

GABRIELA LEÓN-PÉREZ, PhD

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Updated: September 2023

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018-present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. in Sociology, Vanderbilt University
2015 M.A. in Sociology, Vanderbilt University
2012 M.A. in Sociology, Texas A&M International University
2008 B.A. in International Studies, *Cum Laude*, Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

International migration, internal migration, medical sociology, population health, indigenous health, racial/ethnic health disparities, quantitative and qualitative research methods.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Santana, Arlenis, Chelsea Derlan Williams, Adriana J. Umaña-Taylor, Laudan B. Jahromi, Kimberly A. Updegraff, Rosalie Corona, and **Gabriela León-Pérez**. “A Longitudinal Test of Mexican-Origin Teen Mothers’ Cultural Characteristics and Children’s Spanish Vocabulary via Mothers’ Spanish Language Use.” *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000603>
- 2022 **León-Pérez, Gabriela**. “Health after Internal Migration: The Role of Age at Migration, Motivations, and Place of Origin and Destination.” In *Healthcare in Latin America: History, Society, Culture*, edited by D. Dalton and D. Weatherford. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.
- 2022 **León-Pérez, Gabriela**, Evelyn J. Patterson, and Larissa Coelho. “Legal Status History, Gender, and the Health of Latino Immigrants in the U.S.” *International Migration* 60(5):3-22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.12925>
- 2021 **León-Pérez, Gabriela**, Caroline Richards, and Amy L. Non. “Precarious Work and Parenting Stress Among Mexican Immigrant Women in the United States.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 83: 881–897. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12761>
- 2020 Moreno, Oswaldo, Miriam Ortiz, Lisa Fuentes, Dina Garcia, and **Gabriela León-Pérez**. “‘Vaya con Dios’: The Influence of Religious Constructs on Stressors Around the Migration Process & U.S. Lived Experiences among Latina/o Immigrants.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 17(3961). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17113961>
- 2019 **León-Pérez, Gabriela**. “Internal Migration and the Health of Indigenous Mexicans: A Longitudinal Study.” *SSM-Population Health* 8(August). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100407>
- 2019 McGee, Ebony, William H. Robinson, Dara Naphan-Kingery, Stacey Lamar Houston II, and **Gabriela León-Pérez**. “Determinants of Mental Health and Career Trajectories: Rationale and Design of the Engineering and Computing Doctoral Experiences Survey (ECDES).” In *Diversifying STEM: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Race and Gender*, edited by E.O. McGee and W.H. Robinson. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

- 2018 Donato, Katharine M., **Gabriela León-Pérez**, Kenneth A. Wallston, and Sunil Kripalani. "Something Old, Something New: When Gender Matters in the Relationship Between Social Support and Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 59(3):352-370.
- 2018 Young, Maria-Elena, **Gabriela León-Pérez**, Christine R. Wells, and Steven P. Wallace. "More Inclusive States, Less Poverty Among Immigrants? An Examination of Poverty, Citizenship Stratification, and State Immigrant Policies." *Population Research and Policy Review* 37(2):205-228. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-018-9459-3>
- 2017 Young, Maria-Elena, **Gabriela León-Pérez**, Christine R. Wells, and Steven P. Wallace. "Inclusive State Immigrant Policies and Health Insurance among Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, and White Noncitizens in the United States." *Ethnicity and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2017.1390074>
- 2017 Non, Amy L., **Gabriela León-Pérez**, Holly Glass, Emma Kelly, and Nanibaa' A. Garrison. "Stress Across Generations: A Qualitative Study of Stress, Coping, and Caregiving Among Mexican Immigrant Mothers." *Ethnicity and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2017.1346184>
- 2017 Donato, Katharine M. and **Gabriela León-Pérez**. "Educación, Género, y Migración de Colombia y México a Estados Unidos." [Education, Gender, and Migration from Colombia and Mexico to the United States] Pp. 179-202 in *Migración Internacional Patronos y Determinantes: Estudios Comparados Colombia-America Latina - Proyecto LAMP*, edited by M.G. Roa Martínez. Cali, Colombia: Universidad del Valle.
- 2016 **León-Pérez, Gabriela**, Kenneth A. Wallston, Kathryn M. Goggins, Heidi M. Poppendeck, and Sunil Kripalani. "Effects of Stress, Health Competence, and Social Support on Depressive Symptoms After Cardiac Hospitalization." *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* 39:441-452.

