

CURRICULUM VITAE

RANDOL CONTRERAS, PH.D.

University of California, Riverside
Department of Media and Cultural Studies
900 University Avenue, Riverside, California

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020 – Associate Professor (Tenured), Department of Media and Cultural Studies
Cooperating Faculty Member, Department of Sociology
University of California, Riverside
- 2019 – 20 Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Cultural Studies
University of California, Riverside
- 2018 – 19 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
University of California, Riverside
- 2014 – 17 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Cross-appointment, Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies
University of Toronto
- 2009 – 14 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
California State University, Fullerton
- 2007 – 09 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice.
Towson University

EDUCATION

- 2008 Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
- 1997 Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
City College of the City University of New York
- 1994 Associate of Arts in Social Science
Tompkins Cortland Community College of the State University of New York

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race, Class, Gender, Crime, and Ethnography in Marginal Communities

BOOKS

2024 Randol Contreras. *The Marvelous Ones: Drugs, Gang Violence, and Resistance in East Los Angeles*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

***2025 CUSS Outstanding Book Award**

(Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association)

***2025 Emory Elliot Book Award**

(Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside)

***Finalist, 2025 C. Wrights Mills Award**

(Society for the Study of Social Problems)

***2024 Choice Outstanding Academic Title**

(American Library Association)

Reviewed in: The Metropole · Sociological Forum · Contemporary Sociology

Featured in Author-Meets-Critics/Discussant:

- 2026 Author Meets Critics, Pacific Sociological Association. Long Beach, CA.
- 2025 Ethnographic Café, University of Berkeley, California.
- 2024 Author-Meets-Critics, California Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Pomona, CA.
- 2024 Author-Meets-Critics, American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

2013 Randol Contreras. *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

***2015 Albert J. Reiss Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award**

(Crime, Law and Deviance Section, American Sociological Association)

***2014 Special Recognition Award for an Outstanding Monograph that Advances the Understanding of Urban Life**

(Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology
American Anthropological Association)

***2013 UC Press Exceptional First Book Award**

(PEN Center USA)

***Honorable Mention, 2015 Mirra Komarovsky Book Award**

***Honorable Mention, 2015 Distinguished Scholarship Award**

(Pacific Sociological Association)

***Honorable Mention, 2015 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award** (Race, Gender and Class Section, American Sociological Association)

***Finalist, 2014 C. Wrights Mills Award**

Reviewed or featured in: Times Higher Education · Juvenile Justice Information Exchange · Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books · Contemporary Sociology · Sociological Forum · PsycCRITIQUES · Planning Perspectives · Journal of Qualitative Criminology and Criminal Justice · Journal of Criminal Justice Education · Sociologie

Featured in Author-Meets-Critics:

- 2015 Eastern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2014 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

*Selections from Chapter 7, “Getting the Shit,” reprinted in eds. Mitchell Duneier, Philip Kasinitz, and Alexandra K. Murphy, *The Urban Ethnography Reader*, New York: Oxford, 2013.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2025 Randol Contreras. 2025. “A Man of his Times: Using Historical Periods to Understand an Aging Gang Member’s Life.” *Critical Criminology*. Published online November 21, 2025.
- 2023 Randol Contreras. “Not Bowing Down: Gang Resistance to Prison Co-Governance in Southern California.” *Swiss Journal of Sociocultural Anthropology* 29: 55 – 68.
- 2019 Randol Contreras. “The Broken Ethnography: Lessons from an Almost Hero.” *Qualitative Sociology* 42(2): 161 – 179.
- 2019 Randol Contreras. “Transparency and Unmasking Issues in Ethnographic Crime Research: Methodological Considerations.” *Sociological Forum* 34(2): 293 – 312.
- 2018 Randol Contreras. “From Nowhere: Space, Race, and Time in how Young Minority Men Interpret Encounters with Gangs.” *Qualitative Sociology* 41(2): 263 – 280.
- 2017 Randol Contreras. “There’s No Sunshine: Spatial Anguish, Deflections, and Intersectionality in Compton and South Central.” *Environment and Planning D* 35(4): 656 – 673.
- 2009 Randol Contreras. “‘Damn, Yo – Who’s That Girl?: An Ethnographic Analysis of Masculinity in Drug Robberies.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 38(4): 465 – 92.

***Honorable Mention, 2007 Crime, Law and Deviance Graduate Student Paper Award** (American Sociological Association)

*Selections reprinted in ed. Rich Ocejo, *Ethnography and the City: Readings on Doing Urban Fieldwork*, New York: Routledge, 2012.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 Randol Contreras. “Que Duro! Street Violence in the South Bronx.” In *Ritual, Emotion, Emotion, Violence: Studies on the Micro-Sociology of Randall Collins*. Eds. Elliot Weininger, Annette Lareau, Omar Lizardo. New York: Routledge, pp. 25 – 47.
- 2015 Randol Contreras. “Standpoint Purgatorio: Liminal Fear and Danger in Studying the ‘Black and Brown’ Tension in Los Angeles.” In *Violence at the Urban Margins*. Eds. Javier Auyero, Philippe Bourgois, and Nancy Scheper-Hughes. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 249 – 264.
- 2015 Randol Contreras. “Recalling to Life: Understanding Stickup Kids through Insider Qualitative Research.” In *Advances in Criminological Theory*. Eds. Jody Miller and Wilson R. Palacios. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, pp. 155 – 168.
- 2013 Randol Contreras. “Making Up for Lost Time: My Son, My Fieldwork, My Life.” In *Family and Work in Everyday Ethnography*. Eds. Tamara M. Brown and Joanna Dreby. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, pp. 131 – 145.

