



## 2018 WCU Latina/o Communities Conference Program session abstracts

### 1) **Migration as Transformation: Assessing Migrant Experiences Here and There (Aquí y Allá)**

Kathleen Weber, WCU Political Science-International Relations Major, Linda Stevenson, WCU Political Science-International Relations

Session presenting findings from a WCU Summer 2018 Undergrad Research Institute (SURI) project which includes an overview of the range of indicators used in recent social science literatures from across different disciplines, from which a survey was constructed. The session includes time to discuss transformations “here and there” to try to improve policy proposals locally, for the state of Pennsylvania, nationally and internationally with Mexico.

### 2) **Migrant Farm Worker Wellness Checks**

Katie Kuffner, Chester County Health Department (CCHD), Julie Funk, Chester County Hospital – Penn Medicine, Laura Mackiewicz, La Comunidad Hispana

The Hispanic community is vastly underserved in the area of diabetes prevention and management healthcare services. In 2018, Chester County Hospital in collaboration with La Comunidad Hispana, and the Chester County Health Department provided Wellness Checks at Kaolin Mushroom Farm sites, as part of a program to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Health concerns include abnormal blood sugars levels, overweight or obesity, and high blood pressure or pre-hypertension.

### 3) **The Ethics of Bilingual Inter-Professional Collaborative Care**

Pablo Arriaza, WCU Undergraduate Social Work

Providing IPC (Inter-Professional Collaboration) health care services to people with a language difference is challenging. Medical organizations have been left to interpret governmental language services policies, resulting in many people with a language difference being marginalized and provided with incongruent, and at times lethal medical services when compared to English-speaking patients. The roles and responsibilities of social workers within IPC are central to addressing these incongruent medical services, reducing or eliminating oppressive factors, and equalizing power-differentials.

### 4) **New Teacher Induction and Strategies for ELs,**

Susan Silver, Upper Merion Area School District, Angela Della Valle, Upper Merion Area School District & West Chester University

This workshop will facilitate new teacher professional development with an emphasis on pedagogy of student achievement for all students and training and supporting new teachers in teaching students with limited language proficiency. Outcomes include: understanding the importance of supporting teachers to be effective educators for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, developing plans for maximizing the achievement of these students, and identifying steps necessary for planning a culturally responsive job-embedded professional development experience for new teachers.

### 5) **Bilingualism and Careers Panel**

Michele Belliveau, WCU Undergraduate Social Work, Linda Stevenson, WCU Political Science, Ana Sanchez, WCU Languages and Cultures, David Reyes-Farias, WCU Spanish, Kimberly Alegria, Kristen Peck, and Alexandra Boland, WCU Alumni, WCU Career Services

This panel will explore the versatility of bilingual skills and second-language proficiency for careers and the job market. Bilingual WCU Alumni working in different fields will discuss their experiences, while faculty and staff from Career Services will describe some of the resources and opportunities available to students, alumni, and practitioners in the field.

### 6) **“Puerto Rico Se Levanta”: Humor, Popular Culture, and Political Discourse in the Post-Hurricane Crisis**

Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum, WCU Languages and Cultures

This session explores humor, popular culture, and political discourse during the post-hurricane crisis in Puerto Rico, when crisis-themed internet memes inundated the virtual spheres. Before and after hurricane Maria, Puerto Ricans created and

disseminated memes that use humor to comment on political issues. This session analyzes how memes employ “multimodal grammar” (images and captions) to transmit ideas and opinions on topics such as sovereignty, corruption, privatization, migration, political figures, and oppression in Puerto Rico.

### **7) Equity, Inclusion, and Culturally Sustaining Practices at the Reading School District**

Waldo V. Alvarado, Wanda Gonzalez-Crespo, Reading School District

This interactive session will address the Reading School District’s multi-year collective journey towards Equity, Inclusion, and Culturally Sustaining Practices to support the success of ALL its 17,600 culturally and linguistically diverse students. Specific implementation details will be presented with a special focus on the utilization of the Deep Equity framework to address the needs of historically underserved students; especially the English Language Learners.

### **8) (Not So) White Lies: Trump’s Conflation of ‘Illegal Immigration’ with ‘Mexicans’ During an Era of Declining Migration from Mexico**

Justin D. García, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Donald Trump has made opposition to undocumented immigration and advocacy for restrictive immigration proposals central to his domestic and international policy agendas. Trump’s rhetoric and policy proposals explicitly targeted Mexicans, constructing illegal immigration as a “Mexican problem” in order to attract political support, capitalizing on a popular political and media construction of a complex phenomenon – the trope of undocumented immigrants as allegedly freeloading and criminal-prone common in right-wing political circles.

