

**SDSU School of Social Work, Field Instructor Appreciation Luncheon
Wednesday, May 7th, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors Center**

**Cultural Competence & Field Instruction: Working with US-Mexico
transnational populations in Southern California: Substance Use and increased
risk for poor health outcomes, specifically HIV.**

- I. Identify relationships between substance use and risk of poor health outcomes among transnational Latinos
- II. Discuss opportunities for improving delivery of culturally-competent care to transnational populations
- III. Discuss Implications for field instruction and interventions with Latino populations

María Luisa Zúñiga

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, San Diego State University

Dr. Zúñiga is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at San Diego State University (SDSU), Adjunct Professor in the SDSU Graduate School of Public Health, and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Division of Global Public Health, Department of Medicine at UC San Diego. Dr. Zúñiga is an epidemiologist who conducts Community-Based Participatory Research to study the intersection of alcohol and drug use, mental health, sexual risk behaviors and self-care practices that contribute to poor health among diverse, vulnerable populations. She has worked extensively with Latinos living with HIV, U.S. Latino immigrant populations, and international and domestic migrants and their families in the U.S. and Mexico. Prior and ongoing research include substance use and HIV risk behavior among vulnerable, minority youth, and behavioral intervention research with HIV+ men and women with depression, severe mental illness and alcohol and drug addictions. Dr. Zúñiga's research also involves improving cross-cultural communication between Latino patients and their clinicians.

Dr. Zúñiga specializes in the health of populations living in the U.S.-Mexico border region and in transnational health, which is the study of population health and binational mobility among persons who live, access care and interact with individuals from either side of a national border. Her binational/U.S.-Mexico border research with HIV+ Latinos has implicated illicit drug use, poor health and use of herbal complementary and alternative medicine with poor medication adherence (Zúñiga, et al., 2011). Currently funded research on substance use, migration and health (PI: Zúñiga, Health Initiative of the Americas) indicates changes in mental health and drug and alcohol use practices in the context of migration and family separation among Latino immigrants from an indigenous community in Yucatán, México.

Dr. Zúñiga serves as the Director of Evaluation of a demonstration project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families (PI: Spector, HHS-2012-ACF-ACYF-CB-0286). This ongoing work involves design and implementation of measures to evaluate the efficacy of a comprehensive, social-worker mediated intervention to promote preservation of family among HIV-positive, substance using women who are at heightened risk of having their children removed by child protective services.

Contact info:

María Luisa Zúñiga, PhD

Associate Professor

School of Social Work, San Diego State University

Hepner Hall 203D San Diego, CA 92182

Voice: (619) 594-6859 e-mail: mlzuniga@mail.sdsu.edu

Associate Adjunct Professor

Department of Medicine and Department of Pediatrics

School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego