Benjamin James Waddell, PhD

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Specialization

I study why people leave home, what it costs to stay, and what happens when they seek protection in the United States. My research began in Mexican communities where migration reshaped family life and local politics. Today I write about those questions from both sides of the border. My book The Migrant Trap follows families navigating the U.S. asylum system and women searching for disappeared relatives in Guanajuato, Mexico.

As a country-conditions expert, I draw on field interviews, public records, and social science research to explain the circumstances behind individual asylum claims. In my reporting, I follow those same questions beyond the courtroom, from the risks facing families in Mexico and Central America to the working and housing conditions immigrants encounter in Colorado.

Expert witness and immigration experience

Country-conditions expert witness | 2018–present

Served as an expert in 250 immigration cases across the United States, from Seattle to Philadelphia. Prepared country-conditions analyses for cases involving Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru.

Personal declarations | Since 2020

Worked with law firms and nonprofit organizations to help asylum seekers document their experiences. Drafted 265 personal declarations.

Immigration advocacy qualifications include U.S. Department of Justice accreditation as a legal representative and completion of Modules 1 and 2 of Villanova University's VIISTA program.

Books

- *The Migrant Trap: Why People Leave and What Happens When They Do* · 2027 · forthcoming
- *Beyond Gods and Demons: A Story of Revolution, Power, and False Prophets* · 2027 · forthcoming
- *The Geology, Ecology, and Human History of the San Luis Valley* · 2020 · edited volume. Coedited with Jared Maxwell Beeton and Charles Nicholas Saenz. University Press of Colorado.

Education

- 2013 Ph.D., Sociology, University of New Mexico.

  Concentrations: Criminology; Immigration; Political Economy; Economic Development; Poverty and Inequality; and Race and Ethnicity.

  Dissertation: “The Political Economy of Remittance-Led Development in Guanajuato, Mexico.”

  Committee: Dr. Richard Wood (chair), Dr. Manuel García y Griego, Dr. Bob Fiala, Dr. Matías Fontenla.

  Passed with distinction, and received UNM “Dissertation of the Year” award.

- 2009 M.A., Latin American Studies, University of New Mexico.

  Concentrations: Sociology and Southwest Studies (focus on immigration studies).

  Committee: Dr. Phillip Gonzalez, Dr. Manuel Garcia y Griego (chair), Dr. Chris F. Garcia, Dr. Richard Wood.

- 2005 B.A., International Relations, University of Colorado.

Academic appointments

- 2023–present. Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Human Services. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.
- 2018-2023. Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Human Services. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.
- 2016-2018. Academic Director, School for International Training. Managua, Nicaragua.
- 2015-2016. Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology. Adams State University, Alamosa, Colorado.
- 2011-2015. Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology. Adams State University, Alamosa, Colorado.
- 2009-2015. Co-director of Study Abroad Program Sustainable Economic and Social Development in Nicaragua and Cuba (Summer; 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- 2010 Instructor, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

  Soc 211- Social Problems (Fall 2010, UNM).

- 2009 Graduate Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

  SOC 216 Dynamics of Prejudice (1 semester).

  SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (1 semester).

- 2009 Translator/Editor, Translator for the Southwest Colonial Research Center/National Parks and Publications Editor for Colonial Latin America Historical Review (CLAHR, Summer 2009).
- 2009 Graduate Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

  SOC 331 Social Movements and Collective Behavior (1 semester).

  SOC 371 Classic Social Theory (1 semester).

- 2009 Translator, Latin American and Iberian Institute, UNM (Fall 2009).
- 2010-2011 Translator/Editor, Translator for the Southwest Colonial Research Center/National Parks and Publications Editor for Colonial Latin America Historical Review (CLAHR, Summer 2010).

- 2007-2010. Instructor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of New Mexico.
- 2006-2008 Internship, Latin American Technological Information Network (UNM).

Peer-reviewed articles

- Waddell, B. J. (2019). “A Cautionary Tale: Discriminatory Lending against Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers in Southern Colorado.” Rural Sociology, 84(4), 736–769.
- Bucheli, J. R., M. Fontenla, and B. J. Waddell. (2019). “Return migration and violence.” World Development, 116, 113–124.
- Waddell, B. J. (2015). “Migrant Remittances: An Untapped Resource for International Development?” Sociology of Development, 1(4), 463–489.
- Waddell, B. J. and Matías Fontenla. (2015) “The Mexican Dream? The Effect of Return Migrants on Hometown Development.” The Social Science Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2015). “Old Habits Die Hard: Political Patronage and Remittance-led Development in Guanajuato, Mexico.” Latin American Research Review, 50(1).
- Waddell, B. J. (2014). “Remitting Democracy? The Role of Migrant Remittances in Promoting Social and Political Change in Guanajuato, Mexico.” Journal of Community Positive Practices, XIV(1).

