

## Stephanie Soto-Lara

School of Education  
University of California, Irvine  
3200 Education Building Irvine, C.A. 92697  
Email: [ssotolar@uci.edu](mailto:ssotolar@uci.edu)

### Education

---

2016 B.A. Psychology with a Minor in Education, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
2019 M.A. Education, University of California, Irvine, CA  
Expected 2021 Ph. D. Education, University of California, Irvine, CA

### Research Interests

---

Adolescent development; Latinx youth; family support; organized afterschool activities; educational outcomes, culture, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and immigration

### Research Experience

---

2019 – Present **Math CEO**, University of California, Irvine  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Mark Yu, NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Dr. Sandra Simpkins, Professor of Education

- Helped developed staff and youth surveys and interview scripts
- Contacted parents and conducting phone interviews in both Spanish and English
- Conducting data collection with a team of undergraduate and graduate students
- Administering surveys and conducting semi-structured interviews with youth and undergraduate mentors at the program in both Spanish and English

2017 – Present **Mott Synthesis Study and Meta-Analysis on Out-of-School Time**, University of California, Irvine  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Deborah Vandell, Professor of Education and Dr. Sandra Simpkins, Professor of Education

- Conducted searches of reports and evaluations on out-of-school time programs
- Screened reports and evaluations that fit our criteria to use for the synthesis study and meta-analysis on out-of-school time
- Coding reports and evaluations on specific outcomes: academic performance, physical health, psychosocial, and behavioral
- Writing a report on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Programs

- 2017 – 2018      **Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development (SECCYD)**,  
University of California, Irvine  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Deborah Vandell, Professor of Education
- Helped develop and edit new survey for the age 26-27 follow-up study
  - Helped edit online survey on Qualtrics
  - Created Facebook page for the study
  - Contacted previous participants who were part of the study and are now young adults
  - Worked with a team of undergraduates: Organized and led trainings, coordinated meetings, and oversaw their projects
  - Ran statistical analysis using STATA and MPlus
- 2016 – 2017      **Latino Families and Science Project**, University of California, Irvine  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Sandra Simpkins, Professor of Education
- Developed video codes to examine how families support students' academic and science motivation
  - Contacted previous participants who were part of the study
  - Worked with a team of undergraduates in the lab: Organized and led trainings, facilitated reliability meetings, and created professional development workshops
  - Data coding and entry: Record data and Roadmaps
- 2015 – 2016      **Ronald E. McNair**, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Research Scholar**  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sandra Graham, Professor of Education
- Conducted study on victimization and participation in extracurricular activities among Latina/o middle school students
  - Research methodology: quantitative, survey data
- 2014 – 2016      **Middle School Diversity Project (MSDP)**, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigators: Dr. Sandra Graham, Professor of Education and Dr. Janna Juvonen, Professor of Psychology
- Conducted data collection at various school sites in Los Angeles
  - Trained on data coding and entry
  - Worked with a team and individually in various data cleaning and coding projects: Extracurricular Activities, Social Identity Complex, School Records, and Peer Nominations
- 2015 - 2016      **Lost Student Project**, Middle/High School Diversity Project (MSDP/HSDP),  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Project Supervisor**

Principal Investigators: Dr. Sandra Graham, Professor of Education and Dr. Janna Juvonen, Professor of Psychology

- Coordinated a team of students to contact previous participants who participated in MSDP
- Mailed students surveys and honorariums

2014

**Summer Ronald E. McNair, University of California, Los Angeles Research Fellow**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sandra Graham, Professor of Education

- Conducted research on the benefits associated with participation in extracurricular activities
- Coded extracurricular activity data

2014

**Research Rookies, University of California, Los Angeles,**  
Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bruce Barbee, Professor of Education and Dr. Alice Ho, Director of Academic and Research Programs

- Participated in a two-quarter program, through the Academic Advancement Program (AAP) and conducted research on participation in extracurricular activities and academic achievement of Latino high school students
- Received IRB certification to conduct study
- Developed and administered survey

**Publications**

---

**Soto-Lara, S.** & Simpkins, S. (2020). Parent support of Mexican-descent high school adolescents' science education: A culturally-grounded framework. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 1-30. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0743558420942478>

Ma, T., Yu, M., **Soto-Lara, S.**, & Simpkins, S. (under review). Peer discrimination profiles of Latino adolescents' organized afterschool activities: The associations with activity engagement and experiences. *Journal of Youth Development*.

Yu, M., Liu, Y., **Soto-Lara, S.**, Puente, K., Carranza Ramos, Perla., Pantano, A., & Simpkins, S. (under review). Cultural engagement in practice: A mixed-methods examination of Latinx youth's perspectives in an afterschool program. *Journal of Adolescent Research*.

**Presentations**

---

**Soto-Lara, S.**, & Simpkins, S. (2020, March). Mexican-Descent Mothers' Support in their Adolescents' Science Learning in Spite of Social, Cultural, and Structural Barriers. In N. Tulagan (Chair), *Content and Correlates of Mexican- and African-American Parental*

*Involvement in Adolescents' Academic and Developmental Wellbeing*. Symposium accepted at the biennial meeting for the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Diego, CA.<sup>1</sup>

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Tulagan, N., & Simpkins, S. (2019, March). *Examining Relations of Mexican-Descent Adolescents' Science Achievement and Engagement on Mothers' Use of Navigational Capital*. Poster presented at the 2019 Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland.

