

Rita M. Melendez, Ph.D.

San Francisco State University
Human Sexuality Studies
Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality
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EDUCATION

Columbia University, Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health

Master of Science, Biostatistics, October 2002
Clinical Research Methods Track

Yale University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, May 2001.

Dissertation Title: "Body Ethic: Women, the Work Ethic and Concepts of the Body"

Conducted in-depth interviews and statistical analysis to examine how people talk about their work lives and bodies. My research demonstrates that women, more than men, discuss their bodies in a manner consistent with work values. Women often use feminist discourses to justify a concentration on their appearances and bodies.

Master of Science, Sociology, May 1994
Dissertation Fellowship Award, Spring and Fall 1998

University of California at Berkeley
Bachelor of Science, Sociology, 1992

- Member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society
 - Minor in French
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

San Francisco State University

January 2004
to present

Assistant Professor in Human Sexuality Studies
Chair, Graduate Committee and Graduate Coordinator

Research Associate at the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality

Columbia University

December 2000
to January 2004

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies

National Research Service Award Research Training Fellowship for Behavioral Sciences Research in HIV. Concentration on sexuality training. Conducted collaborative work on a variety of HIV prevention projects. Research included examining the effectiveness of the intervention on secondary outcomes and among women with a history of intimate partner violence.

Designed and conducted pilot research examining HIV risk behaviors of male-to-female transgender individuals attending a community clinic in the Bronx.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

San Francisco State University, Human Sexuality Studies

Spring 2004
to present

Assistant Professor, Human Sexuality Studies

- Designed graduate level research methods courses focusing on sexuality research
- Teach Undergraduate Sex, Power and Politics course
- Teach Professional Development course to second semester MA students
- Designed new course on Ethnicity, Health and Sexuality

Summer 2005

- Summer Institute Co-Instructor for Mixed Methods in Sexuality Research

Summer 2004

- Summer Institute Co-Instructor for Methods in Sexuality Research

Yale University

Spring 1999

Head Teaching Fellow, Culture and Society in America, Sociology

- Assisted with creation of course outline and general administration.
- Conducted weekly seminars reviewing and extending course material.

Spring 1998

Instructor, Historical Approaches to Sociology

- Designed course syllabus and selected course readings.
- Students required to use archival materials for research project.

Spring 1997
to Fall 1994

Teaching Fellow

- Formation of Modern American Culture, American Studies Dept.

- Methods of Inquiry, Sociology Department (twice)
 - Culture and Society in America, Sociology Department (twice)
 - Social Deviance, Sociology Department
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TRAINING

Office of AIDS Research and National Institutes of Health

Training and Career Development Workshop on HIV Prevention Research for and by Racial and Ethnic Minorities. July 26-27, 2003, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction

2002 Summer Research Institute “Interventions for High Risk Sexual Behavior: Design, Implementation and Evaluation.” June 9-16, 2002 at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry

Training by Gary Dowsett, Ph.D. at the HIV Center, Columbia University, October 16–20, 2000.

Minority Researcher Infrastructure Support Program (MRISP)

Training by Rafael Diaz, selected from SFSU faculty to participate in Grant Writing workshop.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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| June 2007 | HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Rounds |
| January 2007 | CDC community based organization capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgender Latinas and HIV • Presentation to National community based organizations |
| October 2006 | CDC community based organization capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latinas and HIV • Presentation to National community based organizations |
| December 2005 | San Francisco State University World AIDS Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of Color: HIV Risk and Treatment |
| December 2004 | Psychology Department, San Francisco State University, Developmental Brown Bag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of HIV Risks among Male-to-Female Transgenders |
| April 2004 | Cesar E. Chavez Research-Practice Forum addressing health disparities among ethnic minority youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexuality and Gender Roundtable facilitator |

- March 2004 Gender Working Group at the New York State Psychiatric Institute
- Gender and HIV among Male-to-Female Transgenders
- January 2004 HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University
- Grand Rounds
 - HIV Issues among Male-to-Female Transgenders: Preliminary findings

