

Angel A. Escamilla García

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Sociology
Yale University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Yale University (2023)

Faculty Affiliate of The Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies (CLAIS) at The MacMillan Center (2023)

Migrations Initiative Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University (2022)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University (2022)

B.A., Social Anthropology, Universidad Veracruzana (2011)

DISSERTATION

“Knowledge, Place, and Experience in the Migrant Journey: How Central American Migrant Youth Negotiate Violence in Mexico” *

- Winner of the 2023 Best Dissertation Award by the Latin American Association – Section Mexico

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Latin American Migration; Childhood and Youth; Qualitative Methods; Violence; Latin American Indigenous Populations; Refugees and Forced Migration; Race and Ethnicity; Research Ethics.

BOOK PROJECT

I am currently in conversation with editors from academic presses regarding my book project *Negotiating Violence: Central American Youth and their Precarious Journeys through Mexico*, which uses four years of multi-site ethnographic data and interviews to analyze how unaccompanied Central American youth migrants negotiate the constant threat of unpreventable violence as they traverse Mexico on their way to the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

2026 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2026. "Language and International Migration: Visualizing the Linguistic Patterns Among Unaccompanied Alien Children Detained in the United States (2014–2016)." *Socins: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*.

2025 Escamilla García, Angel A., and Adriana Cerón. 2025. "Urgent Returns: The Link Between Family and the Re-migration Intentions of Deported Central Americans in an Era of Border Externalization?" *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Science*.

2024* Escamilla García, Angel A. 2024. "The Externalization of Legal Categories: how U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants' Journeys Through Mexico." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

- Winner of Best Article – The New England Council of Latin American Studies 2025

2024 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2024. "Empirical Research and Black Inequality: Monroe Nathan Work's Legacy in the Social Sciences." *Fifty Key Scholars in Black Social Thought* edited by Nazneen Khan. Routledge.

2022* Escamilla García, Angel A. 2022. "The 'Borderlandization' of Mexico: Mexico's New Policies of Deportation and Detention of Minor Migrants and Their Effects on Migrants Movement." *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*.

- Honorable Mention for Best Article – Latin American Studies Association -Section Mexico 2023

2021* Escamilla García, Angel A. 2021. "When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries." *Journal on Migration and Human Security*.

- Winner of the Best Student Paper of the American Sociological Association -Section of Children and Youth 2022

2020 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2020. "Learning to Look Mexican: Central American Minor Migrants and their Strategies to Minimize the Risks of Migration." *Deadly Voyages*, edited by V. Fynn Bruey, S. Bender, and P. Aka. Lexington Press.

2019 Redbird, Beth, and Angel A. Escamilla-García. 2019. "Borders within Borders: The Impact of Occupational Licensing on Immigrant Incorporation." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

2018 Escamilla García, Angel A. and Gary A. Fine. 2018. "Fair Warnings: The Ethics of Ethnography with Children." *Handbook of Ethics in Qualitative Research*, edited by R. Iphofen and M. Tolich. London: SAGE.

BOOK REVIEWS

2024 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2024. "World of Our Mothers: Mexican Revolution–Era Immigrants and Their Stories." *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

2024 Escamilla García, Angel A. 2024. "Precarious Protections: Unaccompanied Minors Seeking Asylum in the United States" *Contemporary Sociology*.

2022 Escamilla-García, Angel A. 2022. "'Religion, race, and COVID-19: Confronting white supremacy in the pandemic'." *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 23 (4): 520-522. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21567689.2022.2146278>.

WORKS AND UNDER REVISION IN PROGRESS

Precarious Step-Wise Migration: The Migrant Journeys of Central American Youth to Avoid Violence and Deportation. In this article, I explore the case of Central American youth who plan to migrate to the United States by taking one or more long pauses as they move through Mexico, instead of trying to reach the U.S. as fast as possible.

The Demographics of Guatemalan Indigenous Unaccompanied Minors. This project uses data received through a FOIA request on unaccompanied alien children (UACs) detained in the U.S. between 2014 and 2020. Based on this voluminous data, I am examining the differences in age, gender, and language spoken among unaccompanied minors, who primarily hail from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. My specific aim is to analyze how the demographics of indigenous youth migrants compare to those of non-indigenous youth.

MEDIA PUBLICATION & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2025 Escamilla García, Angel A. [Opinion: ICE Impersonators Reveal How Official Policy Is Creating Abuse For All Immigrants](#). June 11, 2025

2024 Escamilla García, Angel A. [Mexico's Immigration Crackdown Mirrors the United States](#). *The Progressive Magazine*. December 30, 2024

2024 [Escamilla García, Angel A. "Why Trump's mass deportation plan is a lost cause."](#) *The Fulcrum*. November 4, 2024.

