Overview of participants of the Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods
**Bio:** Agustina Laurito is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In her research, Agustina uses administrative and survey data and quasi experimental methods to answer questions at the intersection of social, education, and health policy. Her current research projects include investigating the role of non-school factors, including the home country, in shaping immigrant students’ academic success, the interplay between SNAP and the National School Lunch program, and the role that schools can play in ameliorating health deficiencies in childhood. She holds a PhD in Public Administration and Policy from New York University and a Masters of Public Policy from Duke University. Agustina is originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Abstract:** Some of my work investigates how immigrants relate to their home countries, and how this relationship affects their outcomes in the United States. Recently, I estimated the impact of home country natural disasters on the academic outcomes of immigrant students in NYC. After large-scale home country natural disasters, immigrant students score significantly lower on reading tests. In this paper, I was not able to uncover family-level mechanisms that might explain this. My next project will use new data sources (e.g. social media) and other data collection (e.g. interviews or surveys) to explore how home country shocks affect immigrant family dynamics, parental time use, well-being, and investments in children.
Ana Oaxaca  
University of California Los Angeles  
Second year grad student  
Political Science

**Bio:** Ana Luisa Oaxaca is a second year Ph.D student in the Department of Political Science at the University of California - Los Angeles, studying American Politics and Race, Ethnicity and Politics. She is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico and immigrated to Albuquerque, New Mexico with her family at four years old. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BA in Political Science a minor in economics and an emphasis in statistics. Her research agenda focuses on how immigrants gain representation at the local level and the mechanisms through which political elites respond to federal immigration pressures. She is currently supported by the Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. Ana created the UCLA Immigration Data Lab with the vision of building a comprehensive database of immigrant policy in American municipalities while fostering professional relationships with and between undergrads beyond the conventional classroom setting. Her dissertation will investigate the variations in the formation of immigrant politics in municipal governments across a large sample of local contexts.

**Abstract:** This project will measure the causal effects of deportation raids on Latino political participation. I will collect data on number of apprehended individuals and exact location of deportation raids occurring within L.A. from 2005-2016. I will then use voter file data to geocode L.A. county voters and test the causal effects of proximity to raids on three outcomes: 1) precinct-level registration, 2) individual-level turnout, and 3) precinct-level vote choice. I expect that proximity to raids will have positive effects on Latino political participation in congressional and city-level elections because of exposure to law enforcement and activation of group consciousness.
Annie Laurie Hines
University of California, Davis
Fourth year grad student
Economics

Bio: Annie Laurie Hines is a fourth-year graduate student in economics at the University of California, Davis. Her research interests include inequalities in health care access and barriers to accessing health care, safety net programs, and education for disadvantaged populations. She is currently working on projects related to the impacts of immigration enforcement on crime, employment, and immigrant health care access.


We analyze whether the intensity of immigration enforcement affects the labor market opportunities of native workers. Using data across seventeen U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) districts from 2000-2015, we take advantage of a sharp and sudden surge in the apprehension rate from 2007 to 2011, followed by a decline in 2012-2016. We exploit differences in the intensity of enforcement across districts during the surge, and we do not find any evidence that more apprehensions in a district improved employment and wages of less educated natives. These findings contradict the rhetoric that deportations make more jobs available for natives.
Bio: Biblia Cha, MPH, is a PhD student at the University of California, Irvine, in the Program in Public Health. Her current research interests include mental health among undocumented immigrants, specifically among Asian Americans and within faith-based communities. Prior to starting her PhD, she conducted research around community disaster resilience among underserved and minority communities throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire. She also taught graduate students around community and global health as an instructor at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, where she received her MPH in Global Health.

Abstract: Asians are the fastest growing racial group in U.S. However, most migration research has been conducted among Latino immigrants or among aggregate immigration populations. The composition of non-legal permanent resident category may also differ between Asians and Latinos. I am involved in a project that will categorize Asian immigrants into appropriate migration statuses in large-scale surveys. It will compare imputation methods in the restricted SIPP dataset to find the best approach for categorizing Asian immigrants into appropriate migration categories. It will also describe demographic, economic, and health insurance characteristics of Asians in California and the U.S. across different migration categories.
**Bio:** Dr. Altman is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri with appointments in the Department of Health Sciences and the Truman School of Public Affairs. As a social demographer her work broadly focuses on population health and immigrant well-being. She has done research on topics such as obesity, fertility, weight perceptions, and self-assessed health. Her current research examines the role of legal status on health and life course transitions for young adult unauthorized immigrants.

