

# Angel A. Escamilla García

Curriculum Vitae

May 2024

Department of Sociology  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Yale University (2023)

Faculty Affiliate of The Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies (CLAIS) at The MacMillan Center (2023)

Migrations Initiative Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University (2022)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University (2022)

B.A., Social Anthropology, Universidad Veracruzana (2011)

## DISSERTATION

“Knowledge, Place, and Experience in the Migrant Journey: How Central American Migrant Youth Negotiate Violence in Mexico” \*

- Winner of the 2023 Best Dissertation Award by the Latin American Association – Section Mexico

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Latin American Migration; Childhood and Youth; Qualitative Methods; Violence; Latin American Indigenous Populations; Refugees and Forced Migration; Race and Ethnicity; Research Ethics.

## BOOK PROJECT

I am currently in conversation with editors from academic presses regarding my book project *Negotiating Violence: Central American Youth and their Precarious Journeys through Mexico*, which uses four years of multi-site ethnographic data and interviews to analyze how unaccompanied Central American youth migrants negotiate the constant threat of unpreventable violence as they traverse Mexico on their way to the United States.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Under Review Escamilla García, Angel A. “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- Forth Escamilla García, Angel A. “Empirical Research and Black Inequality: Monroe Nathan Work’s Legacy in the Social Sciences.” *Fifty Key Scholars in Black Social Thought* edited by Nazneen Khan. Routledge.
- 2022\* Escamilla García, Angel A. 2022. “The ‘Borderlandization’ of Mexico: Mexico’s New Policies of Deportation and Detention of Minor Migrants and Their Effects on Migrants Movement.” *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*.
- Honorable Mention for Best Article – Latin American Studies Association -Section Mexico 2023
- 2021\* Escamilla García, Angel A. 2021. “When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries.” *Journal on Migration and Human Security*.
- Winner of the Best Student Paper of the American Sociological Association -Section of Children and Youth 2022
- 2020 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2020. “Learning to Look Mexican: Central American Minor Migrants and their Strategies to Minimize the Risks of Migration.” *Deadly Voyages*, edited by V. Fynn Bruey, S. Bender, and P. Aka. Lexington Press.
- 2019 Redbird, Beth, and Angel A. Escamilla-García. 2019. “Borders within Borders: The Impact of Occupational Licensing on Immigrant Incorporation.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- 2018 Escamilla García, Angel A. and Gary A. Fine. 2018. “Fair Warnings: The Ethics of Ethnography with Children.” *Handbook of Ethics in Qualitative Research*, edited by R. Iphofen and M. Tolich. London: SAGE.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Forth Escamilla García, Angel A. “World of Our Mothers: Mexican Revolution–Era Immigrants and Their Stories.” *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

- Forth Escamilla García, Angel A. “Precarious Protections: Unaccompanied Minors Seeking Asylum in the United States” *Contemporary Sociology*.
- 2022 Escamilla-García, Angel A. 2022. “Religion, race, and COVID-19: Confronting white supremacy in the pandemic.” *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 23 (4): 520-522. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21567689.2022.2146278>.

#### WORKS AND UNDER REVISION IN PROGRESS

*Precarious Step-Wise Migration: The Migrant Journeys of Central American Youth to Avoid Violence and Deportation.* In this article, I explore the case of Central American youth who plan to migrate to the United States by taking one or more long pauses as they move through Mexico, instead of trying to reach the U.S. as fast as possible. Under Review.

*The Demographics of Guatemalan Indigenous Unaccompanied Minors.* This project uses data received through a FOIA request on unaccompanied alien children (UACs) detained in the U.S. between 2014 and 2020. Based on this voluminous data, I am examining the differences in age, gender, and language spoken among unaccompanied minors, who primarily hail from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. My specific aim is to analyze how the demographics of indigenous youth migrants compare to those of non-indigenous youth.

#### MEDIA PUBLICATION & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 [Escamilla García, Angel A. “I study migrants traveling through Mexico to the US and saw how they follow news of dangers – but are not deterred.” \*The Conversation\*. June 1, 2023.](#)
- Forth Central American Young Migrants and their Experience of Violence While in Transit Through Mexico. *Childhood and Migration Blog Series*. [The Childhood, Law & Policy Network \(CLPN\)](#) - Queen Mary University of London

#### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

- 2023 Faculty Fellow — Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM) (\$2000)
- 2023 Best Dissertation Award of The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Section Mexico (\$500)
- 2023 Prize for Best Article in the humanities of The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) – Honorable Mention
- 2022 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award — Children and Youth Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA)

- 2022 Robert F. Winch Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Lecturer
- 2022 Cornell Center for Social Science (CCSS) Qualitative and Interpretive Research Institute Small Research Grant (\$2,000)
- 2021 Northwestern Buffett Institute Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship
- 2020 Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize (\$2,000)
- 2019 Northwestern Presidential Fellowship (Full fellowship; Northwestern’s highest graduate student honor)
- 2019 Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR) Fellowship
- 2019 TGS (The Graduate School) Graduate Research Grant (\$2,681)
- 2018 Institute for Policy Research Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2018 Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award (\$4,711) — “Territories of Movement: The Migration Experiences of Central American Migrant Minors in Mexico”
- 2018 Buffett Graduate Student Conference Travel Award for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (\$395) — “Unaccompanied Mayan Children and the Journey to the United States.”
- 2018 TGS Conference Travel Grant for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (\$800) — “Unaccompanied Mayan Children and the Journey to the United States”
- 2017 Buffett Institute Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grant (\$3,643) — “Unaccompanied Minors in Transit: A Comparison of Transit through Mexico and Turkey”
- 2016 MacArthur Summer Research Grant (\$1,200) — “The Cushion Effect: Transit Countries in International Migration Flows”
- 2016 EDGS Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (\$2,500) — “Between Borders: The Strategies of Central American Child Migrants and the Insight of Civil Organizations in Mexico and Guatemala”
- 2016 Alumnae of Northwestern University Grant (\$2,750) — “Between Borders: The Strategies of Central American Child Migrants and the Insight of Civil Organizations in Mexico and Guatemala”
- 2016 MacArthur Summer Research Grant (\$1,200) — “Fair Warnings: The Ethics of Ethnography with Children”

