

## **Abel Gomez**

### **CSU Representative**

**Campus Preference:** San Francisco

### **Qualified:**

Ph.D. Religion, Syracuse University 2021

*Dissertation: Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Belonging in Ohlone Territory: A Case Study of Indigenous Survival*

Master of Philosophy of Religion, Syracuse University 2018

M.A. Religious Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia 2015

*Thesis: Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place, and Ohlone Cultural Revival*

While Dr. Gomez does not hold a degree directly listed in the statute, he has direct experience with Ohlone tribal communities pertaining to repatriation and reburial. Dr. Gomez has served as an Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies since 2022 and as a Lecturer in the Department of Native American Studies at San Francisco State from 2020 through 2021. Dr. Gomez was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. He is currently writing a book titled *Living on Indigenous Lands: Protecting Sacred Sites and Enacting Solidarities*.

### **Reference**

Kerri J. Malloy, Gregg Castro, Natalie Avalos, Alisha M. Ragland, and Valentin Lopez (Amuh Mutsun) recommend the candidate.

### **Current CSU San Bernadino Committee**

1. Tribal Representative (Non-Federally Recognized): **Gregg Castro** – Association of Ramaytush Ohlone (Appointed November 7, 2024)
2. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Laverne Bill** – Grindstone Indian Rancheria (Appointed August 1, 2024)
3. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): **Sean Scruggs** – Fort Independence Indian Reservation (Appointed November 7, 2024)
4. Tribal Representative (Federally Recognized): Vacant
5. CSU Representative: **Robert Collins** (Appointed November 7, 2024)
6. CSU Representative: **Vacant**
7. CSU Native American Studies Representative: **Vacant**

**Systemwide NAGPRA Implementation & Oversight Committee  
Nominations Cover Sheet**

**Committee Type:**    ☐ Both    ☐ Systemwide Committee    ☐ Campus Committee

**Nominee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

**Position Sought:**    Tribal Nominee    CSU Nominee

**Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation**

Name of Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Federally Recognized Tribe

☐ CA Indian Tribe

☐ CSU Administrator

☐ CSU Faculty

Staff

☐ NAGPRA Coordinator

**Tribal Members (Check all that apply):**

☐ Tribal Historic Preservation Officer work

☐ Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to CalNAGPRA/ NAGPRA

☐ Cultural resources protection under Tribal, state, and federal law

☐ Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies

☐ An Elder, Spiritual Leader

☐ A minimum of five years' experience

**CSU Staff/Faculty Members (Check all that apply):**

☐ Archaeology

☐ Anthropology

☐ Environmental Studies

☐ Ethnic Studies

☐ History (with a focus in California)

☐ Law

☐ Native American Studies

☐ Social Science

☐ Sociology

☐ A minimum of five years' experience working in field of study

**Circle One: Complete Application (Includes Attachments)**

☐ Short Bio, A Resume or CV

☐ Tribal Resolution/Letter (as applicable)

☐ Three References

**Incomplete Applications**

☐ Missing Attachments

☐ Needs Follow Up Call

☐ Other Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

CSU or NAHC Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CSU or NAHC Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITTEE(S) SOUGHT

Please indicate the Committee(s) to which the nominee is seeking appointment. If nominating for a campus committee(s), list the campus(es) where the nominee is interested in serving, in order of preference. Check all that apply. If a nominee selects both the CSU Systemwide Committee and Campus Committee, their application will be considered for both Committees and they may be appointed to either, however at this time Committee members will only serve on one Committee at a time, unless the pool of candidates does not allow.

☐ CSU Systemwide Committee (*if only Systemwide please skip to Nominator Information below*)

☐ Campus Committee (*please fill out Section A below*)



A. If the Nominee would like to serve on a Campus Committee, please fill out the following additional information.

Campus Committee (*Preferred Campus*): \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative campus(es) Nominee will consider (*candidates are encouraged to complete this section, if possible*):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### **Nominator Information (if applicable)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nominee Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal/CSU Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Sought:      ☐ Tribal Nominee      ☐ CSU Nominee

Please attach:

- (i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV;
- (ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support from Tribe (if applicable), and
- (iii) A list of at least three references, with name, telephone number, and email addresses for each.

Submit completed nomination materials to [nagpra@calstate.edu](mailto:nagpra@calstate.edu).

Incomplete materials will not be considered.

