

COLLOQUIUM SERIES
Monday, May 15, 2023
12:00PM-1:30PM
SSMS 3017



Christina Aushana

UC-President's Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara

“This is the heart of it, right here”: Staging Racial Visions and (In)citing Violence in the Mise-en-scène of Police Training & Ride-Along Cinema

Based on more than five years of fieldwork with officers in East County, San Diego, my research explores a grammar otherwise by which to articulate the ordinary anti-Black violence of police-civilian encounters by ethnographically examining the visual and performance scripts that shape officers' and recruits' professional vision in interaction. While riding along with officers through heavily policed communities of South West Asian and North African refugees and while performing as a role-play actor in San Diego's police academy scenario training, I turn my interpretive attention toward both the cinematic and “official” training scripts officers and recruits

mobilize to stage and rehearse police vision and its racial optics. Through methods in performance ethnography and feminist film theory, I follow these scripts – from academy to patrol field – to illustrate how police violence emerges as performative acts of citation that render racialized violence as a tacit expectation of training rather than an object of its address. I argue that reading “against the grain” of policing's scripts figures critical language for theorizing the mobility and racial optics of these performances as they travel between the academy's “backstage” and the “front stage” of everyday policing.

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://UCSB.ZOOM.US/J/7711222366](https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/7711222366)