

JESSICA LOPEZ-ESPINO

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Legal anthropology, linguistic anthropology, language ideologies, Latinxs in the US, bureaucracy, evidence, racialization, kinship, citizenship

EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Anthropology, New York University
Dissertation: *Crawling Over Broken Glass: The Legal Experience of Child Reunification in a California Child Welfare Court*
Committee: Sally Engle Merry (Chair), Sonia Das, Arlene Dávila, Renato Rosaldo, Mary Louise Pratt, and Elizabeth Mertz
- 2016 MPhil, Anthropology, New York University
- 2012 B.A., Anthropology major, Minor in Applied Language Studies, University of California, Berkeley

APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-2022 UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, UC Irvine Department of Criminology, Law, and Society
- 2019-2021 Law & Inequality Predoctoral Fellow, American Bar Foundation

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- Spring 2021 Robert O. Hetlage Prize for best paper written by an ABF doctoral fellow.
- Fall 2021 Race and Inequality since the 1970s Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Watson Institute and CSREA at Brown University (declined). \$60,000.
- Fall 2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Latino Studies, School of Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico (declined). \$35,000.
- Fall 2019-Present Law & Inequality Fellow, American Bar Foundation. \$70,000.
- Fall 2019 Faculty-First Look Scholars Program. NYU Steinhardt.
- April 2015 GSAS Predoctoral Summer Fellowship, New York University. \$2,000.
- March 2015 Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation, \$102,000.
- May 2012 Kroeber Prize for best undergraduate thesis, Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. \$1,000.
- 2012 Haas Scholars Program, University of California, Berkeley, College of Letters and Science, \$8,600.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles:

Revision in progress "Off-the-Record: Linguistic Sympathy Among Interpreters in a

Updated May 2021

In Preparation California Child Welfare Court.”
In Preparation “Metapragmatic Dismissals of Parents in Child Welfare Courts”
In Preparation “Challenging Beliefs about Parenthood, Risk, and Evidence in
Child Welfare Cases”

Book Manuscript

In Preparation *At the Margins of Parenthood: Latinxs in Child Welfare Court*

Book Chapter

Forthcoming “Raciolinguistic Ideologies of ‘Spanish Speakers’ in a California
Child Welfare Court.” In *Metalinguistic Communities: Case
Studies of Agency, Ideology, and Symbolic Uses of Language*, ed-
ited by Netta Avineri and Jesse Harasta. Palgrave Studies in Minor-
ity Languages and Communities series. Palgrave MacMillan.
(Anticipated Fall 2021)

ONLINE COMMENTARY

2019 Interview with Jonathan Rosa on *Looking Like a Language, Sounding Like a
Race*. Communication, Media, and Performance (CaMP) Anthropology Blog,
March 18, 2019.
<https://campanthropology.org/2019/03/18/jonathan-rosa-looking-like-a-language/>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

2016-2018 Crawling Over Broken Glass: The Legal Experience of Child Reunification in a
California Child Welfare Court. Original research investigating ideas of
parenthood and the negotiation of parental expectations in child welfare court.
Location confidential due to sensitivity of data. Conducted participant observation
and interviews with parents, judges, attorneys, and social workers.

2017-2018 LUCA Community-Based Address Canvassing. Consultant for GreatNonProfits,
produced Canvassing Training Guide for LUCA (Local Update of Census
Addresses) Initiative to reduce undercount of immigrants and other minorities in
the 2020 U.S. Census. Results of pilots conducted in Fresno and San Jose in Dec
2017 and Jan 2018 enhanced the census address list by 4-6%, representing \$100
million in census driven-federal program funding.

July 2015 Summer Linguistic Institute, Linguistic Society of America at the University of
Chicago, Illinois. Took courses in Sociolinguistics, Perceptual Dialectology,
Linguistic Field Methods, Language and Social Context, and Sociophonetics.

2011-2013 Regimes of Parenthood: Race, Familia, and the State in Latino Los Angeles.
Original research project on language use of Latino parents in East Los Angeles
who attend parenting classes. 6 months of participant observation.

