



UCSB MULTICULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS

CARE OR CRIMINALIZATION?: BIPOC YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The Foster Care system is often understood as a system of help for our most vulnerable populations, children and youth - this panel asks us to complicate this understanding to unpack the ways this system, embedded with carceral logics, impacts BIPOC youth. How can we shift our understanding of this system to center the needs of BIPOC youth? How can we understand the criminalization and pathologization of BIPOC youth within this long standing system? How can we think about the foster care system in relation to abolitionist discourse? Join the MCC for a discussion that explores the contemporary foster care systems impacts on BIPOC youth and the ways that youth practice resistance to this system of control.



Ali Guajardo, LCSW (he/him) is a behavioral health consultant and clinician at the Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics where he specializes in transgender behavioral healthcare. As a former foster youth, Ali weaves experiential knowledge with clinical expertise to offer intersectional approaches to his practice.



Eclasia Wesley, (she/her) is a public speaker, former foster youth + advocate and educator with a background in Black feminism, youth leadership and foster care issues. She has over ten years' experience working with Tay populations, LGBTQI+ students, students of color, and young women of color throughout South LA.



Kayla Martensen (she/her) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois Chicago and an instructor at Loyola University Chicago, where she teaches class related to punishment, race, gender and social justice. Her research focuses on Latinx/a young women who experience incarceration in a variety of institutions, including juvenile detention centers.



Levette Morales is a Parent Partner with Casa Pacifica's Wraparound program in Santa Barbara County. As a former foster youth, Levette supports parents and caregivers in gaining an increased understanding of systematic and interpersonal traumas and learning skills to support caring for high needs youth.

MODERATED BY ISABELLA RESTREPO

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 6 PM PST
ONLINE DISCUSSION**

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://UCSB.ZOOM.US/J/86042991648](https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/86042991648)