**Abstract:** Unauthorized immigrants are disproportionately represented in poorer socioeconomic status categories, yet no extant literature describes the extent to which immigration status influences material hardship. In an initial manuscript, under review, coauthors and I used the 1996-2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to assess immigrant legal status differences in material hardship and poverty. Results revealed a persistent legal status gradient in material hardship. In a planned follow-up analysis utilizing the same SIPP sample, we will examine the association between legal status transitions and material hardship, recognizing that legal status is not a fixed identity since status transitions are common.
Hans Schwarz  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Third year grad student  
Economics

Bio: My name is Hans Schwarz. I am currently a third-year student in the Economics Ph.D program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before my graduate studies, I finished a double major in Applied Mathematics and Economics at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

My research interests lie in the fields of International Migration, Labor Economics, and Economics of Education. In the first chapter of my Ph.D dissertation, I estimate how sensitive is the international migration rate from Mexico to the United States to changes in interior and border immigration enforcement in the United States. Additionally, I analyze whether the differences in deportation risk across U.S. locations have affected the location decision of potential migrants for the period 1998-2013.

Abstract: Risk of deportation and location decisions of Mexican migrants in the United States  
I include deportation risk as a determinant in the location decision of potential Mexican migrants. I construct a measure of local deportation risk from a survey of deported Mexican individuals. Using data from the Mexican Migration Project, I then estimate a static discrete choice model of migration. I find that variation in deportation risk across locations has not significantly impacted the location decision of Mexican immigrants. Additionally, I conclude that the elasticity of the international migration rate with respect to deportation risk is substantially smaller than the elasticity of international migration with respect to wage differentials.
Ilana Ventura
University of Chicago
Second year grad student
Sociology

**Bio:** Ilana Ventura is a graduate student in Sociology at the University of Chicago and a Research Methodologist at NORC at the University of Chicago. She holds an M.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.A. from Amherst College. As a graduate student, Ilana is interested in immigrant and second-generation labor market integration and employment outcomes. Methodologically, she is interested in better capturing the labor market trajectories of underrepresented segments of the immigrant population, as well as integrating space and place-based data into our understanding of labor force data collection and labor market outcomes. At NORC, Ilana works on both cohorts of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) and has both managed and participated in several survey design projects to increase response rates of Hispanic, bilingual and other hard-to-reach groups. She has presented work at the International Conference on Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional and Multicultural Contexts (3MC), American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR), Midwest Association of Public Opinion Researchers (MAPOR) and the Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference.

**Abstract:** Due to variation in language preference among Hispanics, especially across immigrant generations, we present a field experiment conducted in geographies with high Hispanic populations, to test survey recruitment materials targeting Hispanic populations. Three versions of survey recruitment materials were tested: 1) Text in Spanish first, followed by English; 2) Text in English first, followed by Spanish 3) Majority Spanish text, with some English. We examine outcome metrics, such as sample yield, percent of sample yield that self-identified as Hispanic, and percent of yield that reported preference for answering surveys in Spanish, as well as to geographic biases of demographic non-response.
Bio: is a fifth year Ph.D. student in sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is originally from Joliet, Illinois – a south suburb of Chicago. She received a B.A. in Chicana/o Latina/o studies and sociology from Pomona College in Claremont, California and a M.A. in sociology from UC Berkeley. She is a recipient of UC Berkeley’s Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship and the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship.

Her research interests include immigration (specifically the effects of legal status on individuals and families), family, and aging. Her previous research focused on how adult children mitigate the effects of their immigrant parent’s legal status. Currently, her dissertation research focuses on the effects of legal status on older Mexican-origin immigrants.

Abstract: Over one million adults ages 55 and over are undocumented in the United States. How does the immigrant aging population look like and what are their plans for old age (e.g., support, healthcare, retirement) when we disaggregate by legal status and ethnicity? The literature suggests that legal status matters for education, family, and employment than I suggest it matters for the aging process. This project plans to use existing data sets like the American Community Survey (ACS) and Current Population Survey March Supplement to impute legal status to create a profile of the aging Latino population and in-depth interviews to understand the aging process.
Bio: Jackie Vimo is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the New School University who will defend a dissertation this summer on sub-federal immigrant rights in the United States since 1994. Jackie has a B.A. in Political Science from Barnard College, Columbia University and a M.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, Jackie is a Policy Analyst for the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), a national organization that engages in policy analysis, education, litigation (including current cases on the “Muslim ban” and the DACA program), education, and advocacy to defend and advance the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families. In this role, Jackie leads the economic justice program and coordinates a national research working group on immigration and public benefits. The child of Argentine immigrants, Jackie has worked for many years on immigration, public health, workers’ rights, and anti-poverty policy in New York, California, and Argentina. Prior to NILC, Jackie was the Director of Advocacy at the New York Immigration Coalition, where she oversaw data-driven policy advocacy to ensure immigrants were incorporated into New York State’s Affordable Care Act implementation and campaigns for access to higher education and driver’s licenses. Jackie also teaches graduate and undergraduate courses at Hunter College, the City College of New York, and the New School University.

