Message from the Director

Dina Okamoto

Dear friends and colleagues,

The IU and CRRES community deserves much thanks for such a successful year at the Center! We increased our visibility and impact through our small grants program (see a list of awardees on p. 7) and our first Friday coffee hours each month, where students and faculty engage in lively conversations over coffee and breakfast snacks. We also organized and hosted a dynamic speaker series this year, highlighting our own CRRES faculty affiliates and postdocs, as well as accomplished scholars from other universities. These talks focused on a variety of topics ranging from how contemporary social and biological scientists understand the nature of race; to the forgotten history of early African American film exhibition during the era of mass migration and Jim Crow; to the unexpected ways that race, immigration, and religion are shaping Asian American politics (see list of past talks on p. 6). We’ve had great attendance, so I hope that you will join us for CRRES talks in 2015-16.

CRRES also had the opportunity to collaborate on a number of major events throughout the year relating to research on race and ethnicity with the IU Maurer Law School, IU Cinema, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Asian American Studies, Latino Studies, First Nations Educational and Cultural Center, as well as the Departments of History, Political Science, and Sociology. These events included a number of symposiums, including "Rights and continued on page 2
Retrospectives: The Civil Rights Act at 50”, “The Politics of Race and Representation: Latinos and Latino Americans in the American Imaginary,” and “Brown at 60.” We hope to co-sponsor future events with these units, and look forward to building relations with additional centers, departments, and programs in and outside the College.

We have also grown in numbers over the past year, as we added five new faculty affiliates: Ishan Ashutosh (Geography), Aziza Kazzoom (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), Alex Lichtenstein (History), Akwasi Owusu-Bempah (Criminal Justice), and Stephanie Power-Carter (Education). We also welcomed nine graduate student affiliates: Jessica David (Counseling Psychology), Ryan Davis (Education), Sam Kye (Sociology), Elizabeth Martinez (Sociology), Tilicia Mayo-Gamble (Public Health), Tamara Mitchell (Spanish and Portuguese), Fileve Palmer (Anthropology), Holly Schreiber (American Studies & Comparative Literature), and Lei Wang (Counseling Psychology).

The CRRES Postdoctoral Fellowship Program continues to develop as well. This program provides exceptionally promising recent PhDs an opportunity to conduct research and teach here at IUB. CRRES Postdoctoral Fellows are in residence for two years, and the larger goal of the program is to help train the next generation of scholars conducting research on race and ethnicity in the U.S. and beyond. Julie Merseth (Political Science) and Nicole Ivy (History), the first cohort of CRRES Postdoctoral Fellows, finished at IU in May and have moved on to their new positions. The second cohort, Diana Martha Louis (AAADS) and Sean Gantt (Anthropology), will be in residence for another year. The third cohort of postdoctoral scholars, Tristan Ivory (Sociology) and Hyeyoung Kwon (Sociology), will arrive in August. See p. 8 for more on the postdocs.

I’d like to thank all students and faculty who continue to participate in CRRES – you all are vital to continuing to build the CRRES community. A special thanks also goes out to the College of Arts and Sciences for continuing to support CRRES programming and staff, and to DEMA for supporting the CRRES coffee hours.

Please check out the new CRRES website (www.crres.indiana.edu) and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/crres.iub). I would also love to hear from you about ideas for the Center as we move into our fourth year at IU. Please don’t hesitate to send me an email or drop by the CRRES office.

continued from page 1

As part of the CRRES Speaker Series, Prof. Debra Thompson discusses the role of the census in race-making in the US, UK, and Canada

Prof. Janelle Wong discusses religion and racial politics in the CRRES Speaker Series
Postdoctoral Scholars

Sean Gantt (Anthropology) produced and directed a short collaborative video project with the students enrolled in his “Ethnographic Video Methods” course documenting their class experience. In addition, he presented his research at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association and the American Indian Studies Association annual meetings. He also presented and chaired a session at the Annual American Anthropological Association meeting.

Nicole Ivy (History) recently completed her two-year CRRES postdoctoral appointment. In the fall, she gave the talk “The Corner of My Yard: The Slave Clinic as Carceral Space” as part of the CRRES Speaker Series. She has accepted an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Public Fellow postdoctoral fellowship in Washington, D.C., where she will be working with the American Alliance of Museums.