ESSAYS/ENTRIES

2026. Randol Contreras, 2026. “From Top to Bottom: Studying Street, Prison, and Drug Market Violence.” *Cambridge University Social Anthropology Society Magazine*. (<https://www.cusas.socanth.cam.ac.uk/from-top-to-bottom-studying-street-prison-and-drug-market-violence/>)
- 2015 Randol Contreras. “Becoming a Stickup Kid.” Feature article. *Contexts* 14(4): 20 – 25.
 *Reprinted in *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective* by Michelle Inderbitzin, 2nd Edition, 2016.
- 2015 Randol Contreras. “The Need for More *Carnal*.” Commentary on *For a Sociology of Flesh and Blood* by Loic Wacquant. *Qualitative Sociology* 38(1): 27 – 31.
 *German Translation in 2015 *Berliner Debatte Initial* 26(3): 93 – 97.
- 2014 Randol Contreras. “A Windy Winter Night in North Philly.” Commentary on *The Moral Economy of Violence in the US Inner City* by George Karandinos, Laurie Kain Hart, Fernando Montero Castrillo, and Philippe Bourgois. *Current Anthropology* 55 (1): 11 – 12.
- 2013 Randol Contreras. “Writing in Practice Essay.” In *Writing for Sociology Students*. Eds. Angeliq Harris and Alia Tyler. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 2nd Edition.
- 2008 Randol Contreras. “Social Disorganization.” In *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*. Ed. Vincent N. Parillo. New York: Sage Publications.

- 2006 Randol Contreras. "Writing-to-Learn in *Introduction to Criminal Justice*." *From the Writing Desk: Writing Across the Curriculum at Hostos Community College* 6(1): 2–6.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 "Is the Crack Era Really Misunderstood? The Need to Go in New Directions." Review of *When Crack was King: A People's History of a Misunderstood Era* by Donovan X. Ramsey. *Sociological Forum* 39(4): 1547 – 1550.
- 2023 Review of *Ballad of the Bullet: Gangs, Drill Music, and the Power of Online Infamy* by Forrest Stuart. *Punishment and Society* 25(1): 295 – 297.
- 2019 Review of *South Bronx Battles: Stories of Resistance, Resilience, and Renewal* by Carolyn McLaughlin. *City & Community* 18(4): 1338 – 1340.
- 2019 Review of *The Gang Paradox: Inequalities and Miracles on the U.S.-Mexico Border* by Robert J. Durán. *Contemporary Sociology* 48(6): 654 – 656.
- 2017 Review of *Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto* by Eric Tang. *City & Community* 16(1): 116 – 118.
- 2016 "You Win Some, You Lose Some: The Struggle to Understand Black Baltimore." Review of *The Hero's Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State* by Patricia Fernandez-Kelly. *Sociological Forum* 31(1): 249 – 253.
- 2015 Review of *Unwanted: Muslim Immigrants, Dignity, and Drug Dealing* by Sandra M. Bucurius. *Theoretical Criminology* 19(4): 600 – 601.
- 2012 Review of *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets* by Timothy Black. *Sociological Forum* 27(3): 797 – 800.
- 2010 Review of *Black Men Can't Shoot* by Scott Brooks. *Journal of African American Studies* 15(3): 409 – 411.
- 2007 Review of *The Truce: Lessons From an L.A. Gang War* by Karen Umemoto. *Contemporary Sociology*, 36(5): 474 – 77.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Randol Contreras. "Put it *Pausa*: The Role of Geo-Hatred in Inmate Resistance Against Prison Gangs." Submitted to Non-State Armed Governance Work Group.

Randol Contreras. "A Man of his Times: Using Historical Moments to Understand an Aging Gang Member's Life." Revised and Resubmitted to *Critical Criminology*.

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2015	Albert J. Reiss Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award
2015	Fellow, Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute, Ohio State University
2015	Honorable Mention, Distinguished Scholarship Award
2015	Honorable Mention, Mirra Komarovski Award
2014	Special Recognition Award for an Outstanding Monograph that Advances the Understanding of Urban Life
2014	Finalist, C. Wright Mills Award
2013	UC Press Exceptional First Book Award
2013 – 14	Junior/Senior Intramural Research Grant Award
2012 – 13	Outstanding Educator Award (California State Fullerton)
2013	New Author Book Award (California State University, Fullerton)
2009 – 10	CSUF Faculty Stipend Award (California State University, Fullerton)
2007	Honorable Mention, A.S.A. Crime, Law, and Deviance Graduate Student Paper
2006	MAGNET Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY
2005 – 07	CUNY Writing Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY
1997 – 2001	MAGNET Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY
1997	Ward Medal in Sociology, City College, CUNY
1997	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
1996 – 97	CUNY Pipeline Fellow
1995	Golden Key National Honor Society

COURSES

University of California, Riverside

- Critical Field Research (Senior Seminar)
- Qualitative Analysis II (Graduate Seminar)
- Drug Markets as Conformity and Resistance
- Gangs: A Critical Analysis
- The Wire (Film and Visual Culture)
- Introduction to Media and Cultural Studies
- Introduction to Criminology

