

Veronica Valencia Gonzalez's Bio

Veronica Valencia Gonzalez (They/Them/Theirs/Elle) is a doctoral candidate in Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine. As the first in their family to attend college, Veronica's academic journey is deeply rooted in their parents' migration story from Michoacán to California, where they worked as agricultural laborers. This unique background has significantly shaped Veronica's academic path and aspirations.

Starting their academic career at Allan Hancock Community College, Veronica later transferred to UCI, where they earned dual bachelor's degrees in Criminology, Law & Society, and Psychology & Social Behavior. They chose to continue their education at UCI for their doctorate, drawn by the university's commitment to interdisciplinary and community-engaged research to solve real world problems, which aligns closely with their academic and professional goals.

Veronica's research primarily focuses on the enduring effects of colonial legacies and globalization on marginalized communities, with a special emphasis on women and girls and other minoritized groups in Latin America and beyond. This work has led to significant collaborations and policy discussions with entities like the White House Gender Policy Council, California legislators, UN Women Mexico, and Mexico's El Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres.

During their master's studies, Veronica explored the stigma surrounding mental illness among mental health professionals in Mexico City, gaining valuable insights into the complexities of mental health in professional settings. Their current dissertation research delves into intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural Michoacán and the role of multinational organizations in shaping conceptions of IPV and resources for those impacted by IPV.

A key aspect of Veronica's work involves a collaboration with UN Women Mexico, where they are researching the experiences of women migrants as they journey through Mexico to the US-Mexican border. This project highlights Veronica's commitment to creating a real-world impact through their research.

Veronica has received considerable support and recognition from organizations such as the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, the National Science Foundation, and UC MEXUS. They have also been honored with awards from UC Center Sacramento, the Western Society of Criminology, and the American Society of Criminology.

Veronica's involvement in student representation is a significant aspect of their journey. They have served in various roles within UCI's Department of Criminology, Law & Society, the American Sociological Association's Latina/o Section, and the American Society of Criminology's Division of Feminist Criminology. Currently, as co-chair of LASA's Student Section, Veronica is passionate about advocating for graduate students, especially those from marginalized groups, and fostering inclusive spaces within LASA.

As a candidate for the student representative of the LASA Executive Council, Veronica is committed to enhancing support and opportunities for students and ensuring a more inclusive

and diverse LASA community. Their aim is to leverage their personal and academic experiences to make a meaningful contribution to LASA and its members.

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