

Lillianna Franco Carrera, Ph.D.

Lfranco1@luc.edu | 708-227-5930

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL.

May 2021

Dissertation Title: “*Stop Giving Up on Us*”: *The Experiences of First-Generation Latinx Students in their College Choice Process*

Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Higher Education

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

June 2016

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

June 2011

Minor: Spanish Certification: Undergraduate Leadership Program

PUBLICATIONS

Published

- Torres-Olave, B., Brown, A. M., **Franco Carrera, L.**, & Ballinas, C. (2020). Not waving but striving: research collaboration in the context of stratification, segmentation, and the quest for prestige. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 91(2), 275-299.
- Engberg, M. E., **Carrera, L. F.**, & Mika, L. P. (2018). Utilizing Domestic Off-Campus Experiences to Influence Social Justice Awareness and Career Development. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 22(1), 63-86.

Under Review

- **Franco Carrera, L.**, Hutchings, Q. R., & Noriega, C. *An Empty Promise: Experiences of Student Affairs Professionals of Color Through Community Cultural Wealth*. Manuscript under review at the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education.

In Development

- **Franco Carrera, L.** “*Stop giving up on us*”: *The experiences of first-generation Latinx students and how counselors can better support the college choice process*. Manuscript under preparation to submit to the Journal of Counseling & Development.
- **Franco Carrera, L.** *Full of emotions: How first-generation Latinx students face stress, anxiety, and self-doubt in their college choice process*. Manuscript under preparation to submit to the to Race, Ethnicity and Education.
- **Franco Carrera, L.** *En Cadenita: Exploring the complex role of peers and siblings in the college choice process of first-generation Latinx students*. Manuscript under preparation to submit to the Journal of Hispanic Higher Education.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

January 2022- PRESENT

Postdoctoral Scholar

- Project director of a federally-funded mixed-methods research project regarding equity in STEM+C education and workforce development
- Synthesized quantitative and qualitative data after survey collection and interviews
- Arranged literature review and assembled manuscript to disseminate research findings
- Instructor of record in the Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies
- Mentored graduate students and undergraduate researchers in service learning courses
- Assisted in grant writing to obtain federal funds for future research

- Attended seminars, workshops, and conferences for professional development

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

August 2017- July 2020

Graduate Research Assistant

- Served as Graduate Research Assistant under the supervision of Dr. Blanca Torres-Olave on two projects regarding research collaboration and stratification among institutions, and about career advising for STEM students in a changing labor market, respectively
- Performed intensive thematical qualitative analysis of nineteen semi-structured interviews with tenured/tenure track and non-tenure track faculty and researchers in the life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering fields at two institutions
- As co-project manager for data analysis, oversaw project timeline, drafted internal memos, prepared and submitting manuscript for peer-review
- Conducted in-depth literature reviews on university-industry collaborations and partnerships, and career advising modalities
- Co-authored an article published by the Journal of Higher Education
- Lead author of a manuscript that is under preparation to be submitted to the Journal of National Academic Advising Association

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

August 2015- May 2016

Research Team Member

- Collaborated intensively with a research team under the supervision of Dr. Mark Engberg for a project investigating off-campus experiences and how they influence social justice awareness and career development in college students
- Conducted interpretive qualitative analysis of 20 participant interviews using InVivo, created themes, conducted peer-review through a constant comparative method of open and axial coding and organized into broader categories to develop our findings
- Contributed the literature review by strengthening the team's understanding of service-learning and career development
- Co-authored an article published by the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL

March 2015- May 2015

Undergraduate Academic Advising Research Intern

- Lead of a research project that assessed the institution's academic early warning system which contributed to effective academic advising support structures
- Designed interview protocol, applied for IRB approval, and recruited and conducted semi-structured interviews with college students, staff and other stakeholders to analyze the warning system
- Analyzed collected qualitative data and previous quantitative data provided by the institution
- Created report and presentation for staff outlining the findings of the study and made recommendations to improve the system and student success, in particular for underrepresented student populations at the institution
- Co-authored a paper presented at the Illinois Academic Advising Association annual conference.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
Instructor of Record (Graduate Course)

HAS 6123: Program Planning and Evaluation in Higher Education and Student Affairs

