

ORLANDO LARA

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olara@orlandolara.com

EDUCATION

- 2025 Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology, UC Irvine, CA
Dissertation Title: *Citizens in Question: Passport Denial and the Criminalization of Birthright Citizenship in Southeast TX*
Committee: Leo Chavez, Susan Coutin, and Samar Al-Bulushi
- Race and Justice Emphasis, Dept. of Criminology, Law and Society, 2023
- 2011 Master of Fine Arts in Fiction, Cornell University, NY
MFA Thesis: *The Morning After: A Novel*
Committee: Helena Maria Viramontes and Stephanie Vaughn
- 2006 Master of Arts in Anthropology, New York University, NY
Committee: Renato Rosaldo and Lok C.D. Siu
MA Thesis: *On Migrant Knowledge and the Cosmopolitan Sentiment*
- Certificate in Culture and Media, Dept. of Anthropology, 2007
- 2003 Bachelor of Arts with Honors, Stanford University, CA
Honors Thesis: *Arte, Tierra y Dignidad in a Border Community Context*
- Major in Chicana/o Studies, Minor in Cultural and Social Anthropology

AREAS OF FOCUS

US-Mexico borderlands, citizenship and belonging, multi-racial Texas, Ethnic Studies K-12

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2025-2026 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology, UC Berkeley
- 2019-2022 Teaching Assistant, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine
- 2018-2019 Associate Director, Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, TCU
- 2014-2017 Mexican American Studies Faculty and Puente Instructor, Lee College
- 2013-2014 Volunteer Organizer for the Texas Undocumented Youth Alliance
- 2013-2014 Writing Tutor, Lone Star Community College-University Park
- 2010-2012 English and Creative Writing Instructor, English Dept., Cornell University
- 2009-2012 Freshman Writing Seminar Instructor, English Dept., Cornell University
- 2005-2007 Teaching Assistant, Anthropology and Latino Studies at NYU
- 2002-2003 Undergraduate Assistant, Chicana/o Studies Program at Stanford
- 2001-2003 Program Fellow, Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford
- Summer 2002 Artist/Scholar-In-Residence, Border Arts Workshop/ Taller Artístico Fronterizo in San Diego, CA

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2026 NACCS Tejas Foco Award for Best Dissertation in Tejana/o Studies

2026	Law and Society Association Graduate Student & Early Career Workshop
2025	Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship
2025-2027	Cesar Chavez Dissertation Fellowship and Postdoc at Dartmouth (declined)
2025-2026	US-MEX Visiting Fellow at UC San Diego (declined)
2025-2026	MMUF Dissertation Grant, Institute of Citizens and Scholars (declined)
2024-2025	Latino Texas Policy Center's Policy Fellowship
2020-2025	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
2024	UCI Department of Anthropology Summer Research Award
2024	Spicer Student Travel Award, the Society for Applied Anthropology
2022 and 2023	Mellon-Mays Graduate Student Enhancement Grant
2022	Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant, American Studies Association
2022	Noyce Collaborative Research Grant, School of Social Sciences, UCI
2022	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant–Cultural Anthropology
2022	Bette Tate Beaver Service Award for ESNTX Core Organizing Team, the Texas Chapter of the American Educational Research Association
2021	Dr. Dard Magnus Rossell Memorial Award
2021	Mellon-Mays Predoctoral Grant
2019-2020	Organizational Artist Grant, Houston Arts Alliance, City of Houston
2019-2020	Organizational Artist Grant, The Idea Fund, Houston
2016	Inducted into the Macondo Writer's Workshop
2009	Latino Studies Program Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University
2009	Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Cornell University
2004	Dean's and Henry MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
2003	Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment, Stanford
2003	Chicana/o Studies Achievement Award, Stanford
2003	Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity Honors Thesis Prize, Stanford
2001-2003	Student Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Diversity in the Arts
2001	Mellon-Mays Minority Undergraduate Fellowship
1999-2003	Jesse H. Jones Houston Endowment Scholarship Award

PUBLICATIONS

2025. ESNTX Core Team. "A Praxis of Relational Thick Solidarity: Building Emancipatory and Mutually-Sustaining Ethnic Studies Communities in Texas." *Ethnic Studies Pedagogies*. Vol. 3, Issue 1, p. 39. Co-Authored Article.
2009. "A Trail of Thirst." *Anthropology Now*, 1(3), 86-91. Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41203571>. Photo Essay.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- (*Revision Under Review*). "Undoing Citizenship: De-Documentation and the Politics of Disenchantment." *Anthropological Theory*. Article.
- (*Expected Publication in 2027*). Aimee Villarreal, Valerie A. Martínez, and Orlando Lara. "Connecting the Struggle for Ethnic Studies in K-12 Public Schools to the Anti-DEIA Assault on Higher Education in Texas." Book Chapter.

