

# Martha Morales Hernandez

University of California, Irvine  
3151 Social Science Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
[mamoral3@uci.edu](mailto:mamoral3@uci.edu) | (626) 226-8344

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Irvine** Expected June 2024  
Graduate Emphasis in Chicano/Latino Studies

*A Resistance Approach to the Mental Health of Undocumented College Students in California*  
Committee: Laura E. Enriquez (Chair), Rachel Goldberg, Annie Ro, Kristin Turney, Irene Vega

**M.A. Sociology, University of California Irvine** 2019  
*"I Try Not to Think About it": Gender and Illegality in the Coping Process of Undocumented College Students*  
Committee: Laura E. Enriquez (Chair), Sabrina Strings, Kristin Turney

**B.A. Sociology, University of California, Irvine** 2017

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Articles

Hagan, Melissa., **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Laura E. Enriquez, Cecilia Ayón. "Immigration Status, Legal Vulnerability, and Suicidal/Self-harm Ideation Disparities Among Immigrant-Origin Latinx Young Adults in the US." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* (2023): 1-12.

**Morales Hernandez, Martha** and Laura E. Enriquez. 2021. "Life After College: Liminal Legality and Political Threats as Barriers to Undocumented Students' Career Preparation Pursuits." *Journal of Latinos and Education* 20(3): 318-331. (Equal authorship)

Enriquez, Laura E., Karina Chavarria, Victoria E. Rodriguez, Cecilia Ayón, Basia Ellis, Melissa J. Hagan, Julián Jefferies, Jannet Lara, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Enrique Murillo Jr., Jennifer Nájera, Carly Offidani-Bertrand, Maria Oropeza Fujimoto, Annie Ro, William Rosales, Heidy Sarabia, Ana K. Soltero López, Mercedes Valadez, Zulema Valdez, and Sharon Velarde Pierce. 2021. "Toward a Nuanced and Contextualized Understanding of Undocumented College Students: Lessons from a California Survey." *Journal of Latinos and Education* 20(3): 215-231.

Enriquez, Laura E., William E. Rosales, Karina Chavarria, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, and Mercedes Valadez. 2021. "COVID on Campus: Assessing the Impact of the Pandemic on Undocumented College Students." *AERA Open* 7: 1-19.

Enriquez, Laura E., **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Daniel Millán, and Daisy Vazquez Vera. 2019. "Mediating Illegality: Federal, State, and Institutional Policies in the Educational Experiences of Undocumented College Students." *Law & Social Inquiry* 44(3): 679-703.

Enriquez, Laura E, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, and Annie Ro. 2018. "Deconstructing Illegality: A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Dimensions of Illegality, Stress, and Health among Undocumented College Students." *Race and Social Problems* 10(3): 193-208. (Equal authorship)

### Book Chapters

Enriquez, Laura E., and **Martha Morales Hernandez**. "Centering social justice in public sociology: Lessons from the undocumented student equity project." *The Routledge International Handbook of Public Sociology*. Routledge, 2021. 250-261. (Equal authorship)

Turney, Kristin, and **Martha Morales Hernandez**. "The Health Consequences of Incarceration for Families." *Routledge International Handbook of Delinquency and Health*. Routledge, 2019. 104-116.

## UNDER REVIEW

---

**Morales Hernandez, Martha**, Josefina Flores Morales, Laura E. Enriquez. "Examining the Role of Acts of Resistance on Emotional Distress and Psychological Wellbeing of Undocumented College Students." Revise and resubmit at *Society and Mental Health*.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

**Morales Hernandez, Martha**. "It's a rollercoaster": The Socio-legal Context of Immigration and its Effects on the Mental Health Processes of Undocumented College Students." Manuscript in preparation.

## OTHER RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

---

Enriquez, Laura E., **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Victoria E. Rodriguez, Annie Ro, Mercedes Valadez. 2020. "Negative Effects of COVID-19 on Undocumented College Students." UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity and Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA.

Enriquez, Laura E., Mariel Calva Hernandez, Evelyn Sanchez Aguilar, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Victoria E. Rodriguez, Annie Ro. 2020. "How Self and Parental Immigration Status Affect College Students' Experiences of COVID-19." UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity and Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA.

