

# Dr. Víctor M. Vázquez

Cultural Anthropologist, Ethnographer and Academic Researcher

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2017- Present Associate Professor of Instruction and Academic Researcher in The University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Sociology and Anthropology <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/sociology-and-anthropology/people/victor-vazquez.html>
- 2014-2017 Fulltime Lecturer of Sociology and Anthropology. University of Puerto Rico at Cayey, Department of Social Sciences.
- 2015-2016 Academic Researcher, Institute of Interdisciplinary Research University of Puerto Rico at Cayey.
- 2012-2017 Lecturer of Anthropology. University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of Social Sciences/ Department of Urban Studies, School of General Studies.
- 2006-2015 Lecturer of Social Sciences. Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus, School of Social Sciences.

## EDUCATION

- 2012 PhD. in Social Anthropology. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. Dissertation: Social Policy and Poverty in Puerto Rico; Ethnographic study in the Community of Los Chorros, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. <http://eprints.ucm.es/16358/>
- 2003 Master's degree (Magister Universitario) in Social Research Techniques and Participative Research to the Local Development. Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain) Thesis: A participatory reflection on the phase of planning and development in Southern Madrid, Spain.
- 2000 BA in Social Sciences General Program. The University of Puerto Rico at Cayey.

## Professional Certifications

- 2023 Certificate in Inclusive Instruction for Equitable Learning Association of College and University Educator [2023] this certificate signifies my completion of a 5-module course in inclusive teaching practices requiring the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches. The certificate distinguishes faculty for their commitment to educational excellence and student success.
- 2022 Certificate in Effective Instruction Association of College and University Educators [2022] This certificate signifies my completion of a 25-module course in effective teaching practices requiring the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches. The credential is co-issued by the American Council on Education and distinguishes faculty for their commitment to educational excellence and student success.
- 2019 Certificate Teaching Online Academy Facilitators. The Center for Instructional Design, a unit of Extended University, The University of Texas at El Paso.

## Academic Certifications and Affiliations

### COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVE (CITI PROGRAM) 2023-2026

**ORCID Number** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1065-9410>

**Digital Photography** Professional Photography Course (Completed Summer 2021)

**Member of** AIBR. Asociación de Antropólogos Iberoamericanos en Red.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

**Research Areas** Border Studies, Mexican American Studies, Migration Crisis, Latinx Studies, Latin America Studies, Caribbean Studies, Puerto Rican Studies, Urban Anthropology, Urban Studies, Development Studies, Globalizations Studies, Gentrification Studies, Social Movements Studies, Cultural Studies, Ethnographic Research.

**Academic Areas** Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, Ethnographic Methods, Border Studies, Mexican American Studies, Chicanos Studies, Migration Studies, Latinx Studies, Latin America Studies, Caribbean Studies, Puerto Rican Studies, Urban Anthropology.

Languages Spanish (native)  
English

**ACADEMIC PROJECTS,  
FIELDWORK  
EXPIERENCES**

- 2023- present Fieldwork Phase 1 (gathering information, interviewing and participant observation in *El Centro de Ciudad Juarez México*. Research title; Surviving the streets of Ciudad Juarez /The Venezuelan migrant experiences in the streets of Ciudad Juarez, México).
- 2020- 2021 Fieldwork completed in *El Centro de Ciudad Juarez, México* with Cubans migrant community. Surviving “la Lucha” en Ciudad Juárez”. An Anthropological reflection on the Cubans community in Ciudad Juarez México. Sociology Anthropology Department, UTEP, Master’s Porgram.
- 2017 - 2021 Fieldwork completed in Tijuana Baja California. Migrant caravans in *El Centro de Tijuana* and the shelters conditions.
- 2016- 2018 Fieldwork completed in Havana Cuba. What is going on in Havana, Cuba? An anthropological reflection on the current socio-political context and the biggest challenges Cuba’s population faces.
- 2015- 2016 Fieldwork completed in Cayey, Puerto Rico. Institute of Interdisciplinary Research, University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. Ethnographic study in two housing public projects in Cayey. Analysis focused on provide accessing studies program to students with impoverish background to have access to the University of Puerto Rico.
- 2013-2014 Research proposal design phase completed for Universidad del Este, Carolina Campus, Project Title V: Exploratory Pilot Research Design to identify the social and economic conditions of a suburban community in Carolina, Puerto Rico.
- 2006-2012 Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain).  
Doctoral Thesis Project: Social Policy and Poverty in Puerto Rico: Ethnographic Study in Los Filtros, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Synthesis: The empirical context takes place in an impoverished community targeted to be gentrified and displaced by the local government. The analysis focuses on the resident struggles, and the government policy approach to address the poverty in Puerto Rico.  
<http://eprints.ucm.es/16358/>

