

Kate Elizabeth Masley

Department of Health Sciences
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EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, August 2007

Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology, Advanced to Candidacy in August 2004,

Defended Dissertation in May 2007, GPA: 4.0

Dissertation Title: *Living the "Latina Paradox": An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, January 2002

Master of Arts in Medical Anthropology, GPA: 4.0

Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, May 1998

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Concentration in Women's Studies

Graduated Magna cum laude with highest departmental honors

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Cleveland State University, 8/07-Present

Teaching the following undergraduate and graduate courses: Culture and Health Care, Women's Health, and Health Disparities.

Graduate Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, 9/05-5/06;
8/00-5/02

As a graduate assistant in the CWRU Department of Anthropology, I lectured and led discussions in undergraduate and graduate classes (ANTH 314: *Cultures in the United States*, ANTH 504: *Anthropological Research Design*) along with proctoring and correcting undergraduate exams/papers.

TEACHING SPECIALTY AREAS

- Culture and Health Care
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Urban Health
- Anthropology of Women's Health and Reproductive Studies
- Race, Class, and Gender
- Cultures of the United States
- Latinas/os in the United States
- Political Economy of Health
- Anthropological/Ethnographic Research Methods

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS 0413836), 9/04-5/07

A grant funding my dissertation research, *Living the “Latina Paradox”: An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (ID: 0413836), 9/02-9/05

A three-year fellowship supporting my graduate education and living expenses.

National Science Foundation Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology Student, July 28, 2003-August 16, 2003

A three-week intensive workshop focusing on research design in cultural anthropological dissertation research projects and grant writing.

All-USA College Academic Second Team, February 1998

Recognized and honored for cross-cultural anthropological research on Honduran and Ohioan women’s experiences of pregnancy and childbirth by USA Today.

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

CWRU Baker-Nord Center for Humanities Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 7/06-5/07

A year-long fellowship to support and complete the writing of my dissertation titled, “Living the ‘Latina Paradox’: An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in NE Ohio.”

CWRU College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, 1/06-5/06

A semester-long fellowship (requires participation in weekly interdisciplinary seminars with doctoral students & includes stipend) to support the beginning stages of dissertation writing.

CWRU Baker-Nord Center for Humanities Graduate Research Grant, 12/05-Present

A grant covering my travel expenses for the purposes of collecting data for my dissertation research.

Phi Beta Kappa Grant from CWRU, April 2005

A grant supporting my dissertation research focusing on pregnancy management, childbirth practices, and ethnic identity among Mexican immigrant and Mexican Americans in Northeast Ohio.

CWRU Department of Anthropology Graduate Assistantship, 9/05-5/06; 8/00-5/02

CWRU Flora Stone Mather Center for Women Conference Scholarship Recipient, June 2005

A scholarship funding participation in the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference.

CWRU Endowment-Sponsored Mentorship Program Grant Recipient, September 2003

A grant funding the presentation of my paper, “Waiting and Gestating in the ‘Other America’: An Ethnography of an OB/GYN Clinic Waiting Room,” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in November 2003 in Chicago, IL.

Phi Beta Kappa Grant from CWRU, April 2003

A grant supporting my preliminary dissertation research on pregnancy management practices and the daily lives of Latinas in Cleveland, Ohio.

CWRU Department of Anthropology Urban Health Summer Grant, April 2003

A grant supporting my preliminary dissertation research on pregnancy management practices and the daily lives of Latinas in Cleveland, Ohio.

CWRU Eva L. Pancoast Fellowship, April 2001

A grant to conduct preliminary dissertation research in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras focusing on the pregnancy management practices and childbirth experiences among Honduran women.

