

Natalie Lira

1207 W. Oregon St., MC-136
Urbana, IL 61801
(773) 485-0452
nlira2@illinois.edu

Education

Ph.D. **University of Michigan**
Department of American Culture, 2015
Latina/o Studies Certificate

'Of Low Grade Mexican Parentage: Race, Gender, and Eugenic Sterilization in California Institutions for the Feeble-minded, 1920-1950
Alexandra M. Stern (chair), Maria E. Cotera (chair), Elena R. Gutiérrez,
and Martha S. Jones

MA **University of Michigan**
Department of American Culture, 2011

BA **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, 2008

Publications

- 2017 Stern, Alexandra, Nicole Novak, Natalie Lira, Kate O'Connor, Sioban Harlow, and Sharon Kardia. "California's Sterilization Survivors: An Estimate and Call for Redress." *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 107. Issue 1. January 2017
- 2015 Book Review. "Barbara Gurr, Reproductive Justice: The Politics of Health Care for Native American Women." *Social History of Medicine*. doi:10.1093/shm/hkv112 First published online: September 18, 2015
- 2014 Lira, Natalie and Alexandra Stern. "Mexican Americans and Eugenic Sterilization: Resisting Reproductive Injustice in California, 1920-1950." *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. Vol. 39. Num. 2. Fall 2014 (9-34).
*Article nominated for the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
2014 Article Prize

Awards and Fellowships

- 2016 Latin American Studies Latina/o Studies Section Dissertation Award
- 2015 American Studies Association Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize,
Departmental Nomination
- 2014 Rackham One Term Fellowship
- 2013 Center for the Education of Women Mary Malcolmson Raphael

- 2012 Fellowship, Departmental Nomination
- 2012 American Culture Diversity Funds Grant
- 2011 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship
- 2008 Rackham Merit Fellowship

Conference Activity

Papers Presented

- 2016 “Disrupting the Archive: Multi-media Approaches to Latinas/os and Eugenic Sterilization in 20th Century California” Latina/o Studies Association Conference . July 7-9.
- 2015 “Mexican-American’s Emerging Struggles for Reproductive Justice in California.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. October 8-11
- 2014 “Mexican-Americans and Eugenic Sterilization in California: Recovering Acts of Resistance to Sterilization Abuse, 1920-1950.” Western History Association Annual Conference. October 15-18.
- 2013 “Sterilized for Her Own Protection and for that of the Community: Race, Reproduction, and Resistance in California, 1910-1979” Reproductive Justice: Activists, Advocates, Academics in Ann Arbor. May 30-31.
- 2012 “Symptoms of Empire: Race, Hospitals, and Citizenship in Southern California.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. November 15-18
- 2011 “A New Historiography of Eugenic Sterilization: Legal and Cultural Logics, 1900-1946” American Studies Association Annual Conference. October 20-23
- 2011 “Mexican-origin Women and Eugenic Sterilization in California” National Association of Chicana/o Studies Conference. March 31-April 2.

Conference Participation

- 2013 Discussion Facilitator. “Future Past: Disability, Eugenics and Brave New Worlds” San Francisco State University. November 1.

Campus Talks

- 2014 “A Conversation on Coerced Sterilization” University of Michigan Students for Choice Panel. November 19.
- 2013 “Race and Eugenic Sterilization in California Institutions, 1910-1950.”

American History Workshop. University of Michigan. November 15.

2011 “Rethinking Reproductive Politics: Migrant Bodies and Babies within the context of U.S. Empire.” American Culture Workshop. University of Michigan. March 25.

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Department of Latina Latino Studies “Race, Medicine, and Society” (Fall 2015)

University of Michigan

Department of American Culture. “Mothering the Nation: The Politics of Reproduction in the United States” (Spring Term 2013). I designed and sole-taught this course.

English Department. “Introduction to Composition.” (Fall 2010 and Winter 2011). Sole-taught course.

Department of American Culture. “Latinas in the United States.” (Winter 2010).
Graduate Student Instructor.

Department of American Culture. “Asians in American Film and Television.” (Fall 2009). Graduate Student Instructor.

Research Experience

University of Michigan

August 2013-Present Project Manager and Co-PI for the “Eugenics and Coerced Sterilization in California Project”—a large-scale database and digital archive initiative. In this role I secured project approval from the California Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects and the California Department of State Hospitals. I also developed project protocol as well as project specific data entry forms. Currently managing data entry team, overseeing quality of data collection and preliminary analysis.

November-May 2013 Lead Researcher for an exhibit on reproductive justice at the Hatcher Graduate Library: “Birthing Reproductive Justice: 150 Years of Images and Ideas.” Lead role in the collection and selection of exhibit materials and the development of the exhibit narrative.

May 2009-May 2011 Research assistant to Alexandra Stern at the Center for the

History of Medicine

University of Illinois-Chicago

January 2014-May 2014 Research Assistant to Elena Gutiérrez for Chicana Chicago-Assisted in the development and teaching of the course “Chicana Feminism and Oral History” in which students collected oral histories and created digital archives about Latina Activists in Chicago during the 1960s and 1970s.

University Service

Fall 2011- Winter 2012 Department of American Culture Workshop Coordinator

Fall 2011- Winter 2012 Department of American Culture Admissions Committee: Graduate Student Representative

Winter 2010-Spring 2012 Latina/o Studies Advisory Board: Graduate Student Representative

Media Coverage

“America’s Secret History of Forced Sterilization: Remembering a not-so-distant past.” *Salon*. January 29, 2016

“Mexican Americans Sterilized Disproportionately in California Institutions, Study Says.” *Huffington Post*. June 5, 2013

Related Professional Skills

Summer 2014 ICPSR Summer Program Course: “Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity”

March 2013 REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) training

May 2012 Center for Statistical Consultation and Research Workshop “Introduction to SPSS”