

SILVIA RODRIGUEZ VEGA

SILVIA.RODRIGUEZ.VEGA@UCLA.EDU
(602) 422-0401

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES 2012-PRESENT

CESAR E. CHAVEZ DEPARTMENT OF CHICANA/O STUDIES
DOCTORAL STUDENT
EUGENE V. COTA-ROBLES FELLOW

HARVARD UNIVERSITY 2010-2011

MASTERS OF EDUCATION
CLASS MARSHALL AWARD FROM DEAN

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY 2005-2009

B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
B.A. IN TRANSBORDER CHICANA/O LATINA/O STUDIES
GRADUATED CUM LAUDE

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

GRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP FELLOWSHIP WITH DR. LEISY ABREGO, 2013

This project consists of doing a visual narrative analysis of 150 drawings from children in immigrant communities. This project will serve to complete the thesis requirement for the PhD program in Chicana/o Studies.

GRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH MENTORSHIP FELLOWSHIP WITH DR. LEISY ABREGO, 2013

“The Effects of Detention and Deportation on Children of Undocumented Families; an ethnographical comparison, between Phoenix, AZ and Orange County, CA”

IMPACTO: MOTIVATION FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN OLDER HISPANIC WOMEN ASSISTANT FOR DR. ADRIANA PEREZ, 2010

The Wellness Motivation Theory (WMT) provides a theoretical basis for (Impacto) or “Motivation Intervention for All Women to Walk,” and has been demonstrated to be effective in promoting physical activity (PA) among other vulnerable populations.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (NCAR) SUMMER 2009

In this project the investigative team conducted local-level research in South Phoenix Neighborhoods, integrating household surveys into a quantitative spatial assessment of societal vulnerability. The surveys are designed to provide vulnerability information outside of what can be obtained through census data and will address household level knowledge of heat stress, existence, and types of coping mechanisms, and social networks, among other topics.

RESEARCH TRANSCRIPTION FOR DR. MARIA CRUZ-TORREZ 2008-2009

Verbatim transcription of Dr. Cruz-Torrez' National Science Foundation interdisciplinary, transnational collaborative research project, which focused on the links between human and biophysical processes in the coastal marine ecosystems of Baja California, Mexico

WELLS FARGO RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT 2008
"ALIENS IN THE CAGE" LIVE EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Aliens in the Cage captured what it is to live as an undocumented citizen in one of the most discriminatory states of the U.S. Exploring the reaction of the masses at the largest institution of the country; through performance art, criticizing the xenophobia and dehumanization of undocumented immigrants in Arizona. Inspired by the performance of Guillermo Gomez-Peña and Coco Fusco: Couple in the Cage. Research advisor: Dr. Carlos Velez-Ibañez Chair of Transborder Chicana/o Latina/o studies department and Presidential Motorola Professor of Neighborhood Revitalization.

RESOLANA: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE CHICANO COMMUNITY
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY 2008

I participated in a study that developed a community garden as a means to understand what it takes to make social capital work and what makes it so vital in the Chicano community. Project Lead: Dr. Miguel Montiel, who was in the process of writing his book, *Resolana: Emerging Chicano Dialogues on Community and Globalization*.

PUBLICATIONS

Regem, A.; Rodriguez Vega, S.; Teel, T. "The Undocumented Student Movement and Non-Violence: From DREAM Act to DACA". (Forthcoming, UCLA Labor Center 2013).

Rodriguez Vega, S. (2012). "*Obama's Deferred Action... deferred freedom.*" (San Antonio, TX. La Voz, a publication of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.)

Rodriguez Vega, S. (2012). "*Teaching Our Teens to Be Proud: Despite Ethnic Studies Ban in Arizona.*" (Los Tweens: Growing up in a diverse world, Online Publication)

Rodriguez Vega, S. (2011). "*My life as a DREAMer who ACTed beyond the barriers, from growing up Undocumented in Arizona to a Masters Degree from Harvard.*" (Cambridge, MA. Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy)

Rodriguez Vega, S., Butzine, J., Ohm M., Simmons, W. (2011). "*I'm migration: Evolving Principles and Practices in Social Justice and the Arts from Diverse Voices in Campus-Community Spaces,*" (Phoenix, AZ. Cultural Arts Coalition, book chapter)

Rodriguez Vega, S., (2010). "*Decriminalized.*" The African, Latino, Asian, and Native American Alliance Anthology (Harvard University, student publication)

Rodriguez Vega, S., (Current project) *SB1070 & Children's Perspective on Immigration Policy*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ESPERANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGIAL ACADEMY
2007-2010

Instructor: modern technology and computer skills for basic and advanced levels, focused on adult education for non-English speakers. A free program aimed at bridging gaps between the neighborhood and the local high school.

