

*Curriculum Vitae*

**NATALIE LIRA**

Department of Latina/Latino Studies  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2016-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2016-Present Faculty Affiliate, Department of Gender and Women's Studies and Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-16 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Department of American Culture, 2015  
Latina/o Studies Certificate
- M.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Department of American Culture, 2011
- B.A. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL  
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Latina/Latino Studies, 2008

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERTISE**

Reproductive Politics; History of Medicine; Race and Racialization; Disability Studies; Eugenics

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

- Nov. 2021 *Laboratory of Deficiency: Sterilization and Confinement in California, 1900s-1950s*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

- August 2021 "'Low Mentality' and 'Criminal Tendencies': Race, Crime and Disability in the Politics of Latino Men's Reproduction." *Latino Studies*. 19(3), 310-333

- Sept. 2021 “Sterilization Abuse” in Michelle M. Fischer and Amber Winick (eds.) *Designing Motherhood: Things that Make and Break our Births*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2021.
- Accepted “Immigration and Health Care, 1924-Present” in James A. Schafer, Richard M. Mizelle, and Hellen Valier (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of American Medical History*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Revised “Analysis of Asian Nativity in Eugenic Sterilization in California.” Co-authored with Marie Kaniecki, Nicole Novak, ToniAnn Trevino, and Kate O’Connor. *Social Forces*. (Revised and resubmitted)
- 2020 “Contraception” in Kevin P. Murphy, Jason Ruiz, and David Serlin (eds.) *The Routledge History of American Sexuality*. New York, NY: Routledge. (145-154).
- 2018 Novak, Nicole, L., Natalie Lira, Kate E. O’Connor, Siobán D. Harlow, Sharon L. R. Kardia, and Alexandra M. Stern. “Disproportionate Sterilization of Latinos Under California’s Eugenic Sterilization Program, 1920-1945.” *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol 108. Issue 5. (611-613).
- 2017 Stern, Alexandra, Nicole Novak, Natalie Lira, Kate O’Connor, Sioban Harlow, and Sharon Kardia. “California’s Sterilization Survivors: An Estimate and Call for Redress.” *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 107. Issue 1. (50-54).
- 2014 Lira, Natalie and Alexandra Stern. “Mexican Americans and Eugenic Sterilization: Resisting Reproductive Injustice in California, 1920-1950.” *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. Vol. 39. Num. 2. (9-34).  
\*Article nominated for the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians 2014 Article Prize
- Reviews**
- 2022 “Alicia Gutierrez-Romine, *From Back Alley to the Border: Criminal Abortion in California, 1920-1969*.” *California History*. Spring 2022. (113-115).
- 2020 Film Review. “A Dangerous Idea: Eugenics, Genetics, and the American Dream” by Stephanie Welch and “Amá.” Directed by Lorna Tucker. *Films for the Feminist Classroom*. Issue 10.1, Summer. [http://ffc.twu.edu/issue\\_10-1/rev\\_Lira\\_10-1.html](http://ffc.twu.edu/issue_10-1/rev_Lira_10-1.html)
- 2015 Book Review. “Barbara Gurr, *Reproductive Justice: The Politics of Health Care for Native American Women*.” *Social History of Medicine*. Vol. 29. Issue 1. 2016. (200-201). First published online: September 18, 2015

## Published Essays, Editorial Articles and Blogs

- 2022 “Interrogating Our White Supremacist Present: A Roundtable on Global Histories of Racial Supremacy and Reproductive Control.” Blog. *Notches*. March.  
<https://notchesblog.com/2022/03/24/interrogating-our-white-supremacist-present-a-roundtable-on-global-histories-of-racial-supremacy-and-reproductive-control-part-2/>
- Accepted “Confronting Consent.” A narrative essay on the coercive production of consent by state health workers in California for the digital history project the Roots of Reproductive Justice.
- 2020 “Behind the Board: Eugenic Sterilizations in North Carolina.” Co-authored with undergraduate research assistants: Kerime Alejo, Ivan Saucedo, and Fatima Valerio. Department of Latina/Latino Studies website. <https://lls.illinois.edu/news/2020-06-05/behind-board-eugenic-sterilizations-north-carolina>
- 2018 “Latinos and the Consequences of Eugenics.” An article for the PBS television program *American Experience* for their documentary “The Eugenics Crusade.” October 16, 2018.  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/eugenics-latinos-and-the-consequences-of-eugenics/>
- 2018 “Forced Sterilization Programs in California Once Harmed Thousands – Particularly Latinas.” *The Conversation*. March 22, 2018.  
<https://theconversation.com/forced-sterilization-programs-in-california-once-harmed-thousands-particularly-latinas-92324>

