

Fernando I. Rivera
University of Central Florida
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Education

- 2003 **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**
Ph.D. Degree in Sociology
Dissertation: “Exploring the Pathways that Mediate the Relationship
Between Acculturation and Depression among Latinos”.
Advisor: Dan R. Hoyt.
- 1998 **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**
Master’s degree in Sociology.
Thesis: “The Role of Fathers in Latino Families”. Advisor: Paul R. Amato
- 1996 **University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus**
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Cum-Laude.

Teaching and Work Experience

University of Central Florida

- 2019-current Position: Professor
Department of Sociology
- 2018-current Director-Puerto Rico Research Hub
Manages all operations related to the Hub, including academic research
projects, student research opportunities and scholarship, community
outreach and partnerships, and fundraising.
- 2018-2019 Position: Interim Assistant Vice-Provost-Faculty Excellence
The assistant vice provost is the senior advisor to the vice provost for
Faculty Excellence on all faculty success initiatives. Together with the
vice provost, this individual leads all faculty development programs
including new faculty development, leadership development, and faculty
fellows, and other focused development programs including UCF’s
COACHE initiative. The assistant vice provost also works with the
director for Faculty Excellence on processes and documents related to
promotion and tenure and Annual Evaluation Standards and Procedures
criteria.
- 2016-2018 Position: UCF Global Faculty Fellow
Part time position to help the UCF Global team with the comprehensive
internalization of UCF and providing support for the following activities:
International Education Week events, Faculty Center for Teaching and
Learning Summer Conference and other faculty outreach events, College

and Department visits, UCF Global Student Council, the Intercultural Core Competencies initiative among others.

2015-2016

Position: Provost Faculty Fellow

Assisted the Provost and the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of Undergraduate Studies on the University of Central Florida Integrated Planning and Advising for Student Success in Higher Education (iPASS): Mapping and Tracking for Success program and assisted also with The Innovative Teaching and Learning Team.

Assisted the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Global Strategies and her leadership team on a Distinguished Speaker Series with the Centro Universitario Das Cataratas (Brazil), served as search committee chair for the English Language Institute Director position, and assisted with other initiatives including collaborative efforts with the University of Cienfuegos (Cuba), assessing measures on intercultural knowledge and global learning, among others.

Assisted the Vice Provost and the Office of Faculty Excellence staff on the priority setting and strategy committees in response to the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey results.

Along with the other Provost Faculty Fellow, Dr. William Self, assisted the Provost with the structural organization of UCF which resulted in a UCF Senate resolution (Resolution 2016-2017-14). I also worked on passing a UCF Senate resolution for the evaluation of associate professors to the rank of full (Resolution 2016-2017-18). We also put together a faculty-gathering event titled "Faculty Fridays".

2015-2017

Position: Associate Chair, Department of Sociology

As associate chair I assisted the Chair in the administration of department business (except for faculty salaries and promotion) and took the responsibilities of the Chair when the Chair was away from the University.

2011-2013

Position: Faculty-in-Residence McNair Scholars Program

Advised McNair scholars and travel with the scholars to the McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of Puerto Rico, University of Delaware, and the University of Maryland-College Park.

2011-2019

Position: Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

Courses taught: Family Trends (face to face and online), General Sociology, Medical Sociology (face to face, honors, graduate, and on-line), Patterns of Mental Health in Society, Social Determinants of Health, Social Research in the Family (Graduate), Race and Ethnicity (Graduate).

2005-2011

Position: Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

- 2003-2005 **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**
Position: Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research
- 1998-2000 **University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus**
Position: Instructor
Department of Social Sciences
Courses taught: Introduction to Social Sciences I and II, Sociology of Health, Criminology.
- 1996-1998,
2000-2001 **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**
Position: Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Sociology
Courses taught: Introduction to Sociology, Marriage & Family, Nationality and Race Relations.

