

Cassandra Rodriguez
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Sociology Department
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5033
Cassandra.Rodriguez@unlv.edu

Academic Positions

- Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2023-)
- Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2017-2023)

Education

- Sociology – Ph.D. (2017)
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies – Advanced Feminist Studies Certificate (2014)
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Sociology – M.A. (2013)
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Sociology/Gender & Women's Studies – B.A. (2011)
Magna Cum Laude
California State University, Northridge

Publications

Book

Rodriguez, Cassandra. 2023. *Contested Americans: Mixed-Status Families in Anti-Immigrant Times*. New York University Press.

- SSSP C. Wright Mills Award Finalist
- ASA Latino/a Sociology Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award Honorable Mention

Publications

- Rodriguez, Cassandra. 2025. "The Affective Bargain: How the Latino Children of Immigrants Create Joy, Love, and Pride Through Mariachi" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Online First. Watch an interview about this research here: <https://faculti.net/the-affective-bargain-mariachi-and-latino-identity>
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. 2023. "'Between A Rock and A Hard Place': Undocumented Immigrants and Mixed-Status Families Negotiating Migration Returns to Visit Ill and Dying Family Members." *Families as they Really Are* (3rd ed), edited by Barbara J. Risman, Kristi Williams, and Virginia Rutter. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.
- **Rodriguez, Cassandra** and Celine Ayala. 2023. "*Pura Alegría*: Young Adult Musicians Learning Mariachi in Schools and Participating in the Las Vegas Mariachi Scene." The

Possibility Machine: Music and Myth in Las Vegas, edited by Jake Johnson. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press.

- Curington, Celeste and Cassaundra Rodriguez. 2023. "Introducing Joya Misra, 2024 ASA President." *Footnotes*. 51(4).
- Deckard, Natalie D.; Browne, Irene; **Rodriguez, Cassaundra**; Martinez-Cola, Marisela and Sofia Gonzalez Leal. 2020. "Controlling Images of Immigrants in the Mainstream and Black Press: The Discursive Power of the "Illegal Latino"" *Latino Studies*. 18: 581–602.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2019. "Latino/a Citizen Children of Undocumented Parents Negotiating Illegality." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 81(3): 713-728.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2019. "Navigating Space and Racial Microaggressions as an Undocumented Latinx Millennial." *Currents*. 1(1): 11-19
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2018. "Fueling White Injury Ideology: Public Officials' Racial Discourse in Support of Arizona Senate Bill 1070." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. 4(1): 83-97.
 - Best Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention for the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
 - Best Empirical Comprehensive Paper, UMass Sociology
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2018. "Chinese Maternity Tourists and their "Anchor Babies"? Online Commenters' Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction." *Marginalized Mothers: Advancements in Gender Research*, edited by Katrina Bloch and Tiffany Taylor. West Yorkshire, England: Emerald Press.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2016. "Experiencing 'Illegality' as a Family? Immigration Enforcement, Social Policies, and Discourses Targeting Mexican Mixed-Status Families." *Sociology Compass*. 10(8): 706-717.
- Alegria, Sharla N. and **Cassaundra Rodriguez**. 2016. "The Long Shadow of Immigration Policy: 'Appropriate work' and Wage Inequality in US Tech Work" *Pathways, Potholes, and the Persistence of Women in Science: Reconsidering the Pipeline* edited by Enobong Hannah Branch, MA: Rowman & Littlefield Press.
- Browne, Irene; Deckard, Natalie Delia and **Cassaundra Rodriguez**. 2016. "Different Game, Different Frame? Black Counterdiscourses and Depictions of Immigration in Atlanta's African American and Mainstream Press." *The Sociological Quarterly*. 57(3): 520-543.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2016. "Immigrants and Mixed-Status Families." in *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues and People of Color*, edited by Alvaro Huerta et. al. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC/CLIO/Greenwood.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2016. Review of "The Maid's Daughter: Living Inside and Outside the American Dream" by Mary Romero (New York University Press, 2011) in *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. 41(1).
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2015. "Mexican American Families." in *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by Constance Shehan. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2015. "Fecundity." in *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by Constance Shehan. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2015. Review of "Mexican Americans and the Question of Race" by Julie Dowling (University of Texas Press, 2014) in *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*. 1(2).

