

Melissa J. García

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Indiana University | Bloomington, Indiana | melgarc@iu.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Sociology, Indiana University - Bloomington, *Expected May 2024*
Minor: Social Science Research Methods
Dissertation: "Asian and Latiné College Experiences in Panethnic Student Organizations"
Committee: Drs. Jennifer C. Lee, Dina G. Okamoto, Hyeyoung Kwon, Sylvia Martinez
- M.A., Sociology, University of Memphis, 2017
Committee: Drs. Joseph Lariscy, James Wesley, and Gretchen Peterson
- B.A., International Studies: Anthropology & Latin America Focus, Southwestern University, 2012
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RESEARCH AREAS AND INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity; Immigration; Higher Education; Social Inequality; Organizations; Latinx Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

- García, Melissa J.**, Caroline V. Brooks, Denise Ambriz, Emily A. Ekl, Nicholas C. Smith, Gerardo Maupomé, Brea L. Perry. 2023. "Pandemic precarity: COVID-19's impact on Mexican and Central American immigrants." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 85(5): 1028-1046. <http://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12930>
- Adem, Muna, Shelley Rao, Helen B. Marrow, **Melissa J. García**, and Dina G. Okamoto. 2023. "A Relational Approach to Perceived Discrimination: The Case of Asian Indians." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 86 (3): 357-378. *Special Issue on Race, Racism, and Discrimination*, edited by Corey D. Fields, Verna M. Keith, and Justine E. Tinkler. <https://doi.org.proxyiub.uits.iu.edu/10.1177/01902725221121825>
- Nicholas C. Smith, Caroline V. Brooks, Emily Ekl, Denise Ambriz, **Melissa J. García**, Brea L. Perry, and Gerardo Maupomé. 2023. "The Informal Safety Net: Social Network Activation among Hispanic Immigrants during COVID-19." *The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. *Online First*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649223116234>
- Marrow, Helen B., Dina G. Okamoto, **Melissa J. García**, Muna Adem, and Linda R. Tropp. 2022. "Skin Tone and Mexicans' Perceptions of Discrimination in New Immigrant Destinations." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 85(4): 374-385. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725221128387>
- Lowe, Maria R., Reginald A. Byron, Griffin Ferry, and **Melissa J. Garcia**. 2013 "Food for Thought: Frequent Interracial Dining Experiences as a Predictor of Students' Racial Climate Perceptions." *The Journal of Higher Education* 84(4): 559-600. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2013.11777302>
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MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- García, Melissa**. "A 'Mexican American Idea of *Latinidad*: Who has the Bonding Capital to Join Latiné Panethnic Organizations?"
- García, Melissa**. "Latina/o-founded Greek Organizations."
- García, Melissa**. "Co-existing Sanctuary and Anti-Sanctuary Policies."
- Ambriz, Denise, **Melissa J. García**, Caroline V. Brooks, Emily Ekl, Nicholas C. Smith, Gerardo Maupomé, Brea L. Perry. "The Effect of Context of Exit on Latinx Immigrants' Well-being during COVID-19."
- Emily A. Ekl, **Melissa J. García**, Denise Ambriz, Caroline V. Brooks, Nicholas C. Smith, Gerardo Maupomé, Brea L. Perry. "The Relationship Between Trusted Sources of COVID-19 Information and Preventative Health Behaviors among Hispanic Immigrants."

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Asian and Latiné College Experiences in Panethnic Student Organizations,” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2022 “Pandemic Precarity: COVID-19’s Impact on Mexican and Central American Immigrants” Workshop in Sociology at Indiana University (WiSIU), Bloomington, Indiana.
- 2022 “Skin Tone and Mexicans’ Perceptions of Discrimination in New Immigrant Destinations” (with Helen B. Marrow, Dina G. Okamoto, Linda R. Tropp, and Muna Adem), American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, California.
- 2022 “A Relational Approach to Perceived Discrimination: The Case of Asian Indians” (with Shelley Rao, Muna Adem, Helen B. Marrow, and Dina G. Okamoto), American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, California.
- 2021 “Co-existing Sanctuary and Anti-Sanctuary Policies: Atlanta, GA & Austin, TX,” (with Dina G. Okamoto), 5th Annual International Conference on Public Policy, Barcelona, Spain. *Virtual*.
- 2021 “Cultivating Social Capital and Strengthening Ethnic Identity among Latinx Greek Members” Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society, Bloomington, Indiana.
- 2020 “Framing Strategies and Character Work in Letters to and from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” American Sociological Association, Virtual Conference. *Cancelled*.
- 2019 “Identity Formation and Leadership Experiences among Student Officers of Latina/o Organizations” American Sociological Association, New York City, New York.
- 2017 “Understanding Processes Shaping Hispanic/Latino Residential Patterns: A Case Study of Memphis, TN” Southern Sociological Society, Greenville, South Carolina.
- 2011 “Racially Invisible Yet Invisibly Racial: White University Students’ Conflicting Perspectives on Race and the Value of Racial/Ethnic Diversity” (with Reginald A. Byron, Maria R. Lowe, and Griffin Ferry), American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2011 “Food for Thought: The Impact of Race and Frequent Interracial Dining Experiences on Students’ Perceptions of the Racial Climate on Campus” (with Maria R Lowe, Reginald A. Byron, and Griffin Ferry), American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Travel Award
- 2023 Travel Award for Norma Williams Mentoring Workshop hosted by ASA Latina/o Sociology
- 2022-2023 President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University
- 2022-2023 Advanced Departmental Fellowship, Indiana University, Department of Sociology
- 2021 Graduate Student Research Grant, Indiana University, Latino Studies (LATS)
- 2021 Graduate Student Research Grant, Indiana University, Asian American Studies (AAST)
- 2021 Research Grant, Indiana University, Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG)
- 2020 Graduate Student Research Grant, Indiana University, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES)
- 2020 Sheldon Stryker Graduate Research Grant, Indiana University, Department of Sociology
- 2018 Summer Research Fellowship, Indiana University, Department of Sociology
- 2017 Morton Thesis Award, “Berclair Neighborhood Study,” University of Memphis