University of Toronto

- Ethnography (Graduate Seminar)
- Drugs and Crime (Graduate Seminar)
- Gangs in the City (Senior Seminar)
- Drugs in the City
- Qualitative Analysis
- Criminology, Law and Public Policy

California State University-Fullerton and Towson University

- Crime, Justice, and Inequality (Masters Seminar)
- Advanced Theories (Masters Seminar)
- Race and Crime

- Theories of Social Behavior
- Criminology
- Introduction to Sociology
- Corrections
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Research Methods

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004 Ethnographer, DVR Ethnography Research Project. Horowitz Associates, Inc.
- 2001 – 02 Prevention Specialist, Family and Community Violence Prevention Program, John Jay College of Criminal Justice – CUNY.
- 1998 – 2000 Interviewer, Immigrant Second Generation/Metropolitan New York Project, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

“The Maravillas: [Gangs], Aging and Mattering in East LA.”

- March 2026, Department of Sociology (Immigration Series). The Graduate Center/CUNY.
- October 2025, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of New Mexico.
- May 2025, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- April 2025, Department of Sociology, Whittier College.
- March 2025, Department of Sociology, Hunter College-CUNY, New York, NY.
- January 2025, The Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies, University of California, Riverside.
- November 2024, Department of Sociology, University of Cincinnati.
- January 2024, Centre for Criminological Research, University of Alberta.
- March 2023, Department of Sociology, Whittier College.

“Put it *Pausa*: The Role of Geo-Hatred in Inmate Resistance Against Prison Gangs.”

- May 2025, Non-State Armed Governance Workshop. Pennsylvania State University.

“A Man of his Times: Using Historical Moments to Understand an Aging Gang Member’s Life.”

- August 2023, European Research Council Gangs Project Workshop, The Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development. Geneva, Switzerland.

“Collective Violence Memories and Intergenerational Conflict within Mexican Gangs in East Los Angeles.”

- September 2022, Urban Violence and Collective Memory in the Americas, University of Geneva.

“Constructing [Latino] Blackness: Doing Ethnography on the Color Line in Los Angeles.”

- September 2023, Beyond the Box Event, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA.
- March 2022, Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles.

“The Marvelous Ones: The Complexity of Gang Member Meanings in East Los Angeles.”

·February 2022, Department of Sociology, Duke University.

“Maravilla: Making Meaning of Gang Violence and Resistance in East Los Angeles.”

- December 2019, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, The Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development. Geneva, Switzerland.
- December 2019, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles.
- October 2017, Ethnography Workshop, University of Toronto.
- April 2016, Penal Boundaries Workshop, University of Toronto.

“Behind the Seen – No More: An Ethnographer’s Biography and the Shaping of Research.”

- December 2019, Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, The Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development. Geneva, Switzerland.
- December 2019, Ethnography Workshop, University of Santa Barbara.

“These Youngsters Shoot First: Intergenerational Conflict Between Young and Old Gang Members in East Los Angeles.”

- July 2019, Workshop on Youth Violence and De-escalation Strategies and Socio-Legal Response. Universidad de Oñate (Spain).
- July 2019, Departament de Comunicació. Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)

“The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream.”

- April 2017, Undergraduate Sociology Student Union, University of Toronto.
- March 2017, Collaborative Program in Addiction Studies, University of Toronto. (Keynote)
- November 2016, Alumni Association, University of Toronto, Mississauga.
- November 2016, Criminology Student Association, University of Toronto.
- August 2016, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati.
- May 2016, Charles Green Urban Sociology Lecture. Hunter College (CUNY).
- May 2016, Department of Social Science, Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY).
- May 2015, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- April 2015, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, California State University–Northridge.
- April 2014, Department of Social Science, Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY).
- November 2013, Institute for the Study of Society Issues, University of California–Berkeley.
- April 2010, Department of Sociology, California State University–Fullerton.

“There’s No Sunshine: Avoiding Stigma in the Criminalized Spaces of Compton and South Los Angeles.”

- April 2016, Workshop on Sociological Research, Florida Atlantic University.
- March 2016, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley.
- November 2015, Feminist Lunch Hour, University of Toronto, Mississauga.
- July 2015, Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Workshop, Ohio State University.

“Standpoint Purgatorio: Fear and Danger in Studying the ‘Black and Brown’ Tension in Los Angeles.”

- February 2015, Urban and Communities Workshop, Northwestern University.

- April 2014, Race/Ethnicity Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles.
- April 2013, Violence at the Urban Margins Workshop, University of Texas, Austin.

“Sex, Drugs . . . Let’s Roll! Masculinity Constructions Among South Bronx Drug Robbers.”

- March 2013, Drugs in Society Symposium. California State University, Fullerton.