Book chapters

- Waddell, B. J. and Pauline Martinez. (2020). “The Political Economy of Discriminatory Lending in the San Luis Valley,” University Press of Colorado.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). “Emigration, Violence, and Human Rights Violations in Central Mexico.” In Mexico’s Human Rights Crisis. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Waddell, B. J. (2015). “An Invitation to Change the World.” In, Sociology for the Curious: Why Study Sociology? Curious Academic Publishing.

Book reviews

- Waddell, B. J. (2020). “Exit and Voice: The Paradox of Cross-Border Politics in Mexico.” Social Forces.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). “The Remittance Landscape in Context.” Journal of American Ethnic History, 38(1).
- Waddell, B. J. (2017). “A Review of Migrating into Financial Markets.” Contemporary Sociology, 46(6).

Selected journalism and commentary

- Waddell, B. J. (2026). “Weiser’s pick for agriculture leaves ag workers behind.” Colorado Politics.
- Waddell, B. J. (2026). “I watched Nicaragua fall. Surveillance always arrives promising public safety first.” Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2026). “The Real Reason ICE Agents Wear Masks.” Writers on the Range.
- Waddell, B. J. (2026). “In the shadows: How Mexico’s search collectives reveal migration realities.” Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2026). “La paradoja de la paz: menos homicidios, más desaparecidos.” Reforma, Revista R.

- Waddell, B. J. (2025). "ICE is Eroding the Rule of Law." Writers on the Range.
- Waddell, B. J. (2024). "Donald Trump's Secret Weapon? Latinos." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Commodification of College Campuses." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Mexico is unraveling and nobody seems to care." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Caught in complex legal limbo while serving plates on Main Avenue." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Who AI disrupts may matter more than what AI disrupts." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. and Julio Rosas. (2023). "CU Boulder Immigration Debate Illuminates the Importance of Robust and Open Speech on College Campuses." Daily Camera.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "We're losing trust, the linchpin of modern society." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Saving grace may well be contagious effect of kindness." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2023). "Due process for all or every person at risk." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Lower suicide rates? Look at immigrants." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Frisch vs. Boebert symptom of declining democracy." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Housing Crisis isn't a Crisis. It's Capitalism." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Purple Cliffs 'Inherent to who we have become as a nation." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Homeownership: 'We feel like our dreams are slipping away'." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Local immigrants, ICE, our collective future converge." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Suicide, mutual cooperation, and the future of humanity." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Welcome to the Other Side of Paradise." Durango Herald and The Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "La Vivienda accessible no debería ser un milagro." The Sopris Sun.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Affordable Housing Shouldn't Have to Take a Miracle." Writers on the Range.

  Republished in 24 independent newspapers and magazines including The Salt Lake Tribune and Colorado Central Magazine.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Save Mobile Home Parks—and Affordable Housing." Colorado Politics.
- Waddell, B. J. and Sonia Gutierrez. (2022). "Once fearing displacement, Durango residents celebrate the purchase of their mobile home park." Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "A Westside Story: Corporate Take Over of Mobile Home Parks in the West." The Globe Post.

- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Trailer park residents hope to buy the land beneath them." Writers on the Range.

  Republished in 17 independent newspapers and magazines including The Vail Daily and Aspen Daily News.
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "Residentes de parque de remolques tienen un plan para convertirse en propietarios." The Sopris Sun
- Waddell, B. J. (2022). "The Global Tax Won't Fix Historically High Inequality, It Will Make It Worse." The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. and Sonia Gutierrez. (2022). "State cites Durango school district for violations in care of student with disabilities." Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "The American Dream is Fading in the West." Writers on the Range.

  Republished in 35 independent newspapers and magazines including The Las Vegas Sun, Yahoo News, and Aspen Times.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Willing workers are right at the border." Writers on the Range.

  Republished in 23 independent newspapers and magazines including The Salt Lake Tribune, Vail Daily, and The Las Vegas Sun.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Why Cubans have stuck with the regime." The Week.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Nicaragua: Better the Devil You Know." Havana Times.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Families struggle, need tax credits." Colorado Politics.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Supporting Animas View is about supporting our way of life."

