

WINTER

AMERICAN STUDIES

2026

# Winter 2026



**American Studies had a  
fabulous Winter Break –  
Keep reading to check  
out department news and  
upcoming events!**



**In this newsletter you will find:**

Latest projects, workshops, free resources, and more. Keep Reading!



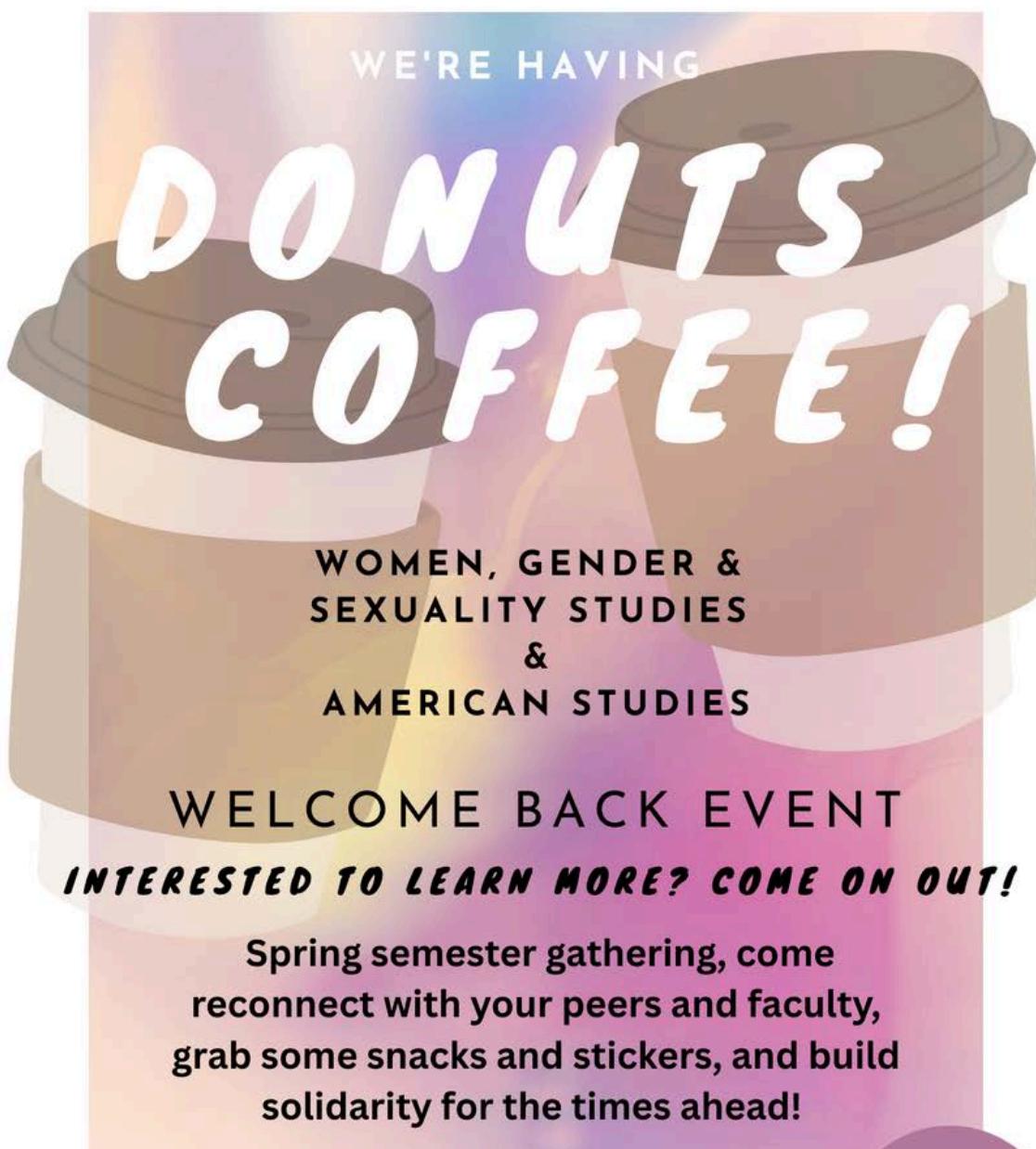
# Welcome back students!

