

## FRP Sample Research Projects

The following provides a representative sample of student research projects completed during the Field Research Program at the UC Study Center in Mexico City.

*Please note that not all locations may be available for field research.  
See the [UCEAP Mexico alert page](#) for possible travel restrictions.*

### 2015

#### **Migration Effects on Nourishment of Transnational Families**

Exploring the effects on nourishment for families in Mexico City and Los Angeles. Compare and contrast the health of people in both cities. Analysis of factors related to health including social capital, socioeconomic status, and eating habits.

*Angelica Esquivel Moreno, UCLA  
Mexico City*

#### **Women Healing from Violence as Agents of Change**

Exploring ways that healing from violence leads women to create change within themselves and their communities. Research driven by interviews, workshops, and observations of female victims of domestic violence at a center in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

*Eliana Buenrostro, UCLA  
Chiapas*

#### **Pirated Movies as an Alternative Economy**

Exploring the legality of the pirated movie industry and its effect on the formal distribution and commercialization of film. Investigation of why this industry is permitted and accepted by society in general. Analysis of demographics of participants in the distribution of pirated movies.

*Emilio Ochoa Kobak, UCSC  
Mexico City*

#### **The Impact of Migration on Indigenous Women in Oaxaca**

Exploring the impact of immigration on indigenous Oaxacan women in the village of San Bartolome Quialana. Studying women's involvement in the labor market, agriculture, and family relations within the household after their husbands migrate to the United States.

*Veronica Martinez Sanchez, UCR  
Oaxaca*

### 2014

#### **Juventud Maya: La negociación de identidad entre zonas fronterizas**

Exploring the notion of cultural identity among Mayan youth including components such as language, traditions, and cosmovision. Analysis of the impact of social factors such as migration, education, globalization, and the idea of mestizaje on Mayan identity.

*Andrea Nallely Soqui, UCI  
Yucatan*

### **The Effects of Tourism on Culture in Mexico City**

Analysis of the sociocultural effects of tourism, specifically the construction of tourist culture through processes of commodification. Exploring the prominence of tourism in aiding the construction and sustainment of national identity through commodifying specific cultural aspects.

*Darleen Martinez, UCB*

*Mexico City*

### **Los cambios socioculturales de los Refugiados Guatemaltecos en Chiapas**

Exploring the socio-cultural changes that have occurred in the lives of Guatemalan refugees who settled in Chiapas to escape genocide.

*Marylin Tomas, UCSD*

*Chiapas*

## **2013**

### **Mejorando la raza: La influencia de la globalización y los afectos en los adolescentes in la ciudad**

Analysis of changing beauty standards as a result of globalization and technology: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, magazines, television, etc., and the effects on the diverse population with many skin tones in regards to self-esteem issues, depression, suicidal thoughts/attempts and eating disorders.

*Alejandra Quintero, UCB*

*Mexico City*

### **The Cargo System of Santa Ana del Valle, Oaxaca, Mexico Under a Transnational Context**

Analysis of the Cargo System in the Santa Ana Valley Oaxaca, Mexico as it pertains to citizens who immigrate permanently to the United States. Exploring the changes and challenges of a dispersed population to fulfill the cargo system, and the moral and civic obligation of *santaneros*, citizens of the Santa Ana Valley.

*Nataly Bautista, UCLA*

*Oaxaca*

### **The Culture of Pre-Hispanic Food in Mexico City**

Exploring the importance of pre-Columbian foods in contemporary Mexico City through the manifestation of dietary staples such as maize, in formal establishments to food stalls through interviews with culinary experts and specialists to determine a perspective on how different groups of people judge their foods of pre-Hispanic origin.

*Paulo Leonel Ramos, UCSC*

*Mexico City*

### **Migration in Yucatan: From Santa Elena to Merida**

Research driven by interviews, ethnographies, focus groups, and observations to determine the motives behind migration from rural Santa Elena to the capital city of Merida with a special focus on language retention from indigenous populations

*Reyna Kaul, UCSB*

*Merida*

### **Desarrollo en los Hornos de Santa Barbara: Discursos y prácticas del desarrollo a nivel local**

Investigation of a small community center focused on bringing "development" to the people of Santa Barbara, Ixtapaluca, Mexico.

*Barbara Carrasco, UCB*

*Mexico City*

## 2012

### **Sueños Americanos, realidades mexicanas**

Analysis of the motivations and migratory trajectories of American Expatriates in Merida, Yucatan; it studies the expatriate population as it grows rapidly and interprets the possible changes it can have on future demographics.

