

MR. SERGIO LEMUS SEVILLA, PH.D.

LATINO STUDIES PROGRAM | INDIANA UNIVERSITY
1020 E. KIRKWOOD AVE | BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47405
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Latino Studies Program, Indiana University,
Bloomington, Aug 2017-Present.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

I am a four-field trained anthropologist whose research interests include theories of race, materiality, the body, Mexican migration, border analysis, and class relations. As of Fall 2017, I am a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Latino Studies Program at Indiana University at Bloomington where I teach courses on Latino Studies, History, and Borderlands. Since 2005, my attention has turned towards examining political economy and cross border processes revolving around Mexican immigration to the United States, and the lives that are produced out of this transnational process. My first ethnography is entitled, *Class, Labor, and Color Hierarchies: An Ethnographic Study of Mexican Yarderos in South Chicago (2014)*, and examines the extent in which class, labor, and color hierarchies from Mexico coexist with American ethnic and racial classifications. This research is slated to be published as a book at the University of Illinois Press under the series Latinos in Chicago and the Midwest under the title, “*Los Yarderos: Mexican Yard Workers in Neoliberal Chicago*” for Spring 2019. My new projects emphasize the study of immigration along three lines of investigation: a) Mexican transborder subjectivity, b) perceptions of Mexican blackness across the transnational space, and c) health and disease as consequences of class and state formation processes.

EDUCATION

PH.D. IN ANTHROPOLOGY, MAJOR: Sociocultural Anthropology, Aug 2007-May 2015
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Urbana, Illinois

- DISSERTATION: *Class, Labor, and Color Hierarchies: An Ethnography Study of Mexican Yarderos/as in South Chicago*, advised by *Alejandro Lugo, PhD*

MASTER OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY, MAJOR: Cultural Anthropology, Aug 2005-
May 2006
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Riverside, California

- EXAM: Departmental Examination
Advisor: *Michael Kearney, PhD*

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, MAJOR: Honors in Latin
American Studies, Aug 2003-May 2005
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Urbana, Illinois

- THESIS: *Race Relations in Mexico, 1740–1910: Critical Colorismo, Blackness, and Challenges to the Imagined Community*, advised by *Alejandro Lugo, PhD*

TEACHING AND SPECIALIZED RESEARCH

TEACHING

- Cultural Anthropology
- Political Economy
- Race as a Cultural Critique
- Latina/o Ethnography
- The Anthropology of the State
- Social Theory
- Research Methods

RESEARCH

- Class and Labor
- Border Theory in Anthropology
- Race, Racism, and the State
- Transborder Cultures
- Immigration and Transnationalism
- Migration and the Environment
- State Formation and Post-colonialism

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED WORK

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

2017 Lemus, S. “Performing Power *en Las Yardas* (at the Yards): The Body, Capitalist Discipline, and the Making of Mexican Lives in South Chicago.” *Anthropology of Work Review*, Vol 38, Issue 2; 104-112.

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Lemus, S, Chavez, X, and Lomeli, H. “Latinas/os in Denver doing Anthropology and Engaging with the Community.” *Anthropology News*, (March Digital Edition).
- 2015 Lemus, S. An Introduction of Borders.” *Anthropology News*, (May Digital Edition).
- 2014 Lemus, S. Latina/o Ethnography in the Anthropological Toolkit. *Anthropology News*, (April Digital Edition).

BOOK REVIEWS

2014 Lemus, S. Review of Michael Innis-Jimenez’s “*Steel Barrio: The Great Migration to South Chicago 1915–1940*.” New York: New York University Press. *Latino Studies*, Vol 12, No. 4, 644–645.

