

IM/MIGRANT WELL-BEING

A NEXUS FOR RESEARCH & POLICY

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

St. Petersburg, FL

February 17, 2023

#IWB2023

#ImmigrantWellBeing



WELCOME

From the Co-Organizers

We are excited to welcome you all to this inaugural, interdisciplinary conference on im/migrant well-being. The theme, *A Nexus for Policy and Research*, seeks to recognize and amplify the potential for im/migrant well-being as both an academic subject that warrants deeper inquiry and as a goal for that research: the improvement of peoples' lives. Well-being as a global mission explicitly addresses the needs of peoples excluded in contemporary empirical and policy-making approaches. Especially in a renewed wave of heightened surveillance, policing, detention, and xenophobic political attacks on im/migrants and their families, generating empirical work that promotes the humanity of im/migrants and the realities of their lived experiences is crucial for developing impactful social policies and interventions.

This inaugural conference is being held in the Tampa Bay area, which serves as a home for im/migrants from around the globe. We are honored to be welcomed by Rep. Kathy Castor, as we think about the relevance of our research to policy, and to be joined by Cecilia Menjívar as our keynote speaker. Dr. Menjívar's work serves as a role model for scholarship that bridges the divide between the academy and the world of policy and law.

We hope the panels and speakers invigorate you during your time at the conference. We also encourage you to take advantage of the time for networking and sharing with both presenters and attendees. It is our hope to continue fostering connections between everyone interested in this subject. To assist in this, we have included a directory of all the panelists in the conference program and encourage you to connect, exchange, and partner with folks you meet here. As part of this effort, we are excited to launch the Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative this year, which will work to both connect researchers and provide tools and opportunities for public policy impact.

We hope that by listening, learning, and engaging across disciplines with one another on the topic of im/migrant well-being, we can identify areas of future research and partnership both among scholars and with our communities.

Thank you and enjoy!

Elizabeth Aranda
Elizabeth Vaquera

2023 Conference Organizing Committee

Elizabeth Aranda, Director
Rebecca Blackwell, Postdoctoral Fellow

Elizabeth Vaquera, Executive Director
Trey Johnston, Associate Director

**Im/migrant Well-Being
Research Center**
University of South Florida

**Cisneros Hispanic
Leadership Institute**
The George Washington University



AGENDA

Friday, February 17, 2023

- 9:00AM **WELCOME**
*USF Provost and Senior VP Eric M. Eisenberg
Elizabeth Aranda & Elizabeth Vaquera*
- 9:20AM **OPENING REMARKS**
Representative Kathy Castor
- 15 MINUTE BREAK**
- 9:55AM **IMPLEMENTATION & INEQUALITIES**
Border Policies
- 15 MINUTE BREAK**
- 11:15AM **IMPLEMENTATION & INEQUALITIES**
Gatekeeping Practices
- 12:35PM **LUNCH**
- 1:35PM **INCORPORATION POLICIES & PROGRAMS**
Social Well-Being
- 15 MINUTE BREAK**
- 3:10PM **INCORPORATION POLICIES & PROGRAMS**
Physical and Emotional Well-Being
- 4:30PM **KEYNOTE**
Professor Cecilia Menjivar
- 5:00PM **CLOSE**

2023 Conference Support Team

Cindy Stonehouse, Event Manager
Alexis Brickner, Event Planner

Nanci Esparza, Program Coordinator
Johanna Cajina, Graduate Fellow
Annabelle Manzo, Undergraduate Assistant

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Arts & Sciences**
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**Cisneros Hispanic
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The George Washington University



ELIZABETH ARANDA

Professor of Sociology and Director,
Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center
University of South Florida

Elizabeth Aranda is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida. Her research addresses migrants' emotional well-being and how they adapt to challenges posed by racial and ethnic inequalities, legal status, and other challenges associated with adaptation in a new place. She has published two books, *Emotional Bridges to Puerto Rico: Migration, Return Migration, and the Struggles of Incorporation* (2006), and, with Hughes and Sabogal, she is lead author of the book, *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City* (2014). Dr. Aranda has published her scholarship in journals such as *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Gender & Society*, *Social Science Research*, and *Social Problems*, among others. Her current work is a) on the lives of undocumented young adults in Florida and how they navigate the terrain of immigration policies and inclusion/exclusion, and b) how Puerto Rican post-disaster migrants construct home in new places. She has been the recipient of three National Science Foundation awards totalling nearly 1 million dollars.

