

**Milena Andrea Melo**  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
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## Education

- 2017**      **Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Anthropology**  
University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), San Antonio, TX  
Dissertation: *Enacting Life: Dialysis Among Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*  
Committee: K. Jill Fleuriet (chair), Jamon Halvaksz, Michael Cepek, and Heide Castañeda
- 2015**      **Master of Arts in Anthropology**  
UTSA, San Antonio, TX
- 2011**      **Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Thesis: *Access to Healthcare for “Undocumented Citizens” in the Rio Grande Valley*  
Concentration: Anthropology  
**Graduate Certificate in Mexican American Studies**  
University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA), Edinburg, TX
- 2009**      **Bachelor of Science**  
Majors: Biology and Anthropology  
Minors: English and Spanish  
UTPA, Edinburg, TX

## Academic Appointments

- Fall 2020- Present**      **Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Socio-Cultural)**  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), Edinburg, TX
- 2018-2020**      **Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology**  
Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures  
Mississippi State University (MSU), Starkville, MS

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Forthcoming** Logan, Ryan, Melo, Milena A., and Castañeda, Heide. Familial Vulnerability: Impacts of Legal Status on Mental Health Within Mixed-Status Families in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands (*accepted* as part of a special volume on immigration and mental health with *Medical Anthropology*).
- 2019**      Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena A.** Geographies of Confinement for Immigrant Youth: Checkpoints and Immobilities along the U.S./Mexico Border. *Law & Policy*, 41 (1): 80-102.
- 2018**      Brunson, Emily, Mulligan, Jessica, Andaya, Elise, **Melo, Milena**, and Sered, Susan. Unrequited Engagement: Misadventures in Advocating for Medicaid

- Expansion. *American Anthropologist*, 120 (3): 601-609.
- 2017** **Melo, Milena A.** Stratified Access: Seeking Dialysis Care in the Borderlands. In *Unequal Coverage: The Experience of Health Care Reform in the United States*, Ed. J. Mulligan and H. Castañeda. New York: New York University Press.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena A.** and Fleuriet, K. Jill. Who has the Right to Access Health Care and Why? Immigration, Incorporation, and Health Care Policy. In *Mexican Migration to the United States: Perspectives from Both Sides of the Border*, Ed. H. Romo and O. Mogollon-Lopez. (pp. 159-183). Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- 2014** Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** Health Care Access for Latino Mixed-Status Families: Barriers, Strategies, and Implications for Reform. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 58 (14): 1891-1909.

### Book Reviews

- 2018** **Melo, Milena A.** Review of Sarah Horton's *They Leave Their Kidneys in the Fields: Illness, Injury, and Illegality Among U.S. Farmworkers*. Sarah Bronwen Horton. Oakland: University of California Press, 2016. 312 pp. *American Ethnologist* 45 (3): 425-426.

### Manuscripts Under Review

**Journal Article:** "The Lingering Ache: Temporalities of Oral Health Care Suffering in US-Mexico Border Communities" (tentative title; co-authors William Lucas and Heide Castaneda; submitted to *Human Organization*).

This article uses ethnographic data to articulate how temporalities factor into the availability of resources and how a "doxa of waiting" (Andaya 2018) is enacted that places some people at more risk of dental illness and pain compared to others.

### Manuscripts in Progress

**Book Manuscript:** *On the Verge of Death: Undocumented Immigrants and Kidney Failure in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (tentative title under contract with Rutgers University Press).

Based on extensive ethnographic work conducted in the borderlands of South Texas for my dissertation, this book utilizes the case study of end-stage renal disease and dialysis to examine what happens when immigrants are undocumented and cannot access to healthcare.

**Journal Article:** "Zones of Social Abandonment: Emergency Dialysis as Medical Humanitarianism for Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands" (tentative title).

This article examines the ethical and moral dilemmas of emergency dialysis as a form of medical humanitarianism that prioritizes biological life and necessitates the performance of the suffering body. Intended submission to *PoLAR*.