WORK IN PROGRESS

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

- [2019] *Los Yarderos: Mexican Yard Workers in Neoliberal Chicago*. Manuscript under contract at University of Illinois Press.
- [n.d.] *Fronteras del Norte: Gender, Color, and Power in the Rise of Transborder Mexicans*. Manuscript under contract at Michigan State University Press.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

[2018] “*Los Morenos* and the Mexicans: Of Muggings, Color Networks, and Relational Race Making Processes in South Chicago.” Review and resubmit stage at *Latino Studies*

[2018] “Black Mexico: Critical Colorism, Alternative Nationalism, and the New Afro-Transborder Subjects ” In Preparation for *Chiricu Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Culture*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN LATINO STUDIES IN THE LATINO STUDIES PROGRAM, August 2017-present
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Indiana

- *Introduction to Latino Studies*, spring 2018 (1 section, 35 students) fall 2017 (1 section, 14 students), fall 2018 (1 section, 30 students)
Teaching diverse students on the study of the diverse Latino/a communities that share the same geographical and political boundaries of the United States from the perspective of different academic disciplines. Through readings and discussions, films, literature, art and folklore, the course examines the varied histories of the Latino communities in the United States. In this course, I utilize a “flipped” classroom approach where much of the material is discussed previous to lecture and it is followed by post-lecture exercises through the online learning platform.
- *Latino Studies 200: American Borderlands*, fall 2018 (1 section, 45 students).
This course traces the social construction of the American borderlands and surveys how the border has undergone various changes as a result of a combination of forces, from political and economic developments to sociocultural transformations. The study of diversity, difference, and otherness on the American borderlands will allow students to closely examine issues concerning national identity, place and landscape, contact zones, protection and security, labor and domesticity, race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality.
- *Latino History*, fall 2017 (1 section, 24 students), spring 2018 (1 section, 14 students).
Introduced students to the history of Latinas/os in the United States through readings, lectures, film/documentaries, and class discussion. Examined the varied histories of Latinos/as with emphasis primarily directed toward Puerto Ricans and Cuban- and Mexican-Americans. This course takes a chronological, thematic, comparative, and, at times, contemporary approach in understanding how imperialism, immigration, gender, race and ethnicity, cultural production, “Americanization,” and the concept of the Latinidad/es affects the historical and lived experiences of Latinos/as. Additional assignments involve conducting primary research at the University Archives to learn about the presence or absence of Latinx students on campus.

TASK FORCE MEMBER IN THE CENTER FOR OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, 2013-May 2016.

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO, Chicago, Illinois

- Developed and provided project management strategies for district-wide projects. Strategized solutions to improve opportunities for college students. Communicated expectations and deliverables to stakeholders. Conducted research to improve student success in a variety of areas including developmental education, remediation, occupational and transfer programs, and ethnographic research.

INSTRUCTOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT,

Jan 2011-May 2013

HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE, Chicago, Illinois

- *Cultural Anthropology*, (8 sections, 324 students), spring 2011, fall 2011, spring 2012, fall 2012, spring 2013
Taught students on anthropological and comparative study of human societies and cultures of the world; cross-cultural investigation of social organization and political, economic, religious, and family systems. Writing assignments, as appropriate to the discipline, were part of the course.
- *Intro to Biological and Cultural Evolutions of Humans*, (1 section, 18 students) fall 2012
This course was a survey and analysis of the fundamentals of prehistoric archaeology, fossil primates and primate evolution, primate behavior, human genetics, and the variations of human populations. Writing assignments, as appropriate to the discipline were part of the course.
- *General Course I Social Science* (6 sections, 214 students), spring 2012, fall 2012, spring 2013
A survey of subject matter and concepts selected from the disciplines of anthropology, psychology, and sociology. This course revolved around a comparative comparison of the social sciences.
- *American Social Issues*, (1 section, 38 students) Spring 2009
Critical study of selected current social problems such as labor relations, the welfare system, civil rights and automation. Writing assignments, as appropriate to the discipline, were part of the course.