## Works in Progress

“Nobody Paid Me Anything:” Race, Disability, and Forced Labor in California State Institutions. (Invited for special issue in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, drafted and submitted)

“Logics of Consent: Analysis of Consent Practices for Processing Sterilization Requests.” (data collection in progress)

## Thesis

“‘Of Low Grade Mexican Parentage:’ Race, Gender and Eugenic Sterilization in California Institutions for the Feebleminded, 1920-1950.”

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Multi-institution grant with: University of Michigan, University of Iowa, and Rutgers University. National Institute of Health, R01, Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Research Program. UIUC award amount: \$136,407. Project title: “Demographic Patters of Eugenic Sterilization in Three U.S. States: Mixed

- Methods Investigation of Reproductive Control of the Unfit.” Project dates 8/2021-5/2024. (Renewal of 2018 NIH R01 grant)
- 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Latina/Latino Studies
- 2018 Multi-institution grant with: University of Michigan, University of Iowa, and Rutgers University. National Institute of Health, R01, Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Research Program. UIUC award amount: \$123,210. Project title: “Demographic Patters of Eugenic Sterilization in Three U.S. States: Mixed Methods Investigation of Reproductive Control of the Unfit.” Project dates 10/2018-10/2021. Renewed until 2024.
- 2018 Faculty Fellowship, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities
- 2016 Outstanding Dissertation Award, Latino Studies Section, Latin American Studies Association
- 2015 Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize, Departmental Nomination, American Studies Association
- 2014 Rackham One Term Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2013 Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellowship, Center for the Education of Women, Departmental Nomination, University of Michigan
- 2012 American Culture Diversity Funds Gran, University of Michigan
- 2011 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2008 Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan

#### **REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021 “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Human Rights Violations among Detained Latina/o/x Persons: A Historical Overview.” American Public Health Association. October 2021.
- 202? “Carceral Practices of Reproductive Injustice: Confinement and the Reproductive Politics of Latino Men.” Latina/o Studies Association Biennial Conference. Postponed from Summer 2020.
- 2020 “Studying America’s Eugenics Era through an ELSI Lens: Data, Context, and Relevance.” ELSI Virtual Forum, Columbia University Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics. June 15-16, 2020.
- 2019 “State of the Field: Ableism and Disability.” Panelist. Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. April 4-6.
- 2018 “Sterilization and Deportation: Health and Immigration Policy Intertwined, California, 1920s-1950s.” Latina/o Studies Association. July 11-15.
- 2017 Roundtable Participant. “Latinx Reproduction in the Age of Trump: Pedagogies of Resistance.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting. November 9-12.
- 2017 Roundtable Participant. “Race and the Reproductive West.” Western

History Association Annual Conference. November 1-4.

- 2017 Roundtable Participant. "Legal Applications of Western Histories." Western History Association Annual Conference. November 1-4.
- 2016 "'Of Low Grade Mexican Parentage': Race, Disability, and Sterilization in California." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. November 17-20
- 2016 "Disrupting the Archive: Multi-media Approaches to Latinas/os and Eugenic Sterilization in 20<sup>th</sup> Century California." Latina/o Studies Association Conference. July 7-9.
- 2015 "Mexican-American's Emerging Struggles for Reproductive Justice in California." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. October 8-11.
- 2014 "Mexican-Americans and Eugenic Sterilization in California: Recovering Acts of Resistance to Sterilization Abuse, 1920-1950." Western History Association Annual Conference. October 15-18.
- 2013 "Sterilized for Her Own Protection and for that of the Community: Race, Reproduction, and Resistance in California, 1910-1979." Reproductive Justice: Activists, Advocates, Academics in Ann Arbor. May 30-31.
- 2012 "Symptoms of Empire: Race, Hospitals, and Citizenship in Southern California." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. November 15-18.
- 2011 "A New Historiography of Eugenic Sterilization: Legal and Cultural Logics, 1900-1946." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. October 20-23.
- 2011 "Mexican-origin Women and Eugenic Sterilization in California" National Association of Chicana/o Studies Conference. March 31-April 2.