Abstract: I propose a project to examine the use of public benefits by immigrants in the United States. I plan to build upon American Community Survey data analysis that is currently being conducted by the Migration Policy Institute that will generate estimates of the numbers of lawfully-present immigrants accessing a range of public benefits. I propose to use this data in conjunction with existing literature on the secondary impacts of access to public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, and WIC to develop impact estimates of new policies aimed at restricting immigrant access to benefits.
Jacob Thomas
UCLA
Fifth year grad student
Sociology

Bio: I am a Ph.D Candidate at UCLA’s Sociology Department. My research focuses broadly on the question of why more people do not legally migrate and travel across borders. My dissertation examines three processes that seek to explain such low levels of migration and travel through studying how state- and individual-level selection interact: 1) government denial of nonimmigrant visas that provide legal entry, 2) deterrence of prospective applicants from even trying to apply for such visas due to how immigration law requirements and societal forces interact, and 3) disenchantment of those who obtain visas with the prospects of immigrating and why they return to their own country or a third country. Though my primary non-immigrant survey data source is actual and prospective visa applicants and holders in Mainland China, I also survey nonimmigrant visa holders from many other countries while in the US who return to their country or immigrate to a third country instead. Relatedly, I also have done regression and network analysis of visa waiver relationships, examined why governments deny passports to some nationals but not others, and done comparative-historical analysis of the impact of states’ sudden migration policy changes on the origins of their tourists and immigrants.

Abstract: I collected data from 2000+ respondents in China applying for US non-immigrant visas about 1) whether they have family member in the US, 2) how they are related to that person, and 3) immigration status of that person. I draw upon these to calculate a composite score for “family tie gravity”, which would motivate them to overstay their visa. Since I have missing data about legal immigration status, in this workshop I would learn more effective ways to impute missing data about legal status with other data I have.
Bio: Jen Scott is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Louisiana State University. She joined the faculty after completing her PhD in Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin where she was a Graduate Student Fellow in the Urban Ethnography Lab and the Population Research Center. She holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Philosophy from Trinity University. Dr. Scott’s research focuses on the experiences of people in poverty and immigrants in navigating their economic and social lives, as well as on the broader trends and sociopolitical determinants of poverty, inequality and migration. She is particularly interested in the strategies individuals, families and communities use to make ends meet, in particular those rooted in collaboration or collective action and those developed in response to crisis or disaster.

Abstract: Undocumented status excludes people from formal employment and most public safety net programs, yet over 6 million undocumented Latinos live in the U.S. In this context of exclusion, how do they fare? Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation and Hall and colleagues (2010) method to impute legal status, I found that undocumented Latinos were significantly more likely (50%) to face material hardship and food insecurity than their documented counterparts. Social support slightly reduced that likelihood of hardship. I conducted interviews with undocumented Latinos to further investigate strategies to make ends meet and how social ties shape that process.
Jennifer Sloan  
The Graduate Center, CUNY  
6+ year grad student  
Sociology

**Bio:** Jennifer’s research interests include race, ethnicity, immigration, and higher education. She teaches courses on research methods, statistics, and race/ethnicity in the Sociology departments of Queens College and The City College. In addition to teaching, Jennifer is a Research Associate in Teacher Education in CUNY’s Academic Affairs division.

**Abstract:** I will use nationally-representative educational data sets which track students from secondary to post-secondary education in order to understand how the profile of immigrant-origin, and specifically, undocumented, students in higher education has changed in response to major policy shifts. In my current research I use institutional data from the City University of New York. A main limitation of my current approach is that students who do not persist from high school to college are not present in the institutional data. With existing data, it’s not possible to determine whether the pool of undocumented college students is actually growing and whether there are important differences between students who persist and those who do not.
Joanna Napierala
European Asylum Support Office
4 years since obtaining PhD
Sociology, Economics