  Durango Herald.
- Waddell, B. J. and Sonia Gutierrez. (2021). "After 24 days in the hospital, Durango family faced $180k medical bill." Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Waddell, B. J. and Sonia Gutierrez. (2021). "Principal apologizes for threatening text, commits to making changes." Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Waddell, B. J. and Sonia Gutierrez. (2021). "Immigrant mother receives threatening text message after child didn't log into Zoom." Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "Losing Faith in Communist Cuba." Havana Times.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). "A Hardline on Cuba Helps the Communist Party." Havana Times.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). We Need a New Vision for Rural America. Denver Gazette.
- Waddell, B. J. (2021). We Are Here to Change the World. FLC Voices.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). In Rural America, You Can Find Answers. Denver Gazette.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). As White Americans Die, Racial Inequality in the US May Get Much Worse. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). The Electoral College Shortchanges Colorado. Denver Gazette.
- Waddell, B. J. and Trent England. (2020). Electoral College vs. NVP. Denver Gazette.
- Waddell, B. J. and Nate Pipetone. (2020). American society teaches everyone to be racist – but you can rewrite subconscious stereotypes. The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). If Black Lives Matter, the Electoral College Must Go. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). If You're American, Racism Is Wired Into Your Brain. The Globe Post.

- Waddell, B. J. (2020). In southwest Colorado, immigrants face a dual crisis. High Country News.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). Coronavirus: A Cruel Reminder of Our Most Vulnerable Communities. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). Coronavirus Brings Higher Education to Brink of Collapse. The College Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). The real crisis: A global debt bubble of historic proportions. Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). Men like you weren't meant to own land. High Country News.
- Waddell, B. J. (2020). The stock market in the age of coronavirus. The Week.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Why Bolivia doesn't fit the pattern of historic Latin American coups. The Week.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Fake News, the Longest War in US History, and a Tentative Path Forward. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). The Ultimate Gamble: Why President Trump Is Inviting Congress to Impeach Him. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Detention Centers or Concentration Camps? The Difference is a Mindset. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). The Child in America: Donald Trump and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Bending the Law: How US Immigrants' Social Activism is Squashed in Name of Security. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Why a generation of Latin American leaders failed to deliver on their promise of progress. The Week.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). The Cultural Triangle: Three Dimensions of Place-Based Learning at Hispanic Serving Institutions. Community Works Journal.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Um ano após revoltas na Nicarágua, Ortega tem o controle novamente. Gazeta Do Povo.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). Un año después de las revueltas en Nicaragua, Ortega retoma el control. Univisión.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). We are living in the age of mass deportations. Durango Herald.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). One year after Nicaraguan uprising, Ortega is back in control. The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). US Intervention Has Facilitated Nicaraguan President's Ability to Repress Nation. The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). "Will Trump's Border Wall Keep Mexican Migrants Out or Lock Them In?" The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2019). "A Border Wall Won't Make Anyone Safer." The Huffington Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Lessons from Mexico for Central American Development." The Globe Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Donald Trump Is Still The Favorite To Win In 2020 — Just Look At The Midterm Map." The Huffington Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Immigrants are the heartbeat of America." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Migrants are the solution, not the problem." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Migrant money could be keeping Nicaragua's uprising alive." The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Why Donald Trump Will Likely Win A Second Term As President." The Huffington Post.

- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Venezuelan oil fueled the rise and fall of Nicaragua's Ortega regime." The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). El petróleo venezolano provoca el auge y caída del régimen de Ortega en Nicaragua The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Are we witnessing the rise of fascism in Nicaragua?" The Huffington Post.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Nicaraguans try to topple a dictator — again." The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Nicaragua intenta derrocar a un dictador (de nuevo)." The Conversation.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Why people migrate: A plea for empathy from Nicaragua." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Laying the groundwork for change: A closer look at the U.S. role in Nicaragua's social unrest." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "A Tropical Spring in the land of lakes and volcanoes." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "Notes from the frontlines of protests in Nicaragua." Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2018). "The uprising in Nicaragua: Are Ortega's days numbered?" Global Americans.
- Waddell, B. J. (2016). "Why the American Electoral College matters for human rights everywhere." OpenDemocracy.
- Waddell, B. J. and Pauline V. Martinez. (2016). "The Three Dimensions of Place-Based Learning at Hispanic-Serving Institutions."
- Waddell, B. J. (2016). "Risky Business: Hispanic-Serving Institutions and the future of the U.S."
- Waddell, B. J. (2015). "Rodrigo's Theory: Mass Emigration, Violence, and Human Rights Violations in War-torn Mexico." OpenDemocracy.