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST EVENT OF THE SEASON



## WHEN? WHERE?

Feb 19, 12:30-1:30PM, History Common Room,  
Mesa Vista Hall #1104



WOMEN, GENDER  
& SEXUALITY STUDIES

THURS  
2/19

# AMST SNOW DOGS



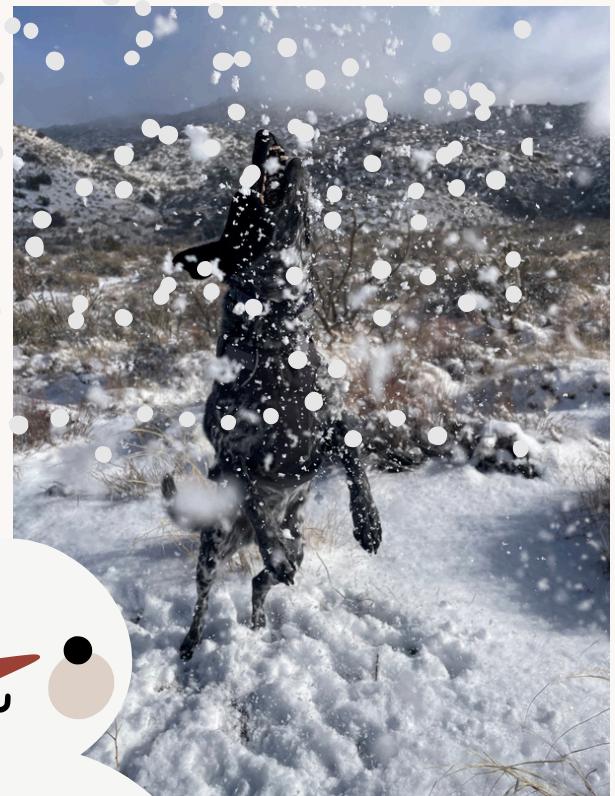
## What did American Studies get up to during the January snow days?

“I had lovely time hiking in the Sandias and mountains in northern New Mexico with friends and my dog Maisie.”

- Dr. Grant

“I lost a bet that we would get 0 inches of snow. My wallet was lighter, but so were my spirits.” ♦

- Dr. Atterbury



*Maisie in the snow 2026*



**WITH SIMON DOANE, AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR  
(FALL 2025 GRADUATE)**

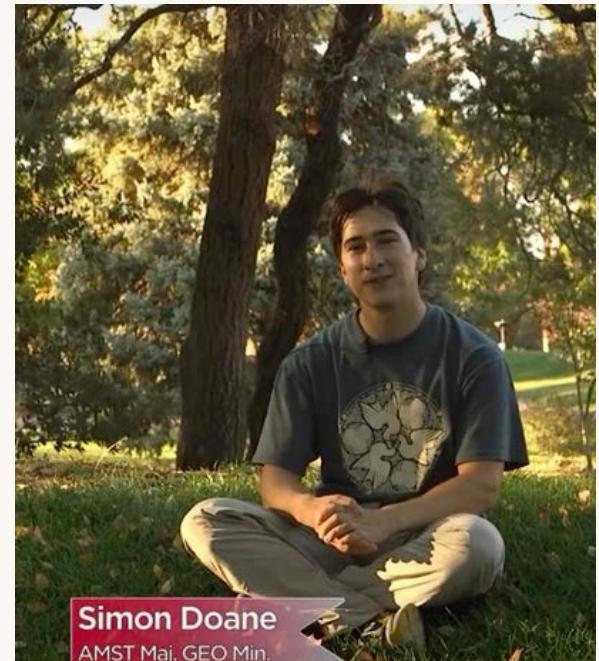
*In winter 2025-26, graduating senior Simon Doane sat down for an interview with the UNM American Studies department. The interview touched on experiences as an American Studies major, community-based research, and more!*

