

Voices from the Shadows of Monterey County

Dr. Christine Fernández, Brian Chávez & Linda Heredia • School of World Languages and Cultures • CSUMB

chrfernandez@csumb.edu • brichavez@csumb.edu • lheredia-chavez@csumb.edu



California State University
MONTEREY BAY

Purpose

The testimonios presented promote equality and respect for human rights lending voice to issues of social justice such as: access to education, housing insecurity, gendered violence, indigenous languages and cultures, among others. Through this project, the linguistic and cultural diversity of our surrounding Hispanic community of Monterey County is represented by empowering those whose stories have remained unknown and silenced by highlighting intersections with identity regarding race/ ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, minority languages, migrancy, and exile.



Methods

- Compiled theoretical and literary framework on testimonio
- Transcribed audio recordings in Spanish
- Edited preliminary drafts of testimonios
- Provided lexical and grammatical footnotes and explanations
- Compiled supplemental audiovisual materials
- Organized the material in the form of an enhanced e-anthology of testimonios

Results

An enhanced e-anthology, which would be the first scholarly publication in Spanish of this nature highlighting the experiences of Hispanics in the northern Central Coast of California.

Testimonios

★ Anonymous: Access to Education



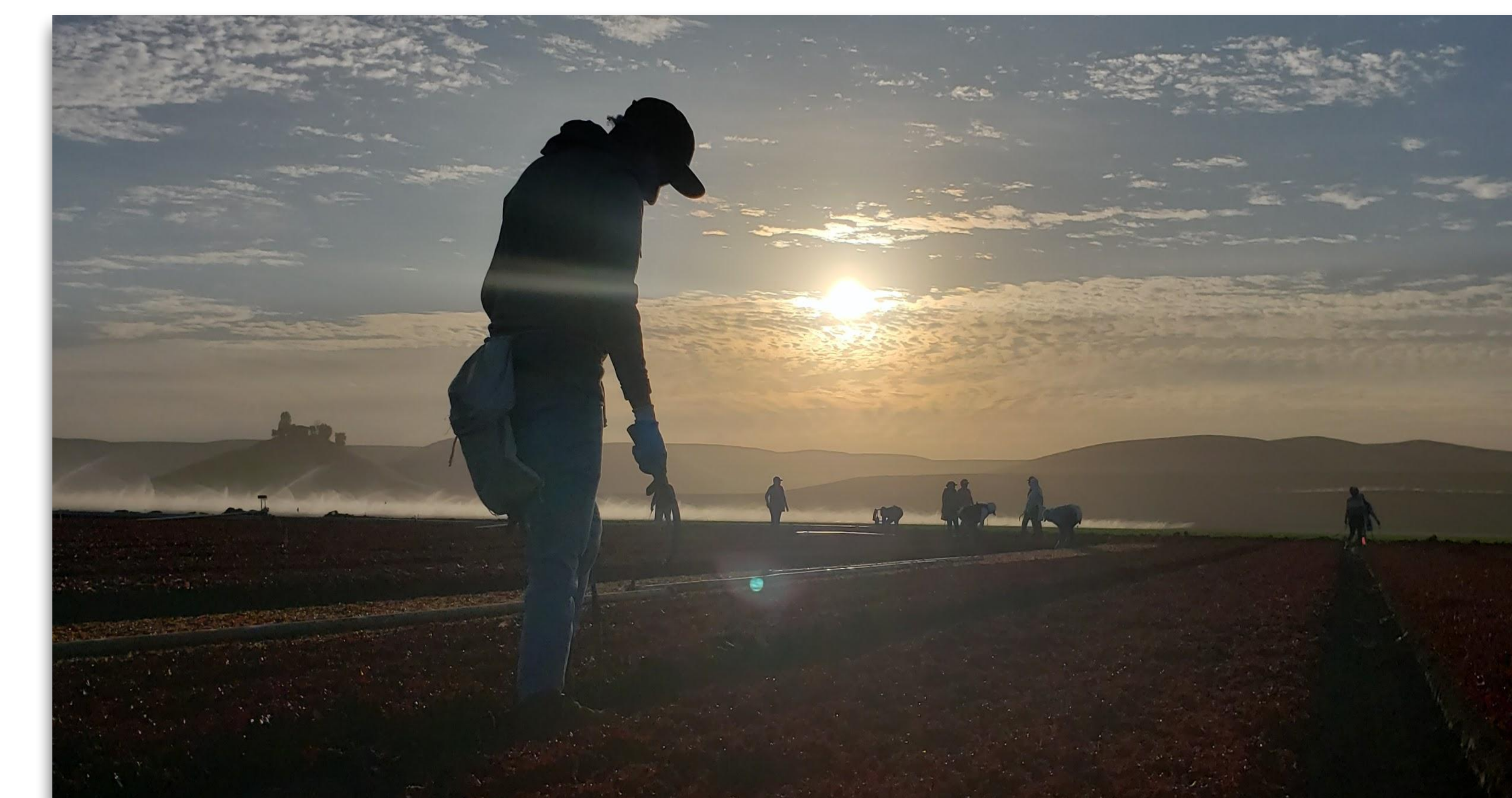
Adolfo González receives his diploma Saturday, May 18, 2019.
LATE CIMINI / THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN



★ Amy: Former Foster Youth

★ Rosa: Legal Discrimination

★ Ángel: Indigenous Rights/ Education



★ María G: Housing Insecurity

★ María R: Gendered Violence



★ Adolfo: Health Care Access

★ Sindy: Exile and Asylum

★ Ari: Non-Binary Gender

Discussion

The testimonios addressed do not represent a general situation, instead, they are specific cases from people of our community who lack social, economic and/or political power which prevents social justice to take place. The protagonists of these stories live under the shadows of silence. The limitation of our investigation was the lack of access to the interviewees, since we based the testimonios upon recordings and preliminary drafts.

Future Work

- Cultural and linguistic diversity of our communities.
- Second volume of this anthology addressing additional issues of social justice.

References

- Benmayor, Rina. "Digital Testimonio as a Signature Pedagogy for Latin@ Studies." *Equity & Excellence in Education*. vol. 45, no. 3, 2012, pp. 507-524.
- Beverly, John and Hugo Achúgar. *La voz del otro testimonio, subalternidad y verdad narrativa*. U Rafael Landívar, 2002.
- Nance, Kimberly A. *Can Literature Promote Justice?: Trauma Narrative and Social Action in Latin American Testimonio*. Vanderbilt U P, 2006.

Acknowledgements

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (UROC) , Students from SPAN 330 "Hispanic Testimonials" Class of Spring 2019