

# Luis A. Romero

Assistant Professor | Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies  
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## Academic Appointments

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Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies,  
Texas Christian University, 2019-present

Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Department of Sociology & Anthropology,  
Southwestern University, 2018-2019

## Education

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Ph.D. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

M.A. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2014

B.A. Sociology (Certificate in Race and Ethnicity), Texas A&M University, 2012  
*Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta*

## Areas of Research and Teaching

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Immigration enforcement and detention; Racial inequality; Crimmigration; Latina/o/x studies

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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**Romero, Luis A.** 2022. "Malleable Detention: The Restructuring of Carceral Space within U.S. Immigration Detention." *Punishment & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/14624745221109539.

**Romero, Luis A.** 2022. "Unsacred Children: The Portrayal of Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors as Racialized Threats." *American Behavioral Scientist* 66(12) 1669–1687.

**Romero, Luis A.** 2021. "Visiting Migrants, Contesting Detention: An Overview of Community Visitation Programs and Advocacy for Immigrants inside U.S. Immigration Detention" *Humanity & Society* 45(2): 182-201.

Zarrugh, Amina and **Luis A. Romero**. 2019. "Detention, Disappearance, and the Politics of Family." *Contexts* 18(3): 32-35.

**Romero, Luis A.** and Amina Zarrugh. 2018. "Islamophobia and the Making of Latinos/as into Terrorist Threats." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 41(12): 2235-2254.

- Reprinted in Renton, James (ed). 2019. *Islamophobia and Surveillance: Genealogies of a Global Order* (pp. 111-130). New York: Routledge.
- Media: [The Guardian](#), [CBS News](#), [Vice](#), [American Sociological Association](#), [Endeavors](#), [TCU Magazine](#), [The University of Texas at Austin](#), [Pacific Standard](#), [Estadão Internacional](#)

Gilman, Denise L. and **Luis A. Romero**. 2018. "Immigration Detention, Inc." *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 6(2): 145-160.

**Romero, Luis A.** and Néstor Rodríguez. 2016. “Inmigración de menores centroamericanos y reacciones en Estados Unidos.” (The Immigration of Central American Minors and Reactions in the United States). *Ecuador Debate* 97:123-141.

## **Manuscripts in Progress**

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**Romero, Luis A.** and Amina Zarrugh. “Teaching Race After the Genome: An Approach to Challenging Biological Understandings of Race in the Classroom” (Conditional Acceptance at *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*)

Zarrugh, Amina and **Luis A. Romero**. “Genetic Racialization: Ancestry Tests and the Reification of Race” (Revise and Resubmit at *Social Problems*)

Lowe, Maria R., **Luis A. Romero** and Madeline Carrola. “Racism Masked as Safety Concerns”: The Consequences of Racialized Coveillance on Residents of Color in White Spaces” (Revise and Resubmit at *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*)

**Romero, Luis A.** “Unbounded Surveillance: Punishing Migrant Families Visiting U.S. Immigration Detention.” (In Progress)

**Romero, Luis A.** “A Tale of Two Punishments: A Comparative Analysis of Carcerality in U.S. Prisons and Immigration Detention” (In Progress)

## **Public-Facing Scholarship**

**Luis A. Romero**. January 9, 2023. “[What About the \[Immigrant\] Children? Looking at 10 Years of DACA](#)” *PRRI Spotlight*

**Luis A. Romero** and Saher Selod. June 3, 2022. “[Surveillance and the Consequences of Perceiving Muslims as Anti-American](#)” *PRRI Spotlight*

Alexander, Laura E., Jane Hong, Karen Hooge Michalka and **Luis A. Romero**. June 3, 2022. “[Not a Competition: Pro-Immigrant Attitudes of Black Americans Have Increased Over Time](#)” *PRRI Spotlight*

**Luis A. Romero**. May 13, 2022. “[ICE Restarts Visitations at Detention Facilities.](#)” Interview with Melissa Harris-Perry. *The Takeaway*

Alexander, Laura E., Jane Hong, Karen Hooge Michalka and **Luis A. Romero**. April 28, 2022. “[How race and religion have always played a role in who gets refuge in the US](#)” *The Conversation*

**Luis A. Romero**. April 9, 2022. “[Op-Ed: If America has reopened, why are detained migrants still not allowed visitors?](#)” *Los Angeles Times*.