LECTURER IN ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, SOCIOLOGY, HISTORY, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND ANTHROPOLOGY (GSHAA), January 2012-December 2012

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY, Chicago, Illinois

- *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, (2 sections, 68 students), spring 2012, fall 2013
Culture, society, language, and their influence on personality; emphasis on non-Western societies. (A writing emphasis and enrichment core course.)
- *Mexican and Puerto Rican Cultures*, (1 section, 22 students), spring 2012
Introduction to cultural development, pre-Hispanic to present. Interactions of urban Latin communities with Anglo American culture.
- *Cultures of Africa* (1 section, 21 students), 2012
Overview of African cultures. Regional patterns of behavior and social structures. Recent cultural change. (Writing emphasis course.)

TEACHING ASSISTANT IN ANTHROPOLOGY, fall 2010

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Illinois

- Biology of Human Behavior (3 sections, 98 students)
Wrote and graded exam questions, graded in-class assignments, hosted office hours to review class material, and led exam reviews
Supervised by Kate Clancy, Ph.D.

GRADUATE COLLEGE FELLOW, fall 2007-fall 2010

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Illinois

- *Graduate Fellow*
Carried out research activities to launch an IRB ethnographic project. Took graduate level courses in anthropology. Engaged in academic activities with the community of faculty and students. Presented research updates at major state and national conferences.
Supervised by Alejandro Lugo, Ph.D.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2015 Certificate of Recognition for serving in the Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists' Program Committee. American Anthropological Association Meetings, Denver, CO.
- 2015 American Anthropological Association, Community Engagement grant. Event facilitator. Session entitled, "Community Activists and Artists in Denver: Practice, Knowledge, and Expressions to Confront State Violence," on Nov. 9, 2015, Denver, CO. \$700.
- 2015 Julian Samora Research Institute, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Michigan State University. Two-year offer (Declined).
- 2009 National Science Foundation, (Honorable Mention) for dissertation proposal submitted.
- 2008 Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois. Small Summer Research Grant, \$750.
- 2007 University of Illinois. Graduate College Fellowship, August 2007–2010. 3-Year Award, \$16,000/year.
- 2007 Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship, August 2007–2010. 3-Year Award, \$14,000/year (Declined).
- 2006 UCR Department of Sociology Teaching Assistantship. Spring quarter, \$6,000.
- 2000 National Hispanic Scholarship, University of Illinois at Chicago, Fall semester, \$4,500.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 Transborder Mexicans in Chicago. Fieldwork expected to start in December 2018.
- 2015 Ethnography of the College Initiative at City Colleges of Chicago. Project that offers the opportunity for undergraduate students to carry out ethnographic research about their college experiences under IRB protocol at City Colleges of Chicago.
- 2013 Carried out educational research at the Center for Operational Excellence, City Colleges of Chicago. I researched accelerated learning options for community college students and provided strategic plans to implement instructional changes at the institutional level.
- 2012 Performed 15 months of ethnographic fieldwork among Mexican men and women in the United States. I examined the cultural meanings of color, class, and race within the Mexican community. Site located in Chicago, IL.
- 2009 Performed two months examining the landscaping economy in the United States. I documented the form and structure of this economic activity. Site located in Chicago, IL.
- 2008 Archival research under research protocol from the Ethnography of the University Initiative. Researched documents, photographs, and pamphlets about the racial experience of minority students at University of Illinois housing facilities.

