



# Sociology

GRADUATE STUDIES AT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED (M.S., Ph.D.)

Sociology is the scientific study of society, social institutions, social relationships and human organization.

Sociology faculty members at UC Merced are building a vibrant and collegial intellectual community, marked by outstanding scholarship and participation in interdisciplinary communities of inquiry.

The goal of our graduate program is to foster scholarly excellence in sociology, with a specific focus on social inequality, organizations and institutions and politics. Our program is nationally and internationally recognized for its high-quality scholarship, graduate training and contributions to the university and community.

Students are taught state-of-the-art research-design methods and conceptual models for carrying out independent research. Doctoral students have the option to obtain master's degrees in sociology en route to their Ph.Ds.

## THE UC MERCED GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SOCIOLOGY IS DISTINCTIVE

- › It provides intensive mentoring to graduate students, with personalized attention given to small cohorts of accepted students. Each student is matched with a faculty mentor immediately upon entrance into the program, and the program curriculum includes small seminars and an intensive writing course to facilitate independent research and the preparation of journal articles.
- › It offers a unique set of substantive foci within an interdisciplinary environment. Sociology faculty members study a combination of topics that are especially relevant to California's Central Valley, the state and the nation, such as race, health care and education.
- › It includes opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary research projects, as well as informal and formal seminars from across the university.
- › It is designed to train students for research careers in higher education and public and private agencies outside of academia.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Students in good standing are eligible for year-round financial support, including payment of fees and tuition. Students are typically supported by teaching and research assistantships, which can be supplemented by fellowships, awards and other forms of financial assistance.

**UCMERCED**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

[sociology.ucmerced.edu](http://sociology.ucmerced.edu)



# Faculty

## SOCIOLOGY



### SHARLA ALEGRIA

Professor Alegria examines persistent inequalities in the new economy where individuals and organization overtly reject discrimination.

### PAUL ALMEIDA

Professor Almeida studies social movements with a focus on collective action over social, economic, political, and environmental rights.

### IRENEE R. BEATTIE

Professor Beattie studies racial/ethnic, class and gender inequality in education, with a particular focus on how schooling and family contexts during adolescence influence transitions from high school to college.

### KYLE DODSON

Professor Dodson studies the role of political institutions in fostering political behavior and attitudes, with an emphasis on cross-national differences and over-time change.

### CHARLIE EATON

Professor Eaton studies how organizations shape social inequality through politics, public policy, and the economy in multiple domains, including finance, higher education, healthcare, and urban planning.

### EDWARD OROZCO FLORES

Professor Flores studies race, gender and religion, with a specific focus on the post-incarceration experience.

### TANYA GOLASH-BOZA

Professor Golash-Boza's research focuses on the human rights implications of U.S. immigration policy, with an emphasis on deportations, as well on race and racism in the U.S. and Latin America

### LAURA HAMILTON

Professor Hamilton studies gender, family and education, with a specific focus on the transitions to adulthood among college students.

### WHITNEY LASTER PIRTLE

Professor Laster Pirtle studies race globally, with a focus on groups positioned in the middle of the racial hierarchy, as well as racial identity and health disparities.

### ZULEMA VALDEZ

Professor Valdez specializes in the study of social inequality in labor markets, entrepreneurship, and health from an intersectional perspective (race, class, & gender) and among Latinas/os in the U.S.

### NELLA VAN DYKE

Professor Van Dyke specializes in the study of social movements and hate crimes, with a focus on coalitions, social-movement tactics and mobilizing contexts.

### ELIZABETH WHITT

Professor Whitt's research centers on the study of higher education with a focus on college students' learning and successes, and issues and trends in student affairs practices.

### MARJORIE S. ZATZ

Professor Zatz's research focuses on immigration policy, youth and families, and on race/ethnicity, gender and juvenile and criminal court processing and sanctioning.

### CONTACT

For additional details, please visit our website, [sociology.ucmerced.edu](http://sociology.ucmerced.edu), or contact:

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