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REBECCA BLACKWELL

Postdoctoral Fellow,
Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center

Rebecca Blackwell is the Postdoctoral Fellow for the Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center and an Adjunct Professor in Medical Sociology at the University of South Florida. Her research addresses cultural understandings of health and illness in policy-making processes, migration, race and ethnicity, and disability, as well as human rights. Her most recent research is centered on legal status and home-making practices of Latinx communities. Dr. Blackwell has published her research in journals such as *Centro Journal*, *Women, Gender, and Families of Color*, and *Annals of Anthropological Practice*.

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ELIZABETH VAQUERA

Assoc. Professor of Sociology and Director,
Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute
The George Washington University

Elizabeth Vaquera is the Executive Director of the Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute and Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Public Administration at The George Washington University. Dr. Vaquera's research focuses on vulnerable and diverse groups, particularly Latinos/as and im/migrants. Her work has analyzed the character and importance of immigrant status, race, and ethnic identity in outcomes such as education, health, and emotional and social well-being. In her role as Director of the Cisneros Institute, Dr. Vaquera translates this work by designing and leading programs for high-achieving Hispanic students at the pre-college, university, and mid-career levels. In addition to an extensive body of work published in leading peer-reviewed journals, Dr. Vaquera is the co-author of several books, the most recent of which, *Education and Immigration*, examines the educational experiences of immigrants and their children living in the U.S. She is also the recipient of several federal grants by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

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TREY JOHNSTON

Associate Director,
Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute

Trey Johnston is the Associate Director of the Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute and a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy & Public Administration at The George Washington University. He designs culturally competent executive training leadership programs that prepare participants for work on and with Capitol Hill. Johnston's research a) evaluates and complicates the role of citizenship and identities like race, gender, and disability in public administration and social services implementation and b) speaks to the representation of Latinos and the ways language influences identity and well-being, particularly within higher education structures. Johnston is the recipient of several fellowships, including a Fulbright.

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ERIC M. EISENBERG

Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of
University-Community Partnerships
University of South Florida

Dr. Eisenberg is Interim Provost, Senior Vice President of University-Community Partnerships, and Professor of Communication at the University of South Florida. Eisenberg also served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at USF. Dr. Eisenberg works to aid in USF's mission in delivering competitive undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs to generate knowledge and foster intellectual development to ensure student success in a global environment. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University in 1977 and received his Ph.D. in organizational communication from Michigan State University in 1982. Dr. Eisenberg twice received the National Communication Association award for the outstanding research publication in organizational communication, as well as the Burlington Foundation award for excellence in teaching. Dr. Eisenberg is the author of more than 70 articles, chapters, and books on the subjects of organizational communication, health communication, and communication theory.



KATHY CASTOR

U.S. Representative,
14th District of Florida

Kathy Castor has served the Tampa Bay area as the Representative for Florida's 14th Congressional district since 2006. The first woman to represent Hillsborough and Pinellas counties in Congress, Rep. Castor is an outspoken advocate on behalf of the hardworking families, students, and seniors of the Tampa Bay region. Rep. Castor works on initiatives that create jobs, maintain safety, improve schools, provide access to affordable health care coverage, and protect consumers and the environment. She is also one of the region's most vocal supporters of immigrants' rights, which she believes benefit immigrants and all Americans by upholding this country's legacy as a nation of immigrants. In addition to her legislative efforts, Rep. Castor proudly hosts the annual American Dream Awards, which recognize immigrants in her congressional district for their remarkable contributions to the community.



CECILIA MENJÍVAR

Professor of Sociology,
University of California, Los Angeles

Cecilia Menjivar holds the Dorothy L. Meier Chair in Social Equities and is Professor of Sociology at UCLA. She specializes in immigration, gender, family dynamics, social networks, religious institutions, and broad conceptualizations of violence. She focuses on two main areas: the impacts of the immigration regime and laws on immigrants and the effects of living in contexts of multisided violence on individuals, especially women. Her work on immigration concerns mainly the United States, where she focuses on Central American immigrants, whereas her work on violence is centered on Latin America. Dr. Menjivar is interested in how state power manifests itself through legal regimes and formal institutions and bureaucracies to shape microprocesses in everyday life.

Her work has appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *International Migration Review*, *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, among other journals. Her most recent publications include the edited volume, *Constructing Immigrant Illegality: Critiques, Experiences, and Responses* (2014), the book, *Immigrant Families* (2016), and the edited volume *The Oxford Handbook of Immigration Crises* (2019).

