**Dr. Omi Salas-SantaCruz** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education, Culture, & Society at the University of Utah and holds a PhD in Critical Studies of Race, Class, and Gender in Education from UC Berkeley. With over a decade of experience in LGBTQ+ advocacy, Title IX policy, and supporting trans and gender-nonconforming students, Dr. Salas-SantaCruz’s work focuses on creating inclusive educational environments and advancing decolonial and feminist frameworks within academia. They specialize in Jotería pedagogy, decolonial trans\* feminism, and Latinx feminist philosophy, drawing on interdisciplinary insights to explore how marginalized communities, particularly queer and trans people of color, experience and challenge systemic oppression within educational spaces.

Dr. Salas-SantaCruz's research and teaching engage deeply with the co-production of identity and power, utilizing Critical Race Theory, Trans\* of Color Critique, and decolonial methodologies to address the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in education. Their innovative framework, Decolonial Trans\* Feminism and Jotería Crit, explores the intersections of anti-Blackness, anti-Indigeneity, and the coloniality of gender, proposing healing-centered approaches that honor storytelling, cultural resistance, and community self-determination.