Abel R. Gomez is Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies at San José State University. His research and teaching examine the relationships between sacred sites, ceremony, gender and sexuality, Indigenous cosmologies, and (de)colonization. Dr. Gomez engages in ethnographic research about and with Ohlone tribal communities in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay regions to theorize enduring meaning of homeland and coalitions to protect sacred sites. He serves as a steering committee member for the Native Traditions in the Americas Unit of the American Academy of Religion.

Dr. Gomez has worked within the field of Native American and Indigenous studies for seven years. As a PhD student, he taught in the Native American and Indigenous Studies program at Syracuse University. He was a lecturer in American Indian Studies at San Francisco State and from 2021-2022 was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. From 2022-2025 he was Assistant Professor of Native spiritual traditions in the Religion Department at Texas Christian University, working actively with Native American & Indigenous Peoples Initiative on campus. Dr. Gomez holds a PhD in Religion from Syracuse University, where his doctoral research wove together religious studies, Indigenous studies, anthropology, and human geography to analyze movements to protect sacred sites in Ohlone homelands.

Dr. Gomez's scholarship is published in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, and *Political Theology*. His book *Living on Indigenous Land: Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Solidarities* is under contract with University of Washington Press. The book examines the ongoing cultural, political, and ceremonial meaning of homeland for diverse Ohlone tribes and families, based on decades of ethnographic research and interviews with dozens of Ohlone leaders and community members. His public-facing scholarship is featured in numerous online publications, podcasts, and on YouTube. Dr. Gomez's community work includes collaborations with local tribes and organizations such as the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS). A first-generation queer Latinx scholar from a Mexican and Central American immigrant family, Dr. Gomez was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ohlone homelands.

**Abel R. Gómez, PhD**

Abelrgomez.com

Abel.gomez@sjsu.edu

Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies  
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences  
San José State University  
San José, California 95129

**EMPLOYMENT**

2025 – present, Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies  
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences  
San José State University

2022 – 2025, Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Spiritual Traditions  
Department of Religion, Texas Christian University  
Affiliated faculty, Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies  
Affiliated faculty, Women and Gender Studies

2021 – 2022, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

2020-2021, Lecturer  
Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University

**EDUCATION**

2021 Ph.D. (with distinction) Religion – Syracuse University  
Dissertation: *Sacred Sites, Ceremony, and Belonging in Ohlone Territory: A Case Study of Indigenous Survival*  
Certificate of Advanced Studies, Women's and Gender Studies  
Certificate of University Teaching  
Comprehensive Exams: History of Religions and Anthropology of Religion;  
Indigenous Religions and Indigenous critical theory; Race, Place, and Memory  
2018 M. Phil. Religion – Syracuse University  
2015 M.A. Religious Studies - University of Missouri, Columbia  
Thesis: *Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place, and Ohlone Cultural Revival*  
2013 B.A. Philosophy and Religion - San Francisco State University  
Minor: Anthropology

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Native American and Indigenous Religions, Decolonial and Indigenous Feminisms, Two-Spirit Critique, Native California, Globalization, Place, Race and Ethnicity, Ethnography,

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Living on Indigenous Lands: Protecting Sacred Sites and Enacting Solidarities* (In-Progress)

### Journal Articles

Accepted. Anthony Trujillo, Abelardo de la Cruz, Dana Lloyd, **Abel R. Gomez**, Sarah Dees, and Elisha Chi. "Teaching with Native American Religions for Social Justice," *Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion*.

2024. "(Re)riteing the Land: Sogorea Te' Land Trust, Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and Indigenous Futurity in California," *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*.

2024. "Religion Scholarship on Indigenous Lands: Potentials, Perils, and Limits of Engaged Scholarship," *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*.

2023. "'We Survived This': California Missions, Colonialism, and Indigenous Survival," *Political Theology*.

### Book Chapters

Accepted. "Towards Good Relations: Learning about Native Religions Through Relationship." *Native American Religions* edited by Dana Lloyd, Routledge.

2022 "What does it mean for Indigenous religions to be 'place based'?" *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

2022 "Is Neo-Paganism an Indigenous religious tradition?" *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

### Book Reviews

2025. Review of *Native Alienation: Spiritual Conquest and Violence of California Missions* by Charles A. Sepulveda. Seattle, University of Washington Press, 2024. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

2019. "(Re)writing, (Re)righting, (Re)riteing Hupa Womanhood: Cutcha Risling Baldy and The Flower Dance Revitalization." Review of *We are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women's Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* by Cutcha Risling Baldy. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, Equinox Publishing Ltd. VOL 47, NO 3–4.

