

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

New Faculty AY 2022-2023

Antonio Roman-Alcalá – Department of AGES



Antonio Roman-Alcalá (he/him) is an educator, researcher, writer, and organizer based in Berkeley, California who has worked for just and sustainable food systems for the past 18 years. Antonio co-founded San Francisco's Alemany Farm, the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance, and the California Food Policy Council, and his 2010 documentary film, [In Search of Good Food](#), can be viewed free online. He holds advanced degrees from UC Berkeley and the International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, and has published everything from peer-reviewed and popular articles, to comic books and homemade fanzines. Antonio is a musician who has recorded dozens of albums, and a father who loves bike rides and rock climbing with the kiddo. He currently organizes food scholars through the international [Agroecology Research-Action Collective](#) (ARC), consults with the [Urban Permaculture Institute](#) (UPI), and is an advisor to various initiatives working towards land

access for young farmers, agroecological science, and community-based research. He is also in search of new land to farm – a tough prospect in the urbanized and gentrified San Francisco Bay Area!

Amy Díaz-Infante – Department of Art



Amy Díaz-Infante is a California-based visual artist and educator with a background in printmaking. She has taught at City College of San Francisco, CSU Monterey Bay, RISD, the Women's Studio Workshop, and the Mission Cultural Center's Mission Gráfica printshop. She is also the co-founder of Casa Comadre, a Mexican and Sicilian inspired children's clothing company. She holds a BA in Art from Yale University, an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, and a Collegiate Teaching Certificate from Brown University. She has exhibited nationally and within Mexico and is an alumna of the Djerassi Resident Artist Program. Community engagement has been a key component of her arts practice, and as an educator and administrator she has been active in the fields of youth arts and youth leadership.

SARA BORJAS – Department of English



Sara Borjas is a self-identified Xicanx pocha and a Fresno poet. Her debut collection, *Heart Like a Window, Mouth Like a Cliff* (Noemi Press, 2019) received a 2020 American Book Award. Sara was featured as one of Poets & Writers 2019 Debut Poets. She has received fellowships from MacDowell, CantoMundo, Sewanee Writer's Conference, Postgraduate Writers Conference, and Community of Writers. She stays rooted in Fresno.

Katie Bramlett – Department of English



Dr. Katie Bramlett joined the faculty of East Bay's Department of English after earning her PhD in English-Language, Writing, and Rhetoric from the University of Maryland. Dr. Bramlett teaches writing courses and works in Writing Across the Curriculum initiatives. Her research interests include Asian/American rhetoric, public memory, cultural rhetoric, women's activism, and disability studies.

Dr. Bramlett has taught courses in rhetoric and writing at the University of Maryland, Beijing Normal University, and University of Oklahoma. Her past courses include Digital Rhetoric: Technofeminism, Women and Public Memory in Digital and Physical Worlds, Introduction to Asian American Literature, and Graphic Design and Rhetoric. She has been published in notable journals including *College English*, *Peitho*, and *Composition Studies*. Dr. Bramlett was also a Fulbright Scholar and a College

Composition and Communion Conference (CCCC) Wikipedia Fellow. Her dissertation was titled "Genres of Memory and Asian/American Women's Activism."

Michael Schulze-Oechtering – Department of History



Michael Schulze-Oechtering is an Ethnic Studies-trained historian who specializes in the study of comparative/relational racialization, and anti-racist and decolonial social movements. The political and intellectual questions Michael asks were nurtured during his time as a participant and later co-facilitator of the Tyree Scott Freedom School, a week-long political education program for Seattle youth. Michael draws upon his past experiences as a youth organizer to develop a research and teaching agenda that examines how racialized subjects of U.S. Empire have both questioned and crossed racial boundaries. As a new faculty member in CSUEB's Department of History, Michael will be completing his current book manuscript, *No Separate Peace: Black and Filipinx Workers and the Labor of Solidarity in the Pacific*

Northwest, under contract with the University of Washington Press. This study examines the parallel and overlapping activist traditions and grassroots organizing practices of Filipinx cannery workers in Alaska and Black construction workers in Seattle between the 1970s and the early 2000s. Additionally, Michael looks forward to developing curriculum at CSUEB that places the concerns of social movements, from prison and border abolitionists to grassroots organizers building local solidarity economies, at the center of the study of U.S. and global history.

Gabriella Diaz-Davalos – Department of Modern Languages & Literatures



Since 2010, Gabriela Díaz-Dávalos (Ph.D., Temple University) has been teaching a variety of literature, linguistics, and culture courses, including language classes at all levels of the Spanish curriculum. A native of Mexico City, she has also contributed to cultural exchanges outside of the classroom through project-based learning opportunities, and she has engaged in community projects that explore and promote the diverse experiences of Latinx and Lusophone communities in the Greater Philadelphia and New York City regions.

Dr. Díaz-Dávalos' interdisciplinary research focuses on language accessibility and government communication in Mexico, as well as power dynamics behind the production, reception, and representation

of historically marginalized populations. Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Discurso & Sociedad*, and edited volumes such as *Lenguas en contacto* and *Fronteras y diálogos*, and her research informs her pedagogical approaches to foster students' global citizenship and diversity awareness.

Prior to joining CSUEB, Dr. Díaz-Dávalos taught at Princeton University, Villanova University, Temple University, and other public universities, community colleges, and K-12 institutions. She served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (2007-2011), and one of her passions is the Brazilian performative art of Capoeira, which she uses as a practice to engage and empower local youth in underrepresented communities.

Pooya Safarzadeh – Department of Political Science



Dr. Pooya Safarzadeh received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine with an emphasis in Public Law and Constitutional Law. He also holds a J.D. from Chapman University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science with Distinction from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Safarzadeh is a licensed attorney in the state of California and has several years of experience practicing law. His research examines how courts balance civil liberties and national security concerns during wartime. He will be the Pre-Law Advisor at Cal State East Bay and will teach courses in Public Law, Constitutional Law, and other classes in the Pre-Law Option.