**OPENDANCE: TEACHER ASSISTANT AND THEATER COACH FOR MINORS
2009-2010**

Opendance promotes health and wellness through the musical movement of the body. Our school-based residences include instruction in the history of the U.S. and world cultures by teaching the youth different dances, which at the end of the year are performed for the entire school.

**ESPERANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGIAL ACADEMY
SUMMER 2009**

I coordinated and taught a bilingual (English/Spanish) 6-week summer art program for children ages 7-14 at a local high school. At the end of the program, the accumulated art was exhibited at a local coffee shop.

**CARL HAYDEN COMMUNITY CENTER
SUMMER 2008**

Designed, taught, and coordinated a summer arts program for 100 underserved youth, ages 7-17. This was an eight-week program where there were guest speakers, field trips, and a final art exhibit and showcase for the rest of the community. The youth experienced creating masks, sculpture, ceramics, dance, theater, and made a mural about knowledge and power for the community.

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: ALUMNI OF COLOR CONFERENCE

February 2014, Cambridge MA

Conducted poster presentation on "The Effects of Detention and Deportation on Children of Undocumented Families."

**MALCS CONFERENCE PRESENTATION
OHIO, 2013**

Presenting in the "Immigrant Youth and Children Activism" panel a case study from Phoenix AZ on the effects of SB 1070 on a girl named Katherine Figueroa, whose parents were detained for three months.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-WIDE IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE
"WE ASKED FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES CAME:" CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN
MIGRATION, LOS ANGELES, CA (2013)**

I will be presenting a paper on my work with a ten-year-old immigration activist, and her journey in becoming politically aware of immigration policies in Arizona after both her parents were apprehended at an immigration raid, and Katherine (the ten-year-old girl) saw the raid of her parent's work place on the evening news.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES: AB 540 EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

September 2012, Los Angeles, CA

I will provide context for the importance of mentors, educators, and school counselors that are informed on how to work with undocumented students.

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: ALUMNI OF COLOR CONFERENCE

February 2011, Cambridge MA

Workshop co-presenter: “Documenting the Undocumented” how educators and administrators can help immigrant students navigate the educational journey.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: *EL MOVIMIENTO*

March 2011, Boston MA

Gave a presentation on the history of Ethnic Studies.

HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

March 2011, Cambridge MA

Was invited to perform poetry about immigrant experience in US.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY & EMERSON COLLEGE: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVISM

CONFERENCE April 2011, Boston MA

I was a speaker on issues of Ethnic Studies, Immigration, and Arizona Politics.

SIMMONS COLLEGE: *SIN FRONTERAS*, DIALOGUE ON IMMIGRATION

April 2011, Boston MA

I participated in a panel about student involvement and immigration issues.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

April 2011, New London CT

I was a speaker on issues of undocumented students and DREAM Act, Arizona immigration policies and their implications on students from immigrant families.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

May 2011, Cambridge MA

I was a speaker for two undergraduate classes on Latino identity and immigrant experience in the US.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE, OR 2009

“Education is Liberation: Keeping the Dream Act Alive.” Discover a way towards social change and community empowerment through Theater of the Oppressed. Using dialogue and art as a way to reach out to the community, and begin mobilizing for a better tomorrow.

ARIZONA YOUTH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBAL SERVICE DAY 2009

Workshop Presentations: “Telling your story through poetry. Learning about the basic human rights and how we can remember to use them everyday.”

MECHA DE ASU YOUTH CONFERENCE 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

Conducted workshops on theater, spoken word, and educational goal setting for high school students from different high schools around the Maricopa County.

LATINO INSTITUTE CONFERENCE 2004

Participated in a theater performance about gangs, domestic violence, and drugs

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (NCLR): LIDERES SUMMIT 2004

“News Paper Theater” Educating the community about topics that are not easily addressed in every day life, such as confronting racism in the media and the way in which the Latino/Chicano community is portrayed on television.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND HONORS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

EUGENE V. COTA-ROBLES FELLOWSHIP 20012-2015

This four-year fellowship program, funded by the University of California Office of the President, the UCLA Graduate Division, and the home department, supports a limited number of students who are entering PhD programs and are interested in a career in college or university teaching and research.

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
CLASS MARSHAL AWARD 2011**

Marshals are honorary positions, which require the elected students to perform key ceremonial roles during Commencement. Their classmates elect class marshals. Based on Leadership, HGSE involvement, Service to the community and others, Exemplary representative of HGSE and the University. The Dean will honor Class Marshal during commencement.

DAVIS PUTTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2010, 2011

The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund provides grants to students actively working for peace and justice. These need-based scholarships are awarded to those able to do academic work at the university level and who are a part of the progressive movement on the campus and in the community.