Spring 2022

- Constructed an online synchronous course with a collaborative curriculum
- Lectured and created opportunities for engaging discussions regarding the importance of evaluation
- Encouraged students to be reflective and critical of evaluation methods
- Challenged students with feedback that encouraged them to improve their evaluation plans and methods

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL
Instructor of Record (Graduate Course)

ELPS 432: Multiculturalism and Social Justice in Higher Education Fall 2021

- Developed an online curriculum with social justice pedagogy in mind
- Facilitated discussions and activities to create meaningful engagement and foster community
- Challenged students to be reflective and critical of readings and personal experiences
- Provided students with feedback that encourages growth in their understanding of multiculturalism and social justice

Teaching Assistant (Graduate Course)

ELPS 432: Multiculturalism and Social Justice in Higher Education Fall 2019

Dr. Aurora Chang

- Edited and organized curriculum to effectively achieve social justice learning outcomes
- Contributed readings and artifacts for use in class discussions
- Facilitated discussions and assignments to foster engaged learning in class
- Provided students with encouraging feedback on assignments and reflection essays

Teaching Assistant (Graduate Course)

ELPS 431: Program Evaluation in Higher Education Spring 2018

Dr. Blanca Torres-Olave

- Co-created syllabus and course materials to support staggered learning stages
- Developed and lead two units virtually through asynchronous video instruction
- Created online video activities and discussion assignments to create community
- Provided students with constant feedback on assignments and their final evaluation project

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Chang, A., Gardner, P., Bhargal, N., **Franco Carrera, L.**, Hutchings, Q. R., & Williams, C. D. (2020) *Harmed but empowered: A collective autoethnography/convivencia of "healing" myths and possibilities in a policed state*. Paper accepted to be presented at American Educational Studies Association annual conference in San Antonio, TX (Conference Canceled).
- **Franco Carrera, L.**, & Hutchings, Q. (2020). An Empty Promise: Experiences of Student Affairs Professionals of Color Through Community Cultural Wealth. Scholarly research presented at American College Personnel Association annual conference in Nashville, TN.
- **Franco Carrera, L.**, & Hutchings, Q. (2019). I am Because We Are: Experiences of Student Affairs Professionals of Color Through Community Cultural Wealth. Research presented at round table at Association for the Study of High Education annual conference in Portland, OR.
- **Franco Carrera, L.** (2019). I am Because We Are: Experiences of Student Affairs Professionals of Color Through Community Cultural Wealth. Research presented at School of Education Lunch and Learn at Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, IL.
- Engberg, M. E., **Franco, L.**, & Mika, L.P. (2016). Utilizing Domestic Off-Campus Experience to Influence Social Justice Awareness and Career Development. Paper presented at round table at American Education Research Association annual conference in Washington, DC.
- **Franco, L.** (2016). Utilizing Domestic Off-Campus Experience to Improve Education and College Access. Poster presentation at Loyola's School of Education Community of Scholars Annual Research Symposium in Chicago, IL.
- Garcia-Hills, R. & **Franco, L.** (2016). Academic Early Warning System: Creating A Culture of Care. Paper presented at the Illinois Academic Advising Association annual conference in Normal, IL.

WORKSHOPS, KEYNOTES AND GUEST LECTURES

- **Franco Carrera, L.** (2020). Academic Planning for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Workshop led at the University of Houston- Clear Lake, Houston, TX.
- **Franco Carrera, L.**, & Stafford, T. (2019). Hustle for your network. Workshop led at Morton College Student Leadership Conference, Cicero, IL.

- **Franco Carrera, L.** (2016). How to take advantage of your opportunities: College and beyond. Keynote at Oklahoma Panhandle State University Bridge Program, Goodwell, OK.
- Gerald, M., & **Franco Carrera, L.** (2016). PowerVibes: Women Empowerment. Workshop and keynote led at Morton East High School Conference, Cicero, IL.

