

March 2008

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado (UC), Boulder, CO

Ph.D., Organizational Communication (May 2006)

Areas of Concentration:

Cultural Studies within Organizational Communication
Borderland Theorizing/Postmodern Feminism
Humanistic Research Methods: Critical Ethnography, Autoethnography, Ethnography of
Communication, and Cultural Criticism
Critical Cultural Studies: Identity Politics/Negotiation
Cultural Minorities in Education

Dissertation Title: *Straddling the Organizational Borderland: Negotiating Identity in Latina
Greek-Letter Organizations*

Dissertation Director: Dr. Brenda J. Allen

California State University (CSU), Chico, CA

B.A. Latin American Studies (May, 1993)

Areas of Concentration:

Pre-/Post-Conquest of the Americas
Colonization Effects
Indigenous Movements
Indigenous Art
20th Century Latin American Artists

De Anza Community College, Cupertino, CA

A.A. Liberal Arts, Emphasis: Journalism (May, 1990)

Areas of Concentration:

Investigative Reporting of Inequities on Campus
Newspaper Development
Chicana/o Studies

INSTRUCTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI

Assistant Professor - Communication Studies Department, August 2006-Present
(Teaching: Professional Communication, Health Communication, Media, Identity, &
Communication, Organizational Communication, Public Speaking)

Interim Director - College of Liberal Studies, Institute for Latina/o and Latin American Studies, July 2007-December 2007
(Program Planner/Facilitator: Panel on The Impact of Immigration Laws on Families and Children; Film showing/discussion of *Luminaries*, a Chicana-focused film; *Bienvenido*, welcoming of Latino/a students; brought to campus Puerto Rican and El Salvadorian Guest Speakers)

Program Consultant – Research Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal (CDRC), August 2006 – January 2007
(Duties: Explored possibility for development of a Native American and Latino/a Studies Program within the institute. Consultation on Webpage Design and Content)

Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI

Adjunct - School of Adult Learning, July 2007 – August 2007
(Teaching: Cultural Anthropology)

Adjunct - School of Adult Learning, March 2008 – May 2008
(Teaching: Cultural Anthropology)

California State University, Northridge, CA

Instructor - Chicana/o Studies Department, August 1999-May 2006
(Teaching: Public Speaking and Chicanas in Contemporary U.S. Society)

Instructor - Department of Communication Studies, January 2003-May 2004
(Teaching: Intercultural Communication)

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Honorarium: Temporary Faculty – Educational Development Program, June 1996 – June 2000
(Duties: McNair mentorship program – Assisted the McNair Program Director, Ramona Beal, in the direction of 1-2 undergraduate student research projects per year)

Graduate Part-Time Instructor – Continuing Education and Professional Studies, June 1998 – November 1999
(Teaching: Introduction to Chicana/o Studies)

Lecturer - Graduate Teacher Program, summer 1997
(Teaching Workshops: Introducing Diverse Topics in Curriculum)

Graduate Part-Time Instructor – Ethnic Studies Department, August 1996 – May 1997
(Teaching: Chicanas in Contemporary Society, Chicana Feminist Theory,)

Graduate Assistant – Student Academic Center, September 1996 – November 1996
(Teaching Workshops for McNair Students: 1) Time Management, 2) Study Skills, & 3) Research Strategies)

Teaching Assistant – Department of Communication, September 1995 – June 1996
(Teaching: Society & Communication, Multicultural Communication & Identity)

Graduate Reader – Department of Communication, May 1995 – August 1995
((Duties: Constructed annotated bibliography for Dr. Brenda J. Allen of scholarly works pertaining to identity, socialization processes, and the social construction of identity)

Graduate Assistant – Department of Communication, September 1994 – May 1995
(Teaching: Small group interaction skills)

Teaching Assistant – Department of Communication, August 1993 – August 1994
(Teaching: Public Speaking)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Cross-Cultural Communication Within the US
International Social Interaction
US Organizational Communication and Difference
International Professional Communication
Media, Identity, and Communication
Health Communication and Minorities
Chicana/o & Latina/o Communication
Identity Negotiation Theory
Critical Ethnography/Ethnography of Cultural Identity
Critical Reflexivity and Autoethnography
Critical Race/Culture Theory
Qualitative Data Collection Methods and Analysis