Poetry

- Waddell, B. J. 2027 (forthcoming). "The Unfortunate Journey of an American Dreamer." In We Are Here to Represent.
- Waddell, B. J. 2023. "My Magnolia." Durango Herald. May 7, 2023.
- Waddell, B. J. 2022. "Nothing Left to Fear." Durango Herald. April 30, 2022.

Media coverage and interviews

- "Nicaragua moves to ban "Yankee" agents from elections as Trump policies hit economy," World Socialist Web Site. August 4, 2026.
- "Sociology expert details how U.S. asylum decisions impact migrants from Mexico," KOB4, September 9, 2026.
- "What Mexico's missing people can teach America about migration is focus of FLC professor's new book," Durango Herald, August 22, 2026.
- "Off the Record: A Conversation About Immigration," KOTO, February 4, 2025.
- "Durangoans sponsor Nicaraguan couple seeking refuge from repression," Durango Herald, July 8, 2024.
- "CU Boulder to Host Immigration Debate," Daily Camera, April 7, 2023.
- "SOLD: The Land Under Mobile Homes," RMPBS, July 29, 2022. (Contributor)

- "Sí, se pudo! How a community organized against a corporate buyout," Durango Telegraph, April 14, 2022.
- "Westside Mobile Park residents: 'Many of us for the first time feel a part of Durango,'" Durango Herald. April 11, 2022.
- "Local First announces $535,000 in support for Westside Mobile Home Park," Durango Herald. March 24, 2022.
- "Durango-area mobile home park forms a co-op to purchase property," Durango Herald. February 25, 2022.
- "Will child tax credit be extended another year?" Durango Herald. November 5, 2021.
- "Price Out: How the local housing crunch is impacting the workforce," Durango Telegraph, September 16, 2021.
- "Affordable Housing Developments are Going Up in Southwest Colorado. But They Can't Solve the Housing Crisis Alone," NPR News. August 5, 2021.
- "Legal clinic, picnic celebrate creation of immigrant legal defense fund," Durango Herald. July 24, 2021.
- "Fort Lewis College plants to use grant to improve distance learning," KOB 4. March 8th, 2021.
- "USDA grant will help FLC," Farmington Daily Times. March 8th, 2021.
- "Durango protesters decry U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert's rhetoric," Durango Herald, January 8, 2021.
- "Women's March," Durango Herald. October 17, 2020.
- "Proposition 113," National Public Radio, Colorado Matters. October 5th, 2020. Debate with Don Wilson, moderated by Ryan Warner.
- "The Electoral College is Racist," Radio Pacifica, WPFW. September 28th, 2020. Interview with Sue Goodwin.
- "Is the electoral college systemic racism?," Colorado Sun. September 23rd, 2020.
- "Some international students can't return to FLC campus in the fall," Durango Herald. July 12th, 2020.
- "Discriminatory lending in the San Luis Valley." July 9, 2020. Community Radio for Northern Colorado, KUNC: Colorado Edition.
- "We All Belong illustrates immigrants' struggles." The Journal. August 2, 2019.
- "Nicaragua in crisis." April 22, 2019. TRT World, live interview. "Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Beats Back Protests to Stay in Office."
- "Many Rural Citizens Vote Against Their Own Medicaid in State and Federal Elections." Tarbell, November 4th, 2018:

  https://www.tarbell.org/2018/11/many-rural-citizens-vote-against-their-own-medicaid-in-state-and-federal-elections/
- "Forte repressão e 300 mortes: o preço de um ex-guerrilheiro para se manter no poder na Nicarágua." Gazeta Do Povo, July 16th, 2018: https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/mundo/forte-repressao-e-300-mortes-o-preco-de-um-ex-guerrilheiro-para-se-manter-no-poder-na-nicaragua-7an10kz64tc4if9sszhb54oni
- "The Death Toll Rises in Nicaragua." Beme News, June 15th, 2018,

  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL3WZIcATtE

- “A New Place-Based Curriculum Presented for Valley Teachers.” Valley Courier, June 18, 2017: https://alamosanews.com/article/a-new-place-based-curriculum-presented-for-valley-teachers
- “New Research on the Positive Effects of Return Migrants Elicits Interest.” Latin American and Iberian Institute, June 17, 2015: https://laii.unm.edu/news/2015-06-17-New-Research-on-the-Positive-Effects-of-Return-Migrants-Elicits-Interest.php
- “Return Migrants Can Make a Big Difference: Researchers have found that return migrants to the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, have a positive effect on nearly every aspect of life.” Pacific Standard Magazine, June 12, 2015: http://www.psmag.com/business-economics/return-migrants-can-make-a-big-difference
- “San Luis Valley Natives: Pushed Out For School, Pulled Home By Family.” Colorado Public Radio, June 8, 2015: https://www.cpr.org/news/story/san-luis-valley-natives-pushed-out-school-pulled-home-family

