

The LaSA Speaker Series Presents:  Charlas de Café

## Tainted Grapes, Tainted Lungs: Extreme Wildfire Impacts to Undocumented Latino/a and Indigenous Migrants

### Michael Mendez, Ph.D.

Assistant professor of environmental policy and planning and Visiting Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

Join us for coffee and conversation with Dr. Michael Mendez. As climate change advances, communities across the United States are adapting to the increased threat of wildfires. Such disasters are expected to become more frequent and severe. In this lecture, Dr. Méndez explores why it is crucial to understand how these events amplify existing inequalities, and how to lessen the resulting harms, in particular for the most stigmatized populations, such as undocumented Latino/a and Indigenous migrants.



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**Tue, Oct. 12, 2021**

**9:00-9:50 AM**

### Zoom:

<https://UCOP.zoom.us/j/99820213340>

Meeting ID: 998 2021 3340

### Questions about this event?

Contact [Patricia.Osorio-ODea@ucop.edu](mailto:Patricia.Osorio-ODea@ucop.edu)

Michael has more than a decade of senior-level experience in the public and private sectors, where he consulted and actively engaged in the policymaking process. This included working for the California State Legislature as a senior consultant, lobbyist, a member of the California State Mining & Geology Board, and as vice chair of the Sacramento City Planning Commission. In 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Dr. Mendez to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The board regulates water quality in a region of 11 million people.

During his time as a scholar, he has contributed to state and national research policy initiatives, including serving as an advisor to a California Air Resources Board member, and as a coauthor of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's study on "Climate Vulnerability and Social Science Perspectives." Michael is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS), a coauthor for the forthcoming National Academies of Sciences' consensus study, "Accelerating Decarbonization in the United States: Technology, Policy, and Societal Dimensions," and a coauthor of the upcoming National Climate Assessment (NCA5), the U.S. Government's premier report on climate change impacts, risks, and adaptation across the Nation (a Congressionally mandated, interagency effort).