

TAMARA CASSO, M.S.
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EDUCATION

2004- M.S. in Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Summa Cum Laude.

2001- B.A. in Sociology, Concentration in Women & Gender Studies, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas. Magna Cum Laude.

1978 to 1981- Studied Communications, Concentration in Radio|TV|Film, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2022 to Present – ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Academic Inquiry and Scholarship, Social Problems, Social Context of Drug Use, Sociology of Food and Culture, Race and Ethnic Relations, Individual and Society, Latinas in U.S. Society, Qualitative Research Methods, Sociology of the Mexican American Community, Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society, Independent Study.

2007 to April 2022- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR/LECTURER, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Academic Inquiry and Scholarship, Social Problems, Social Context of Drug Use, Sociology of Food and Culture, Race and Ethnic Relations, Individual and Society, Latinas in U.S. Society, Qualitative Research Methods, Sociology of the Mexican American Community, Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society, Independent Study.

2016- RESEARCH CONSULTANT, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, U.S. Department of Education Eastside Promise Neighborhood and Doris Duke Foundation Research Grants, San Antonio, Texas.

2015 to 2021- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Principles of Sociology, Social Problems, Gender and Society, Developing a Sociological Skill Set, Social Psychology, Inequality/Social Stratification, Social Movements, Minority Women in U.S. Society.

2014- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Department of Applied Social and Cultural Sciences, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Introduction to Sociology.

2013 to 2014- RESEARCH CONSULTANT, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, U.S. Department of Education Eastside Promise Neighborhood Grant, San Antonio, Texas.

2008 to 2012- SENIOR PROGRAM EVALUATOR, GRANT WRITER, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SPECIALIST, Edgewood Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas.

2006 to 2011- COMMUNITY RESEARCH TEAM MANAGER, MY VOICE MATTERS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, RESIDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, PHOTOETHNOGRAPHER, Annie E. Casey Foundation *Making Connections-San Antonio*, San Antonio, Texas.

2006- GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT to Dr. Harriett Romo, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses Taught: Qualitative Research Methods.

2005 to 2006- COMMUNITY EDUCATION ASSISTANT, QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, DATA ANALYST, FIELD INVESTIGATOR, PROGRAM EVALUATOR, GRANT PROPOSAL and PROJECT STATUS REPORT WRITER, PHOTOETHNOGRAPHER and GRAPHICS DESIGN for Dr. Harriett Romo and the Community Action Inc. Head Start Early Reading First Project, the UTSA Head Start Summer Institute, the University of Washington Institute of Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS) Bilingual Infant Language Acquisition Research Project, the UTSA Early College High School Project, the UTSA HUD-HSIAC Navarro Early Childhood Center and Community Resource Center Project and the Rockefeller Foundation's Transnational Lives in San Antonio Research Project, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2006- GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT to Dr. Harriett Romo, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses Taught: Qualitative Research Methods.

2002 to 2005- QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, FIELD INVESTIGATOR, GRAPHICS/WEB DESIGN, PHOTOETHNOGRAPHER and PROJECT COORDINATOR, PRE-EDITOR and SECRETARY for Notre Dame Collaborative Book Project for Dr. Raquel Marquez, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Las Fronterizas Working Group: *Transformations of La Familia on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2003 to 2004- UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT to Dr. Raquel Marquez, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2002- GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

1981 to 2001- AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE (ACE) CERTIFIED FITNESS INSTRUCTOR, FITNESS CONSULTANT, PERSONAL TRAINER and FITNESS CLUB MANAGER in El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio and Laredo, Texas.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Qualitative and Visual Research Methods, Identity Construction, Social Psychology, Social, Racial, Gendered, Economic, Educational, Criminal Justice, etc. Inequalities.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2009- "*Making Connections-San Antonio: Children Do Better When Their Families Do Better, and Families Do Better When They Live in Supportive Communities*" at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

2009- "*Participant Family Data Collection: My Voice Matters/Mi Voz Cuenta*" at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

2008- "*The Anatomy of Collaboration: The Value of Membership in the Community Leadership*"

Development Collaborative (CLDC)” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.