### **9) The Persistence of Sanctuary: Ancient Roots, Modern Applications, Contemporary Challenges**

Tara Carr-Lemke, Rutgers University – Camden

Prompted by Donald Trump’s campaign pledges and rhetoric around immigration, municipalities, college campuses, houses of worship, and entire states declared themselves a “sanctuary” for immigrants. However, sanctuary does not enjoy an established legal meaning that affords immediate protection to immigrants. The idea of sanctuary persists in the US due to a combination of historical and cultural factors. Potential challenges for continued use of sanctuary beyond acknowledged modern standard use and outside of a religiously-mediated definition, such as in “sanctuary city” policy will be discussed.

### **10) Two cultures, one identity: Struggle of belonging in American Born Chinese and Gringa!**

Moisés Hassan Bendahan, Stony Brook University

Early 20th Century, immigrants found a space to express themselves in comic books. Examples of this phenomenon are the graphic novel “American Born Chinese” by Gene Luen Yang and the mini comic “Gringa!” by Kat Fajardo. Asian Americans and Latin Americans or Latinxs are hyphen identities with specific connotations of a very long history behind them, so it would be difficult to compare. However, first generation children of those ethnicities present a struggle of belonging to two different cultures with plenty of similarities.

### **11) “Woman. No Apologies”: Reclamation of the Female Voice in the US Mexico Borderlands**

Claire M Massey, Saarland University, Germany

This presentation examines how the poet Viva Flores’ works “Proclamation!” and “Woman. No Apologies” speak to what Gloria Anzaldúa articulates as the “herida abierta [open wound]” of the US Mexico borderlands. Viva Flores’ poetry presents a resistance strategy and reveals the crippling effects of globalization, border security, and discourses of illegality on the women of La Mujer Obrera, a female organization run for and by displaced im/migrant women. It also celebrates how border communities operate as agents of change, transformation, and resistance.

### **12) Pioneers: Mexican Immigrant Women, Home-Making Process, Belonging and Resilient Strategies in New Destination**

Carmen Guerrero, Coalición Fortaleza Latina; Veronica Montes, Bryn Mawr College

This study reflects on belonging and its relationship to place, migration and home at a moment of an intensification of xenophobic discourses in the United States by examining community-building activities developed by the Coalición Fortaleza Latina, a grassroots group of Latino migrants in the Philadelphia area. The study closely examines the role women play in the planning, execution and follow-up of such activities as a community garden, workshops on issues, and a community savings project and through which they develop and claim a sense of belonging in the new society.

### **13) From the Ivory Tower to the Street, Justice Conversations**

Brian O’Neill, WCU Criminal Justice; Luis “Suave” Gonzalez, Nu-Stop Recovery and Educational Center

Louis “Sauve” Gonzalez and Dr. Brian O’Neill will be presenting the story of their partnership on USALA radio. Professor O’Neill met Mr. Gonzalez in 2005 while teaching a course for Villanova at Graterford Prison, where Mr. Gonzalez was confined for more than 30 years. Mr. Gonzalez was paroled last year when the Supreme Court invalidated life without parole

sentences for juveniles. He earned a degree from Villanova while incarcerated and currently is the executive director of Nu-Stop, a rehabilitation and support center in Philadelphia.

**14) Community Engagement through the Arts. Lessons from three years in El Barrio**

Daniel Egusquiza, Arleny Pimentel, Valois Joubert, Jonathan Tinoco, Barrio Alegria

Barrio Alegria seeks to widen the consultation, participation, and impact of art programming in relation to sustainability initiatives and issues as identified by the STAR assessment of the city of Reading. These projects predominantly engage young “Latinx” persons from 16-35 in intergenerational experiences exposing them to multiple aspects of Latinx culture and inviting them to investigate the distinct immigration experience and the various social justice issues through its community theater program that engages them in the production of locally written pieces using diverse dance forms.

**15) Bridging Communication Gaps for Immigrants and Meeting National Foreign Language Standards through Service Learning,**

Andrea Varricchio, WCU Languages and Cultures, Miriam Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Spanish major, Hannah Kaptur, Early Grades Preparation, PreK-4 major

WCU students of Spanish serving as interpreters and translators who help make education and health care more accessible to Hispanic immigrants in our community. The presentation will explain the academic requirements of service learning and demonstrate how the methodology is implemented in the Language Internship course of the Department of Languages and Cultures at WCU. The presentation will demonstrate the pedagogical value of bilingual service-learning and will show how the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning are met through service-learning in the community classroom.

