

# KATHERINE ARIAS GARCIA, PhD

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## EDUCATION

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- 2022      PhD in Education, University of California, San Diego  
Department of Education Studies  
Dissertation: *An examination of cultural assets in Latinx student persistence in premedical studies*  
Committee: Frances Contreras, PhD (Chair), Samuel Museus, PhD, Amanda Datnow, PhD, Alan Daly, PhD and Maria Rosario Araneta, PhD
- 2009      Masters of Arts, Education  
San Diego State University
- 2007      Bachelor of Arts, Ethnic Studies and Bachelor of Arts, Psychology  
University of California, San Diego

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Latinx Students in Medicine & STEM, Cultural Assets, Chicana/Latina Feminist Epistemology & Hispanic-Serving Institutions

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Garcia, K.A (2024). An examination of ‘Giving Back’ asset of Latinx first generation premed students in an Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000607>
- Garcia, K.A** & Flores, G, (2024). “Mamá en inglés se dice ‘pre-med’”: Bilingual Mexican-Origin First-generation College Undergraduates Aspiring for Medical Careers. *Race, Ethnicity and Education Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13613324.2024.2349879>
- Garcia, K.A. (2024). Centering Latinx students in STEM research through pláticas methodology. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09518398.2024.2323492>
- Garcia, K.A.** & Araneta, M.R.G. (2024). Intersectionality as Praxis for Equity in Medicine – Developing the LMSA Premedical Program. In Mitchell, J. D., Marie, J & Carver, P (Eds.), *Intersectionality and Higher Education: Theory, Research, and Practice* (3rd ed.). New York, NY. Peter Lang.
- Fematt, V. L., Puente, M., **Garcia, K. A.**, & Mireles-Rios, R. (2024). “You Didn’t Go by Choice!”: Exposing Institutional Barriers Leading to Latinx STEM Pushout at a Hispanic-Serving Research Institution. *Education Sciences*, 14(9), 979. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14090979>
- Garcia, K.A (2023). Reimaging Premedical Pathways: Centering the Aspirations of First-Generation Latinx Premedical Students. In American Medical Association, *MedEd’s Horizon: Just, merciful, diverse and equitable*, p101-104. <https://cloud.e.ama-assn.org/23-1561-MedEds-horizon>

Garcia, K.A. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Future Generation of Latinx Physicians. *Journal of Latinos in Education*, 1-11.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15348431.2022.2051709>

Garcia, K.A. (2020). A Latina pursuing her medical dream (MD). *InterActions: UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies*, 16(2).  
<https://doi.org/10.5070/D4162046052>

Burton, B.N., Labastide, A.S., Muhoozi, B.N., Lopez-Ramos, C.G., Anders, A.T., **Garcia, K.A.**, Gabriel, R. A. & Willies-Jacobo, L. (2020). Socioeconomic Status and Mock Interview Performance among Prospective Medical School Applicants. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 31 (1), 105-114.  
<https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2020.0011>

Powell, T., **Garcia, K. A.**, Lopez, A., Bailey, J., & Willies-Jacobo, L. (2016). University of California San Diego's Program in Medical Education–Health Equity (PRIME-HEq): Training Future Physicians to Care for Underserved Communities. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 27(3), 937-946.  
<https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2016.0109>

### Digital Publication

**Garcia, K. A.**, Osornio, A., Valladolid, A., Rubalcava, M., & Lopez, F., (2022). Latinx Premed Guide, access at <https://tinyurl.com/Latinx-Premed-Guidebook>

### Reports

Contreras, F, **Garcia, K.A.**, Puente, M, Ramirez, B & Enriquez, J. (2018). [\*A Look at San Diego: Latinx Students are a Critical Mass of the San Diego Region\*](#). UC Chicana/Latinx Leadership Summit.

### Manuscripts Under Review

Garcia, K.A. (Revise & Resubmit). The Invisibility of Latinx Transfer Biology Students Pursuing Medicine. *CBE-Life Sciences Education*.