2008- *“Social Network Mapping as a Method to Positively Influence Transformation of Low Income Communities: the Case of San Antonio’s West Side”* at the International Network of Social Network Analysis Conference, St. Pete’s Beach, Florida.

2007- *“Mentoring for Implementing Changes and Promoting Early Literacy Instruction”* at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, New York.

2006- *“Mentoring for Implementing Change in Early Literacy Instruction”* Poster Submissions at the Head Start National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.

2006- *“Enhancing the Quality of Teaching in Head Start: Collaborations to Help Teachers Earn Degrees”* Poster Submissions at the Head Start National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.

2006- *“Child Development Assessment: Using Visual Documentation to Provide Context”* at the University of Texas at San Antonio Mexico Center Special Speakers Series Brown Bag Lunches at the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2006- *“Child Development Assessment: Using Visual Documentation to Provide Context”* at the Southwestern Social Science Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

2005- *“Memorias de Mexico: Food and Food Memories in the Transmission of Mexicanidad.”* at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2004- *“National, Transnational and Border Identities: Identity Construction at the U.S.-Mexico Border”* at the American Studies Conference, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2004- *“A Taste for Mexico: Food in Transnational Culture”* at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

2004- *“Asia SF”* at the International Visual Sociology Association’s Festival of Images at the San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California.

2004- *“Transnational Women at the U.S.- Mexico Border”* at the University of Texas at San Antonio’s College of Liberal and Fine Arts’ 2004 Spring Research Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

1999- *“Chicana Poetry: A Voice for Social Reform in the New Millennium”* at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

1998- *“Chicana Gang Girls”* at the National Women's Studies Conference, University of Houston Clearlake, Clearlake, Texas.

1998- *“Chicana Gang Girls”* at the Primavera Conference, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

1998- *“Women and Children’s Parks and Recreation Needs in Laredo, Texas”* at the Primavera Conference, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

1998- *“Outdoor Recreation and Leisure in Laredo, Texas: A Visual Perspective”* at the Primavera Conference, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

1997- *“The Semiotics of the TX/MX Border Crossing Experience”* at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference: University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

PHOTO PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

2010- *In Pursuit of the American Dream, Making Connections*-San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas and The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland.

2010- *Making a Difference One Family at a Time, Making Connections*-San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas and The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland.

2009- *Real Connections: People Connecting with Each Other and to Opportunities in Making Connections Neighborhoods*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland.

2009- *Westside Education and Training Center: Finding Creative Ways to Combine Residents’ Need for Good Jobs with Employers’ Need for Trained Workers*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation Diarist Project, Baltimore, Maryland.

2008- *Transformations of La Familia on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, Eds. Raquel Marquez and Harriett Romo, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Indiana.

2006 to present- Annie E. Casey Foundation publications and the Annie E. Casey Foundation *Making Connections-San Antonio* website, San Antonio, Texas.

2006 to present- University of Texas at San Antonio Mexico Center, San Antonio, Texas.

2006- *San Antonio Express News*, San Antonio, Texas

2006- *La Prensa de San Antonio*, San Antonio, Texas.

2006- Dr. Maritza Rivera-Gaxiola’s presentation at the National Science Foundation (NSF) site visit to the LIFE Center, University of Washington Kane Hall, Seattle Washington.

2006- Dr. Maritza Rivera-Gladioli’s presentation at the University of Washington Dean’s Club Event, Institute of Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS)/Neuropsychology Lab site visit, Seattle Washington.

2005-2006- *UTSA Today Online*, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

2005- Dr. Patricia Kuhl & Dr. Maritza Rivera-Gaxiola’s presentation at the University of Washington Dean’s Club Event hosting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Institute of Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS)/ Neuropsychology Lab site visit, Seattle Washington.

