

Samuel Contreras, MFA
sacontremfa@gmail.com

Education:

University of California, Santa Cruz, 12/2017

Master of Fine Arts in Social Documentation

Thesis film: "The Battle for Matheny Tract" – Occurring in Central California, the documentary explores residents' journeys from the disadvantaged unincorporated community of Matheny Tract in accessing clean and affordable drinking water.

University of California, Berkeley, 12/2012

Bachelor of Arts in Film & Media Studies

Teaching and Research Interest:

Documentary for Social Justice, California's Central Valley, Latinx Cinema, Guerrilla Filmmaking, Social Policy, Space and Citizenship, Migration

Academic Appointments:

Lecturer in Media, Communications and Journalism, California State University, Fresno

MCJ 3 – Introduction to Multimedia Production, Fall 2022 – Present

Lecturer in Ethnic Studies, California State University, Stanislaus

Chicano Images in Film, Spring 2019 – Spring 2021

Media for Social Change, Spring 2020 – Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant in the Film & Digital Media Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

Film 20A – Intro to Film Studies, Fall 2015

Film 134B – American Film 1960 to the Present, Spring 2016

Film 80V – Video Games as Visual Culture, Winter 2016

Film 10F – Multimedia Production, Spring 2017

Coordinator, Academic Success Center, Madera Community College

Spring 2019 – Spring 2022

Awards and Grants:

The Big Tell Film Grant. Fresno, CA, July 2018

The California Endowment *Agua4All* Grant. Sacramento, CA, July 2017

The Arts Fund for Excellence Award. Santa Cruz, CA, September 2016

UC Berkeley Human Rights Fellowship. Berkeley, CA, November 2016

The Arts Fund for Excellence Award. Santa Cruz, CA, September 2017

Languages:

Spanish (native): Fluent in reading, speaking, writing

English: Fluent in reading, speaking, writing

Portuguese: Fluent in reading, speaking, writing

Film Festivals/ Screenings/ Lectures:

Latinx in Their Element, Invited Presenter/Filmmaker, Berkeley, CA, August, 2021
CSU Stanislaus Ethnic Studies Film Festival. Invited Filmmaker, Turlock, CA, May 2019
Films to The People Film Festival, Official Selection. Oakland, CA, November 2018
Recovering Lost Murals: A Conversation, Presenter. Fresno State, Fresno, CA, October 2018
The Big Tell Showcase 2018, Invited Filmmaker. Fresno, CA, October 2018.
The Battle for Matheny Tract, Community Screening. Madera, CA, August 2018
CSU Stanislaus Ethnic Studies Film Festival, Invited Filmmaker. Turlock, CA, May 2018
Central American International Film Festival, Invited Filmmaker. Los Angeles, CA, November 2017
Margaret Mead Film Festival, Invited Filmmaker. New York, NY, October 2017
Watsonville Film Festival, Invited Filmmaker. Watsonville, CA, October 2017
Latinos in the Environment Conference, Invited Speaker. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, October 2017
Sharing Wisdom Across Generations, Workshop Leader. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, October 2017
The Battle for Matheny Tract Film, Host – Screening and Lecture. Berkeley, CA, September 2017
The Battle for Matheny Tract Film, Host – Screening and Panel Discussion. Fresno, CA, August 2017
The Battle for Matheny Tract Film, Host – Screening and Panel Discussion. Sacramento, CA, August 2017
The Battle for Matheny Tract Community Screening. Matheny Tract, CA, July 2017
Thesis Documentary, Presenter – Screening and QA. Santa Cruz, CA, June 2017
Art 10F: 4D Foundations Class, Invited Lecturer. UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, April 2017
Human Rights Fellowship Conference, Presenter. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, November 2016

Mediagraphy (selected):

