

Salvador Guzmán Villegas

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 School of Communication and Information
 Department of Communication
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication Studies

Expected Spring 2026

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

- Advisors and Dissertation Chairs: Dr. Jeffrey Lane and Dr. Jennifer A. Theiss
- Qualifying Exams Committee: Dr. Jeffrey Lane, Dr. Kristina Scharp, Dr. Jennifer A. Theiss, and Dr. Maria Venetis
- Qualifying Exam Areas: Interpersonal Communication [Major] and Surveillance and Carcerality [Minor]

Visiting Doctoral Student

Spring 2024

New York University, Department of Sociology, GSAS

M.A. in Communication Studies

May 2021

California State University, Los Angeles

- Thesis: *Loving (Un)Blindly: The Impacts of Colorblindness and Communicating about Race Among Interracial Couples and Intra-Racial Couples*
- Thesis Committee: Dr. Lena Chao (Chair), Dr. Kristina Ruiz-Mesa, and Dr. Mu Wu

B.A. in Communication Studies, Minor in Sociology, Cum Laude

May 2019

California State University, Los Angeles

- Senior Thesis: *Postpartum Communicative Strategies for New Parents: A Content Analysis*
- Emphasis in Intersecting Identities and Relationships
- Minor in Sociology

A.A.T. in Communication Studies, A.A. Social and Behavioral Sciences

May 2017

Mt. San Jacinto College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Close relationships, social networks, carceral communication, race and ethnicity, immigration, privacy, marginalization, stigma, social capital, surveillance, uncertainty, and identity

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Part-Time Lecturer

Research Assistant in Assistant Dean's Office of DEI

Summer 2023-Present

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

George Mason University

Adjunct Lecturer

2021-2022

California State University, Los Angeles
Adjunct Lecturer

2019-2021

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

INVITED CHAPTERS

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Stone, C. R. (2024). #Thatsfamily: Interrogating family discourses and politics through social media. In S. Faulkner & M. Brewer (Eds.), *Critical interpersonal and family communication pedagogy: Charting new futurities*. (pp. 164-172). Routledge.

Scharp, K., Alvarez, C.F., **Guzmán Villegas, S.**, & Nolan-Cody, H. (2023). Understanding family distance: Taking a closer look at parent-child estrangement. In A. Goodboy & C. Shultz (Eds.), *Introduction to communication studies: Translating communication scholarship into meaningful practice* (pp. 37-46). Kendall Hunt.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Jones, H. E., Thiess, J. A., Austin, J. T., **Guzmán Villegas, S.** (2025). *Challenges to sexual intimacy after the birth of a child*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Guzmán Villegas, S. (in preparation). *Sociopolitical uncertainty, strain, and risk negotiation: Applying a turbulence perspective to undocumented couples*. In R. M. McLaren, L. K. Knobloch, J. A. Theiss, & D. H. Solomon (Eds.), *Cambridge handbook of relational turbulence*. (TBA). Routledge.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2025). *Communicative carceral logics of "illegality": Towards a theorizing of communicative migratory carceralies and surveillance*. [In preparation for National Communication Association Conference]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2025). *Examining the relational impacts of status disclosures among mixed-status undocumented couples* [In preparation for National Communication Association Conference]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2025). *Locating and mapping a carceral turn in communication studies* [In preparation for National Communication Association Conference]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S., Austin, J. T., Theiss, J.A., & Jones, H. E. (2025). *Sex after parenthood: An examination of sexual functioning among new parents in U.S. and U.K. couples*. [In preparation for Journal of Social and Personal Relationships]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J.A. (2025). *Extending the communication theory of identity through a relational turbulence perspective among interracial couples*. [In data collection]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J. A. (2025). *Political convergence and political racial attitudes and their impact on identity gaps and race communication among interracial couples.* [In data collection]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J. A. (2025). *Relationship colorblindness and its effects on uncertainty and race communication among committed interracial couples: A pilot study* [In preparation for Communication Reports]. Department of Communication Studies, California State University, Los Angeles.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J. A. (2025). *Navigating sociopolitical uncertainty and risk: A qualitative analysis of mixed-status undocumented couples* [In data analysis]. Communication Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Austin, J. T., **Guzmán Villegas, S.**, Theiss, J. A. (2024, November 21). *Relational turbulence and dyadic resilience in romantic relationships after the birth of a child.* [Paper Panel for Interpersonal Communication Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2024, November 24). *Turbulence and privacy management in various relationships.* [Chair for Interpersonal and Family Communication Divisions]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2024, November 23). *Extending stigma communication theorizing for a greater regard.* [Discussion Panel in Interpersonal Communication Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S., Ruiz-Mesa, K., Sidiqi, M., & Benavides, C. M. (2024, November 22). *Exploring online student sense of belonging and camera usage in the basic communication course at a Hispanic-Serving University* [Paper panel for Basic Course Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J. A. (2024, November 22). *A multiple groups analysis of colorblind racial ideology, ethnoracial salience, and race talk on race-based identity gaps and stigma-related stress between interracial and same-race couples.* [Paper Panel for Interpersonal Communication Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S., & Theiss, J. A. (2024, July 8). *Examining stigma-related stress, race-focused communication, and conditions of relational turbulence in interracial relationships.* [Paper Presentation]. International Association for Relationship Research, Boston, MA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2024, March 23). *Terror, sex work, and racial identity.* [Chair and Respondent for Intercultural Communication Division]. Eastern Communication Conference, Boston, MA, United States.

Austin, J. T., Jones, H. E., Theiss, J. A., & **Guzmán Villegas, S.** (2024, March 23). *A thematic co-occurrence analysis of relational turbulence and dyadic resilience in romantic couples*

- following the birth of a child*. [Paper Session for Interpersonal Communication Divisions]. Eastern Communication Association, Boston, MA, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S.**, & Stone, C. (2023, November 18). *#Thatsmyfamily: Interrogating family discourses and politics through social media*. [Paper Panel for Interpersonal and Family Communication Divisions]. National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S.**, Austin, J. T., Theiss, J. A., & Jones, H. E. (2023, November 17). *Exploring the effects of relational turbulence on sexual functioning for new parents*. [Oral Presentation for Interpersonal Communication Division]. National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S. (2023, November 16). *Examining freedom of representation, advocacy, and visibility in diverse contexts*. [Chair and Respondent for Activism and Social Justice Division]. National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD, United States.
- Theiss, J. A., Austin, J. T., **Guzmán Villegas, S.**, & Jones, H. E. (2023, October 27). *Postnatal depression and relational uncertainty after the birth of a child predict new parents' sexual communication and relational turbulence*. [Oral Presentation for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Section]. European Communication Research and Education Association, Tallinn, Estonia.
- Guzmán Villegas, S. (2023, May 27). *Amando tras fronteras: Understanding relational maintenance and coping in undocumented separated Latina/o/x families*". [Research Escalator in Interpersonal Division]. International Communication Association, Toronto, ONT, Canada.
- Guzmán Villegas, S. (2023, May 26). *Reclaiming our authentic selves: Communicating identity and difference in families and relationships*. [Discussion Panel in Interpersonal Division]. International Communication Association, Toronto, ONT, Canada.
- Austin, J. T., Theiss, J. A., & **Guzmán Villegas, S.** (2023, May 20). *Sources of relational turbulence and practices of resilience in romantic relationships following the birth of a child*. [Oral Presentation]. International Association for Relationship Research, Phoenix, AZ, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S.**, & Theiss, J. A. (2023, May 20). *The experience of new fathers during the transition to parenthood: Associations between depressive symptoms and relational functioning*. [Oral Presentation]. International Association for Relationship Research, Phoenix, AZ, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S. (2023, March 30). *Invisible color, visible love: Examining uncertainty effects of colorblindness and race talk in interracial couples*. [Top Papers Panel in Interpersonal Division]. Eastern Communication Association, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- Guzmán Villegas, S. (2022, November 18). *"Honoring P.L.A.C.E": Advocating for undocumented students through communication research*. [Discussion Panel for Activism and Social Justice Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2022, November 18). *(Re)Imagining "familia" in the borderlands: Centralizing Latina/o/x experiences within interpersonal and family communication*. [Discussion Panel for Family Communication Division]. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2022, April 8). *Racial and cultural identities: Misrepresentations and stereotypes in the media and beyond*. [Chair and Respondent for James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference]. Eastern Communication Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2021, November 20). *A praxis of libertad: A latcrit autoethnographic exploration of cific pedagogy*. [Paper Panel for Interpersonal Communication Division]. National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2021, November 20). *Transforming dialogues of difference: Intersectional pedagogical practices from GTAs of color*. [Discussion Panel for Basic Course Division]. National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2020, May 22). *Race talk: The impact of colorblindness and race communication among interracial couples*. Communicating Diversity Conference, College Station, TX, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. & Machuca-Marquez, C.L. (2021, March) *A networked love: The impact of online relational narratives on couples' behaviors*. [Poster Session]. 29th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2020, November 19-22). *Are pictures worth more than words?* [Great Ideas for Teaching Students session]. National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN, United States.

