

**Rita M. Melendez, Ph.D.**

San Francisco State University  
Human Sexuality Studies  
Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality  
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**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University, Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health**

Master of Science, Biostatistics, October 2002  
Clinical Research Methods Track

**Yale University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, May 2001.

*Dissertation Title:* "Body Ethic: Women, the Work Ethic and Concepts of the Body"

Conducted in-depth interviews and statistical analysis to examine how people talk about their work lives and bodies. My research demonstrates that women, more than men, discuss their bodies in a manner consistent with work values. Women often use feminist discourses to justify a concentration on their appearances and bodies.

Master of Science, Sociology, May 1994  
Dissertation Fellowship Award, 1998

University of California at Berkeley  
Bachelor of Science, Sociology, 1992

- Member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society
  - Minor in French
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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**San Francisco State University**

January 2004  
to present

*Assistant Professor in Human Sexuality Studies*  
Chair, Graduate Committee and Graduate Coordinator  
Chair, Undergraduate Committee and Adviser

*Acting Director and Research Associate at the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality*

## **Columbia University**

June 2007 to  
present

*Visiting Research Scholar at the School of Social Work*

December 2000  
to January 2004

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies*

National Research Service Award Research Training Fellowship for Behavioral Sciences Research in HIV. Concentration on sexuality training. Conducted collaborative work on a variety of HIV prevention projects. Research included examining the effectiveness of the intervention on secondary outcomes and among women with a history of intimate partner violence.

Designed and conducted pilot research examining HIV risk behaviors of male-to-female transgender individuals attending a community clinic in the Bronx.

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **San Francisco State University, Human Sexuality Studies**

Spring 2004  
to present

*Assistant Professor, Human Sexuality Studies*

- Total of 13 classes taught to date.
- Designed graduate level research methods and design courses focusing on sexuality research
- Teach Undergraduate Sex, Power and Politics course
- Teach Professional Development course to second semester MA students
- Designed new course on Ethnicity, Health and Sexuality

Summer 2005

- Summer Institute Co-Instructor for Mixed Methods in Sexuality Research

Summer 2004  
Research

- Summer Institute Instructor for Qualitative Methods in Sexuality

### **Yale University**

Spring 1999

*Head Teaching Fellow, Culture and Society in America, Sociology*

- Assisted with creation of course outline and general administration.
- Conducted weekly seminars reviewing and extending course material.

Spring 1998

*Instructor, Historical Approaches to Sociology*

- Designed course syllabus and selected course readings.

- Students required to use archival materials for research project.

Spring 1997  
to Fall 1994

*Teaching Fellow*

- Formation of Modern American Culture, American Studies Dept.
- Methods of Inquiry, Sociology Department (twice)
- Culture and Society in America, Sociology Department (twice)
- Social Deviance, Sociology Department

## TRAINING

**HIV Intervention Science Training Program for Racial/Ethnic Minority Investigators** at Columbia University’s School of Social Work. The program provides two-week training on grant writing, mentorship and 10K in funds for a research project.

**Minority Researcher Infrastructure Support Program (MRISP)**  
Training by Rafael Diaz, selected from SFSU faculty to participate in Grant Writing workshop, 2004.

**Office of AIDS Research and National Institutes of Health**  
Training and Career Development Workshop on HIV Prevention Research for and by Racial and Ethnic Minorities. July 26-27, 2003, Atlanta, Georgia.

**The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction**  
2002 Summer Research Institute “Interventions for High Risk Sexual Behavior: Design, Implementation and Evaluation.” June 9-16, 2002 at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

**Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry**  
Training by Gary Dowsett, Ph.D. at the HIV Center, Columbia University, October 16–20, 2000.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

Pinto, R.M., Melendez, R.M., Spector, A. (In Press). Male-to-female transgender individuals building social support and capital from within a gender-focused network. *The Journal of Gay and Lesbians Social Services: Policy and practice*, 20.