**16) Underwater Dreams – Film Screening**

Carmen Pacheco, Christine Miller, West Chester Area School District

A widely acclaimed docudrama of how the sons of undocumented Mexican immigrants learned how to build an underwater robot from Home Depot parts. Two energetic high school science teachers enter their high school, a Title I school where most of the students live in poverty, into a sophisticated underwater robotics competition sponsored by the NASA and the Office of Naval Research, among others. Four boys signed up for the competition, and with enthusiasm and verve, they successfully defeat engineering powerhouse MIT in the process.

**17) Do We Want Mushrooms In Our Melting Pot? : Arbitrary Gatekeeping and the Reconstruction of the National Identity in the United States**

David Reyes-Farias, WCU Spanish

This study analyzes and frames the boundaries of the United States’ national identity, primarily focusing on Mexicans and Mexican-Americans. Divided in two parts, this study focuses on how the migrants and US-born Mexicans define the word American. Kennett Square, PA serves as an example of a multicultural space for this study and is compared with the 1987 film written and directed by Cheech Marin *Born in East LA* to juxtapose how little identity politics have changed regarding Mexicans and Mexican Americans across a span of three decades.

**18) Padres Latinos del Distrito Escolar del Area de West Chester: A cultural bridge between our schools and the Spanish speaking families in the West Chester Area School District**

Sandra Bradley, Veronica Ortiz, Caterina Vilches, Padres Latinos del Distrito Escolar del Area de West Chester

Padres Latinos, a parent volunteer group formed in 2014 with the purpose of working with parents, teachers and administrators in the West Chester Area School District. It was created in response to a need to bridge a cultural and communication gap between Latino families and the school district. A safe forum for parents to network, bridge cultural differences and discuss their children’s education in a primary language provides a greater opportunity for parents to understand the school system and helps provide the children with a comprehensive inclusion in the school environment.

**19) Making Connections: Latino/a Communities and Wilson College (Franklin County, PA)**

Kathleen Cunniffe Pena, Jamie Burnett, Wilson College

This panel will discuss the organizing efforts of the Chambersburg Latino/a community and ways in which Wilson College, has attempted to make connections between its students and this community. Wilson College together with Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12 created Learning Campus, an after-school tutoring program for the children of migrant workers. The panel will discuss community organizing efforts in Franklin County, the evolving role of Learning Campus on Wilson’s campus, and the benefits and challenges of engaging students with the local community.

## **20) WCU Admissions 101**

Margaret Toolan, WCU Admissions Office

West Chester University is dedicated to fostering and developing an inclusive and welcoming campus community to Latinos and all minority students. This session will be geared toward prospective students who may be interested in attending West Chester University. WCU undergraduate application procedures and the admissions process will be reviewed and discussed.

## **21) Immigration Law in the Era of Trump: Hurdles and Triumphs**

Lindsey Sweet and Alicia Anguiano, Sweet & Paciorek Law Offices, LLC

The Trump presidency has brought about significant changes in immigration law, policy, and enforcement within the United States. In this era of challenges for immigrants in America, advocates are pushing back to secure the legal and human rights of all people in America, including immigrants. In this presentation, we will discuss some of the anti-immigrant hurdles advocates have encountered in the fight to protect the rights of all people, including undocumented immigrants. We will also discuss the successes advocates have achieved on behalf of immigrants.

## **22) Manejando su Estrés: Lessons Learned in a Primary Care Behavioral Health Model**

Courtney Erroa Abner Santiago, Anna Roosevelt, Meredith Sullivan, La Comunidad Hispana

La Comunidad Hispana uses the primary care behavioral health (PCBH) model to address issues such as trouble sleeping, substance use, parenting challenges, relationship issues, domestic violence, weight loss or gain, in a trauma-informed way in primary care. Social assistance and health center teams screen LCH members for depression and other risk factors including substance use and domestic violence, provide psychoeducation on topics like depression, anxiety and other mental illness, and work alongside the primary care providers to manage ongoing concerns.

## **23) Mental Health Stressors, Recovery, and the Use of Digital Media in Puerto Rico: The Case of Hurricane Maria**

Barbe Fogarty, Candy Madrigal, James Wilkie, Lisa Lowrie, Kutztown University

A team from Kutztown University Social Work Department travelled to Puerto Rico in March 2018 to provide on-the-ground support and conduct research in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. This study explored the trauma and mental health stressors caused by interruptions in of information and communication technology in the aftermath of a post Hurricane Maria recovery including. Members of the team will relate their observations of the recovery and discuss preliminary findings of their research project.