Dr. Menjivar co-authored an amicus brief in the consolidated DACA cases before the U.S. Supreme Court along with a dozen other prominent empirical scholars who study DACA and its effects. Her many prominent publications include *Enduring Violence: Ladina Women's Lives in Guatemala* (2011) and *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America* (2000), which was the winner of the William J. Goode Outstanding book award from the Family Section of the American Sociological Association, Honorable Mention from the International Migration Section, and a Choice Outstanding Title. She is also co-editor of *Latinos/as in the United States: Changing the Face of América* (2008) and *When States Kill: Latin America, the US, and Technologies of Terror* (2005).

Dr. Menjivar is the Immediate Past President and former Vice President of the American Sociological Association. She has been recognized with multiple awards for her scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and public sociology, and is the recipient of two ASA career awards, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. She also was named a Social Justice Hero by the Museum of Social Justice in Los Angeles.

PANEL 1

IMPLEMENTATION & INEQUALITIES

Border Policies

From increased exposure to violence, suspension of constitutional rights, and increased militarization, contemporary border policies pose a threat to the well-being of im/migrants and their children. The scholarship in this panel highlights how enforcement mechanisms like stop-and-searches and expulsion policies erode human rights and make it more challenging for organizations to assist im/migrants and asylum seekers.



“THEY CAN MURDER US TODAY AND IT WOULDN’T BE A NOVELTY:” U.S. EXPULSION POLICIES & THE VIOLENT STRUCTURE OF THE U.S. BORDER ENFORCEMENT MATRIX

Cinthia Romo Alba, Washington University in St. Louis



CASE SELECTIVITY: AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY TO SURVIVE THE MIGRANT CRISIS

Alejandro Márquez, University of South Florida



THE IMPACT OF ARIZONA’S 100-MILE BORDER ENFORCEMENT ZONE ON THE ADULT CHILDREN OF MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS

*Nilda Flores-González, Emir Estrada,
Brittany Romanello, Daniela Carreón,
Arizona State University
Michelle Téllez, University of Arizona*



**LATINO UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT:
THE MARK OF A CRIMINAL RECORD IN BOND
HEARINGS IN U.S. IMMIGRATION**

Lorena Avila, Rutgers University - Newark



**DEPORTATION DEFENSE FUNDS:
INNOVATIVE OR CONTINUING INEQUALITIES?**

Blanca Ramirez, University of Southern California



**THE IMPACT OF ICE'S SURVEILLANCE
TECHNOLOGY ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE
CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS**

Mirian Martinez-Aranda, UC - Davis



**BUREAUCRATIC WAITING: CONSEQUENCES OF
UNCERTAINTY IN U.S. LEGAL PERMANENT
RESIDENCE PROCESSING**

Michelle Dromgold-Sermen, UNC - Chapel Hill

PANEL 2

IMPLEMENTATION & INEQUALITIES

Gatekeeping Practices

Local and federal gatekeeping practices impact im/migrants' likelihood of remaining in the US and attaining legal status or experiencing detention and even deportation. The scholarship in this panel highlights the impact of bond determination hearings, deportation defense funds, electronic tracking monitors, and bureaucratic processes to examine their impact on im/migrants' lives.

PANEL 3

INCORPORATION POLICIES & PROGRAMS

Social Well-Being

Immigration institutions, policies, and programs affect the inclusion and exclusion of im/migrants in their communities, thus affecting their social well-being and opportunities for incorporation. This panel offers scholarship that both identifies these impacts and offers recommendations for improving im/migrant incorporation.



IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION IN AN ERA OF EXCLUSION: STATE POLICY RESTRICTIVENESS AND LATINX IMMIGRANTS' ENGAGEMENT IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS

Molly Dondero, *American University*
Claire Altman, *University of Missouri*



INDIGENOUS MEXICANS IN NEW YORK CITY: IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION, LANGUAGE USE, AND IDENTITY FORMATION

Leslie A. Martino-Vélez, *CUNY - Hunter College*



LEARNING TO SURVIVE: TRAUMA AND BIPOC YOUTH PERSEVERANCE IN SCHOOLING

Mneesha Gellman, *Emerson College*



AN EXPANDED FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARING TEACHERS TO EDUCATE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT BACKGROUNDS

Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, *UC - Santa Barbara*



**PROTECTION RESOURCES AND THE
INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS ENTERING AS
UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN**