Bio: Joanna Napierala holds PhD in economics from the Faculty of Economic Studies University of Warsaw. She works as a Research and Analysis Officer at European Asylum Support Office, where she participates in the development of early warning system of asylum-related migration and is responsible for the management of analysis of how the policies of EU+ countries influence the distribution of asylum seekers. Previously she worked as research assistant at the Trinity College in Dublin on the project "Causes and Consequences of Early Socio-Cultural Integration Processes among New Immigrants in Europe". She is also affiliated at the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw. She was involved in the application of RDS sampling in studies of Polish migrants in Oslo, Copenhagen and Reykjavik and of Ukrainians, Belarusians and Russians in Warsaw. Co-author of the publication on the Comparison of the Effectiveness of Respondent-Driven Sampling and Quota Sampling in Migration Research. She contributed also to the book on Applying Respondent Driven Sampling to Migrant Populations. Lessons from the Field. She also co-author publication on Polish women in the Icelandic labour market. Her research interests include migration of Poles to Scandinavian countries, issues related to migration of women and influence of social networks existence on the labour market functioning.

Abstract: The aim of my project on “How the policies of EU+ countries influence the distribution of asylum seekers” will be to improve the understanding of asylum seekers’ choice of destination country (one from EU+). I focus on content analysis of discussions in social media between migration intermediaries and potential migrants and asylum seekers. I aim to understand the extent to which the lack of harmonization in asylum policies in the EU+ countries have a pull factor effect on asylum-related mobility, particularly in the context of secondary movements and whether this can be quantified and monitored over time.
**Bio:** I am a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the University of New Mexico, primarily interested in the impact of migration and return migration on the development of communities across Latin America. I have conducted research in Ecuador, where I explored the effect of migration on child schooling; Nepal, where I looked at infrastructure and multidimensional poverty; and Mexico, where I am currently studying the relationship between return migration, violence, and development. My research also focuses on the underlying micro-level channels driving migrants’ social and economic decisions upon their return home. In my dissertation, I insist upon the importance of migration as a development strategy. Through the analysis of multiple data sources, my findings argue against the belief that migrants’ return is simply the result of increased border enforcement or failed plans beyond individuals’ control. Instead, I find evidence that return to countries of origin may be the final stage of a pre-established strategy aimed at improving personal, household, and social well-being.

**Abstract:** In a historic flow reversal, more Mexican migrants are now returning home than moving to the United States. This project explores the effect of migrants’ experiences on their labor decisions upon their return to Mexico. We revisit the role of capital accumulation and evaluate unexplored interactions between legal status and social attitudes, risk preferences, and life expectations to determine what drives returners’ entrepreneurial initiative. Using the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) and government data on demographic characteristics, development, and violence, the empirical strategy addresses the non-random selection of individuals into migration, return migration, and labor-related choices.
Katharine Tatum
Emory University
Fourth year grad student
Sociology

Bio: Katharine Tatum is a mixed methods researcher working in the areas of immigration, globalization, and culture. Her dissertation investigates immigrant-native differences in lifestyle patterns and cultural capital, how this varies across generational status and class position, and how these differences relate to larger processes of social stratification. She draws on a sequential mixed methods analysis, using qualitative methods to inform the design of a survey instrument. She is in the design phase of the project and hopes to use the resources at the workshop, in part, to inform decisions surrounding issues of sampling and recruitment. In addition to using traditional qualitative and quantitative methodologies, Katharine has also incorporated quantitative text analysis into her research. She has applied this technique to examine newspaper coverage of immigration and to enhance traditional literature reviews. This fall Katharine will embark on her fifth year in Emory University’s PhD program in sociology. She received her B.A. in French from The College of Wooster (Ohio) and M.A. in Comparative Politics from the Université de Montpellier (France).

Abstract: How do “national models” of incorporation develop and cohere over time? This study takes the case of France—often classified as an “assimilationist” model—and provides a systematic analysis of the evolution of dominant ideas about immigrant incorporation since WWII. It draws on recent advances in machine learning, using thousands of texts from a multitude of online sources (including newspapers, debates, policy briefs, and social media) to assess shifting patterns in public debate. Key informant interviews with political organizations are used to assess how actors have—or have not—altered their discourse in conjunction with a shifting dominant framework.
**Bio:** Kevin Escudero is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University. He is also an affiliated faculty member in the Sociology Department and Population Studies Training Center (PSTC). Professor Escudero’s research focuses on the areas of race/ethnicity, immigration, social movements and law. His book manuscript, *Organizing While Undocumented* (under contract with NYU Press) examines undocumented immigrant activists’ strategic use of an intersectional movement identity to overcome legal and political barriers to social movement organizing. His next project, “‘Education, Not Deportation’: Undocumented Law and Medical Students Pursuit of Graduate Education,” employs the use of a mixed methods approach to understand undocumented professional students’ experiences applying to and once enrolled in graduate programs. His work has been funded by the AccessLex Institute, American Sociological Association, National Science Foundation, UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Law and Society. Professor Escudero received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and M.S.L. from Yale Law School.

