

Nicholas Vargas

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University of Florida
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Position

- 2015- Assistant Professor, University of Florida
Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law
Center for Latin American Studies
- 2013-2015 Assistant Professor of Sociology, The University of Texas at Dallas
Faculty Associate: Interdisciplinary Center for U.S.-Latin American Initiatives

Education

- 2013 Ph.D. in Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
Thesis: *Racial Contestation and the Multi-Dimensionality of Race*
- 2009 M.A. in Sociology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
Thesis: *Religion, Non-Religion, and Social Trust*
- 2006 B.A. in Sociology and Criminal Justice (Double Major)
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg, PA.

Research Areas

Race and Ethnicity, Latina/o Sociology, Educational Inequalities, Network Diversity and Social Support

Honors and Awards

- 2015 Honorable Mention-UT Dallas School of EPPS Teaching Award
2014 Honorable Mention-UT Dallas School of EPPS Teaching Award
2012 Most Distinguished Article, American Sociological Association, Section on Religion
2012 Best Graduate Student Paper, American Sociological Association, Section on Religion
2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, Department of Sociology, Purdue University
2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper (Co-Winner), Sociology, Purdue University
2009 Benjamin Gorman Graduate Student Paper Award, Sociology, University of Florida
2006 Most Outstanding Student, Department of Sociology, Bloomsburg University
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Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

*Graduate Student Mentee Co-authors

Schafer, Markus H. and Nicholas Vargas. 2016. "The Dynamics of Social Support Inequality: Maintenance Gaps by Race and Socioeconomic Status?" *Social Forces*, 94(4): 1795-1822.

Vargas, Nicholas and Jared Kingsbury*. 2016. "Racial Identity Contestation: Mapping and Measuring Racial Boundaries" *Sociology Compass*, 10(8): 718-729.

Vargas, Nicholas and Kevin Stainback. 2016. "Documenting Contested Racial Identities among Self-Identified Latina/os, Asians, Blacks, and Whites." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 60(4): 442-464.

Trieu, Monica, Nicholas Vargas, and Roberto G. Gonzales. 2016. "Transnational Patterns among Latina/o American and Asian American Children of Immigrants." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 42(7): 1177-1198.

*Sanchez, Esmeralda, Nicholas Vargas, Rebecca Burwell, Jessica Martinez, Milagros Peña, and Edwin I. Hernandez. 2016. "Latina/o Congregations and Youth Educational Expectations." *Sociology of Religion*, 77(2): 171-192.

Vargas, Nicholas. 2015. "Latina/o Whitening?: Which Latinas/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Other Americans?" *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*. 12(1): 119-136.

[Featured in Media Outlets including: NBC News, La Opinion (largest U.S. Spanish language newspaper), The American Prospect, National Institute for Latino Policy, and others.]

Hu, Anning and Nicholas Vargas. 2015. "Economic Consequences of Horizontal Stratification in Postsecondary Education: Evidence from Urban China." *Higher Education*, 70(3): 337-358.

Vargas, Nicholas. 2014. "Off White: Colorblind Ideology at the Margins of Whiteness." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 37(13): 2281-2302. (Lead Article)

Vargas, Nicholas and Markus H. Schafer. 2013. "Diversity in Action: Interpersonal Networks and the Distribution of Advice." *Social Science Research*, 42(1): 46-58.

Vargas, Nicholas. 2012. "Retrospective Accounts of Religious Disaffiliation in the U.S.: Stressors, Skepticism, and Political Factors." *Sociology of Religion* 73(2): 200-223.

Vargas, Nicholas and Matthew T. Loveland. 2011. "Befriending the 'Other': Patterns of Social Ties Between the Religious and Non-Religious." *Sociological Perspectives*, 54(4): 713-731.

* **'Most Distinguished Article' Award-American Sociological Association's Religion section**

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Sechrist Jori, Jill Sutor, Nicholas Vargas and Karl Pillemer. 2011. "The Role of Religious Similarity in the Quality of Mother-Adult Child Relations: Differences Within Families and Between Racial Groups." *Research on Aging* 33(1):3-27. (Lead Article)

Grants and Proposals

External

2016 Role: Principal Investigator

The Growth of Hispanic Serving Institutions in Higher Education. Latino Center for Leadership Development/Tower Center at Southern Methodist University—Requested \$10,000 (under review).

