

# MELISSA VILLARREAL

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, Colorado** Fall 2017 - Current  
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology  
Research Assistant, Natural Hazards Center — Institute of Behavioral Science  
Women and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate

**University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, Colorado** Spring 2020  
Master of Arts, Department of Sociology

**Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas** August 2012 - May 2016  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology  
Certificate in the Sociology of Gender

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder** Summer 2018-Current  
*Graduate Research Assistant*

- “CONVERGE: Coordinated Social Science, Engineering, and Interdisciplinary Extreme Events Reconnaissance Research.” Funded by the National Science Foundation, Award #18418338.
- “NSF INCLUDES: Capacity Building in Disaster Research for Scholars from Under-Represented Groups.” Funded by the National Science Foundation, Award #1744479.
- “A Clearinghouse on Natural Hazards Applications.” Funded by the National Science Foundation, Award #1635593.

”Immigrant Communities and Effective Risk Communication in COVID-19,” **CONVERGE, University of Colorado, Boulder** Summer 2020-Current  
*Working Group Member*

”Parental Notification and Access to Abortion among Minors in Colorado,” **University of Colorado, Denver** Summer 2020  
*Graduate Research Assistant*

”Structural Vulnerability and Reproductive Health among Mexican-origin Immigrants,” **University of Colorado, Denver** Summer 2018-Spring 2019  
*Graduate Research Assistant*

”Evaluation Study of the Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID),” **University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2017-Summer 2018  
*Graduate Research Assistant*

”Women’s Experiences in Natural and Man-made Disasters - A Study of Two Towns in Texas,” **Texas A&M University** Summer 2016  
*Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program, Student Researcher*

- "Research in Race Relations and Social Psychology: Hoodies, Race, and Threat." (Funded by the Cantu Foundation, Spring 2016-Summer 2016)
- "Latino Residential Patterns in New Destinations." (Funded by the Cantu Foundation, Spring 2016)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Peek, Lori, Jessica Austin, Elizabeth Bittel, Simone Domingue, and Melissa Villarreal. 2020. "Children Take Charge: Helping Behaviors and Organized Action among Young People after Hurricane Katrina." *Bottom-Up Responses to Crisis*, edited by Virgil Storr and Stefanie Haeffele, 87-111. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Villarreal, Melissa and Michelle Meyer. 2020. "Women's Experiences Across Disasters - A Study of Two Towns in Texas." *Disasters Journal*, 44(2).

## WORKING PAPERS

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Villarreal, Melissa. 2021. "Long-Term Housing Recovery Among Mexican Immigrants: How Service Providers Navigate Racialized Anti-Immigrant Disaster Recovery Policies." University of Colorado Boulder.

Villarreal, Melissa and Nnenia Campbell. 2021. "Scholars from Under-Represented Groups in Engineering and the Social Sciences (SURGE) Capacity: An Evaluation of a Mentoring Program for Underrepresented Minority Students." Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.

Coleman-Minahan, Kate, Edelina Burciaga, and Melissa Villarreal. 2021. "[Working Title] How Uncertainty of Liminal Legality Shapes Reproductive Aspirations among 1.5 and 2nd Generation Mexican Immigrant Women." University of Colorado Denver.

Ryder, Stacia and Melissa Villarreal. 2021. Book Review: "Hurricane Harvey's Aftermath: Place, Race, and Inequality in Disaster Recovery by Kevin M. Fitzpatrick and Matthew L. Spialek." Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.

## REPORTS AND BLOG POSTS

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Villarreal, Melissa. 2020. "The Impact of the Bill Anderson Fund for Students of Color and Marginalized Communities." *Emerald Publishing Real Impact Blog*. <https://www.emeraldpublishing.com/news-and-blogs/the-impact-of-the-bill-anderson-fund-for-students-of-color-and-marginalized-communities/>

Villarreal, Melissa. 2020. "What are women's experiences like during and after disasters?" *Sociology Lens*. <https://www.sociologylens.net/topics/gender/what-are-womens-experiences-like-during-and-after-disasters/28088>

Villarreal, Melissa. 2019. "The Significance of Language in Hazards and Disaster Research and Practice." *Legacy: A William Averette Anderson Magazine*.