**MASTER'S THESIS  
ADVISOR AND COMMITTEE**

- 2022                      Master's thesis committee member, "The Boricua movement: the rise of Puerto Rican influence amidst the Vietnam war era". Student Eddie Galvan. MA History program. Department of History UTEP.
- 2021                      Master's thesis committee member, "Experiences of Latin American au pairs in El Paso, Texas": perceptions and challenges in a border context. Student Nathaly Carolina Hernández. MA Communication. Department of Communication UTEP.
- 2020- present            Chair for Master's thesis: A sociological and historical archive analysis on the police abuse cases in El Paso Texas. Student Ashley McAfee, Sociology and Anthropology Department, UTEP, MA Sociology.

**UNIVERSITY COURSES CREATED AND  
DESIGNED BY DR VICTOR VAZQUEZ**

**2017- PRESENT**

**PUERTO RICAN SOCIETY ANTH SOCI 3341/19225 & CHIC 4350/17378:** Undergraduate Course currently offered in the Sociology & Anthropology Department and Chicano Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. Course description: This is a multidisciplinary and critical thinking course focused on the analysis of Puerto Rico's society. The course discusses the most important historical, political, economic and cultural aspects of Puerto Rico. Through a holistic approach, the course emphasizes the analyses of Ethnographic Research, Historical Literature and Documentaries conducted on the island. The students will learn about the main historic events, theories, culture, music, myths, colonialism, the living conditions, social crisis, government – political system, and the challenges faced by the Puerto Rican population in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**CULTURES OF THE CARRIBEEAN ANTH 4370:** Undergraduate Course currently offered in the Sociology & Anthropology Department and Chicano Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. Course description: This course focuses on the analysis of the Ethnographic Research's conducted in The Spanish Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba). Through an anthropological approach, the course discusses the political, economic and cultural aspects that conform the Spanish Speaking Caribbean Societies. This is a critical thinking course based on historical readings, documentaries analysis and cultural research. The students learn about the main historic events, theories, culture, music, myths, the living conditions, government systems and the challenges faced by the Caribbean people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

### Undergraduate Courses:

#### **The University of Texas at El Paso**, (2017- present)

Drug Use, Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Ethnographic Methods, Anthropology of the Caribbean, Puerto Rican Society. (Face to face and online)

#### University of Puerto Rico at Cayey, (2014-2017)

Introduction to the Social Sciences I, Introduction to Social Sciences II, Introduction to Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Sociology of Communities, Sociology of the Family, Sociology of Sciences.

#### University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, (2012-2017)

Introduction Sociocultural Anthropology, Urban Ecology Ecology, Culture and Society, Social Research Techniques Anthropology of Cities, Urban Anthropology, Introduction to the Social Sciences I, Introduction to Social Sciences II.

#### Universidad del Este, Carolina Campus (2006-2015)

The Human Being and its Social Environment, Political and Economic Principles of Globalization, Principles of Sociology, Contemporary Social Problems, Research Techniques in Social Sciences.

### **Graduate Courses And Seminars:**

**University of Texas at El Paso**, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Sociology MA Program. **SOCI 5398 Thesis I and SOCI 5399 Thesis II** (2020- present)

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Urban Studies Graduate Program (2016-2017)

Globalization and the city: Contemporary debates around the global and the local.