Diana Martha Louis (AAADS) recently received the National Center for Institutional Diversity Exemplary Diversity Scholar award from the University of Michigan. She was also nominated for the 2015 IU Black Faculty and Staff Student Choice Award. She has presented her research at the Popular Culture Association and National Women's Studies Association conferences and has given invited lectures at the University of Delaware and the University of New Hampshire.

Julie Merseth (Political Science) completed her two-year CRRES postdoctoral position at the end of May 2015. Her current book project, tentatively titled, Beyond Panethnicity: Immigration and the Challenges of Racial Solidarity, investigates the potential and pitfalls of forging a race-based political solidarity among Asian Americans and Latinos. She has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University.

Faculty Affiliates

Marlon Bailey (American Studies and Gender Studies) was awarded the Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize from the GL/Q Caucus of the Modern Language Association (MLA) for his book Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit.

Jeannine Bell (Law) was named Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law.


Matthew Hayes (Political Science) co-authored the article “Determinants of Perceived Skin-Color Discrimination in Latin America,” published in The Journal of Politics.

Akwasi Owusu-Bempah (Criminal Justice) has actively participated in discussions of race and policing across campus, including the CRRES Speaker Series and the forums “Ferguson: Policing's Past, Present, and Future” and “It's Not So Black & White: Talking Race, from Ferguson to Bloomington.”

continued on page 4
John Nieto-Phillips (History) received a 2015-2016 Fulbright Senior Researcher Grant. He will spend the fall semester in Madrid, researching, writing and collaborating with scholars at the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares.

Christina Snyder (History and Native American and Indigenous Studies) was been named Thomas and Kathryn Miller Associate Professor of History.

Marvin Sterling (Anthropology) was awarded a 2014-15 Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching and Collaboration Short-Term Faculty Fellowship for his project “The Postcolonial Regime of Human Rights: The Jamaican Case in Historical and Ethnographic Context.”


Ellen Wu (History) has been awarded the Immigration and Ethnic History Society’s inaugural First Book Award for The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority. She was also awarded a NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) fellowship for the next academic year. Her project is entitled, “Over-represented: Asian-Americans in the age of Affirmative Action.”

Graduate Affiliates

Jessica L. David (Counseling Psychology) received the Paul F. Munger Award for 2015-16 academic year, which is given to students who have demonstrated high promise as educators, researchers, and as vital contributors to the community within the counseling psychology program. In addition, her article “Disorder Eating in College Student-Athletes: Prevention and Intervention through Sport and Performance Psychology” was accepted for publication in the 2015 Performance Excellence Newsletter by the Association of Applied Sport Psychology.

Ryan J. Davis (Education) received the IU President’s Diversity Doctoral Scholars Award and has presented at both the American Educational Research Association and the American College Personnel Association meetings.

Sam Kye (Sociology) received Indiana University’s nomination for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award. In addition, his paper “Revisiting White Flight and Segregation: The Consequences of Ethnoburbs” received an honorable mention in the Division of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Student Paper Competition at the Society for continued on page 5
Visiting Scholar

Carolin Fischer

CRRES welcomed our first Visiting Scholar this past Fall. Carolin Fischer came from the Department of International Development at Oxford and while in residence, she completed her dissertation on diaspora formation and civic engagement among Afghans in Germany and the UK.

“"I was given plenty of time and space to push forward my work while benefiting from multiple opportunities for scientific exchange and networking at the same time. The opportunity to present key aspects of my research to a group of CRRES affiliates further enhanced the final stage of dissertation write-up. Following my presentation the audience raised several points, which helped me rethink and sharpen conceptual and empirical issues at the heart of my work. Throughout my stay at Indiana University, I experienced CRRES as a very welcoming and supportive host.”

Carolin is now working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where she has joined a team of researchers working on a newly launched project titled “Gender as Boundary Marker in the Realm of Migration and Mobility.”
The CRRES Speaker Series invites nationally and internationally renowned scholars, as well as emerging scholars like the Center’s postdoctoral fellows, to present cutting edge research on race and ethnicity in the United States and beyond. In these presentations, the Center emphasizes a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of race and ethnicity, including presentations by sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, historians, legal scholars, and researchers from a range of other disciplines.