2024 Central American Young Migrants and their Experience of Violence While in Transit Through Mexico. *Childhood and Migration Blog Series*. [The Childhood, Law & Policy Network \(CLPN\)](#) - Queen Mary University of London

2023

[Escamilla García, Angel A. “I study migrants traveling through Mexico to the US and saw how they follow news of dangers – but are not deterred.” The Conversation.](#) June 1, 2023.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

2025 Laura Bassi Scholarship – Faculty

2024 Griswold Faculty Research Grant (\$ 4,085) — The Early Origins of Mexican Migration Through the Lenses of a Pioneer Black Scholar.

2023 2024-2025 Public Voices Fellow of The OpEd Project

2023 Faculty Fellow — Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM) (\$2000)

2023 Best Dissertation Award of The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Section Mexico (\$500)

2022 Prize for Best Article in the humanities of The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) – Honorable Mention

2022 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award — Children and Youth Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA)

2022 Robert F. Winch Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Lecturer

2021 Cornell Center for Social Science (CCSS) Qualitative and Interpretive Research Institute Small Research Grant (\$2,000)

2020 Northwestern Buffett Institute Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship

2019 Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize (\$2,000)

2019 Northwestern Presidential Fellowship (Full fellowship; Northwestern’s highest graduate student honor)

2019 Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR) Fellowship

2018 TGS (The Graduate School) Graduate Research Grant (\$2,681)

2018 Institute for Policy Research Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University

2018 Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award (\$4,711) — “Territories of Movement: The Migration Experiences of Central American Migrant Minors in Mexico”

2018 Buffett Graduate Student Conference Travel Award for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (\$395) — “Unaccompanied Mayan Children and the Journey to the United States.”

2017 TGS Conference Travel Grant for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (\$800) — “Unaccompanied Mayan Children and the Journey to the United States”

2016 Buffett Institute Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grant (\$3,643) — Unaccompanied Minors in Transit: A Comparison of Transit through Mexico and Turkey”

2016 MacArthur Summer Research Grant (\$1,200) — “The Cushion Effect: Transit Countries in International Migration Flows”

2016 EDGS Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (\$2,500) — “Between Borders: The Strategies of Central American Child Migrants and the Insight of Civil Organizations in Mexico and Guatemala”

2016 Alumnae of Northwestern University Grant (\$2,750) — “Between Borders: The Strategies of Central American Child Migrants and the Insight of Civil Organizations in Mexico and Guatemala”

2016 MacArthur Summer Research Grant (\$1,200) — “Fair Warnings: The Ethics of Ethnography with Children”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2025 A Demographic Overview of the Driven Factors in Central American Unaccompanied Minors to the U.S. Population Studies and Training Center - Brown university -November 2025

2025 A Demographic Overview of the Driven Factors in Central American Unaccompanied Minors to the U.S. Central American Sociological Association Annual Conference – Tegucigalpa Honduras- June 2025.

2025 Streaming Migrant Journeys: Comparing Social Media Videos of Chinese and Latin American Migrants Crossing Mexico to the U.S. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session (Chicago)

2024 Race And Ethnicity on The Move: The Demographics Of Mayan And Garifuna Youth Migrants And The Experience Of Their Transit Through Mexico. Latin American Studies Association – 2024.

2024 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” Ethnography Workshop – Sociology Department, Northwestern University, April 2024.

2024 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys”, Penn-Birmingham Transatlantic Fellowship Program (virtual), March, 2024.

2024 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” CUNY Grad Center Colloquium, February 2024

2024 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” Sociology Seminar, Trinity College-Dublin, February 2024.

2023 “The Externalization of Legal Categories: How U.S. Immigration Law Shapes Central American Youth Migrants’ Experiences While in Transit Through Mexico.” The Center for Historical Enquiry & the Social Sciences (Yale-CHESS), September 2023.

2023 A Precarious Step-Wise Migration: Youth Migrant’s Transformation Of Migration Strategies Into a Migration to The U.S. And Its Implication To International Migration. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session (Philadelphia)

2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” University of Connecticut, November 2022

2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Marquette University, 2022

2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Florida State University, 2022

2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” Yale University, November 2022

2022 “When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries” — Tec Week: Diversity in a Globalized World (Virtual), October 2022

2022 “Caravans, Microchips, and Trump: The Role of Rumor in Central American Youths Migrants’ Journeys” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Paper Session (Los Angeles), August 2022

2021 “When Internal Migration Fails: A Case Study of Central American Youth Who Relocate Internally Before Leaving Their Countries” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Session (Virtual), August 2021

2021 “Learning to Look Mexican: Central American Minor Migrants and their Strategies to Minimize the Risks of Migration” — International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Annual Meeting (Virtual), July 2021

2021 “When Internal Migration Fails: Central American Youths’ Attempts to Relocate Internally before Migrating Internationally” — The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (Virtual), April 2021