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

2024. "Renewal Dance." Interview for Magic in the United States Podcast, Season 2, episode 5. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/renewal-dance/id1708579118?i=1000657763610>

2023. "Living on Indigenous Lands: (Re)Considering Relations with Occupied Lands." *Contending Modernities*. <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/living-on-indigenous-lands/>

2023. "Critical Theory for Political Theology 2.0: Indigeneity." *Political Theology Network*. <https://politicaltheology.com/indigeneity/>

2022. "Two-Spirit Indigenous Peoples Building on Legacies of Gender Variance: What Two-Spirit Peoples Can Teach about Transgender Identities, Religion, and Indigenous Communities." *The Revealer*. <https://therevealer.org/two-spirit-indigenous-peoples-building-on-legacies-of-gender-variance/>

2021. "The Matter of Shellmounds: Preserving Sacred Sites." Interview for Challenging Colonialism Podcast, Season 1, Episode 2. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-matter-of-shellmounds/id1571419094?i=1000541720488>

2021. "What Are Indigenous Religions? Part 2." Interview for Keeping it 101 Religion Podcast, Season 4, Episode 4. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-are-indigenous-religions-part-2/id1494843031?i=1000539842348>

2021. "Sacred Sites, Indigenous History, and Spanish Colonialism." Interview for Classical Ideas podcast, episode 196. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sacred-sites-indigenous-history-spanish-colonialism/id1268915829?i=1000512048345>

2021. "Postapocalyptic Communities: Tribal and Religious Organizations Respond to COVID-19." *The Revealer*. <https://therevealer.org/postapocalyptic-communities-tribal-and-religious-organizations-respond-to-covid-19/>

2020. "Indigenous Peoples Day comes amid a reckoning over colonialism and calls for return of Native land." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/indigenous-peoples-day-comes-amid-a-reckoning-over-colonialism-and-calls-for-return-of-native-land-147734>

2020. "Statues topple and a Catholic church burns as California reckons with its Spanish colonial past." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/statues-topple-and-a-catholic-church-burns-as-california-reckons-with-its-spanish-colonial-past-142809>



2019. "Intro to Indigenous Religions." *YouTube*, uploaded by ReligionForBreakfast. <https://youtu.be/izuL0Wquvkw>. Short educational YouTube video created through media partnership with Sacred Writes and Religion for Breakfast, an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

2019. "San Francisco Pride, Nation's Largest LGBT Celebration, Takes Place on Indigenous Ohlone Land." *Medium.com –Noteworthy – The Journal Blog*. <https://blog.usejournal.com/san-francisco-pride-nations-largest-lgbt-celebration-takes-place-on-indigenous-ohlone-land-dd4475f47fd5>

## **PRESENTATIONS**

2025. Panelist. "Teaching Indigenous Relationalities." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Oklahoma City, June 28.

2024. Respondent. "Kumeyaay and California Native Spirituality: Weaving Past, Present, and Future with Juan Reynoso." Native Traditions in the Americas and Religion and Cities Units, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 24.

2024. Panelist. "Teaching with Native American Religions for Social Justice." – Native Traditions in the Americas Unit American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 24.

2023. "(Re)Riteing the Land: Indigenous Ceremony and Futurity in Northern California." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference, May 11.

2022. Respondent, "Visibility/Invisibility: Native American Recognition and Sovereignty." American Academy of Religions – Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion, November 19.

2022. "Native American Religions, Interfaith, and (De)colonization." American Academy of Religion – Academic Relations Committee, November 21.

2021. "'We Survived This': Ohlone Narratives of Colonialism and Belonging at Mission Dolores." Critical Mission Studies Conference, November 13.

2021 "#SaveTheWestBerkeleyShellmound: Sacred Sites and Indigenous Futures in Ohlone Territory." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, June 2021.

2020 "Defending Indigenous Sacred Places: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory/San Francisco Bay Area." Religion and Cities Unit, American Academy of Religion, December 1.

2020, Invited Panelist, "Decolonial Futures: Religion as a Source of Resistance." *Raising Our Voices* conference of the American Anthropological Association, November 13.

2019 “(En)Gendering Indigenous Ceremonial Revival: Restoring Good Relations,” “Author Meets Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies*.” Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 22.

2016 “Shellmound Peace Walk: Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Activism in Ohlone Territory.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Antonio, November 21.

2015 “Honor the Past to Shape the Future: Ohlone Women, Spirituality, and Indigenous Revitalization.” 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Religion, Florida State University, February 20.

