

Esmeralda Mari Ramirez, MA

The University of Texas at Austin
College of Education
Department of Kinesiology & Health Education: Prevention Science
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PhD Prevention Science, The University of Texas at Austin (Expected May 2029)
Dissertation: TBD
Advisor: Dr. Keryn Pasch

MA Media Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Thesis: “*Latino Family Trajectories of Social Mobility in Austin*”
Advisor: Dr. Joseph Straubhaar

BA Radio-TV-Film, The University of Texas at Austin

HONORS & AWARDS

2026–2027 **Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long Graduate Fellowship**, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin, \$6,000.

2026–2027 **Teresa Lozano Long Endowed Graduate Fellowship**, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin. \$2,000.

2026–2027 **Mary Buice Alderson Scholarship**, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin. \$1,000.

2024–2027 **Texas New Scholars Award**, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin. \$20,000 total (\$5,000 in 2024–25; \$7,500 in 2025–26 and 2026–27).

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Graduate Research Assistant (2025-present) College of Kinesiology & Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin

Teaching Assistant (2024-2026) College of Kinesiology & Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin

Freelance Editor (2015 – Present) *Samples and references available upon request*

Field Research Director (2015 - Present) *Proyecto SALTO, FASTLANE II, Tirando Muros*
Drs. Alice Cepeda & Avelardo Valdez, School of Social Work, University of Southern California

Project Director (2020-2022) *SALTO Diary Project*
Dr. Kathryn Nowotny, Department of Sociology, University of Miami

Adjunct Faculty Member, (2011-2012), Department of Communication, Northwest Vista College

Research Assistant (2009 - 2011) College of Communication, University of Texas at Austin

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ramirez, E.**, Casanova, F. O., Cepeda, A. & Nowotny, K. M. (In press). Intersecting Stigma and Minority Stress among Mexican American Women Who Have Sex With Women and Men: A Six Week Diary Study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
2. **Ramirez, E.**, Lopez-Soto, A., & Montero-Zamora, P. (2026). The Effect of Cultural Stress and Gender Norms on Hazardous Alcohol Use, Depression, and Anxiety Among US Latino Immigrant Parents. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 1-11.
3. Casanova, F. O., Puchi, G. V., **Ramirez, E.**, Bahraini, A., Bailey, Z. D., & Nowotny, K. M. (2026). Structures of Survival: Syndemic Pathways to Care among People with HIV Involved with the Criminal Legal System. *Social Science & Medicine*, 119259.
4. Cepeda, A., Frankeberger, J., Nowotny, K., **Ramirez, E.**, Guerra, N. R., Dominguez, M., & Valdez, A. (2026). Mental health of US return migrants to Mexico City. *Public Health*, 254, 106250.
5. Schwartz, S. J., Lee, S. W., García Isaza, A., Alpysbekova, A., Unger, J. B., Vo, D. H., ... & Acaf, Y. (2025). Crisis migration and identity disruption: An integrative perspective. *Review of General Psychology*, 29(3), 276-292.
6. Cepeda, A., Saint Onge, J. M., Zhao, Q., Perdue, T., **Ramirez, E.**, Nowotny, K. M., ... & Valdez, A. (2025). Polydrug Use Patterns Among Mexican American Women. *Journal of drug issues*, 00220426251398372.
7. Montero-Zamora, P., Lopez-Soto, A., Cordoba, J., & **Ramirez, E.** (2025). Adolescent substance use in Costa Rica: findings from a national survey among secondary school students. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, 1655355.
8. Lopez-Soto, A., **Ramírez, E.**, Vo, D. H., Alpysbekova, A., Lee, S. W., Duque, M., ... & Montero-Zamora, P. (2025). Cultural stress, family functioning, hazardous alcohol use, and mental health among Latin American parents in the United States: A latent profile analysis. *PLoS One*, 20(11), e0337543.

9. Seide, K., Casanova, F. O., **Ramirez, E.**, McKenna, M., Cepeda, A., & Nowotny, K. M. (2023). Piloting a Flexible Solicited Diary Study With Marginalized Latina Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 22, 16094069231183119.
10. Cepeda, A., Nowotny, K.M., Frankeberger, J., **Ramirez, E.**, Purdue, T., Valdez, A., Rodriguez, V.E. (2020). Examination of Multilevel Domains of Minority Stress: Implications for Drug Use and Mental and Physical Health among Latina Women who have sex with Women and Men. *PLOS One*, 15(3): e0230437. [PMID: 32214323](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32214323/)

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Cepeda, A., **Ramirez, E.**, Frankeberger, J., Nowotny, K., & Valdez, A. (2021). Nondisclosure of IPV victimization among disadvantaged Mexican American young adult women. In Lopez, V., & Pasko, L. (Eds.). *Latinas in the criminal justice system: Victims, targets, and offenders* (Vol. 18) (pp: 60-79). NYU Press.

POLICY BRIEFS

1. **Ramirez, E.**, Cepeda, A., Nowotny, K. M., Frankeberger, J., Mora, E. Z., Natera-Rey, G., & Valdez, A. (September 2024). HIV prevention and crack harm reduction using projection mapping in Mexico City. Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California.
2. **Ramirez, E.**, Lopez-Soto, A., & Montero-Zamora, P. (October 2024). Enhancing Uptake and Dissemination of Evidence-based Interventions among U.S. Latino Immigrants: Infusing Cultural Stress into Youth Alcohol Prevention. Latino Research Institute, University of Texas at Austin.

