**Zayda Sorrell-Medina**

Assistant Professor

California State University, Northridge

Social of Social Work

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# EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy** 2023

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Dissertation title: *Detangling the relationship between nonprofits, immigrant exclusion, and inclusion in the United States*

Committee Chair: Dr. Walter J. Nicholls

**Master’s Social Work**  2012

Specialization: Community Organizing

University of Pittsburgh

**B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies**  2010

University of Missouri, Columbia

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

nonprofits, immigation, inclusion, exclusion, quantitative and qualitative methods

**ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

**Sorrell-Medina, Z** (2023). The theory of citizenry exclusion: Understanding why immigrant-serving nonprofits emerge. *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies.* <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2023.2259448>

**Sorrell-Medina**, Z. (2022). A Strategy Typology: Unearthing How U.S.-Immigrant-Serving Nonprofits Contribute to Immigrant Inclusion Outcomes. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2132571>

Nicholls, W. & **Sorrell-Medina**, Z. (2023). *Undocumented immigrant activism: The struggle for rights and recognition*. In Van Liempt, I., Schapendonk, J., Campos-Delgado, A., (Eds.), *Research handbook on irregular migration*. (pp. 106-117). Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800377509.00017>

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (under review). Testing the relationship between local context and immigrant-serving nonprofit strategies (under review)

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (in progress). National nonprofit trends: What are the goals of the U.S. immigrant-serving nonprofit sector?

Sorrell-Medina, Z., Madueke, K., Matthew, R. (in progress). Measuring the effectiveness of art in peace building in Jos, Nigeria

**REPORTS**

Sorrell-Medina, Z., Gonzales, L., Townley, H., Caballero, M., Quijano, M., Collins, S. (2021). *A Report on the state of Immigrant inclusion in Florida*. Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua Co.

Sorrell-Medina, Z., Madueke, K. (2021). *Evaluating the effectiveness of an art-based peace program in contributing to processes of peace in Jos, Nigeria*. Yemaya Productions, LLC.

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

School of Social Ecology Dissertation Fellowship ($6,000) 2022

AAUW Dissertation Fellowship ($20,000) 2021

Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies Research Award ($3,500) 2021

Urban Planning & Public Policy Summer Method Award ($1,000) 2021

Urban Planning & Public Policy Summer Research Funding ($3,000) 2021

Chancellor’s Club Fellowship Award ($3,000) 2020

Public Impact Fellow ($1,000) 2020

Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation Award ($2,900) 2020

Urban Planning & Public Policy Summer Research Funding ($700) 2020

Urban Planning & Public Policy Summer Research Funding ($500) 2019

Network for European and U.S. Regional and Urban Studies ($3,500) 2019

Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation Small Change Better World Grant ($3,000) 2018

**AWARDS**

Lánzate Premio Universitario de Southwest Airlines (8 round trip airline passes) 2021

Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) Fellowship ($5,000) 2020

National Urban League Caring Adult Award 2017

United Way Be a Middle School Mentor Appreciation Award 2016

National Urban League Whitney M. Young Award 2015

University of Pittsburgh Rising Star Alumni Award 2014

University of Missouri Hesburgh Award for Outstanding Achievement 2010

Hispanic Scholarship Alliance of St. Louis ($3,000) 2010

The Edith G. Colantuono and Amelia and Henry De Angelis Scholarship ($1,000) 2011

Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholar 2008

Princeton University Prize in Race Relations 2006

National Horatio Association of Distinguished American Scholar Award ($10,000) 2006

The President’s Volunteer Service Award 2005

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“An artistic approach to peacebuilding.” *Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in Geneva, Switzerland*. Online. February 4, 2022.

“Measuring immigrant-serving nonprofit strategies in US cities.” *Associate of Collegiate Schools of Planning*. Online. October 2021.

“An evaluation of immigrant inclusion in US cities.” Center for Global and Conflict Studies (GPACS).

Irvine, California. January 2020.