INVITED CEREMONIAL SPEAKING

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| 2025 | Keynote Speaker, Alpha Kappa Delta Induction Ceremony (Virtual)
University of Central Florida |
| November 2019 | Keynote Speaker, Sociology Week
East Los Angeles College |
| May 2013 | Commencement Speaker, Graduation Commencement
Tompkins-Cortland Community College |
| May 2013 | Faculty Speaker, Graduation Commencement for Sociology
California State University, Fullerton |
| May 2000 | Graduate Student Speaker, The President’s Student Award Convocation
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York |
| June 1997 | Student Speaker, CUNY Pipeline Conference
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York |

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| 2024 | Randol Contreras. “The Afro-Latino Consciousness as a Methodological Tool.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal. |
| 2019 | Randol Contreras. “Reflections on the War on Drugs: Shaping the Lives of Gang
Members in East Los Angeles.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
New York. |
| 2019 | Randol Contreras. “Understanding Distinctions Between ‘Black’ and ‘Brown’
Among Mexican Gang Members in East Los Angeles.” American Sociological
Association Annual Meeting. New York. |
| 2019 | Randol Contreras. “Reinforcing Gang Affiliation: Mexican Maravilla Gangs in
California Jails and Prisons.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston,
MA. |
| 2017 | Randol Contreras, “The Stickup Kids.” Invitation to special session on <i>Advances in
Ethnography</i> . American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada. |

- 2017 Randol Contreras, "Gang Politics as Unusual: How East Los Angeles Mexican Gangs Understand President Trump." Criminology, Law, and Society Conference. University of Toronto, Mississauga. Mississauga, Ontario.
- 2016 Randol Contreras, "The State of Urban Ethnography." Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies. University of Toronto.
- 2015 Randol Contreras. "Tax Free! The Link Between the California State Prison System and the Legend of the Maravilla Gangs of East Los Angeles." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington D.C.
- 2013 Randol Contreras. "Understanding South Bronx Stickup Kids: Reflections of a Drug Market Insider." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- 2013 Randol Contreras. "From *La Republica* to the South Bronx: Transnational Racial Constructions Among Dominican Drug Market Participants." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2012 Randol Contreras. "There's No Place Like Home: Nostalgia, Research, and Fictional Reality in the South Bronx." Paper, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2012 Randol Contreras. "Making up for Lost Time: My Son, My Fieldwork, My Life." Paper, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2011 Randol Contreras. "*Angustia Racial*: Racial and Gender Anguish Among South Bronx Drug Market Participants." Paper, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 Randol Contreras. "Structure Matters: Declining Drug Market Opportunities and South Bronx Drug Robberies." Paper, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 Randol Contreras. "Standpoint Crisis and the Triple Representational Dilemma: Researching Dominican Drug Robbers in the South Bronx." Paper, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2010 Randol Contreras. "*No Soy Negro*: The Racial and Ethnic Constructions of Dominican Drug Robbers and Dealers in the South Bronx." Paper, Transnational Hispaniola International Conference. Latin American Studies Association. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- 2009 Randol Contreras. "Bro, Those Were the Good Ol' Days": Life Course Reflections Among South Bronx Drug Robbers." Paper, Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.
- 2008 Randol Contreras. "Yo Kid, You Losin' It': The Moral Ambiguities and Complexities in Researching Latino Drug Robbers in the South Bronx." Paper, Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.

- 2007 Randol Contreras. "Who's That Girl? An Ethnographic Analysis of Gender Roles in Drug Robberies." Paper, Annual Graduate Student Ethnography Conference, SUNY Stony Brook. Stony Brook, NY.
- 2005 Randol Contreras. "The Social Organization of a Drug Robbery: An Ethnographic Account." Paper, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2005 Randol Contreras. "Checkin' Out the Girl: The Perspectives of Male Drug Robbers on Female Crew Members." Paper, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Washington D.C.
- 2004 Randol Contreras. "*Joloperos*: An Analysis of Latino Drug Robberies in the South Bronx." Paper, New York State Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Oswego, NY.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2026 Chair, Community and Urban Sociology Section Book Award Committee. American Sociological Association. New York, NY.
- 2025 Critic, *The Two Faces of Fear: Violence and Inequality in the Mexican Metropolis*. American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2025 Sub-Area Chair, Program Committee. "Organized Crime." American Society of Criminology. Washington, DC.
- 2025 Conference Co-Organizer, "Global Dominicanidades II." Latin American Studies Association. San Francisco, CA.
- 2025 Reviewer, Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2024 Conference Organizer, *From Global to Local: Gangs, Racism, Criminalization, and the Empowerment of Youths*. University of California Riverside. April 24th.
- 2024 Critic, *Purgatory Citizenship: Reentry, Race, and Abolition*. Author-Meets-Critics. Eastern Sociological Society. Washington, D.C.
- 2023 Discussant, European Research Council Gangs Project Workshop, The Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development. Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2023 Reviewer, Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network at Rutgers University. Reviewed a book chapter and book proposal of a tenure-track program participant.
- 2022 Session Organizer, "Ethnography/Ethnographic Studies." American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, CA.

- 2021 Panelist, “Walking the Walk: Promoting the Inclusion of Empowerment of Sociologists at Historically Black College and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions.” American Sociological Association Webinar. February 10.
- 2020 Critic, *Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research*. Author-Meets-Critics. Center for Latin American Studies and Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- 2019 Critic, *The Gang Paradox: Inequalities and Miracles on the U.S. – Mexico Border*. Author-Meets-Critic. American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.
- 2019 Reviewer/Critic, *Betes Noires* Book Manuscript Workshop for Dr. Robin Derby. Department of History. University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2019 Member, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award Committee. Race, Gender, and Class section, American Sociological Association.
- 2017 Member, Albert J. Reiss Distinguished Scholarship Award Committee. Crime, Law, and Deviance section, American Sociological Association.
- 2017 Session Organizer, *Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline*. Author Meets Critics. American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada.
- 2014 – 15 Member, Methods Workshop Committee. American Society of Criminology. Washington, D.C.
- 2014 Critic, *Unwanted: Muslim Immigrants, Dignity, and Drug Dealing*. Author-Meets-Critics. American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 Session Organizer, “Violence.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 Critic, *Raising Brooklyn: Nannies, Childcare, and Caribbeans Creating Community*. Author-Meets-Critics. Eastern Sociological Society. Boston, MA.
- 2013 Discussant, “What Can Ethnography Teach Us About Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2011 Session Organizer, “Inside Out: Urban Ethnographers of Color at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2011 Session Organizer, “Ghettos.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 Session Organizer, “Black Men Can’t Shoot.” Author-Meets-Critics. Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Oakland, CA.
- 2011 Critic, *Black Men Can’t Shoot*. Author-Meets-Critics. Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Oakland, CA.