LITERARY WRITING

(Expected Publication in 2027). "Despertando en la mañana / Waking up in the morning."
IXPATEQUILIA: New Chicane Prose. Edited by ire'ne lara silva. Essay.

PUBLIC AND MULTIMODAL WRITING

2022. "Who is threatened by critical young minds?" *TruchaRGV.com*. Retrieved Nov. 16, 2022, from <https://truchargv.com/commentary-who-is-threatened-by-critical-young-minds/>
2022. Colón, David, Max Krochmal, and Contributors. *Latinx Studies Curriculum in K-12 Schools: A Practical Guide*. TCU Press. Book.
2021. (Lead Author). Sin Huellas Artist Collective. "Detention Nation: Reckoning with the US Immigrant Prison Complex," *Detention Nation*, website. Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <http://www.detentionnation.com/>. Online Installation.
2005. "Walkers in the Maze." *Sed: A Trail of Thirst*. Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <http://www.orlandolara.com/thirst/>. Essay.

PHOTO PUBLICATIONS

2008. "Watching over Migrants" and "Guadalupe Medallion" [Photographs]. Printed in *Imperial Eyes: Studies in Travel Writing and Transculturation* by Mary Louise Pratt.
2006. "Migrant ID card" [Photograph]. *Current Anthropology*.

FILM AND DOCUMENTARY

- 2015 "Caravana 43 - Anayeli Guerrero de la Cruz," Short Film (4:53)
A short film co-produced with Brenda Cruz-Wolf. While in the US as part of the transnational speaking tour, Caravana 43, Anayeli speaks about her brother Jhosivani, one of the 43 students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero who were abducted by Mexican police forces. This film was produced as part of the exhibit "Degrees of Separation" for the Station Museum for Contemporary Art. Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <https://vimeo.com/124570049>.
- 2008 "Elizabeth's Story," Short Film (4:52)
A film co-produced with Ariana Ochoa Camacho that recounts Elizabeth's journey to the US while pregnant and her thoughts on leaving the country. The narrative is accompanied by footage from the southern Arizona desert near the US-Mexico border. Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <https://vimeo.com/152018091>.

Film Screenings:

- "Crossing the Lines," 1310 Gallery, Fort Lauderdale, FL (2012)
"Crossings/Travesías," Lexington Art League, Houston, TX (2011)
"We The People" at Art League Houston, TX (2008)
Mexican Museum of Art in Chicago, Chicago, IL (2008)
- 2007 "Arpa Viajera," Short Film (14:40)
This film follows Veronica Valerio, a Katrina evacuee and Mexican expatriate, as she navigates New York City and attempts to "make it" as a Mexican harpist and singer. Matters are complicated when her temporary student visa expires. This film was

screened as part of the Program in Culture and Media at NYU (2007). Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <https://vimeo.com/81162912>.

2002 "El Buddha," Short Film (9:53)

This film tells the story of a man known as "El Buddha" who was murdered in El Poblado Maclovio Rojas, a squatter community near Mexicali, Mexico, and the larger culture of police impunity that allows his murder to go uninvestigated. The film was screened as part of "Art Defends," an art exhibit produced by the Border Arts Workshop/Taller Artístico Fronterizo in San Diego, CA (2002). Retrieved July 15, 2021, from <http://vimeo.com/52598906>.

