SIGNIFICATIONS
Fifteenth Annual CSU Graduate Conference
Saturday, April 24, 2010 | University Student Union

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Eric Avila
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Eric Avila is Associate Professor of Chicano Studies, History, and Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles and a compelling voice in the history of the built environment and its relationship to social consciousness. Dr. Avila is author of *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles* (2004), which explores the ways in which narratives conveyed by Disneyland, Dodger Stadium, film noir, and the freeway system shaped and reacted to the emergent white suburban identity of postwar Los Angeles. Dr. Avila has also contributed to several Chicano Studies anthologies, including *Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture and Chicana/o Sexualities* (2003), and *The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán*, 1970-2000 (2001), which he co-edited. Additionally, he has published articles in publications such as *Landscape Journal* and *Journal of Urban History*.

Dr. Avila’s keynote lecture, “The End Was Near: Los Angeles and National Decline between Watts and Watergate” will focus on the construction of Los Angeles as “a symbol of the excess and decline that shaped broader perceptions of American culture and society at the end of the post-World War II era.” Poised in the interstices between cultural analysis, history, urban planning, and critical race theory, Dr. Avila’s scholarly work on Los Angeles invites us to critically examine the meanings we ascribe to the city—and more importantly, the meanings the city ascribes to us.

Professor Avila’s keynote address will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the University Student Union Theatre.