RESEARCH/FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research

From 10/04-5/07, I conducted my dissertation research titled, *Living the “Latina Paradox”: An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*. My research was rooted in what many public health researchers call the “Latina Paradox.” According to this “paradox,” statistics show that Mexican women in the U.S. are generally having healthy babies. For example, generally speaking, their children are born of a healthy weight and rarely premature. Even though many Mexicans in the U.S. generally represent a low-income group, lack sufficient health insurance, and many maintain low education rates and low prenatal care utilization, Mexican women are still giving birth to healthy infants. My project sought to understand what Mexican women and families in the United States may be doing to help prevent poor infant health outcomes.

Preliminary Dissertation Research

From 9/03-8/04, I worked on a preliminary dissertation research project titled, “Investigating the Experiences of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Becoming a Mother Among Latinas in Cleveland.” This research was funded by CWRU’s Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society and the Department of Anthropology’s Urban Health Initiative. I conducted participant observation in the OB/GYN clinic at MetroHealth Medical Center’s McCafferty Health Center and conducted semi-structured interviews with pregnant Latinas and Latina mothers about their experiences of pregnancy, pregnancy management, childbirth, and motherhood.

Preliminary/Exploratory Dissertation Research Abroad

From 5/02-6/02, as a Case Western Reserve University Eva L. Pancoast Fellow, I conducted exploratory ethnographic research in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, in which my aims were as follows: 1.) to gain a better understanding of the ranges of pregnancy and birth contexts existing in Western Honduras and on a broader level, 2.) to gain a better understanding as to how Latin American women in their countries of origins take care of themselves and their unborn children during pregnancy.

Research Experience in Case Western Reserve University Faculty Projects

As a graduate assistant in the Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University, I have worked on faculty research projects funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, and the Cleveland Foundation in which I have collected, coded, and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data focusing on schizophrenia and domestic violence.

Past Research Experiences as an Undergraduate

My research experience began as an undergraduate anthropology student at Kenyon College. As the first cultural anthropology student to ever receive a Kenyon College Summer Science Scholar grant, I conducted a comparative ethnographic research project on women’s views towards pregnancy and childbirth both in Knox County, Ohio, and in the Department of Cortés, Honduras. This cross-cultural comparative study acted as my senior honors thesis.

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

Reviewer, Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, July 2007-Present
Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, May 1998 – Present
Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, May 1998 – Present
Sigma Delta Epsilon: Graduate Women in Science, September 2005 – Present
Society for Applied Anthropology, Member, October 2003-Present
Council on Anthropology and Reproduction, Member, March 2003-Present
Society for the Anthropology of North America, Member, 5/02-5/03, 3/06-Present
University's Advisory Council on Women, CWRU, Graduate Student Member, 11/02 – 8/04
American Anthropological Association, Member, September 2000-Present
Society for Medical Anthropology, Member, September 2000-Present
Association for Feminist Anthropology, Member, September 2000-Present
Graduate Discourse, CWRU Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Member, 8/00-Present
Doulas of North America (DONA) International, Member, February 2002-Present
Doula Network of Northeast Ohio, Member, February 2002-Present
HOLA (Hispanas Organizadas de Lake y Ashtabula), Member, November 2004 - Present
HOLA, Member, Board of Directors, November 2006-Present

RELATED WORK/ LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

DONA-Certified Birth Doula

Great Expectations Perinatal Services, Cleveland, Ohio, January 2004-Present

A birth doula is a trained labor support person that assists women during pregnancy and birth. I began training in January 2004 and have been a birth doula volunteer at MetroHealth Medical Center since September 2004. I became certified by DONA in October 2006.

SmartRevenue Ethnographer

Cleveland, Ohio and Northeast Ohio region, October 2006-Present

Conduct ethnographic research and interviews in local retail stores for consumer and market research.

Co-founder of the Women's Reproductive Health Forum

Case Western Reserve University, September 2001 – May 2003

The Women's Reproductive Health Forum was an interdisciplinary student group that focused on women's reproductive health issues and concerns along with bringing speakers to campus.