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

CST419 Media, Identity, and Communication
CST354 Health Communication
CST350 Organizational Communication
CST260 Professional Communication
CST110 Public Oral Communication

Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI

SOCL 330 Cultural Anthropology

California State University, Northridge, CA

COMM 356 Intercultural Communication (Communication Studies Department)
CHST 246 Chicanas in Contemporary U.S. Society (Chicana/o Studies Department)
CHST 151 Public Speaking (Chicana/o Studies Department)

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

COMM 4400 Multicultural Communication & Identity (Communication Studies Department)
CHST 3135 Chicana Feminist Theory (Ethnic Studies Department)
CHST 3026 Chicanas in U.S. Society (Ethnic Studies Department)
COMM 2400 Communication & Society (Communication Studies Department)
COMM 1600 Small Group Interaction Skills (Communication Studies Department)
COMM 1300 Public Speaking (Communication Studies Department)
CHST 1015 Introduction to Chicano Studies (Continuing Education)

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Publications: Peer Reviewed Journal Articles/Book Chapter

Olivas, M. R. (In Press). Living Chicana theory: Negotiating a borderland identity. *Qualitative Inquiry*, a special issue on "Insider/outsideers."

Olivas, M. R. (2004). Communicating a Latina identity: Becoming different, doing difference, and being different. In M. Fong and R. Chuang (Eds.), *Communicating ethnic and cultural identity* (pp. 231-246). Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, Inc.

Allen, B. J., Orbe, M.P., & Olivas, M. R. (1999). The complexity of our tears: Dis/enchantment and (in)difference in the academy. *Communication Theory*, 9(4), 402-429.

Manuscripts In-Progress

Olivas, M. R. (Final Revision). Self-Labeling In Latina Greek-Letter Sororities: Performing *Latinidad*. Projected submission to *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*

Olivas, M. R. (Data Analysis). *Negotiating a hybrid Latina Greek-letter organizational identity through nonverbal symbolism*. Projected submission to *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*

Olivas, M. R. (Data Analysis). *An interpretative approach to willingness to communicate in predominately White classroom settings*. Projected submission to *Western Journal of Communication*

Professional Conference/Convention Presentations

Olivas, M. R. (2008). Negotiating Non-Normative Identities: Gender, Sexual Orientation & Martial Status. Panel Participant: Paper, Negotiating the Public/Private Sphere of Motherhood, accepted by the Women's Caucus, to be presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Madison, WI in March 2008.

Olivas, M. R. (2008). Interculturally Speaking. Panel Participant: Panel accepted by the Community College Division, to be presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Madison, WI in March 2008.

Olivas, M. R. (2008). Learning to do it all: Exploring the Lessons of First Year Women Faculty. Panel Participant: Panel accepted by the Women's Caucus, to be presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Madison, WI in March 2008.

Olivas, M. R. (2007). Self-Labeling In Latina Greek-Letter Sororities: Performing *Latinidad*. Paper submitted to the Latina/o Studies Division, National Communication Association Convention to be held in San Diego, CA in November 2008.