2014 Invited Panelist: “Religion in the Public Sphere: A Discussion of Diversity, Difference, and Civility in an Increasingly Interconnected World.” Missouri Scholars Academy, University of Missouri, June 11.

2014 “The Ancestors Will Return: Ghost Dance as a Ritual of Resistance.” 15th Annual American Indian Studies Association Conference, Arizona State University, February 6.

2013 Invited Panelist: “Indigenous and Queer: Two Spirit Identity in Native America” presentation for Native American Heritage Month and Transgender Awareness Week, University of Missouri, November 11.

2011 “The Holy Queer: Shamans, Healers, Warriors, Dancers, and Ritualists Ancient and Modern.” Western Regional LGBTQIA Conference. University of California, Berkeley, March 5.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2025 – present, Instructor of Record

Native American and Indigenous Studies Program, San José State University  
Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies, Fall 2025

2022 – 2025, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Texas Christian University  
Native American Religions, Fall 2022 – Fall 2024  
Native American Religions, Genders, and Sexualities, Fall 2022  
Indigenous Resurgence and Ceremony, Fall 2024

2021- 2022, Instructor of Record

Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma  
Introduction to Native American Studies, Fall 2021  
Gender and Sexuality in Native North America, Spring 2022

2020 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University  
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Summer 2021  
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Spring 2021  
American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Fall 2020

2018 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Syracuse University  
Religions of the World (online), Spring 2021  
Religions of the World (online), Fall 2020  
Religions of the World, Spring 2019  
Sacred Sites and Indigenous Peoples, Fall 2018  
(Meets with Native American and Indigenous Studies 300)

### **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS**

2024. “California Indian Two Spirit Visionaries Gathering,” a collaboration with Bay Area American Indian-Two Spirits (BAAITS) through the Center for Religion and Cities’ “Good Life Project Initiative” - \$15,000 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuI3ty2grS0>

2020. Covid Relief and Restoration Initiative for Center for Religion and Cities. Direct aid and recording of oral histories. <https://www.religionandcities.org/relief>

- \$3000 granted for Amah Mutsun Land Trust
- \$3000 granted for Sogorea Te’ Land Trust

### **INVITED TALKS**

2025. Keynote speaker: “Latiné Global Solidarity Series: Conversation with Dr. Abel Gomez” focus on Latinx-Indigenous Solidarities, sponsored by Hispanic Scholars Program, virtual lecture, April 7.

2023. “Native American Religions, Public Scholarship, and Relational Accountability.” For “The Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere.” Boardman Symposium hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Pennsylvania, February 9-11.

2022. “(Re)Riteing the Land: Land-Based Ceremonial Resurgence in Native California,” Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Iowa, December 2.

2021. “Understanding Indigenous Religions: Insights from Religious Studies and Indigenous Studies,” Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Oklahoma.

2020. “Queer SF, Indigenous SF,” Indigenous Peoples’ Day Lecture, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco.

2020. "Disease, 'Discovery,' and Survival in Native California." Public talk for Mother Earth's Pandemic: The Doctrine of Discovery (virtual conference) hosted by Indigenous Values Initiative and American Indian Law Alliance.

2019. "Living on Ohlone Land: Building Respectful Relationships," Sponsored by the Bay Area Reclaiming Community in San Francisco

## **INTERVIEWS**

2023. "Fighting erasure together: marginalized communities share similar histories and can make greater progress together." Interview for *Dallas Voice*.  
<https://dallasvoice.com/fighting-erasure-together/>

2021. "How Indigenous Religions Can Widen the Interfaith Circle." Interview with Monique Parsons for Interfaith America. <https://ifyc.org/article/how-indigenous-religions-can-widen-interfaith-circle>

2019. It's Just a Talk Podcast, "Episode 020-- Two Spirit People Pride featuring Abel R. Gómez." Apple Podcasts. [https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-020-two-spirit-people-pride-featuring-abel-r-gómez/id1436570379?i=1000442131480&fbclid=IwAR1V54A73Lix02CqZY3wSsIHDZpcilg4\\_AkB-3PcH8hUlgG9I1ful\\_uoMjg](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-020-two-spirit-people-pride-featuring-abel-r-gómez/id1436570379?i=1000442131480&fbclid=IwAR1V54A73Lix02CqZY3wSsIHDZpcilg4_AkB-3PcH8hUlgG9I1ful_uoMjg)

2012. *De Colores Spirit Warriors*. Dir. Berenice Dimas. Queer Woman of Color Film Festival. Film.