**Journal Article:** “Binational Disparity for Mexican Dialysis Patients: Access for the Uninsured and Undocumented” (tentative English title).

Utilizing pilot work data collected in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, this article analyzes the political and social factors that affect access to dialysis care for the uninsured in Mexico in comparison to undocumented Mexican immigrants in the U.S. Intended submission to *Desacatos* (CIESAS’s anthropology journal).

**Journal Article:** “When It Was Me, My Parents Were Like, ‘Oh, No, Please Don’t Get Sick!’: Health Experiences Among Undocumented Youth from Mixed-Status Families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley” (tentative title; co-author Heide Castañeda).

This article explores the varying healthcare-related experiences of siblings with different immigration statuses. We argue that undocumented children are “not allowed to get sick,” while U.S.-citizen children have more access to care and a responsibility to be healthcare brokers for their undocumented family members. Intended submission to *Social Science & Medicine*.

### Manuscript Reviewer

*North American Dialogue*  
*Law & Policy*  
*American Ethnologist*  
*PLOS One*

### Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>2020-2022</b>   | <b>Leadership and Education Advancement Program (LEAP) for Diverse Scholars Fellow</b><br>American Psychological Association   |
| <b>2020-2024</b>   | <b>Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation (ENACT) Faculty Fellow</b><br>International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, Brandeis University   |
| <b>2019-2021</b>   | <b>Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement (SITPA) Scholar</b><br>Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences, Duke University (\$1,500)   |
| <b>2019-2020</b>   | <b>Community-Engaged Learning Fellow</b><br>Center for Community-Engaged Learning, Mississippi State University (MSU) (\$1,000)  |
| <b>2018-2019</b>   | <b>Strategic Research Initiative Grant for “Community Engagement and Guiding Documents for Mississippi State Asylum Excavations</b><br>Co-PIs: Anna J. Osterholtz, Karen Williams, Milena Melo, and Molly Zuckerman, Courtney Thompson<br>MSU (\$9,997.22) |
| <b>2017-2018</b>   | <b>Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Latino Studies</b><br>School for Advanced Research (\$50,720)   |
| <b>Spring 2017</b> | <b>Anthropology Department Travel Award</b>  |

February 2020

- Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$400)
- Spring 2017 Anthropology Graduate Student Association Travel Award**  
Anthropology Graduate Student Association, UTSA (\$100)
- 2016-2017 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship**  
Ford Foundation (\$25,000)
- 2016-2017 American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Fellowship**  
American Anthropological Association (\$10,000)
- 2016-2017 Meritorious Achievement Award**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$1000)
- 2016-2017 UTSA Presidential Dissertation Fellowship**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$2,000)
- 2016-2017 Graduate Student Professional Development Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$600)
- April-June 2016 Visiting Scholar**  
Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) Noreste, Monterrey, Nuevo León, México
- 2015-2016 Graduate Student Professional Development Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$600)
- 2015-2016 UTSA-CIESAS Research Fellowship**  
Mexico Center, UTSA (\$4,000)
- 2015 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG)**  
National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$23,134)
- 2015 Honorable Mention**  
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Foundation
- 2015 Anthropology Department Travel Award**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$500)
- 2014-2015 Graduate Student Professional Development Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$400)
- 2014 Anthropology Graduate Student Association Travel Award**  
Anthropology Graduate Student Association, UTSA (\$200)
- 2014-2015 UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship**  
Mexico Center, UTSA (\$3,500)
- 2014 Doña Agripina de Urdaneta Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$1,060)
- 2014 Small Grants for Doctoral Research Award**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$1,500)
- 2014 Anthropology Department Travel Award**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$500)
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Research Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$1,000)
- 2013-2014 UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship**  
Mexico Center, UTSA (\$3,500)
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Professional Development Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$400)
- 2013 Anthropology Graduate Student Association Travel Award**  
Anthropology Graduate Student Association, UTSA (\$100)