Research and Teaching Interests

Puerto Rico, Disasters, Sociology of Mental Health, Medical Sociology, Latino/a Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Family

Publications

Research Monographs

Kapucu, Naim, Hawkins, Christopher, and **Fernando I. Rivera**. (Eds.) 2013. Disaster Resiliency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. ISBN: 978-0-415-62689-7

Rivera, Fernando I. and Naim Kapucu. 2015. Disaster Vulnerability, Hazards, and Resilience: Perspectives from Florida. Springer International Publishing, Switzerland. ISBN 978-3-319-16452-6

Rivera, Fernando I. (Editor) 2019. Emerging Voices in Natural Hazards Research. Butterworth-Heinemann. Elsevier Publishing Co. ISBN 978-0-12-815821-0

Peer-Reviewed Articles (2020-2025)

Sobhaninia, Saeideh, Melika Amirzadeh, Ebrahim Rastar, Safiyeh Tayebi, **Fernando Rivera**, and Marino Bonaiuto. (Accepted for Publication). The Power of Place: How Place Satisfaction Impacts Disaster Recovery in Communities Facing Environmental Disruptions. *Natural Hazards Review*.

Rivera, F. I., Belligoni, S., Arroyo Rodriguez, V., Chapdelaine, S., Nannuri, V., & Steen Burgos, A. (2024). Compound Crises: The Impact of Emergencies and Disasters on Mental Health Services in Puerto Rico. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public*

Health, 21(10), 1273. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph21101273>

Witkowski, Kaila, Jungwon Yeo, Sara Belligoni, N. Emel Ganapati, Tanya Corbin, and **Fernando Rivera**. 2023. "Florida as a COVID-19 Epicenter: Exploring the Role of Institutions in the State's Response." *International Journal of Public Administration*, 46:7, 484-498.

Hawthorne, Timothy L., Kayla R. Toohy, Bo Yang, Lain Graham, Elise M. Lorenzo, Hannah Torres, Morgan McDonald, **Fernando Rivera**, Kirsten Bouck, and Linda J. Walters. 2022. "Mapping Emotional Attachment as a Measure of Sense of Place to Identify Coastal Restoration Priority Areas." *Applied Geography* 138: 102608.

Crisman, Thomas L., David Dumke, **Fernando I. Rivera**, and Liz Santiago-Pimentel. 2022. "Resilience of environment, infrastructure, communities, and governance in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and the need for community empowerment to develop decentralized, nature-based solutions to sustainability." *Journal of Emergency Management* 19, no. 8: 11-23.

García, Catherine, **Fernando I. Rivera**, Marc A. Garcia, Giovanni Burgos, and María P. Aranda. 2021. "Contextualizing the COVID-19 Era in Puerto Rico: Compounding Disasters and Parallel Pandemics." *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci*, Vol. 76, No. 7, e263-e267.

Full list at Google Scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=ASZ2y7MAAAAJ>

Book Chapters

Richard G. Colón and **Fernando I. Rivera** (2023) "Covid-19 in Puerto Rico" in *The Puerto Ricans: a documentary history* edited by Kal Wagenheim, Olga Jiménez de Wagenheim, and Luis Martínez-Fernández.

Rivera, Fernando I., Kristine Molina and Ethel Nicdao. 2019. "Psychological Distress as a Function of Subjective Social Status among Latino Subgroups in the United States". In *Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Groups and Linkages with Health and Health Care Differentials. Research in the Sociology of Health Care, Volume 37*, 53-67.

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters (* indicates student author)

Fernando I. Rivera, Rebecca Sanchez*, Valeria Quiñones*, Veronica Arroyo Rodriguez*, and Adriana Solla* 2021. "The Health Profile of Puerto Ricans Before and After Hurricane Maria." Pp. 79-90 in *Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico: Disaster, Vulnerability & Resiliency*, edited by

Mora, Marie T., Rodriguez, Havidán, and Dávila, Alberto.