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2023 Graduate Assistant, Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society (CRRES)
Director: Dr. Sylvia Martinez, Indiana University
Oversee communications by preparing weekly emails and managing social media accounts
Collaborate with the social media intern to create content and promote events
Share research from affiliates with a public audience
- 2021-2022 Research Assistant, VidaSana & Hispanic Rapid Response COVID-19 Study
Principal Investigators (PIs): Dr. Brea L. Perry, Indiana University
Collaborated on manuscript preparation using survey data on immigrant well-being
- 2020 Research Assistant, Sociological Research Practicum: “Immigrant Activism Project”
PI: Dr. Dina G. Okamoto, Indiana University
Compiled archived Asian and Hispanic newspapers in both physical copies & microforms
Digitally scanned newspapers to make text extractable for data analysis software, like R
- 2018-2020 Research Assistant, Sociological Research Practicum: “Social Networks and Parenting”
PI: Dr. Jessica Calarco, Indiana University
Recruited survey participants at clinics & conducted in-depth interviews with mothers
- Summer 2018 Research Assistant, Sociological Research Practicum: “Forgiveness, Revenge, and Status”
PI: Dr. Stephen Benard, Indiana University
Coded open-ended survey responses and met with a group for inter-coder reliability
- 2017-2021 Research Assistant, “Immigrant-Native Relations in 21st Century America: Intergroup Contact, Trust, and Civic Engagement.”
PIs: Dr. Dina G. Okamoto, Michael Jones-Correa, Helen B. Marrow, Linda R. Tropp.
Analyzed transcripts of interviews of Mexican immigrants conducted in Spanish
Wrote thematic memos about discrimination
- 2016-2017 Research Collaborator, Berclair Neighborhood Study
Advisors: Dr. Joseph T. Lariscy, University of Memphis, and April Steele, Director of Evaluation and Strategy, Latino Memphis
- 2015-2017 Research Assistant, Project: “Origin-Country Context and Cigarette Smoking among Immigrants to the United States.”
Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph T. Lariscy, University of Memphis

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2022 Co-Liaison for Undergraduate Research Program
Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University
Prepared and co-led in-person and synchronous workshops for 8 undergraduate students
Provided mentorship to 4 students in preparation of their poster presentation
- 2019-2021 Instructor of Record, Social Inequality (S217), Department of Sociology, Indiana University
Full responsibility for course design and instruction
Fall 2019: 16-week course, 47 students, in-person
Fall 2020, Spring 2021: 16-week course, 48 students, synchronous
- Spring 2020 Graduate Assistant, Sociological Research Practicum on Immigrant Activism
PI: Dr. Dina G. Okamoto, Department of Sociology, Indiana University
Assisted and provided guidance to 3 students with their master’s research
Co-led a group of 5 first-year graduate students to code newspaper data
- 2017-2022 Graduate Assistant, Department of Sociology, Indiana University
Graded assignments and exams, managed Canvas site, proctored exams, & held office hours

Fall 2017: Race and Ethnic Relations, Dr. Hyeyoung Kwon
 Spring 2018: Medicine in America, Dr. Elaine M. Hernandez
 Fall 2018: Social Problems and Policies: Immigration, Dr. Dina G. Okamoto
 Spring 2019: Introduction to Sociology, Dr. Jessica Calarco
 Summer 2022: Sociology of Media, Ben Gallati, asynchronous

2015-2017 Graduate Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Memphis
 Social Statistics, Dr. Joseph T. Lariscy
Graded assignments and exams

SERVICE

Department and University Service

2021-2022 Member, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, Sociology, Indiana University
 2019-2021 Member, Preparing Future Faculty Committee (PFF), Sociology, Indiana University
 Spring 2020 Research Mentor to undergraduate honors student, Sociology, Indiana University
 2019-2020 Co-coordinator, Gender, Race, Class Workshop (GRC), Sociology, Indiana University
 2019-2020 Member, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Sociology, Indiana University
 2019-2020 Chair, Latinx Graduate Student Association (LGSA), Indiana University
 2017-2018 Public Relations, Latinx Graduate Student Association (LGSA), Indiana University

Community Service

2020 English Language Learner Tutor, Summit Elementary School, Bloomington, IN
 2018-2019 English Language Learner Tutor, Bloomington High School South, Bloomington, IN

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Spanish Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
 Sections: International Migration; Latina/o Sociology; Race, Class, Gender; Sociology of Education

REFERENCES

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| Jennifer C. Lee | Dina G. Okamoto | Brea L. Perry | Hyeyoung Kwon |
| Associate Professor | Herman B. Wells Professor | Grimshaw Professor | Assistant Professor |
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