2005- *National Press Photographers Association Region 8 Online/Network*.

2005- San Antonio Independent School District Navarro Academy Early Childhood Development Center Brochure, San Antonio, Texas.

2005- Las Fronterizas Working Group Brochure, San Antonio, Texas.

2004- *Contexts: Understanding People in Their Social Worlds*, publication of the American Sociological Association, University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

2004- *San Antonio as a Transnational Community*, Instituto de Mexico, San Antonio, Texas.

2004- Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Border Kids Count: A Snapshot of Texan Border Children*, Baltimore, Maryland.

2004- Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Border Kids Count: A Snapshot of Southwest Border Children*. Baltimore, Maryland.

1999 to 2001- *Laredo Morning Times*, Laredo Texas.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught at UTSA 2007-2023:

- AIS 1273 Academic Inquiry and Scholarship Social Sciences
- SOC 2013 Social Problems
- SOC 2023 Social Context of Drug Use
- SOC 2063 Sociology of Food and Culture
- SOC 3043 Race and Ethnic Relations
- SOC 3253 Individual and Society
- SOC 3263 Latinas in U.S. Society
- SOC 3373 Qualitative Research Methods
- SOC 3413 Sociology of the Mexican American Community
- SOC 3433 Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society
- SOC 4911 Independent Study

Courses Taught at TAMUSA 2015-2021:

- SOCI 1301 Principles of Sociology
- SOCI 1306 Social Problems
- SOCI 2356 Gender and Society
- SOCI 3303 Developing a Sociological Skill Set
- SOCI 3311 Social Psychology
- SOCI 3360 Inequality/Social Stratification
- SOCI 3365 Social Movements
- SOCI 4364 Minority Women in U.S. Society

Courses Taught at OLLU 2014:

- SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology

Student Mentoring:

February 2023 to Present- Overseeing and mentoring a Mellon Humanities Pathways Fellow in designing and conducting a qualitative research project: Examining the Effects of Mental Health Barriers and Stigma Among Latinos, to meet the requirements of the fellowship.

February 2023 to April 2023- Oversaw and mentored three undergraduate students and one graduate student in presenting their qualitative research projects at research conferences. Three participated at the UTSA Public Health Research Conference. Four presented at the UTSA|HCaP Sociology Colloquium. All four were awarded cash prizes from the Department of Sociology for their research.

September 2022 to August 2023- Provided mentoring, motivation, and letters of recommendation for eighteen undergraduate students pursuing graduate degrees and/or employment.

February 2022 to April 2022- Oversaw and mentored four undergraduate students in presenting their qualitative research projects. Two participated at the UTSA Public Health Research Conference. Three presented at the UTSA|HCaP Sociology Colloquium. All three were awarded cash prizes from the Department of Sociology for their research.

September 2021- August 2022- Provided mentoring, motivation, and letters of recommendation for nine undergraduate students pursuing graduate degrees and/or employment.

Oversaw and mentored three undergraduate Independent Studies. The three students were Teaching Assistants and actively participated in student and classroom activities.

Oversaw and mentored fifteen+ undergraduate students in presenting their qualitative research projects at academic conferences.

Implemented and oversaw 9+ Honors College student contracts. The students conducted a qualitative research project and presented their findings.

Provided mentoring, motivation, and letters of recommendation for hundreds+ of undergraduate students pursuing graduate degrees and/or employment.

Oversaw and mentored 10+ sociology intern students on a longitudinal research project with 200 Edgewood ISD families for the Annie E. Casey Foundation: Making Connections-San Antonio.

SERVICE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

January 2022 to December 2025-TEXAS TRANSFER FRAMEWORK FIELD OF STUDY DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR SOCIOLOGY, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Academic and Health Affairs, Austin, Texas.