Conferences and invited talks

- 2026: “Watching Durango: Public Safety, Privacy, and the Rise of Mass Surveillance.” Rotary Club. Durango, Colorado.
- 2026: “The Hunted: An American Story of Migration, Disappearance and Fear,” Our Common Home,” Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2026: “Asylum: Ghost of the American Dream,” Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. FLC Undergraduate Research Speaker Series.
- 2025: “The Invisible Wall: The Limits of Political Asylum in the United States,” IBERO, Santa Fe, Mexico. Invited speaker.
- 2025: Congreso Internacional Sobre Desarrollo Regional y Agronegocios (CIDERA), 23 and 24 of October, 2025: Salvatierra, Mexico. Keynote speaker.
- 2025: Know Your Rights Training, February 4, 2025. Fort Lewis College.
- 2024: International Rescue Committee Asylum Law Conference, November 15 and 16, 2024: Denver, Colorado.
- 2024: Latin American Studies Association (LASA), June 12-27, 2023. Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2023: “Writing for Change: A Practical Approach to Writing for the Public.” Latin American Studies Association, May 23-27, 2023. Vancouver, Canada.
- 2023: “Access to Immigrant and Refugee Justice: A Systems Change Workshop.” April 24 and 25, 2023. Cambridge, MA. Invited Participant.

  Led by Lana Cook, MIT, Center for Systems Awareness and Refugee Action Hub and Michele Pistone, Villanova Law.
- 2023: “Debate: Illegal crossings of the U.S.-Mexico border are increasing at record levels.” April 13, 2023. Boulder, CO. Invited panelist. Hosted by The Steamboat Institute.
- 2023: “Elections in Latin American.” April 11, 2023. Durango, CO. Great Decisions.
- 2022: “Celebrating 15 Years.” National Immigrant Inclusion Conference, December 11-13, 2022. National Harbor, Maryland.
- 2022: “A HyFlex teaching demonstration.” Fort Lewis College. Durango, Colorado. November 15, 2022. Durango, Colorado.
- 2022: “Mapping Unconscious Biases.” La Plata Leadership. October 14, 2022. Durango, Colorado.

- 2022: “Living without Legal Documentation in Durango, Colorado.” CASA and SEPT. February 17, 2022. Durango, Colorado.
- 2021: “Docu Training with Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.” July 23, 2021. Durango, Colorado.
- 2021: “Migration in the Age of Climate Change.” Lifelong Learning. April 15, 2021. Durango, Colorado.
- 2021: “The World Health Organization’s Response to Covid-19.” Great Decisions. February 23, 2021. Durango, Colorado.
- 2020: “A Panel on Disenfranchisement.” November 3, 2020. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.
- 2020: “A Debate on National Popular Vote vs. Electoral College.” The Steamboat Institute, Denver, Colorado.
- 2020: “National Popular Vote & The Racist Roots of the Electoral College.” September 3rd, 2020. Common Cause, Denver, Colorado.
- 2020: “The Electoral College & Democracy.” August 20th, 2020. History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.
- 2020: World Economic Forum. Davos, Switzerland. 21st January, 2020. Agenda Contributor.
- 2019: “Stories Beyond Borders,” October 17th, 2019. Public Library, Durango, Colorado. Panelist.
- 2019: Electoral College Debate between Trent England and Pat Rosenstiel. October 10th, 2019. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Event organizer.
- 2019: Latin American Studies Association, “Nuestra América: Justice and Inclusion.” Boston, Massachusetts. May 24-27, 2019. Presented article.
- 2019: Borderlands Lecture Series. “Legacy of Oppression: Southern Colorado, the Electoral College, and the Future of Democracy in the United States.” Fort Garland, CO. Invited lecturer.
- 2019: 61st Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association held in San Diego, CA. Wednesday, April 24-27, 2019. Presented article.
- 2019: Nicaragua’s Uprising. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. April, 5th, 2019. Panel Organizer.
- 2019: 66th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Santa Fe, NM. Wednesday, April 3-7, 2019. Presented article.
- 2019: Nicaragua’s Uprising. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. April, 3rd, 2019. Panel Organizer.
- 2019: Panel on Trip to Tijuana, Mexico. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. February 13th, 2019. Panelist.
- 2019: Talk on Migration and the Border. El Centro de Muchos Colores, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. February 6th, 2019.
- 2019: MLK Roundtable discussion of migration. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. January 21st, 2019.
- 2018: Immigration Reform Panel. Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. October 23, 2018. Panelist.
- 2018: Latin American Studies Association, “Latin American Studies in a Globalized World.” Barcelona, Spain. May 23-26, 2018. Presented article.
- 2017: Seminar on Emigration and Violence. El Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios de la Salud. Managua, Nicaragua. September 2, 2017.
- 2016: 111th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Rethinking Social Movements.” Seattle, WA. August 20-23, 2016. Presented article.