Public Sociology Publications

- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2018. "Seven Things to Know About Mixed-Status Families." *Medium*. <https://medium.com/national-center-for-institutional-diversity/seven-things-to-know-about-mixed-status-families-92a18a714bb5>.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. 2017. "Arpaio's Pardon and The Insidious Relationship Between Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Latinx Sentiment." *Latinx Talk*. <https://latinxtalk.org/2017/09/26/arpaio-pardon-and-the-insidious-relationship-between-anti-immigrant-and-anti-latinx-sentiment/>.

Fellowships and Grants

- Council of American Overseas Research Centers – Americas Research Network (CAORC-ARENET) Faculty Development Seminar Award (2023)
- UNLV College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Award (2021)
- UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award Grant (2021)
- The Institute for Citizens & Scholars (formerly Woodrow Wilson Foundation) Early Career Enhancement National Fellowship (2020-2021)
- UNLV University Libraries GIS Instructional Development Grant (2019)
- Pop-Up Research and Scholarship grant from the University of Michigan's National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) (2018)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship (2016)
- UMass Graduate School Summer Dissertation Fellowship (2016)
- UMass Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant (2015)
- Center for Research on Families Dissertation Fellowship (2015)
- UMass Sociology Grant Preparation (GAP) Fellowship (2015)
- UMass Sociology Comprehensive Exam Summer Fellowship (2012)
- UMass Sociology Professional Development Grant (2012, 2014, 2015, 2016)

Honors and Awards

- SSSP C. Wright Mills Award Finalist (2024)
- ASA Latino/a Sociology Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award (2024)
- UNLV College of Liberal Arts William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship (2024)
- UNLV College of Liberal Arts William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching (2020)
- Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship Honorable Mention (2016)
- Eastern Sociological Association (ESS) Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Proposal Award (2016)
- UMass Public Sociology Award (2016)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Lee Student Support Award (2015, 2016)
- UMass Sociology Award for Best Teaching Associate (2014)

- University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies Travel Award (2014)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention Award (2014)
- SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award (2014)
- Measuring the Diverging Components of Race in Multiracial America Workshop – Texas A&M University, Sponsored Graduate Student & Travel Award
- UMass Sociology Award for Best Empirical Comprehensive Paper (2013)
- Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention (2013)
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar (2010-2011)
- CSUN Outstanding Senior Award Finalist (2011)
- Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society Best Paper Award (2011)
- Harvey Rich Outstanding Sociology Graduating Student Award (2011)

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Sociology (2017-)

- Latinos and Racial Justice (Graduate-level course)
- Global Migrations (Graduate-level course)
- Techniques of Social Research
- Latinas/Latinos in America
- Principles of Sociology
- Marriage & Family
- Gender & Society

Instructor of Record, CSU Northridge, Department of Women & Gender Studies (2016)

- Women, Work & Family

Instructor of Record, Drexel University Department of Sociology (2015-2016)

- The Family
- Introduction to Sociology
- Ethnic and Race Relations

Instructor of Record, UMass Amherst Department of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (2015)

- Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Culture

Instructor of Record, UMass Amherst Department of Sociology (2013)

- Gender & Society

Teaching Assistant, UMass Amherst Department of Sociology (2011-2013)

Supplemental Instruction Leader, CSU Northridge Department of Chicana/o Studies (2008-2011)

- Introduction to College Writing

Invited Talks

- Rodriguez, Cassaundra “Contested Americans: Mixed-Status Families in Anti-Immigrant Times.” Author-Meets-Critics Book Panel, Boston University, April 25, 2024.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra “Contested Americans: Mixed-Status Families in Anti-Immigrant Times.” Invited Talk, University of New Mexico, February 23, 2024.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra “Viva Mariachi! Student Musicians Crafting Culture, Educational Resilience, and Resistance in Las Vegas.” Council of American Overseas Research Centers – Americas Research Network (CAORC-ARENET) Lightning Talk, Mexico City, May 22, 2023.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “What Does It Mean to Be an American? Mixed-Status Immigrant Families and Their Experiences with Voting, Immigration Policies, and U.S. Belonging” Invited talk at McDaniel College, October 8, 2020 (Virtual due to COVID-19).
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “How to Serve Mixed-Status Immigrant Families” Invited talk for the Latino Tax Fest Conference, August 1, 2019 in Las Vegas, NV.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “When Parents Don’t Have Papers: The Experiences of Citizen Young Adults in Latino Mixed-Status Families.” Invited talk at UNLV Boyd School of Law, April 11, 2019 in Las Vegas, NV.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “A Look at the Experiences of Citizen Young Adults in Latino Mixed-Status Families.” Invited talk at Drake University, March 28, 2019 in Des Moines, IA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Latino Millennials (Non)Belonging in a Segregated City: Moving Towards a Spatial Understanding of Microaggressions.” Invited talk at the University of Michigan, March 14, 2019 in Ann Arbor, MI.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists and ‘Anchor Babies’: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” Invited talk at the Politics of Migration: Gender, Sexuality and Citizenship Conference, February 27, 2015 in Amherst, MA.

