

Members

Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, PhD, JD	
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics	
<p>Dr. Amuedo-Dorantes does research on migrant populations and the health risks they encounter with intensified immigration policy and under tougher immigration initiatives. She is also a Research Fellow at CReAM, FEDEA and IZA, an Advisory committee member of the Americas Center Advisory Council at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the 2013-2014 recipient of the Garcia-Robles Border Fulbright. She is the past President-elect of the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE). Her areas of interest include international migration, remittances and, more broadly, labor economics.</p>	
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Elva Arredondo, PhD	
Professor, Graduate School of Public Health	
<p>Dr. Arredondo researches the area of health disparities, specifically involving cancer and obesity preventive behaviors. She has a strong interest in the development of theory-driven and culturally appropriate behavioral interventions. Her current research interests are centered on the cultural influences and psychosocial mediators of preventive practices including cervical cancer screening, physical activity, and dietary practices among underserved groups.</p>	
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Aaron J. Blashill, PhD	
Assistant Professor, Psychology	
<p>Dr. Blashill's research interest include body image and health behaviors (HIV medication adherence, sexual risk, indoor/outdoor tanning, and anabolic-androgenic steroid misuse), with a particular focus on sexual orientation health disparities.</p>	
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<p>Eric R. Buhi, MPH, PhD</p> <p>Co-Director, Center for Research on Sexuality and Sexual Health (SASH) Associate Director, Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMA) Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Buhi's focused line of inquiry centers on eliminating sexual and reproductive health disparities, mostly among young people, and employing innovative technologies for health promotion and behavior change (called digital health). He employs mobile phones (mHealth), social media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram), and other big data sources to conduct his research, which is essentially population health.</p>	 <p>ebuhi@sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>619-594-7058</p>
<p>Tracy L. Finlayson, PhD</p> <p>Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Finlayson is an interdisciplinary health services researcher with training in Sociology/Social Psychology. Her main areas of research are exploring the psychosocial determinants of oral health disparities and issues around access to dental care. Her research often integrates quantitative and qualitative methods when possible. She is also especially interested in health policy.</p>	 <p>tfinlays@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>619-594-0559</p>
<p>Linda C. Gallo, PhD</p> <p>Professor, Department of Psychology</p> <p>Dr. Gallo's primary focus of research is health disparities, specifically, sociocultural factors in health and health disparities, and developing and testing culturally appropriate behavioral and healthcare system interventions to reduce disparities among under-served groups, particularly Hispanics/Latinos.</p>	 <p>lgallo@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4611</p> <p>619-240-7807</p>
<p>Joseph R. Gibbons, PhD</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology</p> <p>Dr. Gibbons' research has mainly emphasized neighborhoods, specifically the implications of racial segregation. So far, this effort have centered on the impact of segregation on the operation of nonprofit organizations, health disparities between neighborhoods, community connection, and locational attainment.</p>	 <p>jgibbons@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4423</p> <p>619-594-1859</p>