- 2013**            **Anthropology Department Travel Award**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$400)
- 2012-2013**      **Graduate Student Professional Development Award**  
The Graduate School, UTSA (\$400)
- 2012-2013**      **UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship**  
Mexico Center, UTSA (\$3,000)
- 2012**            **Alvarez Fund Anthropology Departmental Scholarship**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$1000)
- 2011-2012**      **Departmental Scholarship**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA (\$1000)
- 2007**            **UTPA Student of the Week**
- 2006-2009**      **University Scholar Scholarship**  
UTPA (approximately \$35,000)

### Conference Presentations

- 2021**            **Melo, Milena.** “Dying to Live: Undocumented Mexican Immigrants on Dialysis in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Chronic Living: Quality, Vitality, and Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark. (*accepted; will be presented virtually in March 2021*).
- 2019**            **Melo, Milena,** Arrizón-Palomera, Esmeralda, Villegas, Paloma, and Minero-Meza, Laura. “(Un)docuScholar Roundtable: Conducting Research, Teaching, Mentoring, and Organizing While (Un)documented in the Trump Era.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. November 16 (*Co-organizer*).
- 2019**            **Melo, Milena.** “Resisting Death: Agency in Kidney Failure in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. May 3 (*Chair*).
- 2019**            **Melo, Milena.** Roundtable: “Politically-Engaged Scholars and Service with/for Undocumented Campus Communities.” SANA Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. May 3.
- 2019**            **Melo, Milena** and Castañeda, Heide. “When It Was Me, My Parents Were Like, ‘Oh, No, Please Don’t Get Sick!’: Health Experiences Among Undocumented Youth from Mixed-Status Families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.” SfAA Meeting, Portland, OR. March 20.
- 2018**            **Melo, Milena.** “Zones of Social Abandonment: Emergency Dialysis as Medical Humanitarianism for Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 14-17.
- 2018**            **Melo, Milena.** “Film Screening: Clínica de Migrantes.” Scholar Strategy Network Colorado, UC Denver, November 6 (*Invited Panel Discussant*).
- 2018**            Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “Estamos Encerrados: Confinement in the Borderlands.” European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, August 14-17.

- 2018** **Melo, Milena.** “The Daily Embodiment of Life and Death: Emergency Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants.” Ford Foundation Annual Fellows Conference, Washington, DC, May 4-5.
- 2018** Castaneda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “Crossing the Checkpoint: Illegality and Mobility in the US/Mexico Borderlands.” Migrant Illegality across Uneven Legal Geographies: A Two-Part Convening, Denver, CO, April 6.
- 2018** **Melo, Milena.** “Life and Death in the Borderlands: Emergency Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants.” Migrant Illegality across Uneven Legal Geographies: A Two-Part Convening, Denver, CO, April 6.
- 2017** **Melo, Milena.** “Life and Death in Everyday Life: Emergency Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” AAA Meeting, Washington, DC, November 30.
- 2017** **Melo, Milena.** “Exploding Eyes, Heart-Stopping Potassium Levels, and Drowning from the Inside Out: The Everyday Realities of Emergency Dialysis in South Texas.” SfAA Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, March 29.
- 2017** Valdivia, Diana, **Melo, Milena,** Orozco Almeida, Joel, De La Cruz, Daniela, León, Jairo, Xue, Xiopan, Sandoval Manjarrez, Luz Stephanie, and Bohórquez García, Laura. “Undocumented Students Entering the Student Affairs Field.” NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 14.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena.** “Come Back When You’re Sicker:” Exclusionary Policies, Agency, and Access to Dialysis Care in Hospital Emergency Rooms.” AAA Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 17.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena.** “Exploding Eyes, Heart-Stopping Potassium Levels, and Drowning from the Inside Out: The Everyday Realities of Emergency Dialysis in South Texas.” (Poster) Ford Foundation Annual Fellows Conference, Washington, DC. September 23.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena.** “‘Bananas Could Kill Me, but I Have No Choice’: Navigating Exclusion and Legal Status to Obtain Dialysis.” Health, Medicine and Mobility: International Migrations in Historical Perspective, Charlottetown, PEI. June 24-26.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena.** “‘Without Dialysis Your Mother Will Die’: The Ripple Effects of Dialysis on Immigrant Families in South Texas.” SfAA Meeting, Vancouver, BC, March 29-April 2, (*Co-Chair*).
- 2015** **Melo, Milena.** “Living on the Machine: The Impact of Dialysis on Social and Familial Relationships.” AAA Meeting, Denver, CO. November 22.
- 2015** **Melo, Milena.** “Letting People Die: The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Low-Income Mexican Immigrants Seeking Dialysis Care in South Texas.” School for Advanced Research Short Seminar, Santa Fe, NM. October 5-9.
- 2015** Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “A “Full-Blown Public Health Disaster” at the US/Mexico Border? “Illegality,” Child Migration, and Discourses of Contagion.” Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, PR. May 29.
- 2015** **Melo, Milena.** “Embodying Illegality in Accessing Dialysis Treatment: Undocumented Latin American Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Open Embodiments: Locating Somatechnics, Tucson, AZ. April 17.