#### *Conference Participation*

- 2013 Discussion Facilitator. "Future Past: Disability, Eugenics and Brave New Worlds." San Francisco State University. November 1.

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA**

- 2022 "State Care: Sterilization and Confinement During the Eugenics Era." Invited lecture. University of Southern California, Department of American Studies and Ethnicity. April 26.

- 2022 “Histories of Eugenic Sterilization Through a Reproductive Justice Lens.” Invited Lecture. University of Kentucky, Social Theory Program. April 22.
- 2022 “State Care Embodied: Sterilization and Confinement During the Eugenics Era.” Keynote Lecture. Women’s and Gender History Graduate Student Symposium. University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. April 9.
- 2022 “Eugenic Sterilization in California: Race, Gender, and Disability.” Invited class lecture- “Reproductive Politics.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology. March 14.
- 2022 “Documenting Histories of Reproductive Injustice: Race, Disability, and Eugenic Sterilization in California.” Invited lecture. University of Oklahoma. March 2.
- 2022 “Eugenic Sterilization and the Legacy of Anti-Latinx Medical Racism in the United States.” Invited lecture. Latino Medical Student Association, Midwest Conference. February 12.
- 2021 “Centering Race and Disability in Histories of Eugenics in the United States.” Featured speaker. “The Meaning of Eugenics: Historical and Present-Day Discussions of Eugenics and Scientific Racism.” National Human Genome Research Institute History Symposium. Dec. 2-3.
- 2021 “Legacies of Eugenics.” Panel presentation. Anti-centennial of the Second International Eugenics Congress. American Museum of Natural History. Sept 26-Oct 2.
- 2021 “Collective Approaches to Researching Eugenics in the United States.” Panel presentation. California Eugenics Legacies Symposium. University of California Santa Barbara. June 4-5.
- 2021 “Eugenic Sterilization, Reparations, and the Legacy of Anti-Latinx Medical Racism in California.” Invited lecture and student workshop. University of California, San Francisco, the REPAIR Project. Feb 3 & Feb 5.
- 2020 “History of Eugenics in Latinx Communities.” Panelist. Lambda Theta Alpha Foundation. Nov. 11. Virtual Webinar.
- 2020 “Histories of Eugenics: The Human Betterment Foundation and Beyond.” Panelist. California Institute of Technology. Oct. 30.
- 2020 “Dignidad Para Migrantes: A Discussion on Eugenics, Health Injustices,

and Human Rights Violations at U.S. Detention Centers.” Panelist. Latino Caucus for Public Health, in affiliation with the American Public Health Association. Oct 6.

- 2020 “Reproductive Justice Week.” Keynote. Carleton College. (Invited, unable to attend because of COVID-19.) April 6.
- 2019 “‘Nobody Paid Me Anything:’ Race, Disability and Forced Labor in California’s Pacific Colony.” Chasing Slavery: The Persistence of Forced Labor in the Southwest Symposium. Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University. October 22-26.
- 2018 “Bodies Across the Border: A Discussion on Eugenics, Race, and Disability.” Lecture. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Nov. 29.
- 2017 “‘Of Low Grade Mexican Parentage’: Race and Disability in the Justification of Confinement and Sterilization.” Panelist. Sterilization and Social Justice Conference. March 30.
- 2016 “Women Hold Up Half the Sky.” *No Mas Bebés* film screening and discussion. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. November 6.
- 2016 *No Mas Bebés* film screening and discussion hosted by EverThrive Illinois and the UIC School of Public Health. April 13.
- 2014 “A Conversation on Coerced Sterilization.” Panel. University of Michigan Students for Choice Panel. November 19.
- 2013 “Race and Eugenic Sterilization in California Institutions, 1910-1950.” American History Workshop. University of Michigan. November 15.
- 2011 “Rethinking Reproductive Politics: Migrant Bodies and Babies within the context of U.S. Empire.” American Culture Workshop. University of Michigan. March 25.

