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Degree objective when research was completed: Bachelor's
Major: Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies emphasis in Chican.a/o/ Latino/a Studies
College: CEIS

Co-presenter(s): Not applicable

Faculty Mentor(s): Dr. Terri Gomez

Session 7: University Library - 15-2913
Time of Presentation: 3:15 PM

Presentation Type: Oral presentation

Project Title: Speaking from the Margins: (Re)Imagining Central American Parental Involvement

Synopsis: This project will focus on the ways that Central American parents help their children in their educational journey. This project will be examining ways that are rendered invisible in comparison to Epstein’s traditional model of involvement.

Abstract: Educational Pipeline research shows that Latino/a students are at a disadvantage in the realm of education. Of 100 Latino/a students who attend high school in California, only twelve attend and graduate from a four-year university. This problem exists due to the fact that Latino/a students are not given the proper resources to achieve in academics and because from the moment they start school themselves and their families are considered culturally deficient. This belief that students are at a disadvantage has been coined “Cultural Deficit Model”. Deficit thinking takes the position that parents do not care nor promote education in their homes. Past research in the field of Latino/a education has proved otherwise. There is significant evidence that parents do value education and pass that value onto their children. However, these works have not adequately addressed how Central Americans become involved in their child’s/children education. My research will fill this gap by examining and (re)conceptualizing ways in with Central American parents are involved in their child’s/children’s educational experiences. The central focus of this study is to highlight ways of involvement that are rendered invisible in comparison to the tradition methods of parental involvement. I argue that Central American parents do in fact pass on and teach their children particular skillsets that help their child/children succeed in education. In conclusion, this project will shed a new light to the experiences of Central Americans in the United States.