Universidad del Este, Carolina Campus, School of Criminal Justice Graduate Program (2012- 2015)

Research Techniques in Social Sciences.

Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, School of Liberal Arts, Interdisciplinary Center for Research and Gender Studies Master's Program in Women's and Gender Studies (2009)  
Qualitative Research and Proposal Development to gender perspective program.

## PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

- 2023  
Article      Surviving in the streets of Ciudad Juárez, México. The Venezuelan migrant experiences in the Streets of el centro de Ciudad Juárez. Estimate Publication December 2023.
- 2023  
Article      Preserving the Mexican-American heritage in Downtown El Paso. The struggle against gentrification plan against Duranguito and Segundo Barrio. Estimate publication April 2024.
- 2023  
Article      The human tragedy of illegal migration. An ethnographic reflection on the migratory crisis on the border of the United States and México (Spanish Version). Revista Ámbitos de Encuentro, October 2023.
- 2023  
Book        Resistiendo la crisis de Puerto Rico. Análisis antropológico sobre el impacto de la crisis, gentrificación urbana, participación ciudadana logros y desafíos. Book in progress Publication Estimate date, June 2024.
- 2023  
Article      What is going on in Havana, Cuba? An anthropological reflection on the current socio-political context and the biggest challenges Cuba's population faces". Revista Ámbitos de Encuentro, January 2023.  
[https://documento.uagm.edu/carolina/revistas/ambito/ambito\\_encuentros\\_16\\_1.pdf](https://documento.uagm.edu/carolina/revistas/ambito/ambito_encuentros_16_1.pdf)  
English version from page (253)
- 2022  
Article      A walk-through Tijuana, México. An anthropological reflection on the migrant's crisis and the daily life in Tijuana, México. Publication date November 2022. Revista DECUMANUS. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, México.  
<https://erevistas.uacj.mx/ojs/index.php/decumanus/article/view/4860/6817>
- 2021  
Article      "Surviving Los Sures": An anthropological reflection on the Nuyoricans lived experiences in South Williamsburg, Brooklyn and the current urban context of gentrification in New York City. Publication date November 2021. Revista DECUMANUS. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, México.  
<https://erevistas.uacj.mx/ojs/index.php/decumanus/article/view/4855/5468>
- 2021  
Article      Surviving "la Lucha" en Ciudad Juárez. An Anthropological reflection on the Cubans community in Ciudad Juarez México. Under review, publication date May, 2021. Revista DECUMANUS. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, México.  
[Vista de Surviving la "lucha" in Ciudad Juárez. An Anthropological reflection on the Cuban community in Ciudad Juárez, México. \(uacj.mx\)](https://erevistas.uacj.mx/ojs/index.php/decumanus/article/view/4855/5468)

- 2020  
Article Anthropological reflection on the social movement [#Ricky Renucia \(Resign\)](#). Puerto Rico's Governor Resignation, The summer of 2019 in Puerto Rico. Revista DECUMANUS. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juarez, México.  
<https://erevistas.uacj.mx/ojs/index.php/decumanus/article/download/3988/3138>
- 2018  
Article Anthropological analysis on the development model, and the social, political and economic inequality of Puerto Rico. Revista DECUMANUS. Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, México.  
<http://erevistas.uacj.mx/ojs/index.php/decumanus/article/download/2767/2512>
- 2015  
Article Simposio sobre investigación y producción de estadística en Puerto Rico. Debate contemporáneo en torno a la migración, la criminalidad, y de género en Puerto Rico (Symposium research and production of statistics in Puerto Rico. Contemporary Debate on Migration, Crime, and Gender in Puerto Rico)  
Revista electrónica CIDE digital ISSN 2150-6515.  
<http://demografia.rcm.upr.edu/index.php/cide-revista-digital/publicaciones>
- 2014  
Article Los Pobres como agentes de cambio social.  
[www.suagm.edu/une/pdf/ambito/ambito\\_7\\_2.pdf](http://www.suagm.edu/une/pdf/ambito/ambito_7_2.pdf)  
Revista Ámbitos de Encuentro, Volumen 7, número 2, 2014.