**Why did you decide to major in American Studies and minor in Geography & Environmental Studies and Sustainability?**

I decided to major in American Studies because I was familiar with and inspired by the scholarship that UNM's American Studies faculty were releasing to analyze the glaring injustices at the heart of the U.S. I chose to minor in Sustainability Studies and Geography and Environmental Studies because I believe that the health of the planet is deeply tied to the health of all of its people and vice versa, and that the starting point for studying social issues is to understand how current regimes of land ownership emerged.

**How do you apply what you learned in American Studies in your community-based work, and in your life more broadly?**

American Studies has demonstrated to me the power of collective action in resisting forces of oppression and creating a more hopeful future. I aim for my community-based work to build collective power that can bring forth a more just future. One of the ways to do that is to start with something like participatory budgeting to demonstrate that when we come together, we can make a difference.



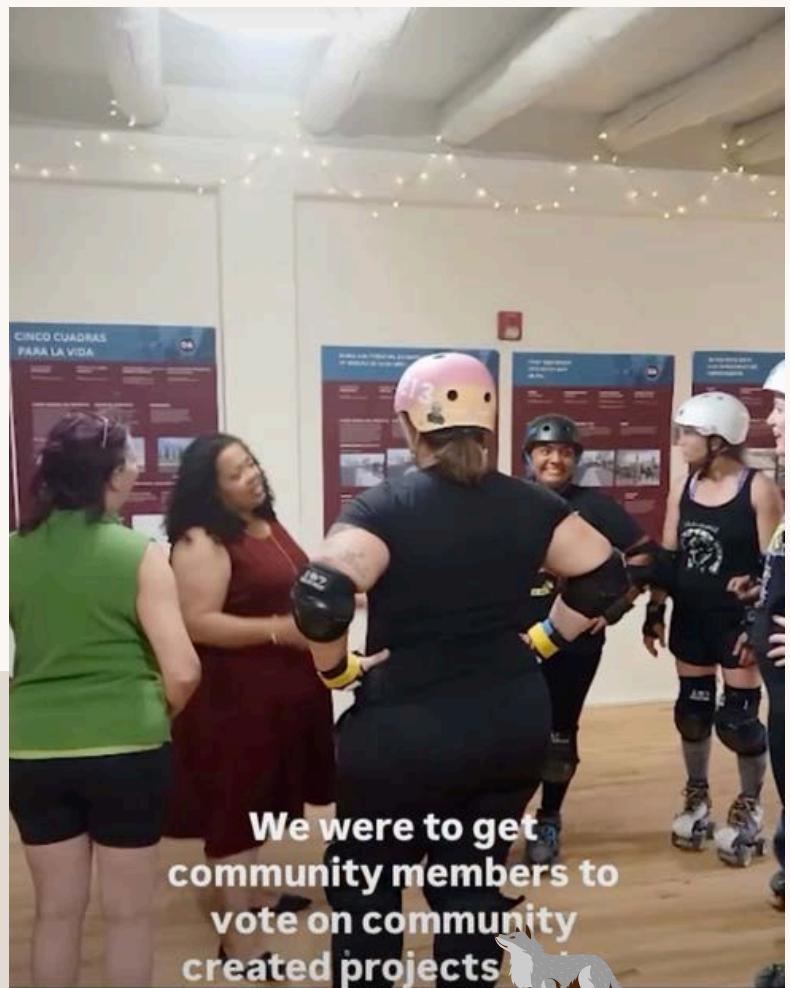
— Doane on UNM's campus

## What were some of your favorite experiences in American Studies?

My favorite experiences in American Studies have been in reading or discussing class materials that all of a sudden make everything click and finally give you a way to think through and talk about something that you had been trying piece together or had felt was missing. American Studies also gave me the opportunity to write my own 20-page thesis which was a rewarding experience as I was able to critically engage with the things I am passionate about, and I won an undergraduate research award for my thesis