2016 Role: Consultant

PI's: Isar Godreau, Jose Caraballo—University of Puerto Rico-Cayey
Skin Color, Ethno-Racial Classification and Health Disparities among Latinos in Florida and Puerto Rico. National Science Foundation—R15
Requested \$369,089 (unfunded)

Internal

2016 UF Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations Course Development Grant, Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Course: *Latina/os and Race in the U.S*—Received \$500

2013 *Racial Contestation and the Multidimensionality of Race*, Purdue Research Foundation Dissertation Grant—Received \$15,750

2013 *Racial Contestation and the Multidimensionality of Race*, Bilslund Dissertation Grant, Purdue University—Awarded but Declined \$7500

Manuscripts in Progress

Vargas, Nicholas. *Racing to Serve, or 'Race'-ing for Money: Emerging Hispanic Serving Institutions and Latina/os in Higher Education*

Vargas, Nicholas. "Paying the Price: College Affordability among DACA-mented and Undocumented College Students"

Vargas, Nicholas, Lance Hannon and Robert DeFina "Changes in Latina/o Racial Identity: Fluidity or Ambivalence?" *Working Project*

Vargas, Nicholas. "Supposed Latina/o Whitening and Colorblind Ideology Adherence." *Working Project*.

Invited Presentations

- 2016 Invited Panelist. "Abrazos: Embracing our Aspirations and Elevating our Communities." Latino Studies Summer Institute. West Palm Beach School District, West Palm, FL.
- 2015 Invited Panelist. "Student Forum Workshop. Ten Things I Wish I Knew in Graduate School: Advice from Assistant Professors." American Sociological Association Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Invited Critic, Author Meets Critic (Flores-Yeffal, Nadia, *Migration-Trust Networks: Social Cohesion in Mexican U.S.-Bound Emigration*) Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2014 Texas A&M, Racial and Ethnic Studies Institute Colloquia Series. "When Others Disagree: Documenting Perceived Racial Contestation and its Implications for Racial Identity Characteristics."
- 2014 Measuring the Diverging Components of Race Conference, College Station TX. "Latina/o Whitening? Which Latina/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Other Americans?"
- 2014 Association for the Sociology of Religion Professional Development Workshop. "Broadening the Scope: Specialization and the Sociology Job Market." San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 Invited Panelist. UT Dallas Hispanic Heritage Month: The Latino Experience. "Finding Our Voice."
- 2013 Southern Illinois University, Department of Sociology Colloquia Series. "Racial Contestation and Colorblind Ideology at the Margins of Whiteness"
- 2010 Bloomsburg University, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work Professional Development Workshop. "Preparing for Graduate School in the Social Sciences."

Conference Presentations

- 2016 Vargas, Nicholas. "Latina/os, Skin-tone and Colorblind Ideology Adherence." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- 2016 Vargas, Nicholas, Lance Hannon and Robert DeFina. "Racial Fluidity or Ambivalence about Available Survey Options? Controversy in the Sociological Meaning of Changes in Latina/o Racial Self-Identification." Presented at the Latina/o Studies Association Meeting in Pasadena, CA.

- 2015 Vargas, Nicholas and Kevin Stainback. "Documenting Racial Contestation and its Implications for Racial Identity Characteristics." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Vargas, Nicholas. "Latina/o Whitening? Which Latina/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Others?" Presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2014 Vargas, Nicholas. "When are Latinas/os Whitened? Mapping Elements of the White-Latino Boundary." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in Charlotte, NC.
- 2014 Vargas, Nicholas and Kevin Stainback. "When Others Disagree: Documenting Perceptions of Racial Contestation."
Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in San Francisco, CA.
[Thematic/Plenary Session] Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in San Antonio, TX.
- 2012 Vargas, Nicholas. "Off White? Racial Contestation and Colorblind Ideology Adherence among Self-Identified Whites." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2012 Vargas, Nicholas. "Structural and Interpersonal Racism Attitudes among Whites with Contested Racial Identities." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- 2011 Vargas, Nicholas and Markus H. Schafer. "Interpersonal Network Diversity and the Distribution of Advice." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 Vargas, Nicholas. "Religious Change as a Process: Differentiating Religious Leavers and Religious Stayers." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- 2009 Sechrist, Jori, J. Jill Sutor, Nicholas Vargas and Karl Pillemer. 2009. "The Role of Religious Similarity in the Quality of Parent-Child Relations: Differences within Families and between Races." Presented at the Gerontological Society of America in Atlanta GA.
- 2009 Vargas, Nicholas and Matthew T. Loveland. "Crossing Boundaries: Determinants of Heterotheistic Ties." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference in Denver CO.

