

The UCSC Education Department Colloquium Series

# “Delinquency” and Disposability: California Continuation High Schools and the Management of Difference



**Chrissy Anderson-Zavala**  
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**Wednesday, May 1st**  
**12:15 pm – 1:45 pm**  
**McHenry 0266**

Chrissy Anderson-Zavala is a writer, organizer, and educator from Salinas, CA. She is a PhD candidate in the UCSC Education Department with designated emphases in Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies.

How might legacies of trading in deficit narratives of “problem youth” or “delinquents” reflect state investments in the racist, classist, and ableist segregation and disposability of young people framed as unable to “fit” in traditional schools? This presentation will consider how the history and present of continuation high schools, alternative schools for young people critically behind in units toward graduation, reveal logics of disposability within traditional school spaces. Special attention will be given to the theoretical frameworks and interdisciplinary methodologies that guide this study, including a participatory, art-based ethnography and archival research. I will draw out the interconnections between labor and the production of delinquency in two ways: (1) how the threat of “delinquency” has been deployed as a tool to control labor and (2) how material and symbolic labor has been extracted from so-imagined “delinquents.”