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

### *Sterilization and Social Justice Lab*

2017-Present

Co-Director. A multi-institution coalition of historians, epidemiologists, and digital humanists exploring patterns and experiences of eugenics and sterilization in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Initially focused on California, the lab now researches eugenics in Iowa, Michigan, and North Carolina. The lab uses mixed methods from the social sciences, humanities and public health to explore these histories. We connect these histories to reproductive, disability, and racial justice. Lab research is funded in part by grants from the NIH and NEH.

*North Carolina Sterilization*

Fall 2019-Summer 2021

Project Lead. Direct a team of approximately 10 undergraduate and MPH students in data collection to build a large scale database on eugenic sterilization in North Carolina. The database covers sterilizations approved by the Eugenics Board between the 1920s to the 1960s. This is a multi-institution team including students from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, University of Michigan, and Rutgers University. This lab is funded by an NIH grant.

*University of Michigan*

August 2013-2016

Project Manager and Co-PI for the “Eugenics and Coerced Sterilization in California Project”—a large-scale database and digital archive initiative. In this role I secured project approval from the California Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects and the California Department of State Hospitals. I also developed project protocol as well as project specific data entry forms. Currently, overseeing ongoing data analysis.

November-May 2013

Lead Researcher for an exhibit on reproductive justice at the Hatcher Graduate Library: “Birthing Reproductive Justice: 150 Years of Images and Ideas.” Lead role in the collection and selection of exhibit materials and the development of the exhibit narrative.

May 2009-May 2011

Research assistant to Alexandra Stern at the Center for the History of Medicine

*University of Illinois-Chicago*

January 2014-May 2014

Research Assistant to Elena Gutiérrez for Chicana Chicago-Assisted in the development and teaching of the course “Chicana Feminism and Oral History” in which students collected oral histories and created digital archives about Latina Activists in Chicago during the 1960s and 1970s.

**TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

**Courses Taught**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

LLS 479 “Race, Medicine, and Society.” (Fall 2015; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Fall 2021).

LLS 279 “Mexican American History.” (Spring 2017; Spring 2019; Spring 2020; Spring 2021).

LLS 235 “Race and the Politics of Reproduction.” (Fall 2017; Fall 2019; Fall 2020, Fall 2021).

*University of Michigan*



“Mothering the Nation: The Politics of Reproduction in the United States.” Department of American Culture (Spring 2013).

“Introduction to Composition.” Department of English (Fall 2010; Winter 2011).

### **Supervision of Graduate Student Research**

#### *Doctoral Dissertation Committee*

Gabriela Corona Valencia, PhD Candidate, Social Science Comparative Education. University of California, Los Angeles.

#### *Master’s Thesis Committee*

Aida Rosalia Guhlincozzi. Masters in Geography and Geographic Information Science. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. “‘Buscando el Ciudad’: Spatial Mismatch of Physician Services in Spanish for Latinxs in Suburban Chicago.” 2018

### **Supervision of Undergraduate Student Research**

#### *Senior Honors Thesis*

Fatima Valerio, B.A. in Political Science and Latina/Latino Studies, 2021. “Reproductive (In)Justice in Confinement: Immigrant Women Receive Unwanted Hysterectomies in ICE Detention Facility” (Thesis in Progress)

Sandra Rodriguez, B.S. in Latina/Latino Studies, 2019. “Lo Natural Sirve Igual Que Lo Professional’: Access to Complementary Healthcare at a Botanica in Chicago”

### **Supervision of Independent Studies**

#### *Undergraduate*

Mia Martinez, Ivan Saucedo, Valerie Garcia, and Mia Seeley, “Sterilization in North Carolina,” Spring 2020

