Updated 8/15/2026

Karina Santellano

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024 -	Assistant Professor of Sociology, T. Denny Sanford School for Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University
	Faculty Affiliate of the School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University
Fall 2023	Postdoctoral Research Scholar, T. Denny Sanford School for Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

EDUCATION

2023	Ph.D. Sociology, University of Southern California
2019	M.A. Sociology, University of Southern California
2015	B.A. Sociology, Duke University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity, Immigration, Latino/x Sociology, Work/Occupations/Entrepreneurship, Class, Intersectionality, Urban Sociology, Qualitative Methods

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Indicates doctoral student

2026 **Santellano, Karina** and Pamela Zabala Ortiz (equal co-authorship). "Researcher Street Race-Gender in Qualitative Field Work." *Qualitative Research.* Online First. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794126144581

2025 Higuera, Kimberly, and **Karina Santellano**. "Transfronterizo Families at the San Diego-Tijuana Border: Complicating Theories of Family, Migration, and Mobility." *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. Online First. https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.70016

2024 Aurora Munoz Casarrubias*, **Karina Santellano**, Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, and Emir Estrada. "Cautious Optimism: Latinx Young Adults' Perspectives on the American Dream.". *American Behavioral Scientist.* Online First. https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642241284269

2024 **Santellano, Karina,** and Jody Agius Vallejo. "Feminist Ethnoracial Entrepreneurship among Latina Elite and Middle-Class Entrepreneurs." *Gender, Work & Organization,* 31(4): 1166–1181. https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.13091.

2022 Santellano, Karina. "Pandemic Fieldwork: Navigating Personal Grief and Practicing Researcher Flexibility." *Latino Studies*, *20*(3), 408–414. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41276-022-00350-x.

2021 Santellano, Karina. "Compounded Inequality: How the U.S. Paycheck Protection Program is failing Los Angeles Latino small businesses." *Ethnic and Racial Studies 44(5), 794-805.* https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1844265.

2021 **Santellano, Karina**, Kimberly Higuera, and Felicia Arriaga. "Latina Educators in Sociology: Combating Trumpism with Critical Pedagogy." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.* https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649220977569.

2020 Council, LaToya, Chelsea Johnson, **Karina Santellano**, and Hajar Yazdiha. "Linking Contexts, Intersectionality, and Generations: Toward a More Complex Theory of Millennials and Social Change." *Sociological Perspectives 63*(3), 486–495. https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121420914294

2019 Santellano, Karina. "Exploring Undocumented Students' Understanding of the Role of Higher Education during the Trump Era." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*. Institute of Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley. https://doi.org/10.5070/P2cjpp11243091

BOOK REVIEWS

2021. Santellano, Karina. Review of "Fruteros: Street Vending, Illegality, and Ethnic Community in Los Angeles" by Rocío Rosales. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1819550

BOOK CHAPTERS

2026. Santellano, Karina. "Seeking Rest and Restoration: Towards the Eradication of Academic Capitalism." in *World Making in Nepantla: Feminist Ideas for Pandemic Times Anthology* edited by Gloria González-López, Sharmila Rudrappa, and Christen Smith.

2026. Flores, Cassandra, Olivia Gonzalez, Theresa Hernandez, Divana Olivas, Blanca Ramirez, Mabel Sanchez, **Karina Santellano**, Cynthia Villarreal. **"**Latina Ph.D. Organizing, Solidarity and Coping in Nepantla written by The Latina Ph. Ds at USC.**"** in *World Making in Nepantla: Feminist Ideas for Pandemic Times Anthology* edited by Gloria González-López, Sharmila Rudrappa, and Christen Smith.

2025. Santellano, Karina."Becoming Tastemakers: The Affective Labor of Latinx Millennials in the Specialty Coffee Industry" for *Arbiters of Race* edited by David Brunsma and Erik Withers.

2022. Parreñas, Rhacel and **Karina Santellano**. "Migrant Domestic Work." *Handbook on Women in the Middle East,* editor Suad Joseph. New York: Routledge.