*– still from a video produced by UNM Sustainability Studies featuring research by Simon Doane (UNM '25)*



# Mark your calendars!

## JOEL JONES MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

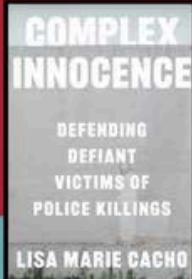
### “IT’S NOT EVEN LOADED”

Suicide-by-Cop or Indigenous Self-Defense?

**Lisa Marie Cacho** - Associate Professor of American Studies - University of Virginia

This talk analyzes the police killing of Renee Davis, who was a Black Indigenous mother shot during a wellness check. Officers claimed she threatened their lives while her family's legal suit represented her as suicidal. This strategic representation was used in part because, as Cacho argues, we have no legal narratives that would be able to frame law enforcement as the initial aggressors against Natives. When we suspend the need of legal recognition, Renee Davis' final actions read less like evidence of self-destruction and more as evidence of self-defense.

Lisa Marie Cacho is an associate professor of American Studies at the University of Virginia. Her most recent book, *Complex Innocence: Defending Defiant Victims of Police Killings* (NYU press, 2026), offers a comparative race/ethnic studies approach to five cases of police killings in the United States, Hawai'i, and the Muckleshoot Nation. The book examines how victims of police killings have been criminalized for defending themselves in law and practice, while law enforcement officers are exonerated for killing them by claiming self-defense.



Lecture and Author Book Signing  
Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
4:30-6:30PM  
Hodgin Hall - Bobo Room - UNM

COPIES FOR SALE AT EVENT

**UNM** DEPARTMENT OF  
AMERICAN STUDIES

# **CNM x UNM: Transfer Student Panel at CNM**

**Join American Studies  
Tues., February 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:30pm, CNM Campus  
for a conversation with  
CNM American Studies  
students. We look forward  
to more conversations  
to come!**



Hosted by Naomi Ambriz,  
faculty at Central New Mexico  
Community College, graduate  
student at UNM

**What is the panel about and  
why might it interest you?**

CNM's American Studies department has a robust program of American Studies course offerings and majors. **UNM and CNM students alike are invited for snacks, conversation and more to build solidarity and relationships** between our programs!



## American Studies students, what is the McNair and Research Opportunity Program (ROP) and why should you apply?

McNair and ROP students are interested in undergraduate research and eventually pursuing a Master's or PhD! The program offers:

- Research stipend for scholars
- Paid travel opportunities
- Scholars conduct a research project under the guidance of a professor
- Monthly seminars and intensive advisement
- Graduate record exam (GRE) prep course
- Successful McNair & ROP scholars are recruited by graduate schools nationwide
- Our scholars receive graduate school application fee waivers
- Participants are prepared for the rigors of graduate school

## How can you apply or learn more?

The application for 2026-2027 is open and available at:  
<https://mcnair.unm.edu/>. The deadline is **March 31, 2026**

## Who is eligible?

Undergraduate students with at least 60 credits by Fall 2026 and a 3.0 cumulative GPA are encouraged to apply. Other eligibility requirements are listed on the application. [Apply today!](#)

If you have any questions about this program please email [mcnair@unm.edu](mailto:mcnair@unm.edu)



# JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS X AMERICAN STUDIES

**This spring, American Studies prof Silas Grant and AMST PhD Candidate Sarah Knopp are holding a conversation on just energy transitions during the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting in Albuquerque on March 17! Check it out:**

## **Panel:**

Collaborative Approaches to Climate Crises, False Solutions, and Just Transitions (Chaired by Silas Grant and Thomas De Pree)

## **Panelists:**

Wendy Atcity and Kirena Tsosie (Southwest Research and Information Center), Hazel James (Diné Centered Research and Evaluation), Cheyenne Antonio (Diné community member), Feleecia Guillen (New Mexico No False Solutions), Xavier Barraza and Ennedith Lopez (Los Jardines Institute), Alicia Gallegos (Pueblo Action Alliance), Sarah Knopp and Cameron Zarrabzadeh (UNM).