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2019, February). *The baby is here: Communication strategies for new parents*. [Poster session]. 27th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Instructor of Record]

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

COMM 201: Communication and Relationships

Spring 2024-Present

- Actively teaching a section of Communication and Relationships to undergraduate Communication and Information studies students, as well as other university students
- Design original lectures and class activities to help students develop critical thinking, writing, and research skills in the areas of interpersonal communication
- Support and advise students in person, synchronous online, and asynchronous modalities

COMM 355: Interpersonal Communication **Summer 2024**

- Taught an upper-division section of Interpersonal Communication to graduating Communication majors
- Developed original lectures, curated foundational and emerging scholarship as course readings, and mentored students in proposing theory-driven interventions and original research
- Advised and supported students in an asynchronous and intensive course format

COMM 200: Communication Theory **Summer 2023**

- Taught a section of Communication Theory to incoming Communication majors
- Created original lectures and assignments and guided student research through Canvas (LMS)
- Supported and advised students in an asynchronous and accelerated format across

George Mason University

COMM 101: Fundamentals of Communication **Fall 2021-Spring 2022**

- Facilitated discussions for (6) sections of Fundamentals of Communication
- Graded assignments and guided student research and projects through Black Board (LMS)
- Supported and advised more than 140 students in an online asynchronous format

California State University, Los Angeles

COMM 1100: Oral Communication **Fall 2019-Spring 2022**

- Taught (15) sections of Oral Communication (Public Speaking)
- Mentored and supported more than 415 students in online and face-to-face formats
- Created original lectures, graded assignments, and facilitated workshops

[Teaching Assistant]

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

COMM 101: Introduction to Communication and Information Processes **Fall 2023-Present**

- Assist faculty in facilitating Introduction to Communication and Information Processes to 180-400 undergraduate Communication and Information Studies students
- Support and advise students in person via scheduled and individualized office hours
- Develop instructional and pedagogical feedback for faculty to bolster student success

[Research Assistant]

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Research Assistant for Dr. Jeffrey Lane **Fall 2023-Present**

- Actively assisting Dr. Lane in gathering communication, sociological, and cultural studies literature on transportation, immigrant life, cultural centers, and surveillance in large metropolitan areas.

Qualitative Coder for Dr. Yonaira Rivera **Spring 2023-Fall 2023**

Served as a qualitative coder for the *Latino Salud Rutgers Research Team* investigating cancer and COVID misinformation in the New Jersey and greater New York Metropolitan Area.

Research Assistant for Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **Fall 2022-Spring 2024**

- Supported Assistant Dean with implementing programming and school-wide initiatives
- Collected and evaluated data for DEI benchmarking and analysis

- Contributed to the development of SCI's DEI website and promote and support SCI Communities of Practice

[Academic Mentor]

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Honors College Undergraduate Mentor

- Serve as an academic mentor to students in the humanities and social sciences at the Honors College.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Guzmán Villegas, S. (2022, November 8). *When love and culture meet: Exploring interracial communication in relational and family contexts*. Invited lecture for COMM 346: Intercultural Communication, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

ACUE Microcertificate for Fostering Lifelong Learning Online June 2021

- Developed personalized online instructional strategies for student success in asynchronous and hybrid remote courses, with a special emphasis on Introductory Public Speaking.
- Implemented equity and student-centered practices that promoted self-directed and reflexive learning.
- Utilized Canvas (LMS) online tools to evaluate student success in real-time.