Enriquez, Laura E., Cecilia Ayón, Karina Chavarria, Basia Ellis, Melissa J. Hagan, Julián Jefferies, Jannet Lara, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Enrique Murillo Jr., Jennifer Nájera, Carly Offidani-Bertrand, Maria Oropeza Fujimoto, Annie Ro, Victoria E. Rodriguez, William Rosales, Heidy Sarabia, Ana K. Soltero López, Mercedes Valadez, Zulema Valdez, and Sharon Velarde Pierce. 2020. "Persisting Inequalities and Paths Forward: A Report on the State of Undocumented Students in California's Public Universities." UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity & Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA.

Enriquez, Laura E., Edelina M. Burciaga, Tatria Cardenas, Biblia Cha, Vanessa Delgado, Miroslava Guzman Perez, Daniel Millán, Maria Mireles, **Martha Morales Hernandez**, Estela Ramirez Ramirez, Annie Ro, and Daisy Vazquez Vera. 2019. "How Can Universities Foster Educational Equity for Undocumented College Students: Lessons from the University of California." *UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment*. Los Angeles, CA

**Martha Morales Hernandez** and Laura E. Enriquez. 2019. "Limited: Undocumented Students' Postgraduate Preparation." Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA

**Martha Morales Hernandez**, Biblia Cha, Laura E. Enriquez, and Annie Ro. 2019. "Hesitant: Undocumented Students' Use of Mental Health Services." Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA

**Martha Morales Hernandez**, Laura E. Enriquez, and Annie Ro. 2019. "Stressed: Undocumented Students' Mental Health." Undocumented Student Equity Project. Irvine, CA

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

### *Fellowships*

National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

2023-2024

UCI Inclusive Excellence Fellowship	Summer 2022
UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity (UC PromISE) Graduate Student Fellowship	2020-2021
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship	2020-2023
UCI Inclusive Excellence Ambassador Award	Summer 2020
UCI Dream Center Graduate Student Fellowship	2018–2019
UCI Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship	2017-2024
Undocumented Student Equity Project Summer Fellowship	Summer 2018
UCI Diversity Recruitment Fellowship	Fall 2017
UCI Competitive Edge Fellowship	Summer 2017
UCI Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	Summer 2015, Summer 2016

***Awards***

UCI School of Social Science, Kathy Alberti Prize <i>Award recognizes a graduate student who holds truly outstanding promise as a future professor or academic</i>	2023
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, <i>Honorable Mention</i>	2023
Faculty First Look Fellow, New York University	2023
California State University (CSU) Pre-Professor Program Fellow (PREPP) CSU Sponsor: CSU East Bay	2022
UCI Department of Chicano Latino Studies, Distinguished Service Award	2021
UCI Latino Excellence and Achievement Award, in recognition of Graduate Student Excellence <i>Award recognizes graduate student who supports and champions student success and research excellence within the Hispanic/Latinx community at UCI and in Orange County</i>	2020
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, <i>Alternate</i>	2019
UCI Department of Chicano Latino Studies, Gilbert G. Gonzalez Graduate Student Paper Prize	2019
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, <i>Honorable mention</i>	2018
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars Fellowship, <i>Semi-finalist</i>	2018
UCI Building Puentes-Bridges Award for Exceptional Commitment to Chicano-Latino Undergraduate Student Service and Community Life	2017
UCI Department of Sociology, Robin M. Williams Jr., Student Paper Competition	2017

UCI School of Social Science, Order of Merit	2017
UCI Lauds & Laurels Outstanding Undergraduate Student	2017
UCI UROP Researcher of the Month	March 2017