**Abstract:** This project utilizes a mixed methods approach consisting of an online pilot survey and in-depth interviews to examine the experiences of undocumented law and medical students during two critical junctures: the professional school application process and experiences upon matriculation into these programs. While previous scholarship has examined high school and college student experiences, professional school remains a key aspect of the undocumented immigrant educational pipeline yet to be examined by scholars. Through a comparison with a control group of immigrant students undergoing the same educational transitions, this project seeks to distinguish the specific challenges facing members of the undocumented community.
Bio: I am an education policy scholar focusing on the forces that create and maintain disparities in educational outcomes. My current research explores how recent increases in immigration enforcement affect educational disparities by immigration status and ethnicity.

I became interested in education at my first job out of college, as a fourth grade teacher in the Houston Independent School District. I then learned more about the education policy-making process as a legislative aide for Texas State Representative Dora Olivo, who served on Texas’s House Public Education committee.

After obtaining a Master’s in Public Affairs from Indiana University-Bloomington, I worked as a research associate at the Child and Family Research Partnership at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. I am currently a fourth year Ph.D. candidate at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.

Abstract: Over the past decade, the focus of U.S. immigration enforcement policy has shifted from the border to the interior, increasingly involving parents of U.S.-citizen children. Immigration enforcement increases stress and fear for children with unauthorized parents, which likely has ramifications for children’s ability to perform in school. Immigration enforcement also increases child poverty, which is strongly associated with educational achievement. This study will examine the relationship between increases in immigration enforcement and the achievement of likely affected students, using individual-level education data in North Carolina. I use quasi-experimental methods to examine the effect of 287(g) programs in North Carolina, which were implemented in 9 counties and, importantly, requested by the county but not approved in 15 other counties. Forthcoming results will provide evidence about the impact of immigration enforcement on student achievement.
Bio: I am a Ph.D candidate in sociology at Cornell University, with research interests in international migration, social networks and social stratification. I was born in Dijon, France. I received a Licence de Science Politique from the University of Lyon in 2009, a BA in Sociology from McGill University in 2012, and an MA in sociology from Cornell University in 2016.

Abstract: The project I wish to work on at the Institute is a direct extension of one of my dissertation papers in which I use Geographic Information Systems to map the spatial structure of the Muslim communities in urban France. This project uses online data on mosques, religious schools, libraries, and food shops to measure the degree of institutional integration across three French cities. In a next step, I wish to automatize the collection of online data through web scraping in order to map the spatial structures of Muslim communities in major German, Dutch, and Belgian cities for which this data is also readily available but too onerous to gather by hand.
**Bio:** I am from Mexico City, where I lived and worked until I was 26. I then decided to move to the U.S. to pursue a Sociology PhD, and I am now a graduate student in Sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle. My research interests include the processes of reintegration of returned migrants in Mexico, both those that went back voluntarily and deportees. I am also interested in transit migration of Central Americans through Mexico.

I love soccer, both watching it and playing it.

**Abstract:** In the last decade, increasing numbers of transit migrants from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras have attempted to reach the U.S. or settled in Mexico. This study investigates the short-term incorporation of Central American transit migrants in Mexico’s economy. By conducting fieldwork and ethnographies in five transit points across Mexico, I will explore the role of migrant networks, shelters, and other non-profit organizations in accessing and/or integrating into local economies. This study will shed light on the interconnectedness between contexts of origin, transit, and destination in the regional-hemispheric-migration stream.
**Bio:** I am a second year PhD candidate in Economics at Aix-Marseille University in France. I am deeply interested in understanding the causes and consequences of labor market frictions. More especially, I am focusing on barriers to workers’ mobility through two different axes. On the one hand, I explore how cultural differences between countries affect migrants’ economic integration. On the other hand, I study how firms’ recruitment strategies participate to shape high skilled migrations. I address these questions from an empirical perspective relying mostly on internet data sources. My work consists mainly in scraping data from internet, managing big databases and implementing quantitative methods to assess causal relationships. After spending hours on my computer, I enjoy taking rest by going outdoors to practice either rock climbing or surfing.

