

Nicholas Vargas
University of Florida
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Position

2015-Present Assistant Professor, University of Florida
University of Florida Term Professor (2017-2020)
Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law (Joint Appt.)
Center for Latin American Studies (Joint Appt.)
Coordinator, Latinx Studies M.A. Specialization
Faculty Affiliate, African American Studies Program

2013-2015 Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at Dallas
School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences: Sociology
Faculty Associate: Interdisciplinary Center for U.S.-Latin American
Initiatives

Education

2013 Ph.D. in Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
Thesis: *Racial Contestation and the Multi-Dimensionality of Race*

2009 M.A. in Sociology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
Thesis: *Religion, Non-Religion, and Social Trust*

2006 B.A. in Sociology and Criminal Justice (Double Major)
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Research Areas

Race and Ethnicity, Latinx Studies, Religion, Network Diversity and Social Support

Honors and Awards

2017 University of Florida Term Professor (2017-2020)
2017 Nominee, UF Faculty Inclusive Excellence Award, MCDA
2015 Honorable Mention-UT Dallas School of EPPS Teaching Award
2014 Honorable Mention-UT Dallas School of EPPS Teaching Award
2012 Most Distinguished Article, American Sociological Association, Section on Religion
2012 Best Graduate Student Paper, American Sociological Association, Section on Religion
2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, Department of Sociology, Purdue University
2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper (Co-Winner), Sociology, Purdue University
2009 Benjamin Gorman Graduate Student Paper Award, Sociology, University of Florida

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

*Graduate Student Mentee Co-authors

- 2018 **Vargas, Nicholas** and Julio Villa-Palomino. "Racing to Serve or Race-ing for Money?: Hispanic Serving Institutions and the Colorblind Allocation of Racialized Federal Funding." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, Online First. DOI: 10.1177/2332649218769409
- 2018 **Vargas, Nicholas**. "Racial Expropriation in Higher Education: Are Whiter Hispanic Serving Institutions More Likely to Receive Minority Serving Institution Funds?" *Socius*, 4(1): 1-16. (*Open Access Journal of the American Sociological Association*)
- 2018 **Vargas, Nicholas**. "Ideological Whitening: Does Skin Color Shape Colorblind Ideology Adherence for Latina/os?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(14): 2407-2425.
- 2016 Schafer, Markus H. and **Nicholas Vargas**. "The Dynamics of Social Support Inequality: Maintenance Gaps by Race and Socioeconomic Status?" *Social Forces*, 94(4): 1795-1822.
- 2016 **Vargas, Nicholas** and Kevin Stainback. "Documenting Contested Racial Identities among Self-Identified Latina/os, Asians, Blacks, and Whites." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 60(4): 442-464.
- 2016 **Vargas, Nicholas** and Jared Kingsbury*. "Racial Identity Contestation: Mapping and Measuring Racial Boundaries" *Sociology Compass*, 10(8): 718-729.
- 2016 Trieu, Monica, **Nicholas Vargas**, and Roberto G. Gonzales. "Transnational Patterns among Latina/o American and Asian American Children of Immigrants." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 42(7): 1177-1198.
- 2016 *Sanchez, Esmeralda, **Nicholas Vargas**, Rebecca Burwell, Jessica Martinez, Milagros Peña, and Edwin I. Hernandez. "Latina/o Congregations and Youth Educational Expectations." *Sociology of Religion*, 77(2): 171-192.
- Reprinted in Monahan, Mirola, and Emerson (Eds.) Sociology of Religion: A Reader (Third Edition). Routledge. 2019.*
- 2015 **Vargas, Nicholas**. "Latina/o Whitening?: Which Latinas/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Other Americans?" *Du Bois Review*. 12(1): 119-136.
- [Featured in Media Outlets including: NBC News, La Opinion (Largest U.S. Spanish language newspaper), The American Prospect, National Institute for Latino Policy, and others.]*
- 2015 Hu, Anning and **Nicholas Vargas**. "Economic Consequences of Horizontal Stratification in Postsecondary Education: Evidence from Urban China." *Higher Education*, 70(3): 337-358.
- 2014 **Vargas, Nicholas**. "Off White: Colorblind Ideology at the Margins of Whiteness." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 37(13): 2281-2302.
- 2013 **Vargas, Nicholas** and Markus H. Schafer. "Diversity in Action: Interpersonal Networks and the Distribution of Advice." *Social Science Research*, 42(1): 46-58.

- 2012 **Vargas, Nicholas**. “Retrospective Accounts of Religious Disaffiliation in the U.S.: Stressors, Skepticism, and Political Factors.” *Sociology of Religion* 73(2): 200-223.
- 2011 **Vargas, Nicholas** and Matthew T. Loveland. “Befriending the ‘Other’: Patterns of Social Ties Between the Religious and Non-Religious.” *Sociological Perspectives*, 54(4): 713-731.

