Jose Tapia is a 5th year, Chicano/a Studies and History double-major with a minor in Educational Studies. Jose was born and raised in a low-income, immigrant community in Ventura County, California. Throughout his K-12 education, Jose saw the lack of culturally-relevant pedagogy and diversity in the mainstream curricula. Jose often felt disengaged from school when the material did not teach about his own history and culture. As a college student, Jose learned about the tremendous achievement gap between Latinx students and other ethnic groups in the U.S. Because of this, Jose became passionate about education and began searching for ways to address this disparity, which led him to embrace Ethnic Studies. He eventually chose the career path of becoming a public-school teacher and becoming a role model for other Latinx students in K-12 education.
Dr. Fematt is a Lecturer in the Department of Chicana/o Studies at UCSB. She received her Ph.D. in Education from the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. Her research focuses on the Chicana/o Education Pipeline, Community College Pathways, STEM Attrition, and Inequality and Inequity in K-16. Dr. Fematt utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods in her research. Dr. Fematt can be reached at vfematt@gmail.com.