Lead Author: Jocelyn Murillo
Degree objective when research was completed: Bachelor's
Major: History
College: CLASS

Co-presenter(s): Not applicable

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Project Title: The Sandinista Revolution: Perceptions and attitudes of Nicaragüense women in Southern California

Synopsis: This research will measure the effect, if any, of the Sandinista Revolution on immigrant Nicaraguan women living in Southern California.

Abstract: The purpose of my research is to measure the impact of the Nicaraguan Revolution on Nicaraguan women at home and in the immigrant community in the United States. It is well known that women played a major role in the “failed” Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua (1979-1990) and despite recent political setbacks in Nicaragua, women appear to have been politicized, having gained political and social reforms. I wish to measure—qualitatively and perhaps quantitatively—this process. The parameters of this study cover the years leading up to the Nicaraguan Revolution, the revolution itself, and the post-revolution to the present, which is approximately 1961-2013, or about fifty years. I choose 1961 as a starting point since it is the year the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional, or FSLN, was created. This group was responsible for carrying out the revolution and overthrowing the Somoza dictatorship. My intention is to write a social history. Through analysis of primary and secondary sources, as well as interviews of immigrant Nicaraguan women, I expect to gain an understanding of their general attitudes and perceptions of their revolution in regards to gender equality. This research is significant because although the literature on Nicaraguan gender relations is extensive, little to no research has been done on the immigrant community in Southern California which has molded a new community and identity. My research will help in filling the gap in contemporary immigrant history, a subject that has been neglected in my discipline.