COMMENTARIES AND BLOGS

- **Franco Carrera, L., & López, N.** (2020, May 25). Becoming: Contemplating career choices and transitions as mothers and women of color. [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <https://www.careerkillmoves.com/blog/motherhoodandcareerchoices>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Enrollment Management Counselor

University of Houston- Clear Lake, Houston, TX

August 2020- August 2021

- Developed and managed various and concurrent graduate recruitment projects, strategies, and tactics to increase graduate enrollment to the College of Human Sciences and Humanities
- Collaborated with the Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Humanities and faculty members in each academic program to ensure commitment and execution of recruitment plan
- Provided enrollment counseling to prospective students at events and in individual meetings
- Delivered presentations to prospective students at on-campus programs, off-campus events, fairs and corporate meetings

Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL

February 2018- June 2019

- Served as the primary advisor to over 300 undergraduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business, and College of Education to ensure academic success
- Provided students with classroom information and requirements, and used proactive advising skills to help them plan their coursework, register and keep them on track to graduate
- Functioned as the advisory member for the Arts and Science Policy Committee to ensure adequate course and program development with deans and department chairs in keeping with university policy
- Increased the retention and student success of commuter students as a member of the Academic Early Warning System group

Enrollment Specialist

Morton College, Cicero, IL

September 2016- August 2017

- Project manager for multiple recruitment and enrollment activities including campus tours, college fairs, parent informational events, and student admission workshops, among others
- Developed a student leadership group to lead campus tours, orientation events, and serve in other capacities as student ambassadors
- Utilized my fluent Spanish skills to work with marketing to develop promotional material to increase our visibility in the community and surrounding area
- Recruited and assisted high school students with the application process at high school visits, community events, and college fairs

Center for Experiential Learning Graduate Assistant

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

August 2014- June 2016

- Supervised various projects and programs that informed students about possible internship, research, volunteer, and reflection opportunities
- Endorsed co-educational opportunities for service-learning and experiential learning to community partners and professors
- Explored possibilities in which the center could increase their outreach and resources to marginalized populations
- Managed the website, social networking media, marketing, and communications material

Student Life Program Assistant

Triton College, River Grove, IL

March 2014- January 2015

- Aided the Director and Dean of Student Services with special initiatives, programs, and activities developed for student life
- Founded the Student Ambassador program by recruiting, mentoring, and training students to be Triton College representatives
- Developed student leadership workshops to enhance communication, teamwork, goal setting, and leadership skills
- Created service-learning volunteer opportunities for students at local non-profit organizations

Graduate Support Advisor

UNO Charter School Network, Chicago, IL

September 2012- June 2013

- Guided over 300 high school students and parents on the college choice and application processes
- Conducted class presentations to inform students about the college application process and scholarship opportunities
- Arranged informational and one-on-one meetings with parents to understand the higher education process and finances
- Created and managed programming and college fairs for college admission representatives to visit and present about their institutions

Multicultural Student Affairs Intern

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

September 2008- June 2010

- Planned and administrated educational, philanthropic, and social events focusing on cultural awareness, growth, and appreciation
- Mentored student group leaders and provided open-forums to discuss leadership qualities and issues in the community
- Managed logistical information, agendas, and budgets

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Gates Millennium Scholar, 2007- 2021
- Loyola School of Education Travel Grant, 2020 & 2019
- Loyola Graduate School Research Funding, 2020
- Alpha Sigma Nu Member, 2015-2016
- Northwestern Latino Alumni Association Scholarship, 2009-2010
- Rotary Club of Cicero Scholar, 2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ACPA- American College Personnel Association (2019-PRESENT)
- ASHE- Association for the Study of Higher Education (2018- PRESENT)
- NACADA- National Academic Advising Association (2018- PRESENT)
- AERA- American Education Research Association (2016- PRESENT)
- ILACADA- Illinois Academic Advising Association (2016- PRESENT)
- National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (2015- PRESENT)
- NASPA- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (2015- PRESENT)

SERVICE

- *Advisor Search Committee Member, Concordia University Chicago* (2019)
- *Director, Morton College Foundation* (2015-2018)
- Motivational Speaker and Facilitator, **CoolSpeak** (2015-2017)
- Editorial Assistant, **Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education & Student Affairs** (2015-2016)
- Mentor, **Big Brothers Big Sisters of America** (2012-2018)
- Ambassador, **Gates Millennium Scholarship** (2008-2011)