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- June 2018 “Color Inspections: An Anthropological Tool in Modern Times,” Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Utah Valley University, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Apr 2018 “Color Inspections: Decolonial Imaginaries in Mexican South Chicago” Research Talk at the Latino Cultural Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Mar 2018 “Roundtable Discussion on film *Hostile Border*,” Latino Film Festival, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Mar 2018 “Latino/a Migration in the Age of New Politics of Racism,” Department of Geography, Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.
- Jan 2018 “Border Inspections as an Anthropological Tool: Mapping Mexican Experience of Racism in South Chicago,” Invited talk, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
- Oct 2017 “Busting the Melting Pot Myth: Migration, Race, and Nation in Modern America.” Guess speaker in Communications: Critical Approaches (C104). Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Oct 2017 “Borders of Manhood: New Era of Mexican Crimigration.” Speaker. The Latino Cultural Center. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.
- Feb 2016 “Contemporary Labor Politics: From NAFTA to Landscaping.” Skype guest lecture in Introduction to Mexican American Studies (MAS 2340-02). University of Houston, Houston, TX.
- Mar 2015 “On Capitalism and the Body: The Hidden Stories of the Exposed Mexican Yardero.” Community of Scholars Research Symposium, University of Illinois.
- May 2014 “Latina/o Ethnography and Fieldwork among Yarderos/as in South Chicago.” Invited lecturer for course on Latinos in the Midwest, Northwestern University, Latina/o Studies Program. Evanston, IL.
- Nov 2013 “Color Inspections and the Predicaments of Racism: The Use of Border Theory to Ethnographically Document Color Hierarchies among Mexicans in South Chicago.” Social Theory Workshop, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Sep 2011 “Religion in Latin America and U.S.-Latinas/os.” Invited Lecture as co-discussant in session celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month. Latino Resource Center, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL.
- Sep 2012 “Exploring the Problem of the Color-Line among Mexican Subalterns in Greater Mexico (Colonial and Post-Colonial).” Sociology Workshop on Transnational Race/Class/Gender. Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.
- May 2009 “Dissent at Border Inspections: Queering Mexican Racial Formation in Everyday Life.” Queer Theory Symposium, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.
- Mar 2006 “Blacks’ in Colonial Mexico: Transgressing “Racial” Porous Boundaries. Brown-Bag Presentation. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.
- May 2008 “Korean/Americans and Clothing—Global/Student Identities.” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ethnography of the University Initiative.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Nov 2016 “Undocumented Biopower: The Production of Unsovereign Mexican Subjects through Racism” Presenter in absentia, paper read on panel entitled, The Work of Racialization and the Racialization of Work. 115th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

- Nov 2015 “Alternative Imaginings of Class, Gender, and Capitalism: Works and Careers Inspired By Alejandro Lugo.” Organizer at 114th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Nov 2015 “Social Media and Digital Racial Protest: Uploading and Sharing State Violence.” Presenter at 114th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- July 2014 “The Ethnography of Mexican “Yarderos” in South Chicago.” Presenter. Imagining Latina/o Studies: Past, Present, and Future, Chicago, IL.
- Nov 2013 “Politics, Margins, and Border Theory: Intellectual Visions, Generational Revisions, and a Transborder Ethnography of Mexicans in South Chicago.” American Anthropological Association. Presenter, Chicago, IL.
- April 2009 “Gesturing Towards the Sovereign’s Race, Class, and Gender (In)visibility: The Naked State, Subaltern Resistance, and Policing Across the Chicago–Mexican Borderlands.” Newberry Library, Seminar on Borderlands and Latino Studies, Chicago, IL.
- Feb 2009 “Beauty Pageants & Desire: Cultural (Re)Production and Activism within the United Clubs of Zacatecans in Chicago.” Latina/Latino 4th Biennial Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2009 Sociocultural Chair, Graduate Association of Student Anthropologists (GASA), University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.
- 2009 Student Committee Member, Linguistic anthropology job search, University of Illinois, Department of Anthropology.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Anthropological Association
Association of Latino and Latina Anthropologists
Program Committee (2014-2015)
Program Editor (2015-2016)
Secretary (2018-2020)
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Society for the Anthropology of Work

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Language Skills: Fluent bilingual and bi-literate in English and Spanish; medium proficiency in French
Software Skills: Nvivo, EndNote, Tableau, Word, Power Point, Excel

ONLINE PRESENCE

Website: www.slemus.com
Twitter: @DrSergioLemus

REFERENCES

Alejandro Lugo, Ph.D.
Professor of Transborder Studies (2010-2018)
Independent Scholar
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