

VANESSA CRUZ NICHOLS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Indiana University, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science 2017-Present
Indiana University, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research on Race, Ethnicity and Society 2017-Present

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
PhD – Political Science August 2017
American Politics – *Race and ethnicity politics, Latino politics, political behavior, identity politics, gender & policy.*

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
MA – Political Science April 2012

DePaul University, Magna Cum Laude Chicago, IL
Bachelor of Arts – Political Science & Economics, Minor – Spanish June 2009

DISSERTATION

“Latinos Rising to the Challenge: Political Responses to Threat and Opportunity Messages” – I examine variations in responses to one’s political context by considering a more dynamic approach to the signals one is exposed to. By relying on underlying principles of psychology and persuasive communication, I build upon the theoretical and empirical research on the political impact of threat. I employ an experimental design to isolate the effects of coupled threat and opportunity appeals on electoral and non-electoral forms of political behavior. Focusing on U.S. Latino samples, I also rely on analyses of the ANES 2008-2012 to test my hypotheses. My research findings imply that mobilizers must communicate a more complete picture of one’s political landscape and offer a different set of motivators beyond fear for the Latino community.

Co-Chairs: Vincent L. Hutchings and John A. Garcia **Dissertation Committee:** Nancy Burns and Don Kinder

PUBLICATION EXPERIENCE

Cruz Nichols, V., A. M.W. LeBrón and F. I. Pedraza. (2018). “Policing Us Sick: The Health of Latinos in an Era of Heightened Deportations and Racialized Policing.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (51) 2: 293-297. doi:10.1017/S1049096517002384

Cruz Nichols, V., A. M.W. LeBrón and F. I. Pedraza. (2018). “Spillover Effects: Immigrant Policing and Government Skepticism in Matters of Health for Latinos.” *Public Administration Review* (78) 1: 1-12. doi: 10.1111/puar.12916

Pedraza, Francisco I., V. Cruz Nichols and A. M.W. LeBrón. (2017). “Cautious Citizenship: The Deterring Effect of Immigration Issue Salience on Health Care Use and Bureaucratic Interactions Among Latino U.S. Citizens.” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (42) 5: 925-960. <https://doi.org/10.1215/03616878-3940486>

Cruz Nichols, V., A. M.W. LeBrón and F. I. Pedraza. (2018). “Policy Feedback: Government Skepticism Trickling from Immigration to Matters of Health” in *Policing and Race in America: Economic, Political and Social Dynamics*. Edited by James Ward. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Cruz, V. 2009. “Educational Attainment of First and Second Generation Immigrant Youth: New Findings from National Longitudinal Data.” The Urban Institute’s Public Policy Analysis and Research Academy, Brief No. 1. The Urban Institute.

Cruz, V. 2008. "Immigration Status: Its Impacts on Family Dynamics and Future Political Voices." *DePaul University: The Liberal Arts & Sciences Student Research Journal*, Vol. 1. DePaul University.

***Winner of Best Student Paper at 58th Annual Midwest Association for Latin American Studies**

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

Cruz Nichols, V. "Latinos Rising to the Challenge: Political Responses to Threat and Opportunity Messages"
Hutchings, Vincent L., V. Cruz Nichols, L. Gause, S. Piston. "White-Washing: How Obama Used Implicit Racial Cues as Defense Against Political Rumors."

Cruz Nichols, V. "Motivating Political Action: Gender Differences Under Threat and Opportunity"

Cruz Nichols, V., A. LeBrón and F. I. Pedraza. "Producing Cautious Citizens: Immigration Policy and Surrounding Threat." (to be submitted to *American Behavioral Scientist*)

Cruz Nichols, V., A. LeBrón and F. I. Pedraza. "Fear of Deportation and Its Trickle Effects into Politics and Daily Life Behaviors." (to be submitted to *American Political Science Review*)

LeBrón, Alana M.W., V. Cruz Nichols and F. I. Pedraza. "Immigration Surveillance and Mental Health: Findings from a National Multi-Ethnic Sample." (to be submitted to *Ethnicity & Health*)

LeBrón, Alana M.W., V. Cruz Nichols and F. I. Pedraza. "Street-Level Race and Self-Rated Health in an Era of Heightened Immigrant Policing: Findings from a National Sample of Latinas/os." (to be submitted to *Ethnicity & Disease*)