January 2023 to Present- ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE, Department of Sociology and Demography, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

August 2022 to December 2022- HEALTH, AGING AND SOCIETY HIRING COMMITTEE, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

September 2021 to Present- UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEE, Department of Sociology and Demography, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

September 2021 to Present- PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, Department of Sociology and Demography, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

CERTIFICATIONS/TRAININGS

2022-2023- Racial and Social Justice Training. *“Lillian Wald: Pioneer of New York City’s Reform Movement,” “Healing. Love. Joy. Resistance.: Angela Davis and Stacey Patton,” “REI Colloquium: How Group Competition, Apathy and Antipathy Influence Intergroup Harm,” “Black History Month Keynote: Dr. Chiquita Collins,” “Understanding Antisemitism Part 1,” “An Evening with Dr. Gregory Hudspeth, SA Branch President of the NAACP,” “Emma Tenayuca,” “MLK Jr. Lecture,” “The Art of the Japanese Tea Ceremony,” “NYT Interview with Sam Bankman-Fried,” “Facing Race: Dr. Ibram X. Kendi,” “Face Race Conference,” “African Photography Symposium,” “Vivian Maier: The Greatest Photographer of the 20th Century,” “Finding La Negrita Book Chat with Author Natasha Gordon-Chipembere.”*

June 2023- Canvas + The New Course Experience. Training provided by UTSA Academic Innovation, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

Fall 2022- BOLD Course Development Academy. Certification training provided by UTSA Academic Innovation, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2022- SITi: Strategies for Inclusive Teaching Institute. Certification training provided by UTSA Academic Innovation, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2022- UTSA Academic Innovation Training. *“Enhancing Discussions Using Padlet.”*

2021- 2022- Racial and Social Justice Training. *“Ethnic Studies of Texas Network 3rd Annual Summer Convergence,” “The Roots of Global Anti Blackness - A Dialogue on Creating Knowledge at the Intersections of Art, Activism, and Scholarship,” “Rhetoric and Reality on the Border,” “Decolonizing and Indigenizing the Global Food System & Decolonizing & Demystifying Careers in Food Research,” “Finding Your Roots San Antonio: Emma Tenayuca,” “Home Grown: Food Justice and Feminist Activism with Tanya Fields and Yonnette Fleming.”*

February 2022- *“Diversity in the Classroom Faculty Workshop.”* Workshop provided by HCaP, the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

2021- UTSA Academic Innovation Academy. Certification training provided by UTSA Academic Innovation.

2020- Foundations of Chicana/o/x Psychology. Certification training provided by Institute of Chicana/o Psychology.

2020- Trauma-Informed Pedagogy: Creating Safe Learning Environments. Training provided by SpeakOut-the Institute for Democratic Education and Culture.

2020- Ethnic Studies Web Series: Teaching AAS and MAS in Texas Schools. Training provided by Ethnic Studies Network of Texas.

2020- Quality Matters Certification. Applying Quality Matters Rubrics to improve quality of blended and online higher education courses. Certification training provided by Quality Matters.

2020- ASA Best Practices and Strategies for Successful Online Teaching. Training provided by the American Sociological Association.

2020 to 2021- UTSA Academic Innovation Training. *“Communicating Across Campus with Zoom,” “Design Your Course: Course Blueprint and Time Management,” “Build Your Course Orientation and Module Outline,” “Assessment Design: Do’s and Don’ts for an Inclusive Assessment Strategy,” “Tips and Best Practices for Online Finals,” “Create Your Content with Active Learning in Mind,” “Career Engaged Learning,” “Course Management Strategies: Instructor Presence and Student Engagement,” “Course Management Strategies for Courses with High Enrollment,” “Cultivating Compassion and Empathy in Online Courses,” “Creating Connections and Campus-Like Experiences in the Digital Classroom,” “Providing and Promoting Self-Motivation and Success Skills,” “Monitoring and Maintaining Student Engagement in Blackboard Learn.” “Integrating Innovative Assessments with Adobe Creative Cloud,” “Building Better Classroom Experiences Online: a Faculty and Student Forum for Digital Courses,” “Discussing Difficult Topics in the Classroom,” “Designing Relevant Assessments for the Online Environment,” “Promoting Inclusive Teaching in the Classroom,” “Designing an Effective Course.”*