Kapucu, Naim, Hawkins, Christopher V., and **Rivera, Fernando I.** 2013. "Disaster Resiliency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" Pp. 15-20 in Disaster Resiliency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, edited by Kapucu, N., Hawkins, C. and **Rivera, F.I.**

Rivera, Fernando I. and Marc Settembrino* 2013. "Sociological Insights on the Role of Social Capital in Disaster Resilience" Pp. 48-60 in Disaster Resiliency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, edited by Kapucu, N., Hawkins, C. and **Rivera, F.I.**

Kapucu, Naim, Hawkins, Christopher V., and **Rivera, Fernando I.** 2013. "Emerging Research in Disaster Resiliency and Sustainability: Implications for Policy and Practice" Pp. 355-358 in Disaster Resiliency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, edited by Kapucu, N., Hawkins, C. and **Rivera, F.I.**

Carter, Shannon K. and **Fernando I. Rivera.** 2011. "Social Constructions of the Non-Prejudiced White Self." Pp. 111-133 in Studies in Symbolic Interaction, vol. 37. Edited by Norman K. Denzin. Emerald Group Publishing.

Book Reviews

Rivera, Fernando I. 2023. " Hurricane Harvey's Aftermath: Place, Race, and Inequality in Disaster Recovery" by Kevin M. Fitzpatrick and Matthew L. Spialek. *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 128, 6, 1848-1849.

Rivera, Fernando I. 2022. "Sunbelt diaspora: Race, class, and Latino politics in Puerto Rican Orlando" by Patricia Silver. *Latino Studies*, 20, 140-141.

Rivera, Fernando I. 2008. "Toxic Exposure: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement" by Phil Brown. *Contemporary Sociology* 37, 5, 474-475.

Rivera, Fernando I. 2002. "The Double-Edged Helix: Social Implications of Genetics in a Diverse Society" Edited by Joseph S. Alper, Catherine Ard, Adrienne Asch, John Beckwith, Peter Conrad and Lisa N. Geller. *Contemporary Sociology* 32, 4, 518-519.

Rivera, Fernando I. 2000. "Working with Latino Youth: Culture, Development, and Context" by Joan D. Koss-Chioino and Luis A. Vargas. *Great Plains Research* Vol. 10, 2, 429-430.

Encyclopedia Entries

Rivera, Fernando I. and Giovanni Burgos. 2014. “Stress and Health”. The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society. 2289-2294.

Reports

(* indicates student author)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2023. Strengthening Equitable Community Resilience: Criteria and Guiding Principles for the Gulf Research Program's Enhancing Community Resilience (EnCoRe) Initiative. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26880>. Consensus Study Committee Member.

Anne N. Junod, **Fernando Rivera**, Amy Rogin, and Jorge Morales-Burnett. 2023. “Climate Migration and Receiving Community Institutional Capacity in the US Gulf Coast”. Urban Institute-Research Report: <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/climate-migration-and-receiving-community-institutional-capacity-us-gulf-coast>

Rivera, Fernando I. and Marc Settembrino*. 2011. “Social Capital Report: Building Disaster Resilience and Sustainability in Rural Communities in Central Florida”. USDA Award No. 2010-67023-21698.

Research Blogs

Anne N. Junod, Jorge Morales-Burnett, and Fernando Rivera. 2022. “Five Lessons from the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria for Communities Preparing for Climate Migration”. Urban Institute-Urban Wire: <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/five-lessons-aftermath-hurricane-maria-communities-preparing-climate-migration>

External Fellowships, Grants, and Contracts

Creating a Blueprint for a Safer Florida: Understanding Need and Availability of Domestic Violence Services. Project to identify service gaps or problems in Florida’s response to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence against adults or youth. 2024-2026. Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence. Faculty Personnel. Total Amount: \$257,384. Faculty Personnel Total: \$10,920.

Puerto Rico Research Hub - Building Research Capacity Project

Higher Education Congressionally Funded Community Projects Program funding to increase the Puerto Rico Research Hub’s capacity to design and lead research, including opportunities for student led projects. This support would allow expanding capacity to produce academic research on the growing Puerto Rican diaspora, the impact of natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria and climate change on migration, and impact on receiving communities such as Central Florida, among others. As a

federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), the aim is to increase research conducted by and on diverse communities. 2023-2026. US Department of Education, PI Total: \$500,000.