2008 Moderator, “ReGeneration for Youth: Communities, Opportunities, and After School Programs.” Annual Baltimore Immigration Summit. Baltimore, MD.

Other Professional Service:

Editorial Boards

2020 – present Sociological Methodology; Qualitative Sociology; Contexts.

Peer Reviewer

Books: Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, University of California Press, Columbia University Press, Temple University Press, Routledge

Journals: American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Sociological Methodology, City and Community, Criminology, Gender and Society, Theoretical Criminology, Feminist Criminology, Critical Criminology, Qualitative Sociology, Sociological Forum, Frontiers in Sociology, International Sociology, Law & Society Review, Conflict and Society, Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology, Journal of Sports and Social Issues, Sociology Compass; Third World Quarterly, Contexts.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC/DIVERSITY SERVICE

2025 Judge, California State University, Northridge. Judged a graduate student poster competition in the Department of Sociology. December 2nd.

2025 History of the Church in Latin America, University of California, Riverside (Host: Dr. Jennifer Hughes), November 24th.

2025 Qualitative Research Methods, Brooklyn College (CUNY) (Host: Dr. Tamara Mose), March 17th. Discussed *The Marvelous Ones* and research methods with undergraduates.

2024 “The Maravillas: Gangs, Aging, and Mattering in East Los Angeles.” Unitarian Universalist Church of Riverside, June 2nd.

2024 Invited Speaker, University of La Verne. “From the South Bronx to Academia: A Conversation with Dr. Randol Contreras.” Discussed my research and career trajectory with undergraduate students.

2023 Invited Speaker, University of California Riverside. “Urban Issues and Policies.” Discussed my research on racial and ethnic conflicts in urban areas.

2021 Panel Guest, University of California, Riverside. “Junior Faculty Workshop.” Discussed the tenure process and strategies to junior faculty members.

- 2021 Invited Speaker, University of California, Riverside. “From the South Bronx to Academia: A Career Trajectory – So Far.” Trio Scholars Program.
- 2020 Invited Speaker, University of California, Riverside. “Introduction to Media and Cultural Studies.” Discussed my gang research with undergraduates.
- 2020 Panel Guest, University of California, Riverside. “Junior Faculty Workshop.” Discussed the tenure process with junior faculty members.
- 2020 Invited Speaker, Pomona College. Discussed field research methods with undergraduates in a sociology research methods course.
- 2019 Judge, California State University, Northridge. Judged a student poster competition in the Department of Sociology.
- 2019 Invited Guest, Hunter College (City University of New York). Brought two East Los Angeles study participants to explain gang life to undergraduate students.
- 2019 Panel Guest, East Los Angeles College. “Sociology Career Pathways.” Discussed job market and educational strategies with community college students.
- 2018 Panel Guest, University of California, Riverside. “Surviving the Job Market.” Academic Development Day. Discussed job market strategies with Ph.D. students from different disciplines.
- 2018 Panel Guest, CSULA Graduate School Application Forum. California State University Los Angeles. Addressed minority students on graduate school admissions and careers in university teaching and research.
- 2018 Invited Speaker, East Los Angeles College. Discussed doing crime research and pursuing careers in academia with minority undergraduate students.
- 2018 Invited Speaker, Fullerton College. Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with community college students.
- 2018 Invited Speaker, University of California, Riverside. Discussed insider research with graduate students.
- 2018 Invited Speaker, University of Toronto-St. George. Discussed drug market research with undergraduate students.
- 2017 Judge, California State University, Northridge. Judged a graduate student poster competition in the Department of Sociology.
- 2017 Invited Speaker, Ryerson University. Discussed business ethics in illegal drug markets with undergraduate students.
- 2017 Invited Speaker, University of Toronto-Scarborough. Discussed differences between insider and outsider research with undergraduate students.

