

# Irene I. Vega

Department of Sociology  
University of California, Irvine  
3151 Social Science Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697-5100  
ivega@uci.edu

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

Assistant Professor of Sociology University of California, Irvine	2019-Present
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in Criminology, Law and Society University of California, Irvine	2017-2019

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles	2017
M.A. Educational Policy and Social Context, University of California, Irvine	2010
M.A. Higher and Postsecondary Education, Arizona State University	2007
B.A. Chicana/o Studies and Political Science, Arizona State University	2003

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

International Migration, Race/Ethnicity, Socio-legal Studies, Sociology of Education

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

---

- Vega, Irene I.** 2019. Toward a Cultural Sociology of Immigration Control: A Call for Research. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 63(9): 1172-1184.
- Vega, Irene I.** 2018. Empathy, Morality, and Criminality: The Legitimation Narratives of U.S. Border Patrol Agents. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 44(15), 2544-2561.
- Vega, Irene I.** & Vilma Ortiz. 2018. Mexican Americans and Immigration Attitudes: A Cohort Analysis of Assimilation and Group Consciousness. *Social Problems*. 65(2), 137-153
- Vega, Irene I.** 2014. Conservative Rationales, Racial Boundaries: A Case Study of Restrictionist Mexican Americans. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 58(13), 1764-1783.
- Oseguera, Leticia, Angela M. Locks, & **Irene I. Vega**. 2009. Increasing Latina/o Students' Baccalaureate Attainment: A Focus on Retention. *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*, 8(1), 23-53.
- de los Santos, Alfredo & **Irene I. Vega**. 2008. Hispanic Presidents and Chancellors of Institutions of Higher Education in the United States: 2001 and 2006. *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*, 7(2), 156-182.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

---

Armenta, Amada & **Irene I. Vega**. 2017. Latinos and the Crimmigration System. In *Race, Ethnicity, and Law*, edited by Mathieu Deflem. Bingley, UK: Emerald.

Figueroa, Julie L., Patricia Perez & **Irene I. Vega**. 2016. (Re)constructing Latino Masculinity: Using Academic Narratives to Understand College Transitions. In Saenz, V., L. Ponjuan, and J. Figueroa. *Ensuring the Success of Latino Males in Higher Education: A National Imperative*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

**Vega, Irene I.**, Leticia Oseguera & Gilbert Q. Conchas. 2015. Race, Brotherhood and Engagement in the Urban Context: A Case Study of Structured Peer Bonding and Engagement among Boys of Color. In *Cracks in the Schoolyard: Achievement Cases on Latino Education*, edited by Gilberto Q. Conchas. New York: Teacher's College Press.

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

**Vega, Irene I.** 2019. Review of "Race, Criminal Justice, and Migration Control: Enforcing the Boundaries of Belonging". Edited by Mary Bosworth, Alpa Parmar, and Yolanda Vazquez. Oxford University Press. New York, NY. 2017.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

---

*What would a Reasonable Agent Do?: How Law, Policy, and Culture Shape Police Use of Force*. Paper presented at Socio-legal Studies Workshop, University of California, Irvine, October 2018.

*The Reasonableness of Force at the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Paper presented at Crimmigration Control International Net of Studies, Queen Mary University School of Law, London, England, October 2018.

*Racialized Modes of Professionalism in Immigration Control*. Presented at President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Spring Retreat, Lake Arrowhead, California, April 2018.

*Race and Representation at the U.S. Mexico Border*. Paper presented at Migrant Illegality Across Uneven Legal Geographies, Denver, Colorado, April, 2018.

*Cultivating a Moral Authority: The Legitimation Narratives of U.S. Border Patrol Agents*. Paper presented at the Law and Society Association annual meeting. Mexico City, Mexico, June, 2017.

*Resolving Moral Dilemmas in Immigration Work*. Paper presented at CINETS Crimmigration Conference. College Park, Maryland, October, 2016.

*Legitimizing Immigration Control*. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting. Seattle, Washington, August, 2016.