**Abstract:** High skilled migration in the US is often accused to displace native workers. In this paper, I assess the displacement hypothesis by focusing on the firm’s hiring process. Combining administrative data on firms’ applications to H-1B visas, with job vacancies collected on internet, I assess in which extent the demand for foreign workers results from a lack of native labor supply. More especially, I first estimate spatial correlations between unfilled vacancies and H-1B applications at the occupation level. Moreover, I investigate whether unfilled vacancies result from a structural lack of labor supply or from different frictions on the labor market.
Bio: Nallely Mejia is a Latina PhD student in the Sociology Department at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2014, she graduated from American University with a Bachelor’s in International Studies and Sociology. Her research interests revolve around immigration, health, and inequality - particularly among Latinos. Her master’s thesis was an in-depth interview project regarding the relationship between gender and nutrition among Mexican immigrant couples in the Bay Area. For her dissertation research, she is interested in studying the wealth accumulation of Latinos and the intergenerational transfer of wealth.

Abstract: Based on my master’s paper, I became interested in exploring alternative data sources, like health mobile apps, fitness tracker APIs, and social media data, to visualize migrant health and nutrition. Through a class, I began this exploration with some Fitbit API data. My goal is to explore health APIs and alternative data to address new questions from my research. We know legal status, for example, has implications for physical and mental health, such as increased obesity - how can we use data from social media and mobile apps, for example, to expand our understanding of nutrition and obesity among immigrants?
A. Nicole Kreisberg
Brown University
Third year grad student
Sociology

Bio: Nicole Kreisberg is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Brown University. She studies educational and labor market inequalities among immigrants in the United States, with a specific focus on the relationship between immigrant legal status and socioeconomic mobility. Her dissertation uses quantitative, qualitative, and experimental methods to understand the mobility prospects and processes of undocumented youth in higher education. She has Bachelor’s degrees in Latin American Studies and Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master’s degree in Social Work (social policy) from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration.

Abstract: The Institute will help me directly with my dissertation, which tests whether legal status produces independent inequalities in the labor market. Specifically, I use administrative data merged with tax records to assess the relationship between legal status and 1) the school-to-work transition and 2) earnings trajectories. I have recently gained access to these unique data, which record many—but not all—legal status categories, and at only one point in time. Additionally, I aim to use an important policy event—DACA—as a source of exogenous variation with which to identify the causal effects of legal status.
Noora Lori
Boston University
5 years since obtaining PhD
Political Science

Bio: Noora Lori is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University. Her book, Offshore Citizens: Permanent “Temporary” Status in the Gulf is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press (2019). Lori’s research focuses on migration, citizenship, and security in the Persian Gulf. Her publications examine precarious citizenship, migrant policing, naturalization policies, temporary migration schemes, statelessness, and racial hierarchies in comparative perspective. She has published in the Oxford Handbook on Citizenship, the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, the Journal of Politics & Society, and for the Institut français des relations internationals (IFRI). She is the Founding Director of the Pardee School Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking, which she co-directs with Professor Schild. At BU she received the Gitner Family Prize for Faculty Excellence (2014) and the CAS Templeton Award for Excellence (2015). She was previously an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies and a fellow at the International Security Program of the Harvard Kennedy School. She received her PhD in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University’s (2013) and her dissertation received the Best Dissertation Award from the Migration and Citizenship Section of the American Political Science Association in 2014.

Abstract: This project seeks to quantify and analyze the population with limbo legal statuses in the three largest migrant-receiving regions: North America, Western Europe, and the Persian Gulf. A growing literature is identifying incidences of temporary and conditional legal statuses across regime-types and world regions. However, without a quantitative assessment of the sizes of these populations across political systems, it is impossible to determine scope conditions and generate a theory about when a state is likely to adopt conditional and temporary statuses vs. when it might fully incorporate or exclude minority and migrant populations.
Bio: Pauline White Meeusen is a Ph.D. student in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on law and social movements, legal mobilization, immigration law and policy, and border theory. Her dissertation project will focus on how individuals without longstanding ties to the United States, such as Central American asylum seekers, work with frontline immigration attorneys and allies to advance a rights-based movement in and around liminal border spaces inside and outside the United States. Pauline received her B.A. with honors from Wellesley College, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Abstract: Through interviews and computational text analysis of testimonials, letters, and other statements shared through social media, this project examines whether and how refugees’ identities and legal consciousness are constructed through their resistance to and within “rightless” border spaces. To gain empirical and theoretical traction on this question, I focus on individuals released from or detained in two family detention centers: the Berks County Residential Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania, a facility located over 100 miles from the nearest border, and those released from or detained in the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, a more traditional borderland region.
Bio: Rita Nassar is a fourth year PhD student in Political Science at Indiana University. She holds a B.A. in economics from the Université Saint Joseph and an M.A. in economics from the American University of Beirut. She later received her M.A. in political science from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She is interested in immigration, public opinion, political psychology and race relations. Her current work explores how elite and media framing influence public attitudes toward refugees in the United States.