Conference Presentations

- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “The Affective Bargain: How the Latino Adult Children of Immigrants Create Joy, Love, and Pride Through Mariachi” Paper presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) Annual Conference, April 3, 2025 in Las Vegas, NV.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “‘It Embodies Us’: Looking at the Experiences of Young Adult Mariachis in Las Vegas” Paper presented at the Sociologists for Women and Society (SWS) Winter Meeting, January 14, 2023 in New Orleans, LA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “The Citizen-Student Frame and Other Citizenship Logics University Leaders Framing Support for DACA and Undocumented Students” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Conference, August 9, 2021. (Virtual due to COVID-19).
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “The Citizen-Student Frame and Other Citizenship Logics: University Leaders Framing Support for DACA and Undocumented Students” Paper presented at the Immigration and Racialization Conference, December 10, 2020 hosted by

North Carolina State University and Rochester Institute of Technology. (Virtual due to COVID-19).

- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “University Presidents Framing Support for Undocumented Students: A Feminist Analysis of How Family is Constructed in Public Letters Supporting DACA.” Paper presented at the Sociologists for Women and Society (SWS) Winter Meeting, January 31, 2020 in San Diego, CA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Gendering Deportability: Undocumented Mexican Parents Articulating Post-Deportation Plans.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Conference, August 10, 2019 in New York City, NY.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Gendering Deportability: Undocumented Mexican Parents Articulating Post-Deportation Plans.” Paper presented at the Sociologists for Women and Society (SWS) Winter Meeting, February 9, 2019 in Denver, CO.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Sometimes It’s Too Much Pressure on Me”: Latina/o Citizen Youth Negotiating Illegality in Mixed-Status Families.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Conference, August 13, 2017 in Montreal, Canada.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Sometimes It’s Too Much Pressure on Me”: Latina/o Citizen Youth Negotiating Illegality in Mixed-Status Families.” Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, August 13, 2017 in Montreal, Canada.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Education as an Experience of Belonging: How Latino Mixed-Status Families Negotiate their Educational Pathways.” Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, August 21, 2016 in Seattle, WA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Accessing Education as an Experience of Belonging: How Latino Mixed-Status Families Negotiate their Educational Pathways.” Paper presented at the Latina/o Studies Association (LSA) Conference, July 7, 2016 in Pasadena, CA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Accessing Education as an Experience of Belonging: How Latino Mixed-Status Families Negotiate their Educational Pathways.” paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Association (ESS) Conference, March 19, 2016 in Boston, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists and ‘Anchor Babies’: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Conference, August 23, 2015 in Chicago, IL.
- Alegria, Sharla N. and **Cassaundra Rodriguez**. “The Long Shadow of Immigration Policy: “Appropriate work” and Wage Inequality in US Tech Work.” paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Sociology of Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Conference, August 21, 2015 in Chicago, IL.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists and ‘Anchor Babies’: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, August 21, 2015 in Chicago, IL.
- Rodriguez, Cassaundra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists and ‘Anchor Babies’: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Association (ESS) Conference, February 28, 2015 in New York City, NY.

