

Smith's MMUF Alumnae with Recent PhD's



Teresa Irene Gonzales AC '07

Teresa Irene Gonzales 'AC '07 began the PhD program in Sociology at U.C. Berkeley in the Fall of 2007. She obtained her M.A. in 2009 and her PhD candidacy in 2014. Her research interests center around issues of gentrification and Latina/o small businesses, ethno-racial tourism as local economic development within minority urban neighborhoods, and the role of networks in shaping development within low-income urban communities. It questions how relationships between community-based organizations, non-local intermediaries, government bodies, and philanthropic agencies, influence the distribution of resources to low-income neighborhoods and shape development within these communities. In response to the "whitewashing" of Tony Mendez in the movie *Argo*, she recently co-authored a piece on the Everyday Sociology blog. In addition to her academic work, she has mentored several undergraduate students, sits on the advisory board of a community development corporation in Chicago, and spends her free time eating copious amounts of really good food and hanging out with her pets. Teresa is currently teaching Sociology as an Assistant Professor at Knox College in Illinois.



Elan Hope '08

Elan Hope, Class of 2008, is native of Prince George's County, Maryland. Elan was introduced to research in psychology during her sophomore year at Smith and went on to complete an honors thesis in psychology on religious orientation and alcohol use among college women. In addition to work in the lab, Elan participated in the Student Government Association, the Black Student Alliance, and Residence Life during her time at Smith. Her dissertation work focuses on understanding how efficacy beliefs and critical analysis of social issues are related to civic engagement and academic

success among Black youth. Elan is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Student Research award as well as the University of Michigan Rackham Merit Fellowship. Elan has completed her dissertation and is applying to jobs as a post-doctoral research fellow.

Sylvia Zamora '04



Sylvia Zamora is from South Gate, California. She is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research is broadly motivated by questions concerning how Latin American migration to the U.S. transforms social, political and racial dynamics in American society. Currently, she is completing her dissertation examining how migration transforms Mexicans' understandings of race, and the implications of this for immigrant and native group relations in the U.S. Her work has been recognized with awards from the International Migration and Racial and Ethnic Minorities Sections of the *American Sociological Association*. At Smith, Sylvia double majored in Latin American Studies and Sociology, where she was awarded the Wahrsager Scholarship.



Mecca Jamilah Sullivan '03

Mecca Jamilah Sullivan's research and teaching interests include African-American and Afrodiasporic literatures, gender and sexuality studies, contemporary American literature, and theories of difference. Her dissertation explores the connections between voice, identity, and narrative and poetic strategy in global black women's literature from the post-civil rights era through the present moment. Mecca received her PhD in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, and has received fellowships for her work in women's literature of the African Diaspora. She was a postdoctoral fellow in African American and African Diaspora Literature at Rutgers University, and, in 2014, will begin as Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at UMass, Amherst.