

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

NAME: Oralia Loza, Ph.D.

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): ORLOZA

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Department of Medicine, Division of Global Public Health, University of California, San Diego	Postdoctoral Fellow	2009	Global Public Health
University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University	PHD	2009	Public Health (Epidemiology)
Department of Statistics & Applied Probability, University of California, Santa Barbara	MA	2001	Applied Statistics
Department of Mathematics, University of California, Santa Barbara	BS	1998	Mathematics

A. Personal Statement

My research interests are focused on understanding and documenting substance abuse and risk behaviors for HIV, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among high-risk populations in the U.S.-Mexico border region, including transgender women, injection drug users, and migrants to then develop or adapt appropriate prevention strategies and interventions. I have completed the studies on: (1) "Assessing Self-Perceived Risk and Risk Reduction Strategies for Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV among the Transgender Women in El Paso, TX"; (2) "Correlates of Hepatitis C Virus among Injection Drug Users and their Sex Partners in Ciudad Juárez, CHIH"; and (3) "Risks for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) among Mixtec-Zapotec men who migrate within Mexico and to the U.S." In 2016, I completed a pilot study under the Vulnerability Issues in Drug Abuse (VIDA) Project (NIH R24) on "Social and Contextual Vulnerability on the U.S.-Mexico Border" to investigate contextual influences on drug using behaviors, particularly methamphetamine, on the U.S.-Mexico border cities, El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, CHIH. Currently, I am working with researchers, clinicians, and community partners addressing barriers to care among LGBTQ communities, specifically transgender women.

One of the challenges I have faced has been the lack of infrastructure to conduct research with these vulnerable populations mentioned. For example, when I began the mentioned studies in El Paso, there was no ongoing outreach to current drug users or the LGBTQ community. Thus, I have had the opportunity to have a leadership role in the process of developing the research infrastructure, working with various partners in the El Paso community as well as in Ciudad Juárez, which has been truly rewarding.

I now have the confidence, gained through experience, to lead and execute, from design to publication, a research study. I look forward to building on these experiences and research findings continue collaborations with community partners on both sides of the border in interdisciplinary researcher teams.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions

- Jan 2010 – Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, University of Texas (UTEP) College of Health Sciences
- 2010 – 2011 Adjunct Associate Professor, UT-Houston School of Public Health - El Paso Region.
- 08 – 11/2009 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Medicine, Division of Global Public Health, University of California, San Diego
- 2005 – 2009 Assistant Statistician, Department of Medicine, Division of Global Public Health, University of California, San Diego
- 2003 – 2005 Assistant Statistician, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Division of Biostatistics, University of California, San Diego

Professional Memberships

- 2013 - Member, Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus of Public Health Professionals
- 2007 - Member, National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN) on Drug Abuse
- 2012 - Member, World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)
- 2010 - Member, Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI) of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- 2010-11 Member, Text and Academic Authors Association
- 2008, 2013-14 Member, American Public Health Association

Honors

- 2014 Scholarship Recipient, Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship recipient, 2014 Summer Institute on Alcohol, Drugs and Addiction at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- 2013-14 Fellow, 2013 Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute (IRTI) for Hispanic Drug Abuse, Fellow, National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN) and National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- 2007 Fellow, Summer Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse, National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN) and National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- 2006-09 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Diversity Supplement Recipient
- 2005-07 Doctoral Student Award Recipient, San Diego Fellowship Program

Research Travel Awards

- 2015 "NIDA Women & Sex/Gender Differences Junior Investigator Travel Award", National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), \$1,000.00
- 2014 "Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship (€1350) to attend "Summer Institute on Alcohol, Drugs and Addiction 2014" at the University of Amsterdam (UvA)", NIDA, \$1,797.00
- 2013 "Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute for Scientific Development Travel Fellowship Recipient," Sponsored by National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN) on Drug Abuse and National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) (R13DA26647-05), \$906.70
- 2012 "Gender and Health MEDICC Summer Fellowship Travel Award", Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC), \$800.00

C. Contribution to Science

My research accomplishments have been to document vulnerabilities and health disparities for HIV, HCV, and other STIs as well as substance abuse among ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities in the U.S.-Mexico border region. These populations include people of color, migrants, men who have sex with men, and transgender women. Over the years, I have been able to work with these populations and have been able to refine my research. Because this research is interdisciplinary and multifaceted, I have collaborated with faculty in other disciplines including faculty in social work, sociology, and criminal justice as well as community partners such as health departments, clinicians, and community organizations. By working with partners who have direct contact with vulnerable populations, I learn about their needs and ways to improve their lives and health in the border context. It allows me to conduct research I find meaningful and comprehensive.

Book Chapters

Moya, E. M., **Loza, O.**, Lusk, M. W. (2012). Border Health: Inequities, Social Determinants & the Case of Tuberculosis and HIV. In Lusk, M., Staudt, K., Moya, E. (Ed.), Social Justice in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region (pp. 161-178). Springer Science.