- Browne, Irene; Deckard, Natalie Delia and **Cassandra Rodriguez**. “Different Game, Different Frame? Black Counterdiscourses and Depictions of Immigration in Atlanta’s African American and Mainstream Press.” paper presented at the University of Florida Conference on Immigration to the U.S. South, October 24, 2014 in Gainesville, FL.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Arizona under Fire in a "Post Racial" Era: How Color-Blind Discourse, Anti-Immigrant Racism and White Injury Ideology Fueled Support for Senate Bill 1070.” paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, August 17, 2014 in San Francisco, CA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists in the ‘Anchor Baby’ Debate: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the ALACS and Friends Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference, April 25, 2014 in Amherst, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists in the ‘Anchor Baby’ Debate: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Research Conference, April 24, 2014 in Amherst, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Chinese Maternity Tourists in the ‘Anchor Baby’ Debate: Online Commentors’ Disdain and Racialized Conditional Acceptance of Non-Citizen Reproduction.” paper presented at the Sociology Graduate Students Research Conference, April 12, 2014 in Amherst, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Arizona under Fire: White Injury Ideology and Racial Discourse in Discussions of Senate Bill 1070.” paper presented at the ALACS and Friends Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference, May 3, 2013, in Amherst, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Arizona under Fire: White Injury Ideology and Racial Discourse in Discussions of Senate Bill 1070.” paper presented at the UMass Graduate Student Research Conference, April 23, 2013, in Amherst, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “Arizona under Fire: White Injury Ideology and Racial Discourse in Discussions of Senate Bill 1070.” paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Association Conference, March 22, 2013 in Boston, MA.
- Rodriguez, Cassandra. “*Cuido la Casa, los Niños y...Sin Derechos*: The Experiences of Southern California’s Latina Domestic Workers” at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference on April 1, 2011 in Pasadena, CA.

Advising & Mentoring

Doctoral Committees/M.A./Pro-Paper Committees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Sociology

- Vanessa Núñez (Co-chair)
- Karen Villa (Chair)
- Esmeralda Cruz Lopez (Co-Chair, 2018-2021)
- Jeannette Hernandez (Committee Member)
- Celine Ayala (Committee Member, 2019-2021)
- Torisha Khonach (Committee Member)

- Rachel Howard (Committee Member)
- Steph Landeros (Committee Member)
- Maria Hermosillo (Committee Member)
- Alma Lopez (Committee Member)

Education

- Malayka Neith Cornejo (Committee Member)
- Ariana Garcia (Committee Member)

Psychology

- Aldo Barrita (Committee Member)
- Karen Valle-Frias (Committee Member)

Political Science

- Paula Luna (Committee Member)
- Gipsy Martinez-Alcocer (Committee Member)

Professional Service

- *Contemporary Sociology* Editorial Board (2026-)
- *Journal of Marriage and Family* Editorial Board Member (2022-)
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Sociology of Sex and Gender Distinguished Article Award Committee (2023)
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Latina/o Sociology Cristina Maria Riegos Graduate Student Paper Award Committee (2022)
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities James E. Blackwell Graduate Student Paper Award Committee (2021)
- Race and Mock Interviewer for Job Market Preparation Workshop hosted by *Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social* (MALCS) (2020)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Session Organizer, “Trauma and Resistance: Race, Gender, Family, and Immigration in the U.S. and Across Borders” (2018)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Session Organizer, “State Regulation of 21st Century Families” (2015)
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Session Organizer (with Fareen Parvez), “Conversations on Feminist Theory” (2015)
- Summary writer and organizer for Gender & Society in the Classroom, Section on Migration, Immigration & Citizenship (2015)
- Ad hoc Reviewer for New York University Press and for the journals *American Sociological Review*, *Social Problems*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Gender & Society*, *Sociology Compass*, *Law & Society*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *AERA Open*.

University Service

- *Crossing Latinidades* Summer Institute Selection Committee
- Faculty Advisor to UNLV Cultivating Resources for Education & Careers through Mariachi (CRECER)
- Faculty Advisor to UNLV Mariachi Rebelde, 2022-
- Featured expert/resource on the UNLV's Faculty Center's Educational Equity Program, 2021
- Member of the Resource Coordinator for Undocumented Students Hiring Committee, 2018
- Member of the UNLV University Forum Committee, 2018-
- Member of the CSU Northridge Gender & Women's Studies Advisory Board, 2016-2017
- Executive Board Member and Founding Member of the UMass Graduate Students of Color Association (GSCA), 2013-2014
- Board Member for the Graduate Women's Network Advisory Board, 2013-2014
- UMass Common Read Book Selection Reviewer, 2014-2016

Department Service

- Chair of the Personnel Committee and Member of the Executive Committee, 2026-
- Member of the Hiring Committee for Inequalities, 2021-2022
- Member of the Hiring Committee for Law, Crime, and Social Control, 2019-2020
- Member of the Personnel Committee, 2018-
- Member of the Library Committee, 2017-
- Member of the Technology and Communications Committee, 2017-