## **GRANTS**

---

UCI Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Graduate Student-led Research Team Grant (\$8,000) Project Title: A Resistance Approach to the Mental Health of Undocumented College Students	2022
UCI Office of Inclusive Excellence Confronting Extremism through Community, Thriving and Wellness Project Grant (\$25,000) With Laura E. Enriquez (PI) Angela Chen (UCI DREAM Center), Martha Morales Hernandez (co-PI), Shaozhuan Li (UCI Counseling Center), and Iliana Arias (UCI Campus Social Work) Project Title: Thriving in the Face of Anti-Immigrant Extremism: Building a Toolkit for Undocumented Student Wellbeing	2022
UCI Department of Sociology Summer Research Support Award Research Grant (\$500)	2022
UCI Department of Sociology Summer Research Support Award Research Grant (\$3,000)	2021
UCI Department of Sociology Summer Research Support Award Research Grant (\$700)	2020
UCI Department of Sociology Summer Research Support Award Research Grant (\$900)	2019
UCI Department of Sociology Summer Research Support Award Research Grant (\$1,115)	2018

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

### **2023**

“‘It’s a rollercoaster’: Legal Vulnerabilities’ Effects on the Mental Health of Undocumented College Students” at the American Sociological Association meeting. *Forthcoming. August 2023.*

### **2022**

“‘It’s a Rollercoaster’: Mapping the Consequences of Legal Insecurities and Uncertainties on the Mental Health of Undocumented College Students” at the California Sociological Association meeting. Online. *November 2022*

“Examining the Role of Resistance on Emotional Distress and Psychological Well-being of Undocumented College Students” at the American Sociological Association meeting. Los Angeles, CA. *August 2022.*

### **2021**

“The Complex and Multi-Dimensional Nature of Psychological Well-Being of CSU and UC Undocumented Students” at the Pacific Sociological Association meeting. Online. *March 2021.*

### **2020**

- “Constrained Coping: Undocumented Student Efforts to Manage Structural Stressors of Immigrant Illegality” at the California Sociological Association meeting. Online. *November 2020*.
- ““I Try Not to Think About It”: Illegality's Consequences on the Coping Process of Undocumented College Students” at the Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting. San Francisco, CA. Accepted. Conference Canceled. *August 2020*.
- “Unequal Educations: DACA and the Diverging Educational and Economic Trajectories of Undocumented Students” co-presented with Dr. Laura E. Enriquez at the Law and Society Association meeting. Denver, CO. Accepted. Conference Canceled. *May 2020*.
- 2019**
- “Engagement and Collaboration with Undocumented Communities: Lessons from the Undocumented Student Equity Project,” at the American Sociological Association meeting. New York, NY. *August 2019*.
- “DREAM Project Fellowship: A Campus-wide Effort to Cultivate Professional Development Opportunities for Undocumented Students without Employment Authorization,” with Elisabet Barrios Matteo, Dr. Angela Chuan-Ru Chen, Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, and Oscar D. Teran, Esq. at the NASPA Western Regional Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education meeting. Portland, OR. *November 2019*.
- 2018**
- “Navigating Life Post Graduation: Pathways of Undocumented College Students and Alumni,” at the American Sociological Association meeting. Philadelphia, PN. *August 2018*.
- “Mediating Illegality: Federal, State, and Institutional Policies in the Educational Experiences of Undocumented College Students,” co-presented with Daniel Millán at the American Sociological Association meeting. Philadelphia, PN. *August 2018*. [one of two presenting authors]
- ““I Try Not to Think About It’: Coping Strategies and Mental Health Experiences of Undocumented College Students,” at the Latina/os in the US and Beyond: Diverse Perspectives on Latina/o Communities Workshop. Irvine, CA. *May 2018*.
- ““I Just Get Stressed about a Lot of Things’: How Illegality Structures the Health of Undocumented Students,” at the Migrant Illegality Across Uneven Legal Geographies. Denver, CO. *April 2018*.
- “Dimensions of Illegality, Stress, and Health: A Mixed-Methods Investigation among Undocumented College Students,” at the Symposium on Immigrant Health: Structural Adversity, Resistance, and Resilience. Riverside, CA. *March 2018*.
- 2017**
- “Stress and the Mental Health of Undocumented Students,” at the UCI Competitive Edge Research Symposium. Irvine, CA. *August 2017*.
- “Navigating Life Post Graduation: Pathways of Undocumented College Students and Alumni,” at the UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium. Irvine, CA. *May 2017*.
- “Mediating Cumulative Disadvantage: The Role of Federal, State and Institutional Policies in the Educational Incorporation of Undocumented College Students,” with Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, Daniel Millán, and Daisy Vazquez Vera at the UC International Migration Conference. Berkeley, CA. *May 2017*. [non-presenting author]
- 2016**
- “Deferred Action and Liminal Legality: UC Undocumented Students and their Career Plans,” at the California Sociological Association meeting. Riverside, CA. *November 2016*.

