

CSER GRADS

Michelle Lopez
Carla Nayeli Mendoza
Mia DeLuis Zayas

Amanda Ong

Rachel Page

Karen Nicole Alonzo

Divija Rajesh

Molly Boord

Maggie

Dena Cheng

Richardson

Lael Tate

Gabrielle Lior Jacobovitz

CSER Graduation
2020
Columbia University
MAY 18, 2020
3PM

Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race Graduation 2020 | Monday, May 18, 2020

3:00pm Arrival of Graduates and their families via ZOOM

3:30pm Welcoming Remarks

Professor Mae Ngai, CSER Co - Director

Award for Academic Excellence

Molly Boord - *Presented by Professor Frances Negrón-Muntaner*

Amanda Ong - *Presented by Professor Marie Ok Lee*

Award for Outstanding Thesis

Carla Nayeli Mendoza - *Presented by Professor Elizabeth OuYang & Mae Ngai*

Lael Tate - *Presented by Professor Audra Simpson*

Recognition of Latin Honors | Phi Beta Kappa *Presented by Professor Karl Jacoby*

Gabrielle Lior Jacobovitz

Rachel Smith Page

Recognition of Departmental Honors *Presented by Professor Mae Ngai*

Amanda Ong

Diviya Rajesh

Commencement Speech | Farewell Address

Presented by Carla Nayeli Mendoza

Diviya Rajesh

Recognition of the Major and Concentration in Ethnicity and Race Studies

Presented by Professors Mae Ngai & Karl Jacoby

CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Karl Jacoby – CSER Co-Director

CSER Class of 2020



Karen Nicole Alonzo

Karen is currently working as a first grade teacher assistant at a school in East Harlem, and is in the process of getting certified to teach an elementary school classroom.



Molly Boord

Molly Boord is a Chinese adoptee from the Pacific Northwest. She is majoring in CSER at Columbia and has recently been focusing on reflexive projects to better understand her personal development as an Asia American in the context of American notions of belonging and race. She has a snake named Snakey, a chinchilla named Chilly Bob, and a cat named Lily.



Dena Cheng

Dena Cheng (she/her) originally hails from the San Fernando Valley in northern Los Angeles. Throughout her college career, she has pursued a dual major in Political Science and Comparative Ethnic Studies to investigate both normative and critical means of approaching issues of power. She loves Food Network (sans Scott Conant from Chopped), beagles, and coming to age novels.



Gavrielle Lior Jacobovitz

Gavrielle Jacobovitz is from Washington D.C. She double majored in English and Race and Ethnicity Studies and wrote her thesis about the 20th century American Carceral Imaginary in the English department. Before Gavrielle was a CSER major, she wrote about the center and its history for The Eye, the features magazine of Spectator. She was a writer and editor for The Eye, covering academics and Title IX. Thank you CSER and congrats to all of our graduates!

CSER Class of 2020

Michelle Lopez

Carla Nayeli Mendoza

Carla Mendoza is senior at Columbia University majoring in Ethnicity and Race and Political Science. She is an immigrants rights advocate and has been involved in a variety of immigration campaigns while at her time at Columbia. She has worked with organizations such as the Dilley CARA Pro Bono Project where she prepared detained asylum seekers for their credible fear interviews during Trump's zero-tolerance policy, and Brooklyn Defenders Services where she accompanied attorneys to court and drafted affidavits for clients.

Amanda Ong



*Amanda Ong is a double major with CSER and creative writing and came to Columbia from California. She loves turtlenecks, tea, cooking, and her two dogs (also all dogs). Her favorite movies are Princess Mononoke and Harold and Maude. There was once an anonymous post on the "Columbia Crushes" Facebook page addressed to her that said, "I know your shirt in class today said 'you were brainwashed into thinking European features are the epitome of beauty' but girl, *you're* the epitome of beauty."*

Rachel Page



Rachel Page is from Washington, DC. She is an English major with a concentration in Ethnicity and Race Studies, on the Comparative Ethnic Studies track. On campus, she is an editor for the Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism, and off campus she works as an assistant at the Feminist Press at CUNY. She wrote her senior essay for the English major on race, space, and political freedom in DC literature during the mayoralty of Marion Barry.

CSER Class of 2020

Diviya Rajesh



Diviya decided she wanted to major in ethnic studies her junior year in high school when a friend who graduated from her high school and went to Columbia came back and raved about CSER. During her undergraduate years, Diviya served as the president of GlobeMed, led philanthropic endeavors related to domestic violence support through Alpha Chi Omega, and engaged in biomedical research and community health programs at Columbia University Medical Center, Hospital For Special Surgery, Nathan Kline Institute, and Bellevue Hospital Center. She is excited to spend the next two years working in clinical research at the Hospital for Special Surgery prior to matriculating into medical school.

Maggie Richardson

Lael Tate



Lael Tate is from Portland, Oregon and is Navajo. She majored in Ethnic Studies on the Indigenous studies track and currently works in suicide prevention at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Next year she plans to study at the University of Waikato in New Zealand through a Fulbright fellowship. She is so thankful for the wonderful Indigenous community at Columbia who continue to inspire her, and for the love, support, and strength of her family.

Cin Michel Vanzetti

Mia DeLuis Zayas

Mia DeLuis Zayas is a Columbia College senior from Camden, New Jersey double majoring in Education and Ethnicity and Race Studies. While at Columbia, she has been a member of Latinx, Native American Council, Columbia Mentoring Initiative, and Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Incorporated. After graduation, she hopes to dedicate herself to serving others in the field of education. Although Mia draws from her own experiences with her thesis project, she credits her family at Columbia for encouraging her to start writing and empowering her to continue.



Notations
