Meet the 2021-22 PSSP Scholars

Angie Gomez

Angie Gomez (she/her) is pursuing a double major in Sociology and CSRE. Her research focuses on how youth can collectively advocate for their community, needs, and justice, as well as create spaces to drive civic engagement, participation, and well-being in neighborhoods and communities labeled by researchers as "deprived" due to economic and racial/ethnic marginalization. She has previously done research on how high school districts in marginalized communities can support students and their families navigate post-graduate decisions in effective and culturally competent ways. She has also taken several community-engaged learning courses and served as the course coordinator for two, CSRE 18: Antiracism and Health Equity: A project-based community service course and CSRE 180E: Introduction to Chicanx/Latinx Studies.

Audrey Xu

Audrey is a rising Junior who will be taking a gap year to work for a job. __ is a human biology major focusing on the development of equitable treatments. __ is a FLI student and am passionate about advocating for the low-income underserved Asian American community and other communities alike. Audrey has a lot of community advocacy experiences and is excited to bring in all my skills into combining community and scholarly work. __ is excited to meet and learn from you all!

Buddy Kalanikumupa’a

Aloha mai! ‘O Kalanikumupa’a ko’u inoa, no Kaʻū ko’u moʻokū‘auhahu. Buddy Kalanikumupa’a is a senior at Stanford University studying for a BA Honors in Human Biology and a Minor in Native American Studies. He is on the pre-med track and specifically focused on culturally grounded medicine and Indigenous health sovereignty. His research centers on the integration of traditional medicine and culture for diaspora Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) through Indigenist Community-Based Participatory Research (ICBPR) programs. His interests also include promoting community wellness through Indigenous Peacemaking/Ho’oponopono methodologies. He has been lucky to be able to learn and engage in multiple community-based efforts including with the Stanford Native American Cultural Center through Hui o Nā Mōkū, and the annual Stanford Powwow; as a Patient Health Navigator at the Pacific Free Clinics; by participation in the Haas Community Based Research Fellowship; and as a Muwekma-Tah-Ruk Resident Assistant. E pu pa’akai kākou: A resilient people can survive together.

Keoni Rodriguez

Keoni Rodriguez (they/them) is a senior/coterm (BA ‘22, MA ‘23) in the History and Earth Systems departments. They are a member of the Hawaiian and Filipino communities on and off campus and have
cultivated a profound sense of appreciation for their cultural backgrounds. They are currently writing a thesis using historical and ethnographic methods to excavate new theories about the Hawaiian diaspora in California. By adopting a Hawaiian Studies lens to approach this research topic, they hope to produce community-centered research that enriches Hawaiian understandings of diaspora, displacement, settler colonialism, and belonging. Research sub-topics will include Hawaiian moʻolelo, William Heath Davis, Hawaiians at Stanford in the 20th century, and ethnographic analysis of interviews. As more Hawaiians grow up outside of Hawaiʻi than within, they hope to use the stories in their thesis to empower their community and strengthen a sense of cultural identity such that it informs policy both in Hawaiʻi and California in regards to providing adequate cultural resources for generations of diaspora Hawaiians to come. They have been deeply involved in the Hawaiian community through social activism, Hawaiian dance, and community work and hope to continue to strengthen their connections through their work.

Marina Luccioni

Marina’s family is Corsican-Indonesian and she grew up in SW London, UK. She is interested in human-environment relationships, the mind and experimental film; at Stanford this has translated to a Human Biology major with Honors in the Arts. She works on projects which combine her interest in exploring mental health with respect for traditional ecological knowledge, and collaboration with local communities. Together her team is studying the “Chief of Ghosts” hallucinatory fish from Hawaii to learn how these animals come to contain and accumulate their toxins, and how the molecules interact with human brain function to alter mental states: Hawaiian mo'olelo (legends) dated to the 2 1400s speak of “nightmare fish” that induce severe hallucinations, nightmares, and dizziness. Fieldwork involves collaboration with communities, researchers and schools in Hawaiʻi. Respected local fisherman and steward Mac Poepoe lead fieldwork strategy and data collection efforts. High school students learn about the experimental methods and processes through class presentations and sampling field trips. In the lab she uses DNA barcoding to learn what the fish are eating, alongside chemical analyses to isolate the hallucinogenic molecule(s).

Naryeong Kim

Naryeong Kim is a rising junior at Stanford University studying bioengineering and political science. She is fascinated by the intersections between law and neuroscience. In the future, she hopes to provide innovative and equitable treatments for mental health illnesses. She is also passionate about developing legal systems that better address neurological implications of trauma. Her NGO, ASSIST, provides legal and mental health services for migrants in over six Asian countries. For fun, she enjoys oil painting, fencing, and reading!

Rachel Koo

Rachel Koo is a senior studying Human Biology with a concentration in Social Determinants of Health. For the last three years, she has worked with Stanford Emergency Medicine’s Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) lab, researching the intersections of IPV and immigrant women’s health. This has entailed working with local legal agencies filing VAWA and U-Visa cases as well as community-based organizations focused on
empowering IPV survivors. Her last project involved training Promotoras (Community Health Workers) at a local domestic violence agency on COVID-19, the effects of COVID-19 on IPV survivors, and how physicians can be an ally to survivors. Her current project seeks to study the effects of COVID-19 and anti-Asian racism on Asian IPV women survivors. Additionally, she is passionate about access to culturally-humble and patient-centered care for underserved populations, and thus volunteers as a referrals coordinator at Cardinal Free Clinics. She is particularly interested in migrant farmworker health. This began when she worked in Washington state to bring mobile health clinics to migrant living camps, and continued when she worked at a rural medical-legal nonprofit for farm-workers in Salinas, CA as well as during her time studying community health in Oaxaca, MX.

Ryan Treves

Ryan Treves (he/him) is a senior pursuing a BS in Earth Systems and MS in Statistics. He is currently completing an honors research project focused on public and practitioner attitudes and experience around clean air centers in California, a policy tool aimed at reducing the burden of wildfire smoke on public health. His project is rooted in a partnership with the North Fair Oaks Community Alliance to improve wildfire smoke resilience in the unincorporated community of North Fair Oaks. Through this work he hopes to contribute to a more equitable and informed future of wildfire smoke policy in California. His project would not be possible without the advising of Dr. Gabrielle Wong-Parodi and the Behavioral Decisions & the Environment Lab. Ryan grew up on Ho-chunk, Kickapoo, and Sauk ancestral territory in Madison, Wisconsin, and loves to play soccer and go birdwatching.

Angie Casarez

Angie (she/her) is a FLI, Latinx, woman originally from a rural ranching community in North Texas. She is majoring in Human Biology with a concentration in Reproductive Health & Justice. She founded a community health education program, the non-profit Central Valley Scholars, where she has been teaching community based research methods to underclassmen undergraduates for the past two years. She hopes to eventually pursue a career in medicine, academia, and community health advocacy. Some of her interests include community-based participatory research, clinical research, and social disparities in health. She hopes to pursue a capstone studying the effects pesticides & exploitative labor practices have on the reproductive health of farmworkers, especially those that are undocumented immigrants.