- 2016 Invited Speaker, Fullerton College. Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with community college students.
- 2016 Invited Speaker, Borough of Manhattan Community College. Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with community college students.
- 2016 Invited Speaker, East Los Angeles College. Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with community college students.
- 2016 Invited Speaker, The Practicalities of Qualitative Research, Department of Criminology, Law and Society. University of California, Irvine. Discussed the practice and writing up of qualitative research with graduate students.
- 2016 Faculty Representative, Criminology Roundtable Event for College Transfer Students. University of Toronto-Mississauga. Addressed students on criminology careers and graduate program requirements.
- 2016 Panel Guest, Career Panel, Students of Sociology, University of Toronto-Scarborough. Addressed undergraduate students about careers in Sociology.
- 2016 Panel Guest, Graduate Student Brownbag, Sociology Department/University of Toronto. Addressed advanced graduate students on attaining job market success.
- 2015 Invited Speaker, East Los Angeles College. Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with community college students.
- 2015 Invited Speaker, Sociology Department, City College (City University of New York). Discussed *The Stickup Kids* with undergraduate students.
- 2014 Guest Speaker, Reading Group, Orange County Juvenile Hall. Orange, CA. Addressed juvenile detainees on academic and career success, and discussed my insider drug market research in the *The Stickup Kids*.
- 2014 Judge, Creative Nonfiction Book Award Committee, PEN Center USA. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 Invited Speaker, Cerritos College. Addressed community college students on overcoming barriers and doing inner city research.
- 2013 Invited Speaker, Cerritos College. Addressed minority community college students on overcoming barriers and doing inner city research.
- 2012 Invited Panel Guest. El Camino College. Addressed minority community college students on careers in crime research and criminal justice.
- 2012 Invited Speaker, Cerritos College. Addressed minority community college students on overcoming barriers and doing inner city research.
- 2012 – 14 Member, Review Committee, California Pre-Doctoral Program, California State University.

- 2013 – 14 Instructor, Maravilla Historical Society. East Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 Co-organizer, Dia de los Muertos Event. Maravilla Historical Society. East Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 Co-organizer, Old Timers Breakfast. Maravilla Historical Society. East Los Angeles, CA.
- 2008 Hispanic Hero, Maryland Hispanic Youth Symposium, Towson University.
- 2008 Speaker and Organizer, Minority Graduate School Workshop, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Towson University.
- 2005 – 07 CUNY Writing Fellow, Hostos Community College (City University of New York).
- 2001 Instructor, CUNY Pipeline Graduate School and Fellowship Application Workshop.
2000 Project Assistant, MAGNET-SEM Program/National Science Foundation, The Graduate Center (City University of New York).
- 2000 Panel Guest, CUNY Pipeline Conference, The Graduate Center (City University of New York).
- 1995 – 97 Teaching Assistant, SEEK Sociology Lab (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge for Minority Students). City College (City University of New York).

INVITED VIRTUAL CLASS VISITS

- 2026 Sociological Theory, Princeton University. (Host: Dr. Lynn Chancer), March 23rd.
- 2026 Juvenile Delinquency, La Verne University. (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), March 17th.
- 2025 Program Evaluation (Graduate), San José State University (Host: Dr. Andrea Martinez), March 8th.
- 2025 Interdisciplinary Methods (Graduate), University of California, Santa Barbara (Host: San Juanita Garcia), May 29th.
- 2025 Qualitative Methods (Graduate), Boston University (Host: Ana Villarreal), April 17th.
- 2024 Qualitative Research Methods, Brooklyn College (CUNY) (Host: Dr. Tamara Mose), October 16th.
- 2024 Sociology of Gangs and Gang Violence, University of Utah (Host: Dr. Katherine Maldonado), September 17th.

- 2024 Beyond the Cartels: Communicating Causalities of the War on Drugs, University of Washington (Host: Dr. Vanessa Freije), May 1st.
- 2024 Sociology of Drugs and Alcohol (Graduate), University of Central Florida (Host: Dr. Jason Ford), March 27th.
- 2024 Qualitative Research (Graduate), The Graduate Center-CUNY (Host: Dr. Tamara Mose), March 7th.
- 2023 Crime Ethnographies (Graduate), University of Alberta (Host: Dr. Sandra Bucerius), October 18th.
- 2023 Program Evaluation (Graduate), San José State University (Host: Dr. Andrea Martinez), March 8th.
- 2022 Contemporary Society, DePauw University (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), April 25th.
- 2021 Contemporary Society, DePauw University (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), November 15th.
- 2021 Ethnography, University of Alberta (Host: Dr. Sandra Bucerius). November 5th.
- 2021 Immigration and the New Second Generation, Amherst College (Host: Dr. Leah Schalmzbauer). April 22nd.
- 2021 Introduction to Criminology, DePauw University (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), April 19th.
- 2020 Introduction to Criminology, DePauw University (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), December 2nd.
- 2020 Urban Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr. Rose Kim). May 14th.
- 2020 Introduction to Sociology, University of San Diego (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), May 4th. (Section 1)
- 2020 Introduction to Sociology, University of San Diego (Host: Dr. Alessandro Morosin), May 4th. (Section 2)
- 2019 Crime Ethnographies (Graduate), University of Alberta (Host: Dr. Sandra Bucerius), November 29th.
- 2019 Logic of Inquiry (Graduate), University of Cincinnati (Host: Dr. Erynn Casanova), November 6th.
- 2019 Qualitative Analysis (Graduate), University of Albany (Host: Dr. Joanna Dreby). September 18th.