A W A R D S / H O N O R S

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant	2017-2018
Indiana University, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society Postdoctoral Fellowship	2017-2019
Princeton University Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Postdoctoral Fellowship (<i>declined</i>)	2017-2018
Princeton University Center Department of Politics Postdoctoral Fellowship (<i>declined</i>)	2017-2018
University of Maryland Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship (<i>declined</i>)	2017-2018
Midwest Political Science Association 73 rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition	2016
<i>"Rising to the Challenge: Latino Political Responses To Two-Prong Threat and Opportunity Messages" (Nominated for the Latino/a Caucus "Best Graduate Student Paper Award")</i>	
University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford Fellow	2016–2017
NRC Ford Foundation Predoctoral & Dissertation Fellowship	2011–2015
American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship	2009–2011
The Urban Institute Summer Academy, Research Fellow	2008
Berkeley Summer Research Opportunity Program, Scholar (Mentor: Irene Bloemraad)	2007
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program	2006–2009

P R O J E C T S / G R A N T S

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant	2017–2018
<i>"Rising to the Challenge: Political Responses to Threat and Opportunity Messages"</i>	\$23,250
American Political Science Association, APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship	June 2016 – Oct. 2016
<i>"Rising to the Challenge: Political Responses to Threat and Opportunity Messages"</i>	\$500
Gerald R. Ford Research Grant	May 2016 – May 2017
<i>"How Mobilizers Catalyze Threat and Opportunity Messages Into Action"</i>	\$1,275
Candidate Research Grant, Rackham Graduate School	May 2016 – May 2017
<i>"Political Responses to Threat and Opportunity Messages, a Bottom-Up Approach"</i>	\$3000
Latino National Health and Immigrant Survey	Jan. – March 2015

Co-Student Investigator

Chandler and Sangunett Research Award UM Political Science Department <i>"Latina/o Issue Activism: Coupling Threat and Opportunity Messages"</i>	Summer 2015 \$3000
GSRA Pilot Program UM Political Science Dept. (Vince Hutchings) <i>"Whitewashing: How Minority Candidates Use Implicit Racial Cues as a Defense Against Political Rumors"</i>	Summer 2015 \$9450
Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Multi-Racial and Ethnic Political Surveys <i>Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research</i>	July 2014 \$2000
Pre-Candidate Research Grant, Rackham Graduate School <i>"Understanding Threat: The Spillover Effects of Restrictive Immigrant Messages among White and Latino Respondents"</i>	Dec. 2012 – Dec. 2013 \$1500
Center for Political Studies, Roy Pierce Award <i>"Revisiting the Source of Ethnic Cues: The Effectiveness of Family and Panethnic Group Appeals in Mobilizing Latino Voters"</i>	May – Aug. 2012 \$5000
Political Science Department Summer Collaboration Fellowship <i>"The Effects of Redistricting in 2010 and the Latino Vote in 2012 Congressional Districts"</i>	May–Aug. 2012 \$3000
UM Rackham Spring-Summer Collaboration Grant <i>"Racialized Cues: The Effects of Whitewashing Strategies in Obama's Campaigns" & "Latino Politics: the Mediating Effects of Second-Generation Immigrant Adolescents"</i>	May – Aug. 2011 \$6000
Gerald R. Ford School's Center for Public Policy in Diverse Societies <i>Principal Investigator</i> <i>"Latino Immigrants and U.S.-Born Children: Challenging Parent-to-Child Political Socialization Processes"</i>	2011–2012 \$3000
UM Institute for Social Research – Rackham Summer Training <i>ICPSR Summer Institute Program Scholar</i>	Jul. 2011 \$1500
The Coalition of Interdisciplinary Research on Latina/o Issues <i>Co-founder & Student Coordinator</i>	Aug. 2010–July 2014 \$6000 annually
Institute for Social Research – Rackham Summer Training <i>Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research, Program Scholar</i>	June–Aug. 2010 \$1500

INVITED PROFESSIONAL TALKS

Department of American Culture Latina/o Studies University of Michigan <i>"Latinos/as and the 2016 Election"</i>	Nov. 3, 2016
Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship Center for Health Policy, Department of Political Science University of New Mexico <i>"Cautious Citizens: Immigration and Health Policy Impacts on Civic Behaviors and Political Participation" & "Navigating Immigration Enforcement: Implications of Latinos Living in the Shadows and Trusting Healthcare Providers"</i>	April 21-23, 2016
University of Arizona, Political Science, Guest Lecturer <i>"Coupling Urgency with Hope: Latino Political Participation in Response to Threat and Opportunity"</i>	April 15, 2016

Wake Forest University, Latino Politics Class, Guest Lecturer **Oct. 21-23 2015**
"Spillover Effects and Mixed Messages: Government Skepticism Among Latinos Surrounding Immigration and Health"

Wake Forest University, University-wide presentation, Guest Lecturer **Oct. 21-23 2015**
"Cautious Citizens Amidst Mixed Messages: Immigration and Health Policy Signals Impacts on Government Trust and Political Participation"

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Western Political Science Association 2018 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (San Francisco) **March 2018**
"Mobilizing Messages: Issue Activism and Political Communication Strategies Surrounding Immigration Politics"