- 2015** **Melo, Milena** and Fleuriet, K. Jill. “Notions of Personhood, Citizenship, and Deservingness of Care and Access to Health Care for Undocumented Immigrants in Texas.” SfAA Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. March 28, (*Presenter and Chair*).
- 2014** **Melo, Milena.** “Exclusion of Specialty Care Based on Citizenship: Undocumented Immigrants and the Case of Dialysis Treatment.” AAA Meeting, Washington, DC. December 6.
- 2014** **Melo, Milena.** “Using a Community-Guided Approach to Understand Illness Experiences and Healthcare Barriers of Low-Income Mexican Immigrants Living in the Borderlands of South Texas.” Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting, San Antonio, TX. April 17.
- 2014** **Melo, Milena** and Castañeda, Heide. “When It Was Me, My Parents Were Like, ‘Oh, No, Please Don’t Get Sick!’: Health Experiences Among Undocumented Youth from Mixed-Status Families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.” SfAA Meeting, Albuquerque, NM. March 21.
- 2013** **Melo, Milena.** “Using a Community-Guided Approach to Identify Illnesses and Health Care Concerns of Uninsured Mexican Immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” AAA Meeting, Chicago, IL. November 24.
- 2013** Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Health Care Access for Mixed-Status Families.” AAA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. November 21.
- 2013** Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on Health Care Access and for Mixed-Status Families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.” Latino Communities in Old and New Destinations Conference. St. Petersburg, FL. November 8.
- 2013** Castañeda, Heide and **Melo, Milena.** “Crossing the Checkpoint: Illegality and Belonging among Undocumented Youth from Mixed-Status Families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.” Illegality, Youth, and Belonging Conference, Harvard University: Cambridge, MA, October 26.
- 2013** **Melo, Milena.** “Using a Community-Guided Approach to Identify Illnesses and Healthcare Concerns of Uninsured Mexican Immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” SACNAS Conference, San Antonio, TX. October 4.
- 2013** **Melo, Milena.** “Diabetes Narratives of Mexican Immigrants Along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” SfAA Meeting. Denver, CO. March 20.
- 2013** **Melo, Milena.** “Diabetes Narratives of Mexican Immigrants Along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” College of Liberal and Fine Arts Annual Research Conference. UTSA. San Antonio, TX. March 21.

## Research

### Research in the Mississippi

- 2018-2019** “Community Engagement and Guiding Documents for Mississippi State Asylum (MSA) Excavations  
Co-PIs: Anna J. Osterholtz, Karen Williams, Milena Melo, and Molly Zuckerman, Courtney Thompson  
Through a mix of ethnographic interviewing and consulting with other expert bioarchaeologists, we will work with members of the MSA’s descendant

community to create a formal plan guiding future excavations and research at the site.

**Pilot Binational Research on Dialysis in Mexico and the United States**

**April –June 2016** **Principal Investigator**, *Dialysis Among Uninsured, Low-Income Mexicans in Monterrey, Nuevo León, México*

Using 2.5 months of participant observation and semi-structured interviews, I investigated the process and experiences of uninsured, low-income Mexican citizens obtaining and receiving dialysis treatment specifically in Monterrey and how they differ compared to treatment in the U.S. This serves as pilot research for a future binational project in the U.S. and Mexico. It was funded by the UTSA-CIESAS Research Fellowship.