Abstract: Refugees, legal and undocumented immigrants have been portrayed differently in elite and media discourse leading to different factors influencing opinions about these groups. Looking at American legislators’ Twitter and Facebook posts, this paper examines the frames used by Republican and Democratic legislators to discuss refugees, legal and undocumented immigrants. Republican legislators are expected to emphasize threat frames and the outgroup status of immigrants. Democrats on the other hand, are expected to focus their messages on moral frames and emphasize the economic benefits of immigration. Different frames are expected to be highlighted depending on the type of immigrant discussed with the discourse on refugees focusing on their religious and ethnic outgroup status and discourse on undocumented immigrants focusing on economic and border security threats.
Bio: Robin received her Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Davis in May 2018. Her dissertation examines the labor market incorporation and experiences of skilled temporary migrant workers in the United States. Specifically, Robin analyzed how temporary migrant workers respond to constraints on their occupational mobility related to their social location, the rules of the H-1B visa program and the practice of outsourcing in the information technology (IT) field. These factors put frictions on their career progression, with the potential for skilled migrants to be underemployed, commodified, or exploited for extended periods.

Currently Robin is a postdoctoral fellow at UC Davis conducting research on several projects related to the effects of precarious legal status on the health and wellbeing of migrants in the United States.

After her postdoc Robin will seek employment conducting research to inform public policy development.

Abstract: My dissertation analyzes the labor market incorporation of skilled temporary migrants in the United States. I examine how workers’ visa- and employer- type at entry affect their income, terms of employment and chances for permanent residence. Visa type at entry does not affect these outcomes. However, I find that skilled migrants whose visas are sponsored by contract companies earn less and have more unstable jobs than workers with direct-hire employment. Contract jobs are also difficult to transition out of, especially for Indian nationals who wait much longer than people from elsewhere for employment-based green cards, which improve labor market mobility.
Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas
University of Massachusetts Amherst
6+ year grad student
Sociology

Bio: Rodrigo Dominguez is a PhD student in the Sociology Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He received his B.A. in Economics and Geography from Middlebury College. He is currently working with Professor Jennifer Lundquist on studying the socioeconomic outcomes for foreign born veterans. His primary research interests include international migration, economic development, and public policy analysis. He is an independent consultant for the Migration Policy Institute in Washington D.C.

Abstract: What happens to the thousands of people that return to Mexico after living in the United States for several years? Since 2008, more people have returned to Mexico than have come to the United States. This flow of return migrants is comprised of two analytically distinct groups: people returned by force and people who decided to return. Using a series of multilevel models, I compare the education, employment, and income outcomes of deportees and voluntary returnees. With 60 in depth semi-structured interviews, I uncover how differences in government and social contexts of reception for these two groups lead to such outcomes.
Roy Taggueg
University of California, Davis
Second year grad student
Sociology

Bio: Roy B. Taggueg Jr. received his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. He worked at the UCI Office of Research as an Analyst for the Institutional Review Board, and developed an expertise on human ethics in research before coming to UC Davis in the Fall of 2016 to pursue a degree in Sociology.

Abstract: The objective of this study is to assess the relationship between the legal status and physical health across Asian/Pacific Islander (API) categories. I utilize multinomial logistic regression to analyze two waves of the 2008 and 2016 National Asian American Survey (NAAS). I examine whether participants’ legal status (US Citizen, Visa Holders, Permanent Residents, and Undocumented) has an impact on their self-reported health overall health (poor, fair, good, very good, excellent). Preliminary results indicate that in particular, permanent residents are significantly more likely to report that their health is fair or good, as opposed to excellent, very good, or poor.
San Juanita García
University of California, Riverside
4 years since obtaining PhD
Sociology

**Bio:** San Juanita García earned her PhD in Sociology from Texas A&M University. She completed postdoctoral training in the NRSA Mental Health Postdoctoral T32 program (2015-2017) at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, jointly sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Duke University. Juanita’s research explores how a deportation regime and racialization practices embedded in an anti-immigrant climate fuel discrimination and impact intra-group relations, identity, stress, and the mental health of Mexican-origin women in Texas. Her current book project explores a concept she develops called “vicarious illegality,” to highlight the stress and mental health impacts on those who witness the negative consequences of “illegality,” particularly family, romantic partners, and friends of the undocumented. Her research has been funded by the American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program and the Ford Foundation. Her solo and collaborative work appears in Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Sociology Compass, Psychiatric Services, Health Expectations, and Transnational Social Review.