Melendez, R.M. and Pinto, R.M. (2007). ‘It’s really a hard life:’ Safety, gender and HIV risk among male-to-female transgender persons. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, 9, 3:233-245.

Sandfort, T.M., Melendez, R.M., Díaz, R. (2007). Gender nonconformity, Homophobia, and Mental Health in Latino Gay Men. *Journal of Sex Research*, 44, 2:181-189.

Melendez, R.M., Bonem, L.A. and Sembler, R. (2006). On Research and Bodies: Issues in transgender HIV research. *Sexual Research and Social Policy*, 3, 4: 21-38.

Melendez, R.M., Exner, T.E., Ehrhardt, A.A., Dodge, B., Remien, R.H., Rotheram-Borus, M.J., Lightfoot, M., Hong, D. and the NIMH Healthy Living Project Team. (2006). Health and Health Care Among Male-to-Female Transgender Persons Who Are HIV Positive, *American Journal of Public Health*, 96, 6:1034-7.

Dworkin, S.L, Exner, T.E., Melendez, R., Hoffman, S. & Ehrhardt, A.A. (2006). Revisiting “Success”: Post-Trial Qualitative Results From a Gender-Specific HIV Intervention for Women. *AIDS & Behavior*, 26:1-11.

Heintz, A.J. and Melendez, R.M. (2006). Intimate Partner Violence and HIV/STD Risk among LGBT. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21, 2:193-208.

Whittier, D.K. and Melendez, R.M. (2004). Intersubjectivity in the Intrapsychic Sexual Scripting of Gay Men. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, 6, 2:131-143.

Melendez, R.M., Hoffman, S., Exner, T., Leu, C.-S. and Ehrhardt, A.A.. (2003). Intimate Partner Violence and Safer Sex Negotiation: Effects of a Gender-Specific Intervention. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 32: 499-511.

Hirky, A.E., Kirshenbaum, S.B., Melendez, R.M., Rollet, C., Perkins, S.L., and Smith, R.A. (2003). The Female Condom: Attitudes and Experiences of HIV-Positive Women. *Women and Health*, 37: 71-89.

### **Book chapters**

Melendez, R.M. (2007). No place to call home: Transgender persons, discrimination and HIV. In Howe, C. and Herdt, G. (eds.) *21<sup>st</sup> Century Sexualities: Contemporary Issues in Health, Education and Rights*. New York: Routedledge Press.

Whittier, D.K. and Melendez, R.M. (2007). Sexual Scripting and self-process: Intersubjectivity among gay men. In Kimmel, M. (ed.) *The sexual self: The construction of sexual scripts*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 191 -210.

Melendez, R.M. and Tolman D.L. (2006). Gender, Vulnerability and Young People. In Mane, P. and Aggleton, P. (eds.) *Sex, Drugs and Young People*. London: Taylor and Francis, 29-47.

### **Factsheets**

Rita M. Melendez with Valerie Spencer and David Whittier. Transgender Persons and HIV Prevention. Factsheet prepared for CDC, found at:  
<http://www.effectiveinterventions.org/References/TransgenderedPersons.pdf>

Rita M. Melendez. Latinas and HIV. Factsheet prepared for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA).

Rita M. Melendez. Transgender Latinas and HIV. Factsheet prepared for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA).

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Religion, Dress and the Body. (2001). Edited by Linda B. Arthur. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40, 2.

Review of Scripture and Ethics: Twentieth-Century Portraits. (1998). Jeffrey S. Siker. *Review of Religious Research*, 40, 1.

### **Manuscripts under review:**

Melendez, R.M. and Pinto, R.M., Klein, S. Exner, T.E. Promoting Access to Primary and Preventive Care for Male-to-Female Transgender Individuals.

### **Manuscripts in preparation**

Melendez, R.M., Sorsoli, L., Tolman, D. Religious Beliefs and Sexual Behaviors of Latino adolescents.