Katharine Donato, Natalia Lopez,
Georgetown University



**“IT’S LIKE I’M CASE-MANAGING MY FAMILY!”:
DACA RECIPIENTS’ DEPLOYMENT OF
NAVIGATIONAL CAPITAL IN THE D.C.
METROPOLITAN REGION**

Christina Getrich, Ana Ortez-Rivera,
Delmis Umanzor, Alaska Burdette,
University of Maryland



**ALL IN THE FAMILY? CONSEQUENCES OF
DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD
ARRIVALS (DACA) FOR PARENT HEALTH**

Jenjira Yahirun, *Bowling Green State University*
Jacqueline Torres, *UC - San Francisco*



**PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AND SELF-REPORTED
PAIN/DISCOMFORT AMONG FARMWORKERS IN
THE UNITED STATES**

Mario Aguilar, Daniel Martínez,
University of Arizona

PANEL 4

INCORPORATION POLICIES & PROGRAMS

Physical and Emotional Well-Being

In addition to their direct impact, policies and programs that touch the lives of im/migrants often have important effects on their physical and mental well-being. This panel focuses on the most vulnerable of those groups, including agricultural farworkers and childhood arrivals, to bring attention to these ramifications.



Mario Aguilar is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona. He was born in La Manzanilla de la Paz, a rural town in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, and migrated to Grandview, Washington. His experiences as a migrant and seasonal farmworker in Washington have guided his research on structural violence and health disparities in the farm-working community. His dissertation will focus on public health and wellness, (Im)migration Studies, and Critical Education centering on the Latinx community.

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Claire Altman is an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri with appointments in the Department of Health Sciences and the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. As a social demographer, her work broadly focuses on population health and immigrant well-being. Her current research examines the role of legal status and policies on the health and well-being of immigrants and their children.

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Lorena Avila is a Ph.D. student in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark. Her academic interests examine equity and justice in the intersections between criminal and civil law. She has also explored international criminal justice issues and reparation schemes for human rights violations committed by state actors. She has a B.A. in Political Sciences and an M.A. in Public Policy (Universidad Nacional de Colombia). She holds an LL.M. in Public International Law and an MSc in Victimology and criminal justice (Tilburg University).

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Molly Dondero is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at American University in Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on how immigration, race/ethnicity, social class, and place contribute to population-level inequality in health and well-being in the United States and Latin America. Dr. Dondero holds a Ph.D. in Sociology with a specialization in Demography from the University of Texas at Austin.

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Michelle Dromgold-Sermen is Assistant Director of the Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University and a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include U.S. immigration law and policy, global migration management, forced migration, and the Middle East. Her research is interdisciplinary and adopts multiple methods including computational and textual analyses to explore diverse questions about the impacts of migration systems and administration for the experiences of migrants and citizens.

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Emir Estrada is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California (USC). Estrada lived in Mexico during her formative years and she is a first-generation college student. She is author of *Kids at Work: Latinx Families Selling Food on the Streets of Los Angeles* and she is a Co-PI in the Arizona Youth Identity Project.

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Mneesha Gellman is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies at Emerson College. She is the author of *Indigenous Language Politics in the Schoolroom: Cultural Survival in Mexico and the United States* (2023), and *Democratization and Memories of Violence: Ethnic Minority Social Movements in Mexico, Turkey, and El Salvador* (2017). Dr. Gellman is currently vice president of the Human Rights section of the American Political Science Association, and she serves as an expert witness in asylum hearings in U.S. immigration courts.

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Christina Getrich is an anthropologist whose research examines the health, well-being, and incorporation of mixed-immigration status families in the United States. She explores the lived and embodied experiences of U.S. immigration policies and enforcement practices and how immigrants, their children, and advocates fight for inclusion and justice. For more than 20 years, Dr. Getrich has conducted research with Latinx populations in the Southwest and immigrant communities in the D.C. metropolitan region. She is the author of *Border Brokers: Children of Mexican Immigrants Navigating U.S. Society, Laws, and Politics* and 30 articles in peer-reviewed anthropology and interdisciplinary journals.

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Natalia Lopez is a Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of International Migration located within Georgetown University. Her research focuses on immigrant integration trajectories and policies as well as the global governance of immigrant integration. Lopez is a recent graduate of Georgetown University, where she received a B.S. in Foreign Service and International Politics.

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Alejandro Márquez is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of South Florida. He is a political sociologist interested in social movements, borders, migration, emotions and care work. His current project is an ethnography on the practice of solidarity in the immigrant rights movement, which highlights the role of emotions and resources in the everyday life of movement organizations on the U.S.-Mexico border providing crucial services to migrants and asylum seekers.