GUEST EDITORIALSHIPS

(In-Progress) Special Issue "Unruly Latinx Sociology" *Sociological Perspectives* with Rocío García and Uriel Serrano

GRANTS

2025	National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families Professional Development Grant for Emerging Scholars ($2,850)
2024-2025	USC Equity Research Center Community Engaged Faculty Grant ($17,250)
2019, 2022	USC Department of Sociology McClenahan Research Collaboration Grant ($4,000)
2021	ASA Sociology of Culture John Mohr Grant ($500)
2020	USC Center for the Changing Family Small Grant ($1,600)
2020	ASA Sociology of Culture section COVID Crisis Grant ($500)
2019	Sociology of Education Association (SEA) Student Travel Award ($250)
2018	American Sociological Association (ASA) Student Forum Travel Award ($250)

FELLOWSHIPS

2026-2027	ASA Policy Outreach Program (POP) Fellowship
2025	UC Berkeley Latino Social Science Pipeline Initiative's Junior Scholars Symposium Fellowship
2022-2023	American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship (AAUW) ($20,000)
2022	USC Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Public Culture Summer Graduate Fellowship ($5,000)
2022	Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Scholarship, Honorable Mention ($1,750)
2020-2021	American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Graduate Fellowship
2020-2021	Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship ($15,000)
2020	USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Fellowship ($5,000)

AWARDS

2026	ASU Faculty Women's Association Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, Nominee
2023	ASA Section on Latina/o Sociology Co-Winner of the Cristina Riegos Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award
2023	SSSP Kauffman Foundation Best Student Paper Award in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation
2023	USC Order of Arête Award for Exemplary Leadership and Service
2015	Distinguished Leadership & Service Award for Commitment to Diversity, Duke University Division of Student Affairs
2015	Eastern Sociological Society Runner-Up for Undergraduate Best Poster
2011-2015	Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University (Instructor)

1. Sociology of Work & Organizations (online, undergraduate), Fall 2026
2. Sociology of Work & Organizations (in person, undergraduate), Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026
3. Work, Culture, & Resistance Seminar (graduate), Spring 2026
4. Sociology of Race & Ethnicity (undergraduate), Spring 2025
5. Graduate Sociological Theory (graduate, half semester), Spring 2024

University of Southern California

USC Center for Excellence in Teaching Future Faculty Teaching Institute Certificate 2021

Teaching Assistantships:

Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2019, Summer 2021, Spring 2022)
Grassroots Participation in Global Perspective (Spring 2020)
Social Problems (Spring 2018)
Sociology of Health & Body (Fall 2017)

Other Teaching

USC Upward Bound (TRIO Federal Funded Program) High School Instructor for Social Science Research Methods Course (June-July 2023)

K-12 Substitute Teaching: Lemon Grove Unified School District (October 2015- December 2016)

K-12 Substitute Teaching: San Diego Unified School District (November 2015- July 2016)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 "Transfronterizo Families at the San Diego-Tijuana Border: Complicating Theories of Family, Migration, and Mobility" with Kimberly Higuera. Critical Migration and Deportation Studies at Baruch College. New York City, NY.

"From Mexico and El Salvador to Los Angeles: How Latinx Coffee shop Owners Mobilize Transnational Coffee Connections," *Latin American Studies Association*. Paris, France.

2025 "Escaping "Soul Sucking Work" to Make Neighborhood Places: Latinxs in the Specialty Coffee Shop Industry," *American Sociological Association*, for Presidential Panel on Latinx Professionals. Chicago, IL.

2024

"Feminist Methodological Notes on Studying Latinx Joy and Inequality: Witnessing the Reproduction and Challenging of the Myth of Mestizaje in the Field," *Latinx Studies Association*, "Race(ing) the Latinx Body" Panel, Tempe, AZ.

Invited Panelist on Presidential Plenary Panel, "How Ethnographers Understand Social Permissiveness in their Research." *Pacific Sociological Association*. San Diego, CA.

2023 "Thinking Deeply about Gente-Fication," *Boston University Initiative on Cities*, *Gentrification and Displacement Conference, An International Dialogue.* Boston, MA.

2022

"Racialized, Classed, and Gendered Consumerism: A Latinx-Millennial Crafted Economy," *American Sociological Association*, Race, Class, Gender Section for Panel *Intimate and Community Life*. Los Angeles, CA.

