

Accomplished and dedicated researcher and NGO policy professional with over 10 years of expertise in gender and migration, whose career began working with survivors of human trafficking. Specializes in advancing equity through comprehensive research and evaluations, with a strong background in gender-based violence and forced migration among vulnerable populations. Renowned for effectively communicating complex ideas, facilitating cross-cultural research, and collaboration.

EXPERIENCE

Apr 2013 — Present Independent Consultant, Research and Evaluation Mexico; Remote

Current Projects:

- ❖ **Fòs Feminista**, (Sep 2023-Present)
 - Analyze and synthesize data on projects being implemented across the feminist ecosystem network and translate into various written formats for different audiences.
 - Develop written reports on intersections of sexual and reproductive health and forced displacement in various contexts including Venezuela, translating Spanish inputs into English.
 - Review and research current policies in Latin American context related to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and the various political contexts in accessing it across the region.
 - Edit and proofread reports written by project team to ensure information is presented in most effective manner to major global institutions such as Sida and Global Affairs Canada (GAC).
- ❖ **Expert Witness, Center for Gender, and Refugee Studies**, (Aug 2023-Present)
 - Develop country condition reports to serve as evidence in asylum cases for vulnerable migrant populations, including LGBTQI+, young people and migrant women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence.
 - Present testimony in merits hearings around potential harm for individuals who are persecuted in Central America and Mexico if they are not granted asylum in the US.

Past Projects:

- ❖ **ME&A** (Sep 2023-Jan 2024)
 - Provided gender subject-matter expertise in end-line gender assessment of the US Department of State's SilvaCarbon programming on including women in climate change action initiatives implemented globally including in the Latin American, African, and Southeast Asian regional contexts.
 - Implemented systematic literature review and translated findings into evidence report documenting the need for gender responsive programming in climate change action in specific regional contexts in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.
 - Designed evaluation data collection tools, interview guide and survey, ensuring gender lens was incorporated throughout.
- ❖ **Inmujeres (Mexican Ministry of Women)** (Sep 2023-Dec 2023)
 - Supported evaluation to analyze how current embassies, consulates and state level Ministry of Women offices attend to migrant women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence (GBV) along the migrant trail in Mexico.
 - Conducted literature review of relevant information and systematized for conceptual framework for a training manual to be used with government officials on how to attend to migrant women and girls who are survivors of GBV.
 - Developed interview and survey tools to be administered with key stakeholders.
- ❖ **Oxfam America** (Jan 2022- Apr 2022)
 - Led implementation of intersectional feminist qualitative research as main investigator on how US immigration and asylum policies both harm asylum seekers who are survivors of gender-based violence and create conditions of gender-based violence at the U.S./Mexican border with particular attention to Black and LGBTQI+ migrants.
 - Designed the data collection tools in Spanish and English, including survey tool in Qualtrics and interview guide.
 - Coded, analyzed and synthesized research findings and presented them to the project team so they could effectively be drafted into a policy advocacy report; the report was cited in Federal Judge's July 2023 decision to overturn asylum ban <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/surviving-deterrence-how-us-asylum-deterrence-policies-normalize-gender-based-v-621499/>.
 - Conducted 30 interviews remotely in both Spanish and English, successfully forging relationships with key stakeholders to reach objectives of the study.
- ❖ **IMUMI (Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración)** (Apr 2018-Aug 2018)
 - Conducted systematic review of Mexican policies and best practices with regard to adolescent and child refugees in need of international protection in Mexico.
 - Successfully analyzed data and drafted a final policy review and list of recommendations to be used to advocate for stronger policies and protection measures for migrant children to be presented to the Mexican administration.
 - Interviewed key stakeholders implementing legal mechanisms around best practices and challenges in protecting refugee minors.
- ❖ **Pact Namibia (Jan 2014- Jun 2014)**
 - Conducted baseline assessment interviews with stakeholders for Pact Namibia's capacity building project on HIV response as part of the M&E team, and synthesized findings into narrative reports.
 - Developed theory of change framework with project team as part of the monitoring and evaluation process for the project's implementation.
- ❖ **International Women's Initiative (Apr 2013 – Feb 2014)**
 - Developed gender equality curriculum for sexual and reproductive health initiative covering a wide range of topics, including GBV and women's empowerment.
 - Designed workplan and conceptual framework for sexual reproductive health initiative in Uganda working with local in country stakeholders to enable project implementation, identifying key objectives to be part of the M&E plan.

