

Jennifer Nations

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Education

2008-present

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

PhD Candidate, Sociology

Advanced to Candidacy: Dec. 2012

Expected completion: Mar. 2017

2004-2007

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

M.S., Sociology

1999-2003

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

B.S., Sociology

Research Experience

May 2012-present

Doctoral Dissertation

Who Pays for Higher Education? The Politics of Legislating College Costs in the United States.

Policymakers are typically committed to affordable higher education and, although unable to control costs, they enact policies that affect who pays for college. In this dissertation, I answer the question, What explains the policy choices state politicians make regarding financial aid and tuition setting? I focus on state-level enactment of three types of tuition policies: need-based financial aid, tuition setting authority, and tax-advantaged tuition investment programs, or “tuition trusts.” In addition, I supplement these case studies with quantitative analyses of the predictors of need-based aid spending and tuition trust program enactment for all fifty states between the years 1980 and 2012.

Publications

August, 2016

Nations, Jennifer M. “Higher Education and the Politics of Redistribution: How Racial Context Influences State Support for Low-Income Students.” Submission pending.

Nations, Jennifer M. “Resisting the Market University: Political Challenges to the Locus of Authority in Public University Tuition Policy.” Submission pending.

June, 2013

Christine Cerven, Vicki Park, Jennifer Nations, and Kelly Nielsen. "Completing College: Making college a lived reality for low-income single mothers." Policy Report for UC/ACCORD's Pathways to Postsecondary Success Project.

February, 2013

Park, Vicki, Christine Cerven, Jennifer Nations, and Kelly Nielsen. "What Matters for Community College Success? Assumptions and Realities Concerning Student Supports for Low-Income Women." Policy Report for UC/ACCORD's Pathways to Postsecondary Success Project. Accessible from http://pathways.gseis.ucla.edu/publications/201302_WhatMattersPR.pdf

Conferences and Presentations

August 2016

Redistribution in Higher Education: the Predictors of State Need-based Aid Funding. *American Sociological Association*, Seattle, WA

February 2016

The Influence of Higher Education Administrators in State Fiscal Policies *Sociology of Education Association*, Pacific Grove, CA

November 2015

To Cap or Not to Cap: State Approaches to Tuition Control Policies *Social Science History Association*, Baltimore, MD

August 2014

Governance Structures and Institutional Interests in Need-based Aid Enactment *American Sociological Association*, Sociology of Education panel, San Francisco, CA

November 2013

Who Pays for Higher Education? Enacting Need-based Aid in New York and California *Social Science History Association*, Chicago, IL

August 2013

When Is Gender Operational in Field of Study Selection? *American Sociological Association Meeting, Roundtable presentation*, New York, NY.

February 2013

"College as a Solution to Inequality? California welfare and higher education from the student perspective." Invited presentation to Isaac Martin's undergraduate course. UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

August 2012

"I always wanted to go into nursing, ever since I started working in the medical field": The cultural elements of occupation choice." *American Sociological Association, Roundtable presentation, Table presider*. Co-presented with Kelly Nielsen.

May 2012

"California Financial Aid Policy: Implications for Low-income Student Academic Trajectories." *Presentation to UC San Diego Inequalities Workshop*. Co-presented with Kelly Nielsen.

March 2012

“Educational Pathways of Low-Income Community College Students.” *Pacific Sociological Association*. Co-presented with Kelly Nielsen.

February, 2012

“Work Goals and Academic Decision Making Among Low-income Women in Higher Education.” *Sociology of Education Association*. Co-presented with Kelly Nielsen.

Awards

Dean of Social Sciences Travel Grant, Fall 2016

UCSD Sociology Department Summer Research Grant, June 2013-September 2013

Oceanids Fellowship, Sept. 2010-June 2011

UCSD Sociology Department Fellowship, September 2008-June 2009

Academic Employment

July-September 2016 Associate-In

Course instructor for Sociology 115, “Social Problems.”

April-June 2016 Graduate Student Researcher

Academic Senate grant, “The Social Effects of Property Tax Limitation,” PI Professor Isaac Martin

Responsibilities include:

Assisting in compiling original dataset and analyzing data

Preparing conference proposals

Co-authoring paper for submission

January-March 2016 Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistant for sociology/education studies course, “Social Organization of Education” taught by Prof. Amy Binder.

March-June 2015 Associate-In

Course instructor for Sociology 139, “Social Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender.”

August 2013-June 2014 Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistant for sociology/education studies course, “Social Organization of Education” and “Culture, Language, and Education,” taught by Amy Binder, Tricia Gallagher-Geurtsen, and Thandeka Chapman.

April 2010-July 2013 Graduate Student Researcher

Pathways to Postsecondary Success, UC/ACCORD project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Responsibilities include:

- Review and summarize relevant literatures
- Gather demographic, economic, and policy data for study area
- Interview approximately 20 women three times over 2 years
- Observe and 'shadow' students at the community college
- Code and analyze data
- Co-author policy reports
- Present team findings at American Education Research Association (2011)

September -December 2015 Course Reader

July-August 2014

January-March 2013

January-March 2009

Graded papers for sociology and education courses, including Public Policy and Inequality (taught by Isaac Martin), Culture Language and Education (taught by Makeba Jones), and Films and Society (taught by Akos Rona-Tas).

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
Political Sociology Section
Sociology of Education Section
Social Science History Association

Volunteer Work/Campus Associations

Principal Member, Graduate Student Parent Network at UCSD

Organized events for grad and undergrad students with children, worked to increase visibility of student parents on campus and gain better access to campus resources for families.

Graduate Student Representative, COPE (Committee on Preparatory Education)

Attend meetings to discuss programs and policies regarding basic writing courses at UCSD and provide insight to faculty, make suggestions about COPE actions and resolutions.

References

Amy Binder, University of California, San Diego

abinder@ucsd.edu

Dissertation committee member

Amanda Datnow, University of California, San Diego

adatnow@ucsd.edu

PI, Pathways to Postsecondary Success; dissertation committee member

Isaac Martin, University of California, San Diego
iwmartin@ucsd.edu
Dissertation chair

Akos Rona-Tas, University of California, San Diego
aronatas@ucsd.edu
Dissertation committee member