**Doctoral Dissertation Research**

**2015** **Principal Investigator**, *Enacting Life: Dialysis Among Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*

Using fourteen months of participant observation, surveys, and semi structured interviews, I have been analyzing the experiences of undocumented Mexican immigrants in South Texas seeking dialysis care for end-stage renal disease (ESRD). This project was funded by the NSF (DDRIG #1459487), 2014-2015 UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship, and UTSA’s Department of Anthropology.

**Preliminary Doctoral Dissertation Research**

**2013-2014** **Principal Investigator**, *A Community-Guided Approach at Identifying the Current Illnesses and Health Problems of Residents Living in the RGV*

I conducted preliminary research to identify the most prevalent illnesses and health concerns for the community according to its members. This project was funded by the UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship.

**2012-2013** **Principal Investigator**, *Diabetes Narratives of Mexican Immigrants Along the U.S.-Mexico Border*

I identified key themes in how Mexican immigrants and their families negotiate Type II diabetes alongside poverty and marginalization. This project was funded by UTSA Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowship.

**Master’s Thesis Research**

**2010-2011** **Principal Investigator**, *Access to Healthcare for “Undocumented Citizens” in the Rio Grande Valley*

I conducted interviews on the experiences of undocumented citizens accessing healthcare in hospitals and clinics in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV).

**Related Research Experience and Training**

**May 2013- May 2017** **Project Manager**, *Mixed-Status Families and Citizenship in the Contemporary Migration Experience*

Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

I have recruited and conducted over 180 bilingual interviews with members of mixed status families (including a subset of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, recipients), aided in analysis, manuscript preparation, and presented at conferences on results with Dr. Heide Castañeda (funders: Wenner-Gren Foundation and National Science Foundation #1535664).



- Aug-Sept 2016**      **Focus Group Moderator**  
ReACH Center, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
I conducted focus groups at five sites throughout South Texas (San Antonio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Edinburg, and Orange Grove) on the greatest health issues and needs of each community. Focus groups ranged from 12-21 people in size and were conducted in English and Spanish.
- Sept-Dec 2015**      **Research Assistant**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA  
I collected local media articles on the RGV and completed preliminary coding for a media analysis project under Dr. K. Jill Fleuriet.
- Fall 2014**      **Research Assistant**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA  
I recruited and conducted 300 surveys in English and Spanish for Dr. K. Jill Fleuriet on research entitled *Pregnancy and Social Status* in the RGV.
- Apr-June 2014**      **Focus Group Moderator**  
Department of Biology, UTSA  
I conducted two focus groups with 20 undergraduate biology students who are part of the Facilitated Acceptance to Medical Education (FAME) program.
- Spring 2012**      **Supervised Field Research**  
Department of Anthropology, UTSA  
I transcribed and translated research materials and interview data under Dr. K. Jill Fleuriet on a project studying the birth outcomes in the RGV.
- Summer 2012**      **Borderlands Research Course,**  
Department of Sociology, UTPA  
I conducted bilingual interviews on the “under the table” consumption of services and small businesses in the RGV, both formal and informal.

### Teaching Experience

- Fall 2020-Present**      **Assistant Professor**  
Department of Anthropology, UTRGV  
Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2351; 2 Sections)
- 2018-2020**      **Assistant Professor**  
Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, MSU  
Introduction to Anthropology (AN 1103; 4 Sections)  
Applied Cultural Anthropology (AN 8103)  
Medical Anthropology (AN 4133/6133)  
Anthropology of Latin America (AN 3133)  
Ethnographic Methods (AN 4143/6143)  
First Year Experience: People, Places, and Things (AN 1001.F03)
- Summer 2016**      **Medical Humanities Instructor**  
Pathway to Health Professions, Policy Studies Center, UTSA  
Taught high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates about the health disparities and conditions affecting the local South Texas population (diabetes, hypertension, and obesity) to help prepare them for their future

careers as healthcare professionals (Funded by Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP) through US Department of Health and Human Services).