* *‘Most Distinguished Article’ -American Sociological Association’s Religion section*

- 2011 Sechrist Jori, Jill Sutor, **Nicholas Vargas** and Karl Pillemer. “The Role of Religious Similarity in the Quality of Mother-Adult Child Relations: Differences Within Families and Between Racial Groups.” *Research on Aging* 33(1):3-27.

Manuscripts Under Review

*Graduate Student Mentee Co-authors

- 2019 Dhuman, Stephanie* and **Nicholas Vargas**. “Ledes And Feeds: Divergent Constructions of Central Florida Puerto Ricans across Media Forms.” *Revise and Resubmit*
- 2019 **Vargas, Nicholas**, Julio Villa-Palomino* & Erika Davis*. “Latinx Faculty Representation in Hispanic Serving Institutions of Higher Education.” *Under Review*.

Grants and Proposals

Internal

- 2018 UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, Research-Into-Teaching Grant, Funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Convener: Tanya Saunders. “Internationalizing Identities: Global Blackness and Latinidad.”—Awarded \$30,000.
- 2016 UF Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations Course Development Grant, Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Course: *Latina/os and Race in the U.S*—Received \$500
- 2013 *Racial Contestation and the Multidimensionality of Race*, Purdue Research Foundation Dissertation Grant—Received \$15,750
- 2013 *Racial Contestation and the Multidimensionality of Race*, Bilsland Dissertation Grant, Purdue University—Awarded but Declined \$7,500

External

- 2018 Role: Principal Investigator
Fulfilling the Goals of Early Latinx Higher Education Advocates? Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Racialized Federal Funding Allocations. Latino Center for Leadership Development/Tower Center at Southern Methodist University.
Requested \$10,000 (unfunded)
- 2017 Role: Fellowship Applicant, University of Pennsylvania
Student Racial Demographics and Hispanic Serving Institution Grants
University of Pennsylvania, Center for Minority Serving Institutions Fellow
\$5,000 (*not selected*—Awarded to only one applicant)

- 2016 Role: Principal Investigator
The Growth of Hispanic Serving Institutions in Higher Education. Latino Center for Leadership Development/Tower Center at Southern Methodist University
 Requested \$10,000 (unfunded)
- 2016 Role: Consultant
 PIs: Isar Godreau, Jose Caraballo—University of Puerto Rico-Cayey
Skin Color, Ethno-Racial Classification and Health Disparities among Latinos in Florida and Puerto Rico. National Institute of Health—R15
 Requested \$369,089 (unfunded)

Invited Talks

- 2019 Invited Speaker, Race in America Lecture Series. “Are Latinxs Becoming White?” Mississippi State University, February 2019.
- 2017 Invited Speaker, “Racing to Serve or Race-ing for Money? Hispanic Serving Institutions and The Allocation of Racialized Federal Funding.” University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies, Gender Sexualities and Racialization Studies Brownbag Series.
- 2017 Invited Panelist. “Beyond Borders DACA Forum.” University of Florida, Theta Nu Xi, Lambda Theta Phi, and CHISPAS.
- 2017 Invited Panelist. “Clearing Educational Pathways.” University of Florida, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, Latinx Educational Advancement Program.
- 2016 Invited Panelist. “Abrazos: Embracing our Aspirations and Elevating our Communities.” Latino Studies Summer Institute. West Palm Beach School District, West Palm, FL.
- 2016 Invited Speaker. “Latinxs in Higher Education.” University of Florida, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, Latinx Educational Advancement Program.
- 2015 Invited Panelist. “Student Forum Workshop. Ten Things I Wish I Knew in Graduate School: Advice from Assistant Professors.” American Sociological Association Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Invited Critic. Author Meets Critic (Flores-Yeffal, Nadia, *Migration-Trust Networks: Social Cohesion in Mexican U.S.-Bound Emigration*) Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2014 Invited Speaker. Texas A&M, Racial and Ethnic Studies Institute Colloquia Series. “When Others Disagree: Documenting Perceived Racial Contestation and its Implications for Racial Identity Characteristics.” College Station, TX.
- 2014 Invited Speaker. Measuring the Diverging Components of Race Conference. “Latina/o Whitening? Which Latina/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Other Americans?” College Station, TX.
- 2014 Invited Panelist. Association for the Sociology of Religion Professional Development Workshop. “Broadening the Scope: Specialization and the Sociology Job Market.” San Francisco, CA.

