

Laura Nichols

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

Office Address:

Department of Sociology, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053-0261;
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. August 1995-August 2000. *Sociology*. The University of Akron, Akron, OH.
M.A. January 1994-August 1995. *Sociology*. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
B.S. June 1990. *Sociology Major, Communication Minor*. Santa Clara University, CA.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor (2006-Present) and *Chair* (2007-2011), *Assistant Professor* (2000-2006),
Santa Clara University. Courses: Self, Community, and Society; Social Stratification; Applied
Sociology; Principles of Sociology; Internship; Group Dynamics; Research Practicum;
Qualitative Sociology; Sociology of Family.

Teaching Assistant (1996-2000). The University of Akron. Courses taught: Social Inequalities
and Introduction to Sociology.

PUBLICATIONS

Nichols, Laura and Fernando Cázares. (2011). "Homelessness and the Mobile Shelter System:
Public Transportation as Shelter." *Journal of Social Policy* 40 (2): 333-350.

Nichols, Laura, Fernando Cázares, and Angelica Rodriguez*. (2011) "Educating about
Homelessness: A University-City Government Research Partnership". In P. Nyden, L.
Hossfeld, and G. Nyden (Eds.) *Public Sociology: Research, Action, and Change*.
Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Nichols, Laura, Fernando Cázares, and Angelica Rodriguez*. (2011). "University-Community
Partnerships: Addressing Policy Dilemmas with Community Based Research." In C.
Cress and D. Donahue (Eds.) *Democratic Dilemmas of Teaching Service-Learning:
Curricular Strategies for Success*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

Nichols, Laura. (2010). "Using Sociology for College Success." In K. O. Korgen and J. M.
White, *Sociologists in Action*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Feltey, Kathryn and Laura Nichols. 2008. "Homeless Women with Children in Shelters: The
Institutionalization of Family Life." R. McNamara (Ed.) *Homelessness in America*. Vol.
1. Praeger Publishers.

Ramos-Sánchez, Lucila and Laura Nichols. 2007. "Self-Efficacy of First-Generation
College Students and the Relationship to Academic Performance and College

- Adjustment.” *Journal of College Counseling*. 10(1): 6-19.
- Nichols, Laura, Cheryl Elman, and Kathryn M. Feltey. 2006. “The Economic Resource Receipt of New Mothers.” *Journal of Family Issues* 27(8).
- Nichols, Laura, *Joshua Berry, and *Demetra Kalogrides. 2004. “Hop on the Bus: Driving Stratification Concepts Home.” *Teaching Sociology* 32(2): 213-221.
- Nichols, Laura, *Shannon Gleeson, and *Sandra Figueroa. 2004. Moving Beyond the Client Role: Helping Human Service Organizations Identify Program Participant’s Assets. *Social Insight* 8: 34-36.
- Nichols, Laura. 2004. Giving Students a Voice: Learning Through Autobiography. *Thought & Action* 19(2): 37-50.
- Nichols, Laura and Kathryn Feltey. 2003. The Woman is Not Always the Bad Guy: Resistance in the Discourse of Battered Women. *Violence Against Women* 9(7): 784-806.
- Nichols, Laura and Barbara Gault. 2003. Implications of Welfare Reform on Housing and School Instability. *Journal of Negro Education* 72(1): 104-116. (Invited Article.)
- Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 2002. Bridging and Bonding Capital: Pluralist Ethnic Relations in Silicon Valley. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 22(11/12): 104-122. (Invited Article.)
- Nichols, Laura. 2002. Participatory Program Planning: Including Program Participants and Evaluators. *Journal of Evaluation and Program Planning* 25(1): 1-14.
- Erickson, Rebecca J., Laura Nichols, and Christian Ritter. 2000. Family Influences on Absenteeism: Testing an Expanded Process Model. *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 57: 246-272.
- Feltey, Kathryn and Laura Nichols. 1999. The Only Thing You Really Got is this Minute: Homeless Women Re-visioning the Future. In *Reclaiming the Future: Women’s Strategies for the 21st Century*, S. Brodribb (Ed.). Canada: Gynergy Books.
- Nichols, Laura and Linda Lumley. 1999. Involving Students in the Development of a Peer Education Program for College Women. *Journal of College Student Development* 40(4): 422-427.
- Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 1996. “Ecological Approach in Practice: A Study of the Ounce of Prevention Fund.” *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 23:121-141.

* Indicates current or former undergraduate student.

Nichols, Laura. 1996. [Review of the Book Hear My Testimony: Maria Teresa Tula, Human Rights Activist of El Salvador]. *Humanity and Society* 20:106-107.

REPORTS

Sullivan, Kieran and Laura Nichols. *Faculty Work Life Balance at SCU*. For the ACE/Sloan Award submitted to the Office of Provost, Santa Clara University, May 2011.

Nichols, Laura (with *Leesa Riviere, and *Jaennika Ania). *Ignatian Faculty Forum Evaluation: Results of Content and Qualitative Analysis*. Submitted to the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, Santa Clara University, March 2011.

Sánchez-Flores, Héctor and Laura Nichols. *The Health Trust Stakeholder Survey Report and Findings*. Submitted to The Health Trust, October 2010.

Fernandez, Marilyn, Laura Nichols, and Charles Powers. *Diversity and Multicultural Education at Santa Clara University: An Institutional Overview of Trends, Challenges, and Prospects*. Submitted to the James Irvine Foundation, June 4, 2002.

Nichols, Laura. Editor. *Entering the Ivory Tower: The Life Histories and Experiences of First Generation College Students at Santa Clara University*. May, 2002.