The Battle for Matheny Tract, thesis documentary, HD video, 20 minutes, color, sound, 2018
Maestro's Legacy, documentary, HD video, 20 minutes, color, sound, 2019
Valley of Murals, short documentary. HD video, 5 minutes, color, sound, 2018
WOMXN 2 WOMXN, short documentary, 4K, 4 minutes, color, sound, 2019
Madera Community College Accreditation Celebration, promo video, HD Video, 10 minutes, color, sound, 2020
California Rural Legal Assistance, promo video, HD Video, 3 minutes, color, sound 2021
Indigenous Peoples Day at Stanislaus State, event recap, 4K video, 2 minutes, color, sound 2019
That Day is Now, political campaign ad, HD video, 3 minutes, color, sound, 2018
Hombre Migrante, documentary, 720p, 10 minutes, color & black and white, sound 2018

Student Work (selected):

The Valley is a Drag, short documentary, HD video, 7 minutes, color, sound, 2019
El Campesino, short experimental documentary, HD video, 5 minutes, color, sound, 2019
Police Brutality, short documentary, HD video, 5 minutes, color, sound, 2019
Homelessness in the Central Valley Film, documentary, HD video, 5 minutes, color, sound, 2021
Language Barriers, short documentary, HD video, 5 minutes, color, sound, 2021

Technical Knowledge:

Cinematography: Mirrorless cameras, full frame, 35 mm, 4K shooting, slow motion, low-light, S-log, field monitor, histograms, filters, manual focus, peaking, Zebra, white-balance, lens, adapters, tripods, shoulder rigs, gimbals.

Video editing: Adobe Premiere Pro CC 2020, transcode media, logging media, sequences, timelines, importing, exporting, color grading, adjustment layers, color effects.

Sound capturing: Shotgun mics, wireless mics, 4-Tract recorders.

Sound editing: Adjust audio levels, clean up audio, adding effects, mixing, audio files formatting.

Photography: composition, f-stop, aperture, shutter speed. Photo editing: Adobe Lightroom, RAW files, print, albums, portfolio, canvas, posters, social documentation, skin tones, Adobe Photoshop.

Lighting: flash, natural light, lamps, umbrellas, diffuser.

Animation: Adobe After Effects: Parallaxing, typography, subtitles.

Distribution: social media and transmedia: DVDs, BluRay, Film website, Social media.

Promotion: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Vimeo, FilmFreeway.

Service to the Community:

UC Berkeley Chicano Latino Alumni Association – Central Valley, Member, January 2015 – Present

CSU Stanislaus Ethnic Studies Film Festival, Committee Member. January 2020 – Present

Dulce UpFront (community multimedia non-profit), Videographer. January 2014 – Present

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Documentarian. Fresno, CA, June 2015 – May 2017

Hermanos Unidos, Co-Chair. Berkeley, CA, May 2009 – May 2010

Filmmakers for Social Change, Producer. Berkeley, CA, August 2008 – May 2009

Chicanx Latinx Student Development Office, Intern. Berkeley, CA, August 2008 – May 2010

RAZA Recruitment and Retention Center, Outreach Intern. Berkeley, CA, July 2007 – May 2009

Cal Corps Public Service Center, Video Project Producer. Berkeley, CA, August 2007 – June 2008

Central Valley Stories of Service, Youth Filmmaker. Fresno, CA, August 2004 – May 2006

Media Coverage:

Brandt, Hannah. 2017. "Battle for Matheny Tract: Demanding Water Justice in Tulare County." Fresno Free Press.

Margaret Mead Film Festival. 2017. "The Battle for Matheny Tract" Central Valley Community

Foundation. 2018. "The Big Tell 2018: Carissa Garcia & Samuel Contreras" Watsonville Film

Festival. 2017. "Social Documentation at the 2017 Watsonville Film Festival" Aleman,

Guadalupe. 2021. "Ten Films to Watch This March." CSU Signal. Burke, Jocelyn. 2021. "Third

Annual Race and Power Film Festival To Spark Social Change." CSU Signal

Professional Employment and Relevant Experience:

Clovis Community College, Assistant Coordinator. 08/2018 – 12/2018

County of Fresno, Eligibility Worker. 03/2013 – 05/2014

The Cesar Chavez Foundation, Eligibility Analyst. 08/2014 – 09/2015

UC Merced Center for Educational Partnerships, Upward Bound Program Residential Assistant. Summer 2012