- 2014 Invited Panelist. UT Dallas Hispanic Heritage Month: The Latino Experience. "Finding Our Voice." Richardson, TX
- 2013 Invited Speaker. Southern Illinois University, Department of Sociology Colloquia Series. "Racial Contestation and Colorblind Ideology at the Margins of Whiteness" Carbondale, IL
- 2010 Invited Speaker. Bloomsburg University, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work Professional Development Workshop. "Preparing for Graduate School in the Social Sciences." Bloomsburg, PA.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 Vargas, Nicholas. "Latinx Skin Color Stratification." To be presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 Vargas, Nicholas. "Racing to Serve or Race-ing for Money? Hispanic Serving Institutions and The Allocation of Racialized Federal Grants." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Vargas, Nicholas. "Are Whiter Hispanic Serving Institutions more Likely to Receive Title V Grants?" Presented at the Latina/o Studies Association Meeting in Washington D.C.
- 2018 Vargas, Nicholas and Julio Villa. "Federal Funding and Colorblind Allocations in U.S. Hispanic Serving Institutions." Presented at the Latin American Studies Association Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Vargas, Nicholas and Stephanie Dhuman. "Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's Humanitarian Crisis, and Florida's Higher Education Responses." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 Dhuman Stephanie and Nicholas Vargas. "Media and Context of Reception for Puerto Ricans in Central Florida." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Vargas, Nicholas. "Hispanic Serving Institutions and Title V Grant Proposals" Presented at the Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting in Havana, Cuba.
- 2016 Vargas, Nicholas. "Latina/os, Skin-tone and Colorblind Ideology Adherence." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- 2016 Vargas, Nicholas, Lance Hannon and Robert DeFina. "Racial Fluidity or Ambivalence about Available Survey Options? Controversy in the Sociological Meaning of Changes in Latina/o Racial Self-Identification." Presented at the Latina/o Studies Association Meeting in Pasadena, CA.
- 2015 Vargas, Nicholas and Kevin Stainback. "Documenting Racial Contestation and its Implications for Racial Identity Characteristics." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

- 2015 Vargas, Nicholas. "Latina/o Whitening? Which Latina/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Others?" Presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2014 Vargas, Nicholas. "When are Latinas/os Whitened? Mapping Elements of the White-Latino Boundary." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in Charlotte, NC.
- 2014 Vargas, Nicholas and Kevin Stainback. "When Others Disagree: Documenting Perceptions of Racial Contestation."
Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in San Francisco, CA.
[Thematic/Plenary Session] Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting in San Antonio, TX.
- 2012 Vargas, Nicholas. "Off White? Racial Contestation and Colorblind Ideology Adherence among Self-Identified Whites." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2012 Vargas, Nicholas. "Structural and Interpersonal Racism Attitudes among Whites with Contested Racial Identities." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
- 2011 Vargas, Nicholas and Markus H. Schafer. "Interpersonal Network Diversity and the Distribution of Advice." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 Vargas, Nicholas. "Religious Change as a Process: Differentiating Religious Leavers and Religious Stayers." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- 2009 Sechrist, Jori, J. Jill Suitor, Nicholas Vargas and Karl Pillemer. 2009. "The Role of Religious Similarity in the Quality of Parent-Child Relations: Differences within Families and between Races." Presented at the Gerontological Society of America in Atlanta GA.
- 2009 Vargas, Nicholas and Matthew T. Loveland. "Crossing Boundaries: Determinants of Heterotheistic Ties." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference in Denver CO.

Teaching

- 2015– Present Assistant Professor, University of Florida
 Race and U.S. Latinxs (Graduate and Undergraduate)
 U.S. Latinxs in Contemporary Society (Graduate Seminar)
 Racial and Ethnic Relations (Graduate Seminar)
 Introduction to Latinx Studies
 Principles of Sociology
 Minorities in American Society

2013 – 2015 Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at Dallas
Race & Ethnicity
Class, Status, and Power
Contemporary Social Issues
Introduction to Sociology

2009-2013 Instructor, Purdue University
Race & Ethnicity
Social Problems
Introduction to Sociology

2008-2009 Instructor, University of Florida
Social Problems

Advising

Total Graduate Committees: 23

Graduate Committees Chaired: 13

Current Anna Rodell, MA in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: Heritage Language Programs among Latinx Youth

Current Jesse Cosme, MA in Sustainable Development Practice, UF
Topic: Puerto Rican Diasporic Movements Post Hurricane Maria

Current Erika Davis, MA in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: In the Hot Seat: Ethnoracial Identities of Latinx Students in Summer Remediation Courses

Current Kalthoum Elfasi, MA in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: Comparative Racializations of Muslim Americans and Latinxs

Current George Topalidis, PhD in Sociology, UF
Topic: Contested Greek American Identities in the Early 20th Century

Current Stephanie Dhuman, PhD in Sociology, UF
Topic: Puerto Rican Migration to “Little Puerto Rico,” Poinciana, FL

2018 Matthew Levin, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: The Role of New Media for Latina/o Immigration to Southern Florida (Graduated Spring 2018)