"From Hashtags to Memes: Teaching, Researching, and Creating the Virtual Collective during a Pandemic," with Dr. Maricela Becerra, Dr. Jorge Leal, Dr. Alberto Morales, and Dr. Brenda Nicolas. *Latin American Studies Association*. Virtual.

2021

"Latinx Entrepreneurship and Coffee Shops" for *American Planning Association*, Latinos and Planning Division LUGARES Conference. Invited. Virtual.

"Compounded Inequality: How the U.S. Paycheck Protection Program is failing Los Angeles Latino small businesses," *American Sociological Association*. Latina/o Section for Panel *Latinxs and Crises*. Virtual.

"Compounded Inequality: How the U.S. Paycheck Protection Program is failing Los Angeles Latino small businesses," *Society for the Study of Social Problems.* Virtual.

"Compounded Inequality: How the U.S. Paycheck Protection Program is failing Los Angeles Latino small businesses," *Southern Sociological Society*. Virtual.

2020

"Navigating Student Class and Race Privileges in the Classroom as Latina Working-Class Teaching Assistants," with Lizette Solórzano Perez and Blanca Ramirez. *American Sociological Association*, Symposium on Teaching and Learning. Virtual.

2019

"It is Very Dominated by Latinos Here: Places and Meanings of Racialized Illegality," *American Sociological Association*, Section on Racial & Ethnic Minorities Roundtable. New York City, NY.

"Dream Resource Centers: Facilitating Undocumented Students' Incorporation in Higher Education Across Institutions," *Pacific Sociological Association*. Oakland, CA.

"Dream Resource Centers: Facilitating Undocumented Students' Incorporation in Higher Education Across Institutions," *Sociology of Education Conference*. Monterey, CA.

2018

"Dream Resources Centers: Examining Youth Immigrant Incorporation in Higher Education," *American Sociological Association*, Latino/a Sociology Section Roundtable, Philadelphia, PA.

"Dream Resources Centers: Examining Youth Immigrant Incorporation in Higher Education," *UCLA Community College Studies Conference*. Los Angeles, CA.

"Institutional Support for Undocumented Students: Examining Illegality in Higher Education," *Pacific Sociological Association*, Long Beach, CA.

2017

"Solidarity in the Face of Whiteness: African American & Latino Student Friendship at an Elite, Predominately White Institution (PWI)," *Pacific Sociological Association*, Portland, OR.

2015

"The African American and Latino/a Close Friendship Experience at an Elite, Predominately White Institution," Honors Thesis Presentations, Duke University Department of Sociology. Durham, NC.

"The African American and Latino/a Close Friendship Experience at an Elite, Predominately White Institution," *Eastern Sociological Society*, New York City, NY.

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

2022

"What is the Mexican American Middle Class?" Sociology 090: Social Justice and the Sociology of Emotions. Lehigh University.

"Researcher Reflexivity and Focus Groups," Library and Information Management 504: Research Methods, University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

"What is the Mexican American Middle Class?" Chicano M155A/SOCI 155 Latinos in the U.S.: Departments of Chicana/o and Central American Studies and Sociology, UCLA.

"Emerging Latinx Middle-Class Economies: Latinx Coffee Shops in Southern California," SOCY S348 Race, Gender, and Class Inequities in the U.S., Department of Sociology, Yale University.

"Pandemic Fieldwork: Navigating Personal Grief and Practicing Researcher Flexibility," the University of California at Merced, Department of Sociology Brown Bag Series.

"Pandemic Fieldwork: Navigating Personal Grief and Practicing Researcher Flexibility," Cal Poly Pomona, Department of Sociology.

"Conducting Focus Groups During a Pandemic," Library and Information Management 504: Research Methods, University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

2021

"Emerging Latinx Middle-Class Economies: Latinx Coffee Shops in Southern California," SOC 155 Immigrant America, University of Southern California.

"Horchata Lattes and Vegan Conchas: Entrepreneurial Motivations of Latinx Coffee Shop Owners," Chicanx/Latinx Studies 320: Wealth and Poverty in Latinx Communities, California State University, Long Beach.