## Press Releases

- 2022  
Article La mujer arrestada y afectada por el “Taser” nos recuerda el contexto de crisis social y educativa que ha olvidado atender el gobierno de Puerto Rico. (The woman arrested and affected by the taser remind us the context of social and educative crisis forgot by the government of Puerto Rico) Periódico La Cordillera, Cidra Puerto Rico, December, 2022.  
<http://lacordillera.net>
- 2015  
Article La responsabilidad investigativa y académica de los profesores de ciencias sociales. (The investigative and academic responsibility of Social Science professors) Periódico La Cordillera, Cidra Puerto Rico, March, 2015.  
<http://lacordillera.net>
- 2015  
Article Puerto Rico debe de convertirse en un país que promueva la educación. (Puerto Rico must become a country that promote education) Newspaper Prensa Latina, Havana, Cuba March, 2015. <http://www.prensa-latina.cu/>

## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- 2023 Lecture: Los tiempos cambian. Activismo político, Inclusión y contracultura a través del genero de Reggaetón en el contexto de crisis política de Puerto Rico. Congreso internacional de Ciencias Sociales Paso del Norte September 2023. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua México.
- 2023 Lecture: Resistiendo la crisis de Puerto Rico. Una Reflexión antropológica sobre el impacto de la crisis, gentrificación urbana, participación ciudadana logros y desafíos. 9 Congreso Internacional de Antropología. Universidad Autónoma de México. Agosto 2023. Asociación de Antropólogos Iberoamericanos.
- 2022 Lecture: Resistiendo la crisis de Puerto Rico. Una Reflexión antropológica sobre el impacto de la crisis, gentrificación urbana, participación ciudadana logros y desafíos. Congreso internacional de Ciencias Sociales Paso del Norte October 2022. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua México.
- 2022 Lecture: Anthropological reflection the Puerto Rico's Crisis. Southwestern Social Science Association 2022. San Antonio Texas.
- 2022 Lecture: Domestic Violence on the Rise. An anthropological reflection on the Domestic Violence crisis in Puerto Rico and the role of the feminist movement in search for an inclusive society. XII UTEP Women's and Gender Studies Annual Conference Presentation 2022.
- 2021 Lecture: Anthropological reflection on the social movement #Ricky Renuncia (Resign). Puerto Rico's Governor Resignation, The summer of 2019 in Puerto Rico. 7 Congreso Internacional de Antropologia AIBR, Vila Real Portugal July 30 2021. Asociación de Antropólogos Iberoamericanos.
- 2021 Lecture: "Surviving "la Lucha" en Ciudad Juárez. An Anthropological reflection on the Cubans community in Ciudad Juarez México. Southwestern Social Science Association 2021 Annual Meeting. UTEP Women's and Gender Studies Virtual Conference Presentation 2021.
- 2021 Lecture: "Anthropological reflection on the women's work conditions at La Central de Abastos de Ciudad Juarez". UTEP Women's and Gender Studies Virtual Conference Presentation 2021.