Powers, Charles H., Marilyn Fernandez, and Laura Nichols. 2001. *Assessing Outcomes of an Education in Sociology: A Report on Preliminary Efforts at Santa Clara University*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

EXTERNAL GRANT

“Undocumented Students National Position Paper”, Ford Foundation, Requested amount: \$200,000, Submitted February 26, 2010. Lead grantee is Fairfield University. Request granted, June 29, 2010. SCU Subcontracted amount=\$48,114.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Gagnon, Jessica, *Leesa Riviere, and Laura Nichols. 2011. “It Takes a Village to Raise a Doctor: Vocational Discernment, Social Capital, and Concerted Cultivation of First Generation Premedical Students.” Diversity Leadership Conference, Santa Clara, CA, April.

Nichols, Laura, *Lindsay Harke, *Karen Hernandez, and Ángel Islas. 2010. “The Depth & Use of Social Capital on the Path to Medical School.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA, April.

Nichols, Laura. 2009. “Pedagogy in Practice and Producing Practicing Sociologists: A Community-Centric and Systems Approach to Course Design.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August.

Nichols, Laura, *Karla Arango, Jessica Gagnon, *Lindsay Harke, and *Elva Salinas. 2009. “Concerted Cultivation in College: Differences Between First and Continuing Generation

Premed Intended Students.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August.

Nichols, Laura. 2009. “What Can I Do with a Sociology Major Anyway? Political Engagement, Community-Based Research, & the Applied Sociology Capstone.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, San Diego, CA, April.

Nichols, Laura, *Karla Arango, and *Geraldine Linarte. 2008. “Straddlers and Mainstreamers in College: Symbolic Boundaries and Cultural Capital in Higher Education.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR, April.

Nichols, Laura, Laurie Laird, Fernando Cazares, and *Angelica Rodriguez. 2008. “Four Perspectives on What it Means to Be An Engaged Campus: Community Based Learning in the Policy Context.” Continuums of Service Conference, Portland, OR, April.

Donahue, David with Laura Nichols and six other Carnegie/Campus Compact Fellows. 2008. “Making the Political Explicit: Revisioning Service Learning to Promote Political Engagement.” Continuums of Service Conference, Portland, OR, April.

Nichols, Laura and *Cristina Sanidad. 2007. “Disciplinary Perspectives on Vocation and Community-based Learning.” Presented at the Callings Conference, Santa Clara University, CA, March.

Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 2005. “Getting a Head Start in College: An Assessment of a University Bridge Program.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR, April.

Nichols, Laura, *Christina Kennedy, *Sandy Plascencia, *Crystal Tapiador. 2003. “Student Outcomes of an Applied Sociology Curriculum.” Presented at the annual meeting of the California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA, November.

Nichols, Laura. 2002. “Bringing Applied Sociology into the Undergraduate Curriculum.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Sociology, Sacramento, CA, October.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Nichols, Laura. 2010. Invited presentation at the event: “Getting There: A Collaborative Conversation to Solve Homeless Transportation Needs.” Hosted by PACT Local Organizing Committee, San José, CA, June.

Nichols, Laura. 2009. Invited presentation on the “The Structures of Poverty.” To staff at Sacred Heart Community Services, San José, CA, April.

Nichols, Laura. 2006. “Entering the Ivory Tower: Exploring the Differences and Similarities Between First and Continuing Generation College Students.” Keynote address at the

Foundation Generation Project: First Generation Conference. St. Mary's College of California, April.

Nichols, Laura. 2006. Introduction of Dr. Kathryn Feltey for the Presidential Address at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Indianapolis, IN, March.

APPLIED RESEARCH & POLICY EXPERIENCE

Evaluator, Center for Multicultural Education, "Building Partnerships for Diversity" Irvine Diversity Project. (2001-2005). With Marilyn Fernandez.

Research Fellow, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, DC. (1998-99). Wrote research and policy briefs, grant proposals, and conducted data analysis.

Institutional & Family Interviewer, Cleveland Urban Change Project. Kent State University and Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (1998-Present) and the Transitional Housing Project Evaluation, Akron, OH (1996).

Research Assistant, Center for Substance Abuse and Treatment SSI National Study, The University of Akron (1997-98). Responsibilities included codebook and instrument development, site contact, data cleaning and analysis.

Research Assistant/Evaluator. Kercher Center for Social Research, Western Michigan University (1994-95). Assisted on the outcome and process evaluations of three non-profit organizations, wrote research grants and final reports.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Welfare Reform Research Coordination Project, Institute for Women's Policy Research (1998-99). Administered an electronic listserv, managed a database of researchers, and supervised interns.

Program Director, Lions Center for the Blind, San Jose, California (1991-93). Responsible for program development, administration, and monitoring. Secured county and city funding and supervised paid and volunteer staff.

Jesuit Volunteer & Homeless Services Coordinator, Community Emergency Resources and Volunteer Services, Medford, Oregon (1990-91). Coordinated an emergency voucher and services program for homeless individuals. Secured funding from local foundations and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

HONORS and AWARDS

Brutocao Award for Curriculum Innovation, Santa Clara University. Fall 2008.

Updated July 2011

Student team won the Student Problem Solving Award from the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology for their project on: "Outreach to the Homeless in Santa Clara County." 2006.

Support of University Mission Award. 2004. Santa Clara University. For work on the summer Bridge program and research with first generation college students.

Community Partner Award. From Grail Community Development Resource Center. For evaluation work did for their after-school literacy program. Fall 2003.

2001 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research: One of the top six articles published in 2000 for the paper: "Family Influences on Absenteeism: Testing an Expanded Process Model." (Co-authors: R. Erickson and C. Ritter.)