Forging Panethnic Allegiances: Hispanic Caribbean Communities in Three Gateway Cities—Miami, New York City, and Orlando

Most people of Latin American and Caribbean descent in the United States define themselves by their national origin (such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Salvadoran). At the same time, a growing number consider themselves Hispanic or Latino (and less commonly Latinx) in some contexts, such as responding to census questionnaires or during presidential elections. This research project will probe under what conditions and with what results immigrants from the insular Hispanic Caribbean (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico) and their descendants “cross Latinidades” and identify with other groups of Latin American origin in the United States. The project will adopt a collaborative, comparative, and cross-regional approach to national and panethnic identities, focusing on Cubans, Dominicans, and Puerto Ricans in Miami, New York City, and Orlando. The sample will comprise twenty-five Latino cultural organizations (such as art museums, theatre companies, musical and dance groups, and cultural centers) in each city, for a total of seventy-five organizations. A team of researchers will conduct intensive interviews with leaders of each organization using a common interview guide and immerse themselves in the cultural activities sponsored by these organizations, including art exhibits, plays, musical performances, dance classes, and poetry readings. This research will provide a better understanding of when, how, why, and to what extent Hispanic Caribbean groups in the United States transcend national borders to embrace a panethnic Latino label. 2022-2024. Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative University of Illinois, Chicago. Partner PI for Orlando site. PI Total: \$89,411.

Capacity and Change in Climate Migrant-Receiving Communities Along the U.S. Gulf: A Three-Case Comparison

The project explores three Gulf sites where climate migrants have relocated, are relocating, or will relocate: New Orleanians displaced by Hurricane Katrina in Houston; Puerto Rican victims of Hurricane Maria in Orlando; and Louisiana’s Isle de Jean Charles residents and their pending resettlement north. Communities’ capacity to serve migrants will be measured before, during, and after migration in five outcome areas: 1) housing markets; 2) financial services including literacy and debt counseling; 3) employment and economic development opportunities; 4) healthcare provider’s capacity; and 5) social, cultural, and recreational facilities. 2019-2023. National Academies of Science Gulf Research Program Thriving Communities Grant. Partner PI for the Orlando site.

PI Total: \$453,352 (100%).

CNH-L: Restoration and Resilience in Coupled Human-Natural Systems: Reciprocal Dynamics of a Coastal ‘Lagoon in Crisis’

This project combines the expertise of social scientists, engineers and natural scientists to examine the success of community-based oyster and shoreline restoration beyond the traditional restoration success metrics. Specifically, it will examine impacts on the ecosystem and on the volunteers themselves, 2016-2019. National Science Foundation. Co-Principal Investigator (17%). Total Amount: \$1,600,000. Co-PI Total: \$256,000. Award No. 1617374.

Building Disaster Resilience and Sustainability in Rural Communities in Central Florida: Applications of Social Network Analysis

This project seeks to assess current hazard mitigation practices, emergency response networks, and disaster recovery methods used by rural counties and rural parts of urban counties in Central Florida. Specifically, the project will address Public Management and Policy, Planning and Rural Community Development, and Sociological, Behavioral and Social Networks perspectives to uncover fundamental relationships governing the functioning of resilient communities in response to disasters, 2010-12. U.S. Department of Agriculture Award No. 2010-67023-21698. Co-Principal Investigator (25%). Total Amount: \$387, 557. Co-PI Total: \$111,316

Household Energy Use Survey, Orange County

Household-level energy use patterns, attitudes, conservation, and efficiency opportunities. Orange County, 2009-10. Co-Principal Investigator (15%). Total Amount: \$15,000. Co-PI Total: \$2,250.

Research Education in Disaster Mental Health

A project, the purpose of which is to investigate the effects of social support and other societal processes and whether they help to buffer, exacerbate, or alleviate the short-and long-term traumatic effects of experiencing a disaster. In addition, it will also investigate these issues utilizing a longitudinal framework in areas that are at risk to suffer a disaster and survey communities before and after the disaster. Dartmouth College, 2006-2008, Principal Investigator. Amount: \$21, 600.