Amina Zarrugh, **Luis A. Romero** and Paige Buell. February 20, 2022. “[Racializing DNA: How People Interpret their Ancestry Tests.](#)” *Racism Review*.

**Luis A. Romero**. September 10, 2021. “[9/11 20 Years Later.](#)” *CBS News Weekend Roundup*

## Fellowships and Honors

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2023	CRES Faculty Appreciation Award, Texas Christian University
2022-2023	PRRI Public Fellows Program and Fellowship, Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)
2022	CRES Excellence in Teaching Award, Texas Christian University
2021-2022	PRRI Public Fellows Program and Fellowship, Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)
2020	Research and Creative Activities Fund (RCAF), Texas Christian University
2020	Junior Faculty Summer Research Support (JFSRP), Texas Christian University
2018	Herbert Allen Research Assistants Program, Southwestern University
2018	Continuing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2017	Summer Writing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2015-2016	Thematic Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2015	C.B. Smith Sr. Centennial Chair in U.S.-Mexico Relations Summer Funding, University of Texas at Austin
2015	Comprehensive Exams with Distinction: Political Sociology; Immigration, Race and the State, University of Texas at Austin
2013	Sociology Department Summer Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2012-2013	Thematic Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2012	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> , Texas A&M University
2012	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Texas A&M University
2011-2012	Undergraduate Sociology Teaching Stipend, Texas A&M University
2010-2012	Undergraduate Sociology Research Stipend, Texas A&M University
2010	Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society, Texas A&M University

## Conference Presentations

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**Romero, Luis A.** “A Tale of Two Punishments: A Comparative Analysis of Carcerality in US Prisons and Immigration Detention.” Presented for “Critical Dialogue: 50th Anniversary” of the Racist War on Drugs.” 2022 Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

**Romero, Luis A.** “The 2014 Anti-Immigrant Protests and the Framing of Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors as Racialized Threats.” Presented at the “Racialization and Immigration: How Immigrant and Immigration Narratives Reproduce and Challenge Systems of Oppression” virtual conference. December 2020.

**Romero, Luis A.** “Blocking Integration: The Current Case of Migrant Youth in Immigration Detention and Deportation Proceedings” Conference at La Universidad Latina de Mexico, virtual conference, October 2020.

**Romero, Luis A.** Panelist on “Critical Dialogue: Space, Migration and the (Trans)Formation of Global Inequality.” 2020 Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (canceled due to COVID-19).

**Romero, Luis A.** “Paying the “Detention Bill”: The Economic and Hidden Costs of Detention for Families.” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association (virtual conference due to COVID-19). May 26 - May 31, 2020

**Romero, Luis A.** “Malleable Detention: An Analysis on the Modes of Adapting and Sustaining Immigration Detention.” Critical Approaches to Migration, Bordering, Diversity and Justice: From Analysis to Action. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ (canceled due to COVID-19).

**Romero, Luis A.** “Malleable Detention: An Analysis on the Modes of Adapting and Sustaining Immigration Detention.” 2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville, FL. (canceled due to COVID-19).

**Romero, Luis A.** “Immigrant Detention as a Surveillance Hub: The Monitoring of Families In and Out of Detention.” 2020 Prison University Project’s Academic Conference at San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA (canceled due to COVID-19)

**Romero, Luis A.** “Paying the “Detention Bill”: The Economic and Hidden Costs of Detention for Families.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology, El Paso, TX. October 30-November 2, 2019.