Daniels, Lorita C., Joy Semien, Antoine Richards, Akilah Alleyne, Jennifer Blanks, Tiffany Cousins, and Melissa Villarreal. 2018. "The South Bridge Community Assessment." *Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware*.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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**Long-Term Housing Recovery Among Mexican Immigrants: How Service Providers Navigate Racialized Anti-Immigrant Disaster Recovery Policies**

*Serie de Conferencias: Desastres y Sociedad (Series of Conferences: Disasters & Society), April 2021*

**Documenting the Undocumented Story: Long-Term Housing Recovery of Mexican-Origin Immigrants after Hurricane Harvey**

*International Research Committee on Disasters (IRCD) Researchers Meeting, July 2019*

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Scholars from Under-Represented Groups in Engineering and the Social Sciences (SURGE) Capacity: An Evaluation of a Mentoring Program for Underrepresented Minority Students**

*Texas A&M University (BAF) Workshop, March 2021*

**Long-Term Housing Recovery Among Mexican Immigrants: How Service Providers Navigate Racialized Anti-Immigrant Disaster Recovery Policies**

*Texas A&M University (BAF) Workshop, March 2021*

**Long-Term Housing Recovery of Mexican-Origin Immigrants: Navigating Active and Passive Anti-Immigrant Disaster Recovery Policies**

*American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2020 \* Cancelled due to COVID-19*

**Long-Term Housing Recovery Among Mexican-Origin Immigrants: How Service Providers Navigate Active and Passive Anti-Immigrant Disaster Recovery Policies**

*Sociologists for Women in Society, August 2020*

**Structural Vulnerability, Uncertainty, and the Desire to Avoid Pregnancy among Mexican-Origin Women**

*Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting, February 2020*

**Understanding Disaster Vulnerability Through Affect Theory**

*Women of Color Feminisms Symposium, April 2019*

**Coordinated Social Science, Engineering, & Interdisciplinary Extreme Events Research**

*Institute of Behavioral Science Symposium, April 2019*

**Preparing to Respond: Vulnerable Populations Factsheets for Emergency Response**

*Natural Hazards Workshop, Summer 2018*

**Women's Experiences in Natural and Man-made Disasters - A Study of Two Towns in Texas**

*Natural Hazards Workshop, Summer 2016*

## WEBINARS

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**Sociology Summer Funding/Opportunities (Panelist)**

*Department of Sociology, February 2021*

**CONVERGE Institutional Review Board (IRB) Procedures and Extreme Events Research Training Module: A Demonstration Webinar (Presenter)**

*CONVERGE, Natural Hazards Center, June 2020*

**CONVERGE Cultural Competence Training Module: A Demonstration Webinar (Presenter)**

*CONVERGE, Natural Hazards Center, April 2020*

**Interdisciplinary Research in Hazard and Disaster Fields (Moderator)**

*Bill Anderson Fund, October 2018*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**University of Colorado, Boulder**

Summer 2020

*Graduate Part-Time Instructor, Continuing Education*

- "Social Construction of Sexuality," Summer Term A Session
- Developed my own course, including weekly lesson plans, assignments, and meeting with and supporting students.

**University of Colorado, Boulder**

Fall 2017-Fall 2018

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*

- "Intro to Sociology" and "Social Construction of Sexuality"
- Developed weekly lesson plans, led three recitation sections, and was responsible for 60-115 total students each semester.

**Undergraduate Teaching Fellows Program**

Spring 2015

*Texas A&M University, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*

- "Sociology of Latinos"

**TEACHING AND TRAINING MATERIALS**

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Villarreal, Melissa. 2020 "Best Practices for Ethical Post-Disaster Community Outreach and Engagement." *CONVERGE Extreme Events Research Check Sheets Series. DesignSafe-CI.*

<https://doi.org/10.17603/ds2-zekm-9737>.

Villarreal, Melissa. 2020. "Best Practices for Research with Non-English Dominant Populations." *CONVERGE Extreme Events Research Check Sheets Series. DesignSafe-CI.*

<https://doi.org/10.17603/ds2-5b9m-sn48>.