- 2016: Seminario Permanente De Investigación Sobre Dessarrollo Regional y Género, held at La Universidad de Guanajuato, Salvatierra, Mexico, June 5-8, 2016. Presented article.
- 2016: 63rd Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Santa Fe, NM. Wednesday, March 30-April 2, 2016. Presented article.
- 2015: New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS). Boston, MA November 6-8, 2015. Presented article.
- 2015: CIDE, “Human Rights in Mexico: Crisis and Opportunity.” Minneapolis, Minnesota. October 29-30, 2015. Presented article.
- 2015: 110th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Sexualities in the Social World.” Chicago, IL August 22-25, 2015. Presented article.
- 2015: Keynote speaker, Convocation, Adams State University. Friday, August 21st at Richardson Auditorium.
- 2015: 62nd Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Tucson, AZ. Wednesday, April 8-11, 2015. Presented article.
- 2015: Rocky Mountain Psychological Association. Boise, ID April 9-11, 2015. Presented article.
- 2014: Colorado Shared Governance Conference. Durango, CO September 5, 2014. Attended.
- 2014: 109th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Hard Times.” San Francisco, CA August 16-19, 2014. Presented article.
- 2014: Keynote Speaker, Latin American Studies Graduation Ceremony. Friday, May 16th at UNM Hibbens Center.
- 2014: 56th Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) held in Albuquerque, NM. Wednesday, April 2nd, through Sunday April 6th, 2014.

  Presented article: “Remitting Change: The Role of Return Migrants in Hometown Development in Central Mexico.”
- 2014: 61st Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Durango, CO. Wednesday, April 2nd, through Saturday April 5th, 2014. Presented article: “The Effect of Migrant Remittances on Voting Trends in Michoacán, Mexico.”

  Presented article: “Fiscal Decentralization and Participatory Governance: The case of Mexico's 3x1 Program.”
- 2014: 8th Annual Western Slope Undergraduate Sociology Conference. Grand Junction, Colorado March 8th and 9th.
- 2013: 108th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Interrogating Inequality.” NYC, NY August 10-13, 2013. Presented article.
- 2013: Faculty Series Lecture, Adams State University, “Controlling “Illegal” Immigration: An Economic Development Approach.” Alamosa, CO May 1st, 2013.
- 2013: 7th Annual Western Slope Undergraduate Sociology Conference. Alamosa, Colorado March 29th and 30th.
- 2013: 60th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Santa Fe, NM, Wednesday, April 3rd, through Saturday April 6th, 2013. Presented article: "Remitting Democracy? The Role of Migrants in Driving Political Change in Guanajuato, Mexico."

- 2012: University of New Mexico Paper Series; Department of Sociology, "Remittance-led Development in Guanajuato, Mexico." Friday, August 31st.
- 2012: 107th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Real Utopias.” Denver, Colorado August 17-20, 2012. Presented article.
- 2012: 6th Annual Western Slope Undergraduate Sociology Conference. Grand Junction, Colorado April 13th, 14th and 15th.
- 2012: 59th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Park City, Utah, Wednesday, March 28th, through Sunday April 1, 2012. Presented article: "The Political Economy of Remittance-Led Development in Guanajuato, Mexico."
- 2011: 1st Annual Immigration Conference, held in Las Vegas, NM, Friday, Sep. 30th through Sunday, October 2nd. Attended.
- 2011: 106th Annual American Sociological Association (ASA) Meeting, “Social Conflict: Multiple Dimensions and Arenas.” Las Vegas, Nevada August 20-23, 2011. Presented article.
- 2011: 5th Annual Western Slope Undergraduate Sociology Conference. Gunnison, Colorado April 22nd and 23rd.
- 2010: University of New Mexico Paper Series; Department of Sociology, "The Role of Women in Mexican Hometown Associations." Friday, November 19.
- 2010: 60th Annual Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, "Social Justice Work" on August 13-15 held at The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, GA. Presented article: "The Deconstruction of Hegemonic Patriarchy:

