

Latinx Social Science Pipeline Initiative at UC Berkeley

Call for Applicants: Junior Scholars Symposium

Deadline for Application: March 1, 2026, 5 pm (PT)

Introduction:

The Latinx Social Science Pipeline Initiative (LSSPI) at the University of California, Berkeley, recognizes the significance of Latinx issues in contemporary US society and is committed to promoting social science research in this vital field. Working with UC Berkeley scholars, students, and staff, LSSPI supports the training and development of social scientists, data analysts, policymakers, and public intellectuals focused on Latino/a communities.

The LSSPI is pleased to announce its 2026 Junior Scholars Symposium. This program is an annual initiative that convenes young scholars working on a dissertation, a book, or another research project related to US and transnational Latino communities.

We encourage graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, lecturers, contingent faculty, and assistant professors to apply for this unique opportunity to advance their ongoing research projects with the guidance of accomplished Latinx social scientists.

The participants in the symposium will receive relevant training and the opportunity to establish networks with leading scholars in their fields of study.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be ABD and enrolled in a social science graduate program in the US or a recent PhD graduate within five years of doctoral completion who currently holds a postdoctoral fellowship, lecturer position, or assistant professorship at a US university or college.
- Applicants must conduct social science research on the US Latinx community in some capacity.

Symposium Details:

- Dates: **May 17-20, 2026**
- Location: UC Berkeley Latinx Research Center, University of California, Berkeley.
- Duration: 3.5 days and 3 nights (inclusive of travel dates).
- The symposium will cover travel and accommodation expenses for all selected Junior Scholars.

Expectations: Junior Scholars selected for the symposium will:

- Engage in intensive workshops to advance their ongoing research projects.
- Receive feedback and mentorship from Latino Social Science Pipeline Project co-leads at UC Berkeley and other esteemed Latinx social scientists.
- Participate in discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the duration of the program and provide feedback to other junior scholars.

- Submit a manuscript (e.g., dissertation chapter, article for journal submission, or chapter for edited volume) three weeks prior to the symposium. Manuscript should be no longer than 30 double-spaced pages.

Application Requirements: Applicants should submit the following materials:

1. A Brief Cover Letter that includes:
 - Personal expectations for the symposium.
 - A sense of the applicant's career goals.
 - Any other relevant personal information the applicant wishes to share with the application committee, including information about mentorship history and needs.
2. A Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. A Research Statement (2-3 pages)
 - Outline of research agenda, interests, and trajectory.
 - Description of 1 or 2 manuscripts that you seek feedback on.
4. One relevant writing sample (e.g., dissertation chapter, article draft). This could be a draft of the manuscript that you would like feedback on, or it could be a closely related piece.
5. A Letter of Recommendation from an academic advisor or faculty mentor.

Application Submission:

Please submit your application materials (cover letter, CV, research statement, and writing sample) in a single PDF document to this [application form](#) no later than March 1, 2026.

The letter of recommendation can be submitted to this [Google Form](#). The letter of recommendation is also due on March 1, 2026.

Notification of Awards:

Successful applicants will be notified in mid-March 2026.

Contact:

For inquiries or additional information, please get in touch with Luis Javier Hernandez at luis.hernandez@berkeley.edu

The Junior Scholars Symposium offers an invaluable opportunity to advance research projects, receive mentorship from experienced scholars, and establish connections with peers in Latinx social science. We look forward to receiving applications from dedicated and passionate Junior Scholars and supporting innovative Latino Social Science projects!