Oct 2018 — Aug 2023

Postgraduate Researcher, King's College London

London, UK; Mexico

- Led intersectional feminist qualitative research on how GBV causes Central American adolescent girls to become displaced transnationally to Mexico, conducting policy analysis and interviewing migrant women participants in Spanish.
- Identified protection needs of young women and girls living at migrant shelters in Mexico and made referrals to social services, including for sexual and reproductive health needs, as well as to hospitals as needed when issues of human trafficking and sexual violence arose.
- Developed data collection tools ensuring gender and age perspective were incorporated throughout, utilizing the same framework in analyzing and coding the data once collected.
- Wrote manuscripts and blog posts for publications and peer-reviewed journals on transnational migration policies, protection, and gender justice in relation to young migrant women and girls' experiences (e.g. <https://lab.org.uk/international-womens-day-2023-in-mexico/>).
- Designed and delivered a seminar with over 200 postgraduate participants on designing methodologies for conducting research interventions on GBV in the context of mobility for UNAM's Seminario Universitario de Estudios sobre Desplazamiento Interno Migración Exilio y Repatriación (SUDIMER).

Jun 2016 — Jul 2017

Program Officer, Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia A.C.

Mexico City, Mexico

- Evaluated organization's current initiatives related to GBV and led and set strategic objectives for organization's workplan on programmatic activities, areas for intervention and funding needs in order to begin working on GBV initiatives.
- Adapted a stigma reduction evaluation scale appropriate for the Mexican context to measure the success of the women's circle.
- Researched potential funding streams for the organization's efforts and created proposals in both Spanish and English.
- Formed part of the executive coordination committee for Mexico's National Alliance for the Right to Choose (ANDAR) and worked closely with four other partner organizations on strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation and activity implementation.

Jan 2015 — Jul 2015

Program Director, Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Tacoma, WA

- Supervised, trained and hired Reception and Placement Refugee program staff, ensuring program quality was adhered to by providing effective coaching on contract requirements and capacity building, leading weekly team meetings.
- Forged new strategic alliances by representing the program at state-level taskforce meetings, working closely with the Washington Office for Refugees, to improve the services and protections provided by the program.
- Effectively implemented new program for Central American Minors (CAM), strategizing the implementation of the initiative which expanded the services provided by the program as well as increasing the number of beneficiaries the program was able to reach by 20%.

Oct 2009 — Jun 2011

Caseworker Assistant- Anti-Human Trafficking Program, International Rescue Committee

Miami, FL

- Provided comprehensive psychosocial case management to foreign born victims of human trafficking, advocating for access to justice, social services, immigration relief and public benefits, collaborating closely with government officials such as FBI and ICE.
- Maintained the trafficking hotline receiving calls about potential victims and responding appropriately.

Intern

- Supported administrative tasks of the organization's anti-human trafficking and employment programs.

EDUCATION

Oct 2018 – Jan 2024

Ph.D., King's College London, Department of Geography

London, UK

Sep 2011 – Dec 2012

MSc. Gender, Development and Globalization
London School of Economics and Political Science

London, UK

Sep 2006 – May 2010

BA, University of Miami
International Studies, Spanish

Miami, FL

PUBLICATIONS & ADDITIONAL AFFILIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Forthcoming

Gendered Infrastructural Violence and Impunity on the Migrant Journey through Mexico, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Forthcoming

The Gendered Temporal Mechanism of the Border: Slow Violence and Resistance in the Migrant Shelter in Mexico, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

2023

Peer Journal Reviewer, *Gender, Place and Culture*

2022

Research Impact and Community Engagement, CESI

2017

Certificación de Español como Lengua Adicional, Universidad Nacional de México

2016

La medición de la violencia contra las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe, ECLAC

2014

Theory of Change, USAID

Reference:

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