2018 Priscila Barravecchia, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: Perceptions of Latina/o Farm Workers in a Small Manufacturing Florida Town (Graduated Spring 2018)

2017 Jared Kingsbury (Co-Chair) M.A. in Sociology, UF
Topic: Wisdom and Colorblind Ideology (Graduated Fall 2017; Current PhD Student, UF Sociology)

- 2017 Stephanie Gomez, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: “Where are the Latinx? An Analysis of Public Allies Chicago’s Engagement with Latinx Youth.” (Graduated Summer 2017; Current Co-Director, Public Allies Chicago, Training and Learning)
- 2017 Carissa Cullum, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
Topic: Latinx Educational Advancement Programs (Graduated Spring 2017; Current Academic Coach, TRIO, Minot State University)
- 2016 Diana Moreno, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
“Se ve, Se Siente: How the Organizational Structure of Make the Road New York Promotes the Political Integration of Undocumented Latina/o Immigrants in New York City.”
(Graduated Spring 2016; Current Assistant Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs at the University of Florida)
- 2014 Esmeralda Sanchez, M.A. in Sociology, UT Dallas
“The Latino Church and Education: Studying Educational Expectations among Latino Youth Congregants.” (Graduated Spring 2014; Current sociology PhD Student at Rice University)

Committee Member (10 Total)

- Current Jared Kingsbury, PhD in Sociology, UF
Current Jeyoul Choi, PhD in Religion, UF
Current Raja Rahim, PhD in History, UF
Current Kirsten Fitzgerald, PhD in Sociology, UF
Current Jessica Casimir, PhD in Sociology, UF
Current Dion Campbell, PhD in Sociology, UF
Current David Canarte, PhD in Sociology, UF
2018 Stephany Anzueto, MA in Sociology, UF
2014 Eliza Alvarado, PhD in Public Affairs, University of Texas at Dallas

First Year Graduate Mentor (5 Total)

- 2018 Natasha Joseph, MA in Latin American Studies, UF
2018 Janay Bend, MA in Sociology, UF
2017 Kathryn Hartikka, PhD in Sociology, UF
2017 Anna Roddell, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
2018 Erika Davis, M.A. in Latin American Studies, UF
2015 Jared Kingsbury, MA in Sociology, UF

Undergraduate Honors Theses Chaired (2 Total)

- Current Alexis Ercia, UF Sociology
Cuban-American Migration Intentions
- Current Krista Grajo, UF Sociology
Racial Identity Contestation among College Students

Professional Service

International

2015 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Impact Grant Reviewer

National

2018-2020 (Elected) Council Member, ASA's Race, Gender & Class Section
2019 Chair, ASA Race, Gender & Class Distinguished Article Award Committee
2018 Chair, ASA Race, Gender & Class Section Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
2018 Nominations Committee, ASA's Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
2017-2019 Editorial Board, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* (ASA SREM Journal)
2017 Chair, Minority Serving Institution Faculty Travel Scholarship Committee, Southern Sociological Society
2016-2017 Chair, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Southern Sociological Society
2015-2018 Member, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Southern Sociological Society
2015-2016 Organizer & Presider, Panel--SSS Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
2015-2016 American Sociological Association, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Founders Award Committee
2012-present Presider/Discussant, ASA Section of Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Race Gender and Class Section, Latina/o Sociology Section, Regular Sessions
2011-present Manuscript Reviewer:
American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Problems, American Behavioral Scientist, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity, Social Science Research, Sociological Perspectives, Social Currents, Social Science Quarterly, Sociology of Religion, Socius, Sociological Inquiry, Qualitative Sociology, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

University of Florida

2015- Latinx Studies Program Coordinator, Center for Latin American Studies
2015- Organizer, UF Latinx Studies Lecture Series
2018-2020 Faculty Advisory Council, Center for Latin American Studies
2018-2019 Search Committee, Director of Center for Latin American Studies
2017-2018 Co-Chair, Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law Search Committee (Race and Policing-Assistant Professor)
2016-2018 Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law
2017 Field Research Clinic Award Committee, Center for Latin American Studies
2016 Field Research Clinic Award Committee, Center for Latin American Studies
2016 Graduate Admissions Committee, Center for Latin American Studies
2015-2016 Charles Wood Thesis Award Committee, Center for Latin American Studies

University of Texas at Dallas

2014-2015 Faculty Associate, Center for U.S.-Latin American Initiatives
2014-2015 UTD Hispanic Student Success Initiative
2013-2015 Sociology/Public Affairs Program Committee, UTD
2013-2015 Faculty Advisor, Sociology Club, UTD

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
 Latina/o Sociology Section
 Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section
 Sociology of Religion Section
 Race, Gender, and Class Section
Southern Sociological Society
Latina/o Studies Association
Latin American Studies Association