

Michelle C. Velasco

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Research Interests

Exploration of social, cultural, historic institutions that influence college access and retention of Pilipino students, exploration of the Pilipino student experience within higher education institutions, and reimagination of college access and education preparedness for low-income, first-generation students of color.

Education

Doctor in Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Education

Expected June 2028

University of California, Los Angeles

Social Sciences & Comparative Education

(Specialization in Race, Cultural, Historical and Ethnic Studies)

Advisors: Daniel G. Solórzano, Ph.D. and David G. García, Ph.D.

Master of Arts in Education

August 2023

California State University, Long Beach

Social and Cultural Analysis of Education

(Emphasis in Urban Contexts)

Advisor: Lindsay Pérez Huber, Ph.D.

Thesis Title: Resilience Amidst Liminality: Exploring Successful Retention of Pilipino 1.5 Generation College Students Through Use of Community Cultural Wealth and Institutional Agents

Bachelor of Arts

June 2019

University of California, Los Angeles

Major in Sociology, Minor in Global Studies

Awards/Fellowships

CSU Chancellor Doctoral Incentive Program

2024-2025

Multi-year fellowship awarded to promising doctoral students for CSU faculty positions by providing financial support, mentorship by CSU faculty and professional development and grant resources.

UCLA University Fellowship

2024

Awarded for conference travel to AERA 2024 in Philadelphia.

UCLA Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow

2023-2027

Multi-year fellowship awarded to entering underrepresented doctoral students interested in teaching and university research.

UCLA Graduate Dean's Scholar 2023-2025
Multi-year fellowship awarded to students who demonstrate process in succeeding within graduate education.

Funded Research

Student Research Fund Award (\$300) Fall 2022
Associated Students Inc. at California State University, Long Beach

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher July 2024 – Present
UCLA Institute of Society and Genetics
Principal Investigator: Michelle Rensel, Ph.D.

- Qualitatively analyzed 150 student short responses to evaluate the content, depth, and structure of student thinking in relation to adoption of genetically modified foods.
- Compiled literature for literature reviews on socio-scientific reasoning, socio-scientific issues, and role-playing games in science courses to engage with socio-scientific issues.

CSULB College of Education Student Scholar Oct 2020 – June 2021
Faculty Mentor: Shuhua An, Ph.D.

- Quantitatively analyzed 3 years of fieldwork notes and student questionnaires to determine the effectiveness of probing questions on pedagogical content knowledge of teachers and student outcomes.
- Compiled research articles and created two annotated bibliographies for literature reviews on impact of teacher preparation in reading math & math and health integration.
- Edited Math Education journal articles for clarify of language and accuracy of American Psychological Association 7th edition citations.

Invited Presentations

Velasco (2024). *Restorative Leadership: Utilizing Community Cultural Wealth*. Cal State Student Association CSUnity Conference. California State University, San Bernardino. San Bernardino, CA.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant
California State University, Long Beach
EESJ 550, Foundations of Equity, Education, and Social Justice Fall 2024
ETEC 171, Critical Thinking Using Computer Technology Spring 2022
SCAE 550, Foundations of Social and Cultural Analysis of Education Fall 2022
SCAE 550, Foundations of Social and Cultural Analysis of Education Fall 2021

Community Involvement

UCLA AAPI Interactions Research Group Sep 2023 - Present

- Facilitating a research interest group centered around AAPI experiences to help cultivate community and research skill development amongst 17 graduate students and 3 undergraduate students.

UC AANAPISI Summit – Volunteer

April 2024

- Transcribed verbatim content from each day of conference workshops, keynote speakers, and conference panels
- Transcribed key takeaways from each day of conference workshops, keynote speakers, and conference panels

Reviewer for Interactions Research Journal

April 2024

Professional Experience

Project Coordinator: Education Talent Search

Dec 2020 – July 2023

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles

- Provided individual academic advising for 150 high school students each semester to ensure achievement of high school graduation and A-G requirements to inform post-secondary education goal setting.
- Developed and facilitated two monthly workshops concerning topics such as Financial Aid, Financial Literacy, UC and CSU Eligibility Requirements, UC Personal Insight Questions, and Community College.
- Conceptualized and coordinated mentoring component as well as external STEM programming to provide more holistic and career development for 10-15 students high school students.
- Outreached and presented to over 200 students through classroom presentations to achieve annual student recruitment goal of 500 participants.

Project Advisor: Education Talent Search

Sep 2019 – Dec 2020

Volunteers of America Los Angeles

- Provided individual academic advising for 300 high school students each semester to ensure achievement of high school graduation and A-G requirements to inform post-secondary education goal setting.
- Developed and facilitated two monthly workshops concerning topics such as Financial Aid, Financial Literacy, UC and CSU Eligibility Requirements, UC Personal Insight Questions, and Community College.
- Coordinated academic field trips for over 50 high school students to UC San Diego, San Diego State, and UC Santa Barbara.
- Outreached and presented to over 100 students through classroom presentations to aid student recruitment.

Professional Affiliations

Member, History of Education Society

Aug 2024 - Present

Member, American Education Research Association

Jan 2024 – Present

Licenses and Certifications

History and Policy Summer Research Institute - Completion

June 2024

UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy

Social and Behavioral Research – Basic / Refresher
CITI Program

Expires Oct 2026