RESEARCH, TEACHING, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS AWARDED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION

- 2023 Co-PI with Dewey Taylor (PI), Sun Jung Kim, Daniel Stephenson, and Oyita Udiani. "Multidisciplinary Analysis of Vaccination Games for Equity (MAVEN)". NSF Incorporating Human Behavior in Epidemiological Models (IHBEM). *Status: Awarded*. Award Amount: \$666,358. Grant# 2327790.
- 2023 PI with Daniel Morales. "Latino Virginia Oral History Project". VCU Quest Fund. *Status: Awarded*. Award Amount: \$50,000
- 2023 PI with Daniel Morales. "Latino Virginia Vertically Integrated Project (VIP)". VCU Transformative Learning Fund. *Status: Awarded*. Award Amount: \$16,000
- 2023 Co- PI with Daniel Morales. "Latino Virginia Oral History Project". VCU Arts Humanities and Social Sciences Fund. *Status: Awarded - Declined*. Award Amount: \$10,000.
- 2023 Co-MPI with Timothy York. "Latina Immigration History and Socio-Epigenomic Risk for Preterm Birth." PA-20-185, Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities. *Status: Under Review*. Submitted July 2023 to NIH/NIMHD. \$3,822,778
- 2020 Co-Investigator with Victor Chen, Julie Honnold, Volkan Aytar. "VIVA Course Redesign Grant." Virginia Academic Library Consortium. *Status: Awarded*. Award amount: \$30,000

2019 Co-Investigator with Victor Chen. “Affordable Course Content Award.” VCU Libraries. *Status: Awarded.*
Award amount: \$15,000

RESEARCH, TEACHING, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS NOT FUNDED

2022 Co-PI with Derek Johnson (PI), David Wheeler, Susan Bodnar-Deren, and Derek Chapman.
“Socioeconomic drivers of COVID-19 epidemic waves and impacts on health disparities.” Submitted March 2022
to VCU Breakthroughs Fund. \$199,943.

2022 Co-Investigator with Rosalie Corona (PI), Oswaldo Moreno, Adrian Bravo, and Daniel Gutierrez.
“Evaluation of the Spanish Version of Mental Health First Aid for Latine Immigrant Adults: Longitudinal
Outcomes and Community Impact.” PAR-21-081 Addressing Health Disparities among Immigrant Populations
through Effective Interventions. Submitted February 2022 to NIH/NIMHD. \$3,578,821.

2021 Co-MPI with Timothy York. “The Latino Paradox and Social Epigenomic Influences on Preterm Birth.”
PAR-9-372, Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Submitted
November 2021 to NIH/NIMHD. \$1,663,355

2021 Co-Investigator with Antonio Villa Payares (La Casa de la Salud RVA). “Promoviendo la Salud Latina:
Promotores de Salud as Health Educators & Advocates for Latinos in Richmond.” Submitted November 2021 to
Sociological Initiatives Foundation (Community-Based Participatory Research Projects). \$19,760

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Humanities Research Center Residential Fellowship
- 2022 Humanities Research Center 5x5 Collaborative Grant, VCU [Funded: \$500]
- 2022 Faculty Fellow, Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development, VCU [Funded: \$10,000]
- 2021 History & Health Fellow, VCU [Funded \$2,000]
- 2018 VCU Office of the Provost Grants for Faculty Development [Funded: \$3,950]
- 2017 Public Scholars Fellowship, Vanderbilt’s Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, 2017-2018
[Funded: \$2,000]
- 2017 Vanderbilt University Travel Award [Funded: \$500]
- 2015 Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University [Funded: \$5,000]
- 2015 Mellon Institute in Digital and Public Humanities for Early-Career Scholars, Vanderbilt University
- 2012 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Doctoral Fellowship, 2012-2017 [Full PhD funding]
- 2011 Lamar Bruni Vergara Research Assistantship, Texas A&M International University, 2011-2012
- 2010 Lamar Bruni Vergara Graduate Scholarship, Texas A&M International University, 2010-2011
- 2006 Distinguished Student Award for Academic Excellence, Universidad de Monterrey

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “Test of Mexican Teen Mothers’ Cultural Characteristics and Children’s Language Skills,” with
Arlenis Santana, Chelsea Williams, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Laudan Jahromi, Kimberly Updegraff, Rosalie
Corona. Paper presented at the 6th Biennial APA Division 45 Research Conference.
- 2021 “Legal Immigration and the US Labor Market: Occupational Mobility of High-Skilled and Low-Skilled
Immigrants,” with Larissa Coelho. Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society meeting.
- 2020 “Migration Motivations, Gender, and the Health of Mexican Internal Migrants.”
 - Paper presented at the 2020 Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
 - Paper accepted at the Population Association of America meeting. Canceled due to COVID-19