- 2019 Urban Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr. Rose Kim).
May 9th.
- 2019 Political Economy, the Body, and Health (Graduate), University of Toronto (Host:
Dr. Mark Hunter). March 4th.
- 2018 Qualitative Analysis (Graduate), University of Albany (Host: Dr. Joanna Dreby).
October 3rd.
- 2018 Qualitative Research, Brooklyn College (Host: Dr. Tamara Mose).
October 3rd.
- 2018 Urban Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr. Rose Kim).
May 8th.
- 2018 Ethnography of Policing and Race (Undergraduate) (Host: Dr. K. Nyerere Ture).
Yale University. April 11th.
- 2017 Introduction to Sociology, Kalamazoo College (Host: Dr. Francisco Villegas).
November 1st.
- 2017 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 25th.
- 2017 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 26th.
- 2017 Urban Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr. Rose Kim)
May 16th.
- 2017 Research Methods, Brown University (Host: Irene Pang). March 23rd.
- 2016 Introduction to Sociology, Davidson College (Host: Dr. Joseph Ewoodzie).
October 14.
- 2016 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 22nd.
- 2016 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 19th.
- 2015 Cultural Anthropology (Graduate), Hunter College (CUNY) (Host: Dr. Marc
Edelman). December 1st.
- 2015 Race, Class, Gender, and Crime, University of Colorado, Boulder (Host: Dr. Hillary
Potter). October 29th.
- 2015 Introduction to Sociology, Davidson College (Host: Dr. Joseph Ewoodzie).
October 16th.

- 2015 Ethnography (Graduate), Brooklyn College (CUNY) (Host: Dr. Tamara Mose).
September 25th.
- 2015 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 23rd.
- 2015 Criminology, Tompkins Cortland Community College (Host: Dr. Scott Ochs).
September 22nd.
- 2015 Urban Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr. Rose Kim).
May 7th.
- 2015 Introduction to Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr.
Yolanda Martin). April 1st.
- 2014 Introduction to Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College (Host: Dr.
Robin Isserles). December 2nd.
- 2014 Race, Class, Gender, and Crime, University of Colorado, Boulder (Host: Dr. Hillary
Potter). October 9th.
- 2013 Urban Sociology, University of Pittsburgh (Host: Dr. Waverly Duck). April 15th.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Member, Dissertation Committee

- Current Luis Higinio. *Testimonios de Resistencia: A Struggle for Self-determination in Fallbrook, Califas*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- Current Alexander Scott. *Far-Right Common Sense: Neofascist Politics and White Authoritarianism in Southern California's Inland Empire*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- Current Jorge Mancillas. *The Normalization of Violence in Everyday Life: Traumatic Loss in Los Angeles Gangs*. University of California, Los Angeles, Sociology. [External Member]
- Current Elizabeth Carlson. *Municipal By Law and Zoning Regulations and the Geographies of Exotic Dancing In Toronto*. University of Toronto. Department of Geography.
- 2025 Bernabe Rodriguez. *An Ethnographic Study of Popular Culture Conventions, Superhero Comic Books, and Cosplay*. University of California Riverside, Sociology.
- 2024 Megan Webb. *Understanding Experiences in Drug Court: Narrative Identity and Success in a Drug Court*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- 2022 Evelyn Pruneda. *Navigating Multidimensional Borderlands: How Spatial Politics and Inequalities Shape the Working Conditions and Lived Experiences of Mexican Women Farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.

- 2022 Robert Rivera. *A Case Study Comparison: Latino Mobilization After Police Use of Lethal Force and the Police Responses Produced*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- 2022 Sarah Murray. *Intersectional Inequality Among Women within Police Agencies*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- 2021 Valentin Pereda. *Varieties of Violence and Decision-Making in Criminal Organizations: A Study of Three Mexican Cartels*. University of Toronto. Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies.
- 2020 Jessica Moronez. *Seeking Social Change through Advocacy: Women of Color's Responses to the Impacts of Incarceration on Family Life*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- 2020 Adam Ellis. *Trauma City, Stories from the Front Lines: Exploring the Relationship Between Trauma, the Code of the Streets, and the Compulsion to Repeat Gang-related Violence*. University of Toronto. Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies.
- 2019 Alessandro Morosin. *Confronting Dispossession: Indigenous Mobilization for Environmental Justice, Ethnic Politics, and Gender Relations in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec*. University of California, Riverside, Sociology.
- 2017 Marianne Quirouette, *Risks, Needs and Reality Checks: Community Work with Multiple Disadvantaged Justice Involved Individuals*. University of Toronto, Sociology. [Internal Appraiser.]
- 2017 Steven Hayle, *Towards a Sociology of Harm Reduction: A Comparative Study of Drug Policy Change in Canada and the United Kingdom Between the Years 1900 and 2017*. University of Toronto, Sociology. [Internal Appraiser]

Chair, Masters Committee

- 2015 Elizabeth Carlson. "The Erotic Hustle." University of Toronto. Co-supervised with Dr. Jooyoung Lee. (Sociology)
- 2014 Kristina Brown. "The Caregivers and the Capitalists: Motivations of Cannabis Dispensary Owners in Orange County, California." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)
- 2013 Carly Cretney. "Support for a Female President: Voter Perceptions of Liberal and Conservative Female Presidential Candidates in the Context of Gendered Media Framing." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)
- 2013 Jan Ballesteros. "The Online Presentation of Self: An Exploratory Study of World of Warcraft Players." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)
- 2013 Anna-Karin Tollin. "Stigmatizing Race and Gender: Subjective Experiences of Middle-Class Marijuana Users." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)
- 2012 Joy Tshako. "Lived Experiences of Young, Urban, Fundamentalist Latinas: Understandings and Negotiations of Cultural and Faith-based Values." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2012 Kyle D. Cook. "Boston Beatdown: Violence in the Punk and Hardcore Music Scene." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2011 Nathan Horn. "Refreshing Fusty Concepts: The Digital Structuration of Adulthood." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

Member, Masters Committee

2023 Elvira de la Torre. "All We Want is to be Near Our Husbands: How Latina Prison Wives Navigate Formal and Informal Social Controls." University of California, Riverside, Sociology.