“US and Dutch Sample: The goals and strategies of immigrant-serving third sector” *Network for European U.S. Regional and Urban Studies*. Gronigen, Netherlands. September 2020

“Measuring the impact of the immigrant nonprofit sector.” *Network for European U.S. Regional and Urban Studies*. Gronigen, Netherlands. September 2019

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2021, June). *What is inclusion? A framework for policy and practice*. State of Immigrant Inclusion in Florida Expo. Online. June 2021.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2021, June). *Is Florida Inclusive? An empirical evaluation.* State of Immigrant Inclusion in Florida Expo. Online.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2021, June). What are the goals of the US immigrant-serving nonprofit sector? Areas for future innovation, strategic planning and development. State of Immigrant Inclusion in Florida Expo. Online.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2020, February). *Immigrant Inclusion in US Cities*. UCI Urbanization and Social Change Class. Irvine, California.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2019, May). *Environmental Justice and City Planning*. UCI Sustainability II Class. Irvine, California. May 2019

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2019, May). *From Youth Homelessness to Academia*. UCI Second Annual Foster Youth Leadership Summit. Irvine, California.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2019, May). *The Role of Nonprofits in Contributing to Immigrant Inclusion Outcomes*. UCI Contentious Cities Workshop. Irvine, California.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2018, April). *Integrating the Arts to Achieve Sustainability*. UCI Sustainability I Class. Irvine, California.

Sorrell-Medina, Z. (2015, April). Social Work and Social Policy. University of Pittsburgh School of Social

Work. Pittsburgh, PA.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Instructor | California State University, Northridge 2023*

* Research Design, Fall 2023
* Social Welfare Policy, Fall 2023

*Instructor | University of California, Irvine 2022*

* Research design, Summer 2022

*Teaching Assistant | University of California Irvine, 2017 to December 2022*

* **Environmental Analysis and Design,** Fall 2022
* **Quantitative Analysis for Planners, Winter 2021**
* **Urban Studies, Spring 2021**
* **Urban and Social Change, Winter 2020**
* **Environmental Analysis and Design,** Fall 2020
* **Global Poverty & Inequality,** Spring 2020
* **Environmental Analysis and Design,** Winter 2019
* **Urban America,** Fall 2019
* **Research Design,** Summer 2019
* **Sustainability II,** Spring 2018
* **Sustainability I,** Winter 2018
* **Sustainability I**, Fall 2018
* **Introduction to Urban Studies,** Fall 2017

**EMPLOYMENT**

Program Manager **|** *Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh,* 2012-2017

* Developed and implemented a mentoring program to address academic inequity among African American students in Pittsburgh Public Schools

Community Organizer Intern| *Oakland Planning Development Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA,* 2011-2012

* Engaged Latino residents to participate in city planning efforts to ensure inclusive representation in the city’s 2025 community plan

Program Coordinator Intern*| Hill House Association, Pittsburgh,* 2010-2011

* Collaborated with PhD students and artists to design and implement an art-based group counseling program targeted to African American children of families with drug and alcohol addiction

**SERVICE**

Researcher | *Forward Together Program,* 2021

* Conduct research on the degree to which cities in Florida are inclusive and write report on findings as a part of a local initiative to advance the state of inclusion for immigrants and their descendants in Florida

Artistic Director*| Yemaya Productions, LLC,* 2012-Present

* Develop and implement community interventions and artistic productions in the US and abroad that

integrates art and research in effort to promote social and environmental awareness and peace

Co-Director **|** *From the Margins Peace Program in Jos, Nigeria,* 2020-2021

* Co-develop peace program that uses artistic approaches to address violent conflict among Christian and Muslim

youth in Jos, Nigeria

Social Work Field Instructor | *University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA,* 2013-2016

* Supervised and provide mentorship to six master’s level social work students as a part of their field training

Refugee Resettlement Volunteer| *Refugee Center, Columbia, MO,* 2008-2009

* Helped resettle Cuban refugees by providing support related to transportation, translation, and job searches

**AFFILIATIONS**

Fellow with Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse Syracuse University 2020

African American Achievement Trust Collective Focus Advisory Board 2015-2016

One Young World Pittsburgh Delegate 2016

Yemanja The Film Advisory Committee Board 2015-2016

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Alumni Committee Board 2014-2015

Urban League Young Professionals of Pittsburgh, Member 2013-2014

Latin American Cultural Union Organization, Board of Directors 2012

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Adobe Illustrator, Excel, Stata, Dedoose, Yuja Enterprise Video Platform, Canvas, Microsoft Office Suite

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent) and Spanish (fluent)