- Olivas, M. R. (2007). *Living Chicana theory: Negotiating a borderland identity*. "Top Paper," La Raza Caucus, presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL in November 2007.
- Olivas, M. R. (2006). *Negotiating a hybrid Latina Greek-letter organizational identity through nonverbal symbolism*. Presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN in March 2007.
- Olivas, M. R. (2006). *Straddling The Organizational Borderland: Negotiating Identity In Latina Greek-Letter Organizations*. PhD Thesis presented at the American Anthropological Association Convention, San Jose, CA in November 2006.
- Olivas, M. R. (2003). *Debating whiteness as a pedagogical strategy*. Panelist at the National Communication Association Convention, Miami, FL in November 2003.
- Olivas, M. R. (2003). *Exploring the communication experiences of first generation college students of color*. Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Miami, FL in November 2003.
- Olivas, M. R. (2003). *Networking practices within and among Latina Greek-letter organizations*. Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Miami, FL in November 2003.
- Olivas, M. R. (1998). *An interpretative approach to willingness to communicate*. Presented at the Western Speech Communication Association Conference, Denver, CO in February 1998.
- Olivas, M. R. (1997). *Communicating a Latina identity within Greek-letter organizations*. Presented at the 12th Annual *Mujeres Activas En Letras Y Cambio Social* (MALCS) summer Institute, University of Colorado, Boulder in August 1997.
- Olivas, M. R. (1997). *Two peas in a pod: A dialogue toward understanding the intersections of race, class and gender*. "Top Paper," Language and Social Interaction Division, presented at the Western States Communication Association Convention, Monterey, CA in February 1997.
- Olivas, M. R. (1996). *The ties that bind: A cultural study of a Latina sorority*. Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, San Diego, CA in November 1996.
- Olivas, M. R. (1995). *At-risk youths: A Latino culture-specific school-based program*. Presentation at the National Communication Association Convention, November, San Antonio, TX in November 1995.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

US and International Cultural Identity Negotiation, Politics, and Performance
Minority Students and Higher Education

Campus Professional Communication Issues
International Student Issues
U.S.-American Minority Issues
Alternative forms of organizing within the US
International Professional Communication
Social Agency and Community Building
Critical Communication Pedagogy

GRANTS FUNDED

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, College of Liberal Studies: \$5,000 (Stipend) — Moving Toward Diversity Project - spring 2008 (split with co-researcher Dr. Patricia Turner)
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse Foundation: \$5,000 (Stipend) — Moving Toward Diversity Project – summer/fall 2007 (split with co-researcher Dr. Patricia Turner)
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Office of Multicultural Student Services: \$1,000 (Stipend) - UW-L (Stipend) – Moving Toward Diversity Project – summer/fall 2007 stipend (split with co-researcher Dr. Patricia Turner)
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action: \$1,000 (Stipend) - Moving Toward Diversity Project – summer/fall 2007 stipend (split with co-researcher Dr. Patricia Turner)
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, College of Liberal Studies: \$1,000 - (Stipend) – Moving Toward Diversity Project – summer/fall 2007 stipend (split with co-researcher Dr. Patricia Turner)
La Crosse Community Foundation: \$5,000 – Funding for the Three River PowWow held at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, April 2006

AWARDS and HONORS

Top Paper Award: November 2007: La Raza Caucus, National Communication Association Convention
Equity and Excellence Award: April 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder
Top Student Paper Award: February 1997: Language and Social Interaction Division, Western States Communication Association
Best Newspaper News Series (Weekly) Second Place: fall 1991: CSU, Chico, CA, California Intercollegiate Press Association

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Keynote (Honorarium Provided) February 24, 2008: First Congregational Church, La Crosse, Wisconsin – Topic: *Impact of Immigration Laws on Families and Youth*
Panel Participant July 26, 2007: Central Wisconsin History Collaborative – Topic: *Experiencing Race and Racism in Wisconsin*
Speaker April 20, 2007: Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Principles of Management class – Topic: *Cross-Cultural Communication in the Workplace, Part 2*
Speaker March 23, 2007: Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Principles of Management class – Topic: *Cross-Cultural Communication in the Workplace, Part 1*