**Garcia, K.A.**, Bailey, J, Hernandez, R, Castellanos, L & Willies-Jacobo. (Under review) Sustaining Commitment – supporting graduates in serving the underserved and diversifying the physician workforce. *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*.

**Garcia, K.A.**, Martinez-Cortes, J, Rivera, J., Perez, E. (Revise & Resubmit). Enhancing the Success of Latina Postdoctoral Scholars at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. In Gutierrez, J., Banda, R., Grafnetterova, N., Lujan, J., Flowers III, A. M. (Eds.) *Student Success and Intersectionality at Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Policy and Practice*. London, UK. Palgrave-Macmillan Publications

### Manuscripts in Preparation

**Garcia, K.A** & Contreras, F. Latinx STEM Student Success in Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions: A critical review of the literature.

**Garcia, K.A** & Prado, S.R. Examining positionalities of Latina educational researchers that employ Chicana/Latina Feminism Pláticas Methodology.

**Garcia, K.A** & Perez, N.A. Innovations in Medical Education - Introducing Hispanic-Serving Institutions to Medical Education.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

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### Grants

- 2022-2024 [National Science Foundation \(#2222278\)](#) STEM Education PRF (\$300,000)  
PI: Katherine Arias Garcia, PhD  
Title: *Examining Undergraduate Research Experiences of Latinx STEM Students in Research Intensive HSIs and Emerging-HSIs*
- 2022 Yankelovich Graduate Student Dissertation Research Grant (\$2,500)
- 2019-2021 Pathway to the UCSD Medical Hispanic Serving Institution (\$20,000 per year/3y)  
Funded by UC San Diego Office of Equity Diversity & Inclusion.  
PI: Araneta, H, Rodriguez, N & Garcia, K.A

### Fellowships

- 2023-2024 NSF Quantitative Research Methods for STEM Education Scholars Program
- 2023 Cal State University Pre-Professor Program (PREPP)
- 2022-present UC Chancellor Postdoctoral Fellow, Chicano/Latino Studies, (PPFP)
- 2020-2022 UC Hispanic-Serving Institutions President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship
- 2016-2017 UC Mexus Fellowship
- 2016 UCSD Competitive Edge Fellowship

### Awards

- 2024 NSF ECR HUB PI Travel Awardee
- 2024 AERA Latinx SIG Dissertation of the Year
- 2023 Minority Postdoc Conference Travel Award
- 2022 AAHHE Dissertation Semi-Finalist
- 2022 AERA Latinx SIG Mentoring Award
- 2022 UCSD Inclusive Equity & Excellence Award
- 2021 UC-HSI DDI Summer Writing Award
- 2019 UCSD Deans Fellowships Award
- 2018, 2017 UCSD Conference Travel Award
- 2018, 2017 UCSD Education Studies Department Summer Research Fellowships
- 2016 UCSD Cesar Chavez Staff Award
- 2015 Latino Medical Student Association Advisor Award

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2022-2024 PI - Katherine A Garcia, *Latinx STEM Undergraduate Research Experiences in HSIs and Emerging HSIs*. Mixed-methods, social network analysis – ego networks, and culturally relevant *pláticas* methodology. Preparation and submission of NSF annual report.
- 2019- 2022 Research Assistant, *Sustaining Commitment – The Role of Graduate Medical Education (GME) for graduates of programs aimed at serving the underserved and diversifying the physician workforce*. IRB, participant recruitment and focus groups with medical residents.
- 2017-2018 Research Assistant, *Students We Share*: mixed-methods study on the academic outcomes and community resources of Latinx English Language students in the San Diego border region. Interviews with counselors.  
PI: Patricia Gandara, PhD
- 2016-2017 Research Assistant, *Hispanic Serving Institutions San Diego Regional Analysis*  
PI: Frances Contreras, PhD. Quantitative study on county educational data analysis.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2024 “Health Equity & Health Workforce- Partnering with Students”, in course UCSD PRIME Health Equity, School of Medicine
- 2023 “STEM Education Servingness” in course Leading Hispanic-Serving Institutions, University of Texas at El Paso
- 2023 “Critical Methodology to examine Latinx students in STEM Education Research,” in course Introduction to Research Methods, at Chapman University
- 2023 “Positionality of Chicana/Latina Researchers” in course Sociocultural Foundations of Education, at University of Texas at El Paso
- 2021 “Pursuing a Medical Dream,” in course La Chicana at Chicano Studies Dept at Cal State University, Fullerton
- 2018 Keynote Speaker for RAZA Graduation, UC San Diego
- 2018 Keynote Speaker for MEChA Raza Youth Conference, UC San Diego