<p>Edgar R. Hodge, MS, PhD Candidate</p> <p>Director of University Computing Operations, Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)</p> <p>Mr. Hodge has 20+ years of experience in networking, UNIX, databases, programming, network security and desktop applications. He also has experience in IT operations, 24/7 data center operations, telecommunications, Storage Area Networks, Network Attachable Storage and Identity Management.</p>	<p>Photo Coming Soon</p>  <p>ehodge@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:7251</p> <p>619-594-6906</p>
<p>Lucy Horton, MS, MPH</p> <p>Project Manager, Institute for Behavioral and Community Health</p> <p>Ms. Horton has worked with Dr. Ayala in the Institute for Behavioral and Community Health since 2010. She has served as a Project Manager on numerous SDSU grants, including a PCORI-funded intervention study on childhood asthma control, an NIH-funded R21 intervention study focusing on improving healthy children's menu items in restaurants, a CDC-funded multi-level multi-sector intervention study to improve childhood obesity in Imperial County, California and two other Imperial County based intervention studies focused on improving the health of the Latino population in the areas of diabetes management and dietary intake. As a result, she has extensive experience managing health disparities research grants in varied topic areas across San Diego and Imperial counties.</p>	 <p>Lhorton@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>9245 Sky Park Ct. Ste. 221</p> <p>619-594-2395</p>
<p>Mel F. Hovell, PhD, MPH</p> <p>Distinguished Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Director, Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health (CBEACH)</p> <p>Dr. Hovell focuses on low income/education populations with emphasis on women, children, people of color, and immigrants to the U.S. He studies the use of principles of behavior to understand population change and inform policies to direct population change; and use of the emerging Behavioral Ecological Model to inform RCT studies with emphasis on real time measures and real time feedback and use of micro-incentives provided immediately and frequently compared to macro-incentives delivered at much delayed periods and infrequently. His efforts involve big data and may lead to continuous support and autoshaping procedures for population culture change.</p>	 <p>mhovell@cbeachsdsu.org</p> <p>mhovell@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>858-505-4772</p> <p>619-201-3374</p>
<p>Vanja Lazarevic, PhD</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development</p> <p>Dr. Lazarevic's expertise is in immigrant and refugee health and well-being. More specifically, she is interested in understanding how immigration and acculturation impact family systems, how they impact the mental health and well-being of immigrant youth, and what may be some protective factors that can serve as buffers against negative impact of immigration on mental health.</p>	 <p>vlazarevic@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4502</p> <p>619-594-3384</p>

<p>Hala Madanat, PhD</p> <p>Director and Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Madanat is a medical sociologist with strong interest in the role of culture, traditions, and western influence on health in the global setting. Her research focuses on the impact of westernization on diet and nutrition and has been working on developing nutrition education programs that emphasize health and biological hunger with emphasis on the Middle East and Middle-eastern populations in the US.</p>	 <p>hmadanat@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>619-594-3754</p>
<p>Katrina S. Maluf, PT, PhD</p> <p>Associate Professor, Exercise and Nutritional Sciences</p> <p>Dr. Maluf's research goal is to identify mechanisms underlying psychomotor responses to stress and pain, and to apply this knowledge to the prevention and treatment of chronic pain disorders. She uses a variety of neurophysiologic techniques to investigate how the central nervous system responds to stress and pain in healthy individuals and clinical populations. Common experimental techniques include surface and intra-muscular electromyography (EMG), peripheral nerve stimulation, and quantitative sensory testing. She also conduct clinical studies to investigate risk factors and novel treatment strategies for chronic pain disorders including neck pain and fibromyalgia.</p>	 <p>kmaluf@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC: 7251</p> <p>619-594-5553</p>
<p>Jong Won Min, PhD</p> <p>Professor, School of Social Work</p> <p>Dr. Min studies health disparities/inequality among older population, and explores potential use and application of technology with the population to provide a way of identifying and reducing such disparities. Currently, he collaborates with SDSU's Electrical Engineering Department to study Alzheimer's disease patients and their caregivers.</p>	 <p>jwmin@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4119</p> <p>619-594-6893</p>
<p>Atsushi Nara, PhD</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Geography</p> <p>Dr. Nara's research interests include human geography and GIScience, specifically human dynamics, urban geography, epidemiological dynamics, health disparities, GIS, spatio-temporal data analytics, and geocomputation.</p>	 <p>anara@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4493</p> <p>619-594-1305</p>

<p>Ramona Lee Pérez, BA, MA, PhD</p> <p>Director, Center for Latin American Studies Professor, Department of Anthropology</p> <p>Dr. Perez focuses on youth identity and empowerment among transnational, Mexican and Central American migrant youth; food, nutrition, and health among marginalized populations; ethnic marginalization and the state; rural to urban community growth; the political economy of tourism in Oaxaca; and the gendered and moral nature of community economies in Mexico. Her current work spans the US/Mexico border, southern Mexico, Nicaragua, and Brazil.</p>	 <p>perez@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:6038</p> <p>619-594-1155</p>
<p>Sonja Pruitt-Lord, PhD, MA</p> <p>Associate Professor, School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences</p> <p>In an effort to reduce health disparities in communication disorders, Dr. Pruitt's research program examines child language development and disorders within the context of poverty. More specifically, her work focuses on the linguistic and environmental factors that influence language development in culturally and linguistically diverse children across socioeconomic (SES) levels and the development of prevention models for such "at-risk" children.</p>	 <p>spruitt@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:1518</p> <p>619-594-8651</p>
<p>Penelope Quintana, PhD, MPH</p> <p>Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Quintana has a research focus on exposures to children and vulnerable populations at the US-Mexico border. She has assessed children's exposure to toxicants in house dust and on surfaces, for example residual tobacco toxicants remaining after smoking has taken place, known as third-hand smoke. In conjunction with researchers at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, she has studied markers of DNA damage in placentas from a Tijuana hospital, and exposure to toxic traffic pollutants inside vehicles and exposures to pedestrians waiting in lines to cross the US-Mexico border. She is the author of a recent report drawing attention to the long northbound wait times and lines of idling vehicles at US-Mexico Ports of Entry as an environmental justice issue for border crossers and surrounding communities.</p>	 <p>jquintan@mail.sdsu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>619-594-1688</p>
<p>Elizabeth A. Reed, ScD, MPH</p> <p>Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Health Co-Director of Joint SDSU-UCSD Doctoral Program in Global Health</p> <p>Dr. Reeds' research focuses on issues associated with gender inequity, poverty, and sexual/reproductive health.</p>	 <p>ereed@sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>508-212-1517</p>

<p>Melody K. Schiaffino, PhD, MPH</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Schiaffino is a health services researcher and epidemiologist specializing in population health, hospital and organizational theory, management, quality outcomes, and survey and spatial methods. She has previous expertise in community-based participatory research and community partnerships to reduce cancer disparities with community interventions and health communication in breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer in Latinos and African-Americans. She is continuing her research on developing methods and potential interventions to study the effect of hospital language service disparities on process and patient outcomes in quality of care.</p>	 <p>mschiaffino@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>6195946439</p>
<p>Caroline Avery Thompson, PhD, MPH</p> <p>Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health</p> <p>Dr. Thompson's topic areas include ethnic and other disparities in cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment, and cancer-related mortality understood through geographic and social contexts. Her methods research is concerned with the use of existing sources of health-related "real world" data (e.g., electronic health records, pharmacy claims, cancer registries, etc.) for cancer population health research and the treatment of systematic error via quantitative bias analysis in observational epidemiology.</p>	 <p>caroline.thompson@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4162</p> <p>619-594-0104</p>
<p>Susan Irene Woodruff, BA, MA, PHD</p> <p>Professor, School of Social Work</p> <p>Dr. Woodruff has over 20 years of experience in the area of tobacco and drug use research, particularly with high-risk and underserved populations. She has a particular interest in health disparity research, research methodology, and statistics, and has assisted many students in conducting their thesis and dissertation research.</p>	 <p>swoodruff@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4119</p> <p>619-229-2340</p>
<p>Maria Luisa Zuñiga, PhD</p> <p>Co-Director, Joint Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Research on Substance Use Professor, School of Social Work</p> <p>Dr. Zúñiga is an epidemiologist who conducts transnational and Community-Based Participatory Research to study the intersection of alcohol and drug use, mental health, TB/HIV and sexual risk behaviors in order to reduce problems that contribute to poor health. She has worked extensively with communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region as well as Mexican transnational and domestic migrants and their families in Mexico. Her ongoing research is designed to understand and improve health care engagement, patient and clinician communication, and care continuity among Latinos, including persons living with HIV and/or Tuberculosis, and persons impacted by substance abuse. Dr. Zúñiga is currently developing new interdisciplinary collaborations in HIV/TB/Substance use research with colleagues in the US and Brazil.</p>	 <p>mlzuniga@mail.sdsu.edu</p> <p>MC:4119</p> <p>619-889-1489</p>