- Training/Workshop Planner/Facilitator** February 2007: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department – Topic: *Communicating With People With Disabilities*
- Speaker** November 7, 2006: CST190, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department, Introduction to Communication Studies, two sections. Instructor: Dr. Linda Dickmeyer, Department of Communication Studies
- Curriculum Committee Member** fall 2006-present: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department
- Assessment Committee Member** fall 2006-present: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department
- Faculty Hostess** November 2006: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Phenomenal Women Dinner. Hosted by Asian, Latina, African, Native American (ALANA) Student Organization
- Faculty Panelist** November 8, 2006: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department, Communication Club
- Training/Workshop Planner/Facilitator** November 10, 2006: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Communication Studies Department – Topic: *Exploring Racism on Predominately White University Campuses*
- Educational Leadership Conference Planning Committee Member** September-November 2006: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal (CDRC)
- Committee Member** October 2006-present: La Crosse, Wisconsin, La Crosse Three Rivers PowWow Committee
- Speaker** (Honorarium Provided) October 24, 2006: Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Institute for Latino/a Studies – Topic: *Chicanas/os in US Society: A Personal Perspective*
- Presenter** September 27, 2006: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Hispanic Heritage Month, Faculty and Community Roundtable on Language Politics and Discrimination
- Speaker** February 27, 2004: Franklin High School, Highland Park, California. Recruitment of at-risk
- Faculty Advisor** spring 2002-2004: California State University, Northridge, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority.
- Keynote** February 22, 2003: California State University, Northridge, Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc., annual anniversary dinner
- Informal Advisor** fall 1993-fall 2003: University of Colorado, Boulder, Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc. Contact: Lucinda Garcia, PLC National Board (303) 361-4980
- Presenter** October 14, 2002: National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations Conference, San Diego, California. Topic: *Integration without Assimilation: (Re)Negotiating Identity*
- Keynote** March 26, 2000: Mexican American Political Association Constitutional Convention in Los Angeles, California
- Multiethnic Action Committee** spring 1998-spring 1999. Boulder, Colorado, a community activist group
- Committee Member** spring 1995-spring 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder, Communication Studies Department, Diversity Committee
- Committee Member** fall 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder, Student Affairs Advisory Committee on Diversity (SAACD)
- Committee Member** fall 1998: Boulder, Colorado, Latino Education Summit Planning Committee: an education activist community group
- Committee Member** spring 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Communication Studies, Graduate School Workload Committee

Committee Member spring 1998: Boulder, Colorado, Casey Middle School Disciplinary Committee

Committee Member fall 1997-spring 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder, Chancellor's Commission on Women

Speaker Nov. 13 & 16, 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Asian Americans and Gang Activity*. Asian American Studies class: AAST 1015-001. Instructor: Lane Hirabayashi, 303- 492-0419

Committee Member fall 1996-spring 1998: University of Colorado, Boulder, Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee

Committee Member spring 1997: University of Colorado, Boulder, *Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*, Conference Planning Committee for conference at University of Colorado, Boulder

Speaker March 6, 1997: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Minorities in education: Working toward understanding differences*, Professional Seminar II, School, culture, and society: EDUC 3023. Instructor: Angela Johnson, 303-417-0272

Committee Member fall 1996-fall 1997: University of Colorado, Boulder, Interdisciplinary Feminist Scholars, Conference Planning Committee for conference at UCB

Speaker October 17, 1996: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Talking across cultures in Organizations*, Introduction to Organizational Communication class: COMM 2600. Instructor: Lecia Barker, 303-786-0494

Speaker July 3, 1996: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Oral Presentation Techniques and Styles*, summer Research Internship: ARSC 3935. Instructor: Alfonse Kasley, McNair Principal Investigator, 303-492-5660

Speaker April 23, 1996: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Overview of Chicano/a Culture in Urban Settings*, Introduction to Chicano Studies class: CHST 1015. Instructor: Dorothy Aguilera, 303-404-3205

Tutor/Mentor spring 1995: Boulder, Colorado, Bilingual tutoring after-school program, Casey Middle School

Speaker April 17, 1995: University of Colorado, Boulder – Topic: *Conflict Resolution Styles Around the World*, Senior Seminar Functions and Conflict class: COMM 4550. Instructor: Anna Spradlin, 303-492-8739

Committee Members spring 1993-fall 1994: Boulder, Colorado, Multicultural Task Force, an education community activist group

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

National Communication Association (NCA)

National Association of Chicano and Chicana Scholars (NACCS)

Central States Communication Association (CSCA)

Western Speech Communication Association (WSCA)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)