- 2019 “An Analysis of High Skilled and Low Skilled Migration from Mexico to the US, 1970-2010.” Paper presented at the 114th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2019 “‘We Practically Have No Family Time Together’: Work and Parenting Stressors among Undocumented Mexican Mothers,” with Amy L. Non. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, NY.
- 2019 “Health and Migration Within and Across Borders: A Longitudinal Study of Mexican Internal Migrants and Return US Migrants.” Paper presented at the Population Association of America meeting, Austin, TX.
 ● Poster award in the session “Migration and Urbanization”
- 2019 “Health and Migration Within National Boundaries: Internal Migration, Gender, and Health in Mexico.” Paper presented at the Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies meeting, Oaxaca, Mexico.
- 2017 “Tendencias y Determinantes de la Migración Calificada de México a Estados Unidos.” Paper presented at the 30th Anniversary Conference of the Mexican Migration Project, El Colegio de México, Mexico City.
- 2017 “Internal Migration and the Self-Rated Health of Indigenous Mexicans: A Longitudinal Study.” Paper presented at the 112th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “A Life Course Approach to the Health of Mexican Return Migrants.” Paper presented at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Self-Rated Health Trajectories of Legal US Immigrants: Does Prior Legal Status Matter?” with Evelyn J. Patterson. Paper presented at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Emotional Labor in Health Survey Research: Interviewing Sick Patients for a Wage.” Paper presented at the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Género, Educación, y Migración a los Estados Unidos. Una Comparación entre Colombia y México,” with Katharine M. Donato. Paper presented at the conference Colombia en la Encrucijada: El Proyecto LAMP-Colombia Sobre Migración, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2012 “A Study of Barriers to Health Care and Adaptations of a Border Community Population,” with John C. Kilburn. Paper presented at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2012 “Laredo, Texas: Crossing for Health Care Services,” with John C. Kilburn, Fernando Quintana, Marcus A. Ynalvez, and Maria Romero-Ramirez. Paper presented at the McGill University Conference on Training and Retention of Health Professionals, Montreal, Canada.
- 2011 “Crossing to Mexico for Health Care: Only for the Poor and Uninsured?” Paper presented at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Little Rock, AR.

INVITED TALKS

“El Pueblo Unido: The History of Latinx Heritage Month and What it Means Today.” Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, VCU (October 2021)

“Graduate School is Different: A Guide for Success.” Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX. (Scheduled for April 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19.)

“Examining Hispanic and Indigenous Heritage.” Diversity@Apex, Apex Systems, Webinar (October 2020)

“The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested.” Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions Series. Mechanicsville, VA (June 2019)

“Beyond the Hype: How Policies and Economics Shape Immigration to the U.S.” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Richmond (May 2019)

RESEARCH TRAINING

- 2023 “Experimental Design,” ICPSR Summer Institute, University of Michigan
- 2016 Certificate in Health Policy, RWJF Center for Health Policy, Meharry Medical College
- 2015 “Immigration, Immigrants and Health Conditions, Health Status, and Policies: Examining Multilevel and Multidimensional Models and Approaches,” ICPSR Summer Institute, University of Michigan
- 2015 “Cost-Effectiveness Analysis and Decision Making in Health Policy,” RWJF Center for Health Policy, Meharry Medical College
- 2014 “Longitudinal Analysis, Including Categorical Outcomes,” ICPSR Summer Institute, University of Michigan
- 2013 “Race, Ethnicity, and Health,” RWJF Center for Health Policy, Meharry Medical College

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2018 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University
- 2017-2018 Research Assistant, *Explorations for Diversifying Engineering Faculty Initiative*, Vanderbilt University
- 2014-2016 Research Assistant, *Hispanic Immigrant Project*, Vanderbilt University
- 2014-2016 Graduate Assistant, Texas A&M International University
- 2011 Research Coordinator, *Laredo/Webb County Health and Workforce Needs Assessment*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018-present Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2012-2018 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University
- 2011 Adjunct Instructor, Laredo Community College

COURSES TAUGHT AT VCU

Electives:

- Immigration & American Society (undergraduate) (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2023)
- Immigration & American Society (graduate) (Spring 2019)
- Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities (Spring 2022)

Required courses:

- Research Methods for the Social Sciences (F2018, Sp2019, Sp2020, Sp2021 (2 sections), F2022, Sp2023)
- Sociology Senior Seminar (Fall 2021)

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION & THE PROFESSION

- 2022-present Sociology Undergraduate Assessment Committee, VCU
- 2022-2023 CHS Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, VCU
- 2022-2023 Sociology *Ad Hoc* Workload Committee, VCU
- 2021 Latinx Heritage Month Planning Committee, VCU
- 2019-2020 Community-Engaged Research Curriculum Review Committee, VCU
- 2019-2020 Sociology Bylaws Committee, VCU
- 2018-2022 Sociology Undergraduate Studies Committee, VCU
- 2018-2022 CHS Faculty Council, VCU
- 2018, 2019 CHS Faculty Council Awards Committee, VCU

- 2015-2016 Elected Student Council Member, American Sociological Association, International Migration Section
- 2015-2016 Elected President, Sociology Graduate Program, Vanderbilt University
- 2014-2015 Elected Vice President, Sociology Graduate Program, Vanderbilt University
- 2014-2015 Sociology Representative, Graduate Student Council, Vanderbilt University
- 2014 Graduate Recruitment Assistant, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University
- 2012 Graduate Senator, Student Government Association, Texas A&M International University
- 2011-2012 Committee Member, Lamar Bruni Vergara/Guillermo Benavides Z. Academic Conference, Texas A&M International University
- 2011-2012 Elected Vice President, Alpha Kappa Delta, Texas A&M International University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA); Population Association of America (PAA); Eastern Sociological Society (ESS); Southern Sociological Society (SSS); Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS).

PEER REVIEWER

Occasional reviewer for: Ethnicity & Health; Health Affairs; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health; Journal of International Migration & Integration; Journal of Latinx Psychology; Journal of Marriage and Family; Society & Mental Health; The Latin Americanist.