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Garcia, K.A.** (April 2024) *Examining Undergraduate Research Experiences of Latinx STEM Students in Research-Intensive HSIs and Emerging HSIs*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.

**Garcia, K.A.** (April 2024) *Racism or Misunderstanding? Latino/a/e STEM Students’ Experiences with the STEM Learning Environment in an Emerging HSI*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.

**Garcia, K.A.** (April 2024) *Reimagining Careers to Medicine: State of Coyolxuahqui and Resistance of Latinx Premedical Students*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.

**Garcia, K.A.** (November 2023) *Unveiling racism in the STEM Learning Environment: An Intersectionality approach examining first-gen, gender, and race/ethnicity*. Paper presentation at the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Minneapolis, MN.

**Garcia, K.A. & Flores, G.** (October, 2023). *Bilingual Latina First-generation College Undergraduates Aspiring for Medical Careers*. Paper presentation at the Association of STEMM Pathway & Bridge Programs, virtual conference.

**Garcia, K.A.** (April, 2023). *Mission Driven to ‘Give Back’: Medical School Aspirations of Latinx Students*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.

**Garcia, K.A. & Prado, S.R** (April, 2023). *Examining Positionalities of Latina Educational Researchers that Employ Chicana/Latina Feminism Pláticas Methodology*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.

Puente, M, Ramirez, B, **Garcia, K.A**, Osorio, R, & Prado, S.R. (April, 2023). *Co-Constructing Truth(s) with Latinx Research Collaborators through the Chicana/Latina Feminist Methodology of Pláticas*. Symposium presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.

**Garcia, K.A. & Contreras, F** (March, 2023). *Latinx STEM Student Success in HSI and Emerging HSIs: A Critical Literature Review*. Paper presentation at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education conference, (AAHHE), Las Vegas, NV

**Garcia, K.A.** (November, 2022). *Examining the Role of “Giving Back” of First generation Latinx Premedical Students*. Paper presentation at the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Las Vegas, NV.

**Garcia, K.A.** (July, 2022). *Aspirations of Latinx first-generation premeds - giving back to the community*. Poster presentation at Pathway, Programs & Bridges virtual conference.

**Garcia, K.A, Osornio, A, Valladolid, A, Flores-Ramirez, Q & Lopez, J.** (March, 2022). *Latinx Premed Guide*, paper presentation at West Regional Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), virtual conference.

**Garcia, K.A.** (November, 2020). *Persistence of Latinx students in premed studies through an examination of cultural assets*. Paper presentation at the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), virtual conference.

**Garcia, K.A.** (November, 2020). *Latinx Students and Medical School Pathways*. Roundtable presentation at the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), virtual conference.

**Garcia, K.A.** (April, 2020). *Latinx medical applicants admissions trends in a competitive medical school campus*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Francisco, CA. (Conference cancelled)

**Garcia, K.A.** (March 2020). *Pursuing Medical Dreams (MD): Latinx Premeds Admission Trends*. Poster presentation at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education conference, (AAHHE), Irvine, CA.

**Garcia, K.A.** (April 2019). *Developing the Latinx Physician Pipeline an Examination of Admission Trends*. Roundtable presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Toronto, Canada.