*Mexican Americans' Immigration Attitudes: Ethnoracial Identities or American Attachments?*. Paper co-authored with Dr. Vilma Ortiz and presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting. Chicago, Illinois, August, 2015.

*The Inscrutable Alien: How Border Patrol Agents Perceive Border Crossers*. Paper presented at the UC Merced Blurring the Border Conference. Merced, California, April, 2015.

*How Border Patrol Agents Categorize Border Crossers*. Paper presented at the UCLA Migration Working Group. Los Angeles, California, March, 2015.

*Fingerprints Don't Lie: How Border Patrol Agents Learn Mistrust*. Paper presented at the UC Immigration Conference. Riverside, California, February, 2015.

*Nationalist Latinos and their Implications for Assimilation Theory*. Presented at COLEF at UCLA: A Bilingual Conference. Los Angeles, California, November, 2014.

*Patrolling Territorial Borders, Negotiating Symbolic Boundaries: A Case Study of Mexican American Immigration Agents*. Paper presented at Ford Fellows Conference. Irvine, California, September, 2014.

*Nationalist Rationales and Racial Boundaries*. Paper presented at Politics, Race, Immigration, Ethnicity Consortium. Tempe, Arizona, January, 2014.

*The Boundary Work of Mexican Americans Organized Against Unauthorized Immigration*. Paper presented at Latino Communities in Old and New Destinations: Multi-disciplinary Approaches to Assessing the Impact of Legal Reforms. St. Petersburg, Florida, November, 2013.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

---

*A Racially "Representative" Immigration Control Bureaucracy?* Presented at Transformative Borders and the Politics of Mobility in Western Liberal Democracies, Leiden Law School, The Netherlands, March 2018.

*Studying the Immigration Control State: A Methodological Workshop*. Presented at Researching Responses to Migration Masterclass, Leiden Law School, The Netherlands, March 2018.

*Empathy, Morality and Criminality: The Legitimation Narratives of U.S. Border Patrol Agents*. Presented at Sociology Colloquium Series, University of California, Merced, February, 2018.

*A Racially "Representative" Immigration Control Bureaucracy?* Presented at Criminalizing Immigrants: Border Controls, Enforcement & Resistance, Cornell University. Ithaca, NY, November, 2017.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

---

Law and Society Association, Graduate Student Workshop, 2015  
Ford Foundation, Predoctoral Fellowship, 2013-2016  
UCLA, Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, 2013-2014  
UCLA Burkle Center, Alice Belkin Memorial Scholarship, 2013  
UCLA, Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program Fellowship, 2012, 2013  
UCLA Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship, 2011-2016  
American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Fellowship, 2010  
UCI, Community Scholars Program Fellowship, 2009-2010  
UCI, Faculty Mentor Program Fellowship, 2009-2010  
ASU, Latina/o Graduate Student Alliance, Outstanding Graduate Student, 2007  
ASU, Congressman Ed Pastor Outstanding Graduate, 2007  
ASU Hispanic Convocation, Student Keynote Address, 2007

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

---

UC MEXUS, Small Grant (\$1,500), 2018  
Project Title: *Latinos on Both Sides of the State: Race and Procedural Justice in the U.S. Immigration Control System*

UC MEXUS, Dissertation Research Grant (\$11,182), 2015  
Project Title: *Doing the State's Work on the Local Level: A Comparative Case Study of Immigration Enforcement Agents*

Institute of American Cultures/Chicano Studies Research Center, Research Grant (\$5,000), 2014  
Project Title: *Patrolling Territorial Borders, Negotiating Symbolic Boundaries: A Case Study of Mexican American Immigration Bureaucrats*

UC MEXUS, Small Grant Competition (\$1,500), 2014  
Project Title: *Patrolling Territorial Borders, Negotiating Symbolic Boundaries: A Case Study of Mexican American Border Patrol Agents*

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

American Sociological Association  
Sections: International Migration, Latina/o Sociology, Law and Society  
Law and Society Association  
Collaborative Research Network: Citizenship and Immigration  
Crimmigration Control International Net of Studies (CINETs)