CURRICULUM VITAE

JUAN R. PORTILLO-SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Positions: PhD Student, Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin
Program Coordinator for *INSPIRE: Empowering Texas Women Leaders*
Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

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EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology
The University of Texas at Austin (8/12-5/16 *expected graduation date*)

M.A., Women's and Gender Studies (GPA 4.0)
The University of Texas at Austin (8/10-8/12)

Thesis Title: *"Hips Don't Lie: Mexican American Female Students' Identity Construction at The University of Texas at Austin"*

Thesis Supervisor/Second Reader: Joseph Straubhaar / Kristen Hogan

B.B.A., Marketing/Finance
McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin (8/03-12/06)

International Baccalaureate Diploma
Academia Britanica Cuscatleca (San Salvador, El Salvador) (8/01-6/03)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Identity work of undergraduate students of color
Latinidad and Latina identity formation

Intersections of sexuality, gender, race and nationality in undergraduate students
Sexuality and gender identity in undergraduate students
Feminist theory and pedagogy
Chicana Feminisms
Postcolonial/anticolonial theory and methodology
Critical pedagogies in university settings

TEACHING INTERESTS

Undergraduate student experiences and identity formation
Feminist epistemologies and pedagogies
Chicana and postcolonial/anticolonial feminist theories
Latinidad (in terms of race, gender, class, culture and nationality)

RESEARCH AND GRANTS

4/11- 8/12 COMPLETED THESIS RESEARCH

"Hips don't like": Mexican American Female Students' Identity Construction at The University of Texas.

While a university education is sold to students as something anyone can achieve, their particular social location influences who enters this space. Mexican American women, by virtue of their intersecting identities as racialized women in the US, have to adopt a particular identity if they are to succeed through the educational pipeline and into college. In this thesis, I explore the mechanics behind the construction of this identity at The University of Texas at Austin. To understand how this happens, I read the experiences of six Mexican American, female students through a Chicana feminist lens, particularly Anzaldúa's *mestiza consciousness*. I discovered that if Mexicana/Chicana students are to "make it," they have to adopt a "good student, nice Mexican woman" identity. In other words, to be considered good students, Mexican American women must also adopt a code of conduct that is acceptable to the white-centric and middle-class norms that dominate education, both at a K-12 level and at the university level. This behavior is uniquely tied to the social construction of Mexican American women as a threat to the United States because of their alleged hypersexuality and hyperfertility. Their ability to reproduce, biologically and culturally, means that young Mexican women must be able to show to white epistemic authorities that they have their sexuality and gender performance "under control." However, even if they adopt this identity, their presence at the university is policed and regulated. As brown women, they are trespassers of a space that has historically been constructed as white and male. This results in students and faculty engaging in microaggressions that serve to Other the Mexican American women and erect new symbolic boundaries that maintain a racial and gender hierarchy in the university. While the students do not just accept these rules, adopting the identity of "good student, nice Mexican woman" limits how the students can defend themselves from microaggressions or challenge the racial and gender structure. Nevertheless, throughout this thesis I demonstrate that even within the constraints of the limited identity available to the students, they still resist dominant discourses and exercise agency to change their social situation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

4/12 Panel Presenter, Epistemologies of Justice. "Latina Stereotypes and Racialized Sexual Violence: Seeking Justice *Differentially* For The Culture Of Rape As Experienced by Latina College Students" 19th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference, Austin, Texas

11/11 Panel Presenter, Politics of Memories and Futures (subverting the master's tools) "Performing in Blue-face: Colonial fantasies and postmodern anxiety in Avatar." National Women's Studies Association: Feminist Transformations, Atlanta, Georgia

4/11 Panel Presenter, Feminism and Popular Cultural Forms. "Performing in Blue-Face: Colonial fantasies and postmodern identity in Avatar." 18th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference, Austin, Texas

HONORS AND AWARDS

2012 Recruitment Fellowship for Doctoral Studies in Sociology (UT Austin)

Student Employee of The Year Nomination (UT Austin)

2011 Good Neighbor Scholarship for International Students (UT Austin)

Embrey Foundation Women's Human Rights Scholar, Fellowship

2010 CWGS Award of Recognition for Facilitating the INSPIRE Leadership Program

Pre-emptive Recruitment Fellowship for Liberal Arts Graduate Program

2006 Winner of Best Ford Motor Company Marketing Case Study

2005 George H. Mitchell Leadership Award (McCombs School of Business)

2004 Dean's Honor Roll (The University of Texas at Austin)

Richard Warren Mithoff Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Member of the Year, Hispanic Business Student Association

2003 International Baccalaureate Diploma with Honors (San Salvador)

Valedictorian, Academia Britanica Cuscatleca (San Salvador)

2001 International General Certificate of Secondary Education, best results in school history (San Salvador)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2010-present National Women's Studies Association

2008-2010 Fair Trade Resource Network

2007-2010 Fair Trade Federation

2007-2008 American Marketing Association

2003-2006 National Hispanic Business Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Official Representative of UT Austin and Guardian of Four Undergraduate Female Students at NCCWSL 2012 Conference: represented the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at The University of Texas at Austin by accompanying four undergraduate students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland, College Park (June 2012)

Volunteer, First Central American Studies Conference at The University of Texas at Austin: Hosted a panel presenter for the first ever Central American Studies conference at a national level, which took place at UT Austin (March, 2012)

Mentor, Intellectual Entrepreneurial Pre-Graduate School Internship: mentored undergraduate student Andrea Zarate (Journalism and Women's and Gender Studies), program sponsored by College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin (Spring, 2012)

