

We invite you to a job talk by:

Dr. Julissa Muniz



Tuesday, January 16th
11:30am-1:00pm
Meeting ID: 943 1665 0456
Password: 01162024

Learning from Within: A Critical Ethnography of the Logics, Leaders, and Learners in a Juvenile Detention Center

Drawing on data from a three-year critical ethnography of a juvenile detention center in the Midwest, Dr. Muñiz will discuss and complicate how we understand and study the relationship between schools and carceral settings. Using institutional theory and critical race theory, Dr. Muñiz will explore how organizational actors within a juvenile detention center, including school leaders, teachers, administrators and security staff, make sense of and approach developing programs for incarcerated youth. In doing so, she will highlight how racialized carceral logics, via logics of safety and security, are sustained and reproduced despite some social actors' efforts to advocate for organizational shifts in philosophy, approach, and practice. Throughout the presentation, Dr. Muñiz will also discuss how incarcerated youth experienced and made sense of what it meant to live and learn in the carceral context. This project invites both researchers and practitioners to grapple with what it means to center people's liberation while also attending to the here and now of youth confinement and the schooling conditions youth experience while incarcerated.

Julissa O. Muñiz is Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research explores questions of race and racism, identity development, teaching and learning, carcerality, and abolition at the intersections of the public education and juvenile legal systems. Given the interdisciplinarity of her work, Dr. Muñiz draws on a range of theories from education, psychology, human development, and critical carceral studies to better understand what it means for incarcerated students to live and learn in the carceral context. Her research has been generously funded by the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation, the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, the Social Science Research Council, and The Northwestern Buffett Institute among others. Dr. Muñiz's research is deeply informed by her decade plus experiences volunteering and teaching in various correctional facilities throughout the U.S., learning with and from students who were incarcerated. Dr. Muñiz holds a Ph.D. in in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University (2022), Ed.M. in Prevention Science and Practice from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley.