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Research/Scholarly Interests

My research interests include the application of anthropology to practical problem solving, especially within minority communities and education. The ethics of conducting social science in these communities and the long-range empowerment of local peoples is central to my work and teaching. I have conducted community ethnography in the U.S. that focuses on formal education and emphasizes the social-cultural context of schooling. In particular, my research includes the continuing study of political empowerment, bilingual education policy, and schooling. Through this research, which spans K-12 to junior college education, I have sought to debunk the stereotype that minority communities are apathetic toward political involvement and education. I have also studied how processes of empowerment influence organizational culture and the degree to which social and cultural capital promotes educational success. Within this context, I am particularly interested in how minority communities respond to broader institutional forces and power through resistance and cultural production. Currently, I am assisting a community-based organization, AVANCE, with an on-going community assessment in the Westside of San Antonio focused on strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect. This is another aspect of my applied research interest, which will lead to collaborative presentations of findings at professional conferences during 2005-2006. The following lists my scholarly/professional work by Research Area.

Ethno-linguistic community political empowerment and schooling

- 2005 Politics, school philosophy, and language policy: The case of Crystal City Schools. *Educational Policy*, 19(4), 621-654.
- 2004 Teacher narratives of movimiento ideology and bilingual education. In R. De Anda (Ed.), *Chicanas and Chicanos in Contemporary Society, Second Edition*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- 2003 “Teacher narratives of movimiento ideology and bilingual schooling.” American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, April 21-25.
- 2002 “Bilingual teacher narratives of movimiento ideology: The case of Crystal City, Texas.” Annual Conference of the International Society of Educational Biography, San Antonio, TX April 18-20.
- 2002 “Teacher and community leader narratives of movimiento ideology and schooling.” 2nd Annual Research Symposium, College of Education and Human Development. UTSA, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 15.
- 2001 “Chicano cultural nationalism and language ideology: The case of Crystal City, Texas.” American Anthropology Association, Washington, DC, November 28-December 2.

Community colleges and community-based organizations

- 2005 “‘Making education available, affordable, and accessible’: Representation of civic discourses for educational equity.” Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM, April 5-10.
- 2005 “Discourses of educational equity: ‘Making education available, affordable, and accessible.’” Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, Austin, TX, January 26-28.
- 2004 “‘Making education available, affordable, and accessible’”: The representation of civic discourses and the research narrative.” Voices of the Other in Educational and Civic Discourses: A research Symposium. College of Education and Human Development, UTSA. April 1-2.
- 2003 “Discourses of equity and leadership: The struggle for higher education in the south side of San Antonio,” American Anthropology Association, Chicago, IL, November 19-23.
- 2001 “The struggle for community through education: Cultivating organizational and community linkages,” American Educational Research Association, Seattle, WA, April 10-14.
- 2001 “The struggle for community through education: Cultivating organizational and community linkages,” Ethnography in Education Forum, School of Education, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, March 18-19.
- 2000 “El Corazón de la comunidad”: The Organizational Saga of Palo Alto College. Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 21-26.
- 1999 “Be a name, not a number”: The role of cultural and social capital in the transfer process (with Diaz, E.). In K. Shaw, J. Valadez, & R. Rhoads (Eds.), Community colleges as cultural text. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- 1999 "The History and Role of Communities Organized for Public Service in Higher Education." Paper presented with Patricia Dunn at the National Association of African American Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies Conference, Houston, TX, February 9-13.

Cultural production

- 2005 “¡Adelante con Popeye! Spinach festival as symbol of Chicano Sociocultural integration and accommodation.” Poster Session, American Folklore Society, Atlanta, GA, October 19-23.

(In progress). “In search of Aztlán: Ethnic identity and cultural production.” The aim of this book is to extend my Crystal City community study in a new direction by incorporating additional empirical data and different theoretical frameworks.

Ethnicity and leadership development

- 2005 “Strengthening families through successful community collaborations.” Panel presentation, Partners in Prevention Training Conference, Austin, TX, November 16-17.

- 2002 “Exploring cultural identity and community service: Examples from Aztlán.” National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, Chicago, IL, March 27-30.
- 2002 “Exploring cultural identity and community service: Examples from Aztlán,” (with Patricia Dunn) report of on-going research. NACCS-Texas FOCO Regional Conference. UTSA, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 8-9.
- 1999 “Crossing the border to revitalize cultural identity: Examples from Aztlán.” American Anthropology Association Meetings, Chicago, IL, November 19-21.