In the wake of the much publicized Rodney King beating in 1992 and the more recent Ferguson debacle in 2014, there has been increasing public concern with officer-involved shootings and the victimization of people of color by police. But the victimization of Latinos has been largely ignored. This case study consists of participant observation and ethnographic field research on a series of officer-involved shootings in a medium-sized city in Southern California.

This presentation offers a brief overview of the historical, political, and economic context for the justification and building of Pelican Bay State Prison. I will explore how the rise of Pelican Bay State Prison and, what I term, a “moral panic of the Mafioso,” has informed the criminalization of Latin@s in a moment of white supremacist economic restructuring, the implementation of neoliberal policies to resolve capitalist crisis, and a surge of mass Latino migration.

This session will present how a structural assault on public education in Los Angeles County may be understood through a case study on the city of Compton. We will learn how communities that have been historically marginalized are re-imagining education and what their situated knowledge reveals about race, politics, and education.

This presentation will discuss how I came to my research topic and some of the ways historical research can be a part of community based policy change and community organizing. I will also present some of the early findings in my research.

This research-in-progress focuses on how the historic CA drought has impacted unincorporated farmworking communities in the Central Valley. It seeks to identify coping strategies used by the residents as well as the role of social support networks.