**2013-2015**

**Teaching Assistant**

Department of Anthropology, UTSA

Courses: ANT 4263 Anthropology of Globalization and Development; ANT 2063: Language, Thought, and Culture; ANT 3863: The Evolution of Human Nature

### Professionalization

**Spring 2020 Faculty Success Program**

Currently participating in a 12-week intensive writing program through the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD).

**2019-Present Online Instructor Certificate**

Completed month-long course CTL 101: Best Practices in Online Instruction which certifies faculty for teaching online

**2019-2020 Minority Faculty Writing Group Member**

Meet weekly to support each other and promote our writing and productivity. There was an application process to be selected to participate.

**2019 Community Engaged Learning**

Completed month-long course on community engaged learning and how to convert courses to the standards of the university

**2018-2019 Minority Faculty Writing Group Member**

Meet weekly to support each other and promote our writing and productivity. There was an application process to be selected to participate.

### Invited Lectures, Presentations, & Panels

- 2020 Melo, Milena.** “Migrant Health at the Intersection of Race and Legal Status.” Invited panelist for session at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s fifth annual *Sharing Knowledge* conference, Jackson, MS. March 5.
- 2019 Melo, Milena.** “Medical Anthropology: How Culture and Health Interact.” Invited Lecture (Zoom) for PS 4106 Multicultural Psychology class at Bastyr University, Kenmore, WA. November 12.
- 2019 Melo, Milena.** “Communicating Migrant Identity.” Panelist in a Discussion on Migrant Identity as part of the Unpacked Refugee Baggage Art Exhibit at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. September 30.
- 2019 Melo, Milena.** “Hispanic Heritage Month Film Showing: ‘The Unafraid.’” Discussant for film based on DACA experiences in Higher Education for Hispanic Heritage Month at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. September 26.
- 2019 Melo, Milena.** “Resisting Death: Undocumented Immigrants and the Politics of Kidney Failure in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Chair’s Annual Lecture for Rice University’s Department of Anthropology, Houston, TX. September 13.

- 2019** **Melo, Milena.** “Drowning from Within: Dialysis Among Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Invited Lecture for University of Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. April 3.
- 2019** **Melo, Milena.** Roundtable: “Access Denied: Navigating Immigration and Healthcare Policy.” Invited Participant for UndocuCarolina, University of Carolina Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. April 2.
- 2019** **Melo, Milena.** “Drowning from Within: Dialysis Among Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Invited Lecture for Qualitative Methods Sociology Class at MSU, Mississippi State, MS. February 21.
- 2018** **Melo, Milena.** “Drowning from Within: Dialysis Among Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Invited Lecture for Anthropology Graduate Student Association at MSU, Mississippi State, MS. November 8.
- 2017** **Melo, Milena.** “Life and Death in Everyday Life: Emergency Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Colloquium for the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM. October 24.
- 2016** **Melo, Milena.** “Enacting Life: Dialysis Among Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Invited Lecture for Research Methodology class at Texas A&M Public Health Campus, McAllen, TX. February 8.
- 2015** **Melo, Milena.** “Dissertation and Other Medical Anthropology Research Projects in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.” Invited Lecture for Medical Anthropology class at University of Texas- Pan American, Edinburg, TX. April 8.
- 2014** **Melo, Milena.** “Diabetes Narratives and Health Care Concerns of Uninsured Mexican Immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico Border.” Invited Presentation. UTSA Mexico Center, San Antonio, TX. April 30.

