

Education and Incarceration for Lakota Youth on the Rosebud Reservation, 1886 – Present: A Community-Engaged Project Incorporating Decolonizing Methodologies

The mentee will read literature in critical race studies, Indian education, community-engaged scholarship, and decolonizing methodologies. Tria will work with Sara to code and transcribe interviews, oral histories, and photographs of written documents. The project concludes with a co-presentation in late summer 2015 on the Rosebud Reservation. Tria will work with Sara to write the presentation and an abstract. Tria will introduce Sara to community members, so that if Sara decides to undertake independent research on the Rosebud Reservation in the future, she already has contacts in place.



*Tria Wakpa Blu (Tria Andrews)
Ph.D. Candidate, Ethnic Studies,
Native American Studies*

Tria Wakpa Blu (Tria Andrews) is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of California, Berkeley, and a graduate of the MFA program in Creative Writing at San Diego State University. Her dissertation, “Education and Incarceration for Lakota Youth on the Rosebud Reservation, 1886-Present,” investigates the relationships between colonial education paradigms at St. Francis Mission School, a former on-reservation boarding school (1886-1972) and the culturally relevant curricula at Wanbli Wiconi Tipi (Eagle Life Home), the tribally run juvenile hall founded in 2005. The dissertation delineates how U.S. colonial educators and Lakota community members have employed embodied practices for similar purposes — remembering, producing local and national loyalties — but with contradictory goals.

Tria is invested in projects that bridge the academy and community. She is the founder and co-facilitator for the Race and Yoga Working Group through the Center for Race and Gender at UC Berkeley. Tria actively pursues opportunities to strengthen her pedagogy by working as an instructor for a wide range of classes with diverse groups of students. She has taught courses for Poetry for the People, Prison University Project, Sinte Gleska University, UC Berkeley, and the University of San Francisco. Tria is excited to further strengthen her mentoring praxis through the SMART program by engaging with others who have similar commitments to research and teaching, practicing self-reflexive thinking about her mentoring, and requesting feedback from her mentee, so that the SMART program is also a learning process for her.



*Sara Trail, American Studies,
Senior, American Studies*

Sara Trail is a rising senior at the University of California, Berkeley, with a major in American Studies (concentrations in Political Science and Public Policy) and a double minor in Education and African American Studies. Through her educational experience, she has learned that many youth are denied access to educational resources — often resulting in actions that lead to their incarceration. This program will give her an opportunity to sharpen her research skills and collaborate with an underserved community. Although reasons vary for why youth are incarcerated, Sara hopes to learn more about these factors and begin to use the research that she undertakes to mitigate the number of incarcerated youth across America. Given the opportunity to visit Sinte Gleska University, she is excited to learn about the school’s pedagogies and to compare them with mainstream American teaching strategies. The experience that Sara gains through the SMART program will be valuable as she intends on pursuing a Ph.D. after graduation.

UC Berkeley’s Student Mentoring And Research Team (SMART) is a paid professional development program that engages doctoral students in creating mentored research opportunities conducted with selected undergraduate student mentees during a ten-week period over the summer. Both participants receive compensation and training throughout their participation. SMART broadens the professional development of doctoral students and fosters research skills and paths to advanced studies for undergraduates.

Expenses associated with each team total \$10,000 000 (\$5K graduate stipend/\$3.5K undergrad stipend/\$1.5K research and conference costs). As a donor-supported program of the Graduate Division, the majority of teams are underwritten through a combination of donor funds paired with matching support courtesy of the Graduate Division.

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