**Romero, Luis A.** “Paying the “Detention Bill”: The Economic and Hidden Costs of Detention for Families.” Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform: From the Local to the Global, Austin, TX. September 26-28, 2019.

**Romero, Luis A.** “Immigrant Detention as a Surveillance Hub: The Monitoring of Families In and Out of Detention.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY. Section on International Migration. August 10-13, 2019.

**Romero, Luis A.** “Paying the “Detention Bill”: The Economic and Hidden Costs of Detention for Families.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, Georgia. April 10-13, 2019.

**Romero, Luis A.** “The Enduring Effects of Temporary Integrationist Policy.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Section on International Migration. August 12-15, 2017.

**Romero, Luis A.** and Amina Zarrugh. “Linking Immigration and Terrorism in the Post-9/11 Era.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA. Section on Latinos/as. August 20-23, 2016.

**Romero, Luis A.** and Amina Zarrugh. “Islamophobia and the Racialization of Latinos.” Global Studies Conference – Crossing Borders: People, Capital, Culture. The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. June 10, 2016.

**Romero, Luis A.** and Amina Zarrugh. “Converged Racial Framing: The Politics of Immigration and Terrorism in the Post-9/11 Era.” Islamophobia and Surveillance: Genealogies of Global Order. Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England. September 25, 2015.

**Romero, Luis A.** “From *La Migra* to *El Amigo*.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL. Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. August 22-25, 2015.

**Romero, Luis A.** “W.E.B. Du Who?: An Analysis of W.E.B. Du Bois in Sociology.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. Theory Section. August 16-19, 2014.

### **Invited Talks**

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| 2022 | “Embodiment & (In)justice: A Discussion on Marginalized Identities, Policy, Incarceration, Immigration and Law Enforcement,” Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Committee for DEI, Texas Christian University |
| 2022 | “Without Borders or Boundaries: A Panel on how U.S. Immigration Enforcement Racializes, Criminalizes and Punishes Migrants,” Race and Ethnicity Studies Annual Symposium, Southwestern University        |
| 2022 | “Stereotyped” Panel, Latinx Studies, Texas Christian University  |
| 2022 | “The Immigration Detention System,” Engaging Difference and Diversity in America Course, Texas Christian University  |
| 2021 | Conversaciones con Latinx Leaders Panel, United Latinx Association (ULA) Latinx Heritage Month Event, Texas Christian University   |

- 2021 “Crimmigration and Race” Panel, Freedom Summer School, United Fort Worth
- 2021 “Beyond the Verdict” Panel, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Texas Christian University and Texas A&M Law School
- 2021 Discussion on “The Infiltrators” with Dr. Randa Tawil, Women and Gender Studies (WGST) POC-POV Series, Texas Christian University
- 2021 “The Immigration Detention System,” Engaging Difference and Diversity in America Course, Texas Christian University
- 2021 “Immigration Detention,” Brite Divinity Class, Texas Christian University
- 2020 “Human Rights are Not Optional: Detention Discussion,” United Latinx Association (ULA), Texas Christian University
- 2020 *Gentefied* discussion, Latinx Heritage Month Event, Texas Christian University
- 2020 Remarks for the book, *Islamophobia and Surveillance: Genealogies of a Global Order* and the launch of the [International Centre on Racism](#) at Edge Hill University
- 2019 “Crimmigration: Origins and Consequences,” The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Texas Christian University
- 2019 “Scholars of Color in Academia: A Conversation about Professional and Life Experiences & Post-Grad Transitions,” University of Texas at Austin
- 2019 “Graduate Panel Discussion with Graduate Students in CRES: Creating CRES Research Agendas and Professional Identity,” Graduate Introduction to Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, Texas Christian University
- 2019 “Immigration Detention and Profit,” Intersectional Activism and Social Justice Course, Texas Christian University
- 2019 “The Immigration Detention System,” Engaging Difference and Diversity in America Course, Texas Christian University
- 2019 “Surveilling Detained Migrants and their Families,” Surveillance Course, Southwestern University
- 2018 “The U.S. Immigrant Detention System,” Borderlands Symposium, Southwestern University