Marvin Sterling, CRRES Associate Director

Debating the Nature of Race: Dueling Concepts of Human Difference
Ann Morning
Sociology, New York University

Conceptualizing a Relational Approach to Diaspora and Diaspora Engagement
Carolin Fischer
CRRES Visiting Scholar
International Development, Oxford

The Corner of My Yard: The Slave Clinic as Carceral Space
Nicole Ivy
CRRES Postdoctoral Fellow
History, Indiana University

The Wages of Resistance: Considering the Subsistence of Social Movements
Quincy Mills
History, Vassar College

Black Men and Urban Policing, Toronto Style
Akwasi Owusu-Bempah
Criminal Justice, Indiana University

Envisioning Freedom: Cinema and the Building of Modern Black Life
Cara Caddoo
American Studies, Indiana University

Religion, Race, and the Right in Asian America
Janelle Wong
Asian American Studies, U of Maryland, College Park

The Schematic State: Race, Transnationalism, and the Politics of the Census
Debra Thompson
Political Science, Ohio University

Prof. Quincy Mills gave a talk in December as part of the CRRES Speaker Series
Graduate Student Research Grants (GSRG)

**Carl Robert DeMuth**, Anthropology
“Coal Heritage Archaeology”

**Safak Kilictepe**, Anthropology
“Reproducing a ‘Racially Pure’ Nation through the Regulations of Reproductive Technologies: High-Tech Islamist State Prenatalism and Kurdish Women’s Reproduction”

**Jedidiah Kuhn**, American Studies
“The Stewart Indian School: Colonial Regulation and Assimilation”

**Alaina Roberts**, History
“Chickasaw Freedpeople in Nineteenth-century Indian Territory”

**Juan Rojas**, Folklore & Ethnomusicology
“Post-Paramilitary Violence and Collective Reparation through Traditional Music in a Colombian Afro-Caribbean Town”

Graduate Student Travel Grants (GSTG)

**Kirk Harris**, Political Science

**Sarah Monson**, Anthropology

**David Nguyen**, Education

**Shu-Yi Wang**, Psychology

**Francesca White**, Education

“CRRES seed funding facilitated the development of two successful grant proposals. In June 2014, I was selected as one of IU’s nominees for a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend. In December, I was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 2015-2016 to support my book project “Overrepresented: Asian Americans in the Age of Affirmative Action.” Thank you, CRRES!”

Ellen Wu, 2014 FSG Recipient

Faculty Seed Grants (FSG)

**Matthew Hayes**, Political Science
“Race and Voter Identification Laws”

**Jason McGraw**, History
“The Loudest Island in the World: Jamaican Music at Home and Abroad, 1940s-1970s”

**Jakobi Williams**, African American and African Diaspora Studies
“The Original Rainbow Coalition of Late-1960s-era Chicago”

2014 GSTG recipient Caralee Jones (African American and African Diaspora Studies) delivers the presentation “‘Just as Black?’: Understanding the Racial and Ethnic Identities of Afro-Caribbeans in the U.S.” Jones, along with co-author Christy Erving (Sociology), placed second in a graduate student paper competition at the 2013 Association of Black Sociologists conference in New York City.
Tristan Ivory (Sociology; 2015-2017) received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University. His areas of research specialization include international migration, indigenous self-representation, and identity. He earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. His dissertation, entitled “Nanta Hosh Chahta Immi? (What are Choctaw Ways?): Cultural Preservation in the Casino Era,” investigates the long-term impacts of tribal economic development programs on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) reservation in East-Central Mississippi.

Hyeyoung Kwon (Sociology; 2015-2017) received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on immigration, comparative race/ethnicity, social inequality, and family. She is working on her book manuscript, tentatively titled “Translating Race and Class: The Family Work of Bilingual Children of Immigrants,” which analyzes how racial meanings that depict Latinos as a problematic underclass and Asian-Americans as successful foreigners reverberate in the family lives of working class immigrant youth. This study is based on ethnographic research and 80 interviews with children “language brokers” who translate for their immigrant parents in racialized and English-speaking spaces of America.

Sean Everette Gantt (Anthropology; 2014-2016) is a visual and public anthropologist with training in both archaeology and ethnography, specializing in Southeastern U.S. Native American Studies. His research focuses on economic development, indigenous self-representation, and identity. He earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. His dissertation, entitled “Nanta Hosh Chahta Immi? (What are Choctaw Ways?): Cultural Preservation in the Casino Era,” investigates the long-term impacts of tribal economic development programs on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) reservation in East-Central Mississippi.