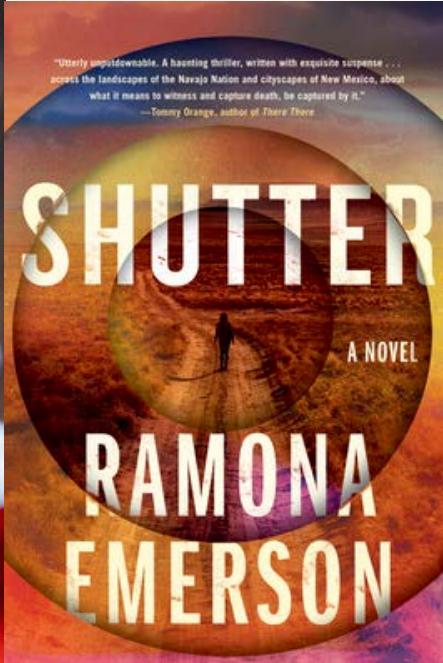
**When:** March 17 at 1:30pm

**Where:** Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Room Alvarado B  
SfAA is free and open to everyone on "Community Day"  
(March 17)!

## **Up to date info:**

<https://appliedanthro.org/annual-meeting/>





AUTHOR RAMONA EMERSON AS SEEN IN *THE DAILY LOBO*, NOV 17, 2023

# REMINDER: SPRING CLASS AMST 370: INDIGENOUS HORROR



"This class explores how Indigenous writers, poets, theorists and filmmakers take up horror as a genre. Drawing upon storytelling as method, horror is used to examine the conditions of Indigenous life. Since the content focuses on horror, gore, and violence, students may find the material unsettling and emotionally charged."

Question! Have you read *Shutter* by UNM author-alumnus yet?

## ◆ GETTING AHEAD OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH:

ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING AN **HONORS THESIS PROJECT**, EVEN NEXT YEAR? REACH OUT TO A FACULTY MEMBER OR DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TODAY!

### **HOW IT WORKS:**

American Studies majors can sign up to do an Honors Thesis, which enables eligible students to graduate with Departmental Honors!

#### **Steps:**

**#1** Email the current Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), and brainstorm about topics and faculty to work with (daisyatterbury@unm.edu)

**#2** We'll help you find a faculty mentor, with whom you'll enroll in an independent study

**#3** Complete the Honors Program Application

**#4** Enroll in the American Studies Honors Thesis (AMST 499) for three credit hours.

Tip: The Honors Thesis can be an expansion of the research project produced in the **Senior Seminar (AMST 485)** or it can be a different research project that was begun in another advanced American Studies course.

## **Pair your thesis with UNM Opportunities**



## **Present your thesis work next spring at UROC!**

## **Apply for funding through ASSURE: UNM's Undergrad Research Program**

### **FUNDING:**

THE ASSURE AWARD IS FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR, WITH EIGHT MONTHLY STIPENDS OF \$400 (\$1,600/SEMESTER; \$3,200/ACADEMIC YEAR).

## SPRING NEWSLETTER: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REPLY TO THIS EMAIL OR SEND ME A PERSONAL NOTE AT DAISYATTERBURY@UNM.EDU ~ I'D LOVE TO SHARE EVENTS YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH AND PROJECTS YOU'RE WORKING ON WITH THE COMMUNITY!



*ABQ Zine Fest 2025 in Botts Memorial Hall, Special Collections Library – photo by Aziza Murray*

