

ALMA NIDIA GARZA
Department of Sociology
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University of California, Irvine
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EDUCATION

- June 2019 Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Irvine (*Expected*)
Dissertation: Treading Borders: How College and Community Cultures Shape the Upwardly Mobile Experiences of Mexican-Origin Students
Committee: Cynthia Feliciano (Chair), Rachel B. Baker, Amy J. Binder, Francesca Polletta and Rubén G. Rumbaut
- June 2015 M.A., Social Science (concentration in Demographic & Social Analysis), University of California, Irvine
- July 2013 M.S., Sociology, Oklahoma State University
- May 2006 B.A., Government (highest honors), University of Texas at Austin
- May 2006 B.B.A., Marketing (high honors), University of Texas at Austin

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Educational Inequality Latina/o Sociology Social Class
Culture Race & Ethnicity

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Garza, Alma Nidia and Andrew S. Fullerton. 2018. "Staying Close or Going Away: How Distance to College Impacts the Educational Attainment and Academic Performance of First-Generation College Students." *Sociological Perspectives*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Ashar, Sameer M., Edelina Burciaga, Jennifer M. Chacón, Susan Bibler Coutin, Alma Garza and Stephen Lee. 2016. "Navigating Liminal Legalities Along Pathways To Citizenship: Immigrant Vulnerability and the Role of Mediating Institutions." *UC Irvine School of Law Research Paper No. 2016-05; Criminal Justice, Borders and Citizenship Research Paper No. 2733860*. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2733860>.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

"Scripted Schooling: Determining When Cultural Retooling is Worth the Academic Payoff."
Alma Nidia Garza and Jean Van Delinder *Under Review*

"Cultural Sidelining: How Campus Cultures Across University Contexts Shortchange Working-Class, Hispanic Students." Alma Nidia Garza *Under Review*

“Facilitating Class or Cultural Mobility? Stratified Learning in the College Classroom.” Alma Nidia Garza

“Social Capital and its Differential Returns: Assessing Racial-Ethnic Disparities in College Enrollment Through an Intersectional Lens.” Alma Nidia Garza

EXTERNAL AWARDS

NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship Semifinalist, 2018

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2017

University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC Mexus) Dissertation Research Grant, 2016

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, NRC, 2015

Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, NRC, 2013

INTERNAL AWARDS

Public Impact Fellowship, *University of California, Irvine, 2018*

Christian Werner Summer Fellowship, *University of California, Irvine, 2018*

Department of Sociology Summer Research Fellowship, *University of California, Irvine, 2016*

Department of Sociology Summer Research Fellowship, *University of California, Irvine, 2014*

Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship, *University of California, Irvine, 2013*

OSU Foundation Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, *Oklahoma State University, 2012-2013*

O.D. Duncan Outstanding Graduate Student, *Oklahoma State University, 2012*

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2018 Garza, Alma Nidia. “Variable Middle Class: How College and Community Cultures Redefine Understandings of Social Class Among Mexican-American Students” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, *Philadelphia, PA.*

2017 Garza, Alma Nidia and Jean VanDelinder. “Critical Roadblocks: How Structural Circumstances Hinder First-Generation College Students from Developing Critical Thinking Skills” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, *Montreal, Quebec, Canada.*

2016 Garza, Alma Nidia and Nicholas J. Graham. “Teacher Expectations: The Relationship Between Student Race, School Setting and Educational Attainment.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, *Seattle, WA.*

2015 Garza, Alma Nidia. “Interactional Social Capital: A Fuzzy Set Analysis of Parent, Peer and Teacher Support in the Transition to College.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, *Chicago, IL.*

- 2013 Garza, Alma Nidia and Andrew S. Fullerton. "The Impact of Distance to College on the Academic Performance of First-Generation Students." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, *New York, NY*.
- 2013 Garza, Alma Nidia and Jean Van Delinder. "First-Generation Students in the Arts and Sciences: How Cultural Capital Matters." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, *Atlanta, GA*.
- 2012 Garza, Alma Nidia. "Political Activism in Public Spaces: Media Framing of the Occupy Movement." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), *Denver, CO*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016, 2017, 2018 "The New Second Generation in Middle Adulthood: Changing Contexts and Life-Course Dynamics of Ethnic Mobility and Inequality." Data analysis performed under the supervision of Profs. Cynthia Feliciano and Rubén G. Rumbaut, *University of California, Irvine*.
- 2014-2015 "Navigating Liminal Legalities along Pathways to Citizenship: Immigrant Vulnerability and the Role of Mediating Institutions." Conducted fieldwork and performed data analysis under the direction of Profs. Susan Bibler Coutin, Stephen Lee, Jennifer Chacón and Sameer Ashar, *University of California, Irvine*.
- 2012 "Red Light. Green Light Signals? Defining Family and School Influences on Rural, Native American Girls' Early STEM Interests." Interview coding performed under the direction of Prof. Jean Van Delinder, *Oklahoma State University*.

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Chicano Latino Studies Research Design (Course Reader), *University of California, Irvine*
- 2015 Chicano Latino Studies Research Design (Course Reader), *University of California, Irvine*
- 2013 Cultural Anthropology (Online), *Oklahoma State University*
- 2012 Peoples of Mesoamerica, *Oklahoma State University*
- 2012 Contemporary Cultures (Honors), *Oklahoma State University*
- 2012 Introduction to Sociology (Honors), *Oklahoma State University*
- 2011 Criminology, *Oklahoma State University*
- 2011 Environmental Inequality, *Oklahoma State University*

OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2015-2016 Social Science Academic Resource Center, *Graduate Advisor, University of California, Irvine*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2018-Present Department of Sociology, *Graduate Student Peer Mentor, University of*

California, Irvine

2017-Present Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee, *Student Representative, University of California, Irvine*

2014-2015 Summer Academic Enrichment Program, *Reader (Student Personal Statements), University of California, Irvine*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer:

American Sociological Review, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Sociological Forum,
Sociological Perspectives

Member:

American Sociological Association
Society for the Study of Social Problems

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2006-2011 Brand Specialist, *Nike Inc.*,