- 2017 “Immigrant Families and the Detention System,” Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Southwestern University
- 2015 “Immigrant Children in Detention,” Punishment and Society Course, University of Texas at Austin
- 2013 “Latin American Racial Ideology,” Power, History, and Society (PHS) Faculty-Student Network, University of Texas at Austin

## **Teaching Experience**

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### ***Instructor of Record at Texas Christian University***

- “Capstone Seminar”
- “Researching Inequality”
- “Crimmigration”
- “Engaging Difference and Diversity in America”

### ***Instructor of Record at Southwestern University***

- Spring 2019 “Social Patterns and Processes”
- Spring 2019 “Sociological Theory”
- Fall 2018 “International Migration”
- Fall 2018 “Social Patterns and Processes” (Two Sections)

### ***Instructor of Record at the University of Texas at Austin***

- Summer 2018 “Sociology of Criminal Justice” (19 students)
- Summer 2016 “Introduction to the Study of Society” (25 students)

### ***Discussion Section Instructor at the University of Texas at Austin***

- Fall 2014 “Life and Death Decisions” (Dr. Sheldon Ekland-Olson)
  - Independently taught 45 students weekly
- Fall 2013 “The Social Scientific Imagination” (Dr. Javier Auyero)
  - Independently taught 45 students weekly

### ***Teaching Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin***

- “U.S. Immigration” (Dr. Néstor Rodríguez)
- “Criminology” (Dr. Mark Warr; three sections)
- “Juvenile Delinquency” (Dr. Lynette Osborne)
- “Racial and Ethnic Relations” (Dr. Néstor Rodríguez)
- “Sociology of Criminal Justice” (Dr. William Kelly; two sections)

### ***Teaching Assistant at Texas A&M***

- “Advanced Research Methods” (Dr. Charles Zhang)
- “Racial and Ethnic Relations” (Dr. Charles Zhang)

## **Teaching Certificates and Training**

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- 2020 Hybrid Training Certification, Texas Christian University
- 2019 Workshop on Using Data in the Classroom, American Sociological Association
- 2019 TCU Course Design Institute, Koehler Center for Instruction, Innovation & Engagement, Texas Christian University
- 2017 Mellon Inclusive Pedagogy Teaching Workshop, Southwestern University
- 2016 Inclusive Classroom Leadership Certificate, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE), The University of Texas at Austin
- 2013 Teaching Certificate in First-Year Interdisciplinary Instruction, School of Undergraduate Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2013 Supervised Teaching in Sociology with Dr. Mary Rose, Department of Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin

### **Service to the Profession and University**

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- 2021 Reviewer, *Social Problems*, *Law & Society Review*, *Humanity and Society*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
- 2017-2018 Graduate Mentor, Sociology Honor's Thesis, "Islamophobia and Public Health" by Aminah Mabruk, University of Texas at Austin
- 2016-2017 Graduate Mentor, Sociology Honor's Thesis, "An Undue Emotional Burden: Abortion Stigma Among Latinas in the Rio Grande Valley" by Abigail Newell, University of Texas at Austin
- 2013-2017 Coordinator, Power History, and Society (PHS) Faculty-Student Network, University of Texas at Austin
- 2013-2014 Contributor, *UT Austin Soc – Graduate Sociology Blog*. University of Texas at Austin
- 2012 Reviewer, *Sociological Insight*, University of Texas at Austin
- 2010-2011 President, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, Texas A&M University

### **Languages**

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English, fluent; Spanish, fluent

### **Professional Affiliations**

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Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE)

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Sections: Latina/o Sociology, International Migration, Racial and Ethnic Minorities

American Studies Association (ASA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Global Studies Association (GSA)

Law and Society Association (LSA)

Humanist Sociology

Southern Sociological Society (SSS)