
MELISSA ALCARAZ

Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University
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EDUCATION

- 2018 – present PhD, Sociology, The Ohio State University (*in progress*)
Graduate Affiliate, Institute for Population Research
- 2018 M.A., Sociology, The Ohio State University.
Master's Thesis: Mothers Matter: The Role of Parents' Education in
Predicting Children's Educational Persistence in Mexico. *Committee*: Dr.
Kammi Schmeer (Chair), Dr. Sarah Hayford, Dr. Reanne Frank
Graduate Affiliate, Institute for Population Research
- 2016 B.S., Sociology, Brigham Young University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fertility, education, and migration: fertility intentions and educational aspirations and outcomes, education and fertility intentions in high-migration contexts, gender differences in fertility intentions
Regional focus: United States, Mexico; additional experience in high-migration contexts of Mozambique and Nepal

PUBLICATIONS

Downey, Douglas B, David M. Quinn, and Melissa Alcaraz. *Forthcoming*. "Schools and the Distribution of Learning: Do Advantaged Children Really Enjoy Better Learning Environments?" *Sociology of Education*.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Alcaraz, Melissa. *Under Review*. "Beyond Financial Resources: The Role of Parents' Education in Predicting Children's Educational Persistence in Mexico."

AWARDS/GRANTS

- 2019 Silverman Research Grant, Department of Sociology. \$1,800
- 2019 Summer Methods Training Grant, Department of Sociology. \$400
- 2019 – 2020 Administrative supplement to "Family Migration Context and Early Life Outcomes." Research supplement to promote diversity in health-related research; financial support for graduate student. National Institutes of Health, NICHD. With Sarah Hayford and Jennifer Glick, PIs. \$66,028. Awarded for 18-month period from January 2019 – June 2020.

- 2018 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program – Honorable Mention
- 2016 – 2017 Graduate Enrichment Fellowship

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2019 Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute on Migration Methods, Participant.
- 2017 – Present Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University.
Working with Dr. Sarah Hayford on the Family Migration and Early Life Outcomes (FAMELO) project, a large, multi-site, NIH-funded data collection project.
Responsibilities: Coding of in-depth qualitative interviews, analysis of quantitative survey data, preparing manuscripts for conference presentations and review for publication.
- Autumn 2015 Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University.
Responsibilities: Assisted in classroom management and instruction of over 150 students in Introductory Sociology.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS (* INDICATES GRADUATE STUDENT)

- Alcaraz, Melissa*, Sarah R. Hayford, and Jennifer E. Glick. Working Paper. “Desired Fertility and Educational Aspirations: New Evidence from a Context of Rapid Social Change.”
- Glick, Jennifer, Sarah Miller*, Melissa Alcaraz*, and Dirgha J. Ghimire. Working Paper. “Educational Aspirations and Migration: A Comparative Approach.”
- Hayford, Sarah, Melissa Alcaraz*, Jennifer Glick, and Scott Yabiku. Working Paper. “Raising Boys and Girls in a Context of Rapid Social Change.”
- Edmunds, Chrissie*, and Melissa Alcaraz*. Working Paper. “Early Childhood Hardship and Adolescent Mental Health.”

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (*INDICATES PRESENTER)

- Alcaraz, Melissa*. Working Paper. “Beyond Financial Resources: The Role of Parents’ Education in Predicting Children’s Educational Persistence in Mexico.” Paper presented at the 2018 Annual BGSU/OSU Graduate Student Conference on Population, Bowling Green State University, November 2, 2018.
Updated paper accepted for poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Population Association of America Meeting in Austin, Texas.
- Alcaraz, Melissa*, Sarah R. Hayford, and Jennifer E. Glick. Working Paper. “Desired Fertility and Educational Aspirations: New Evidence from a Context of Rapid Social Change.” Paper presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the *Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, Milan, Italy, July 9, 2018.

Updated paper accepted for paper presentation at the 2019 Annual Population Association of America Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Hayford, Sarah*, Melissa Alcaraz, Jennifer Glick, and Scott Yabiku. "Raising Boys and Girls in a Context of Rapid Social Change." Poster presented at the International Population Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, October 31, 2017.

Glick, Jennifer*, Sarah Miller, Melissa Alcaraz, and Dirgha J. Ghimire. Working Paper. "Educational Aspirations and Migration: A Comparative Approach." Accepted for paper presentation at the 2019 Annual Population Association of America Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Edmunds, Chrissie*, and Melissa Alcaraz*. Working Paper. "Early Childhood Hardship and Adolescent Mental Health." Accepted for roundtable paper presentation at the 2019 Annual American Sociological Association Meeting in New York City, New York.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

2018 – 2019 President, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

2018 – 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

2018 – 2019 Graduate Student Mentor, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

2017 – 2018 Mentoring Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

SocPOP, Working group on population and demography

SocPIE, Working group on power, inequality, and economy

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Section Memberships: Children and Youth; Family; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility;

Sociology of Education

Population Association of America

Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English and Spanish