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- March 2006 Society for Research on Adolescents
- “They say no to see if the man will seek her out:” Latino adolescents, TV and coercion (poster presentation)
- December 2005 American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA
- HIV Positive Male-to-Female Transgender Individuals: Health Care Needs
- June 2005 International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society
- Health Care Needs of HIV Positive Male-to-Female Transgender Persons
- February 2004 Couch-Stone Winter Symposium of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- *Sexual Self Process: Intersubjectivity in the Intrapsychic Sexual Scripting of Gay Men* Joint presentation with David Whittier
- August 2003 American Sociological Association, Sexuality Section, Atlanta, GA
- *Roundtable discussant Rethinking Sexuality, Health, and “Risk”*
- November 2002 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Montreal, Canada.
- *Negotiation Skills in a Gender-Specific HIV Intervention Program: Program FIO*
- August 2000 American Sociological Association, Gender Section, Washington, D.C.
- *Women, Control and the Body: How Feminism Influences Women’s Understanding of the Bodies with Regards to Eating Disorders and Work*
- November 1998 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Montreal, Canada.
- *Dissertation Writing Workshop*
- March 1998 Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- *Modernity and Self-Conception: Public Labor and the Private Body*
- March 1997 Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD.
- Joint presentation with Debora Paterniti

- *Rationality and the Body: An Examination of Medical Discourses as Relating to Normal and Abnormal Visions of Gender*
- November 1996 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Nashville, TN.
- *The Sacred Body: Images of the Human Body as Relating to Capitalism, Work and Religion*
- August 1995 American Sociological Association, Culture Section, Washington D.C.
- March 1995 Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- April 1995 Works-in-Progress, Yale University, Sociology Department's Annual Conference.
- *The Modern Confessional: A Foucaultian Study of Contemporary Confession in the Lives of Catholics and Gays*
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters:

- Melendez, R.M. and Pinto, R.M. (in press). 'It's really a hard life:' Safety, gender and HIV risk among male-to-female transgender persons. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*.
- Sandfort, T.M., Melendez, R.M., Díaz, R. (in press). Gender nonconformity, Homophobia, and Mental Health in Latino Gay Men. *Journal of Sex Research*.
- Melendez, R.M. (in press). Transgender Persons, Discrimination and HIV. In Howe, C. and Herdt, G. (eds.) *21st Century Sexualities: Contemporary Issues in Health, Education and Rights*. New York: Routledge Press.
- Melendez, R.M., Bonem, L.A. and Sembler, R. (2006). On Research and Bodies: Issues in transgender HIV research. *Sexual Research and Social Policy*, 3, 4: 21-38.
- Melendez, R.M., Exner, T.E., Ehrhardt, A.A., Dodge, B., Remien, R.H., Rotheram-Borus, M.J., Lightfoot, M., Hong, D. and the NIMH Healthy Living Project Team. (2006). Health and Health Care Among Male-to-Female Transgender Persons Who Are HIV Positive, *American Journal of Public Health*, 96, 6:1034-7.
- Melendez, R. M. and Tolman D.L. (2006). Gender, Vulnerability and Young People. In Mane, P. and Aggleton, P. (eds.) *Sex, Drugs and Young People*. London: Taylor and Francis, 29-47.
- Whittier, D.K. and Melendez, R.M. (2006). Sexual Scripting and self-process: Intersubjectivity among gay men. In Kimmel, M. (ed.) *The sexual self: The construction of sexual scripts*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.

- Dworkin, S.L., Exner, T.E., Melendez, R., Hoffman, S. & Ehrhardt, A.A. (2006). Revisiting “Success”: Post-Trial Qualitative Results From a Gender-Specific HIV Intervention for Women. *AIDS & Behavior*, 26:1-11.
- Heintz, A.J. and Melendez, R.M. (2006). Intimate Partner Violence and HIV/STD Risk among LGBT. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21, 2:193-208.
- Whittier, D.K. and Melendez, R.M. (2004). Intersubjectivity in the Intrapsychic Sexual Scripting of Gay Men. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, 6, 2:131-143.
- Melendez, R.M., Hoffman, S., Exner, T., Leu, C.-S. and Ehrhardt, A.A.. (2003). Intimate Partner Violence and Safer Sex Negotiation: Effects of a Gender-Specific Intervention. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 32: 499-511.
- Hirky, A.E., Kirshenbaum, S.B., Melendez, R.M., Rollet, C., Perkins, S.L., and Smith, R.A. (2003). The Female Condom: Attitudes and Experiences of HIV-Positive Women. *Women and Health*, 37: 71-89.