ROSENBERG FUND FOR CHILDREN 2011

Special Development Grants for Targeted Activist Youth (TAY) – this program provides targeted activist youth ages 18 to 24 with special development grants of up to \$1000 per year to further their education, support their emotional needs or develop their organizing skills.

BE A LEADER FOUNDATION 2010

Along with providing students with academic and leadership development workshops, BALF is proud to award financial scholarships to students demonstrating the qualities and college-going mentality that our foundation advocates.

LA VICTORIA FOUNDATION 2010

We emphasize Education Programs and specifically scholarships for Latinos as the foundation strives to reduce the Latino Drop Out Problem.

EL BREAK 2010

El break is a collective of young people who have a talk show host in Phoenix AZ, they are committed to community empowerment, by informing listeners with political, cultural, and local news. They also fundraised \$8,000 to help me get to Harvard.

PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR 2009

Live Well Community, Arizona State University. I was recognized for my work with a group of 70 students in a living residence who were part of a Live Well community. Responsibilities included presentations, events, and contacting guest speakers, and providing support for students on issues of depression, sexual violence/safety, nutrition, diversity, and many other topics

DEANS LIST FALL 2006/SPRING 2007/SPRING 2009

Outstanding Scholar award in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Arizona State University

UNDERGRADUATE CAMPUS CANDID AWARD SPRING 2008

Selected out of a group of 14,000 students to represent Arizona State University: providing outreach to local high schools and helping young students learn about opportunities for them at the university

AMERICAN DREAM FUND SCHOLAR 2008

Received a scholarship from the American Dream Fund to complete my last year of college

THE SCHUESSLER POLITICAL SCIENCE AWARD 2008

Award for academic excellence in the field of Political Science at Arizona State University

SUNBURST FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP 2006, 2007

Recipient of a merit/need-based full-tuition scholarship for students who are the first generation in their families to attend a post-secondary educational institution

CESAR CHAVEZ LEADERSHIP AWARD; GIVEN BY JANET NAPOLITANO 2006

Recognized by former Governor Janet Napolitano and the Latino Caucus of the Arizona State Legislature with an academic and civil engagement leadership award, highlighting involvement with the immigrant/human rights marches and high school walkouts

MAROON AND GOLD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2005, 2006

Scholarship for tuition based on academic achievement and participation in a retention program for freshman at Arizona State University

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND SOCIAL VENTURES

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES, GHANA, AFRICA

Summer 2012

I mentored a group of 70 students from the United States who were part of our service program to teach and build a cafeteria for a school in a rural town of Ghana.

**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
LATINO LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE SUMMER 2011**

I mentored a group of 6 students from UC Merced at the annually LLI program, that serves up to 42 of the nation's most promising undergraduates with demonstrated interest in serving the Latino community. Our mission is to recruit participants whose academic achievement is best complemented by an intensive, weeklong leadership development program at Harvard Kennedy School.

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: GUTMAN ART EXHIBIT

January, February, April 2011, Cambridge MA

Participated in three art exhibits, with my paintings and photographs.

CEO, DIGNIFIED BY SILK. LLC

CURRENT

As an Entrepreneur, I created a business known in the community as Dignified, the goal of which is to bring consciousness to Xican@ art and fashion. "Be proud of who you are, where you come from, and what you believe." The art includes paintings, handmade earrings, wallets, clothes, and notebooks. This eccentric art and fashion is culturally rooted, and carries messages of social change and community empowerment. Funds from this business go to create community art programs, and fund theater projects.

CULTURAL ARTS COALITION

BOARD MEMBER 2010-PRESENT

Identifying, supporting, promoting, celebrating, and documenting those community arts practices that stimulate social awareness and honor diverse cultural values, and develop the critical thinking skills necessary to be creative and solve problems. As a networking group, the coalition strives to provide a safe place for persons of all ages and backgrounds to gather and achieve a sense of belonging and respect within a larger community and to explore arts-related skills in a facilitated environment.

**AGUILA YOUTH LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP
PRESENTER, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, JULY 2009**

Assisted the Cultural Arts Coalition in partnership with AGUILA to provide a 3-hour arts workshop

for 130 high school and 22 college youth as the conclusion of a 2-day symposium with guest speakers and information necessary to assist participants in moving toward a college education. AGUILA exists to empower and prepare Latino/Latina youth for college admissions.

**ACTION, ADVOCACY, ARTS: AN OPEN MIND IS A CANVAS FOR CHANGE
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, APRIL 2009**

Helped organize an event showcasing more than 500 diverse pieces of artwork, including award-winning work from community organizations and artists. Among the topics: educational and health disparities, economic justice, community organization and development, human trafficking, poverty in America, and immigration.