ART EXHIBITS AND PUBLIC ART

"Detention Nation," Multimedia Art Installation by the Sin Huellas Artist Collective

Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM (2026)

Texas Tech Landmark Museum, Lubbock, TX (2018)

Mulvane Art Museum, Topeka, KA (2017)

Museo de las Americas, Denver, CO (2016)

Station Museum for Contemporary Art, Houston, <https://vimeo.com/124650243> (2015)

"Know Your History, Know Yourself," Collaborative Public Mural with Lee College Students
Sterling Municipal Library, Baytown, TX (2016)

"Hope is in (Y)our Hands," Student Art Exhibit, Co-organized with Puente students
Promise Center, Baytown, TX (2015)

"Sed: A Trail of Thirst," Photo and Multimedia Installation with Delilah Montoya
Carlito's Café in New York City (2007)
Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford (2006)
Multimedia Installation for FotoFest H2004 at Talento Bilingue de Houston (2004)

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Biometric Coyotaje as Refusal, Survival, and Care." Presented at the American Studies Conference (Nov. 21, 2025), NAACS Tejas Foco (February 27, 2026), NACCS National Conference (April 4, 2026), and the UC PFP Fellows Retreat (April 25, 2026).
Scheduled to present at the Law and Society Association Conference (May 2026).

"From Trail of Thirst to Detention Nation: 20 Years of Collaboration with Delilah Montoya and Orlando Lara." Co-presented with the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
"Arte Por Vida" Series and the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (April 6, 2026).

"Plenary II: Teaching and Organizing as Resistance and Re-existence in Texas Schools: A Call to Action against Fascism." Participant, NACCS National Conference (April 4, 2026)

"Cycles of Struggle: ESNTX and Relational Thick Solidarity in Hostile Times." Panelist. Co-organized with Marissa Muñoz, Eliza Epstein, Cecilia Sanchez-Hill, Valeria Martinez, and Angeles DeSantos Quezada. Presented at the Latinx Studies Association (March 26, 2026) and the NACCS National Conference (April 4, 2026).

"Criminalizing Midwives and Securitizing Birth Certificates: Bureaucratic Doubling and Racial Suspicion in Southeast Texas." Manuscript Workshop for the Center for Engaged

- Scholarship. Readers: Deborah Thomas, Angela Fillingim, Fred Block (Sept. 25, 2025).
- “Securitizing Birth in South Texas: On Midwives, Birth Certificates, and Bureaucratic Doubling,” Brown Bag Lecture at Rice Anthropology (March 28, 2025).
- “Participant-Observation as Reading and Changing the World: Notes Toward a Participatory Anthropology.” Invited Class Lecture for Prof. Mariela Nuñez-Janes’s Undergrad Class on Applied Anthropology at the University of North Texas (Nov. 4, 2024).
- “Ethnic Studies and the American Indian/Native Studies course in Texas,” Co-Discussant with Dr. Kenneth Roemer, Livestream Discussion with Lubbock Compact (Sept. 11, 2024)
- “De-Documented: Passport Denial and the Interrogation of Birth in Southeast TX.” Presented at the Latinx Studies Association Conference (April 18, 2024), the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting (March 29, 2024), the TCU CRES Movement and Migrations Conference (March 7, 2024).
- “Developing an Authentic and Accurate American Indian/Native Studies Course in Community with Grand Prairie ISD.” Panelist for the TCU CRES Movement and Migrations Conference (March 7, 2024)
- “A Praxis of Solidarity with the Ethnic Studies Network of Texas.” Panelist. Co-organized Panel with Marissa Muñoz, Eliza Epstein, and Angeles DeSantos Quezada for the TCU CRES Movement and Migrations Conference (March 7, 2024)
- “De-Documented: Passport Denial and the Interrogation of Birth in Southeast, TX.” Invited Class Lecture for Prof. Leo Chavez’ Grad Class on Transnational Migration (November 2, 2023)
- “Birth and Identity Document Review in Southeast Texas.” Presentation for the UCI Law and Ethnography Lab (June 7, 2023)
- “Blooming Ethnic Studies in Hostile Times: A Conversation Across Generations,” Co-Panelist with Jessenia Herzberg and Frida Retana, National Association of Chicana and Chicano Scholars (NACCS) Tejas Foco Annual Conference, UT-RGV (March 24, 2023)
- “Tecnodemocracia: Tecnociencia, experticia y la reconfiguración de la política.” Panel Presentation, 4S/ESOCITE Joint Conference, Cholula, Puebla, MX (December 2022)
- “Exploring the Infopolitics of Algorithmic Knowledge Production, Community Formation, and Governance.” Presenter. Co-Organized Panel with Lucy Pei, Christine Ji-Young Kim, Farah Qureshi and moderated by David Theo Goldberg. American Anthropological Association Conference, Seattle, WA (November 2022)
- “Hot Spots and “Chilling Effects” in Teaching Race: A Roundtable on Pedagogy and Solidarity during the “CRT” Backlash.” Roundtable Participant, American Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA (November 2022)
- “Reckoning with Citizenship and Exclusion in Mexican American Studies.” Presenter for the HISD *Exploring Primary Sources in Ethnic Studies Summer Institute*. Houston, TX (July 2022)
- “De-Documented: Citizenship Invalidation and the Politics of Identity Surveillance.” Presenter, Virtual Ford Fellows Conference (October 2021)
- “A(S)ynchronous Resistance: Detention Nation,” Panel Presentation, *Resistance in (A)Synchronous Futures*, Visual Studies Graduate Conference, UCI (May 2021)
- “Alter-Realities: Intervening in the Politics of Immigrant Incarceration and Migration Control,” Panel Organizer and Moderator, University of Houston (April 2021)
- “Advocating for Ethnic Studies,” Presenter and Workshop Leader, FWISD Chavez/Huerta Day of Service, Fort Worth (2019)
- “Sin Dejar Huellas: *Detention Nation* as Art and Intervention,” Moderator and Panel Organizer,

