

Paula Michelle Ochoa

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Updated March 2022

EDUCATION

2020 – Present Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, Texas A&M College Station Expected 2025
2019 Bachelor of Arts, Government, and Mexican American and Latinx Studies,
The University of Texas, Austin

RESEARCH INTEREST

- Transborder/Transfronterize Students
- U.S.- Mexico Borderlands
- Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, and Latinx Studies
- Racial and Ethnic Identities
- Fieldwork and Qualitative Research Methods/Ethnography

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Spring 2022 Graduate Assistant, Social Change, Texas A&M College Station
Fall 2021 Graduate Assistant, Introduction to Sociology, Texas A&M College Station
Graduate Assistant, Death and Dying, Texas A&M College Station
Spring 2021 Graduate Assistant, Sociology of Gender, Texas A&M College Station
Graduate Assistant, International Migration, Texas A&M College Station
Fall 2018 Undergraduate Assistant, Liberal Arts 101, The University of Texas, Austin
Fall 2017 Undergraduate Assistant, Liberal Arts 101, The University of Texas, Austin

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Border Commuting Student Experiences: Developing Transborder/Transfronterize Identities” – Thesis Research Proposal
- “Creating a Voice for an Experience: Realizing the Commute Was Worth it” – Artist Statement
- “Border Commuter Formative Experience” – Short Documentary
- “The City of Brownsville in Texas and Gentrification: Oh wait, it’s GENTEFICATION!” – Research Project
- “The Effects of Bilingual Rhetoric: Bilingual Border Town Perspectives” – Research Proposal
- “Finding Out If The Commute Is Worth It: Psychosocial Identity Development of Border Commuters” – Research Essay

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2021 Sociology Summer Fellowship (\$2,200)
2020 Sociology Scholarship Fund (\$1,050)
2020 Texas Aggie Graduate Grant (\$2,500)
2015 – 2019 University Leadership Network (\$20,000)
2019 Outstanding Service Award
2018 Américo Paredes Endowed Scholarship (\$3,800)
2018 Global KU Study Abroad Scholarship (\$2,500)
2017 Liberal Arts Council Study Abroad Scholarship (\$900)
2017 College of Liberal Arts Foundation Scholars Mentor Scholarship (\$250)

2017 Dorothy and Rudy Martinez Family Scholarship (\$1,200)
2016 Foundation Scholars Program Scholarship (\$1,000)

PRESENTATIONS

May 2021 “Border Commuter Student’s Formative Experiences: Developing Transfronterizx Identities.” Texas A&M College Station, Department of Sociology, Faculty “Happy Hour.” Graduate Student Presenter.

November 2020 “Road to Graduate School and GRE Workshop.” Texas A&M College Station, Department of Multicultural Students, Student Engagement and Leadership Team. Graduate Advisor Presenter

August 2018 “Defining Success.” The University of Texas, College of Liberal Arts, Office of Student Success, Foundation Scholars Program. Student Presenter.

August 2017 “First-Generation Students: Transition to College.” The University of Texas Student Government, Student Inaugural First Gen Kickoff. Student Presenter.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M College Station, College Station, TX. March 2022 – Present

Department of History

Research Assistant

- Translate documents and aid in a Mexican Reintegration Project
- Transcribe archival documents and create bibliographic summaries/annotated bibliographies
- Assist in preparations for a bilingual conference

Texas A&M College Station, College Station, TX. January 2021 – Present

Department of Sociology

Graduate Assistant

- Attend assigned courses and prepare to answer questions from students in person or via electronic communication.
- Grade and provide feedback for student assignments
- Communicate and meet with professor and other TAs weekly to discuss class progress and other matters

Texas A&M College Station, College Station TX. August 2020 – December 2020

Department of Multicultural Services (DMS)

Graduate Secondary Advisor

- Assisted program advisor with program planning, coordination, recruitment, implementation, risk management, and facilitating higher degrees of recognition for the different Latinx* and other underrepresented programs.
- Co-advised student organizations (Latino Logradores “LatiLo” Mentorship and Hispanic Presidents’ Council “HPC”)
- Worked directly with LatiLo Mentor Directors Weekly to prepare mentor program and lead Biweekly meetings with Mentors

De Mott, McChesney, Curtright and Armendáriz, LLP, San Antonio, TX. August 2019 – July 2020

Administrative Assistant

- Translated conversations from Spanish to English between attorney and client in writing
- Filed immigration court filings, email clients and legal staff, organize documents and files, and process evidence
- Attained information and documents from clients in Detention Centers

The Resendez Law Firm, Austin, TX. January 2017 – July 2019

Law Clerk

- Translated conversations between attorney and client, evidence documents, and immigration documentation
- Created intake forms and invoices, answered phone calls, emailed clients and made appointments for clients in both English and Spanish
- Conducted estate, criminal, and patent record searches necessary for business or immigration cases
- Ensured necessary documents were completed correctly and included in envelope before submitting to USCIS

The University of Texas, Austin, TX. August 2016 – June 2019

Office of Student Success, August 2016 – June 2019

Student Associate

- Checked in students, answered phone calls, and kept office and student area clean
- Scheduled student appointments with academic advisors in person, via phone call or email
- Helped advisors with any projects and paperwork needed for student's needs

Foundation Scholars Program, August 2016 – December 2018

Undergraduate Assistant August 2017 – December 2018

- Attended undergraduate assistant trainings weekly to update advisors on student performance
- Informed students of campus resources through presentations and by bringing guest speakers to class
- Created and graded assignments, held office hours twice a week and met one-on-one with 52 first year students

Peer Mentor, August 2016 – May 2017

- Attended mentor trainings weekly to update advisors on student overall school performance
- Informed students of campus resources, advised the life as a UT student, and helped with registration process
- Held group meetings once a week and one-on-one meetings bi-weekly with 9 students

LLAMA Research Laboratory, January 2019 – May 2019

Laboratory Assistant

- Created sentences, translated and ran experiments on Spanish-English Bilingual subjects,
- Researched and annotated, articles, books, and relative literature to language brokering
- Gathered and coded data for future analysis of the subjects' responses

University Leadership Network, August 2016 – May 2017

First Year Coordinator Undergraduate Assistant

- Created and graded assignments for 500 students about Leadership Speaker Series
- Spoke and presented for 20-500+ students
- Filmed Leadership Speaker Series on camera and uploaded video to YouTube for students to access

Texas House of Representatives, Austin, TX. March 2017 – June 2017

Legislative Assistant for State Representative Mary Ann Perez HD 114

- Performed constituent casework, responded to constituent issues, and read legislative correspondence
- Assisted Legislative Aide and Legislative Director with legislative research and issue research
- Tracked bills, reported referrals with a bill analysis, and created bill packets with designated talking points

SKILLS

- Spanish Language Fluency
- Translator
- Organizer
- Leader
- Mentor
- Public Speaker
- Basic Adobe PDF Editor
- Microsoft Office Skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and Outlook)