

# Veronica Diaz, PhD

diazver@fiu.edu

## Education

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*Doctor of Philosophy in Global and Sociocultural Studies* 2016-2021

Florida International University

- Specialization: Sociocultural Anthropology
- Dissertation: *The (Cuban-) American Dream of Post-Soviet Era Cuban Émigrés: Perceptions vs. Realities*

*Master of Science in Higher Education Administration* 2013-2014

Florida International University

*Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education* 2001-2004

Florida International University

## Research

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- Contributing to the field of Cuban Studies, my research reveals how Cuban émigrés of the “Wet Foot/Dry Foot” period conceptualized the American Dream prior to migration, how they feel about discrepancies between expectations and lived realities, and how they negotiate their cultural identities. My work contributes more broadly to the field of migration studies by using participant narratives to better understand how immigrants define and measure adaptation and sense of belonging to US society, and how their experiences inform their cultural identities.

## Teaching Experience

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### *Academic Appointments*

#### **Adjunct Professor**

**Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies- Florida International University**

*Fall 2019 to Present*

- SYD 3804 Sociology of Gender
- SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology
- SYP 3456 Societies in the World
- SYD 4237 Immigration and Refugees

#### **Adjunct Professor**

**Liberal Studies Department- Florida International University**

*Spring 2019 to Present*

- HUM 1020 Introduction to Humanities
- IDS 4890 Capstone

**Adjunct Professor**  
**Honors College, Florida International University**  
*Fall 2015 to Present*

- IDH 1931 Introduction to Honors
- IDH 3035 The American Dream: Cubans in the US

**Instructor**  
**Florida International University**  
*Fall 2015 to Summer 2020*

- SLS 1501 First Year Experience

***K-12 Education Experience***

**Psychology Teacher**  
**Woodside High School- Newport News, VA**  
*2010 to 2012*

- Taught Introduction to Psychology and Advanced Placement Psychology
- Prepared students to pass the AP exam
- Sponsor of “Operation Smile” to raise awareness and funds for children born with cleft lips and pallets

**Social Studies Teacher**  
**Newport News Behavioral Health Center- Newport News, VA**  
*2009-2010*

- Taught Social Studies to middle/high school students with emotional disabilities
- Updated Individualized Education Plans
- Met with social service professionals, parents, parole officers, psychologists, and administrators in order to help the students with their personal and educational needs

**Social Studies Teacher**  
**Weis Middle School- Galveston, TX**  
*2005 to 2009*

- Responsible for teaching the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
- Earned over one hundred Continuing Professional Education credit hours
- Home-schooled homebound students
- Participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century after-school program
- Member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

**Social Studies Teacher**  
**SIATech Charter High-School**  
*2004-2005*

- Taught American Government, American History, World History, Economics, and Creative Technology
- Member of the Governing Board of Directors for Miami-Dade SIATech Charter High School

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**Professional/Administrative Experience**

***Higher Education Administrative Experience***

**Sr. Academic Advisor & Project Lead**  
**College of Arts, Sciences, & Education- Florida International University**

*2014 to Present*

- Provide guidance and support to help students achieve academic goals
- Help students with the selection of appropriate majors
- Attend Professional Development workshops/events to increase knowledge of theories and interventions and improve the quality of academic advising
- Collaborate with the Office of Academic and Career Success to increase retention and graduation rates
- Certify Student-Athletes Progress Toward Degree form (PTDs)
- Process course directives to correct discrepancies within the student's course audit (PDA)
- Conduct new advisor training sessions
- Create and conduct workshops to train advisors on department programs and processes
- Pre-Health Professions Advising and Evaluation Committee Member
- Manage the Excess Credit Process for the College of Arts, Sciences and Education
- Query, assign, and distribute lists of active petitions to the excess credit team
- Help students connect with appropriate engagement and career development opportunities

**Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Coordinator**  
**Florida International University**

*2012-2015*

- Managed the appeals process for students that failed to meet the federal government's Standards of Academic Progress requirements
- Organized and mediated final appeal meetings
- Collaborated with the FIU's Office of Graduation and Success Initiative to educate advisors, students, and other staff members about financial aid renewal criteria to increase retention.
- Supervised Federal Work Study students, manage schedules, and delegate tasks
- Updated policies and procedures for financial aid processes
- Evaluated and processed professional judgment and dependency override requests
- Processed financial aid queries to comply with Federal rules and regulations
- Developed and conducted staff training and workshops
- Provided excellent and efficient customer service to students, faculty, and staff via email, telephone, and in-person appointments
- Served as member of hiring committees for various departments within enrollment services
- Delivered financial aid presentations during freshmen orientation and SLS courses

**Financial Aid Coordinator**  
**National School of Technology**

*1998-2004*

- Responsible for interviewing, counseling, and completing the required financial aid applications for prospective and current students
- Responsible for conducting entrance/exit interviews, completing verification, importing/exporting ISIRS, processing private loan applications and loan request forms
- Responsible for keeping up with the changes in the Federal Guidelines

## Licenses and Certifications

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- *Florida International University Remote Teach Ready Badge*  
*Earned August 24, 2020*
- *CITI Certificate – Social/Behavioral Human Research Course*  
*Expires November 14, 2022*
- *FIU's Hybrid and Learning Certification Program*  
*Certification earned in Fall 2021*

## Leadership Programs

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- Florida International University's Council for Undergraduate Academic Advising  
*Technology Committee (since Fall 2022)*
- Florida International University's Diversity, Equity, & Belonging- Manager's Series  
*Spring 2022 Cohort*
- Florida International University's Presidential Leadership Program (PLP)  
*2020 Cohort*
- Florida International University's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP)  
*Certificate of Completion 2014*

## Awards

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### *Florida International University's Council for Undergraduate Academic Advising*

- *2022 Advisor of the Year*

## Professional Projects & Presentations

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### *Excess Credit Case Studies: Creator and Workshop Facilitator (2022)*

- Developed and hosted an excess credit workshop series for CASE advisors to help them learn/review the excess credit petition process.

### *Customizing your Avatar with a Liberal Studies Degree, Creator and Panelist (2019)*

#### *Winner- Best Conference Panel Presentation*

- Council for Undergraduate Academic Advisor Spring Advisors Conference
- Objective: Educate Advisors on how a Liberal Studies major can benefit students with varied interests or students that are struggling in their majors.

### *Re-Imagining the Humanities: Creator and Workshop Facilitator (2019)*

- Created presentation to train CASE advisors on how students can customize their Liberal Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies Degree by adding minor and/or certificates that will enhance their profile, help improve GPA, and/or guarantee timely graduation

### *New Advisor Training Presentations: Excess Credit Process, and Liberal Studies Major (2019)*

- Created presentations that will be used to train new advisors during their first week

### *Humanities Transfer Orientation Presentation (2019)*

- Created an orientation presentation to be used in all transfer orientations for transfer students that declared a Humanities major offered within the College of Arts, Sciences, & Education (English, Women & Gender Studies, philosophy, or Liberal/Interdisciplinary Studies)

### ***Financial Aid Presentation (2014)***

- Presented at the Council for Undergraduate Academic Advising's Annual Forum (2014)

## **Professional Affiliations**

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- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

## **Academic Conferences**

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### ***Latin American Studies Association (May 4, 2022)***

*Presentation Title: The (Cuban-) American Dream of Post-Soviet Era Cuban Immigrants: Perceptions vs. Realities*

- *Panelist: The Last Wave: Recent Work on the Cuban Exodus*

### ***Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (August 14, 2021)***

*Presentation Title: The (Cuban-) American Dream of Post-Soviet Era Cuban Émigrés: Perceptions vs. Realities*

- *Panelist: The Last Wave: Recent Work on the Cuban Exodus*

### ***Twelfth Annual Conference for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (February 15th, 2019)***

*Presentation Title: The (Cuban-) American Dream*

- *Panel Chair and Panelist: Political and Cultural Dimensions of Cuban Migration Patterns*