2020-2021 Racial and Social Justice Training. *“Not a Nation of Immigrants: An Evening with Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz,” “How We Got Here: Slavery and the Making of the Modern Police State with Dr. Leslie Alexander,” “Decolonizing Travel Culture with Bani Amor,” “Angel De Cora -- Out of Place and Ahead of her Time,” “The Hate U Give: An evening with Angie Thomas,” “Reclaiming Ancestral Foods for Personal and Collective Well-being,” “Dr. Sarah Lopez: Immigrant Dream and Nightmare,” “Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas: I am Immigrant You Are,” “Pillars of Audre Lorde: Joy, Safety, Healing, and Liberation,” “Behind the Attacks on “Critical Race Theory and How We Can Respond,” “Land Ownership in Food Systems with Maya Salsedo,” “We are Not Dreamers: Undocumented Scholars Theorize Undocumented Life in the United States,” “How Latinos Can Be Better Allies to the Black Community,” “Racial Justice Dialog: Workplace Advocacy,” “Cafecito y Plática de Colores: Moving from Knowledge and Awareness to Empathy and Action,” “From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century,” “Building Critical Consciousness in the Classroom and Community (African American Studies),” “Let’s Talk Food: No Food Justice without Racial Justice,” “Is This the Moment? A Conversation with Resmaa Menakem and Dr. Robin DiAngelo,” “Seeing the Racial Water: A Virtual Half Day with Dr. Robin DiAngelo,” “Ibram X. Kendi on How to Be an Antiracist,” “A Conversation with Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Dr. Robin DiAngelo,” “A Celebration of James Baldwin with Eddie S. Glaude Jr. and Jon Meacham,” “Edward Ball: Life of a Klansman with Ibram X. Kendi,” “A Virtual Event with Robin DiAngelo, Ph.D.,” “What Now: An Antiracist Teach-In with Ibram X. Kendi and Bryan Stevenson,” “Chicano Rebellion Reconsidered,” “Jody Armour on Racial Oppression in America,” “Latinx Politics: Resistance, Disruption, and Power,” “Mexican American Women & Civil Rights in Texas: A Virtual Talk by Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco.”*

2012- Parental Involvement Certification. Parental engagement training and Positive Parenting Character Curriculum for parent engagement in family, education and community conducted by “I Care” Positive Parenting.

2010 to 2012- Results Based Accountability Certified Trainer. Results Based Accountability is a disciplined way of thinking and taking action that can be used to improve the quality of life in communities, cities, counties, states, and nations. Founder Mark Freedman along with the Annie E. Casey Foundation provided certification and training.

2010 to 2012- Grant Writing. Grant writing for Federal, State and Foundation grants. Courses conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Zocklein and Associates and the San Antonio Area Foundation.

2010- Resident Leadership and Facilitation Certified Trainer. The Resident Leadership and Facilitation Training is designed to help participants (youth and adult learners) gain an understanding of the skills needed to lead successful meetings that result in decisions about actions that will achieve desired results. The Annie E. Casey Foundation provided certification and training.

2008- Social Network Analysis. Social network analysis is the analysis of social networks that views social relationships in terms of network theory, consisting of nodes and ties, which represent relationships between the individuals, such as friendship, kinship and organizations. These networks are depicted in a social network diagram. Valdes Krebs, June Holley and the Annie E. Casey Foundation provided the training.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society
- American Evaluation Association
- American Sociological Association
- International Visual Sociology Association
- International Network for Social Network Analysis
- National Women's Studies Association
- Southern Foodways Alliance