Technical Reports

Loza, O., & Vaca Cortés, J. (2012). *Risks for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) among Mixtec-Zapotec men who migrate within Mexico and to the U.S. [Riesgos de VIH/SIDA e Infecciones Transmitidas Sexualmente (ITS) entre hombres Mixteco-Zapotecos que migran dentro de México o a los EE.UU.]*. Retrieved from UC Regents. UC Berkeley, School of Public Health. The Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA). Research Program on Migration and Health [Programa de Investigación en Migración y Salud] (PIMSA), Funding Cycle 2010: <http://hiaucb.com/project-results/>

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Ovalle, I., **Loza, O.**, Peralta-Torres, D., Martinez, J., Hernandez, K., & Mata, H. (2017). Increasing our advocacy capacity through HIV Community Mobilization: Perspectives from emerging and mid-Career Professionals. *Health Promotion Practice*, 18(1), 11-14. doi:10.1177/1524839916681733

Loza, O., Beltran, O., Mangadu, T. (2017). A Qualitative Exploratory Study on Gender Identity and the Health Risks and Barriers to Care for Transgender Women Living in a U.S.-Mexico Border City. *International Journal of Transgenderism (WPATH Journal)*, 18(1), 104-118. doi:10.1080/15532739.2016.1255868

Durán, R. J., & **Loza, O.** (2017). Exploring the Two Trigger Fingers Thesis: Racial and Ethnic Differences in Officer Involved Shootings. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 20(1), 71-94. doi:10.1080/10282580.2016.1262771

Welton, M. D., Rodriguez-Lainz, A., **Loza, O.**, Brodine, S., Fraga, M. (2016). Use of lead glazed ceramic-ware and lead-based folk remedies in a rural community of Baja California, Mexico. *Global Health Promotion*. Published online on June 14, 2016, doi: 10.1177/1757975916639861.

Loza, O., Castaneda, E. Diedrich, B. (2016). "Substance Use by Immigrant Generation in a U.S.-Mexico Border City", *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. Published online on March 24, 2016, doi: 10.1007/s10903-016-0407-1.

Ramos, R., Ferreira-Pinto, J. B., **Loza, O.** (2015). Navigator Approach to Improve Quality of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Mexico. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (JIAPAC)*, November/December 14(6), 516-526. Published online before print August 4, 2015, doi: 10.1177/2325957415599212

Loza, O., Ramos, R., Hernandez, M. T., Ferreira-Pinto, J. B., Villalobos S. A. (2015). A Qualitative Exploration of Perceived Gender Differences in Methamphetamine Use among Women who use Methamphetamine on the Mexico-U.S. Border. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, 15(4), 405-424. Published online on December 21, 2015, doi: 10.1080/15332640.2015.1070392.

Loza, O., Patterson, T. L., Rusch, M., Martinez, G., Lozada, R., Staines-Orozco, H., Magis-Rodriguez, C., Strathdee, S. A. (2010). Drug-related behaviors independently associated with Syphilis infection among female sex workers in two Mexico-U.S. border cities. *Addiction Journal*, 105(8), 1448-56.

Loza, O., Strathdee, S. A., Martinez, G., Lozada, R., Ojeda, V. D., Staines-Orozco, H., Patterson, T. L. (2010). Risk factors associated with chlamydia and gonorrhoea infection among female sex workers in two Mexico-USA border cities. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 21(7), 460-465.

Loza, O., Strathdee, S. A., Lozada, R., Staines-Orozco, H., Ojeda, V. D., Martinez, G. A., Amaro, H., Patterson, T. L. (2010). Correlates of early versus later initiation into sex work in two Mexico-U.S. border cities. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46(1), 37-44.

D. Research Support

Ongoing

"UTEP Minority Serving Institution - Community Based Organizations (MSI-CBO) Partnership for Integrated Substance Abuse (SA), HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Prevention"
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (1 H79 SP020656-01)
September 9, 2014 - 2017
Role: Consultant/Collaborator
Funded: \$892,089.00

"Hispanic Health Disparities Across Cultures in Latin America: Collaborative Research For The 21st Century,"
Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT)
NIH National Institute on Minority Health (NIMH) & Health Disparities (NIMHD) (NIH 2T37MD001376-10)
April 4, 2014 - December 30, 2018
Role: Co-Principal
Funded: \$1,342,000.00

Completed

"UTEP Vulnerability Issues in Drug Abuse (VIDA) Project" (CORE)
National Institutes of Health (NIH R24DA029989)
March 15, 2011 – February 29, 2016
Role: Co-Principal
Funded: \$2,065,149

"Social and Contextual Vulnerability on the U.S.-Mexico Border" (PILOT STUDY 3)
National Institutes of Health (NIH R24DA029989)
March 15, 2013 – February 29, 2016
Role: Principal Investigator
Funded: \$180,708

"HIV Risk and Interventions among Injection Drug Users in Ciudad Juarez"
NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP), 1st Renewal
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2014
Role: Principal Investigator
Funded: \$22,499.09

"Correlates of Hepatitis C Virus Among Injection Drug Users and their Sex Partners in Cd. Juárez, CHIH"
The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), College of Health Sciences (CHS), Community-Academic Partnership Capacity-Building Program (CAP2).
March 8, 2012 - February 15, 2013
Role: Principal Investigator
Funded: \$4,000

"HIV Risk and Interventions among Injection Drug Users in Ciudad Juarez"
NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP)
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012
Role: Principal Investigator
Funded: \$38,114

"HIV and Migration among Mixtec and Zapotec Men in Oaxaca, Chihuahua, and California"
Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA)
May 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012
Role: Co-Principal Investigator
Funded: \$43,870

"Assessing Self-Perceived Risk and Risk Reduction Strategies for STI and HIV among the Transgender Women in El Paso, TX"

UTEP University Research Institute (URI) Grant

September 7, 2010 - August 31, 2011

Role: Principal Investigator

Funded: \$4,666

"Factors Associated with Early Initiation Into Sex Work and Sexually Transmitted Infections among Female Sex Workers in Two Mexico-U.S. Border Cities"

NIDA Diversity Supplement from R01 DA019829-02S1

2006-2009

Role: Principal Investigator; Dissertation Research

Funded: \$128,915