

**Crystal Caldera**  
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## **EDUCATION**

PhD Sociology. University of California, Irvine, *In Progress*

(Concurrent JD/PhD Program)

JD. University of California, Irvine, *In Progress*

(Concurrent JD/PhD Program)

MA Education: Counseling. California State University, Dominguez Hills, 2010

GPA: Overall 3.97

BA Sociology. University of California, Los Angeles. 2006

GPA: Sociology 3.79, Overall 3.57

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Immigration, Race, Ethnicity, Law, Intergenerational and Cross Nativity  
Marriages, Qualitative Methods

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

Intergenerational and Cross Nativity Marriages and Gender Patterns

Political Affiliation and Ethnic Dating Preferences

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

### ***Research Experience***

**Graduate Research Assistant.** 2013. Dr. Cynthia Feliciano. University of California, Irvine.

- Applying mixed methods to analyze patterns among ethnic identification, political affiliation and dating preferences across different ethnic and racial groups in order to investigate how politics shapes racial preferences in dating

**Volunteer Research Assistant.** 2011. Dr. Vanessa Estrada. University of California, Irvine.

- Collecting and analyzing data on presidential speeches, creating and organizing files for research on the effects of Presidential references to Home Ownership and Mortgages as related to minorities

**Volunteer Research Assistant.** 2011. Nicole Hummel under Dr. Lisa Kessler. California State Polytechnic University.

- Co-facilitating classes, surveying and interviewing participants, and providing translation services for the graduate research study: Diabetes Prevention in the Senior Hispanic Population

**Student Researcher.** 2006. University of California, Los Angeles.

- Conducting independent research on the networking, community formation, and migration patterns of undocumented immigrant day laborers under the guidance of Professor Steven Clayman
- Researching and analyzing social capital and survival mechanisms for undocumented immigrants

### ***Teaching Experience***

**Teaching Assistant.** 2012 – *Present*. Department of Sociology. University of California, Irvine. Courses: *Comparing Cultures; Latino Families; Chicano Studies; Transnational Gangs*

- Leading multiple discussion sections among 15-35 undergraduate students at a time as part of undergraduate course requirements
- Assisting University Professors with class curriculum and grading

**Academic Tutor.** 2006 – 2007. Academic Advancement Program. University of California, Los Angeles. Courses: *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory*

- Conducting group and individual tutorial sessions for over 250 first generation, low income and/or underrepresented students of color
- Analyzing and applying classical social theories to relevant personal and cultural experiences in order to master critical concepts

### ***Professional Experience***

**Lead Social Services Coordinator.** 2007-2012. TELACU Residential Management.

- Advocating on behalf of low income seniors and adults with disabilities in subsidized housing with government, local and national agencies such as appealing Medicare Claims or Social Security Benefits cases
- Creating fully funded educational, nutritional and health programs in conjunction with Graduate Schools and Universities for clients
- Conducting case management, crisis counseling, and information sessions / educational workshops on a monthly basis for over 200 clients

**PLUS Peer Counselor.** Academic Advancement Program. 2005-2007. University of California, Los Angeles.

- Conducting counseling and information sessions / educational workshops on for over 200 first year students in all aspects of college life: academic, social, personal and emotional issues
- Counseling sessions ranged from cultural adaptation to university life to exploring coping skills for potentially suicidal and abused students

**Resident Assistant/Peer Counselor.** 2005 – 2006. Academic Advancement Program. University of California, Los Angeles.

- Assisting incoming first generation, low income, underrepresented students through an academically and socially intense summer bridge program by providing counseling services
- Conducting educational and social workshops for over 300 students in order to prepare them for the academic school year

**Student Volunteer.** 2006. Institución de Educación Popular Del Sur de California (IDEPSCA). Los Angeles.

- Providing advocacy and labor rights workshops, education forums, and translation services for lawyers and over 100 day laborers
- Organizing and co-facilitating peaceful protests such as “A Day without an Immigrant” for over 1000 participants

## **PRESENTATIONS**

AAHHE Conference Paper Presentation: Marrying Down? Why US-born Women Marry Immigrant Men. 2014.

Thesis Defense: Marrying Down? Cross Nativity Marriages among the Mexican-Origin Population. 2014

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

Dean’s Merit Scholarship. 2014. 2015. University of California, Irvine School of Law.

Summer Fellowship. 2014. Center for the Study of Democracy. University of California, Irvine.

David C. Lizárraga Graduate Fellow. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. TELACU Education Foundation.

Ford Multidisciplinary Graduate Fellow. 2014. American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE).

Research Fellow. 2015. University of California, School of Law.

Mexican American Bar Foundation Scholar. 2015. Mexican American Bar Foundation (MABF).

## **HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Affiliate. 2012. Center for the Study of Democracy. University of California, Irvine.

Law Fellow. 2005-2006. Law Fellows Program. University of California, Los Angeles.