2020 “The Negotiation of Violence by Central American Youth Migrants Crossing Mexico” — Northwestern Law School (Virtual), October 2020

2020 “When Internal Migration Fails: Central American Youths’ Attempts to Relocate Internally before Migrating Internationally” — University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Department of Sociology (Virtual), September 2020

2019 “One Migration, Two Perspectives: Black and White Sociologists’ Scholarship on the Great Migration, 1890-1930” — American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Session (New York), August 2019

2019 “The Migration Experience of Minors in Transit Through Mexico” — Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project, October 2019

2019 “The Migration Experience of Minors in Transit Through Mexico” — 2nd Annual Binational Institute, Project JUSTICIA, Loyola University Chicago, August 2019

2018 “Central American Migrants Crossing Mexico and the Migrant Caravan” — Northwestern Law School, November 2018

EDITORIAL

- Journal on Migration and Human Security- Editorial Board (2023)
- Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World -Editorial Board (2024)

THESIS DIRECTED - UNDERGRADUATE (SHORT VERSION)

- Anette Diaz (Graduate with Honors)

- Wilhelmina Graff
- Gabrielle Gaboriault
- Sarah Copeland Jimenez
- Gabrielle Carrillo
- Ines Gilles

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

- Instructor, SOCY 305 01 (FA25): Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Yale, Spring 2025)
- Instructor, SOCY 491 01 (FA24): Sociology of International Migration: U.S. and Global Perspectives (Yale, Fall 2024)
- Instructor, SOCY 305 01 (FA24): Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Yale, Fall 2024)
- Instructor, SOCY 491 01 (FA23): Senior Essay and Colloquium (Yale, Fall 2023)
- Instructor, SOCY 305 01 (FA23): Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Yale, Fall 2023)
- Instructor, GDEV 4940: Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Cornell, Fall 2022)
- Instructor, SOC 392: Latin American Immigration to the United States: Present, Past, and Future (Northwestern, Spring 2021) * – Awarded Best Graduate Student Lecturer Prize
- Research Assistant, Dr. Beth Redbird, Occupational Labor Markets and Migration (Northwestern, Winter 2018 and Spring 2019)
- Teaching Assistant, Sociological Analysis (Northwestern, Spring 2018)
- Teaching Assistant, Methods of Observing Human Behavior (Northwestern, Fall 2017 and Winter 2018)
- Teaching Assistant, Class and Culture (Northwestern, 2017 Fall)
- Teaching Assistant, Economy and Society (Northwestern, Spring 2017)
- Teaching Assistant, Sociology of Immigration (Northwestern, Winter 2017)
- Teaching Assistant, Society and Law (Northwestern, Fall 2016)
- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology (Northwestern, Spring 2016)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

- Coordinator for Center for Empirical Research on Equality and Stratification (CERSI) Spring 205.
- Faculty Perspectives for the First-Year Scholars - Yale University(Summer 2025)
- Expert - National Immigrant Legal Responders Alliance (NILRA) and Immigrant Defense and Litigation Fund
- Graduate Admissions – Yale Sociology (Spring 2025)
- Mildred Priest award for best undergraduate thesis in sociology (Spring 2024).
- Best article Award - Latin American Studies Association – Section Mexico – Committee 2024
- Aristide Zolberg Distinguished Student Scholar Award– American Sociological Association - Committee – International Migration Association 2024
- ASA-Regular Session Organizer- Ethnography/Ethnographic Studies for the 118th ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia 2023.
- Reviewer, *International Migration Review, Ethnography, Law & Social Inquiry, Journal on Migration and Human Security, Borderlands, Demography, Frontiers*

- Coordinator, Migrations Scholars Program for Undergraduate Students, Cornell University, Fall 2022 and 2023
- Contract Data Analyst, American Bar Association, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, Texas, 2015–January 2023
- Inaugural Chair, Summer Pathways Program, a summer institute for first-generation students interested in applying for graduate-level studies focused on migration, Cornell University, Summer 2022 and 2023
- Organizer, “Hearing from Editors and Authors,” Special Event of the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association, July 2022
- Coordinator, Mentoring and Professionalization Sub-committee, International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA) 2021-2022
- Expert Witness on Central American Indigenous Migration, Case Details Confidential, 2020
- Chair, 21st Chicago Ethnography Conference, “Issues of Gender in Ethnography,” Evanston, Illinois, 2019
- Paralegal, American Bar Association, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Children’s Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, Texas, 2012–2014
- Research Assistant, Dr. Jacqueline Hagan of UNC Chapel Hill, Guanajuato, Mexico, Summer 2010
- Research Assistant and Community Coordinator, Community Service Branch of the Universidad Veracruzana (“Casas UV”), Tlapala, Veracruz, 2007–2008