Teaching

- 2015– Present Assistant Professor, University of Florida
Minorities in American Society
Introduction to Latina/o Studies
Principles of Sociology
U.S. Latina/os in Contemporary Society (Graduate Seminar)
- 2013 – 2015 Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at Dallas
Race & Ethnicity
Class, Status, and Power
Contemporary Social Issues
Introduction to Sociology
- 2009-2013 Instructor, Purdue University
Race & Ethnicity
Social Problems
Introduction to Sociology
- 2008-2009 Instructor, University of Florida
Social Problems

Advising

Committee Chair

Stephanie Dhuman, PhD in Sociology, UF (current)

Topic: Puerto Rican Migration to “Little Puerto Rico,” Poinciana, FL

Stephanie Gomez, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF (current)

Topic: Engaging Disconnected Latina/o Youth

Jared Kingsbury (Co-Chair) M.A. in Sociology, UF (current)

Topic: Wisdom and Colorblind Ideology

Carissa Cullum, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF (current)

“Latina/o Identity Formation in Pan-Ethnic and Multicultural Organizations” (current)

Diana Moreno, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF (current)

“Se ve, Se Siente: How the Organizational Structure of Make the Road New York Promotes the Political Integration of Undocumented Latina/o Immigrants in New York City.”

(Graduated Spring 2016; Current Program Coordinator for Hispanic-Latina/o Affairs at the University of Florida)

Esmeralda Sanchez, M.A. in Sociology, UT Dallas

“The Latino Church and Education: Studying Educational Expectations among Latino Youth Congregants.” (Graduated Spring 2014; Current PhD Student at Rice University)

Committee Member

Rosa Pillcurima, PhD in Spanish, UF (Current)

Eliza Alvarado, PhD in Public Affairs, University of Texas at Dallas (Graduated Spring 2014)

Service and Memberships

International

2015 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Impact Grant Reviewer

National

2014 U.S. Census Bureau Hispanic/Latino Classification List Reviewer

Profession

2016-2017 Chair, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Southern Sociological Society

2015-2018 Member, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Southern Sociological Society

2015-2016 Organizer & Presider, SSS Panel on Navigating the Job Market for Faculty of Color

2015-2016 American Sociological Association, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Founders Award Committee

2012-present Presider/Discussant, ASA Section of Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Race Gender and Class Section, Latina/o Sociology Section, Regular Sessions

2011-present Manuscript Reviewer:

American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Problems, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity, Social Science Research, Sociological Perspectives, Social Currents, Social Science Quarterly, Sociology of Religion, Sociological Inquiry, Qualitative Sociology, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

University of Florida

2016-2018 Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law

2016-present Student Organization Internship Supervisor, Latin American Studies

2016-present Graduate Internship Curriculum Organizer, Latin American Studies

2016 Field Research Clinic Award Committee, Center for Latin American Studies

2016 Graduate Admissions Committee, Center for Latin American Studies

2015-present Latina/o Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Center for Latin American Studies

2015-present Organizer, UF Latina/o Studies Lecture Series

2015-2016 Charles Wood Thesis Award Committee, Center for Latin American Studies

University of Texas at Dallas

2014-2015 Faculty Associate, Center for U.S.-Latin American Initiatives

2014-2015 UTD Hispanic Student Success Initiative

2013-2015 Sociology/Public Affairs Program Committee, UTD

2013-2015 Faculty Advisor, Sociology Club, UTD

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association

Latina/o Sociology Section

Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section

Sociology of Religion Section

Latina/o Studies Association

Southern Sociological Society
