

TAMARA CASSO, M.S.

Sociologist: PhotoEthnographer

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EDUCATION

- . UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at SAN ANTONIO (UTSA), San Antonio, Texas. Master of Science degree in Sociology. Summa Cum Laude. Thesis: *A Taste for Mexico: Food in Transnational Culture*.
- . TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (TAMIU), Laredo, Texas. Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Concentration in Women & Gender Studies. Magna Cum Laude.
- . SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY (SMU), Dallas, Texas. Studied Communications. Concentration in Radio, TV, Film.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- . 2007 to present- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR/FACULTY for the Department of Sociology; University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Qualitative Research Methods, Latinas in U.S. Society, Social Problems, Race and Ethnic Relations, Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society, Mexican American Community, Sociology of Food and Culture, Social Context of Drug Use, Individual and Society and Academic Inquiry and Scholarship.
- . 2016- Research Consultant for United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Eastside Promise Neighborhood/Doris Duke Foundation Research Grant, San Antonio, Texas.
- . 2015 to present- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR for the Department of Sociology; Texas A&M University-San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas. Courses taught: Developing a Sociological Skill Set, Minority Women in US Society, Inequalities/Social Stratification, Social Movements, Principles of Sociology, Gender and Society, Social Psychology and Social Problems.
- . 2014- ADJUNCT PROFESSOR for the 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 for United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Eastside Promise Neighborhood, San Antonio, Texas.
- . 2008 to 2016- INTERN SUPERVISOR for UTSA Sociology students, *Making Connections-San Antonio*, San Antonio, Texas, Edgewood Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas and The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.
- . 2008 to 2012- SENIOR PROGRAM EVALUATOR, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SPECIALIST, GRANT WRITER, for the 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 for the Annie E. Casey Foundation *Making Connections-San Antonio*, San Antonio, Texas.
- . 2006 to 2008- ASSISTANT DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER to J. Michael Short, J. Michael Short Photography, Inc., San Antonio, Texas.
- . 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, Qualitative Research Methods, at The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

. 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*, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

. 1998 to 2001- CITY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER of the LAREDO PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD and the LAREDO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE, Laredo, Texas.

. 1998 to 2001- CONTRIBUTING WRITER and PHOTOGRAPHER to the *Laredo Morning Times*, *The Bridge and The McIntosh Express Newspapers*, Laredo, Texas.

. 1994 to 1998- BOARD MEMBER and MUSEUM GIFT SHOP BUYER and STAFF COORDINATOR for the Laredo Children's Museum, Laredo, Texas.

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

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.

CERTIFICATIONS/TRAININGS

- . Grant Writing. Grant writing for Federal, State and Foundation grants. Courses conducted by Zocklein and Associates and the San Antonio Area Foundation.
- . Parental Involvement. Parental engagement training and Positive Parenting Character Curriculum for parent engagement in family, education and community conducted by "I Care" Positive Parenting.
- . 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.
- . 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. Carolyn Gaston, Audrey Jordan and The Annie E. Casey Foundation provided certification and training.
- . 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

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