

Yanira Rivas Pineda de Melendez
Department of Political Science
University of California Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9420
yanirarivaspineda@ucsb.edu, (310) 904-2852

EDUCATION

- University of California, Santa Barbara** 2024
Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science
Advisor: M. Kent Jennings
Dissertation (in progress): *Crime-Ridden and Heavily Policed: Political Involvement in two Los Angeles Public Housing Facilities*
- California State University, Northridge** 2011
M.A., Political Science
Honors: Master with Distinction
- Universidad de Granada, Spain** 2005
M.A., Public Management of International Cooperation and NGO's
Thesis: "Democracy in El Salvador: The Role of the Oligarchy, the Military, and International Cooperation in the Construction of Democracy in El Salvador."
- University of Miami** 2004
B.A. in International Studies and Spanish

AREAS OF INTEREST

Latino Politics, Criminal Justice, Race and Ethnic Politics, Urban Politics, American Politics, the Politics of the Poor, Comparative Politics, and Central American Politics (in the U.S and comparatively).

PUBLICATIONS

- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** 2019. "CARECEN," in *Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders*, ed. Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti, 109-111. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** 2019. "Kevin de Leon," in *Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders*, ed. Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti, 138-140. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** 2019. "La Opinión," in *Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders*, ed. Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti, 257-258. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** 2019. "NACARA," in *Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders*, ed. Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti, 368-370. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- Rivas Pineda, Yanira.** 2015. "La Democracia Ardiente en el Pulgarcito de America." *Sinestesia* 1(3): 8-9.
- Rivas Pineda, Yanira.** 2015. "Embracing the Spirit of a Turtle to Succeed in Graduate School." *Graduate Policy Journal* 1(1): 21-22.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** (2023. Panel canceled due to Labor dispute). “*Mantente al Margen*”/Stay out: Navigating Civic and Political Engagement in the *Barrio*.” Professional development panel held at the annual American Political Science Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** (2022). “Policing Politics: How policing affects political behavior in the *Barrios*.” Professional development panel held at the annual American Political Science Association Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** (2019). “Barrio Politics: (A)Political Life in Marginalized Communities.” Professional development panel held at the annual American Political Science Association Conference, Washington, DC.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** (2019). “Barrio Politics: (A)Political Life in Ramona Gardens.” Professional development panel held at the annual Western Political Science Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Rivas Pineda de Melendez, Y.** (2019). “Barrio Politics: (A)Political Life in Ramona Gardens.” Professional development panel held at the annual Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC) meeting in Tempe, Arizona.
- Rivas Pineda, Y.** (2017). “The Political Effects of Latino Crime Victimization and Police Treatment.” Professional development panel held at the annual Western Political Science Association Conference, Vancouver, BC. Canada.
- Rivas Pineda, Y.** (2016). “Exploratory Study: State of Democracy in El Salvador: From a Government and Civic Leaders’ Perspective.” Professional development panel held at the annual Western Political Science Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Rivas Pineda, Y.** (2013). “A Good Gang Policy Gone Bad.” Professional development panel held at the 9th Annual Graduate Conference in Political Science, International Relations & Public Policy, Jerusalem, Israel.
- Rivas Pineda, Y.** (2012). “Evaluation of Los Angeles Current Gang Policy: Lessons for El Salvador.” Professional development panel held at the annual Latin American Studies Association Congress, San Francisco, California.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UCSB Doctoral Student Travel Grant	2022
APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship Grant	2022
First Generation Scholar Travel and Accessibility Grant	2022
UCSB Department of Political Science Grant	2022
American Embassy San Salvador Democracy Project Grant	2021
SMC Faculty Summer Institute training stipend	2019
UCSB Graduate Division Dissertation Write-in Fellowship	2019
APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship	2018
UCSB Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship	2018
UCSB Chicano Studies Institute Research Grant	2017
UCSB Humanities & Social Sciences Research Grant	2017
UCSB Department of Political Science Graduate Research and Training Grant	2017
UCSB Department of Political Science Graduate Summer Research Grant	2017
UCSB Global Studies Research Assistant Grant	2015

APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship Grant	2015
UCSB Graduate Opportunity Fellowship	2014-2015, 2013-2014
SAGE Fellowship	2011
UCSB Department of Political Science Grant	2011
Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Fellowship	2010

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Oral History Interviewer on Central American History in Los Angeles, Center for Oral History Research, Charles E. Young Research Library (UCLA) (November 2019-April 2020)

- Central Americans: Building Institutions and Communities in Los Angeles project (currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Training

- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University. June 19-30, 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part-Time Instructor, Santa Monica College (SMC), Santa Monica, CA August 2018-June 2020

- Race, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Difference

Teaching Associate, University of California, Santa Barbara January 2018-June 2019

- Crime, Policing, and Political Participation (Winter 2019)
- Latino Politics (Spring 2018/2019)
- Urban Government & Politics (Winter 2018)

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara January 2012-December 2017

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Introduction to American Government
- Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics
- Latino Politics
- Politics of Economic Development
- Third World Politics
- U.S. Minority Politics
- Introduction to Sociology

Graduate Guest Presentations

- Professional Skills Forum on Funding
- Identity Roundtable on Citizenship

Undergraduate Guest Lecture/Presentations

- “Supporting Immigrant Communities.” 2019. UCSB
- “*Alaghom Naom and Necahual*: Invoking our Indigenous Roots to Survive the College Experience.” 2016. UCSB
- “Gender and Politics.” Introduction to Comparative Politics. 2015. UCSB
- “Graduate School 101.” 2015. UCSB
- “*Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison*.” 2015. UCSB

- “El Salvador’s Violent Migration History.” 2015. UCSB.
- “Mexico’s Drug War.” Introduction to Comparative Politics. 2012. UCSB

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate Research Assistants

January 2018-June 2019

- Ten undergraduate research assistants assisted with dissertation-related research. The project gave undergraduate students exposure to quantitative and qualitative research methods.

SERVICE

International Election Observer with <i>Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad</i> (CIS)	February 2024
Santa Monica College Faculty Summer Institute	July 29 th -August 8 th , 2019
APSA Successful Strategies to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Faculty	2018
UCSB Political Science Department Diversity Committee	2016-2018
UCSB Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences Search Advisory Committee	2016-2017
UCSB Political Science Graduate Student Association co-president	2016-2017
UCSB USEU (Salvadoran Student Union) Co-Advisor	2015-2018
University of California Student Association Board Vice Chair	2015-2016
UCSB Graduate Student Association Vice President of External Affairs	2014-2016
University of California Student Association Board	2014-2017
CISPES El Salvador International Election Observer	Feb. 20-March 4, 2015
UCSB Department of Political Science Identity Politics Search Committee	Fall 2014
School on Wheels, Inc. Volunteer Tutor Coordinator	January-November 2014

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Regional Coordinator, School on Wheels, Inc.,** Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, California. 2009-2013
- Recruited, trained, and placed volunteers to provide tutoring services to homeless students in K-12th grade in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.
- Community Organizer, LA Voice-PICO,** Los Angeles, California 2006-2009
- Trained community residents to become active change agents in their communities and be part of the decision-making process.
- Citizenship AmeriCorps, San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center,** Alamosa, CO. 2005-2006
- Worked with the immigrant community in their integration in a new country through ESL classes and helping legal permanent residents prepare for Citizenship exam.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)
 APSA Committee on First-Generation Higher Education Scholars in the Profession
 Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)
 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
 Phi Theta Kappa Society
 Santa Monica College Faculty Summer Institute
 Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society
 The Latino Caucus of Political Science
 The National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
 Western Political Science Association (WPSA)