**YOUTH ART WORKSHOP: PROVIDING A SAFE PLACE, TO EXPLORE A SENSE OF PLACE
PRESENTER AUGUST 2008 BI-MONTHLY WORKSHOP**

Through story telling, dance, and vision mapping, I helped youth in the town of Guadalupe understand how their culture could be used as a tool to help their community, while allowing them to dream of possibilities for education and self empowerment. The resulting mixed-media art is displayed at Guadalupe Town Hall as a reminder of youth leadership and intentions.

**MUJER INC. PROJECT MANA LEADERSHIP RETREAT NOVEMBER 2007, 2008, 2009
MENTOR, THEATER WORKSHOP PRESENTER, AND PERFORMER**

Mujer Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose focus is promoting awareness on modern-day issues that affect our community and our youth, influencing change to help resolve these issues. Mujer Inc. provides young Latinas the opportunity to participate in the Project Mana retreat. Designed to promote leadership and self-esteem in young Latinas ages 12-18 through a leadership retreat.

**ALAC: ADVOCATES FOR LATIN@ ARTS & CULTURE CULTURAL CENTER, ARIZONA
MEMBER/ARTIST 2009**

Participated as an artist and helped open the first Latino/Chicano museum and cultural center in Arizona. The goals of ALAC are to foster communication, collaboration, education, and understanding between Latino and non-Latino artists, art organizations, media, and communities; to provide art resources to Arizona's educational system; and to advocate for resources, funding, and the political and financial empowerment of Latino artists and arts organizations.

**BORDER JUSTICE "THE WOMEN OF JUAREZ"
ORGANIZER/THEATER PRESENTER, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY 2007**

Arizona, as part of the Southwest, is deeply affected by all of the violence on the U.S./Mexico border. One of the horrors is the "femicide" happening in and around Juarez, Mexico, where more than 1,000 women have been murdered, tortured, and kidnapped. Many of the women work for the *maquiladoras*, which are owned by U.S. companies. At the border justice event, art is used to create awareness of this issue by setting up an exhibit of hundreds of dresses representing the murdered women. The dresses hang on pink crosses. The exhibit has now toured many parts of the country.

**TEATRO NOPALERO
FOUNDER/DIRECTOR 2006-CURRENT**

Teatro Nopalero is a Social Change Theater group comprised of college students from all over the Phoenix valley. The group raises awareness about important issues in the community, such as education, immigration, human rights, family values, and culture, using techniques from Theater of the Oppressed. Our group came about after the passing of proposition 300 as a way to express disagreement with injustice. Our work is considered street theater, as we act, write, produce, and direct all of our works anywhere and everywhere with props that have been purchased at yard sales. Our goal is to make theater accessible to everyone in our community, and to raise consciousness.

NEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE**DON FRANCISCO PRESENTA, UNIVISION INC.****2010, MIAMI FL**

Was invited to a national Spanish talk show to speak about immigrant students and their journey to higher education, and I was interviewed about my journey as a migrant woman to Harvard University to inspire youth across the nation.

PRIMER IMPACTO, UNIVISION INC.**2010, MIAMI FL**

Was asked to speak about my personal story in overcoming obstacles to attend Arizona State University and Harvard Graduate School as an undocumented immigrant.

WORK EXPERIENCE**GIRL SCOUTS COUNCIL OF ORANGE COUNTY****2011-2012 LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST**

- Administer Girl Scout Leadership Experience curriculum that is used for 25,000 members.
- Train service unit members and volunteers on leadership models.
- Organize council wide events for hundreds girls of all ages.
- Give presentations to various groups on Girl Scout Leadership outcomes.

HARVARD SI SE PUEDE!**2010-2011, NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN**

Ran a national campaign to raise \$40,000 for my scholarship to Harvard, when I was unable to apply for federal, state, financial aid or loans because of my previous immigration status.

- Started a scholarship fund with a local non-profit in AZ.
- Used social media to receive publicity and raise awareness about the issue.
- Met with many undocumented students to help them reach their dreams.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**2008-2009 LIVE WELL COMMUNITY PARAPROFESSIONAL**

- Point of resource for students
- Event coordinator, including workshops and presentations.
- Assisted community coordinator with day-to-day administration of the residential community.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTOR 2007-2010

- Taught classes for adults/parents in Spanish
- Organized lesson plans

CHICANOS POR LA CAUSA YOUTH FACILITATOR/MENTOR 2008

- Organized daily activities for youth at the Center, mainly focused on art
- Coordinated, taught, and evaluated a summer art program for 100 youth
- Office manager, cleaned the facilities

SEIU: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2007

- Managed payroll
- Organized documents

LINGUISTIC SKILLS:

Fluent in English and Spanish, studied French and Italian.