Alt-Instruction Summer Institute Certificate Summer 2020

Center for Effective Teaching and Learning

- Completed technology and equity training to better serve students during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Trained on low-bandwidth teaching and assignments to facilitate student access
- Practiced learning management system (LMS) development in Canvas to create course modules

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

[Paper Reviewer]

National Communication Association

Fall 2023-Present

- Actively review and provide feedback for competitive papers in Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Latina/o Communication Division Conference Divisions

Eastern Communication Association

Fall 2021-Present

- Actively review and provide feedback for competitive papers in Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, and J. C. McCroskey and V. P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference Divisions

International Communication Association

Fall 2022

- Reviewed and provided feedback for competitive papers in Interpersonal Communication and Intercultural Communication Divisions for ICA 2023

Western States Communication Association

Fall 2022

- Reviewed and provided feedback for competitive papers in Communication, Identities, and Difference Division for WSCA 2023

[Editor]

California State University, Los Angeles

Prison BA Journal Editor

Fall 2020

- Transcribed works from students at California State University, Los Angeles' Lancaster Prison Communication Studies program

[Translation]

School of Communication and Information/Robert Wood Johnson Hospital

Spring 2023

Prostate Cancer Project Spanish Translator

- Translated research materials (e.g., surveys, consent forms, advertisements) for a joint research team across the School of Communication and Information and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

[Student and Community Mentoring]

California State University, Los Angeles

Speaking Showcase Tournament Judge

Fall 2020-Fall 2021

- Served as a speaking judge for the University-wide Annual Public Speaking Showcase hosted by the Department of Communication Studies and College of Arts & Letters

Workshop Coach

Fall 2020/Spring 2021

- Supported students across Oral Communication sections on speech design, delivery, and research

Teaching Associate Support Partner

Fall 2020-Spring 2021

- Mentored and assisted first-year teaching associates with grading, classroom facilitation, and instruction

Association of College and University Educators

Diversity and Inclusion Practices Review

Summer 2020

- Critically evaluated diversity and inclusion educator practices for online instructional materials via a self-reflexive and autobiographical interview exercise

HONORS AND AWARDS

International Association of Relationship Research

Summer 2024

Student Travel Award

- Awarded a microgrant to fund travel to the 2024 International Association of Relationship Research Conference.

National Communication Association

Fall 2023

La Raza Caucus Microgrant

- Awarded microgrant to fund travel and research to the 2024 National Communication Association Conference.

Eastern Communication Association

Top Paper Panel Award

March 2023

- One of the awarded recipients of the Top Paper Panel in Interpersonal Communication at ECA 2023.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Dean's Fellowship

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

- Granted fellowship funding to conduct original research under the advisement of Dr. Jennifer Theiss

California State University

Honors Recognition in Graduate Studies

Spring 2021

- Maintained a 3.8+ in more than 80% of graduate coursework

Lambda Pi Eta Honors Society

2018-2019

Dean's List

2017-2019

- Maintained a 3.5 grade point average or higher

Mt. San Jacinto College

Rich Rowley Award for Excellence in Communication Studies

Spring 2017

Speech Tournament Winner

Spring 2015/ Spring 2017

- Informative Speech Category

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA; Family, Law and Society, and Latina/o Sociology)

Eastern States Communication Association (ECA; Interpersonal, Intercultural, & Voices of Diversity)

International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)

International Communication Association (ICA; Interpersonal, Intercultural, & Ethnicity and Race)

Law and Society (LSA)

National Communication Association (NCA; Interpersonal, Family, Latina/o, Intercultural, & Feminist and Gender)

Western States Communication Association (WSCA; Interpersonal, Intercultural, Health, & Identities and Difference)