Diana Martha Louis (African American and African Diaspora Studies; 2014-2016) received her Ph.D. in English from Emory University. In her dissertation, “Peculiar Institutions: Representations of Nineteenth-Century Black Women’s Madness and Confinement in Slavery and Asylums,” she analyzes Harriet Jacobs’ Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl alongside narratives reconstructed from newspapers, patient ledgers, and hospital annual reports about formerly enslaved women sent to Georgia’s state mental asylum (Milledgeville) between 1881 and 1894. Louis argues that American psychiatry made black women mad by constructing disorder according to prevailing notions of black femininity and inflicting real psychological harm within asylums.
From Ferguson to Bloomington: 
It’s Still Too Black and White

Tamara Mitchell
Ph.D. Student
Spanish and Portuguese

During the 2014-2015 academic year, national protests against police brutality and institutional racism, such as hashtag movements #ReclaimMLK, #BlackLivesMatter, and #icantbreathe, have had a local presence on the IU Bloomington campus. Hundreds of students and Bloomington residents have participated in die-ins, marches, and demonstrations in response to the controversy surrounding recent deaths of black Americans at the hands of police officers.

The March 26th public forum, “It’s Not So Black and White: Talking Race, from Ferguson to Bloomington,” sought to bring this national conversation to IU. The forum, organized by Professors Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, Michelle Moyd, Kaya Sahin, and graduate student Stephanie Huezo, of the History Department’s Diversity Committee, brought together a panel of experts from diverse fields and backgrounds to discuss the implications of the protests, hashtag movements, and governmental response to recent race-related events. Moderated by Professor Jeannine Bell of the Maurer School of Law, the panel sought to consider national events – such as the 2012 death of Trayvon Martin, the August 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, to Eric Garner’s now infamous words “I can’t breathe” – as matters of importance to Indiana University and the Bloomington community.

The atmosphere of the forum began hopefully, as Dr. Myers acknowledged the wide-ranging support that both the University and the Bloomington community displayed for the forum. Her introduction was followed by an improvisational dance entitled “Shadow over My Hope,” by Assistant Professor Nyama McCarthy-Brown of IU’s Contemporary Dance Program, and her son, young Kasim. McCarthy-Brown’s performance struck a bittersweet and familiar chord, as the voiceover wondered about her son’s future in a world that might pigeonhole him into a predetermined role that he does not deserve.

The topics that each panelist discussed were diverse, but intrinsically related. IU’s and CRRES’s own Dr. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, discussed the causes and consequences of racially biased policing and presented a concrete strategy for seeking to overcome police brutality in the future – namely mutual respect and accountability on the part of citizens and the police force. Judge Valeri Haughton, of Monroe County’s 10th Circuit Court, gave a breakdown of local and campus police demographics, and highlighted the ways that City of Bloomington, Indiana University, and Monroe County Police are making efforts to engage with the topic of race. And Dr. William Jelani Cobb, Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut and a contributor to the New Yorker, demystified the notion of “progress” by examining the Obama Presidency alongside race-related violence that has occurred with impunity since the 2008 election.

“How do we – students, faculty, community members, black, white, Asian, Hispanic – how do we do something about racism? How can Indiana University and the city of Bloomington work to end this systemic problem?”

continued on page 10
Dr. Cobb, fresh off an appearance on “All In With Chris Hayes,” introduced the term “contingent citizenship” to conceptualize the difference between citizenship for people of different races in the United States. Cobb argues that, unlike whites, many citizens of color in the United States do not have the same citizenship and all the rights it supposedly ensures. Instead, US Americans of color have something resembling “counterfeit citizenship,” which looks the same, but, in the moment they try to exchange it for the rights they are supposedly party to, the counterfeit citizenship reveals itself for the worthless currency it truly is. This is true, Cobb notes, even in the case of President Obama, who has had to “prove” his citizenship time and again.

Despite this somber message during the Q&A session, the evening was crafted to show participants some of the many ways that IU students and Bloomington residents are able to work toward addressing the issue of racism in the United States. The evening included original dance and song, showing how artistic performance can be a means of demonstration, and the panel concluded with a Justice Fair, which showcased more than 65 local and university organizations that work toward informing and improving the community. Lastly, Dr. Myers closed the session with the advice to “Demonstrate, Dialogue, Do,” in an effort to remind participants that we must engage with these topics both intellectually and as activists in order to effect and continue demanding substantive change.