- Latino Art Now! Conference, U. of Houston (2019)
- “Artefacto: Preserving an Artist Legacy,” Moderator and Panel Organizer, Latino Art Now! Conference, U. of Houston (2019)
- “Ethnic Studies K-20,” Presenter, Panel Co-organized with Richard Thomas. Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, Austin (2018)
- “Organizing for Immigrant Rights in Houston,” Speaker for Dr. Christina Sisk, UH-Main (2015)
- “La Raza 2.0: Re-Generating Mexican-American Studies in Baytown,” Co-organized with Lee College MAS and Puente Students, NACCS Tejas Foco, Lonestar-Kingwood (2016)
- “Mi Vida, Mi Voz: Multimedia Narratives from the Puente Project in Baytown,” Co-organized with Lee College Puente Students, NACCS Tejas Foco, Lonestar-Kingwood (2016)
- “Rehaciendo Puentes: Generations of Exclusion in Baytown,” Co-organized with Lee College MAS and Puente Students, NACCS Tejas Foco, Lonestar-North Harris (2015)
- “Sed: A Trail of Thirst.” Presentations and Lectures:
 Class Lecture, Visual Studies Course at U. of Houston (2008)
 Paper Presentation, Anthropology Graduate Student Symposium (2006)
 Presentation, Mellon Mays Conference at Columbia U. (2005)
 Panelist for “Undocumented Existences,” Co-Organized with Dayna Muñoz, National Association of Chicano Scholars (2005)
 Presenter for “Weaving Poeticultura,” Symposium for Prof. Rosaldo at Stanford (2005)
 Class Lecture for Chicana/o Studies at Stanford (2005)
- “Arte, Tierra y Dignidad,” Honor’s Thesis Presentation for CCSRE at Stanford (2003)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP FACILITATION

- “Centering Community in the Policy Process.” Panel Organizer and Moderator,
 “Transformative Ethnic Studies for the People: Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Summer Convergence” (July 2023).
- “Transformative Ethnic Studies for the People: Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Summer Convergence,” Co-Organizer with Marissa Muñoz, Deyadira Arellano, Eliza Epstein, Angeles DeSantos Quezada (July 2023).
- “Creative Resistance: Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Summer Convergence,” Virtual Workshop Facilitator (August 2022)
- “Blooming Ethnic Studies in Hostile Times,” Co-Presenter with Deyadira Arellano and Eliza Epstein, Community Voices for Public Education Summer Conference (June 2022)
- “A Space for Social Movement Reflection,” Workshop Facilitator, Virtual, Powering Ethnic Studies in Texas: Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Summer Convergence (July 2021)
- “Ethnic Studies Network of Texas Summer Web Series,” Host, Weeklong Virtual Workshop Co-Organized with Eliza Epstein, Deyadira Arellano, and Angeles DeSantos Quezada (August 2020)
- “Ethnic Studies North Texas Regional Gathering,” Conference Organizer and Moderator, TCU, Fort Worth (2019)
- “Ethnic Studies K-PhD,” Invited Workshop Facilitator, MAS Summit, San Antonio (2019)
- “Latinx Art and Education Since the 1980s,” Presenter, FWISD Latinx Studies Professional Development Conference, TCU and FWISD, Fort Worth (2019)
- “FWISD Latinx Studies Professional Development Conference,” Conference Co-organized with