Melendez, R.M., Sorsoli, L., Pinto, R.M., Tolman, D. Latino Adolescent Immigrants and Sexual Health.

Melendez, R.M., Gomez, C. Latina and African American women's religious attitudes and safer sex behaviors.

Gomez, C., Melendez, R.M., Suren, A. Cultural Competency and HIV Prevention.

Melendez, R.M., Sandfort, T., Díaz, R., Young, D. Gender and HIV Risk Behaviors among Latino Gay and Bisexual Men.

Melendez, R.M. Review of Valentine, D. Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category

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## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

June 2007                      HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University

- Grand Rounds
- Latinos, Gender, and HIV: Analysis of Latino Immigrant Adolescents

January 2007                      CDC community based organization capacity building

- Transgender Latinas and HIV
- Presentation to national community based organizations

- October 2006      CDC community based organization capacity building
- Latinas and HIV
  - Presentation to national community based organizations
- December 2005      San Francisco State University World AIDS Day
- Women of Color: HIV risk and treatment
- December 2004      Psychology Department, San Francisco State University, Developmental Brown Bag
- Overview of HIV Risks among Male-to-Female Transgenderers
- April 2004          Cesar E. Chavez Research-Practice Forum addressing health disparities among ethnic minority youth
- Sexuality and Gender roundtable facilitator
- March 2004          Gender Working Group at the New York State Psychiatric Institute
- Gender and HIV among Male-to-Female Transgenderers
- January 2004        HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University
- Grand Rounds
  - HIV Issues among Male-to-Female Transgenderers: Preliminary findings

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- November 2007      American Public Health Association, Washington DC
- Latino immigrant adolescents and gender ideology: Implications for safer sex
- March 2007          Pacific Sociological Association Meeting, Oakland, CA
- Presider and discussant for “Movement Research: Partnership between social justice organizations, funders, and researchers”
- March 2006          Society for Research on Adolescents
- “They say no to see if the man will seek her out:” Latino adolescents, TV and coercion (poster presentation)
- December 2005      American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA
- HIV Positive Male-to-Female Transgender Individuals: Health care needs
- June 2005            International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society
- Health Care Needs of HIV Positive Male-to-Female Transgender Persons
- February 2004        Couch-Stone Winter Symposium of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

- *Sexual Self Process: Intersubjectivity in the intrapsychic sexual scripting of gay men* Joint presentation with David Whittier
  - August 2003 American Sociological Association, Sexuality Section, Atlanta, GA
    - *Roundtable discussant Rethinking sexuality, health, and “risk”*
  - November 2002 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Montreal, Canada.
    - *Negotiation Skills in a Gender-Specific HIV Intervention Program: Project FIO*
  - August 2000 American Sociological Association, Gender Section, Washington, D.C.
    - *Women, Control and the Body: How Feminism Influences Women’s Understanding of the Bodies with Regards to Eating Disorders and Work*
  - November 1998 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Montreal, Canada.
    - *Dissertation Writing Workshop*
  - March 1998 Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA.
    - *Modernity and Self-Conception: Public labor and the private body*
  - March 1997 Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD.  
Joint presentation with Debora Paterniti
    - *Rationality and the Body: An examination of medical discourses as relating to normal and abnormal visions of gender*
  - November 1996 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Nashville, TN.
    - *The Sacred Body: Images of the human body as relating to capitalism, work and religion*
  - August 1995 American Sociological Association, Culture Section, Washington D.C.
  - March 1995 Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA.
  - April 1995 Works-in-Progress, Yale University, Sociology Department’s Annual Conference.
    - *The Modern Confessional: A Foucaultian study of contemporary confession in the lives of Catholics and gays*
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## SERVICE

### San Francisco State University

- Sept. 2006 to present Graduate Coordinator, Department of Sexuality Studies
- Coordinate and advise on all aspects of MA program

- Developed and implemented a faculty mentor program
- Conduct evaluation and assessment of MA program
- Serve as liaison between faculty and graduate students
- Developed and coordinated annual conference for graduate students to present their research – The SF State of Sexuality

Sept. 2004 to Aug 2006 Undergraduate Adviser, Department of Sexuality Studies

- Handled administrative duties relating to two minors in Sexuality Studies Department.
- Attended campus events geared for incoming undergraduate students.
- Served as liaison between faculty and Sexuality Studies minors.