*Daisy Villafuerte, UCB*

*Merida*

### **Testimonios de estudiantes Tojol-ab'ales en la Universidad Intercultural de Chiapas en las Margaritas**

Research centered on the experiences of the Tojol-abal students at the Intercultural University of Chiapas (UNICH) in las Margaritas specifically the experiences of indigenous students at the university.

*Carmen del Rosario Marcial, UCSD*

*Chiapas*

### **Una comparación de modelos ejemplares y prototipos: Terminos espaciales en una lengua mixe**

This work represents a pilot Study concerning spatial noun suffixes on Tlahuitoltepec Mixe and the accuracy of various theories of categorization in representing their membership.

*Carson Miller, UCB*

*Oaxaca*

### **Desmitificando un matriarcado: La violencia doméstica en Juchitán de Zaragoza**

Critical analysis of the occurrence of gender violence in the matriarchy of Juchitán where domestic violence is the number one issue reported to the authorities.

*Leticia Escobar, UCSB*

*Oaxaca*

### **Desde el más allá... aquí: Reflexiones sobre educación y aprendizaje en Chiapas, Mexico**

Analysis of the impact that the Zapatista autonomous schools have on their communities, the reflection incorporates the disparities and dynamics of how learning manifests itself in a place as turbulent as Chiapas, Mexico.

*Jorge Rosas, UCSB*

*Chiapas*

### **El oficio de las mujeres Tojobales**

A study of dynamics of a relationship between family members and the social construction of roles for female members in the Gomez family

*Wendy Guzman-Rangel, UCI*

*Chiapas*

## 2011

### **Ciudades rurales sustentables y la erradicación de la pobreza extrema en Chiapas: Un análisis crítico del Nuevo Juan de Grijalva.**

Critical analysis of the first sustainable rural town created after a disaster in Juan de Grijalva, Chiapas: examination of development, international influences, the capitalist system and neoliberal policies.

*Erika Ballesteros, UCB*

*Chiapas*

**La universidad de la tierra en Oaxaca: Prácticas en convivencia y lógicas de la esperanza**

Critical analysis of the Education System; specifically by observing and participating in radical alternatives organized at the grassroots level in the state of Oaxaca such as Unitierra, a space that proposes a critique and practical alternative of learning beyond education.

*Armando Carmona, UCSB  
Oaxaca*

**Movimiento en Gestación: La diversidad sexual y la comunidad sexual y la comunidad lésbica en Oaxaca de Juarez.**

Analysis of the role of lesbian women in the movement for the recognition of sexual diversity in the city of Oaxaca.

*Andrea Vazquez, UCLA  
Oaxaca*

**2010**

**The Thin Line Between the Provable and the Superstitious**

Oral history project and ethnography of Nochistlán, Zacatecas where ranchers (ages 55-89) provide narratives which compare and contrast the Mexican rural and western perceptions on what is provable and what is superstition.

*Rossana Carranza, UCB  
Zacatecas*

**Hip Hop Mexicano como una tribu posmoderna contracultural**

Defining hip hop in Mexico through an anthropological and sociological lens as a post-modern and counterculture tribe

*Leonardo Rios, UCLA  
Mexico City*

**A mayor vigilancia, mayor vulnerabilidad**

Field investigation of Mexico's southern border and the changing migration flow from Central America to the United States via Mexico

*Richard Hong, UCSD  
Chiapas*

*(Richard was one of the winners of both the 2011 [UCEAP](#) and [Forum on Education Abroad Undergraduate Research Awards](#).)*

**2009**

**Mujeres de maíz en resistencia, una alternativa de vida para las mujeres de Zinacatán**

Critical Analysis of the cooperative system as an alternative economic means for women weavers and artisans from Zinacatán.

*Leticia Corona, UCB  
Chiapas*

**Un examen de la salud maternal en los Altos de Chiapas**

An analysis of the duality of pregnant women in Los Altos de Chiapas

*Britta Gray, UCB  
Chiapas*

## 2008

### **La percepción de los estudiantes de Tele-secundaria en Ziquitaro, un rancho migrante, acerca de la utilidad e importancia del inglés.**

This paper examined the role of First Step and the English courses they provide to adolescents in Ziquitaro via "TV junior high" (Tele-secundaria) in determining whether students are inclined to pursue higher education or to migrate from the area.