PESO-Programa de Educación Sobre la Obesidad

Addresses fundamental activities in the current Governor’s Task Force on the Obesity Epidemic in Florida, the Obesity Prevention Program and the Governor’s “Commitment to Prevention” with its emphasis on wellness. Florida Department of Health, Division of Family Health Services, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Obesity Prevention Program- Hispanic Obesity Prevention and Education (HOPE) Funding Mini-grant, 2006-2007. Co-Principal Investigator. Amount: \$4, 727.

Honors and Awards (2020-2025)

Internal

- 2021-2022 **University of Central Florida College of Sciences- Excellence in Research Award**
- 2020 **University of Central Florida-Research Incentive Award**

External

- 2024 **Influential Florida Latino Leaders**-Recognition by iHeartMedia Market Group.
- 2024 **Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month**-Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree to Congressional District 10 by Congressman Maxwell Alejandro Frost.
- 2022 **U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program Fellowship**
Participant for UCF's A Woman's Place: Language and Culture Alive in Argentina program.
- 2020 **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando and Prospera**-Don Quijote Awards Finalist for Excellence Award Category.

Editorial Positions

- 2023-current Editorial Board-*Society and Mental Health*
- 2021-current Associate Social and Behavioral Science Editor-*Natural Hazards Review*
- 2020-2021 Guest Editor: Analysis of Pre and Post Disaster Management and Recovery in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria." Special Issue of *Journal of Emergency Management*
- 2019-2022 Editorial Board- *American Sociological Association Rose Series in Sociology*
- 2019-2022 Guest Editor: "Puerto Rico's Population before and after Hurricane Maria" Special Issue of *Population and Environment*
- 2018-2021 Associate Editor-*Social Problems*
- 2017-2020 Editorial Board-*Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*

2017-2021 Trial Editor-Social Science *Natural Hazards Review*

2013-2021 Guest Editor-*Natural Hazards Review*

**Research
Presentations (2020-2025)**

(* indicates student author)

2025

Belligoni, S., Serpas-Medina, D*, Sulkouskaya, D*, Beltran-Caballero, I*. A., Rodriguez, L*, Merritt, R*, Nannuri, V*, Grisales, M. F*, Londoño, E*, **Rivera, F. I.** Voices of the Puerto Rican Diaspora in Florida: A Focus Group Study on Political and Socioeconomic Issues. Presented at the Southern Social Science Association (SSSA) Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Belligoni, S., Serpas-Medina, D*, Sulkouskaya, D*, Beltran-Caballero, I*. A., Rodriguez, L*, Merritt, R*, Nannuri, V*, Grisales, M. F*, Londoño, E*, **Rivera, F. I.** Survey of Puerto Ricans in Florida: Perspectives on Political and Social Issues During the 2024 Election Year. Presented at the 2025 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2023 **Fernando I . Rivera**, *Maria Grisales, *Ashley Steen, and *Veronica Arroyo. “The Readiness and Response to Climate Migration in Receiving Communities.” Presentation at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Baltimore, MD.

2022 **Rivera, Fernando I.** “Current Social Justice Issues Impacting Puerto Rico and the Diaspora.” Presentation at the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Miami Lakes, FL.

2021 **Rivera, Fernando I.** “Insights on Obtaining Community Views on a Climate Migration Receiving Community Project”. Presentation at the Participatory Action Research and Evaluation Conference-Latin American and Caribbean. Virtual.

2020 **Fernando I. Rivera**, Timothy Hawthorne, Hannah Torres and Lain Graham. “Local Knowledge, Sense of Place, and Coastal Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon”. Poster presentation at the Ocean Sciences Meeting. San Diego, CA.

Erica Edmonston, **Fernando I. Rivera**, Timothy Hawthorne, Hannah Torres. “Decision-Making Strategies for Future Restoration from a Public Perspective”. Presentation at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. (In-person meeting cancelled due to COVID-

19)

Leadership Training

- 2019 **Faculty Hiring Institute**
Center for Urban Education in partnership with Excelencia in Education.
- 2015-2016 **UCF Office of Faculty Excellence**
Academic Leadership Program
Program with the primary objective of developing future academic leaders.
- April 2016 **UCF College of Undergraduate Studies**
IPASS Mapping and Change Essentials Workshop
- October 2015 **EDUCAUSE- Integrated Planning and Advising for Student Success**
Change Essentials Workshop-Kotter International
The program equipped participants to apply core principles of effective change.