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” Ethnography Workshop – Sociology Department, Northwestern University, April 2024.
- 2024 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys”, Penn-Birmingham Transatlantic Fellowship Program (virtual), March, 2024.
- 2024 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” CUNY Grad Center Colloquium, February 2024
- 2023 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” Sociology Seminar, Trinity College-Dublin, February 2024.
- 2022 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” The Center for Historical Enquiry & the Social Sciences (Yale-CHESS), September 2023.
- 2022 A Precarious Step-Wise Migration: Youth Migrant’s Transformation Of Migration Strategies Into a Migration to The U.S. And Its Implication To International Migration. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session (Philadelphia)
- 2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” University of Connecticut, November 2022
- 2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Marquette University, 2022
- 2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Florida State University, 2022
- 2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Yale University, November 2022
- 2022 “When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries” — Tec Week: Diversity in a Globalized World (Virtual), October 2022

- 2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Paper Session (Los Angeles), August 2022
- 2021 “When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Session (Virtual), August 2021
- 2021 “Learning to Look Mexican: Central American Minor Migrants and their Strategies to Minimize the Risks of Migration” — International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Annual Meeting (Virtual), July 2021
- 2021 “When Internal Migration Fails: Central American Youths’ Attempts to Relocate Internally before Migrating Internationally” — The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (Virtual), April 2021
- 2020 “The Negotiation of Violence by Central American Youth Migrants Crossing Mexico” — Northwestern Law School (Virtual), October 2020
- 2020 “When Internal Migration Fails: Central American Youths’ Attempts to Relocate Internally before Migrating Internationally” — University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Department of Sociology (Virtual), September 2020
- 2019 “One Migration, Two Perspectives: Black and White Sociologists’ Scholarship on the Great Migration, 1890-1930” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Session (New York), August 2019
- 2019 “The Migration Experience of Minors in Transit Through Mexico” — Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project, October 2019
- 2019 “The Migration Experience of Minors in Transit Through Mexico” — 2nd Annual Binational Institute, Project JUSTICIA, Loyola University Chicago, August 2019
- 2018 “Central American Migrants Crossing Mexico and the Migrant Caravan” — Northwestern Law School, November 2018

## **EDITORIAL**

- Journal on Migration and Human Security- Editorial Board (2023).

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE**

- Instructor, SOCY 491 01 (FA23): Senior Essay and Colloquium (Yale, Fall 2023)

- Instructor, SOCY 305 01 (FA23): Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Yale, Fall 2023)
- Instructor, GDEV 4940: Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Cornell, Fall 2022)
- Instructor, SOC 392: Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Northwestern, Spring 2021) \* – Awarded Best Graduate Student Lecturer Prize
- Research Assistant, Dr. Beth Redbird, Occupational Labor Markets and Migration (Northwestern, Winter 2018 and Spring 2019)
- Teaching Assistant, Sociological Analysis (Northwestern, Spring 2018)
- Teaching Assistant, Methods of Observing Human Behavior (Northwestern, Fall 2017 and Winter 2018)
- Teaching Assistant, Class and Culture (Northwestern, 2017 Fall)
- Teaching Assistant, Economy and Society (Northwestern, Spring 2017)
- Teaching Assistant, Sociology of Immigration (Northwestern, Winter 2017)
- Teaching Assistant, Society and Law (Northwestern, Fall 2016)
- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology (Northwestern, Spring 2016)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

- Mildred Priest award for best undergraduate thesis in sociology (Spring 2024).
- Best article Award - Latin American Studies Association – Section Mexico – Committee 2024
- Aristide Zolberg Distinguished Student Scholar Award– American Sociological Association - Committee – International Migration Association 2024
- ASA-Regular Session Organizer- Ethnography/Ethnographic Studies for the 118th ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia 2023.
- Reviewer, *International Migration Review*, *Ethnography*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, *Borderlands*, *Demography*, *Frontiers*
- Coordinator, Migrations Scholars Program for Undergraduate Students, Cornell University, Fall 2022 and 2023
- Contract Data Analyst, American Bar Association, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, Texas, 2015–January 2023
- Inaugural Chair, Summer Pathways Program, a summer institute for first-generation students interested in applying for graduate-level studies focused on migration, Cornell University, Summer 2022 and 2023
- Organizer, “Hearing from Editors and Authors,” Special Event of the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association, July 2022
- Coordinator, Mentoring and Professionalization Sub-committee, International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA) 2021-2022
- Expert Witness on Central American Indigenous Migration, Case Details Confidential, 2020
- Chair, 21<sup>st</sup> Chicago Ethnography Conference, “Issues of Gender in Ethnography,” Evanston, Illinois, 2019
- Paralegal, American Bar Association, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, Texas, 2012–2014
- Research Assistant, Dr. Jacqueline Hagan of UNC Chapel Hill, Guanajuato, Mexico, Summer 2010
- Research Assistant and Community Coordinator, Community Service Branch of the Universidad Veracruzana (“Casas UV”), Tlapala, Veracruz, 2007–2008