- “Filling Remaining Gaps: Lessons from Across the University of California System” co-presented with Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, Daniel Millán, and Vanessa Delgado at the Incorporating Undocumented Students and Youth: A UC-wide Workshop of Research and Policy Recommendations. Irvine, CA. *October 2016*.
- “Best Practices to Promote the Educational Equity of Undocumented Students.” With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, and Daniel Millán. At the Landscapes of Displacement: Borderlands in Comparative Perspective Symposium. San Diego, CA. *September 2016*.
- “Undocumented UC Students Career Plans After Graduating,” at the UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium. Irvine, CA. *May 2016*.
- “Undocumented UC Students Career Plans After Graduating,” at the UCI Social Justice Undergraduate Research Symposium. Irvine, CA. *May 2016*.

## **OTHER RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

### **2022**

- Invited Presentation. “Undocumented Educations: Advancing Equity for Students Who are Undocumented or From Mixed-Status Families,” to the UCI DREAM Center staff. With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez. Irvine, CA. November 2022.
- Invited Presentation. “Undocumented Educations: Advancing Equity for Students Who are Undocumented or From Mixed-Status Families,” to Santiago Canyon College. With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, Dr. Angela Chen. Orange, CA. October 2022
- Invited Presentation. “Examining Emotional Distress and Psychological Wellbeing Among Undocumented College Students in California,” to the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Mexico City, Mexico. *September 2022*.
- Invited Panelist. “Panel Trayectorias Estudiantiles de Latines Indocumentados: Construyendo Apoyo” with Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, Mónica Cornejo, and Ricardo Delgado Solis to the Población, Migración y Envejecimiento: Realidades y Desafíos. Durango, Mexico. Online. March 2022.

### **2020**

- Invited Presentation. “2019-2020 UCI DREAM Center Academic Programs Evaluation,” to UCI’s Dean of Students and Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs Dr. Rameen Talesh, Associate Dean of Students Sherwynn Umali, and Director of Assessment, Research, & Evaluation Office of the Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs Dr. Anita L. Iannucci. Irvine, CA. October 2020.
- Workshop. “Advancing Educational Equity for Undocumented Students.” With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez. Dr. Angela Chen, Elisabet Barrios Mateo and Martha Morales Hernandez. *Voices from the Margins: Supporting Vocational Exploration with Underserved Students*. Occidental College. January 2020.

### **2019**

- Invited Presentation. “Bridging Research and Practice: Building Collaborations to Move Toward Educational Equity on Your Campus.” With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez, Dr. Angela Chuan-Ru Chen, and Oscar D. Teran, Esq. to the Undocu Conference: Reimagining Institutions, Advocacy, and Belonging with Undocumented Students and Mixed Status Families. Long Beach, CA, May 2019.
- Invited Presentation. “Stress, Mental Health, and Undocumented Student Wellbeing.” With Laura E. Enriquez and Annie Ro. Dream Scholars. UC Irvine. May 2019.
- Invited Panelist. “Creating Fellowship Programs (For Educational Institutions).” With Oscar D. Teran, Esq. to Immigrants Rising. July 2019.
- Invited Panelist. “Communicating Findings: In the Community.” With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez to the UC PromISE Advancing Research to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity: A Professional Development Workshop. November 2019.

## 2018

Invited Presentation. “The Undocumented Student Equity Project: Collaborative and Engaged Research.” with Dr. Laura E. Enriquez to UCI Engage. April 2018.

Invited Presentation. “How to Prepare for Graduate School as an Undocumented Student,” at the *Rising Together, Thriving Together* conference. Irvine, CA. April 2018.

