

## CONTRIBUTORS

**SASHA ABRAMSKY** is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Village Voice*, and *Rolling Stone*. In 2000 he was awarded a Soros Society, Crime, and Communities Media Fellowship, and in 2010 he was a senior fellow at Demos, a public-policy research organization in New York. His books include *Inside Obama's Brain* (2009) and *Breadline USA: The Hidden Scandal of American Hunger and How to Fix It* (2009).

**JESSE DREW** is director of technocultural studies at the University of California, Davis, where he specializes in digital arts, media archaeology, documentary studies, and the history of labor. He was for many years a labor activist in factories and manufacturing plants before becoming involved in grassroots video production and the nascent digital-arts movement. He holds a doctorate from the University of Texas in Radio, Television, and Film. He is currently making a feature-length documentary on the politics of country music.

**DANIEL HO SANG** is assistant professor of ethnic studies and political science at the University of Oregon. His research interests include US racial politics, cultural studies, political identity, social movements, and direct democracy. His book *Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California* (2010) examines California's history of racialized ballot measures in the post-World War II era to unearth the tangled roots of "color-blind" racial politics.

**JOSH KUN** is associate professor in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, where he is director of the Popular Music Project at the Norman Lear Center. He is author of *Audio-topia: Music, Race, and America* (2005) and coauthor of *And You Shall Know Us by the Trail of Our Vinyl* (2008). As a critic and journalist Kun regularly contributes to *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Magazine*.

**JOE MATHEWS** is a journalist and Irvine senior fellow at the New America Foundation. He is author of *The People's Machine: Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Rise of Blockbuster Democracy* (2006) and coauthor with Mark Paul of *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It* (2010). Mathews is lead blogger for NBC's Prop Zero and a columnist for *The Daily Beast*. He was previously a reporter for *The Los Angeles Times*.

**MARK PAUL**, a visiting scholar at the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, was formerly deputy treasurer of California and deputy editorial-page editor of the *Sacramento Bee*. He is the coauthor with Joe Mathews of *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How It Can Be Fixed* (2010).

**CAROLYN DE LA PEÑA** is professor of American studies and director of the Davis Humanities Institute at the University of California, Davis. Her most recent book, *Empty Pleasures: The Story of Artificial Sweetener from Saccharin to Splenda* (2010), examines the rapid proliferation of sugar substitutes in twentieth-century America with particular attention to the food-pharmaceutical collaborations, gendered invention and marketing, and consumer imperatives that drove it.

**TRACY PERKINS** is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research interests include environmental justice, social movements, communication, and agriculture. She has worked on staff and as a consultant for the International Accountability Project, the University of California, Berkeley, Labor Center, International Rivers, the Hesperian Foundation, and Amigos de las Américas. Her articles have appeared in *LEISA Magazine*, *Realeyes*, and *Terrain*.

**MATIAS RAMOS** is a writer, blogger, and founding member of United We Dream, a national network of immigrant student activists. He is a graduate of UCLA and was a friend of Tam and Cinthya as well as a fellow IDEAS member. He lives in Washington, DC.

**WADE CLARK ROOF** is professor of religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is author of *Spiritual Marketplace: Baby Boomers and the Remaking of American Religion* (1999) and co-editor of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Region: Fluid Identities* (2005). As a sociologist of religion he enjoys the religious diversity and cutting-edge religious and spiritual trends found in California.

**SUSAN STRAIGHT** is professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside. Her novel *Highwire Moon* (2002) won the Gold Medal from the Commonwealth Club of California and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her new novel, *Take One Candle Light a Room*, is set in California and Louisiana, and she has written about California and culture for *The New York Times*, *Harpers*, and *The Nation*.

**JULIE SZE** is associate professor of American studies at the University of California, Davis, as well as founding director of the Environmental Justice Project for the John Muir Institute for the Environment. Her book *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice* (2006) won the 2008 John Hope Franklin Publication Prize of the American Studies Association. Her research interests include environmental justice and environmental inequality, culture and environment, and community health and activism.

**LOUIS WARREN** is co-editor of *Boom* and W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History at UC Davis. His most recent book is *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (2005). Professor Warren's current research focuses on the environmental and social history of the Ghost Dance of 1890.

**KENT WONG** is director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education and taught the class that produced *Underground Undergrads: UCLA Undocumented Immigrant Students Speak Out*. Tam and Cinthya were his students and Tam also worked as his teaching assistant and intern.

**MICHAEL ZISER** is associate professor of English at the University of California, Davis, and inaugural director of its Environmental Humanities research supercluster, which brings together faculty and graduate students from different disciplines to discuss environment-related work. His research addresses questions about the image and agency of nonhuman nature in North American writing and visual arts, ecocriticism, agrarianism, ecophenomenology, and bioregionalist thought and practice.