2021 Humberto Flores, "Policing Black and Brown Bodies: An Intersectional Analysis of Policing and Legal Cynicism in Inland Southern California." University of California, Riverside, Sociology.

2020 April Leviton, "White Out: Understanding the Significance of Social Support and Coercion in the Lives of Former White Supremacists." University of California, Riverside, Sociology.

2020 Bernabe Rodriguez. "The Experience of Black Women and Latina Cosplayers." University of California, Riverside, Sociology.

2014 Frankling C. Perez. "Making Space for Transformative Pedagogies: A Discussion on Student-centered and Critical Learning in Public Higher Education." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2014 Mitzi B. Avila. "Aun Hay Macho? Machismo Across Two Generations of Mexican Men." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2014 Taelor Lewis. "Perceptions of Womanhood Among Black Women." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2014 Jessica C. Moronez. "Violence Against Women: Feminist Perspectives on Male Anti-Violence Activism. California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2012 Ivan Sanchez. "Blood Time: A Qualitative Analysis of Masculinity in a Community College Wrestling Team." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2012 Bonnie J. Massey. "Striving for Equality or Equity? Post Apartheid Reflections of Black and White South Africa." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2010 Elizabeth A. Morton. "Completely Straight, Most of the Time: An Inquiry into the Sexuality of Male Swingers." California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

2010 Naomi M. Chianese. "Girls, Jails, and Puppy Dog Tails: An Evaluation of the New Leash on Life Program. California State University, Fullerton. (Sociology)

Comprehensive/Qualifying Exam Committees

2025	Andres Misnaza, University of California, Riverside. Dept. of Hispanic Studies.
2024	Elvira de la Torre, University of California, Riverside. Department of Sociology
2019	Melanie Kushida. University of California, Riverside. Department of Sociology
2019	Min Yoo. University of California, Riverside. Department of Sociology
2018	Elizabeth Carlson. University of Toronto. Department of Geography.
2017	Andrew Nevin, University of Toronto, Department of Sociology.
2016	Adam Ellis, University of Toronto. Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies.
2016	Katy Rozad. University of Toronto. Department of Sociology.
2016	Timothy Kang. University of Toronto. Department of Sociology.
2015	Junming Jeong. University of Toronto. Department of Sociology.

International Student Sponsorships

2016-17	William Alvarez, <i>Emerging Leaders in Americas Program</i> , University of Toronto (Global Exchange Program for doctoral students).
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Independent Studies/Honors Thesis

2023	Queydin Nunez (undergraduate)
2021 – 2022	Breanna Rondilone (undergraduate)
2020 – 2021	Alina Robello (graduate)
2016 – 2017	Shana Wheatcroft (undergraduate)

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2018 – 2025	<p>University of California, Riverside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Co-Chair, Undergraduate Review Committee ·Co-Chair, Undergraduate Review Committee ·UCR Faculty-Led Education Abroad Program in San Juan, P.R. (Race and Space) ·UCR Faculty-Led Education Abroad Program in Barcelona (Drug Policy) ·UCR Faculty-Led Education Abroad Program in Lisbon (Drug Policy) ·Chair, Assessment Committee (MCS) ·Member, Graduate Program Committee
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- Member Ad Hoc Merit Committee (MCS)
- Member, Ad Hoc Merit Committee (MCS)
- Member, Ad Hoc Merit Committee (MCS)
- Member, Ad Hoc Promotion Committee (MCS)
- Member, Recruitment Committee (Global Sociology position)
- Member, Colloquium Committee (Sociology)
- Member, Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies Committee (Sociology)

2014 – 17 **University of Toronto**

- Member, Search Committee (Criminology position), 2017
- Member, Search Committee (2 Criminology positions), 2016
- Member, Search Committee (2 Criminology positions) 2015
- Member, Tenure Review Committee (teaching file/dossier), 2016
- Member, Tri-Campus Graduate Admissions Committee, 2017
- Member, Comprehensive Exam Committee (Crime and Socio-Legal Studies)
- Member, Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies Program Committee
- Sociology Representative, Collaborative Program in Addiction Studies, 2015 – 2017
- Organizer, Ethnography Workshop (with Jooyoung Lee and Neda Maghbouleh)
- Faculty Liaison, Sociology and Criminology Society, 2014

2009 – 2014 **California State University, Fullerton**

- Chair, Search Committee (two positions)
- Chair, Criminology/Deviance Concentration Committee
- Chair, Undergraduate Committee
- Chair, Student Relations Committee
- Advisor, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society
- Member, Undergraduate Committee
- Member, Graduate Theory Exam Committee
- Member, Commencement Committee
- Member, Public Relations, Newsletter, and Student Affairs Committee

2007 – 2009 **Towson University**

- Member, Search Committee
- Member, Criminal Justice Concentration Committee
- Member, Selection Committee, Maryland Law Enforcement Officers Scholarship
- Member, Issues to Action Committee, Center for Student Diversity
- Coordinator, Department Website

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Pacific Sociological Association
Eastern Sociological Society

American Society of Criminology
Latin American Studies Association