

# Krys Méndez

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## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

My interests include critical human geography, disability studies, urban studies and global political economy. My interdisciplinary, multi-methods research project currently examines migration and militarism in, and from, the Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador). Currently, it interrogates the role of drug and gang war violence in creating landscapes of insecurity and terror, as well as their impacts on community, environment, and public health.

Previous undergraduate and graduate-level course work in sociology, philosophy, urban and ethnic studies includes: Race, Gender, and Space; Marxist Thought; Transnationalism & Borderlands; Sociology of Medicine; Globalization & Social Conflict; International Political Economy; Spatial Thinking in the Social Sciences; Statistics for Social Research; GIS for Urban & Community Planning.

## **TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Student Researcher**

UCSD Ethnic Studies Department / La Jolla, CA

Jan 2017 –

Apr 2019

- Assisted department in organizing faculty colloquia for the year, inviting speakers, coordinating logistics, tracking budgetary expenses and funding, and publicity/communications.
- Assisted in curriculum design, compiling course readings, & coordinating co-facilitation team.
- Provided instruction on global refugees and border militarization for a week in a team-taught course (ETHN189: Stay Woke! World-Making in the Age of Authoritarianism, Spring 2017).

### **Field Researcher**

University of California, San Diego / San Diego, CA

Jun 2015;

Aug 2016

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur / Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico

- In collaboration with border researchers at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), utilized Tinker Grant funding to initiate a preliminary, ethnographic study of the militarization of everyday life in the southern Mexican border city of Tapachula, Chiapas.

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with Mexican border and migration scholars, NGO leaders, government officials, and numerous local residents to assess the impacts of creeping militarization/securitization onto local urban systems and infrastructures, as well as its effects upon everyday routines and activities.
- Conducted literature reviews, participant observation, media monitoring, and GIS-based spatial analysis of migration in Chiapas.

**Reader (Grader)**

UCSD Ethnic Studies Department / La Jolla, CA  
UCSD History Department / La Jolla, CA

Sep 2015 –  
Dec 2015;  
Jan 2019 –  
Mar 2019

- Helped undergraduate students in ethnic studies and history courses identify critical arguments and ideas in written assignments, exams, and essays.
- Helped build students' critical writing skills through close readings, as well as identifying missing or unclear concepts or ideas.
- Assisted professor in gathering educational materials and resources for students with the goal of preparing them for the rigorous expectations of graduate or professional schools.

**High School Equivalency Instructor**

Make the Road New York / Brooklyn, NY

Sep 2013 –  
Aug 2014

- Provided Spanish-language interdisciplinary and contextualized instruction to adult learners.
- Implemented evidence-based pedagogical practices that develop critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and civic participation.
- Designed curricula around themes relevant to social justice within labor, immigration, education, and housing.

**Tutoring Program Coordinator**

Hetrick-Martin Institute / New York, NY

May 2011 –  
May 2013

- Developed and coordinated a tutoring program for disenfranchised, low-income youth of color.
- Designed and conducted surveys, questionnaires, assessments, and program evaluations
- Conducted professional development trainings for staff and volunteers utilizing evidence-based practices in academic instruction.

**Democracy School Facilitator**

Fuerza Laboral / Providence, RI

- Developed and facilitated a six-sequence political education curriculum on community organizing and immigrant labor.
- Engaged themes in civics, non-violent resistance strategies, and the history of U.S. social justice movements.

May 2009 –  
Dec 2010

**CERTIFICATIONS**

**Introductory ArcGIS Desktop Certificate**

University of California, San Diego

- College-level urban & community planning course that included lessons on: map symbology; geocoding; projection mappings; geodatabases, coverages, and shapefiles; feature editing and digitization; geoprocessing and modeling tools; cartographic design.
- Culminated in final project on San Diego light-rail transit systems.

Mar 2015

**GED Instruction Certificate**

Literacy Assistance Center / New York, NY

- Post-graduate professional development course. Culminated in a thesis paper on philosophy of instruction, an interdisciplinary curriculum, and a workshop presentation.

Dec 2011

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

“Addressing Access and Ableism in Academia: Towards a Disability Justice Framework” / Promoting Social Justice for Persons with Disabilities in Our Communities / Raza Resource Center – UC San Diego / La Jolla, CA

Apr 2019

“Drug War Capitalism and the Militarization of Everyday Urban Life: The New Military Urbanism from Central America to the United States” / Canadian Association of Cultural Studies Conference / Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Mar 2018

- “The Militarization of the Southern Mexican Border & the Northern Triangle of Central America” / Migration, Militarization, and Imprisonment in the Context of the Central American Diaspora / Central Americans Raising Awareness in Solidarity Week / La Jolla, CA Jun 2017
- “The Militarization of Everyday Urban Life: An Urban Ethnographic Study in Southern Mexico” / Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies Tinker Grant Symposium / La Jolla, CA Apr 2017
- “Urban Security Regimes and Border Militarization in Southern Mexico: Preliminary Findings from Tapachula, Chiapas” / Militarism and Migration Conference / San Diego, CA May 2017
- “Urban Security Regimes in the Southern Mexican Borderlands” / American Studies Association 2016 Conference / Denver, CO Nov 2016
- “Border Cities and the New Military Urbanism in San Diego, CA and Tapachula, Chiapas”/ El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) Symposium 2016 / Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico Aug 2016
- “Tapachula, Chiapas and the Militarization of the Southern Mexican Border”/ Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2016 Conference / San Francisco, CA Mar 2016
- “The Militarized Border City: Towards a Critical Geographical Study of the Border Cities of Tapachula, Chiapas and San Diego, California” / XV International Congress on Regional Integration, Borders, and Globalization in the American Continent, in conjunction with IV International Congress on Border Cities / Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico Oct 2015
- “Space, Race and the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) in Liberal Academia” / Inclusion in Academic Environments Discussion Panel / Scripps Institute of Oceanography / La Jolla, CA Feb 2015
- “From Rent Strike to Cop Watch: The Intersections of Immigration, Incarceration, and Gentrification in Sunset Park, Brooklyn” / Left Forum 2014: Reform and Revolution: Imagining a World with Transformative Justice/ New York, NY May 2014

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Student Disability Justice Coalition - UCSD	Mar 2019 - current
Coalición Fronteriza de Centroamericanxs	May 2017 - current
Central Americans Raising Awareness in Solidarity (CARAS)	Apr 2017 - current
Critical Ethnic Studies Association	Jun 2014 - current
American Studies Association	Mar 2016 - current
UCSD - Students for Justice in Palestine	Oct 2014 – Jun 2016
Association of American Geographers	Jul 2015 – Jul 2017
New York City Coalition of Adult Literacy	Sep 2013 – Aug 2014
Sunset Park Unity Coalition, Steering Committee	Jan 2012 – Aug 2014
New York Collective of Radical Educators	Nov 2011 – Aug 2014

**MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS**

<b>Spanish Language:</b>	Advanced reading, writing, and speaking
<b>Software:</b>	ArcGIS; SPSS; STATA; Microsoft Suite

**GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

Tinker Field Research Grant	2015, 2016
UCSD Dean’s Fellowship	2014 - 2016
Jacobs Endowed Fellowship	2014 - 2015
Hanoian Memorial Award	2010
Spencer & Lynn Oettinger National Scholarship	2006 - 2010
Gates-Millennium Scholarship	2006 - 2010

**EDUCATION**

<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	2021 (projected)
Ph.D., Ethnic Studies	
<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	2017
M.A., Ethnic Studies	
<b>Brown University</b>	2011
B.A., Sociology B.A., Philosophy	