

Jennifer Nations
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology
University of California, San Diego
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EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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.

M.S., Sociology, 2007

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

B.S., Sociology, 2003

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

AREAS OF RESEARCH

political and fiscal sociology, tax policy, education, organizations

AWARDS

Dean’s Fellowship Award for Humanistic Studies, 2017

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Distinguished Teaching Award, 2017

Dean of Social Sciences Travel Grant, 2016

UCSD Sociology Department Summer Research Grant, 2013

Oceanids Fellowship, Sept. 2010-June 2011

UCSD Sociology Department Fellowship, September 2008-June 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Cerven, Christine, 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, June, 2013
Accessible from <https://pathways.gseis.ucla.edu/publications>

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, February, 2013
Accessible from <https://pathways.gseis.ucla.edu/publications>

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Resisting the Market University: Political Challenges to the Locus of Authority in Public University Tuition Policy." Revise and resubmit with *Social Science History*

"Message Received: The role of advising and work experience in low-income women's educational aspirations" Under review

"Higher Education and the Politics of Redistribution: How Racial Context Influences State Support for Low-Income Students." Working paper

COURSES TAUGHT

April-June 2017 Instructor
Course instructor for Sociology 152/Urban Studies 133, "Social Inequality and Public Policy."
July-Sept. 2016 Instructor
Course instructor for Sociology 115, "Social Problems."
March-June 2015 Instructor
Course instructor for Sociology 139, "Social Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender."

ADDITIONAL TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Jan-March 2017 Graduate Student Researcher
School District Tax Measure Project, PI Isaac Martin
Responsibilities include:
Compiling original dataset and analyzing data
Preparing conference proposals

Co-authoring paper for submission

Sept.-Dec. 2016 Course Reader

Graded papers for sociology of education course, *The Social Organization of Education*, taught by Prof. Amy Binder.

April-June 2016 Graduate Student Researcher

Academic Senate grant, "The Social Effects of Property Tax Limitation," PI Isaac Martin

Responsibilities include:

Assisting in compiling original dataset and analyzing data

Preparing conference proposals

Co-authoring paper for submission

Jan.-March 2016 Teaching Assistant

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

Aug. 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

July-August 2014

January-March 2013

January-March 2009 Course Reader

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).

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

November 2016

Race, redistribution, and public university tuition, 1980-2012

- Social Science History Association*, Chicago, IL
 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, 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, 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. 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.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

References

Professor Amy Binder, University of California, San Diego

abinder@ucsd.edu

Dissertation committee member

Professor Amanda Datnow, University of California, San Diego

adatnow@ucsd.edu

PI, Pathways to Postsecondary Success; dissertation committee member

Professor Isaac Martin, University of California, San Diego

iwmartin@ucsd.edu

Dissertation chair