate School of Education.	Fall 2016

The Research U: Principles, Processes, & Practices, Summer Bridge Program.	Summer 216
The People and Social Landscape of California, Department of Geography & Ethnic Studies.	Summer 2015

Barnard College.

The Sociology of Sexuality, Department of Sociology.	Spring 2014
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Columbia University in the City of New York.

Race, Schools, and Perceptions of Injustice (methods), Department of Sociology	Spring 2014
Race, Schools, and Perceptions of Injustice (theory), Department of Sociology	Fall 2013

Research Assistantships

University of California, Berkeley.

Lead Graduate Student Researcher, Berkeley School of Law.	2014-2018
Study: LGBT Relationships, Well-Being, and Law.	
PI: Professor Russell Robinson.	

Graduate Student Researcher, U.C., Berkeley Laboratory for The Study of Interaction and Discourse.	2014--2017
Study: Educational Experiences of Maya (Im)migrants in K-12.	
PI: Dr. Patricia Baquedano-Lopez.	

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Institute for The Study of Societal Issues.	2011-2012
Study: Immigrant Sanctuaries during the Bush Administration.	
PI: Dr. Trevor Gardner.	

Undergraduate Research Apprentice, Center for Ethnographic Research.	Summer 2011
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Columbia University.

Lead Graduate Student Researcher, Department of Sociology.	2013-2014
Study: Urban Youth, Race, and The Carceral Continuum.	
PI: Dr. Carla Shedd.	

Other Relevant Work Experience

Director, Graduate Initiatives Program.	2015-2022
Multicultural Community Center, University of California, Berkeley.	

Community Education Workshops

Workshop Facilitator, Racial Justice & Educational Equity, City of Vallejo, CA.	2020
Facilitator, “Y Ahora Que? Transgender Latinxs Attaining Documentation After Deportation.” Pocha House, Mexico City.	2019
Workshop Facilitator, “Entendiendo el género y la sexualidad de mi hijo.” SFUSD, San Francisco, CA.	2017
Workshop co-facilitator, “Entendiendo el racismo en las escuelas.” Marshall Elementary School. San Francisco, CA.	2016
Workshop Facilitator, “Understanding A-G Requirements.” San Diego City College.	2010
Facilitator, “Empowering Low-income and Underrepresented Students.” San Diego City College. 2009	
Facilitator, “Appealing Financial Aid Decisions.” San Diego City College.	2008

Professional Development Courses & Certifications

Certificate, Decolonial Summer School, Barcelona, Spain.	Summer 2023
Gender Equity Ambassador, Training on Gender & Sexual Violence Prevention, Penn State University.	Fall 2022
Certificate, Sexual Violence & Harassment Prevention & Response, U.C., Berkeley.	Spring 2021
Democratizing Our Data, Qualtrics for research via XM basecamp training, U.C., Berkeley.	Fall 2021
Certificate, Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, U.C., Berkeley.	Fall 2020
Python Fundamentals for Education Research, U.C., Berkeley.	Fall 2016
Pedagogy & The Art of Teaching and Learning, U.C., Berkeley.	Fall 2014

Recognitions and Awards

Dissertation of the Year Award, Queer SIG AERA.	2023
Paper of the Year Award, Honorable Mention, Queer Sig Issues AERA. 2022	
Finalist, U.C., Berkeley Graduate Assembly Graduate Student Mentorship Award.	2022
Teaching Effectiveness Award Nomination, U.C., Berkeley. 2021	
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, U.C., Berkeley.	2020
Ford Fellowship, Pre-dissertation Honorable Distinction.	2017
Finalist, Honorable Mention, The Point Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship. 2016	
Ford Fellowship, Pre-dissertation Honorable Distinction.	2016
Departmental Citation Candidacy, Sociology Department, U.C., Berkeley.	2012
Student Transfer & Re-entry Scholarship Recognition, U.C., Berkeley.	2010

High Achievement and Outstanding Promise Scholarship Recognition, U.C., Los Angeles.	2010
City of San Diego Commendation for the Advancement of LGBT Rights.	2010

Fellowships and Grants

President's Postdoctoral Fellow, Penn State University. (\$65,000/year).	2022-2024
University of California, Dissertation-Year Fellowship. (\$35,000).	2022
The Tracie Jada O'Brien Transgender Student Scholarship (\$1,000).	2022
U.C., Berkeley Dissertation Completion Fellowship. (\$35,000).	2021
U.C., Berkeley Grad Division Professional Development Grant. (\$7,000).	2019
Center for Race and Gender, Graduate Student Research Grant. (\$1,000).	2018
Center for Race and Gender, Working Group Grant. U.C. Berkeley. (\$2,000).	2017
The Dale Tillery Grant. (\$7,000).	2016
Center for Race and Gender, Working Group Grant. U.C., Berkeley. (\$5,000).	2015
Multicultural Community Center, Grad Student Project Grant. U.C. Berkeley. (\$15,000 per year)	2015-2022
Chancellor's Multi-Year Fellowship, U.C., Berkeley. (\$35,000 per year).	2014-2018
San Diego Scholarship Foundation Award. San Diego City College Foundation. (\$1,500).	2010
Salzburg Global Seminar Fellowship, Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria. (\$7,000).	2010

Service

Co-chair elect, American Educational Research Association, QUEER SIG.	2023
Reviewer & Chair, American Educational Research Association (AERA)	2022- present
· Indigenous SIG 10-20 papers.	
· Latin America SIG 10-20 papers.	
· Queer SIG 20-30 papers.	
Co-chair elect, Association for Jotería, Arts, Activism, & Scholarship.	2022- present
Co-facilitator, The Critical University Working Group, U.C., Berkeley CRG	2021-2022
Graduate Student Representative, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Communities, U.C., Berkeley	2015-2017
Grad Student Lead, Queer & Trans Latinidad de U.C. Berkeley.	2014-2016
Graduate Student Representative, Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Misconduct	
Columbia University Student Services.	2013-2014
LGBTQI Rights Advocacy, National Lawyers Guild.	2011-2012

Editor, La Raza Law Journal, U.C., Berkeley School of Law.

2011-2013

Founder & Education Coordinator, Latin@ Sociological Association, U.C., Berkeley.

2011-2013

Professional Affiliations

NWSA: Indigenous Peoples Caucus; Queer & Trans People of Color Caucus; Transnational Feminisms Caucus; Trans/Gender Variant Caucus.

AERA: Division G & L Member: Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG; Latina/o/x Research Issues SIG; Queer Studies SIG; Decolonial Studies SIG.

Association for the Study of Higher Education.

LASA: Latin American Studies Association: Gender & Feminist Studies, Latino Studies, & Sexualities Studies.

ASA: American Sociological Association, sections: Sociology of Education; Race, Gender, & Class; Sociology of Body and Embodiment; Sociological Practice & Public Sociology.

MALCS: Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social.