## **24) Muros abajo, conocimiento para todos: Círculos comunitarios de empoderamiento [Walls Down, Knowledge for All: Community Circles for Empowerment]**

Holly Link, Obed Arango, Diana Lugo, Lupita Castillo, Laura Sanchez, Lourdes Flores, Mariana Castro, Horacio De La Luz, Jenny Bonilla, Salvador González, María Alcántara, Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo y Educación (CCATE)

CCATE is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower Latinx immigrant families in and around Norristown, PA. In an interactive presentation, CCATE members will share about their participation in weekly community circles, guided by Paolo Freire's philosophy and methods for liberatory education, which include participatory research, reading, painting and photography circles. The session will engage attendees in a dialogue about community development for social transformation within and for immigrant communities with the goal of sharing and collaboration.

## **25) Hands-On, Minds-On! Using WCU Cap Kits in Central and South America to Promote Students' Emergent Literacy & Math Skills**

Donna Sanderson, WCU Early & Middle Grades Education

Learn how a WCU Education professor, along with her students, have created award-winning Cap Kit learning materials to help train teachers and teach students both in the US and in many Latin American countries. The kits create learning manipulatives using bottle caps to help support emergent literacy and math skills for Spanish speaking and bilingual youngsters, all supported by learning standards. Cap Kits were brought to Mal País, Costa Rica and Ventanilla, Peru during Service-Learning Spring Break trips.

## **26) Spanish in the Public Sphere: A Linguistic Landscapes Class Project**

Isabel Maria Kentengian, Jessica S. Figueroa, The College of New Jersey

This session presents a linguistic landscapes project carried out by two cohorts of bilingual students who investigated the public use of Spanish in their communities to understand how these languages are used and what they represent for the community, documenting through photography uses of languages in public spaces throughout New Jersey. Implications of this research for work with both Latinx/Hispanic and non-Hispanic students to study issues of equity, social justice and language rights will be explored.

**27) Telling Untold Stories: The Puerto Ricans in Trenton Oral History Project**

Ann Warner Ault, Ivett Figueroa, Deysi Martinez, The College of New Jersey

The faculty and students at The College of New Jersey along with Puerto Rican community leaders in Trenton have gathered 18 oral histories with the aim of recovering stories of Puerto Rican residents that are largely absent from both history books and the Trenton historical record. The stories of the first “Puerto Rican Pioneers” highlight ways in which the Puerto Rican community has helped to create a more hospitable environment in Trenton for newer Latin American immigrants.

**28) Latin American Liberation Theology as Guide to Social Justice: The Catholic Young Lords on the Streets of Rizzo’s Philadelphia**

Adán Stevens-Diaz, Temple University

This presentation focuses on the Young Lords as examples of Gramscian organic intellectuals within Post-Vatican Catholicism. The Philadelphia branch of the Young Lords used Socialist ideology and Latin American Liberation theology in their struggles for the Puerto Rican community linking local or micro-historical concerns to a global or macro-historical relevance. The Lords placed Catholicism on side of justice representing a competition for the hearts, minds and soul of the Puerto Rican community and the Catholic faith.

**29) Propuesta didáctica para la enseñanza del español como lengua de herencia [Didactic Proposal for Teaching Spanish as a Heritage Language]**

Ángel Carrión Tavárez, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras

This presentation consists of an academic discussion about the use of author songs and a blog for the teaching of Spanish as a Heritage Language or as a Second Language. It will be based on the experiences of a group of students of Hispanic descent from the United States, invited to study their bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico. The researcher will share his method and results with education professionals, who need to address situations of bilingualism in their classrooms. Presentation conducted Spanish with English interpretation.

**30) Community programs and services for immigrant families**

Milena Lanz, Cecilia Arce, Andrea Jimenez, Alma Vidal, Chester County Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

The rising poverty in Chester County leaves many Hispanic and African American women without access to basic resources. The Chester County Maternal and Child Health Consortium’s (MCHC) works to reduce poor birth outcomes by improving access to prenatal and pediatric care for women and children and increasing enrollment into health insurance and public benefits through Healthy Start services.

**31) Learning about Lyme Disease among Latinos in Chester County: A Needs Assessment of Key Informants**

Debra Bill, WCU Department of Health, Rosymar Magana, WCU Department of Health

This study seeks to increase the understanding of Lyme Disease (LD) among Latinos in Chester County and to help guide future LD awareness and education programs. The presentation will discuss the results of the study’s in-depth interviews including: 1) provider views and perceptions on LD; 2) testing and treatment issues for LD, as well as barriers to treatment for Latinos, 3) populations at highest risk for LD among the Latino community; 4) educational resources on LD for Latinos, and 5) the need for additional culturally tailored resources on LD awareness and education programs for Latinos.