

# Elizabeth Sanchez, AM

Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice  
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## Education

- The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL** Present- June 2026 (expected)  
**Ph.D., Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice**
- The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL** Sept 2014- June 2016  
**A.M., Social Service Administration (Master's in Social Work)**  
**Social Service Administration (Clinical Concentration)**
- University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA** June 2007- Dec 2010  
**B.A., Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies (Double Major);**  
**Graduated Cum Laude with Deans Honor List**

## Research

### Research Interests

Immigration Policy; Latinx Mental Health; Infant Early Childhood Mental Health and Well-being; Child Development; Undocumented Immigrant Family Well-being; Early Prevention/Intervention; and Critical Latinx and Chicana Feminist Perspectives

### Research Experience

- Graduate Research Assistant, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice** 2021 –Present  
**University of Chicago** Chicago, ILL  
**Principal Investigator: Angela García, PhD**
- Collaborated on a qualitative study pertaining to immigration. Conducted qualitative interviews
- Assistant Research Scientist, Silver School of Social Work** July 2021 – August 2021  
**New York University** New York, NY  
**Principal Investigator: Ifrah Magan, PhD, AM**
- Collaborated on a qualitative study. Completed a thorough review of the literature. Synthesized literature and drafted literature section for manuscript. Co-wrote the discussion section for manuscript
- Research Assistant, School of Medicine—Department of Community Medicine** May 2020 – April 2021  
**Mercer University** Macon, GA  
**Principal Investigator: Kimberly Roth, PhD, MHS**
- Collaborated on a NIMHD and NIMH funded quantitative study that addresses the impact of contextual and acculturative factors impacting the comorbid mental, physical, and behavioral health of Latinxs. Worked on a manuscript leading the literature review and supporting the discussion
- Junior Research Specialist, School of Public Policy** May 2019 – Dec 2020  
**University of California-Riverside (UCR)** Riverside, CA  
**Principal Investigator: Cecilia Ayón, PhD, MSW**
- Collaborated in a qualitative study examining the impact of immigration policy on the mental health of Latinx undocumented immigrant families—specifically their experience of ambiguous loss. Conducted initial, focused, and axial coding on 30 in-depth interviews. Completed a thorough review of the literature on ambiguous loss, anticipatory loss, and complicated grief. Synthesized literature and drafted background section for manuscript. Co-wrote the findings section and discussion section for manuscript on ambiguous loss. Trained in constructivist grounded theory methods

### Published Peer-Reviewed Articles

**Sanchez, E.,** Philbin, S., & Ayón, C. (2021). *Y el luto sigue* (and the grief continues): Latinx immigrant's experiences of ambiguous loss in the age of restrictive immigration policy. *Family Relations*.

### Manuscripts in Progress and Under Review

Magan, I. M., **Sanchez, E.,** & Munson, M.R. (Revise & Resubmit). "I talk to myself": Exploring the mental and emotional health experiences of Muslim Rohingya refugee adolescents. Submitted to the journal, *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

Roth, K.B., **Sanchez, E.,** & Musci, R. (Under Review). The differential relationship of common health comorbidities with acculturative experiences in United States Latinxs. Submitted to the journal, *SSM-Mental Health*.

### Research Conference Presentations

- **Sanchez, E.,** Philbin, S., & Ayón, C. (January 22, 2021). *Y el luto sigue* (and the grief continues): Latinx immigrant mothers' experiences of ambiguous loss in the age of restrictive immigration policy. [Conference Presentation]. *Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference - Social Work Science for Social Change*
- Roth, K.B., **Sanchez, E.,** & Musci, R. (October 25, 2020). The relationship of health comorbidities to acculturative experiences in US-residing Latinxs. [Conference Presentation]. *APHA's 2020 Virtual Meeting and Expo Conference*

### Conference Presentations

- **Sanchez, E.** (April, 2022). Shifting Gears: From the Mental Health Industrial Complex to Cultivating Collective Counter-narratives of Resistance Amongst Latinx Undocumented Immigrants at the Lauren Berlant 3CT Graduate Student Conference—Attachment Issues, The University of Chicago
- **Sanchez, E** & Ornelas, L. (July, 2017) Contextually & Culturally Attuning Prevention/Intervention Strategies with Latinx Young Children (Ages: 0-5) and their Immigrant Families at the 2017 Latinx Mental Health Conference. Presenter at The California Endowment
- **Sanchez, E.** (June, 2015). Latinxs & Minoritized Students: The Impact of Higher Education. Presenter at Gallistel Language Academy College Readiness Conference

### Invited Talks

- **Sanchez, E.** (March, 2021). Context & Culture Matter: Mental Health, Endurance, & Resiliency of Undocumented Immigrant Communities. UC Riverside, Guest Speaker in the Immigrant Health and Wellbeing class
- **Sanchez, E.** (March, 2021 & October, 2020). Ambiguous Loss & the Undocumented Immigrant Community. CSULA, Guest Speaker in the Child & Family Services class
- **Sanchez, E.** (October, 2019 & September, 2018). Transitions Impacting Immigrant Family Systems. CSULA, Guest Speaker in the Child & Family Services class
- **Sanchez, E.** (November, 2017). Immigrant Family Systems: Using a Contextual & Cultural Approach. CSULA, Guest Speaker in the Child & Family Services class
- **Sanchez, E.** (March, 2017). Early Childhood Inclusion with Young Children & Families: Intersectionality, Context, & Cultural Attunement. Presenter at Connections for Children

- **Sanchez, E.** (May, 2015). Context Matters: Mental Health & Resiliency of Undocumented Immigrant Communities. The University of Chicago, Guest Speaker in an Immigration Policy class

## **Professional Experience**

### **Bilingual Mental Health Therapist**

June 2020 – April 2021

#### **Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN), Los Angeles, CA**

- Provided early prevention/intervention client-centered dyadic and collateral therapy with young children (ages: 0-5) and their predominantly immigrant family systems using trauma-informed, play-based, attachment-based, and culturally attuned therapy. Facilitated client-centered therapy with adults that have been historically disenfranchised using an eclectic and humanistic approach. Provided family centered services to families using parent supports and developmental screenings. Established mental health consultation in parent group work— by helping facilitate client-centered and socio-emotionally attuned parent groups. Systematized mindfulness in parent groups

### **Mental Health Consultant**

Nov 2019

#### **Self-Contracted, Tijuana, Baja California, México**

- Collaborated and provided mental health recommendations in support of programming for immigrant families at an early education center in Baja California

### **Social Worker**

Oct 2018 – Sept 2019

#### **Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA**

- Served as a federally appointed child advocate for Central American unaccompanied immigrant children and supported their best interests. Wrote and submitted best interests' recommendations. Supervised child advocates/volunteers with critical reflexivity. Accompanied and supported immigrant children throughout their immigration proceedings. Provided internal consultation on child welfare, child development, and trauma

### **Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Wellbeing Project (ECWP)**

Jan 2018 – Sept 2018

#### **Family Service of Santa Monica—Vista Del Mar, Santa Monica, CA**

- Assisted in the ECWP program coordination & management of early prevention/intervention services of predominantly immigrant families with young children (ages: 0-5). Developed program policy & procedures. Grant writing on immigration justice programming and completed city reports. Coordinated community engagement with local service providers & outreaching. Provided culturally attuned eclectic therapy to support the needs and strengths of young children (ages: 0-5) and their families via home visits. Coordinated & facilitated dyadic and parent groups. Provided assertive clinical case management

### **Group Leader**

May 2018

#### **Self-Contracted at Community West, Los Angeles, CA**

- Facilitated & implemented an Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) group for adolescents

### **Family Resource Specialist, Early Childhood Wellbeing Project**

Nov 2016 – Jan 2018

#### **Family Service of Santa Monica—Vista Del Mar, Santa Monica, CA**

- Provided family centered services to children (ages: 0-5) and families that have experienced disenfranchisement via the facilitation of assertive clinical case management, dyadic therapy, group work, parenting support, and conducting developmental screenings. Led community engagement and advocacy

### **Social Work Intern**

Sept 2015 – May 2016

#### **Heartland Alliance, Chicago, IL**

- Collaborated in an interdisciplinary environment, with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), to promote family reunification services of unaccompanied immigrant children via case management and facilitated individual, dyadic, and group therapy in a residential setting

**School Social Work Intern**

Oct 2014 – June 2015

**Gallistel Language Academy**, Chicago, IL

- Provided culturally attuned individual and group therapy with predominantly immigrant elementary and middle school children. Implemented and facilitated parent trainings on immigration policies (DACA and DAPA)

**Early Head Start Home Educator**

April 2012 – June 2014

**Allies For Every Child**, Culver City, CA

- Provided holistic home-based services using a strength-based approach—child development supports and case management to families and young children (ages: 0-3). Facilitated group socializations, family recruitment, community engagement, and outreaching to promote access to early prevention/intervention for families with young children

**Corps Member**

Sep 2009 - June 2010

**Jumpstart, Inc., AmeriCorps**, Irvine, CA

- Provided one-on-one interaction with preschool children to support their literacy and socio-emotional skills

**Volunteering Experience**

**Board Member, Board of Directors**

Sept 2018 – Present

**Programa Velasco**, San Ramon, El Salvador

- Govern Programa Velasco and support Salvadoran families, children, and entrepreneurial women reach well-being by accessing early prevention/intervention; case management; therapeutic supports; and gender equity by obtaining business skills

**Community Research Volunteer**

Nov 2017 – Jan 2020

**Project 100**, Washington, DC

- Collaborated in a team environment to help achieve 100 progressive women serving in congress by 2020

**Volunteer**

July 2013 - Feb 2014

**1736 Family Crisis Center**, Los Angeles, CA

- Developed and facilitated developmentally attuned playgroup projects for survivors of domestic violence

**Volunteer**

June 2012 – April 2014

**New Vista Post-Acute Care Center**, Los Angeles, CA

- Collaborated in a team environment at the nursing home implementing daily activities for the elderly who are rehabilitating from physical and socio-emotional conditions

**Skills/Abilities**

**Clinical and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)**

- Trained in the following EBP's: Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT), Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Reflective Parenting (RPP), and Mindful Parenting
- Experience using the ICARE assessment and DC: 0-3/DC: 0-5

**Communication**

- Bilingual: Fluent in English and Spanish

**Leadership**

- Serve on the Board of Directors of Programa Velasco
- Served as a member of the Early Childhood Task Force in Santa Monica (2016-2018)

**Professional Affiliations**

- Programa Velasco, Board of Directors