"Latina Educators in Sociology: Combating Trumpism with Critical Pedagogy." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.* USC Department of Sociology Graduate Student Association Teaching Showcase.

2020

"Latino Millennials and Entrepreneurship," ENGL 650 Multicultural Literary Studies, USC.

USC Center for the Changing Family—COVID-19 Research Roundtable Participant.

"Dreamers, DACA, and the Future," SOC 250 Grassroots Participation in a Global Perspective, USC.

2019

"Exploring Undocumented Students' Understanding of the Role of Higher Education during the Trump Era," SOC 356 Mexican Immigrants in Sociological Perspective, USC.

2018

"Dreamers, DACA, and the Future," AMST 101 Race & Class in Los Angeles, USC.

2017

"Dreamers, DACA, and The Future," SOC 155 Immigrant America, USC.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019-2023
Co-PI, Latina Micro-Businesses in Los Angeles Project with Dr. Jody Agius Vallejo, University of Southern California

2018- 2019
Research Assistant to Dr. Rhacel Parreñas, USC Korean Studies Institute

February-August 2015
Undergraduate Research Assistant, American Sociological Association: Stratification in Academic Career Trajectories with Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

PUBLIC WRITING

2022 Santellano, Karina. "A Space for Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Food Wisdom: 'LA Plaza Cocina' is for Everyone." *LA TACO*. https://www.lataco.com/mexican-food-museum/

Santellano, Karina. "From Tijuana to Madison Square Garden: Mexican Wrestler Rey Mysterio Jr. Celebrates 20 Years in the WWE." *LA TACO.* *https://www.lataco.com/rey-mysterio-jr-tijuana-wwe/*

Santellano, Karina. "Cajeta, Mazapan, and Rompope Lattes: Ten Latino-Owned Coffeeshops To Try in L.A. " *LA TACO.* https://www.lataco.com/latino-owned-coffee-la/

2021 Santellano, Karina. "The Need for Racial Equity in COVID-19 Small Business Policy." USC Equity Research Institute. Immigrant Integration Wire Blog. https://dornsife.usc.edu/eri/blog-racial-equity-small-business-policy-covid19/

2018 Santellano, Karina. "Alumni Should Be Activists for Institutional Change." *Inside Higher Ed.* https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2018/06/01/alumni-should-support-students-working-against-institutional-injustices-opinion

2017 **Santellano, Karina** and Jody Agius Vallejo. "Three Reasons to Protect DACA." USC Equity Research Institute. http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/blog-protect-daca/

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Arizona State University

2025- Member, Comprehensive Exam Committees: Latinx Sociology, Inequality & Power
2025-2026 Member, Sanford School Tenure-Track Personnel Committee
2025-2026 Member, Sanford Seminar Committee
2024-2025 Member, Sanford School Policies Working Group
Spring 2024 Member, Sanford School Tenure-Track Faculty Job Search Committee
Spring 2024 Member, Sanford School Inclusive Climate Committee

First Year Advisor

2024-2025 Elías Valentino, Sociology

Dissertation Committee Member

2026- Elías Valentino, Sociology, Sanford School
2026- Bailee Blankmeier, Sociology, Sanford School
2025- Uchenna Onuoha, Sociology, Sanford School
2024- Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez, School of Transborder Studies

Qualification Exam Committee Member

2026 Elías Valentino, Sociology, Sanford School
2024 Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez, School of Transborder Studies

Graduate Research Assistantship Supervision

May- July 2025 Roberto Ortega, Sociology, Sanford School

Undergraduate Honors Thesis

2025-2026 Secondary Reader for Chloe Gibson

University of Southern California

2023 External M.A. Paper Peer Reviewer (2x) for Writing for Sociology Publication Course
2020-2022 Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA) Founder and Co-Chair
Co-Founder of the W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells Scholar Program
Alpha Kappa Delta Anti-Racism Initiative Grant ($1,200) Team Awardee
2020-2022 Latina PhDs at USC Social Media Director
2019-2020 Latina PhDs at USC Vice President
2019 Invited Panelist for Public Sociology, Soc. Graduate Professionalization Series
2018-2020 Sociology Race & Gender Equity Graduate Student Liaison
2019-2020 Sociology Graduate Peer Mentorship Program Co-Coordinator
2019 Co-Moderator, USC Soc Colloquium Panel for Cecilia Menjívar & Victor Agadjanian
2018-2019 Sociology Colloquium Committee Member
2017-2018 Sociology Graduate Cohort Representative
2016-2018 Immigration Graduate Workgroup Co-Coordinator, USC Equity Research Institute

