

Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium 2023

Friday February 3rd

UC Merced Conference Center 205 & [Zoom](#)

With generous sponsorship from

9:30am Light breakfast

10:30am

Ra Malika Imhotep

"Spillerian Ecdysis and The Marvelous Tar Baby: A Black Feminist Experiment in 'Stripping Down' and Getting Stuck"

Ra Malika Imhotep (Ra/they) is a Black feminist writer and performance artist from Atlanta, GA. Currently appointed as a 2022-2023 UC President's Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Dance at UC Riverside, their creative-critical work engages Black feminist thought + practice, Southern vernacular aesthetics, Black queer femininities, and the performance of labor.



12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm

Caleb Luna

"Let's Get Sickening: Queers of Color and Aestheticizing Health on RuPaul's Drag Race"

Caleb Luna is a UC President's and Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara. They hold a PhD in Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. Dr. Luna is currently completing a manuscript titled Body Talk: Race, Size and Sexuality in Media and Culture.



2:30pm

Natalia Duong

"Chemical Diasporas: The Kinships and Afterlives of Agent Orange"

Natalia Duong is a researcher, teacher, and multidisciplinary performance maker. She is a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English at UCLA where her research brings together performance studies, transnational Asian American studies, disability studies, and the environmental humanities in a study of the chemical compound Agent Orange.



Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium 2023

Saturday February 4th

UC Merced Conference Center 205 & [Zoom](#)

With generous sponsorship from



EJIE

Equity, Justice, and
Inclusive Excellence

9:30am Light breakfast

10:30am

Omar Pimienta

"Transborder Emergency Poetics"

Omar Pimienta is an artist/writer/scholar who lives and works in the San Diego / Tijuana border region. His practice examines questions of identity, transnationality, and emergency poetics. He holds a PhD in Literature from the University of California San Diego and an MFA in Visual Arts from the same institution.



12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm

Sahar Sajadieh

"Performing Techno-Liveness: How to Make Technologies Feel Alive"

Sahar Sajadieh is a digital media/performance artist (artist+activist) and theorist. She is a UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UCSD, with a Ph.D. in Media Arts and Technology from UCSB. Her research focuses on making interactive technologies and artificial intelligence more alive and their societal applications more ethical.



2:30pm

Sunaina Kale

"Reggae Relations: Indigenous and Black Confluences in Hawai'i"

Sunaina Keonaona Kale (Kanakanā Maoli) is a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow based at the University of California, Davis in the Department of Native American Studies. Her current book project on reggae in Hawai'i focuses on Indigenous and Black relationality and formations of Kanaka Maoli, local, and global identities in the music.

