

MICHELLE ALEJANDRA (ALEX) MIRELES

Doctoral Candidate | Department of Feminist Studies | University of California Santa Barbara
mmireles@ucsb.edu | www.alexmireles.com

EDUCATION

- Exp. 2026 Ph.D. Feminist Studies, University of California Santa Barbara
Dissertation: *Paisa Imaginaries: Popular Culture, Creative Labor, and Queer Mexicanidades in Southern California, 1980-Present*
Committee: Eileen Boris, Mireille Miller-Young, D. Inés Casillas
- 2022 M.A. Feminist Studies, University of California Santa Barbara
Thesis: *Paisa Aesthetics: Streetwear Fashion and Latinx Aesthetic Labor*
- 2017 B.S. Business Administration, *Cum Laude*, Simmons College

Certificates

- Exp. 2025 College and University Teaching, University of California Santa Barbara
- 2015 Fashion Marketing, Pasadena City College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Women of Color and Black Feminist Theory; Queer and Trans of Color Critiques of Capitalism; Productive and Reproductive Labors; Queer and Latinx Fashion, Media, and Popular Cultures.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

- 2024 Eileen Boris, Sarah M. Butler, and **Alex Mireles**, “Engendering Carcerality: An Introduction,” *Gender & History* 36, no. 3 (October 2024): 807–23,
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0424.12822>.

Public Scholarship

- 2025 “*Critical Fashion Studies Syllabus: Fashion, Media, and Feminist Theory*.” 2025. Public syllabus, self-published. Available at: <https://www.alexmireles.com/s-projects-side-by-side> . *Forthcoming*.
- 2024 Sara Hinojos and **Alex Mireles**, “Sonic Homes: The Sonic/Racial Intimacy of Black and Brown Banda Music in Southern California,” *Sounding Out!* (blog), October 7, 2024, <https://soundstudiesblog.com/2024/10/07/26336/>.

Editorial

2023-24 Editorial Assistant, *Gender & History*: Vol. 36, No. 3, Special Issue: Engendering Carcerality. Organized symposium, author workshops, and review process.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Feminist Studies, University of California Santa Barbara

Instructor of Record

Summer 2025 *Introduction to LGBTQ Studies*, (pending).

Summer 2023 *Introduction to Gender and Power*, (180 students).

Teaching Assistant

2018-2023 *Global Feminisms and Social Justice* (Spring 2023)
Women, Representation, and Cultural Production (Fall 2022)
Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (Summer 2022, Winter 2021)
Women of Color Feminisms (Summer 2024, Summer 2022, Fall 2019)
Sex, Love, and Romance (Summer 2022, Summer 2020, Spring 2020)
Introduction to Gender and Power (Summer 2021, Winter 2020, Summer 2019)
Women's Labors (Fall 2020)

Curriculum Development

2020-2021 “Feminist ACTION Lab: Antiracist Critical Theorizing-in-Action”, co-developed course for undergraduate major that focused on local social issues and community organizations.

Guest Lectures for Undergraduate Courses

Winter 2024 Guest Lecture. “Queer Paisa Sounds: Mexicanidad and Queer Affect in a New Generation of Corridos and Rancheras.” *Latinx Sound Cultures Seminar*, University of Illinois Chicago.

Spring 2023 Guest Lecture. “Aesthetics, Culture, and Theories of Excess.” *Global Feminisms and Social Justice*, University of California Santa Barbara

Summer 2022 Guest Lecture. “Queer of Color Critique.” *Introduction to LGBTQ Studies*, University of California Santa Barbara

Fall 2020 Guest Lecture. “Latinx Aesthetics and Creative Labor.” *Women's Labors*, University of California Santa Barbara.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of California Santa Barbara

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| 2024-25 | Graduate Division Central Dissertation Fellowship. Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. \$32,000. |
| 2022 | Nominee for Western Association of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis National Competition for the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. |
| 2022 | Charlotte Stough Memorial Prize. Department of Feminist Studies. |
| 2021-22 | Graduate Division Central Dissertation Fellowship. Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. \$24,000. |
| 2021 | Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award. Department of Feminist Studies. |
| 2020-21 | Racial Justice Initiative Award. Dean of the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. |
| 2018-19 | Graduate Division Central Dissertation Fellowship. Division of Social Sciences and Humanities. \$24,000. |