Lower and Middle School Spanish Teacher, Morgan Park Academy

Chicago, Illinois, August 1999-June 2000

Designed and implemented Spanish curriculum for students in kindergarten through sixth grade and incorporated Hispanic cultural appreciation and awareness.

Lower and Middle School Teacher, Hector Emilio Medina Bilingual School

Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, August 1998 – May 1999

I was responsible for creating and implementing curriculum for Honduran students in second, third, fourth, and sixth grades in all academic content areas.

CAMO Organizer and Volunteer, Central American Medical Outreach

Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, August 1998 – April 1999

I led and conducted art activities with children in a local hospital who were survivors of Hurricane Mitch. I organized medical supplies in a local hospital as part of Hurricane Mitch relief efforts. I also assisted the Director with data entry and performed clerical duties.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, “*La Partera, La Clinica, a Healthy Diet, Taking Care of Ourselves, and La Cuarentena: Pregnant and Postpartum Midwestern Mexicans Avoiding Disaster,*” Society for the Anthropology of North America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2007

Presenter, “The Anthropology of North America: Cited Not Nearly Enough and Still Earning Respect,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 2006

Co-organizer of panel, “So, you want to be anthropologist? The Politics, Pressures, and Pleasures of Conducting Fieldwork in the U.S.,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 2006

Presenter, “Exploring Pregnancy Management Among Latinas and Treating Them as Experts,” Society for Medical Anthropology and Society for Applied Anthropology Joint Meeting, Dallas, Texas, March 2004

Presenter, “Waiting and Gestating in the ‘Other America’: An Ethnography of an OB-GYN Clinic Waiting Room,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 2003

Presenter, “Addressing the ‘Latina Paradox’ in Ethnographic Fieldwork,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2002

Presenter, “Applying an Anthropological Analysis to the ‘Latina Paradox,’” Middle Atlantic Graduate Student Conference on Latin America, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, October 2002

Presenter, “Unraveling the ‘Latina Paradox,’” Society for the Anthropology of North America and Canadian Anthropology Society Joint Meeting, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, May 2002

Presenter, “Women’s Views on Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Motherhood: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Exploration,” Twelfth National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland, April 1998

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

Presenter of poster, “Living the ‘Latina Paradox’: Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio,” Research ShowCASE, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, April 2007

Presenter, “An Ethnography of Pregnancy Management Practices Among Latinas in Cleveland,” Urban Health Summer Research Fellows Roundtable, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, October 2003

Panelist, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Annual Forum on Feminism, Case Western Reserve University, October 2002

Presenter, “An Ethnographic Study on Honduran and Ohio Women’s Experiences of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Becoming a Mother,” University Women’s Coalition Meeting, Case Western Reserve University, March 2002

PUBLICATIONS AND THESES

Masley, K. 2007. *Living the "Latina Paradox": An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*. Ph.D. Dissertation, Case Western Reserve University.

Masley, K. "The Anthropology of North America: Cited Not Nearly Enough and Still Earning Respect," *North American Dialogue: The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of North America* 10(2007): 1-5.

Masley, K. "Notes from the Field," *Council on Anthropology and Reproduction Newsletter* 14(2007):6.

Masley, K. "Waiting and Gestating in the 'Other America': An Ethnography of an OB/GYN Clinic Waiting Room," *Graduate Discourse Journal: The Case Western Reserve University Journal of Medical Anthropology* 3(2007): 20-29.

Masley, K. "Dispelling the Myths and Shattering the Stereotypes Surrounding Latinas: Contributions from Ethnography and 'Alternative' Forms of Data," *Graduate Discourse Journal: A Journal of Student Work from Case Western Reserve University* 2(2003): 31-46.

Masley, K. "Unrolling from the 'Primitive' to the 'Civilized,'" *Graduate Discourse Journal: A Journal of Student Work from Case Western Reserve University* 1(2001): 65-73.

Masley, K. 1998. *Women's Views on Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Becoming a Mother: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study*. Honors Thesis, Kenyon College.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent), Maya Hieroglyphics