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

2025. Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship, Institute for Citizens and Scholars/Mellon Foundation (\$35,000 + \$1500 research funding) – declined to take position as Assistant Professor at San José State University

2024. TCU Research and Creativities Fund (RCAP) and Junior Faculty Summer Research Program (JFSRP) Awards (\$10,500.00)

2024. Faculty Summer Research Grant (AddRan College of Liberal Arts, TCU, \$5000)

2020. Research Fellowship, CSRC Covid-19 Research on Relief and Restoration Work – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University

2020. Sacred Writes Public Scholarship Fellow.

2019-2020. Graduate Fellowship – Syracuse University Graduate School, Syracuse University (2019-2020)

2019. Research Grant – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University.

2019. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2018. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2017. Toni Taverone Graduate Paper Prize - “Decolonizing the Chicana Spirit: Indigenous Religion and Chicana Feminism.” - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Syracuse University

2017. Theta Chi Beta OXB Honors Society - Syracuse University

2013 – 2015. Thurgood Marshall Graduate Fellowship – University of Missouri Graduate School

2013. Community Leadership Award – Queer Resource Center at San Francisco State University

2013. Dedicated Member Award – La Raza Student Organization at San Francisco State University

### **LEADERSHIP/SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING**

2019. KIAROS Blanket Exercise: Witness to Injustice Facilitator Training [An interactive exercise that introduces Indigenous and U.S./Canada relations]. Buffalo, NY.

2011-2012. Collaborative Leadership Training with Suzanne Sterling and Ravyn Stanfield. San Francisco, CA.

2009. Permaculture Design Certification. Earth Activist Training with Starhawk and Erik Ohlsen. Cazadero, CA.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Steering Committee, Native Traditions in the Americas Unit (2019 – present)

Center for the Study of Religion and the City  
Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland  
Advisory Board (2022 – 2024)  
Learning Lab Director (2024 – 2025)

Native American and Indigenous Peoples Initiative  
Texas Christian University

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Scholarship  
Reviewer (2023 – 2025)

Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Day Symposium  
Texas Christian University  
Planning Committee (2024 – 2025)

Native and Indigenous Students Association (NISA)  
Texas Christian University  
Faculty Adviser (Fall 2023 – Spring 2005)

*Magic in the United States* podcast, funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
Humanities Advisor (Summer 2023 – 2005)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Reading and speaking proficiency)  
French (Reading proficiency)

## REFERENCES

Kerri J. Malloy  
Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Studies Program  
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences  
San José State University  
kerri.malloy@sjsu.edu  
408-924-5861

Alisha M. Ragland, NAGPRA Tribal Liaison  
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology  
San José State University  
alisa.ragland@sjsu.edu  
408-924-5703

Natalie Avalos  
Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies, Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Natalie.Avalos@colorado.edu  
303-492-6842



Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences | One Washington Square | San Jose, CA 95192

September 5, 2025

The California State University  
Office of the Chancellor

Native American Heritage Commission  
State of California

Re: Nomination of Dr. Abel R. Gomez to San José State University NAGPRA Committee

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program at San José State University, I am nominating Dr. Abel R. Gomez for appointment to San José State University NAGPRA Committee. Dr. Gomez has worked in the field of Native American and Indigenous Studies for seven years, including as a lecturer in American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University, an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, and Assistant Professor of Indigenous spiritual traditions at Texas Christian University.

Dr. Gomez has extensive profession and personal ties to the tribes in the San Francisco Bay Area developed over his decades of living in the region. His scholarship and community involvement are actively based on the relationships he has formed with the tribes, native organizations, and individual tribal citizens. His appointment to the SJSU Campus NAGPRA Committee would strengthen the relationship between the campus and local California Indian community.

He earned a PhD in Religion from Syracuse University and completed a dissertation focused on movements to protect sacred sites within Ohlone territories. Dr. Gomez's work has been published in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* and various public media. Beyond the university, Dr. Gomez's collaborations with local tribal nations and organizations such as the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) reflect his commitment to community-engaged scholarship and solidarity.

The Native American and Indigenous Studies Program at San José State University is pleased to put forward the nomination of Dr. Abel R. Gomez for appointment to the campus wide NAGPRA committee.

Should you have further questions or need assistance, please contact me at the email below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerri J. Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kerri J. Malloy, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies  
Director, Ethnic Studies Collaborative  
kerri.malloy@sjsu.edu