2011 Latino Literacy Narratives. Centro Latino for Literacy in Los Angeles, CA;
Interviewed, transcribed and coded ten hours of interviews of Guatemalan
women’s education testimonies. Results were used for grant proposals.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Guest Lectures and Presentations

- 2020 López-Espino, Jessica. "Re-Hearing Stereotypes: Raciolinguistic Ideologies of Spanish Speakers in a California Child Welfare Court." Invited lecture for The Linguistic Anthropology Laboratory, Dept. Anthropology, UC San Diego. November 20.
- 2019 López-Espino, Jessica. "Managing the Boundaries of Parenthood." Invited presentation. American Bar Foundation Seminar Series. Chicago, IL, September 18.

Conference Papers and Presentations

- 2021 López-Espino, Jessica. "Challenging Beliefs about 'Minimally-Fit' Parental Care in Child Welfare Cases." Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being Symposium. The Columbia Journal of Race and Law. June 18.
- 2021 López-Espino, Jessica. "Re-Hearing: Racializing Discourses of Risk and Harm in a California Child Welfare Court." CRN on Ethnography, Law, and Society. Law and Society Association. May 27.
- 2020 López-Espino, Jessica. "The Management of Risky Parents: Evaluating Noncompliance in Child Welfare Cases." Law & Society Association. May 28.
- 2019 López-Espino, Jessica. "Establishing Jurisdiction: Conflicts in Ideologies of Adequate Parental Care in California." American Anthropological Association. November 20.
- 2018 López-Espino, Jessica. "Linguistic Hierarchies in Family Reunification: Barriers to 'Good' Parenting in U.S. Juvenile Court." American Anthropological Association. November 15.
- 2018 López-Espino, Jessica. "Linguistic Sympathy among Interpreters in Juvenile Court." Jurilinguistics II Conference, Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Language and Law, University Pablo de Olavide, Spain. October 24.
- 2017 López-Espino, Jessica. "Language Barriers in a U.S Juvenile Dependency Court." Transnational Law Summer Institute, Reproduction, Alienation, Intervention, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. December 6.
- 2015 López-Espino, Jessica. "English vs. Spanglish: Language Contact in East Los Angeles." Jeunes Cherchers en Science du Langage, Contact de Langues. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France. June 11.
- 2013 López-Espino, Jessica. "'Closed Mouths Don't Get Fed': Voice and (Mis)interpretation in California's Child Welfare System." Haas Scholars Conference, Audacious Inquiry, UC Berkeley. January 18.
- 2012 López-Espino, Jessica. "Language Policing and Resistance in Court-Mandated Parenting Classes." MALCS (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social) Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara. July 19.
- 2011 López-Espino, Jessica. "Language Policing in East Los Angeles: Ideologies of Value and Parenthood in Court-Mandated Classes." Summer Undergraduate Research Conference at UC Berkeley. August 23.

Conference Panels Chaired or Organized

- 2020 Organizer of panel: Punishing Noncompliance: Expansions in Legal Sanctions and Court Surveillance. Law & Society Association. May 28.

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2018 Chair and organizer of panel: The Role of Language and Class in Legal Identity Formations. American Anthropological Association, co-organized with Nathan Madson. November 15.

Conference Panel Respondent

2021 Reader for Author Meets Reader Event: "Taking Children: A History of American Terror by author Laura Briggs." CRN Feminist Legal Theory. Law and Society Association. May 29.

2012 "Colonial History, Language, and Poetics" Summer Undergraduate Research Conference. University of California Berkeley. August 20.

Class Presentations

2020 López-Espino, Jessica. "On Courthouse Ethnography." Invited to give commentary on court ethnography by Sally Merry and Jane Anderson, Dept. Anthropology, New York University, for course on the Anthropology of Law. October 20.

2014 López-Espino, Jessica. "Bilingual Living and Language Mediation." Invited by Mary Louise Pratt, Dept. Social & Cultural Analysis, New York University for course on Language & Empire in the Américas. New York, NY, April 11.

