Katie L. Acosta, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

College of Arts and Sciences

Georgia State University

Langdale Hall

38 Peachtree Center Ave. Suite 1041

Atlanta, GA 30303

**EDUCATION**

Fall 2005-2009 **Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology,** University of Connecticut, Storrs

Aug. 2003-2005 **Masters of Arts, Sociology**, University of Connecticut, Storrs

May 2003 **Bachelor of Arts, Sociology**, Cum Laude, City University of New

York, Hunter College

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Fall 2013-Present Assistant Professor, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA Department of Sociology

Fall 2009- 2013 Assistant Professor, Tulane University, New Orleans,

Department of Sociology and Stone Center for Latin American Studies

**SCHOLARLY INTERESTS**

Gender, Sexuality, Latina/o Studies, Race/Ethnicity, Family, Immigration

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book Manuscript:**

Acosta, Katie L. 2013*. Amigas y Amantes:* *How Sexually Nonconforming Latinas Negotiate*

*Family.* Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. “2014 Outstanding Choice Title”

This work explores sexually nonconforming Latina’s experiences with building and managing families of choice and origin. It is based on 42 in-depth interviews with women who sexually identify as lesbian, bisexual, or queer (herein abbreviated as LBQ). In addition, it draws from 14 months of participant observation at LBQ Latina events which the author conducted in 2007-2008 in a major northeast city. With this data, the author explores how LBQ Latinas manage loving relationships with their partners, the families who raised them and their friends. Furthermore, the author provides a gendered analysis of how sexually nonconforming Latinas reconcile their sexualities, negotiate cultural expectations and combat compulsory heterosexuality with families of origin. Amigas y Amantes offers a new way of thinking about the work involved in doing family. It highlights the distinct kind of emotion work which LBQ Latinas do in their efforts to merge families of choice and origin. In doing so, Amigas y Amantes contributes to the queering of emotion work.

**Peer-Reviewed Published Articles:**

Acosta, Katie L., *Forthcoming*. Cultivating a Lesbiana Seria Identity. *Sexualities.*

Kail, Ben Lennox, **Katie L. Acosta**, and Eric R. Wright. 2015. State Level Marriage

Equality and the Health of Same Sex Couples. *American Journal of Public Health* 105

(6): 1101-1105.

Acosta, Katie. *2011*. The Language of (In)Visibility: Using In-Between Spaces as

a Vehicle for Empowerment in the Family. *Journal of Homosexuality* 58 (6-

7):883-900.

Acosta, Katie*.* 2010. *“How Could You Do This To Me?"* How Lesbian, Bisexual and

Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Disclosure with their Families. *Black Women Gender &*

*Families 4 (1): 1-23* .

* Reprinted in *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader,* edited by Mindy Stombler,

Dawn Baunach Wendy Simmonds, Elroi Windsor and Elisabeth Burgess*.* Fourth

EditionW.W. Norton & Company 2014.

Asencio, Marysol and **Katie Acosta**. 2009*.* Migration, Gender Conformity, and Social Mobility

among Puerto Rican Sexual Minorities. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy 6 (3): 34-*

*43.*

Acosta, Katie. 2008. Lesbianas in the Borderlands: Shifting Identities and Imagined

Communities. *Gender and Society 22 (5): 639-659*.

**Published Book Chapters:**

Asencio, Marysol and Katie Acosta. 2016.  Una Cartografía De Las Sexualidades Latinas

En Estados Unidos (Introducción), En *Sexualidades Latinas en Estados Unidos*,

Marysol Asencio, editora,  London, England: Frontpage Publications Limited.

Acosta, Katie. *2011*. Sexual Citizenship: Marriage, Adoption and Immigration in the

United States in *In Our Own Backyard: Human Rights, Injustice, and Resistance*

*in the United* *States.* edited by Bandana Purkayastha, Davita Glasberg, and William Armaline, Pennsylvania,University of Pennsylvania Press.

Asencio, Marysol and **Katie Acosta**. 2009. Introduction: Mapping Latina/o Sexualities Research

and Scholarship. In *Latina/o Sexualities: Probing Powers, Practices, Passions and Policies.* edited by Marysol Asencio, New Jersey, Rutgers University Press.

Acosta, Katie. 2007. “This Would All Be Solved if Only We Could Get Married”:

Queer Marriages and Immigration Policy. Pp. 21-40 in *Sexual Politics of Desire*

*and Belonging,* edited by Alejandro Cervantes-Carson and Nick Rumens. Amsterdam, Rodopi Press.

**Book Reviews:**

Acosta, Katie. 2013. “Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Desire among Dominican

Immigrant Men, by Carlos Ulises Decena.” *Contemporary Sociology* 42 (1): 75-76.

**Other Publications:**

Acosta, Katie L. 2014. We Are Family. *Contexts*, winter issue (invited submission).

Acosta, Katie L. forthcoming. “Feminisms, Latina”. *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of*

*Gender and Sexuality Studies* (invited submission)

Acosta, Katie L. forthcoming. Latina/o Sexualities. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies*

(invited submission)

**WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

Acosta, Katie L., *In the Event of Death*: Lesbian Families’ Plans to Preserve Stepparent-Child

Relationships (under review)

**Acosta, Katie L.,** Ben Lennox Kail, Eric R. Wright. The Impact of Children on Parents’ Health:

Same Sex Parents, Opposite-Sex Cohabiting and Heterosexual Married Couples

Compared

Acosta, Katie L., Stepping Into Queer Parenting (Book-length Manuscript)

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

Spring 2012 Tulane University, COR Research Fellowship ($4,400)

Spring 2011 Newcomb College, Summer Research Fellowship ($2,500)

Summer 2010 Stone Center Summer Faculty Research Grant ($3,000)

Spring 2010 Tulane University, COR Research Fellowship ($8,500)

**PAPERS READ:**

Spring 2016 *In the Event of Death*: Lesbian Families’ Plans to Preserve

Stepparent-Child Relationships. Panel Participant. Southern Sociological Society, April 2016, Atlanta, GA.

Fall 2015 “Soy Lesbiana y Mi Pareja es Morena”: How Sexually

Nonconforming Latinas Navigate Interracial/Interethnic Relationships. Invited Speaker, Emory University- The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference, October 2015, Atlanta, Georgia.

Fall 2015 Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Latinas Doing Family and

Negotiating Acceptance. Invited Panelist, Indiana University-Latino Studies Program, September 2015, Bloomington, Indiana.

Summer 2015 Latina/o Sexualities Research: Emerging Discourses from within

the Constraints of the Academy. Invited Panelist, American Sociological Association, August 2015, Chicago, IL.

Summer 2015 Claiming Space, Finding Voice and Challenging Institutional

Boundaries in Race, Sexuality and Family Research. Invited Panelist, Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 2015, Chicago, IL.

Summer 2014 “But I Don’t Want Rich, Spoiled Kids”: Racial and Cultural

Tensions in Lesbian Stepparent Families. Invited Panelist,

Association for Black Sociologists, August 2014, San

Francisco, CA.

Spring 2014 New Directions in Latin@ Sexualities Research. Invited

Panelist, Rutgers University, April 2014, New Brunswick, NJ

Spring 2014 Stepping into Queer Parenting, Invited Speaker, University of

West Georgia, April 2014, Carrollton, GA

Spring 2014 Stepping into Queer Parenting, Panel Participant, Southern

Sociological Society, April 2014, Charlotte, NC

Spring 2012Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Latinas Gaining Familial Acceptance

through Gender Conformity. Panel Participant, Southern Sociological Society, April 2012, New Orleans, LA.

Spring 2011 Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Latinas Doing Family and

Negotiating Acceptance. Invited Panelist, Council on Contemporary Families, April 2011. Chicago, IL.

Fall 2010 "Mami Soy Lesbiana y Mi Pareja es Morena": How Sexually

Nonconforming Latinas Navigate Interracial/Interethnic

Same-Sex Relationships. Panel Participant. Latin American

Studies Association, October 2010. Toronto, Canada.