Liu, Y., Simpkins, S., Vandell, D. L., Hsieh, T., **Soto-Lara, S.**, & Luo, H. (2018, October) *Associations between organized activities and performance character: A critical review*. Poster presented at SRCD Character Development Special Topic Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

**Soto-Lara, S.** & Simpkins, S. (2018, April). *"Everything that is for her benefit, I do": Parental engagement in STEM among Mexican-descent families*. Poster presented at the 2018 Biennial Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Hsieh, T., & Simpkins, S. (2018, April). *Latina/o parents' positive and negative responsiveness and their adolescents' academic aspirations*. Poster presented at the 2018 Biennial Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Camacho, D., & Graham, S. (2016, March). *The role of extracurricular activity in peer victimization among Latina/o youth*. Poster presented at the Biennial Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Camacho, D., & Graham, S. (2015). *The effects of participation in extracurricular activities among victimized Latina/o middle school students*. Plenary presentation at UC Berkeley's 23<sup>th</sup> Annual McNair Symposium, Berkeley, CA.

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Camacho, D., & Graham, S. (2015). *The role of extracurricular activities in the relationship between victimization and psychosocial outcomes among Latina/o middle school youth*. Oral presentation Presented at UCLA McNair Symposium, Los Angeles, CA.

**Soto-Lara, S.**, Camacho, D., & Graham, S. (2015). *Engagement in extracurricular activities and psychosocial outcomes during middle school*. Poster presented at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week, Los Angeles, CA.

**Soto-Lara, S.** & Barbee, B. (2014). *With involvement comes success: Latino high school students and their path towards graduation*. Poster presented at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week, Los Angeles, CA.

## **Teaching Experience**

---

2019 – Present    **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Irvine  
Courses:

---

<sup>1</sup> Meeting cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Out-of-school learning (undergraduate course), Summer 2019
- Learning inside and outside of school (graduate course for Master of Arts in Teaching Degree students), Summer 2019
- Theories and Pedagogy of Race (undergraduate course), Winter 2020
- Issues in K-12 Education (undergraduate course), Spring 2020

- 2014 – 2015     **Teacher Assistant**, Vine Street Elementary, Los Angeles, CA
- Assisted a fifth grade teacher in a classroom of thirty-two students with grading and tutoring.
  - Worked with students in literacy circles to enhance their reading, comprehension, writing, and analyzing skills.
- 2010 – 2016     **Staff Assistant**, LA's Best Afterschool Program, Los Angeles, CA
- Helped students with homework in different subjects.
  - Helped staff with supervising children and brainstorming ideas for activities.
  - Helped with parent workshops/events and interacted with families.
  - Completed paperwork, ran errands, and organized office with equipment.

### **Academic Service**

---

- 2020             Mentored an Undergraduate Student, Chican@/Latin@ Staff Association (CLSA) Undergraduate Mentorship Program at UC Irvine
- 2019             Volunteered for Recruitment Week, UC Irvine School of Education
- 2018 - Present     DECADE Cross-Cohort Conversations Panelist, UC Irvine School of Education
- 2018             Student and Early-Career Committee Member, Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)
- 2018 - Present     DECADE Peer Mentorship Program Coordinator, UC Irvine School of Education
- 2018             Volunteered for Recruitment Week, UC Irvine School of Education
- 2017 – 2018     Mentoring Undergraduate Students in Research, Study of Early Child Care & Youth Development (SECCYD) Research Lab, UC Irvine
- 2017 – Present     DECADE Peer Mentor, Mentoring a first-year Latina graduate student, UC Irvine School of Education
- 2017             Invited Panelist, Graduate school application forum & Workshop, Sociology Department, California State University Los Angeles
- 2017             Mentored Undergraduate Student, UC Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)
- 2017             Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer with Advisor, Journal of Adolescent Research (JAR)
- 2017             Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer with Advisor, Journal of Research on Adolescence (JRA)
- 2017             Mentored an Undergraduate Student, Chican@/Latin@ Staff Association (CLSA) Undergraduate Mentorship Program at UC Irvine

- 2017 Volunteered for Recruitment Week, UC Irvine School of Education  
 2016 – 2017 Mentored Undergraduate Students in Research, Project Reach Lab, UC Irvine  
 2016 Conference Proposal Reviewer with Advisor, Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)

### **Honors and Awards**

---

- 2020 Honorable Mention, UC Irvine President's Dissertation Year Fellowship  
 2018 Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program  
 2018 Honorable Mention, UC Irvine Faculty Mentor Program Fellowship  
 2016 Undergraduate Scholars Program Recipient, Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)  
 2015 23<sup>rd</sup> UC Berkeley McNair Symposium Plenary Speaker, UC Berkeley  
 2015 J.W. & Nellie MacDowell Undergraduate Research Scholarship, UCLA  
 2014-2015 Edith & Lew Wasserman Undergraduate Research Scholarship, UCLA  
 2013-2014 Mario and Nancy Camara Undergraduate Scholarship, UCLA  
 2012-2013 Undergraduate Scholarship Recognition Award, UCLA

### **Professional Development**

---

- 2019 Activate to Captivate Public Speaking course, UC Irvine  
 2019 Mentoring Excellence Program certificate, UC Irvine  
 2018 UC Adolescent Consortium Summer Institute, UCLA  
 2018 Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) TriCaucus Preconference, 2018 Biennial Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 2017 UC Adolescent Consortium Summer Institute, UCLA

### **Professional Affiliations**

---

Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)  
 Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)

### **Certifications and Skills**

---

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)  
 Quantitative Methodology – Proficient in STATA and Mplus and familiar with SPSS  
 Qualitative Methodology - Dedoose

### **Languages**

---

- English
- Spanish (Fluent writing, reading, and speaking)