**Abstract:** There is growing evidence that legal status is an important marker of stratification but less is known about the cumulative inequalities associated with aging as an undocumented immigrant. With immigration reform stalled and the repeal of DACA, this study highlights the cumulative inequalities associated with “growing old” as an undocumented immigrant in the US and its mental health consequences across the life course. This study brings to the fore the lives of older Latinos, a group that is often excluded from immigration and healthcare debates and will highlight their long-term consequences associated with “growing old” in an increasing anti-immigrant climate.
Stephanie Pullés  
University of California, Irvine  
Fourth year grad student  
Sociology, Statistics

Bio: Stephanie A. Pullés is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Her work primarily focuses on international migration, immigrant incorporation, the second generation, and inequality and mobility among racial and ethnic minorities. Pullés' prior work has examined the multigenerational and gendered consequences of undocumented status on second generation educational outcomes among Mexican Americans. Another strand of scholarship focuses on the uneven returns to business ownership for different kinds of capital sources across ethnicity and gender. She has published her work in American Behavioral Scientist and Qualitative Sociology. With a commitment to conducting high-quality and policy-relevant research, Pullés has gained professional experience in organizations such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Public Policy Institute of California. Her work has been supported by the California Immigration Research Initiative, the Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute, and the Center for Organizational Research. Stephanie received her B.A. in economics and comparative literature and her M.A. in sociology from the University of California, Irvine.

Abstract: This research examines patterns of Latino business ownership to determine how immigrant self-employment differs by migration status and is differentially affected by local economic contexts and co-ethnic migration and residential patterns. Using Survey of Business Owners data for three time-points, I assess business outcomes in both pre- and post-Great Recession periods to discern their implications for immigrants. By supplementing my analyses with American Community Survey data to construct measures such as the number and geographic distribution of unauthorized Latino business owners, I examine how self-employment activity and earnings of immigrant entrepreneurs are different for legal and unauthorized Latino immigrants.
**Bio:** I am an empirical economist working as a post-doctoral researcher at the Political Science department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the Maastricht University in the Netherlands. I hold a BSc in Economics from the University of Mannheim, Germany, and a MSc (cum laude) in Economics of Public Policy and Management from Utrecht University School of Economics, the Netherlands. I have obtained an PhD in Economics with my dissertation “On the move: Analyzing immigration determinants and immigrant outcomes” at Utrecht University in 2017. I am currently involved in a project on Migrant Life Course and Legal Status Transitions (www.milifestatus.com) where I work, together with different colleagues form the University of Maastricht, on citizenship policies, naturalisation decisions of migrants, and the relation between migrant naturalisation and integration. My research interests cover international migration, citizenship and ethnic penalties.

**Abstract:** Obtaining the citizenship of a host country provides migrants a secure residence status, rights and participation opportunities. This project aims to disentangle the relationship between naturalisation and integration in a longitudinal and comparative manner. The legal status transition is considered a life course event to understand how the value and meaning of citizenship may differ for each migrant, depending on contextual factors. As part of this project, I am using population register data and longitudinal survey data to analyze the relevance of citizenship within the life course of immigrants in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States of America.
Zoya Gubernskaya
University at Albany, SUNY
4 years since obtaining PhD
Sociology

**Bio:** Zoya Gubernskaya is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests are at the intersection of sociology and demography of immigration, family, aging and health. She has published articles in peer-reviewed sociology and interdisciplinary journals, including Demography, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Health and Social Behavior and Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences. Her most recent research projects focused on 1) health and wellbeing of older immigrants in the U.S. and 2) global changes in family and intergenerational relations.

**Abstract:** The ongoing research project uses panel data from the Health and Retirement Study to understand how immigrants’ legal status affects health in midlife and old age. With 14 bi-annual waves of nationally representative data, the HRS is arguably the best data source to study older immigrants’ health. Despite many relevant variables, the question about immigrants’ legal status was not asked until 2006 (Wave 8). The preliminary results show that citizenship status predicts health in later life, although the relationship depends on gender and specific health indicator. Despite fewer chronic conditions at age 50, older non-citizens report worse self-rated health.
The Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods is being supported by award #78-18-01 from the Russell Sage Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.