Max Krochmal and Gabriel Huddleston, TCU and FWISD, Fort Worth (2019)
“Calling All Artists: A Creative Organizing Workshop,” Co-Organized with Deyadira Arellano, Texas Tech, Lubbock (2018)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Intro to Race and Ethnicity (Large Lecture Course, Fall 2021)
Teaching Assistant, Intro to Anthropology (Large Lecture Course, Spring and Winter 2020)
Teaching Assistant, Intro to Chicana/o/Latina/o Studies (Large Lecture Course, Fall 2019)
Graduate Course on Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, TCU (Graduate Seminar co-taught with Mona Narain, 2019)
Engaging Difference and Diversity in America, TCU (Lecture Course, Spring 2018)
Comp 2: Social Research in Action, Lee College (Fall 2017)
Comp 1: Critical Problems of Everyday Life, Lee College (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, 2 sections in Fall 2017)
Comp 1: Self-Exploration and the Desire to Know, Lee College (Fall 2016)
Introduction to Mexican American Studies, Lee College (Lecture Course, Fall 2015, Fall 2017)
Mexican American Literature, Lee College (Lecture Course, Spring 2015, Spring 2017)
Comp 2: Critical Thinking for the Everyday World, Lee College (Fall 2015, Spring 2017)
Humanities 1: Introduction to Cultural Studies, Lee College (Writing Course, Fall 2016)
American Minority Studies: Chicana/o/Latino Art, Lee College (Lecture Course, Spring 2016)
Puente: Mexican American Studies as Writing and Research, Lee College (Lecture, 2 sections per semester, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017)
Puente: Mi Vida, Mi Voz, Lee College (Writing Course, 2 sections for Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
Puente: Voces, Cruces y Fronteras, Lee College (Writing Course, 2 sections, Fall 2015)
Puente: Education and Freedom, Lee College (Writing Course, 2 sections, Fall 2014)
Creative Writing, Cornell (Writing Course, 4 semesters, 2010-2012)
Cultural Studies: Self-Transformations, Cornell (Freshman Writing Seminar, 2 semesters, 2011-2012)
Vulnerable Masculinities, Cornell (Freshman Writing Seminar, Fall 2010)
Memory and Memoir, Cornell (Freshman Writing Seminar, 2 semesters, 2009-2010)

CULTURAL ORGANIZING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Co-Facilitator for the Ethnic Studies for Texas Schools Coalition (2022-present)
Community Organizing Consultant for the GPISD American Indian/ Native Studies Course Development Project (2019-present)
Co-Founder of the Ethnic Studies Network of Texas (2019-present)
Co-Founder and Member of the Sin Huellas Artist Collective (2015-2021)
Co-Founder and Organizer for the Deportation Defense Network of Texas (2015-2020) Member of FWISD Latinx Studies Curriculum Project (2018-2019)
Member of the Joe Campos Torres Solidarity Walk Committee (2016)
Volunteer Organizer for No Están Solos (2013-14)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Coordinator, Hiring Committee for Two Assistant Professor Positions at the Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies at TCU (2018-2019)

Member, CRES Graduate Committee at TCU (2018-2019)
Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Curriculum Subcommittee at TCU (2018-19)
Advisor, MAS Raza Collective, Student Group at Lee College (2015-2017)
President, GSAS Graduate Student Council at NYU (2006-2007)
Student Advisory Committee, Dept. of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU (2004-05)

MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Medical Cultures Lab at UCSF
Law and Ethnography Lab at UC Irvine
Law and Society Association
American Anthropological Association
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Association for the Anthropology of Policy
Society for the Anthropology of North America
Society for Humanistic Anthropology
Society for Applied Anthropology
Latinx Studies Association
National Association of Chicana and Chicano Scholars
American Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Fluent in written and oral English and Spanish