As the panel came to a close and the crowd moved toward the Justice Fair next door, graduate student Diana Velázquez of Latin American Studies ended the night with an original song, “Ain’t the 1960s,” which reiterated the contrasting messages of the night. Velázquez’s song invoked the bloody Civil Rights Movement, which took the lives of people like Samuel Hammond Jr., who was killed during a 1968 student protest in Orangeburg, South Carolina. As the lyrics intoned, for the families of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Michael Brown, not much has changed in the 47 years that have passed since the Civil Rights Act, which was signed the same year as Hammond’s death. But the song also reiterated the power of solidarity, and revisited the forum’s subtitle, as Velázquez sang, “Trayvon Martin... Samuel Hammond... We stand in line with you. This ain't the 1960s. We still want change.” From Ferguson all the way to Bloomington, Indiana, we continue seeking to resolve racial inequality in the United States.
During the month of April 2015, the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) co-sponsored the film series MOVEMENT: ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICA with the Asian Culture Center, Asian American Studies Program, The Media School, and IU Cinema, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This series specifically commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act, which historically changed not only the demographics of the U.S., but also the cultural, economic, and political makeup of the nation. The films in the series depict the common struggle to realize the American Dream, but they also provide a venue for viewers to catch a glimpse of the complexities and multifaceted lives of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

Directed by Andrew Lau and Andrew Loo, Revenge of the Green Dragons is a crime drama based on the true story of a Chinese-American gang in New York City in the 1980s. In order to survive and “be somebody,” two immigrant brothers Sonny and Steven join the Chinatown gang the Green Dragons. Although they are able to work their way up the hierarchy by proving their loyalty to the gang, both brothers struggle to maintain their sense identity, leading them question their values and morals. Because Steven carelessly kills a white American—a taboo among the Green Dragons—he draws the unwelcome attention of the NYPD the ire of the gang leader.

“It’s interesting that the critics hate the film because it is not an easy film to watch,” co-director Andrew Loo comments in an interview. Although on the surface level, the film seemed to focus on the brutality of gang life, the directors did a great job at shedding light on the psychological world of the two brothers, especially Sonny, with subtle techniques such as yellowish-green lighting throughout the film and an emphasis on non-verbal communication between the characters. This last detail parallels many Asian cultures’ emphasis on “high context communication,” which is anchored in codes and shared meaning, rather than explicit verbal content. Because my research focuses on Asian and Asian American populations, I was able to capture some of the psychological nuisances that the film that further its message about undocumented immigration and the shattering of the American Dream.

This film also serves as a medium for illustrating that the “model minority myth” may not fit with the experiences of some Asians and Asian Americans. In the film, viewers see this how this myth—paired with the idea of the U.S. as a meritocracy—drove the life decisions of the main characters as well as the undocumented immigrants featured in the film, allowing them to bear the misconception that the American Dream would be realized after coming to the U.S. I very much appreciated that the film showed another side of the community that is often overlooked and even less so talked about in mainstream media.

I found myself very much impacted by the film even a few days afterwards. I wish that there was a panel that followed the screening so that the viewers could discuss the implications and takeaways of the film, and clarify some of the confusion and perhaps misunderstandings that the crime drama might evoke. Historical background on the Immigration Act would better contextualize the narratives of the main characters and help the audience to understand their experiences. Being able to empathize with marginalized groups in terms of the discrimination, oppression, and hardships they have endured historically not only creates a culture where diversity is genuinely appreciated but also helps us become better allies and advocates for social justice.
Jessica Smith just celebrated her one-year anniversary as the administrative assistant for CRRES. She maintains the CRRES office and provides administrative support for the Center’s activities. She also assists with the planning and scheduling of CRRES events such as the speaker series, and helps to design and distribute CRRES materials. Jessica earned her B.A. in Psychology at Indiana University and brings years of experience in customer service and administration.

Elizabeth Martinez is the 2015–16 CRRES Graduate Research Assistant as of July 1. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology and is interested in the experiences of racial/ethnic minorities within institutions of higher education. Her current research focuses on two main areas: the influence of social and cultural capital on educational outcomes for racial/ethnic minorities; and the impact of racial campus climate on college students’ experiences.