In the 1990s, Chicana/o, Latina/o university students were morally outraged. Racialized neo-liberalism, anti-immigrant politics, mass incarceration, along with budget cuts and soaring tuition increases, fueled their anger. Having exhausted all other measures for redressing their grievances, these students stopped eating, engaging in what I call "spectacular speech." In this talk, I will briefly explore hunger striking as a form of "high-risk activism," as well as the 1994 UC Santa Barbara hunger strike that lasted ten days. While effective, this action left many questions unanswered, including how students and other marginalized communities might resist today.

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"We Offer Our Lives as a Moral Protest": High-Risk Activism, Spectacular Speech, and the 1994 UC Santa Barbara Hunger Strike"