  Mapping Out the Role of Women in Mexican Hometown Associations."
- 2010: 57th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies held in Boulder, Colorado, Wednesday, April 7, through Sunday April 11, 2010. Presented article: "Urban fractures: The Practice of "Othering" in San José, Costa Rica."
- 2010: The 16th Annual University of New Mexico Conference on Ibero-American Culture and Society. Moderator for panel: "The Sustenance of Hybridity: Agriculture, Foodways and Cultural Consumption."
- 2007: SCOLAS: Breaking Barriers, Crossing Frontiers: New Visions for the Americas. Presented article (chair of panel): "Signs of Transnational Community Building between Mexico and the United States."
- 2007: 3rd Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Hispanic/Lain American Linguistics, Literature, and Culture: Gainesville, Florida. Presented article:

  "Entre la estructura y la sociedad: La adopción y uso de anglicismos en Guanajuato, México."
- 2006: “Cultural/Historical Perspectives of Migration.” Keynote Speaker, La Universidad de León, Guanajuato, México.

External program reviews

- 2024 External review of Western Colorado University’s Sociology program.

Research interests

Crime and migration, human development, globalization, political sociology, poverty and inequality, race and ethnicity, and research methods and statistics.

Awards and honors

- 2016 $2,500 UNM, Dissertation of the Year. The nomination process works on a three-year cycle. My dissertation, completed in 2013, competed with Social Science nominations from the last three years.
- 2015 Southern Colorado Film Festival, Best of Colorado Award for ethnographic video, Voices of the Valle.
- 2015 $1,000 ASU Keynote speaker, Convocation, Adams State University.
- 2014 $1,500 ASU Presidential Teacher Award (Teacher of the Year, 2014-2015).
- 2014 ASU Excellence in Student Centered Instruction. (Nominee, 2014)
- 2014 Keynote Speaker, Latin American Studies Graduation Ceremony.
- 2013 UNM, Dissertation Defense. (Pass with distinction)

Grants and funding

- 2026 $10,000 Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing (CoHLI)
- 2023 $53,330 Pay It Forward, grant to support Undergraduate Research
- 2023 $999,897 USDA, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant
- 2022 $2,631 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TIPA, Fall)
- 2022 $2,370 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TS/R, Fall)
- 2022 $50,000 Pay It Forward, grant to support Undergraduate Research
- 2022 $1,800 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TS/R, Spring)
- 2021 $950,060 USDA, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant
- 2020 $3,000 Fort Lewis College (FLC Foundation, Professional Camera)
- 2019 $2,500 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TS/R, Spring)
- 2019 $1,033 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TIPA, Spring)
- 2019 $1,000 Fort Lewis College (FLC Foundation, Spring, Border Travel)
- 2018 $2,500 Fort Lewis College (Faculty Development Grant, TS/R, Fall)
- 2018 $2,500 School for International Training (Travel Grant)
- 2016 $1,000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2016 $65,000 Ethnographic Research Grant: BLM
- 2016 $15,000 Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, Research Grant.
- 2015 $1,500 Invited Speaker. “Human Rights in Mexico: Crisis and Opportunity.” Minneapolis, Minnesota. October 29-30, 2015.
- 2015 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2015 $1000 Keynote Speaker, Adams State University Convocation Speaker. Friday, August 21 at Richardson Auditorium.
- 2015 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2015 $13,500 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.

- 2015 $7,500 UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute (Grant to Set up Travel Abroad Program to Cuba); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.
- 2014 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2014 $30,000 Ethnographic Research Grant: BLM
- 2014 $5,000 Title V Student Engagement Grant.
- 2014 $1,500 ASU Presidential Teacher Award (Teacher of the Year, 2014-2015).
- 2014 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2014 $13,000 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.
- 2013 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2013 $1000 ASU Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2013 $17,000 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.
- 2012 $750 ASU Faculty Development Fund (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2012 $1000 ASC Faculty Travel Support (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2012 $12,000 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.
- 2011 $500 ASC Faculty Development Fund (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2011 $1000 ASC Faculty Development Fund (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, Adams State College.
- 2011 $7,500 Latin American and Iberian Institute Study Abroad Grant for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua"; funding sought with Dr. Matias Fontenla.
- 2011 $10,000 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matías Fontenla.
- 2010 $8,000 Fulbright Scholar, García Robles Fulbright Semester Mobility Grant.
- 2010 $10,000 UNM Office of Provost (Study Abroad Award for co-led exchange program, "Sustainable Development in Nicaragua); funding sought with Dr. Matias Fontenla.
- 2009 $500 Korzeniewicz Endowment Fund (Travel Grant); Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.
- 2009-2010 TAship/GAship Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.
- 2007-2010 TAship Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of New Mexico.
- 2006 $2,000 University of New Mexico, Office of Graduate Studies 3% Scholars Award.
- 2004 $2,000 School for International Training (SIT), Study Abroad Grant.
- 2004 $5,000 Benjamin Gilman Grant, International Scholarship Program—U.S. Department of State.
- 2004 $1,500 University of Colorado Study Abroad Grant.
- 2001 $1,500 Colorado Presidential Scholarship.
- 2001 $1000 Colorado Elks Scholarship; Telluride Chapter.