*Jessica Booker, UCLA*

*Morelia*

## 2007

### **El movimiento punk en México D.F.: el uso de espacios y la creación de una identidad, comercialización y crítica entre las generaciones**

Through a series of ethnographic observations, participant observation, contact and formal and informal interviews with informants, this paper deals with the importance of space in the creation of identity. It analyses three types of spaces: permanent, virtual/fluid spaces, and temporary spaces.

*Laura Zavala, UCI*

*Mexico City*

### **Al otro lado del mar: los vestigios de la cultura afrocaribeña en la comunidad veracruzana de Ursulo Galván**

The purpose of this research was to examine the remains of afro-Caribbean culture in the Veracruz community of Ursulo Galván, and to determine whether it is still present.

*Blanca Whiten, UCSB*

*Veracruz*

### **La Lengua Maya: Cómo se está perdiendo por los cambios de las fronteras de Identidad, en Tzucacab, Yucatan**

Analysis of the connection between language and identity in the rural communities surrounding Mérida, Yucatan and reasons the Mayan language is slowly lost such as labor migration and globalization and the effect the loss of fluency may have on the identity of the younger generations.

*Nienke Schouten, UCB*

*Mérida*

### **Relaciones de Genero: Mujeres emigrantes del Municipio de Tlaquepaque, Jalisco.**

This project explores the migratory experience from the state of Jalisco to the United States from the perspective of female migrants. It focuses on women's reasons for emigrating and the particular ordeals they had to face in Mexico, during their border crossing, and after their arrival in the United States.

*Marisol Cervantes Maciel, UCB*

*Guadalajara*

## 2006

### **La lucha contra la obesidad femenina en Morelia. La perspectiva del personal médico y los pacientes de los programas de salud pública.**

This research project examined the governmental response to the obesity phenomenon among women in Morelia, Michoacán. The availability and structure of public programs, mediums of promotion, as well as the perception of success among those who implement the programs and the patients involved were discussed

*Shellown Dennis, UCI*

*Morelia*

**Hogares sin Hombres: La migración y los papeles de género en Oaxaca.**

Analysis of the socio-cultural ideas of gender and roles intertwined with the process of migration between Mexico and the United States. Anthropological research in which the intersection of gender and migration is examined, research was based in observations of conceptions of roles, and identities, and interviews.

*Nikiko Masumoto, UCB*

*Oaxaca*

**Gastando por un sueño: Las acciones equivocadas del INEA frente el analfabetismo en la ciudad de Oaxaca de Juárez.**

Critical analysis of the literacy program of the National Institute of Adult Education (INEA) in the city of Oaxaca through fieldwork at a class site to explore the disconnect between political slogans of the government and the experience on the field.

*Athalia Markowitz, UCB*

*Oaxaca*

**2005**

**Voces del Campo. Las haciendas de los Cusi: Lombardía y Nueva Italia, durante el Porfiriato.**

Analysis of the economic policies of Porfirio Díaz, the general conditions of the haciendas in Mexico, and the trajectory of the Cusi family from Italy to Michoacán; The research focuses on the lives of the workers in these haciendas to find if the living conditions during the *Porfiriato* affected a person's decision to enter into the Mexican Revolution.

*José Antonio De Loera, UCB*

*Morelia*

**Nada sin Praxis: El movimiento de la Unión de la Juventud Revolucionaria de México (La URJM).**

Considering the socio-economic and political conditions in Oaxaca and its effects on the youth, this work looks to understand the sociopolitical participation of Oaxaca's youth by documenting the movement of the Unión de la Juventud Revolucionaria de México, who have committed their lives to the struggle for a better world under the banners of Marxism-Leninism. These youth utilize the revolutionary theory to make sense of their realities and organize for social justice.

*Corina García, UCSB*

*Oaxaca*

**Sabiduría en Rosa: Historia de la mujer y las ciencias en la Universidad Veracruzana.**

Project focused on women in science-related fields in the last thirty years in the Universidad Veracruzana, the state run university. Analysis of the academic environment which women inhabit professionally and the impact of higher level education on their identity outside of the workforce. The study focuses on two particular departments: Economics, and Biology & Agronomy, which run a master program in studies of the sugarcane crop, a vital product in the Veracruz economy. Female professors and students were interviewed.

*Tania Libertad García-Rosas, UCB*

*Xalapa*