Western Political Science Association 2017 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Vancouver) **April 2017**
"Peril or Promise: Coupling Threat and Opportunity Messages to Spur Latino Political Participation"

Western Political Science Association 2017 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Vancouver) **April 2017**
"Cautious Citizenship: Chilling and Mobilizing Effects Surrounding Immigration Policy"

Midwest Political Science Association 74th Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2017**
"Peril or Promise: Latino Political Activism Surrounding Threat and Opportunity Messages"

Midwest Political Science Association 73rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2016**
"Rising to the Challenge: Latino Political Responses To Two-Prong Threat and Opportunity Messages" (Latino/a Caucus nomination for "Best Graduate Student Paper Award")

Midwest Political Science Association 73rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2016**
"Continued Ripple Effects: Avoiding Government and Health Officials Based on Immigration Policy Concerns"

Mini-Conference on Policing and Race, The University of Cincinnati **Jan. 2016**
"Policy Feedback and Unexpected Ripples: Government Skepticism Stemming From Immigration Policing"

Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration Consortium (PRIEC), 40th Meeting, (South Bend) **May 2015**
"Is Threat Sufficient? Political Responses To Threat and Opportunity Messages"

Western Political Science Association 2015 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Las Vegas) **April 2015**
"Secure Communities: Reassessing Threat's Catalyzing Effect on Political Engagement across Group Differences"

Midwest Political Science Association 73rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2015**
"Immigration Enforcement: Policy Threat and Its Effects on Political Trust and Behavior of Latinos"

Midwest Political Science Association 72nd Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2014**
"Producing Good, Yet Unhealthy Citizens: Secure Communities and Surrounding Threat"

Symposium on the Politics of Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity - SPIRE (Bloomington) **March 2014**
"Mirrored Threat: Political Responses to Denigrating Group Messages in the Media"

Western Political Science Association 2012 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Los Angeles) **April 2013**
"Does Threat Matter? Counter-Mobilization Beyond Semisovereign Latino and White Americans"

Midwest Political Science Association 70th Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Chicago) **April 2012**
"The Electoral Consequences of Obama's Use of Racial Inoculation in 2008: Group Conflict Differences in Presidential Approval and Policy Support Among Voters."

American Political Science Association 107th Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Seattle) **Sept. 2011**
"How Children of Immigrants Redefine Stereotype Threats and Discrimination"

American Political Science Association 106th Annual Meeting & Exhibition (D.C.) **Aug. 2010**

Midwest Political Science Association 68th Annual National Conference (Chicago)

April 2010

"Tucking in the Sleeping Giant: Political Socialization as it Relates to the Incorporation & Family Dynamics of Latino Families"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

Sept. 2010-April 2011

Introduction to American Politics – Graduate Student Instructor (2 semesters)

Created my syllabi and thoughtful lesson plans to lead two one-hour sections that met twice per week, each consisting of 23 students; I also create my section's quizzes and critical thinking assignments to help them think more analytically and understand the fundamental principles of American politics. Our class readings and discussions range from the Framers of the U.S. Constitution to War on Terrorism, where each are covered through interactive dialogue and simulations. I was a GSI for Dr. Hanes Walton, Jr. the first semester, and then Dr. Ken Kollman the second semester.

DePaul University, Chicago Quarter First Year Program

Chicago, IL

March 2006-Nov. 2007

Common Hour – Honors Program Peer Mentor/Instructor

Generated well-organized lesson plans and innovative assignments to best lead a weekly class of thirty first-year students; these students were enrolled in "Through the Lens: Exploring the City of Chicago" in the Honors Program.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Political Scientists of Color, Political Science Department, Michigan, **Co-President**, 2010-2012, **Member**, 2009–

Women's Caucus, Political Science Department, Michigan, **Member**, 2009–

Coalition for Tuition Equality, Michigan, **Graduate Student Liaison**, 2011-2013

Rackham Student Government, Michigan, **Student Representative**, 2012-2013

Coalition for Interdisciplinary Research on Latino/a Interests, Michigan, **Co-Founder and Co-Chair**, 2010-2015

Hustle&Grow Mentorship Program, Michigan, **Co-Founder**, 2011-2013

Students of Color at Rackham, Michigan, **Academic Chair and Political Action Chair**, 2010-2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

American Political Science Association 2009–

NSF-Funded Women of Color of Political Scientists, *Member*, 2013–

Latino Caucus, 2009–

Women's Caucus, 2009–

Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics, 2009–

Minority Fellows Program, *Fellow, Mentee and Mentor*, 2009–

American Political Science Association Mentorship Program, *Mentee and Mentor*, 2008–

Midwest Political Science Association 2009–

Women's Caucus, 2009–

Latina/o Caucus, 2009– (Newsletter Editor, 2018-2020; Vice President, 2014-2015; Treasurer, 2012-2014; Secretary, 2011-2012)