Fall 2005 IRB Member at SFSU

Spring 2006 Larsen Award Committee

Spring 2006 Junior Faculty Search Committee

Fall 2006 IRB Member at SFSU

### **National AIDS Fund**

March 2007 to present Provide technical assistance with regard to research methodologies and practices to two community based organizations funded through the National AIDS Fund and Johnson & Johnson for research on and prevention of HIV among women and families. Cynthia Gomez leads the technical assistance team.

### **National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC)**

September 2006 to present Project Coordinator for *Sexualidades Latinas*, a Spanish Language online magazine covering topics in sexuality for Latinos.

February 2005 to present Editorial Board for Sexuality Research and Social Policy: Journal of the National Sexuality Resource Center

March 2003 to present Editorial Board for American Sexualities Magazine

### **Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program (BSSV)**

September 2004 to present Volunteer with community-based organizations to assist in research related tasks

### **Columbia University, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Sciences**

- Dec 2003 *New York City's HIV Centers Consortium Conference*
- Executive committee member
  - Responsible for planning the first annual consortium for all HIV-related research centers in the New York area
- 2003 to 2004 *MOSAIC Program*
- Teach seminars on sexuality research methods for undergraduate students from New York City area colleges
  - Assist with course curriculum and administration of program
- 2000 to 2003 *STAR (Sexuality Training and Research) Program*
- Taught seminars in statistics and gender to individuals from local and national community-based organizations
  - Mentored the research projects of three individuals for community-based organizations

### **Yale University, Department of Sociology**

- 1994 to 1995 *Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Graduate Student Representative*
- Evaluated undergraduate curriculum and assisted in reorganization of course requirements
- 1994 *Hollingshead Lecture Committee*
- Gathered and evaluated sociological literature in search of annual lecture and award recipient. Research resulted in Arlie Hochschild's acceptance and lecture
- 1994 *Graduate Student Union, President*
- Organized academic full-day conference
  - Organized periodic meetings with graduate students
  - Attended faculty meetings to present graduate student perspectives

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### **GRANTS**

*HIV Intervention Science Training Program (HISTP) for Racial/Ethnic Minority Investigators* (funded) at Columbia University's School of Social Work. Awarded \$10,000 for research project to examine Latina and African American women's perspectives on HIV prevention in religious organizations.

*African-American Church Leaders, Gender and HIV Prevention (not funded)*: Developed and wrote grants as Principle Investigator; submitted three grants to NICHD requesting 275K in direct funds. Currently reworking grant in the HISTP program above and reformulating for the Ford Foundation. Received score placing grant in top 22 percentile of all grants received.

*Adolescent Perceptions of Risk in Research Participation (not funded)*: Submitted to NIMH for 275K in direct funds. Worked with Lynn Sorso (CRGS) to develop and submit grant.

*Minority Supplement to Deborah Tolman's Television Consumption and Teenage Behavior (R01) Grant, NICHD, (funded, generated roughly \$119,000 direct and \$31,000 indirect).*

*Developing research Partnerships to Support HIV-Related Services in Minority Communities (not funded)*: Submitted to NIMH for 275K in direct funds.

*HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies Pilot Grant(funded)* received to examine gender roles and safer sex negotiation among male-to-female transgenders. \$9,076 grant to conduct 20 in-depth interviews.

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## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (bilingual)

French

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## **REFERENCES**

Rafael M. Diaz, Ph.D.

Anke. A. Ehrhardt, Ph.D.

Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D.

Susie Hoffman, Dr. P.H.

Deborah L. Tolman, Ed.D.