

Samantha Acuña

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Education

Graduate Education

University of California Los Angeles Doctoral Student: (September 2018-Present)

GPA: 3.7 PhD Expected June 2022

Dissertation Title: Critical Race Theory and its Application to Methodology in Studying Law and Political Science

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Michael Chwe (Chair), Dr. Laura Gómez (Chair), Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, Dr. Daniel Thompson

Subfields: Race, Ethnicity, Politics & Methodology

Research Interests: Critical Race Theory, Public Law, Immigration Policy, LGBTQIA+ Politics.

Undergraduate Education

University of Redlands Class of 2018:

Cumulative GPA: 3.89

Majors: Public Policy (GPA: 3.86) English (GPA: 3.82) Spanish (GPA: 3.93)

Summa Cum Laude

Phi Beta Kappa

Honors/Scholarships

University of California Los Angeles: Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship Recipient, Present

University of California Los Angeles: Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, Summer 2019

University of Redlands Public Policy: Outstanding Scholar in Law and Policy, 2018

University of Redlands: Roland Tong Memorial Endowed Scholarship, 2016-2018

University of Redlands: Presidential Scholarship, 2014-2018

University of Redlands: Achievement Award, 2014-2018

University of Redlands: Humanities Prize for Outstanding Essay in a Second Language, 2018

University of Redlands Spanish: Angel Aparicio Award, 2018

University of Redlands Honorable Mention: Kanjo Prize in Literature, 2018

Teaching

Courses Taught as Lead Instructor

An Introduction to Race, Sex and the Constitution, UCLA Political Science, Los Angeles. Summer 2021

The Supreme Court of the 1960s, UCLA Cluster Program, Los Angeles. Spring 2021

Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant/ Fellow

Cluster Program: America in the Sixties Teaching Fellow, AY 2020-2021, UCLA, Los Angeles

Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2020, Giulia Sissa, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Health in the Latino Population, Winter 2019, David Hayes-Bautista UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

U.S. Latino Politics, Fall 2019, Matt Barreto UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Teaching Assistant and Tutor, September 2015-April 2018, University of Redlands, Redlands CA.

Working Papers

Acuña, Sam. "Social Factors Among Judges: Gender and Decision Making in Asylum Cases."

Acuña Sam. "Latino/a/x: Essentialism, Statistics and the Law."

Acuña, Sam. "Gender and Sexuality in Immigration Asylum Decisions."

Conferences

Association For Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, November 2021, Paper accepted.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2019, Washington, D.C.

Western Political Science Association Annual Conference April 2019, San Diego, CA.

Professional Service

Discussant: Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Student Research Conference, March 2021, Online

Volunteering and Mentorship

The Family Kitchen, March 2021-July 2021, Ventura County, CA.

Queer Peer Counselor, Fall 2018-Present, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Intern, Summer of 2016, Center for Employment Opportunities, San Bernardino, CA.