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Daniel E. Martínez is a Distinguished Scholar & Associate Professor in the School of Sociology and a co-director of the Binational Migration Institute in the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona. Dr. Martínez's research and teaching interests include race and ethnicity, undocumented immigration, and criminology. He is particularly interested in the social and legal criminalization of undocumented migration.

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Mirian Martinez-Aranda is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of California-Davis and a visiting scholar at the Global Migration Center. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from UCLA. Her research examines the social, material, and health consequences of immigration detention on immigrants, families, and communities. Dr. Martinez-Aranda is a former National Science Foundation and Marvin Hoffenberg fellow with the Center for American Politics and Public Policy, and a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Law and Society Review*, and *Social Problems*.

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Leslie A. Martino-Vélez is a Lecturer in Sociology at Hunter College-CUNY. She is currently researching indigenous Mexican migration and her other work surrounds issues relating to immigration, education, race/ethnicity and language in the U.S. as well as Latin America. Dr. Martino-Vélez received her Ph.D. in Sociology at The Graduate Center, CUNY and her Master's degree in Anthropology and Comparative and International Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. For twelve years prior to higher education, she was a teacher and teacher trainer in K-12 classrooms in Los Angeles, New York, and Mexico.

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Blanca A. Ramirez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Sociology department at the University of Southern California. Her primary goal as a researcher is to theorize how state structures like law and policing shape group understandings of the legal system, perceptions of agency, and the larger consequences of these dynamics. Her multiple award-winning work has been featured in *Social Problems* and supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, the Ford Fellowship Predoctoral Fellowship program, and the Haynes Fellowship Foundation.

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Cinthia Romo Alba is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a graduate of Grinnell College, where she began research on the experiences of asylum seekers waiting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. She worked as an immigration paralegal helping asylum seekers expelled under Title 42 and the Migrant Protection Protocols file for asylum, and volunteers for the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project in St. Louis. Her research interests lie at the intersections of immigration, the carceral system and the legal system.

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Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her work includes qualitative studies of immigrant families' school choice behaviors; experimental research to improve access to school choice information; analyses of the impacts of immigration enforcement on students' academic performance, school attendance, and social-emotional well-being; and research on the ways that teacher education programs prepare pre-service teachers to educate children in immigrant families.

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Jenjira J. Yahirun is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. Her work examines how the family, as an institution, contributes to social inequality. This work investigates three major themes: 1) how families shape individual health outcomes, 2) how increasing family complexity and diversity challenge the kinship safety net, and 3) how migration affects ties to kin. A cross-cutting theme in this work is that gender, race/ethnicity, and social class stratify access to a variety of resources, with implications for how the “linked lives” of family members contribute to disparities in health and well-being.

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IM/MIGRANT WELL-BEING SCHOLAR COLLABORATIVE

The Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative (The Collaborative) is a new initiative that seeks to bridge the gap between academic research addressing im/migrant well-being and decision makers who can mobilize research insights for policy change.

Supported by resources from the the GW Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute and the USF Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center, The Collaborative amplifies the impact of members' scholarship through a variety of resources, including: a peer network, specialized training and tools for translating academic work for public and policy audiences, direct engagement with community partners, and opportunities to present their scholarship to new audiences.

The Collaborative is also launching an annual fellowship program through which a select group of scholars receive individualized support to create and disseminate policy briefs, receive affiliate status with the sponsoring organizations, and culminate their experience with a policy forum on Capitol Hill.

The Collaborative Fellowship is open to scholars from all disciplines whose work addresses im/migrant well-being and has the potential for policy impact. The Collaborative seeks, in particular, to support the work of scholars traditionally marginalized in the academy, including scholars of color, junior scholars, and women, among others.

For more information, contact organizers:

Elizabeth Aranda (earanda@usf.edu)

Elizabeth Vaquera (evaquera@gwu.edu)

GET INVOLVED

The Collaborative seeks to expand our existing network to include additional members and institutions. We are especially seeking scholars, centers, and institutes interested in amplifying their existing research for use in policy-making. Please reach out to the organizers if you would like to suggest a potential partner.

Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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Department of Mental Health
Law & Policy

Department of Psychology

Janet Carmody and Chris Bennett

SPONSORS

Thank you to the generosity of our academic and community partners who made this conference possible. In particular, the conference organizing committee would like to thank the Office of Communications and Community Engagement in the College of Arts and Sciences for their support.

NOTES

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**Cisneros Hispanic
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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