External Awards

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| 2023-24 | Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Crossing Latinidades Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship, Research Working Group on Latinx Sound Culture Studies. \$30,000. |
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CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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| Fall 2024 | Research Presentation. "Thumbing: Un/organized Curatorial Labor and Queer Chicanx Paisa Aesthetics as Digital Artifacts." <i>National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference</i> . |
| Spring 2024 | Research Presentation. "Queering Paisa Sounds: Mexicanidad and Queer Affect in a New Generation of Corridos and Rancheras." <i>Latina/o Studies Association Conference</i> . |
| Winter 2024 | Roundtable Participant. "Performing Race, Performing Space: Opening Roundtable '24." Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at University of California Santa Barbara. |
| Spring 2023 | Research Presentation. "Vaquero Softness: Paisa Aesthetics in Digital Space and Queering the Algorithm as Utopian Praxis." <i>National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference</i> . |

- Fall 2022 Panelist and Moderator. “Queer Vaqueros and Generos Neutrales: Digital Space, Queer Utopias, Anticolonial Relations.” *National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference*.
- Fall 2022 Panelist. “Reimagining Care and Work.” *Feminist Futures Initiative UCSB*.
- Fall 2021 Roundtable Participant. “We’re Still Teaching to Transgress and with Tenderness.” *National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference*.
- Fall 2021 Research Presentation. “Paisa Aesthetics: Latinx Aesthetic Practices in Streetwear Fashion.” *National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference*.
- Spring 2019 Research Presentation. “Radical Archives: Archival Methods and Black Feminist Politics of Care.” *To Freedom! Imagining Black Feminist Futures Colloquium UCSB*.
- Fall 2017 Speaker. “Reflection on 26 Years of OLA.” *Organización Latinoamericana Annual Latin Night of The Arts Simmons College*.
- Spring 2017 Workshop Facilitator. “Socially Minded Training: A Student Perspective on Leadership Activities Crucial for Success.” *Massachusetts Campus Compact Student Leadership Conference*.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- 2024-2025 Researcher. “Care Forward Academy” at the United Domestic Workers Resource Center, Worker’s Co-op Initiative funded by the Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy. University of California Santa Barbara. Principal Investigator: Eileen Boris and Fabienne Doiron.
- 2023-2024 Convener. Performing Race, Performing Space Research Focus Group. Collaborative workspace focused on interdisciplinary projects. Interdisciplinary Humanities Center. University of California Santa Barbara. Faculty convener: Jessica Nakamura.
- 2023 Research Fellow. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Crossing Latinidades Summer Institute on Latino Humanities Studies Methodologies and Theories. University of Illinois at Chicago. Principal Investigators: D. Inés Casillas, Sara V. Hinojos, Esther Díaz-Martín.
- 2017 Researcher. Boston Immersion: Building Community. Accepted proposal for Scott Ross Center for Community Service to integrate service-learning opportunities. Simmons College. Co-authors: Azeb Freitas and Tran Nguyen. Supervising Faculty: Cynthia Ingols.

2016 Researcher. Sustainability, Healthcare, and Entrepreneurship (SHE) in Cuba. Field research on new economic policy, women’s entrepreneurship, healthcare, and agricultural practices. Simmons College. Principal Investigators: Indra Guertler and Paula Gutlove.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP

Winter 2025 Presenter. “The Writing and Editing Process.” Graduate Student Workshop Series with Dr. Eileen Boris and Dr. Jennifer Tyburczy, UCSB.

2023-2024 Mentee. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Crossing Latinidades Mentorship and Professionalization Program with Dr. Deborah R. Vargas Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration at Yale University.

2019-2020 Training. Lead Teaching Assistant Institute, UCSB.

2019 Training. Assessing Student Learning: Effective Questioning and Classroom Assessment Techniques, UCSB.

LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY

2022-present Co-founder, Queer Arts Collective, UCSB.

2021-2022 Graduate Student Representative, Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB.

2020-2021 Committee Member, Feminist Anti-Racist Research Committee, Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB.

2019-2021 Lead Teaching Assistant, Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB.

2019 Committee Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB.

2018-2019 UAW Local 2865 Teaching Assistants Department Union Rep, UCSB.

2016-2017 President, Organización Latinoamericana, Simmons College.

2015-2017 Founding Member, Student of Color Inclusion Council, Simmons College.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Women’s Studies Association, Latino/a Studies Association, National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, American Studies Association

LANGUAGE

English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Italian (beginner)

REFERENCES

Dr. Eileen Boris

Hull Endowed Chair Professor of Feminist Studies

4703 South Hall

UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

boris@femst.ucsb.edu

Dr. Mireille Miller-Young

Associate Professor of Feminist Studies

4712 South Hall

UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

mmilleryoung@femst.ucsb.edu

Dr. Dolores Inés Casillas

Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies

1705 South Hall

UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

casillas@ucsb.edu