American Sociological Association (ASA)

2026 Committee Member, Distinguished Contribution to Sociology Article Award for the Race, Gender, Class Section
2025 Co-Organizer and Presider for "Latinx Professionals" Thematic Panel, ASA Annual Conference "Re-Imagining the Future of Work"
2023 Panelist for Section for Latino/a Sociology Section Norma Williams Mentoring Workshop Panel on Wellbeing
2022 Presider for Section of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Regular Session, ASA Annual Conference
2019-2021 Student Representative (Elected), ASA Latino/a Section
NOTAS Newsletter Co-Editor for ASA Latino/a Section
2020-2021 ASA Student Forum Chair
2019-2020 Student Forum Member (Elected), Communications Committee Member

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

2022	Committee Member, Kimberlé Crenshaw Outstanding Article Award, Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
2019-2021	Social Problems Journal Student Advisory Editor
2021	2021 SSSP Annual Meeting, Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Organizer for Panel: The Relevance of Racial Capitalism to Today's Moment

Other External Service

2026	Presider for Glenda M. Flores' "The Weight of the White Coat" Book Salon at the Pacific Sociological Association Conference (PSA)
2024	Moderator for "Race(ing) the Latinx Body" Panel for the Latinx Studies Association (LSA) Conference
2023-2024	American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Graduate Student Fellowship Program Application Reviewer
2022	Panelist for "Latina Scholar Panel" Scripps College, Scripps Communities of Resources and Empowerment (SCORE) Center
2021	Panelist for Teaching Event "Teaching about anti-racism, anti-capitalism, and anti-sexism" organized by Drs. Tanya Golash-Boza and Raúl Pérez
2021	Latinx Student Graduation Young Alum Keynote, Duke University Center for Multicultural Affairs
2017-2019	Community College 2 Ph.D. (CC2PhD) Program Graduate Mentor

AD HOC REVIEWER

American Behavioral Scientist, Economic Development Quarterly, Entrepreneurship & Regional Development, City & Community, Cogent Business & Management, Latino Studies, Mobilization: An International Quarterly, Social Problems, Sociological Focus, Sociological Perspectives, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity, The Sociological Quarterly, Qualitative Research

OTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH MEDIA COVERAGE

Featured in "Sanford School faculty celebrate summer of successes."
ASU News. 2024.

Featured in "Latina doctoral candidates are first in their families to pursue PhDs; now they're set for USC graduation," USC News. 2023.

Santellano, Karina. "Conversations about Latina/Latino Sociology," American Sociological Association, Latina/o Sociology Section Spring Newsletter. 2021.

Invited Expert for The Western Planner Conference Mobile Tour hosted by Latinos and Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA)**:** Café y Comunidad: An Exploration of Latinidad in Phoenix's Local Coffee Scene. August 2021.

Guest on “Kneeling and Healing” Weekly Class hosted by Preuss High School teachers TJ Carr and Oscar Ramos. 2020.

Featured in:
Cárdenas, Sofia. 2020. "New Center Headquartered at USC Dornsife Studies COVID-19’s Effect on Families > News > USC Dornsife." *USC Dornsife*. Retrieved September 7, 2020 (https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/3303/center-for-the-changing-family-covid-19-research/).

Highlighted in: “Undergraduates Shine at ESS Conference.” 2015.
https://sociology.duke.edu/news/undergraduates-shine-ess-conference

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Latino Social Science Pipeline Initiative’s Junior Scholar Symposium, UC Berkeley, June 2025.

Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods Institute (IQRMI) for Early Career Faculty, University of Maryland at College Park, June 2024.