Teaching Materials and Publications

Rivera, Fernando I. and Hyung Sam Park "The Health and Society Reader: Health and Disease in a Changing Environment", 1st Edition, Cognella Academic Publishing, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-5165-4243-7 (Proceeds from the reader will be used to create a scholarship for undergraduate students with an interest in medical sociology or the sociology of health)

Rivera, Fernando I. (2019) "Waves of Migration: A Brief History of the Hispanic/LatinX Presence in the U.S." Book Chapter for LatinX Voices: Hispanics in the U.S. Media edited by Katie Coronado and Erica Rodriguez Kight, Routledge, Francis and Taylor Group. ISBN-10: 1138240214

Post-Doctoral Supervision

- 2024-2025 Sara Belligoni, PhD-UCF-Puerto Rico Research Hub
2017-2019 Hannah Torres, PhD-UCF-Department of Sociology

Doctoral Dissertations Supervised (2020-2025)

In Progress

Outside Member. Maria Grisales. "Investigating long-term potentiation in neurodevelopmental disorders using a human-based cortical neuron microphysiological system". University of Central Florida-Biomedical Sciences.

Outside Member. Jocelyn West. “The Social Side of Landslides: Contextualizing Vulnerability to Compound Hazards in Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria”. University of Colorado Boulder-Department of Sociology.

Completed

2024 Outside Member. Ardhy De Leon. “The Effect of Perceived Discrimination on Alcohol Use Behaviors: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study Among Hispanic/Latinx Drinkers”. University of Central Florida-Department of Psychology.

Outside Member. Ruth Kessa. “Exploring the Influence of Cultural Complexity on the Risk Perceptions and Natural Disaster Preparedness among Hispanic/Latino Families Living with Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Central Florida”. University of Central Florida-School of Public Administration.

2023 Outside Member. Lauren Carter. “Travel and Migration Behaviors of Migrants from Puerto Rico During Disasters”. University of South Florida-School of Geosciences.

Member. Jacquelyn Reiss. “Local-Level Maternal and Infant Health: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Relationship Between Social Determinants of Health, Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes, and Public Health Programs in Florida”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

2022 Outside Member. Janelle Ashley Viera. “More Puerto Rican than a *Coqui*: Race, Place, And Generational Perspectives Among Stateside Puerto Ricans”. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-Department of Sociology.

Tracey Martins. “Mediation and Moderation Analyses Investigating Marijuana Use Among LGB Adults”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

2021 Member. Chelsea C. Belanger “The Bikini Line: Race, Gender, and Embodiment in Texas Beauty Pageants”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

2020 Chair. Angela Vergara "Puerto Rican Students after Hurricane Maria: Overcoming Trauma and Constructing a New Life in Central Florida." UCF-Department of Sociology.

Co-Chair. Ting Du. "Understanding the Role of Social Networks in Influencing Adults' Physical Activity and Obesity Risk in Unequal Physical and Social Environments with GIS". UCF-Department of Sociology.

Chair. Dena Ford. "Under Pressure: Analysis of a STEM Undergraduate Cohort Following an Academic Intervention Due to Academic Decline." UCF-Department of Sociology.

Member. Trisha Whitmire. “The Arrest and Prosecution of Cyber Stalkers: How “Rational” are Criminals Justice Decision Makers?” UCF-Department of Sociology.