**Garcia, K.A & Willies-Jacobo, L.** (March 2019). *Sustaining Commitment – Supporting graduates of programs aimed at serving the underserved and diversifying the physician workforce*. Paper presentation at Western Group on Educational Affairs (WGEA), Reno, NV.

**Garcia, K.A, Barraza, A & Contreras, F.** (March 2019). *HSIs – Transforming Community Colleges into equitable HSI system*. Paper presentation at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE), Irvine, CA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2019, 2020	Teaching Assistant for School of Medicine Interdisciplinary ( <i>graduate</i> ): Service Learning - Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, UC San Diego School of Medicine, Medical Education Division
2019, 2020	Teaching Assistant for School of Medicine Interdisciplinary ( <i>graduate</i> ): Outreach Doc-4-a-Day UC San Diego School of Medicine, Medical Education Division
2019, 2020	Teaching Assistant for School of Medicine Interdisciplinary ( <i>graduate</i> ): Partnering with Communities UC San Diego School of Medicine, Medical Education Division

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

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2012- 2022	<i>Coordinator</i> , Program in Medical Education- Health Equity (PRIME-HEq) UC San Diego School of Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided leadership for the PRIME-HEq, supervised research projects of 65 medical students on health equity focus</li><li>• Developed health disparities and education courses with community health centers, free clinics and high schools (focus on service learning)</li><li>• Collaborated with Medical School faculty as consultant on diversity, education and community-based projects</li><li>• Managed \$60,000 programmatic funds and \$50,000 diversity funds to diversify medical students and community outreach efforts</li><li>• Developed community partnerships with San Ysidro Health Center, Indian Health Centers, local high schools, UC Medical Schools and UC Public Health Schools.</li></ul>
2009-2012	<i>Counselor</i> , TRiO Upward Bound/Health Careers Opportunity Program San Diego State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic advisor to a case load of 60 first-generation HS students</li><li>• Duties included college and financial workshop presentations for counselors, administrators and family members</li></ul>

## SERVICE

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### *University & Departmental*

2023	Search Committee Member, UC PRIME Pre-Health Pathways Program
2022-2023	Compassionate Ambulatory Care and Real Community Engagement (C.A.R.E.) Workgroup, Member, UCSD School of Medicine
2021-2022	Medical Education Strategic Planning Committee, Member, UCSD SOM
2017-2020	Independent Research Study Project, Committee Member, UCSD SOM
2016-2018	Co-Chair & Committee Member, UCSD Cesar Chavez Month UCSD Equity Diversity & Inclusion Department

### *National*

2023	NSF Reviewer – Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM
2022, 2023	Journal Reviewer for Journal Latinos and Education, Ad Hoc
2021-2023	Conference Reviewer for ASHE
2019-2023	Conference Reviewer, AERA, Division I, Latinx SIG and Qualitative SIG
2018-2019	Conference Reviewer, The Council for the Study of Community Colleges

***Mentorship***

2022-present	Co-founder, Latina Postdoc Collective
2022-present	Chicano/Latino Mentorship Program –S. Areizaga, J. Flores
2020–2021	Tritons Research & Experiential Learning Scholars Lopez, F, Osornio, A & Valladolid, A.

***Community***

2020-present	Scholarship Committee, UCSD Chicano/a Latino Alumni
2017-2020	Chair, UCSD Chicano/a Latino/a Alumni
2019	Latinx Ph.D. Students Navigating Higher Education & Research Journeys, Panelist, Puente Transfer Motivational Conference, UCSD
2019	San Diego Education Summit, Latinx in Higher Education, Panelist

**AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Educational Research Association (AERA), Div I Professions, Latinx SIG, Socio-Political Issues in Math & Science Education, Qualitative Research  
American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE)  
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)  
Association of American Medical College Pathways Programs Consortium  
San Diego Concilio – Higher Education  
UCSD Chicano/a Latino/a Alumni Association

**LANGUAGES**

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Spanish, native speaker