Refereed Journal Articles Under Review

1. Cepeda, A., **Ramirez, E.**, Smith, E., & Valdez, A. (2025). Developing the next generation of underrepresented minorities in Latino substance misuse and addiction research. Submitted to *American Journal of Public Health*.

PRESENTATIONS

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| 2026 | "Retail Marketing of Ultra-Processed Foods & Perceived Healthy Food Access: Implications for Community Planning & Policy," Poster Presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 4-7, 2026 (Accepted). |
| 2026 | "Social Media Influencers as Trusted Messengers in HIV Prevention and Stigma Reduction in the Latino Community," Poster Presentation at National Science Network on Drug Abuse Annual Meeting, October 15-17, 2026 (Accepted). |
| 2026 | "The Moderating Role of Time Spent Online on the Associations between Discrimination, Mental Health and Substance Use Among Latino Young Adults," Poster Presentation at National Science Network on Drug Abuse Annual Meeting, October 15-17, 2026 (Accepted). |

- 2026 "The Moderating Role of Time Spent Online on the Associations between Discrimination, Mental Health and Substance Use Among Young Adults," Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, May 27-30, 2026.
- 2026 "Vaping Ad Exposure, Depressive Symptoms, and Cannabis Use Among Young Adults," Poster Presentation at Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, May 27-30, 2026.
- 2025 "Mental Health of US Return Migrants to Mexico City," National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference, October 23-25, 2025.
- 2025 "The Effect of Cultural Stress and Gender Norms on Family Conflict, Mental Health, Hazardous Alcohol Use Among U.S. Latino Immigrant Parents," Poster Presentation at Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, May 27-30, 2025.
- 2024 "Minority Stress Narratives Among Mexican American Women: A 6 Week Diary Study," Poster Presentation at National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference, October 3-5, 2024.
- 2023 "Life After Deportation: A Case Study Of Socio-Contextual Factors, Family Left Behind, And Substance Use Among Undocumented Mexican Immigrants' Return Migration To Mexico City," National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference, September 21-23, 2023.
- 2023 "Ana in Her Own Words: A Mixed-Methods Case Study of Socio-Contextual Factors, Custody Loss, & Substance Use in a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Community," Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, August 18-20, 2023.
- 2023 "Gender Surveillance and Drug Use," (Presider) Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, August 18-20, 2023.
- 2022 "Immigration Factors & Substance Use Among Floating Immigrant Populations," Poster Presentation at National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference, September 28-30, 2022.
- 2022 "Sociodemographic Characteristics, Mental Health, and Behavioral Factors Associated with Current Methamphetamine Use among Disadvantaged Latinas," Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, August 5-7, 2022.
- 2022 "Substance Use Patterns and Mental Health Outcomes among Floating Immigrant Populations," Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, August 5-7, 2022.
- 2021 "The Effect of Mental Health Changes on Mood and Substance Use in Latina Women during the Covid-19 Pandemic," Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 6-10, 2021.
- 2021 "Importance of Qualitative Research in Understanding the Multilevel Determinants of Drug Abuse," (Invited Talk) Enhanced Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute, June 10, 2021.

- 2020 "Long-term Drug Use and Mental Health Outcomes Associated with Teen Parenthood." Poster presentation at National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN), October 15-16, Virtual Meeting.
- 2020 "Everybody is using, all day, every day": A Mixed-Methods Study of Emerging Methamphetamine Use Among Disadvantaged Latinas." Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), August 7, Virtual Meeting.
- 2019 "Accessing Health Care in a State without Medicaid Expansion" Poster presentation at National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN), October 9-11, New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 "Correlates of Drug Patterns of Young Adult Mexican American Women from Disadvantaged Communities" Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), August 9-11, New York, NY.
- 2019 "Cumulative trauma and drug use outcomes among a sample of Mexican-American women living in a marginalized community." Poster presentation at College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 15-19, San Antonio, TX.
- 2019 "Using Projection Mapping to Promote HIV Health Behaviors: Acceptability, Feasibility, and Effectiveness of an HIV Education and Harm Reduction Intervention among Crack Users in Mexico City." Poster presentation at 10th International Aids Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science, July 21-24, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2018 "Correlates of Drug Dependence and Drug Treatment Among a Longitudinal Sample of Mexican American Women in a Disadvantaged Community." Poster presentation at National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN), October 3-5, Rockville, MD
- 2018 "'I May Come Up Dirty': Substance Use Factors Associated with Non-disclosure of IPV to Law Enforcement among Mexican American Young Adult Women." Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), August 10-12, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 "STIS, HCV, and Drug Use Among a Longitudinal Cohort of Mexican-American Women in a Disadvantaged Community." Poster presentation at National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse (NHSN), October 4-6, Phoenix, AZ.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession:

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| 2026 | Abstract Reviewer | American Public Health Association Annual Meeting |
| 2025 | Reviewer | <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> |
| 2023 | Presider | "Gender Surveillance and Drug Use," Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, August 18-20, 2023 |

Service to the University

2026	Moderator, Campus Visit Day	College of Education, University of Texas at Austin
2026	Panelist, TA Dept. Training	College of Education, University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2026–present	American Public Health Association
2025–present	Society for Prevention Research
2017–present	National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse