

AMALIA MEJIA

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EDUCATION

- 2019-present University of California, Irvine
PhD in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy
Graduate Emphasis: Race and Justice Studies
Dissertation: The Ecology of Probation: Examining the Role of Probation Officers and Community Based Organizations in the Community Supervision of Latinos/as
Committee: Dr. María Rendón, Dr. Emily Owens, Dr. Michael Mendez, Dr. Hun Kim
- 2014 Pepperdine University School of Public Policy
Master of Public Policy
Emphasis in economics, state, and local politics
- 2011 University of California, Santa Barbara
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology

RESEARCH INTEREST

Public policy, criminal justice reform, risk-assessments, social inequality, race and ethnicity, racialization, probation, surveillance

PUBLICATIONS

Policy Briefs

Rodriguez, Nancy R., Mejia, Amalia., & Tublitz, Rebecca. 2023. Immigration Enforcement Policies and Detainer Trends in SJC Sites. https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UCI22_SJC_Immigration_Policy_Brief_Revised.pdf

Mejia, Amalia. 2021. Solano County Pretrial Risk Assessment Report.

<https://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=36880>

Works In-Progress

Mejia, Amalia. Bias in Risk Assessments: Testing False Positive Rates Among Black and Latinx Populations. Article manuscript in progress for submission to Criminology & Public Policy.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS: (RUNNING TOTAL: \$71,800)

2024 Travel Award

Underground Scholars UC Irvine (\$1,000)

2024 The 2024 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (\$15,000)

- 2024 **Latina Futures, 2050 Lab (LFL)**
Latina Futures 2050 Fellowship \$10,000
- 2023 **University of California, Irvine**
Public Impact Fellowship: \$1,000
- 2023 **California Policy Lab**
Graduate Fellowship Grant: \$10,000
- 2023 **University of California, Irvine**
Department Spring Fellowship: \$8,300
- 2020 **University of California, Irvine**
Department Supplemental Summer Funding: \$6,500
- 2020 **University of California, Irvine**
DTEI Summer Fellowship: \$5,000
- 2019 **University of California, Irvine**
Diversity Recruitment Fellowship: \$5,000
- 2019 **University of California, Irvine**
Minority Serving Institution Fellowship: \$10,000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

January 2023-April 2023 & July 2024-present

Graduate Student Researcher

Urban Planning and Public Policy Department at UC Irvine

Associated Project: Mexican-American Oral History Project

Supervisor: Dr. María Rendón

- Conduct data analysis using STATA drawing from IMPUS census data 1910-1940
- Qualitative coding for themes interviews using ATLAS.ti
- Created and managed code book for the project
- Trained undergraduates and Ph.D. students to code using ATLAS.ti

November 2023-January 2024

Graduate Student Researcher

Urban Planning and Public Policy Department at UC Irvine

Associated Project: AB 617 and Community-Driven Planning in the Central Valley

Supervisors: Dr. Doug Houston and Dr. Gregg Macey

- Translate information document and interviews to Spanish
- Conducted Spanish interviews
- Transcribe and translate Spanish interviews to English

January 2022-October 2022

Graduate Student Researcher

Criminal Law and Society Department at UC Irvine

Associated Project: Latinxs within the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC)

Supervisor: Dr. Nancy Rodriguez

- Conducted statistical analysis using STATA to examine the 51 SJC sites on law enforcement policies cooperation with immigration enforcement
- Analyzed census data to extend on social factors that affect cooperation and enforcement
- Co-authored [policy brief](#) on immigration policy publishing May 2023

June 2021 – August 2021

Research Intern

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)

- Conducted statistical analysis using STATA on policing behavior using the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) 2019 data
- Extended research to focus on the Latinx population with a focus on subgroup differences on perception of limited language proficiency (LEP) as a proxy for undocumented status.
- Actively participated in criminal justice meetings on next steps for research
- Lead author on a [Who Do California's Police Officers Stop – and Why?](#)

July 2019 – September 2019

Graduate Student Researcher

Urban Planning and Public Policy Department at UC Irvine

Associated Project: Neighborhood Change Study in Santa Ana

Supervisor: Dr. Doug Houston

- Assisted in finalizing the survey instrument and sampling plan,
- Served as a team leader for an intensive door-to-door survey of over 300 residents of Santa Ana
- The project is examining neighborhood change, gentrification, and community adaptation within a major low-income Latinx transit corridor in central Santa Ana

June 2010 – June 2011

Research Assistant

Education Department at University of California, Santa Barbara

Associated Project: Adolescent Research Communication Health and Education

Supervisor: Dr. Laura Romo

- Data entry, qualitative analysis through coding interactions based on video interviews
- Transcribed interviews from Spanish to English
- This project focused on how mother-daughter communications is associated with dating, body image and sexual behavior

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Current

Co-instructor Statistical Bootcamp for Ph.D. students

- Co-lead by instructing on introductory statistical testing (e.g. t-test, anova, regression) for incoming Ph.D. students in the Social Ecology department.
- Developed course material and taught the lab using Stata software

September 2019 – current

Teaching Assistant

Urban Planning and Public Policy Department at UC Irvine

- Assisted in developing examination. Graded all students' written assignments and examinations.
- Courses taught:
 - Urban Sociology (Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)
 - Introduction to Urban Studies (Winter 2020)
 - Environmental Analysis and Design (Spring 2020, Winter 2021)
 - Environmental Governance (Fall 2020, Fall 2022)
 - Organization, MBA (Summer 2022, Summer 2023)
 - Latino Metropolis (Spring 2022, Spring 2024)
 - Chicano Movement (Spring 2021)
 - Regional Planning (Winter 2024)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2021- June 2021 & June 2024-present