Wu, Haorui, Melissa Villarreal, Rachel M. Adams, Candace Evans, and Lori Peek. 2020. "CONVERGE Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Extreme Events Research Training Module." *Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.*

<https://converge-training.colorado.edu/courses/institutional-review-board/>

Wu, Haorui, Rachel M. Adams, Candace Evans, Melissa Villarreal, and Lori Peek. 2020. "CONVERGE Cultural Competence in Hazards and Disaster Research Training Module." *Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.*

<https://converge-training.colorado.edu/courses/cultural-competence>

**EXTERNAL FUNDING**

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**Documenting the Undocumented Story - How Mexican Immigrants Navigate Long-Term Post-Disaster Recovery**

March 2021

*American Sociological Association (ASA) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) (\$14,157)*

**Documenting the Undocumented Story - The Long-Term Housing Recovery of Mexican-origin Immigrants after Hurricane Harvey** April 2019  
*National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)*  
*Grant #DGE 1650115. (\$138,000)*

**INTERNAL FUNDING**

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**Research Summer Funding Award** Spring 2021  
*Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$750)*

**Research Award** Spring 2021  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$1,500)*

**Beverly Sears Graduate Student Award** Spring 2021  
*University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$1,000)*

**Small Research Grant** Fall 2020  
*Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$300)*

**Research Collaboration Funding Award** Spring 2020  
*Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$750)*

**United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS) Travel Grant** Spring 2020  
*University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$300)*

**Departmental Travel Grant** Fall 2019  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$1,000)*

**Sociology Outreach & Promotion** Spring 2019  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$1,500)*

**Center to Advance Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences (CARTSS) Graduate Student Award** Spring 2019  
*University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$1,000)*

**Research Summer Funding Award** Spring 2019  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$750)*

**Research Collaboration Funding Award** Spring 2018  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$750)*

**Departmental Travel Grant** Fall 2017  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder. (\$500)*

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS UNDER REVIEW**

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**Documenting the Undocumented Story - How Mexican Immigrants Navigate Long-Term Post-Disaster Recovery** 2021  
*American Sociological Association (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)*

**Racial/Ethnic Inequality Research Award** 2021  
*Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder.*

## RECOGNITION AND AFFILIATIONS

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- William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF)** Fall 2017-Current
- BAF is a nationally-recognized program that works to empower students from underrepresented backgrounds in the hazards mitigation and disaster research field.
- Rice University Kinder Scholar Program** Summer 2021-2022
- The Kinder Scholar program is created for researchers, post-doctoral fellows, or graduate students who conduct high quality research in Houston.

## SERVICE

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- William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF)** Spring 2021-Current  
*BAF Fellow Mentor; "Buddy Program"*
- Natural Hazards Center, Disability & Disasters Award** Spring 2021-Current  
*Reviewer Committee*
- Natural Hazards Center, Quick Response Research Awards** Fall 2020-Current  
*Reviewer*
- Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2020-Current  
*Culture, Power, & Inequality Workshop Coordinator*
- Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2020-Current  
*Graduate Committee*
- Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2020-Current  
*Faculty Meeting Liaison*
- NHERI Education & Community Outreach (ECO)** Spring 2020-Current  
*CONVERGE, Natural Hazards Center, Liaison*
- Natural Hazards Workshop** Summer 2019-Current  
*Student Volunteer Coordinator*
- William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF)** Fall 2017-Current  
*BAF Fellows Student Council*
- Currently the Secretary (2021)
  - Drafted and disseminated BAF Newsletter (2019-2020).
  - Organized the BAF's annual fundraiser, hosted during the annual Natural Hazards Workshop (2018).
  - Planned and moderated a professional development webinar, which included identifying topics and themes of importance based on Fellows' needs and identifying presenters and panelists (2017-2018).
- The Graduate School, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2019-Spring 2020  
*Graduate Peer Mentoring Program, Mentor*
- Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder** Spring 2019-Spring 2020  
*Open House Committee*
- Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2018-Spring 2020  
*Diversity Committee*
- Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder** Fall 2019  
*NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Workshop, Mentor*

## WORKSHOPS

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<b>Natural Hazards Workshop</b> <i>Staff</i>	July 2018-2021
<b>Texas A&amp;M University (BAF) Workshop</b> <i>Bill Anderson Fund Fellow</i>	March 2021
<b>BAF@UD 4.0</b> <i>Bill Anderson Fund Fellow</i>	October 2019
<b>Texas A&amp;M University (BAF) Workshop</b> <i>Bill Anderson Fund Fellow</i>	April 2018-2019
<b>BAF@UD 3.0</b> <i>Bill Anderson Fund Fellow</i>	October 2018
<b>BAF@UD 2.0</b> <i>Bill Anderson Fund Fellow</i>	November 2017
<b>Natural Hazards Workshop</b> <i>Volunteer</i>	July 2017
<b>Natural Hazards Workshop</b> <i>Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program</i>	July 2016

## SKILLS

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Proficient in writing, reading, and speaking both Spanish and English and have contributed to bilingual research projects.

Competent in the qualitative software, Atlas.ti, and LaTeX software.