

The work carried out by the Center for the Critical Study of the Health of Latinx Communities (Critical Study HLC) involves documenting and preserving the efforts by Latinx communities in California to counter racialized health inequities, provide access to high-quality, culturally-appropriate healthcare, and improve health outcomes. This project is timely and urgent because when Latinx were infected, hospitalized, and died in much greater numbers than whites, the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Latinx populations brought to the attention of other publics what community members have known for more than a century—that the availability, access, and quality of health care for Latinx communities has been historically lacking and insufficient. Natalia Molina's *Fit to Be Citizens* place these findings in a much larger historical landscape of injustices of wealth, housing, education, and political representation. Yet when health inequities impacting Latinx populations have received mainstream attention they are turned into projections of individual incompetence and/or cultural difference, thereby hiding their socio-politic and economic structural roots, rationalizing unequal access to health, and other services, foreclosing crucial debates about the broad structural forms required to achieve equity and justice. Therefore, there is an urgent need to broaden these discussions to recognize the ongoing health injustices affecting the Latinx community—inequities that have since the 1960s been challenged by numerous Chicana/Latinx movements and organizations such as La Clínica de La Raza and the United Farmworkers clinics throughout California. For this reason, this project's method is community-engaged, facilitating and building academic-public knowledge exchanges that can challenge established discourses of health disparities affecting the Latinx community.

With invaluable funding from the Latinx Social Science Pipeline Initiative (LSSPI), the Center has been able to build on and expand its archival project. The Center's archival project aims to document, preserve, and tell the story of how the Latinx community and leaders have fought for health equity. To tell this story we are drawing on oral histories, archival research, and alliances with community organizations to make sure that these lesser-known stories of struggle for justice in health are preserved for generations to come. As is well documented, the twentieth century witnessed an efflorescence of efforts by social movements to press for real reforms and to create alternative ways of providing care that did not depend on governmental or corporate decisions. Significantly, these social movements launched a broad critique of ways that racial oppression and profit motives undermine health care for racialized and poor populations. Latinx social movements also played an important role in challenging racialized health inequities and explored alternatives, yet these contributions have been marginally documented in the literature.

With funds from LSSPI, we selected a small group of undergraduate research assistants to help during the summer, to expand the collection of oral histories around La Clínica de la Raza, in Oakland, CA. La Clínica de la Raza is a historically significant institution that was founded by Chicano UC Berkeley undergraduate students in 1971 to create one of the first community-based clinics to serve the community with affordable and culturally-appropriate care. The clinic's founding and its subsequent growth and impact on the community are important parts of the Latinx health equity story. As we have learned, these students were motivated and inspired by the civil rights movements, including the work of Cesar Chavez in the farm worker movement. While the Center had already conducted important interviews with some of the founders (Jose Joel Garcia and Roberto Vargas) and the current La Clínica CEO, Jane Garcia, the work carried

out over the summer focused on documenting the lesser-known contributions of individuals that have worked for La Clínica since the late 70s and early 80s.

This work was supported by three undergraduate research assistants during the summer research period, Jimena Romano Silva, Azucena Morelos, and Anaïs Roatta. These students played a crucial role in expanding the oral history collection at La Clínica. Under the supervision of Dr. Talavera and Center co-directors, Dr. Clara Mantini-Briggs and Dr. Charles Briggs, the undergraduate research assistant team made several visits to La Clínica, where the research team collaborated with Rosa Villalobos, the Materials Specialist, who has been working at the clinic since the early 80s. With Rosa's support, they expanded the oral history recordings at her department, demonstrating the significant contributions of these young scholars to the project. Their work included conducting interviews, transcribing recordings, and cataloging materials, all of which were essential to the success of the project. While our undergraduate research assistants had the opportunity to carry out their own interviews with different staff members, they also supported a small archival project for La Clínica. In this project, they helped scan and catalog collected photos going back to the 80s to help support La Clínica's own internal archival project.

During the summer research period, Dr. Mantini-Briggs and Dr. Talavera also interviewed several current and former La Clínica physicians, Dr. Susan Sykes and Dr. Margaret Payne, both of which recounted how they came to work at La Clínica and reflected on the influence of the women's rights movement on their decision to serve at a community health center. Dr. Mantini-Briggs interviewed clinical and administrative employees such as Fernando Cortez (IT), Joseph Perales (Mental Health), Nancy Facher, and Tracey Mendez. Alongside Dr. Mantini-Briggs, research assistant Azucena Morelos interviewed Dr. Paul Bayard, one of the clinic's longest serving physicians, while Anaïs Roatta helped interview Dolly Davar, the current Director Pharmacy. These interviews were conducted in a conversational style, allowing the interviewees to share their experiences and insights in their own words.

In unraveling these important contributions, we aim to highlight both how Chicanx/Latinx social movements have simultaneously critiqued systems of oppression while also attempting to envision and build alternative health programs, institutions and services. By collecting interviews with both employees (clinical and non-clinical) we aimed to document more than just an origin story, but also reflect and learn from the day-to-day experiences of people that have worked at La Clínica de la Raza about what is required to sustain a community-serving health care institution. Moreover, through this work, our undergraduate research team had the invaluable opportunity to learn first-hand about the stories of people who have dedicated their careers to serving the community.

By carrying out oral history interviews of staff and founders of La Clínica, our project hopes to document and preserve the historical significance of an important part of Latinx and Bay Area history. Therefore, the broader aim of this work is to develop a digital archive that will become a publicly accessible resource to amplify the historical and contemporary contributions of health activists and activism—the struggles for the increase, maintenance, improvement, and ongoing fight for health access for the Latinx communities, and other disenfranchised minorities. In this way, this archival project intends to be transformative—reflecting on past struggles towards imagining a more just present and future.