Consultant Researcher

Solano County Risk Assessment Tool Validation

- Re-hired for the second wave analysis using 2021-2023 data
- [Conducted statistical analysis using STATA to validate the county's pretrial risk assessment per SB 36](#)
- Tested for predictive bias and racial and ethnic disparities
- Cleaned dataset for 2019 and 2020

September 2023-June 2024

Consultant

Financial Health Network

- Cleaned and merged survey and administrative financial data pre and post survey
- Conducted data analysis (e.g. t-test, pairwise) using STATA on the utility of a financial application in motivating investment strategies for Black students

September 2020 – December 2020

ACLU Advocacy Intern

ACLU Southern California | Orange County, CA

- Assisted with the OC Hotline intake calls from incarcerated people

- Provided advocacy on behalf of incarcerated people in orange county facilities on mental health, medical services, and classification
- Assisted with declarations for a COVID-19 class-action lawsuit
- Drafted advocacy letter on excessive use of force

October 2015 – May 2019

Project Manager

California State Association of Counties| Sacramento, CA

- Awarded approximately \$900,000 from Arnold Ventures to expand the technical assistance of the Support Hub
- Built and managed the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Support Hub to assist county leaders in providing high-quality criminal justice program that are cost-effective and results-driven
- Oversaw 2011 realignment growth formula and determined specific allocations for counties including liaison with Department of Finance on realignment base and growth
- Trained county staff to catalog criminal justice programs, calculate cost, and populate benefit-cost analysis to determine the return of investment
- Develop content, training, and presentations for counties to understand and use effective evidence-based practice in adult criminal justice and juvenile justice
- Led the crafting of language of the AB372: Domestic Violence Bill, built a coalition to support the work, and designed implementation with six California counties to solidify data collection for an evaluation on the efficacy of batterer interventions
- Oversaw the operation of the support hub including partnership with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative

November 2014 – March 2015

Research Consultant

Families in Schools| Los Angeles, CA

- Conducted field research to understand and improve parental engagement in 14 school districts across California
- Researched best practices for parent engagement and early childhood education and assessed existing parent engagement channels and barriers to engagement, particularly for communities of color
- Analyzed and produced a summary indication gaps in practices, alignment to those practices, and measurable outcome and accountability for policy decisions

PRESENTATIONS

“The Role of Probation Officers in the Decision-making Processes Toward Latinxs under Supervision.” Presented to the Law and Society Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado. June 2024.

“The Role of Probation Officers in the Decision-making Processes.” Presented to the Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference. Long Beach, California. February 2024.

“What Is the Future of Law and Society? A Debate From Latin America.” Presented to the Law and Society Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico. June 2023.

“Disparities in Law Enforcement Stops: Analysis of Racial and Profiling Identity Act (RIPA) Data on the Latine Population.” Presented to the Western Society of Criminology. Vancouver, Canada. February 2023.

“Counting Latine in the Criminal Justice System.” Presented to the Law & Society Annual Meeting. Lisbon, Portugal. July 2022.

“Race, Decision-Making, and Criminal Justice Process Panel.” Presented to the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. October 2021

“The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Risk Assessment.” Presented to Law and Society Annual Meeting 2021. Virtual. May 2021.

“Addressing Public Health Among the Unsheltered Angelinos.” Presented to the Homeland Security Council. Los Angeles, CA. November 2019.

“Evidence-Based Practices in Criminal Justice: Rehabilitation Program for the Latinx Population.” Presented at the Summer Research Program Symposium. Irvine, CA. August 2019.

“Evidence-Based Policy Making in California Counties.” Presented to the California Probation, Parole & Correctional Association (CPPCA). San Diego, CA. September 2018.

“Training on the Results First Clearinghouse Database.” Presented to the Probation IT Managers Association (PITMA). San Diego, CA. May 2018.

“Navigating Clearinghouses 1010.” Presented to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Sacramento, CA. December 2017.

“Investing in What Works: The Value of Evidence-based Policy Making.” Presented to the National Association of Counties Annual Conference. Long Beach, CA. July 2017.

Invited presentations

2024 Racialization of Probation. Invited lecture for Urban Sociology

2024 Criminal justice professions job panel. Invited panelist for C10 Introduction to Criminology, Law and Society.

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Professional

Current Commissioner| Police Oversight Commission for Santa Ana City Council

2019 Chair| Juvenile Justice Commissioner| Sacramento

2019 Chair| Delinquency Prevention Commissioner |Sacramento

University and Department

2023-2024 Member| Public Safety Advisory Committee at UCI
2023-2024 Elected VP External Affairs| Associated Graduate Student
2021-2022 Department Student Representative Co-Chair | Urban Planning and Public Policy
2020-2021 Elected representative| Associated Graduate Student Council
2020-2021 Member| Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience DECADE
Student Council

Mentorship

2020-present Peer mentor for incoming doctoral students in UCI, UPPP
2020-2021 Competitive Edge Mentor| UCI
2008-2014 Mentor| Orange County Bar Foundation Higher Education Mentoring| Santa Ana

Professional Development

2022-2024 Irvine Lab for the Study of Space and Crime (ILSSC) (weekly meetings)
2020 Mentoring Excellent Program, UCI, Graduate Division. (30-hour training)
2020 Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) Summer Graduate
Fellows Training (40-hour training)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2020- current Law and Society Association
2019-current American Criminal Justice Association
2019 Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute
2018 US-Mexico Leaders Initiative
2016-2019 Latinx Young Dems of Sacramento
2015-2019 California Latino Capitol Association Foundation

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

English: Native proficiency
Spanish: Native proficiency
Software: STATA, ATLAS.ti, Excel, Qualtrics,

REFERENCE: UPON REQUEST