Member, Embrey Foundation Women's Human Rights Scholars: Participated in monthly meetings with other international students to discuss how to link our research to human rights work; personally helped other international students become comfortable with Austin and the university; sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (Fall, 2011 – Spring, 2012)

Mentor, McCombs School of Business Leadership Class: mentored undergraduate student Asmani Patel by overseeing community service and career goals, sponsored by the McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin (Fall, 2011)

Event Organizer and Video Editor, RAINN Day 2011: edited a 35-minute video about sexual assault on college campuses and organized a screening and panel discussion for RAINN Day

2011, sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (September, 2011)

Mentor, Intellectual Entrepreneurial Pre-Graduate School Internship: mentored undergraduate student Christine Adame (Architecture Studies), program sponsored by College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin (Spring, 2011)

Facilitator, Multilingual Monologue Production for INSPIRE leadership program: "Speak: A Multilingual Show," sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (April, 2011)

Volunteer, 8th Annual Abriendo Brecha Activist Scholarship Conference: volunteered to host scholars from El Salvador and California for this international activist conference, sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement Center (February, 2011)

Video Editor, RAINN Day 2010: edited a 30-minute video for RAINN Day 2010, dealing with the topic of sexual assault on college campuses, sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (September, 2010)

Volunteer, TULIP: Texas Undergraduate Leadership Program: helped construct the leadership program with professional communication and professional development components, sponsored by the Center For Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (Fall, 2009 – Spring, 2010)

Volunteer and Video Editor, Fair Trade Towns Austin Chapter: helped organize the first Austin Fair Trade Film Festival by planning part of the event, editing an entire film about Fair Trade crafts in India, and volunteering at the festival (October, 2009)

Professional Partner, Fair Trade Resource Network: held a professional relationship with the Fair Trade Resource Network by helping with, among many things, developing national campaigns to raise awareness and support of Fair Trade, and organizing city events for World Fair Trade Day (2008 – 2010)

Professional Partner, Fair Trade Federation: held a professional relationship with the Fair Trade Federation by helping with, among many things, organizing the national conference in 2008, and contributing to the development of the business strategy in 2009 (2007 – 2010)

English Tutor, Casa Marianella Immigrant Shelter: volunteer English tutor for newly arrived immigrants in Austin, Texas (2007 – 2008)
Mentor, Maplewood Elementary: mentored two elementary students academically and tutored an extra-curricular Japanese class for 5th and 6th graders in Austin, Texas (2005 – 2006)

Executive Officer, Hispanic Business Student Association: Headed 3 committees of undergraduate students, as well as oversaw all membership and public relations operations,

sponsored by the McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin (Fall, 2004 – Spring, 2005)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08/11-Present Program Coordinator, INSPIRE: Empowering Texas Women Leaders:
Led annual strategy for this leadership program; coordinated various social and professional activities and events for 21 undergraduate women; mentored five undergraduate women to conduct a research project at a graduate level and present at a conference; oversaw communication campaigns such as newsletters; created professional development component of the program; hired and trained two graduate students to join the program as facilitators; program sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.

08/10 – 05/11 Program Facilitator, INSPIRE: Empowering Texas Women Leaders:
Facilitated the activities for two different cohorts of 9 undergraduate women in this leadership program; reconceptualized leadership in a global society under feminist lenses for the undergraduate women; created leadership and professional development curriculum for two years; sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.

08/10 – 05/11 Graduate Assistant, Center for Women's and Gender Studies, UT Austin:
Conducted entire rebranding/marketing strategy for TULIP: Texas Undergraduate Leadership Program, successfully resulting in INSPIRE: Empowering Texas Women Leaders; created and conducted weekly electronic newsletter campaign for the center; redesigned several website pages; conducted communications campaigns such as printed newsletters, brochures, and more.

6/11 – 8/11 Graduate Intern, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Research, Law School, The University of Texas at Austin:
Assisted in the development of annual review; conducted research for book on Afro-Colombian land rights; attended weekly meetings on human rights.

01/11 – 05/11 Academic Mentor, UT Athletics:
Mentored two female, 1st year athletes four days a week, two hours a day; prepared academic calendars and cross checked with students' weekly work; revised students' papers and helped them improve their writing; mentored students on how to communicate with professors and TAs; prepared weekly reports on students' progress for Academic Counselors.

08/10 – 12/10 Academic Mentor, UT Athletics:
Mentored three male, 1st year athletes four days a week, two hours a day; prepared academic calendars and cross checked with students' weekly work; revised students' papers and helped them improve their writing; mentored students on

how to communicate with professors and TAs; prepared weekly reports on students' progress for Academic Counselors.

04/07 – 05/10 Marketing Manager, Handmade Expressions Fair Trade LLC:
Designed and conducted the entire marketing strategy by myself for this start-up Fair Trade wholesaler; created marketing communications campaigns including newsletters, printed catalogs, posters, blogs, social media and website content; designed marketing materials using Photoshop and InDesign, and videos using Adobe Premiere; worked in and supported sales, shipping, advertising and trade shows; developed community and industry events.

06/06 – 08/06 Marketing Intern, SITA North America:
Created and maintained website for annual customer conference; managed key areas of annual customer conference: content development, speaker coordination, exhibits layout, and market segmentation for direct mail campaigns.

05/05 – 12/05 National Hispanic Business Association (non-profit):
Coordinated a national conference to enhance the professional development of disenfranchised college students; developed the NHBA Conference program, posters and other promotion needs.