Sandra Rodriguez, “Discourses of Alternative Medicine,” Spring 2018

Victoria Giesso, “Racial Disparities in Cancer Treatment,” Fall 2017

Claudia Arruela, “Mental Health and Deportation Among Immigrant Youth,” Spring 2017

### **PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

#### *Review Panels*

Best Dissertation Committee, Latin American Studies Association, Latina/o Studies Section, 2017

#### *Journal Reviewer*

California History; Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures; Journal of American History; Left History; Routledge; Sexuality Research and Social Policy

#### *University Service*

##### University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Fall 2020-Present

Chair, Program Committee, Department of Latina/Latino Studies

Fall 2018-2020

Member, Program Committee, Department of Latina/Latino Studies

Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Latina/Latino Studies

University of Michigan

Fall 2011- Winter 2012

Coordinator, American Culture Workshop, Department of American Culture

Fall 2011- Winter 2012

Graduate Student Representative, Admissions Committee, Department of American Culture

Winter 2010-Spring 2012

Graduate Student Representative, Advisory Board, Latina/o Studies Program

## **MEDIA COVERAGE AND INTERVIEWS**

Muñoz, Anabel. “California will pay reparations to survivors of state-sanctioned forced, involuntary sterilizations.” ABC. July 14, 2021. <https://abc7.com/california-forced-sterilization-reparations-eugenics-laws/10885781/>

Mantle, Larry. “Some State Sterilization Survivors will Be Eligible for Reparations. But Who Gets them and How Will They be Found? KPCC 89.3 FM. July 8, 2021. <https://www.kpcc.org/show/airtalk/2021-07-08/some-state-sterilization-survivors-will-be-eligible-for-reparations-but-who-gets-them-and-how-will-they-be-found>

Pizarro, Citlali. “Survivors of Forced Sterilizations in California Fight a Century of Violence in Women’s Prisons.” *Shadowproof*. May 14, 2021. <https://shadowproof.com/2021/05/12/survivors-of-forced-sterilizations-in-california-fight-a-century-of-violence-in-womens-prisons/amp/>

Podcast interview. “The Fight Against Forced Sterilization.” RadioTeco. April 24, 2021. <http://eltecolote.org/content/en/radio-teco-the-fight-against-forced-sterilization/>

Live radio interview with Isabel Gutierrez regarding hysterectomies in Georgia ICE detention center. Hecho en California, KIQI 1010am. Sept 23, 2020.

Interview with Caroline Lieffers for the Disability History Podcast. September 9, 2019. [http://dishist.org/?page\\_id=735](http://dishist.org/?page_id=735)

Cross, Austin. “In the eugenics era, Mexican American women were prime targets of sterilization in California.” *Take Two*. KPCC Public Radio Southern California. April 5, 2018 <http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2018/04/05/62481/in-the-eugenics-era-mexican-american-women-were-pr/>

“A Long-Lost Data Trove Uncovers California’s Sterilization Program.” *The Atlantic*. January 3, 2017 <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/01/california-sterilization-records/511718/>

“Researchers urge reparations for victims of California’s eugenic sterilization program.” *The San Diego Union Tribune*. December 25, 2016  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/immigration/sd-me-eugenics-sterilization-20161222-story.html>

“America’s Secret History of Forced Sterilization: Remembering a not-so-distant past.” *Salon*. January 29, 2016  
[https://www.salon.com/2016/01/29/americas\\_secret\\_history\\_of\\_forced\\_sterilization\\_remembering\\_a\\_disturbing\\_and\\_not\\_so\\_distant\\_past/](https://www.salon.com/2016/01/29/americas_secret_history_of_forced_sterilization_remembering_a_disturbing_and_not_so_distant_past/)

“Mexican Americans Sterilized Disproportionately in California Institutions, Study Says.” *Huffington Post*. June 5, 2013 [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/05/mexican-americans-sterilized\\_n\\_3390305.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/05/mexican-americans-sterilized_n_3390305.html)

### **RELATED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Summer 2014	ICPSR Summer Program Course: “Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity”
March 2013	REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) training
May 2012	Center for Statistical Consultation and Research Workshop “Introduction to SPSS”