Member. Corey Pomykacz “Marijuana Use among Adults in the United States: Comparing Correlates of Use, Assessing Impact of Education, and Evaluating Use and Health amid Justice-Involved Populations”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

Master Theses Supervised (2020-2025)

Completed

- 2024 Chair. Lisa Rodriguez, M.A., Applied Sociology, “Measuring the Professional Trajectory of Climate Migrants in Central Florida Post- Hurricane Maria”. UCF-Department of Sociology.
- 2023 Member. Andrea Ocasio Cruz. “Puerto Rico's Cultural Industry (Re)Construction: A Study on Vulnerable Systems, Post-Disaster U.S. Philanthropy, and Autogestión Through Puerto Rican Artists and Cultural Managers' Perspectives”, UCF-Department of Anthropology.
- 2023 Member. Edi Mucka. “Reflections on White-Passing Black Identity”. UCF-Department of Sociology.
- 2022 Chair. Richard G. Colón. “Exploring the Response to COVID-19 in Puerto Rico”. UCF-Department of Sociology.
- Member. Maria F. Grisales. “The Neurobiological and Social Effects of COVID-19”. UCF-Biomedical Sciences.
- 2021 Chair. Erica Edmonston. “Investigating the Spatial Relationship between Sense of Place and Community-Based Organizations: Do Community-Based Organizations Influence Volunteering in the Indian River Lagoon”. UCF-Department of Sociology.
- Member. Nicholas Altizer, M.A., Applied Sociology, “Developing a Community Based Drone Model.” UCF-Department of Sociology.
- 2020 Member. Caroline Austin. “The Pandemic and the Precariat: assessing the Wellbeing of Central Florida’s Hospitality Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

Honors Undergraduate Theses Supervised (2020-2025)

Completed

- 2024 Chair. Daniel Serpas-Medina. “Investigating the Relationship Between Loneliness and Stress in College Students”. UCF-Biomedical Sciences.
- Chair. Brian Nguyen. “Strategies For Protecting the Elderly During Natural Disasters: A Literature Review”. UCF-Biomedical Sciences.
- 2022 Chair. Sophia Chapdelaine. “Mental Health of Puerto Ricans Who Stayed in Puerto Rico

Compared to Those Who Migrated to Florida After Hurricane Maria”. UCF-Department of Psychology.

Member. Bryan J. Jiménez. “An Exploration on the Spanish Caribbean Dialectical Community: ¿Unidos o separados?”. UCF- Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Latin American Studies.

2020 Chair. Richard G. Colón. “Who Participates in Academic Services”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

Chair. Bianca M. Pizarro Vázquez. “Growing Up Puerto Rican: College Student’s Reality of Staying in Puerto Rico Post-Maria”. UCF-Department of Sociology.

Member. Nicole Palmeri. “Living Up to the American Dream: The Influence of Second-Generation Immigrants”. UCF-Department of Psychology.

Editorial Activity

Occasional reviewer for: *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Anxiety, Stress, and Coping*, *Caribbean Studies*, *Centro-Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, *Emerald Group Publishing*, *Family Relations*, *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, *Journal of Drug Issues*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, *Homicide Studies*, *Humanity and Society*, *Natural Hazards Review*, *PLOS Currents Disasters*, *Population and Environment*, *Revista Colombiana de Psicología*, *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, *Roxbury Publishing Company*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Population and Environment*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Social Science Research*, *Society and Mental Health*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Sociology Compass*, , *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Substance Use and Misuse*, *The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Oxford University Press*

Professional Associations

American Sociological Association
Latin American Studies Association
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Natural Hazards Center Research and Applications Workshop
North American Alliance of Hazards and Disaster Research Institutes

Service Committees University of Central Florida (2020-2025)

Department of Sociology

2022-2023	Promotion and Tenure Guidelines committee, Personal committee
2021-2022	Promotion and Tenure Guidelines committee, Personal committee
2020-2021	Promotion committee, co-chair, Public Relations/Social Media committee

College of Sciences

2022-2023	Indian Center Director Search Committee Promotion and Tenure Committee for Anthropology Department
2021-2022	Cumulative Progress Evaluation for Full Professor for Anthropology Department
2020-2021	Dean Search Committee

University Wide

2023-current	Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives -Title V POTENCIAL Advisory Board
2022-2023	College of Undergraduate Studies -Interdisciplinary Studies Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee
2021-2022	College of Undergraduate Studies -Promotion and Tenure Guidelines Committee
2021-2023	Student Learning and Academic Success - Co-Lead-Graduation Success Team
2020-2023	University Budget Committee Central Support Unit Allocation Committee

References

Available Upon Request