Invited Presentation. “Reclaiming STEM: A Conversation on Mental Health,” at the *Reclaiming STEM* conference. Irvine, CA. September 2018.

## 2017

Panel participant. “Taking Research Beyond the Ivory Tower: A Panel Discussion.” With Dr. Laura E. Enriquez and Daniel Millán to the UC Irvine Dept. of Chicano/Latino Studies. February 2017.

## SERVICE

---

### *Positions*

UCI DREAM Center, Evaluation Specialist Fall 2019 – Fall 2021

UCI DREAM Center, Scholars-In-Residence Coordinator Fall 2019 – Summer 2020

UCI Competitive Edge, Peer Mentor Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2021

UCI DREAM Center, Graduate Student Scholar-in-Residence Winter 2018 – Spring 2021

UCI Department of Sociology, Mentor Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

UCI Chicano/Latino Studies Graduate Student Collective, Colloquium Representative Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Member, Claremont Graduate University Dreamers Coalition 2015 – 2017  
*Convened to develop curriculum for a teacher education certificate on undocumented students*

### *Committee Membership*

Selection Committee Co-Chair, Dream Project Fellowship, UCI DREAM Center Spring 2019

Member, Instructional Opportunities Committee, UAW 2865 2014 – 2017

### *Presentations/Activities*

Invited Interviewer. “DREAM Project Fellowship (DPF): Mock Interview Workshop” to the UCI DREAM Center DPF program. January 2023.

Invited Panelist. “Si Se Pudo: Undocu-Grad Student Panel” to the Rising Together, Thriving Together Conference. April 2022.

Invited Interviewer. “DREAM Project Fellowship (DPF): Mock Interview Workshop” to the UCI DREAM Center DPF program. February 2022.

Invited Panelist. “Graduate School Grind for Undocumented Students” to the UndocuBruins Research Program and the UCLA Undocumented Student Program. April 2021.

Invited Panelist. “Our Story, Our Legacy at UCI” to the DREAM Scholars Program. April 2021.

Conference organizing committee member. “Building Bridges: The Power of Us.” Irvine, CA. April 2021.

Invited Interviewer. “DREAM Project Fellowship (DPF): Mock Interview Workshop” to the UCI DREAM Center DPF program. March 2021.

Invited Panelist. “DREAM Project Fellowship (DPF): A Seminar for Professional Development” with Diana Soto-Vazquez and Shirleen Achieng to the UCI DREAM Center DPF program. January 2021.

Invited Panelist. “Ford Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program Workshop” with Dr. Michael McBride to the UCI School of Social Sciences: Research and Graduate Studies Office. October 2020.

## **TEACHING**

---

### ***Teaching Associate***

Spring 2023            Undocumented Immigrant Experiences  
University of California, Irvine  
Chicano Latino Studies (164A)

### ***Teaching Recognition***

Spring 2023            UCI School of Social Science Recognition for Outstanding Teaching (164A)

### ***Guest Lecture***

October 23, 2022      Undocumented Students, Legal Vulnerabilities, and Mental Health  
Sociology of Mental Health and Illness (Prof. Wallis Adams)  
California State University, East Bay  
Sociology

August 24, 2022      The Mental Health of Undocumented College Students  
Latinos in the United States (Prof. Josefina Flores Morales)  
UCLA  
Department of Central American and Chicano Studies/Sociology

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

---

***Research Assistant, UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant Student Equity (UC PromISE)***            2019 – 2021

- Collaborated with UC PromISE team throughout the survey instrument development process (i.e., creating, piloting)
- Supported survey data clean-up for validity (i.e., marked incomplete responses, ineligible respondents, suspected fabricated responses)
- Served as program manager and oversaw data collection process by scheduling interviews, emailing gift cards, and managing interview transcripts (Summer 2021)

***Research Assistant, Undocumented Student Equity Project (USEP)***            Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

- Co-founder of Undocumented Student Equity Project (USEP)
- Collaborated on creating original data collection tools (interview guide and survey)
- Helped conduct 154 interview and fielded survey fielded an original survey with 508 respondents
- Completed qualitative and quantitative data analysis