Summer 2010 Boundaries Identities and Layers of Belonging in One Latina Lesbian Social Group. American Sociological Association, August

2010. Atlanta, GA.

Spring 2010 The Language of Invisibility. Panel Participant, Lavender

Languages, April 2010. Washington, DC.

Spring 2010 Navigating the Academic Job Market. Panel Participant, Southern

Sociological Society, April 2010. Atlanta, GA.

Spring 2010 Boundaries Identities and Layers of Belonging in One Latina

Lesbian Social Group. Panel Participant, Southern Sociological

Society, April 2010. Atlanta, GA.

Spring 2009 “*How Could You Do This To Me?”* How Lesbian, Bisexual and

Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Disclosure with their Families,

Panel Participant, Eastern Sociological Association, February,

2009. Baltimore, MD.

Summer 2008 What is Latina/o Sexualities? What are the Implications of this

Research for Social Workers? University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Presented in Spanish to social workers from the University of

Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

Spring 2008 Lesbianas in the Borderlands: Shifting Identities and Imagined Communities. Invited lecturer, Out to Lunch Series, Rainbow Center, University of Connecticut.

Fall 2007 Latina/o Sexualities Workshop. Panel Participant. Rethinking the

Latino Intellectual Ecology, October, 2007, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

Summer 2006 U.S. Asylum Policy and Sexual Orientation: How Gays and

Lesbians Experience Legality. Panel Participant, Society for the

Study of Social Problems, August, 2006. Montreal, CA.

Summer 2006 How Gays and Lesbians Experience Legality through US Asylum

Policies. Panel Participant, Law and Society Association July,

2006. Baltimore, MD.

Winter 2006 Sexualizing Immigration Scholarship: Gays and Lesbians Creating

Empowering Spaces through Immigration. Panel Participant,

Eastern Sociological Society, February, 2006. Boston, MA.

Spring 2005 Invisible Immigrant’s Experience: Exploring the Lives of Gay and

Lesbian Immigrants from Latin America. Panel Participant,

Human Rights Recruitment Conference April, 2005. Storrs, CT.

Fall 2005 “This Would All Be Solved if Only We Could Get Married”:

Queers, Marriage, and Immigration Policy. Panel Participant, Sex

And Sexualities Conference November, 2005. Vienna, Austria.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

* *Families and Society*
* *Race and Ethnic Relations*
* *Social Problems*
* *Gender in Latin America*
* *Foundations to Sociology*
* *Race in the Americas*
* *Race, Class, & Gender*
* *Latinos: Sex and Gender*
* *Sociology Field Experience*, *La Romana, Dominican Republic*.

***Graduate Students-Georgia State University***

MA Thesis Committee Chair

Penny Harvey

Claire James

Dissertation Committee Member

Lanier Basenberg

Neal Carnes

***Graduate Students –Tulane University***

Spring 2012 MA Thesis Committee Member, Andrew Zach Schultz

Spring 2011 MA Thesis Committee Member, Emily Schulman

Spring 2010 MA Thesis Committee Chair, Corey Waters

Spring 2010 MA Thesis Committee Member, Amanda Magdalena

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Spring 2015- Spring 2017 Southern Sociological Society, Executive Committee Member (elected member)

Spring 2013-Spring 2014 Southern Sociological Society, Program Committee Member (invited committee member)

Spring 2012-Spring 2014 Sociologists for Women in Society, Membership Committee (elected member)

Spring 2011 Member for Newcomb College Institutes' Keynote Speaker Planning Committee

Summer 2011and 2012 Summer Transition Program Faculty Mentor

Reviewer for Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Homosexuality, Sociological Inquiry, American Journal of Public Health, Social Problems, PSC CUNY Research Proposals, Oxford University Press, and W.W. Norton.

**ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Spring 2007 University of Connecticut, Puerto Rican/Latin American

Cultural Center Scholarship Award for commitment to Latino issues through leadership and service

Spring 2006 - Spring 2008 University of Connecticut, Department of Sociology Pre-

Doctoral Fellowship Recipient

Fall 2003- Spring 2009 University of Connecticut, Graduate School, Multicultural

Fellowship Recipient

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Sociologists for Women in Society

American Sociological Association

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Southern Sociological Society

Latin American Studies Association