

UC SANTA BARBARA

THE *Current*

November 6, 2003

Bill Schlotter

UCSB Religious Scholar to Look at Changing Face of U.S. Religion

Americans are among the most diverse people in the world, a heterogeneous mix of all the world's races, cultures, and beliefs.

The beliefs of our neighbors influence each of us in the way we perceive our culture, our religions, and ourselves.

Rudy Busto, an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will discuss how we are shaped by the converging influences of diversity in "What Color is Your Spirituality? Race and Ethnicity in American Religion," a UCSB Affiliates Spirituality and Culture lecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12 in Santa Barbara.

The lecture will be held in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Center, 21 East Constance Ave.

Advance registration is required and can be made by calling the UCSB Office of Community Relations at 893-4388.

The event is co-sponsored by the UCSB Affiliates, the Office of Community Relations and the Department of Religious Studies.

Busto will pose several questions during his talk:

- Are our religious and spiritual lives necessarily distinct or separate from whom we are ethnically and racially?
- What do we assume about religion?
- How have recent immigrants and large racial communities altered the way scholars think about religion in America?
- Where is American religion going in the 21st century?

Busto, who joined the UCSB faculty in January 2003, has a master's degree in theological studies from the Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from UC Berkeley.

His research looks at the intersections of religious and ethnic identities. He is writing a book about Mexican American religion.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.