### Media and Other Scholarly Output

- 2016** **Subject/Interviewee** for the mini-documentary and article “Diabetes Plagues the Rio Grande Valley” published and produced by Univision.  
<http://www.univision.com/univision-news/health/univision-mini-doc-diabetes-plagues-the-rio-grande-valley>
- 2015** **Interviewee** for “Insurgent Medicine” published in the *Texas Observer*.  
<https://www.texasobserver.org/revolutionizing-care-for-the-valleys-diabetes-epidemic/>

### Professional Memberships

- 2019-Present** National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)  
**2018-Present** Anthropologist Action Network for Immigrants and Refugees (AANIR)  
**2018-Present** Scholar Strategy Network (SSN)  
**2016-Present** Association for the Anthropology of Policy (ASAP)  
**2016-Present** Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA)  
**2016-Present** Association of Latina/Latino Anthropologists (ALLA)  
**2016-Present** Society for Cultural Anthropology

- 2014-Present** Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
- 2013-Present** American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2013-Present** Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)
- 2012-Present** Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)
- 2009-Present** Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society

## Student Theses

### Major Professor/Advisor

- 2019-Present** Michael Moore: Thesis: “The Definition of a Real Black Man: The Relationship Between Black Non-Heterosexual Men’s Masculinity and Their Mental Health”

### Committee Member

- 2019-Present** Rita Bouwens
- 2019-Present** Shelby Baugh

### Graduated Students

- 2019** Tori Marshall (Fall 2019; committee member)

## Service and Leadership Positions

### *Departmental Service*

- 2019-Present** Speaker Series Coordinator
- 2018-Present** Curriculum Committee Member
- Recruitment Committee Member**
- Development Committee Member**
- Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
- MSU

### *University Service*

- 2019-2020** Organized a lecture by Dr. Jason De Leon on his book *The Land of Open Graves*
- 2019** Organized a lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Wirtz for Global Engagement Lecture Series for Displaced Persons
- 2019** Organized a lecture by Dr. Angela Stuesse on her book *Scratching out a Living* for Hispanic Heritage Month
- 2019** Discussant for UnAfraid Film for Hispanic Heritage Month
- 2018-Present** Mock Interviewer for Truman Scholarship
- Mock Interviewer for Knight Hennessey Scholarship

### *Professional Service*

- 2014-Present** Board Member
- Human Rights and Social Justice Committee (SfAA)
- 2018-2020** Co-Leader
- Scholar Strategy Network Mississippi Chapter

### *Public Service*

- 2018** Mississippi Immigrant Rights (MIRA) Alliance Member and Volunteer
- Jackson, Mississippi

I am involved locally in Mississippi with MIRA who provides legal services and advocates for immigrant rights throughout the state. I am also providing document translations for clients filing their legal paperwork through MIRA.

**2018 Green Cross Volunteer & Spanish Translator**

Puerto Rico

I was deployed with a group of clinical psychologists and victim advocates to provide relief and training to victims of Hurricane Maria throughout various parts of Puerto Rico. We worked at the local University Hospital, in addition to service with volunteer medical and social service groups.

**March 2015- Volunteer & Research Collaborator**

**March 2016** POD<sup>2</sup>ER Flea Market Diabetes Prevention Project, Alamo, Texas

I volunteered every Sunday morning at a local flea market for a diabetes prevention and education project run by Texas A&M Public Health Program and Nuestra Clínica del Valle, the main federally qualified health center in the RGV. At our stand, we encourage community members to get their A1C's tested for free in order to prevent and detect diabetes in its early stages before it reaches complications such as neuropathy and kidney failure.

**Mar 2015- Undergraduate Mentor**

**2017** UTSA

I mentored undergraduate students interested in medical anthropology and/or immigration on research methods, analysis, and graduate school.

**May 2014- DACA Workshop Leader & Member**

**2016** Minority Affairs Council (UTRGV)

I lead DACA workshops and clinics where we help members of the community apply and renew DACA status. We also prepare necessary applications by translating birth certificates and organizing documents.

**May-August Undergraduate Mentor**

**2013** UTRGV

I mentored two female, minority anthropology undergraduate students by training them in data collection methods and analysis while conducting pilot dissertation research.

**2012-2013 Workshop Coordinator**

Anthropology Graduate Student Association, UTSA

I led workshops to promote and train graduate students in professional development.

## Languages

**Native speaking, writing, and reading fluency in Spanish and English**

## References

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