Dissertation and thesis committees

- Brandon Bridge. The University of New Mexico. “Individual and Household-Level Effects of Energy Poverty on Human Development.” Defense date: 05/10/2017. Member of Committee.
- José Bucheli. The University of New Mexico. “International Migration in Latin America.” Defense date: TBA. Member of Committee.

Editing and peer review

- The Social Science Journal, Reviewer (2014-2022)
- Comparative Politics, Reviewer (2015-2021)
- Electoral Studies, Reviewer (2015-2020)
- University Press of Colorado; Board Member (2015-2016)

Academic leadership and service

- Department Chair (FLC), 2023-2025
- Coordinator of Undergraduate Research (FLC), 2022-2023
- Honors Council (FLC), 2022-2023
- Liberal Arts Core Council (FLC), 2022-2024
- PI, USDA Distance Learning Grant II (FLC), 2024-2027
- PI, USDA Distance Learning Grant I (FLC), 2021-2024
- HyFlex Ambassador (FLC), 2021-2022
- Sociology Search Committee (FLC), member: 2019, 2022, 2023
- Salary Committee, co-chair (FLC): 2021
- Summer Salary Committee, member (FLC): 2019-2020
- Teaching and Learning Committee (FLC): 2018-2020
- Mellon Faculty Development Team (FLC): 2018-2020
- Human Resources Committee. (SIT), LA rep.: 2017-2018
- Faculty Senate (ASU), vice-president: 2015-2016
- Faculty Senate (ASU), senator: 2015-2016
- Counseling Education Retention Committee, member: 2015
- Sociology Retention Committee member: 2014-2016
- English Search Committee (ASU), member: 2015
- Sociology Search Committee (ASU), member: 2013, 2014
- Library Search Committee member (ASU): 2014
- Summer Salary Committee, member and chair (ASU): 2013-2014
- Title V Steering Committee member (ASU): 2014-2015

Community service

- Westside Mobile Home Park Co-op (Durango, CO): 2021-2022. Attended meetings, advised operating board, and contributed to decision making process.
- Compañeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center (Durango, CO): 2019-2023

  Served on the executive board and helped guide the organization's work.
- Center for Restorative Programs (Alamosa, CO): 2014-2017

  Served on the executive board.
- Immigration Resource Center (Alamosa, CO): 2011-2014

  Tutor children of immigrants in conjunction with an after school program held at the Tierra Nueva housing complex.
- Peace and Justice Center (Albuquerque, NM): 2007-2010

  Helped organize events periodically and volunteered time for fundraisers and community outreach.
- Intercambio (Boulder, CO): 2003-2005

  Completed two, three hour training sessions. Created lesson plans designed to instruct Spanish speaking immigrants in the English language. Met with students each week for a total of four to eight hours per week.
- Boulder County Courthouse (Boulder, CO): Spring 2004

  Facilitated District Attorneys in processing defendants through arraignment. Organized and filed paper work both prior to and during arraignment. Gained extensive knowledge of the criminal justice program at the local, state and national level, especially in so much as it impacts local Hispanic populations.

Additional education and training

- 2021 VIISTA: Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies Training for Advocates. Villanova University.

  Modules 1 and 2.
- 2008 Seminar on Distance Education, taught by Dr. Mónica G. Luque: 19-23 of May, 2008 at the University of New Mexico.
- 2006 La Escuela Activa de Fotografía, León, Guanajuato: certificate in black and white photography (Summer 2006).
- 2005 Universidad de Buenos Aires: coursework in History, Film and Language (Summer/Fall).
- 2004 SIT Nicaragua: Revolution, Transformation and Society (Fall).

  Field Report: "An Oral History of Resistance in Maximo Jerez, Managua."

Languages and technical skills

- Languages: English (native language); Spanish (fluent).
- Technology: Stata, SAS, SPSS, R, ATLAS TI, Webct/Blackboard applications, Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel), PREZI, Adobe Premiere (video editing software), Photography, WordPress.com and WordPress.org, Bluehost, and other web design platforms.