- 2020 Lecture: "Anthropological reflection on the social movement #Ricky Renucia (Resign). Puerto Rico's Governor Resignation, The summer of 2019 in Puerto Rico. 10th Annual Women's History Month Conference, University of Texas at El Paso, June, 2020. <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/women-studies/events/womens-history-month-conference.html>
- 2019 Lecture: "An anthropological reflection on Lolita Lebron. Political activist, prisoner and prominent female figure of the Puerto Rico independence movement and its cultural impact in Puerto Rico's society during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". 9th Annual Women's History Month Conference, University of Texas at El Paso, March 2019.
- 2018 Lecture: "Community leadership, gender and social agency in the context of the poor communities in Puerto Rico". 8th Annual Women's History Month Conference, University of Texas at El Paso, March 2018.
- 2017 Lecture: "Brief Ethnographic Reflection on the Political Crisis and the Recovery Process of Puerto Rico." Democracy, Peace and Justice Symposium at The University of Texas at El Paso, November, 2017.
- 2016 Lecture: "Oscar Lewis, The Life and Culture of Poverty, 50 years of his legacy". Anthropological analysis on the Culture of Poverty in the contemporary context of the Puerto Rican communities in USA.  
Presented in:
- Professional Development Day, Faculty of UPR -Cayey, January 22, 2016.
  - UPR Río Piedras Graduate Program in Urban Studies, April 29, 2016.
  - XVII Congress of Research and Academic Creation of UPR de Ponce, May 13, 2016.
- 2015 Lecture: "Social Policy and Poverty in Puerto Rico, Ethnographic Reflection on Community Struggle in the Community Los Filtros, Guaynabo Puerto Rico" International Convention of Anthropology, ANTHROPOS March, 2015  
XII Symposium of Physical Anthropology "Luis Montané" University of Havana, Palace of Congress La Havana, Cuba.
- 2015 Lecture: "The Community Struggle in Guaynabo City"  
XVI Congress of Research and Academic Creation UPR, Ponce.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL-NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

- 2004-2008 Community Developer Coordinator. Department of Transportation and Public Works. Government of Puerto Rico. Special Community Development Program. Metropolitan impoverisher's communities of San Juan Puerto Rico.

## **VOLUNTEER / NON - PROFIT WORK**

- 2023- Present      Researcher and Volunteer in Restore Sacred Heart. Nonprofit organization focus on preservation and restoration of the Sacred Heart Church who is a historic building and migrants shelter in Downtown El Paso Texas.  
<https://restoresacredheartchurch.org/about-us/>
- 2012 -2017      Researcher and volunteer in community organizations.  
Participant observer in communities that struggle with marginality, gentrification, drug trafficking, violence, environmental problems, access to Education and poverty in the municipalities of Salinas, Cayey and San Juan, P.R.

## **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Howard Campbell      Former Chair, Department Sociology and Anthropology.  
The University of Texas at El Paso. Old Main Bldg. Room 313  
500 W. University Ave. El Paso Texas 79968-8900  
(915) 747-7356 / (915) 747-5740  
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- Dr. Jeremy Slack      Chair, Department Sociology and Anthropology.  
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(915) 747-6530 / (915) 747-5740  
[jmslack@utep.edu](mailto:jmslack@utep.edu)
- Dr. Guillermina G. Núñez- Mchiri      Dean at SDSU's Imperial Valley Campus and Professor in the Department of Women's Studies. Phone: (760) 768-5520 Office: [Calexico, CA](#)  
Email: [gnunez@sdsu.edu](mailto:gnunez@sdsu.edu) Website: [SDSU Imperial Valley](#)
- Dr. Dennis Bixler- Márquez      Former Director of the Chicano Studies Program and Professor of Multi-Cultural Education. The University of Texas at El Paso. College of Liberal Arts  
Graham Hall, Room104. 500 West University Ave. El Paso, Texas 79968  
[chicstds@utep.edu](mailto:chicstds@utep.edu): / [dbixlerm@utep.edu](mailto:dbixlerm@utep.edu) P: (915)-747-5462.
- Dr. Irma Montelongo      Interim Director of the Chicano Studies Program/ The University of Texas at El Paso. College of Liberal Art Graham Hall, Room104. 500 West University Ave. El Paso, Texas 79968 [chicstds@utep.edu](mailto:chicstds@utep.edu): /[imontelo@utep.edu](mailto:imontelo@utep.edu) P: (915)-747-5462.

- Dr. Sergio López      President of AIBR, Asociación de Antropólogos Iberoamericanos en Red  
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- Dr. Ángel Rodríguez      Chair, Department of Social Sciences. University of Puerto Rico at Cayey  
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- Dr. Carmen Pérez      Director of the Undergraduate Program, Department of Social Sciences and  
Director of the Graduate Program, Urban Studies, School of General Studies  
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- Dr. Luis Galanes      Doctoral Dissertation advisor  
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- Dr. Fernando Villaamil      Doctoral Dissertation advisor  
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