Workshops & Community Presentations

2020 López-Espino, Jessica. "Evaluating Compliance: Recognition, Remorse, and Respectability in Child Welfare Cases." In Graduate Student & Early Career Workshop, Law & Society Association. 50 students chosen out of 350 applicants. May 26.

2019 López-Espino, Jessica. "Ethnography of English-dominant, Spanish-dominant, & Bilingual Parents Involved in 300 Dependency Cases." Professional presentation of preliminary dissertation findings for attorney panel. California child welfare court. May 29.

2017 López-Espino, Jessica. "Preliminary Findings: Language Barriers for Spanish-Dominant Clients." Professional presentation on the linguistic and literary barriers faced by parents in courtrooms and strategies to provide increased comprehension and access to services for marginalized populations. California child welfare court. February 21.

2011 López-Espino, Jessica. "Planning for a College Education/Preparando Para Una Educación Universitaria" Developed and organized 5 Spanish-English bilingual scholarship writing workshops, Pomona Unified School District, Pomona, CA.

2011 López-Espino, Jessica. "How to Encourage Your Child to Pursue a Higher Education/Como Motivar a Su Hija/o Para Lograr Una Educación Universitaria" Developed and organized eight Spanish-English bilingual workshops on for parents in Los Angeles at Management Solutions Group Inc. Commerce, CA.

TEACHING

2016 Teaching Instructor in Dept. of Anthropology course, *Anthropology of Language*, New York University; Professor Sonia Das. Spring.

2015 Teaching Instructor in Dept. of Anthropology course, *Anthropology of Language*,

- 2014 New York University; Professor Sonia Das. Spring.
Course Assistant: Dept. of Anthropology course, *Language, Power, and Identity*,
New York University; Professor Sonia Das. Spring.
- 2014 Course Assistant: Dept. Social & Cultural Analysis, *Language & Empire in the
Américas*, New York University; Professor Mary Louise Pratt. Spring.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Present American Anthropological Association, Member
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Society for Linguistic Anthropology
Association for Latina and Latino Anthropologists
Society for Applied Anthropology
- Present Law & Society Association, Member
- Present Law & Social Inquiry, Associate Editor and Reviewer
- 2021 Law and Society Review, Reviewer
- 2013-2016 New York University Academic Workers for a Democratic Union, Member
- 2012-2013 Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Associate
- 2011-2013 Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social Member (Active Women in Letters
and Social Change), professional organization

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

- 2021 Graduate Student Research Panel for underrepresented students, “Anthropology in
Color”, New York University, for the Department of Anthropology at NYU
- 2020 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Mentorship Program
- 2016-2017 Anthropology Graduate Student Association Secretary, NYU
- 2014 Organized and led 2 grant writing workshops for graduate students in dept. of
Anthropology, New York University. October 24 & 27.
- 2013 Undocumented Student Program Development Coordinator & Academic
Counselor, Educational Opportunity Program, UC Berkeley
- 2012 Chicano/Latino Student Development Intern, Chicano Latin@ Student
Development Center, and UC Berkeley
- 2011-2013 Vice Chancellor’s Standing Committee for Undocumented Members of the
On-Campus Community, UC Berkeley
- 2011-2012 Multicultural Immigrant Student Program, UC Berkeley
- 2011 Co-Chair for Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education, UC Berkeley

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- 2020 Mentorship for two undergraduates in the American Bar Foundation’s Summer
Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2013 Scholarship Review Committee for Chicana Latina Foundation, Burlingame, CA
& 2016
- 2010-2011 Archeology Education & Outreach Intern at the Presidio in San Francisco,
designed and facilitated after-school archeology programs.
- 2010-2011 In the Living Room Intern for English as a Second Language East Bay Sanctuary
Covenant, Citizenship and Naturalization Team, Berkeley, CA

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2009 Mentor for *Círculo de Mujeres Jóvenes*, mentoring program for girls in middle school at Stiles Hall Community Service Programs, Berkeley, CA

LANGUAGES

Spanish, French Reading, research, and advanced conversational competency