Factsheets

- Rita M. Melendez with Valerie Spencer and David Whittier. Transgender Persons and HIV Prevention. Factsheet prepared for CDC, found at:
<http://www.effectiveinterventions.org/References/TransgenderedPersons.pdf>
- Rita M. Melendez. Latinas and HIV. Factsheet prepared for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA).
- Rita M. Melendez. Transgender Latinas and HIV. Factsheet prepared for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA).

Book Reviews

- Review of Religion, Dress and the Body. (2001). Edited by Linda B. Arthur. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40, 2.
- Review of Scripture and Ethics: Twentieth-Century Portraits. (1998). Jeffrey S. Siker. *Review of Religious Research*, 40, 1.

Manuscripts under review:

- Melendez, R.M., Bonem, L.A. Gynecological health care of female-to-male transgender individuals.
- Melendez, R.M. and Pinto, R.M., Klein, S. Exner, T.E. Promoting Access to Primary and Preventive Care for Male-to-Female Transgender Individuals.
- Melendez, R.M., Sorsoli, L., Teunis, N., Flunder, Y. Moving Faith-based organizations closer to HIV prevention for African-American women.

Manuscripts in preparation

Melendez, R.M. Sorsoli, L. Pinto, R.M., Tolman, D. Latino Immigrants and Sexual Health.

Hoffman, S., Melendez, R.M., Exner, T., Leu, C.-S. and Ehrhardt, A.A.. What Accounts for Behavior Change in a Gender-Specific HIV/STD Preventive Intervention for Heterosexually Active Women?.

Melendez, R.M., Sandfort, T., Díaz, R., Young, D. Gender and HIV Risk Behaviors among Latino Gay and Bisexual Men.

Whittier, D.K. and Melendez, R.M. Sociosexual theory and research in social and behavioral interventions for sexually transmitted infections.

SERVICE

National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC)

September 2006 to present Project Coordinator for *Sexualidades Latinas*, a Spanish Language online magazine covering topics in sexuality for Latinos.

February 2005 to present Editorial Board for Sexuality Research and Social Policy: Journal of the National Sexuality Resource Center

March 2003 to present Editorial Board for American Sexualities Magazine

Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program (BSSV)

September 2004 to present Volunteer with community-based organizations to assist in research related tasks

Columbia University, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Sciences

Dec 2003 *New York City's HIV Centers Consortium Conference*

- Executive committee member
- Responsible for planning the first annual consortium for all HIV-related research centers in the New York area

2003 to 2004 *MOSAIC Program*

- Teach seminars on sexuality research methods for undergraduate students from New York City area colleges
- Assist with course curriculum and administration of program

- 2000
to 2003
- STAR (Sexuality Training and Research) Program*
- Taught seminars in statistics and gender to individuals from local and national community-based organizations
 - Mentored the research projects of three individuals for community-based organizations

Yale University, Department of Sociology

- 1994
to 1995
- Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Graduate Student Representative*
- Evaluated undergraduate curriculum and assisted in reorganization of course requirements
- 1994
- Hollingshead Lecture Committee*
- Gathered and evaluated sociological literature in search of annual lecture and award recipient. Research resulted in Arlie Hochschild's acceptance and lecture
- 1994
- Graduate Student Union, President*
- Organized academic full-day conference
 - Organized periodic meetings with graduate students
 - Attended faculty meetings to present graduate student perspectives

GRANTS

HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies Pilot Grant received to examine gender roles and safer sex negotiation among male-to-female transgenders. \$9,076 grant to conduct 20 in-depth interviews.

Minority Supplement to Deborah Tolman's Television Consumption and Teenage Behavior (R01) Grant. NICHD.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (bilingual)
French

REFERENCES

Anke. A. Ehrhardt, Ph.D.
Susie Hoffman, Dr. P.H.
Deborah L. Tolman, Ed.D.
Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D.