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## LA MERA VERDAD: EXPLORING IMMIGRANT LATINO FATHERHOOD

Jessica Martinez

*California State University – San Bernardino*

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LA MERA VERDAD:  
EXPLORING IMMIGRANT LATINO FATHERHOOD

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A Project  
Presented to the  
Faculty of  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Social Work

---

by  
Jessica Martinez

June 2020

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June 2020

Approved by:

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to gain a better understanding of the current experiences of immigrant Latino fathers and their families in Southern California, and to examine the barriers and facilitators that impacted their paternal involvement. The literature suggests that father-absence diminishes the ability of a child to thrive in life and yet immigrant Latino fathers are more at risk of all the factors that lead to father-absence, such as poverty and other added stressors. Likewise, these fathers have been noted to experience a lack of fathering in their childhood, which speaks on generational trauma creating the father wound within a family indicating the need for healing on childhood pain.

The study used a qualitative design with individual, in-depth interviews of ten participants recruited through snowball sampling and a non-profit faith-based organization. The interviews were conducted using a custom designed semi-structured interview guide to examine father's and adult family members' experiences and views of fatherhood, factors that influenced involvement with children, and impacts of immigration and cultural differences between home and adopted communities. The researcher conducted all of the interviews in Spanish. The interviews were transcribed by a professional transcription service and reviewed by the researcher for accuracy.

The findings suggest that the barriers and facilitators to Latino paternal involvement within the immigrant population include the following: fatherlessness, present but inattentive fathers, values and beliefs that help and hinder, legal

status, and painful childhoods with positive role models. The results of this study have implications for social work research, practice, and policy, including culturally sensitive evidence-based practices, cultural competency trainings, awareness and policy advocacy on immigration state laws, as well as partnerships with grassroots organizations providing accessible resources for the undocumented community.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Lanesskog, Assistant Professor of the Department of Social Work, who believed in me to the point where I applied to the 2019 Culminating Project Award for this research per her recommendation and won! She has been supportive of my research goals and worked actively to provide me with the resources and the academic mentorship to reach those goals. Also, a big thank you and shout out to the CSUSB Office of Student Research for the award of \$2,000 to support my Master Research Project.

I am also immensely grateful to everybody that I came in contact with during this study. Each of you have taught me the true meaning of relentlessness through your resiliency. I am honored to have listened to your stories and it is my hope that you see yourself as who you were always created to be — an overcomer.

Lastly and it is with great joy that I mention my family. To my mama, who carried me in her belly as she ran across the border dividing her world and my own. We collide in many ways, but her fierceness, laughter, and Peruvian blood have helped mold me into la mujer I am today. To my brother, who I am so proud of for the man he is, I love you forever brother bear. And to el amor de mi vida, thank you for existing. Your unconditional love during one of the hardest times of my life has changed me forever. One. Four. Three.

## DEDICATION

A mi padre biológico, Jose Abel Ramírez, tu sangre es mía pero también tus heridas crearon las mías. Te perdono por no ser el padre que tanto necesitaba. Te amaré para siempre. Ahora sé que puedo vivir sin ti. Ahora por fin puedo dejarte ir y ya no esperar a que vuelvas. Mi Verdadero Papá dice que soy Su Rosa Amada y ahora eso es más que suficiente para mí.



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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### Problem Formulation

A father's presence is a vital necessity for every child's wellbeing.

Substantial research has shown that growing up without a father is associated with increased risk of poverty, substance abuse, incarceration, mental illness, teen pregnancy, disrespect for authority figures, and an inability to cope with trauma in later adulthood (Anderson, Kohler, & Letiecq, 2002; Bilchik, Seymour, & Kreisher, 2001; Swinger, 2009; Turner & Peck, 2002; Botèro, 2012; Markowitz & Ryan, 2016). Unfortunately, about a third of our nation's children do not have a father in their life (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). The communities that suffer the most fatherlessness among the general population are people of color.

Specifically, roughly one out of every three Latino children are fatherless in comparison to one in every five white children (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016).

Latinos are one of the largest ethnic groups in the United States and they are estimated to make up 30% of the nation's population by 2060 and making up more than half of those living here undocumented (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016; Migration Policy Institute, 2017). These numbers are alarming that they paint a clear picture of risk for a growing population of Latino youth. In fact, recent and past studies show that immigrant communities are more vulnerable to acculturative stress (Hovey & Magaña, 2000; Smart & Smart, 1995). Many of

these individuals have also fled to the United States from mass violence and/or traumatic events only to encounter more human rights abuses during their crossing (Torres & Wallace, 2013; Perreira & Ornelas, 2013; Rosseau & Drapeau, 2004).

There are several factors that contribute to Latino father absence. Ample research highlights the factors as the following: poverty, cultural factors, gender ideology, law enforcement, and intergenerational transmission of trauma (D'Angelo, Palacios, & Chase-Lasdale, 2012, Bilchik et al., 2001, Wilkinson, Magora, Garcia, & Khurana, 2009). Another key component highlighted by literature is the need for research based on the father's country of origin because cultures vary across countries. Parke et al. (2004) and Roopnarine & Ahmeduzzaman (1993) both include findings on Latino samples from different regions, such as men born in Mexico and others born in Puerto Rico. This shows the need for Latino samples in our nation that need more representation depending on their country of origin. It is important because each country comes with unique cultural experiences and previous findings suggest differences in parenting styles and belief systems that shape their child rearing experiences (Parke et al., 2004; Roopnarine & Ahmeduzzaman, 1993).

Consequently, fatherlessness makes social work practice more difficult. For example, the implications at the micro level are that social workers must contend with overworked mothers/providers who may be unable to follow through with treatments without the involvement of a father and/or unwilling to involve the

father due to safety concerns (Pfiffner, McBurnett, & Rathouz, 2001).

Additionally, implications at the macro level consist of social workers not being trained thoroughly enough in how to deal with fatherlessness in their clients' lives and with the fathers themselves. This lack of training may be explained by the narrow theoretical foundation of social work education that fails to include fatherhood curricula at the graduate and undergraduate level (Strug & Wilmore-Schaeffer, 2003). Furthermore, Anderson et al. (2002) found the implementation of a fatherhood program to be inefficient to socially disadvantaged fathers, which highlights the importance of implementing more change at the policy level, such as lobbying for initiatives that are focused on empowering fathers of color in our communities and providing resources for our undocumented and immigrant communities. Changes are to be made to fatherhood initiatives and even more so, there is a need for fatherhood programs within Southern California. With fatherlessness on the rise, policymakers need awareness on the most efficient program practices to help Latino men and other men of color become responsible fathers. This study explores immigrant Latino fathers in Southern California, which is home to a large undocumented Latino population.

### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research study is to explore fatherhood among immigrant Latino families in Southern California. Some of the greatest barriers for ethnic minority fathers and their involvement in their child's life are incarceration

and poverty (Bilchik, Seymour, & Kreisher, 2001; Robbers, 2009). The issue of fatherlessness will be addressed by specifically looking at Latino fathers as the specific clients. Furthermore, specific factors that play as barriers and/or limitations to the paternal involvement of a Latino father will be addressed and any subsequent psychological distress will also be explored. There is also a need to assess for psychological distress as seen from studies that have examined this within ethnic minority fathers (Twamley, Brunton, Sutcliffe, Hinds, & Thomas, 2013; Balcom, 2002; Dishion et al., 2004; Pope, 2001).

Literature on the experiences of fatherless children is emerging (East, Jackson, & O'Brien, 2007; King, 2006; Garcia et al., 2015), yet the voices of fathers appear to be far and few. There specifically continues to be a lack of research on Latino fathers, which indicates an immense need for a focus to be given to Latino fatherhood (Wilkinson et al., 2009). Other reasons to assess Latino father absence includes male undercount as a fallacy in previous data collection and a need for qualitative data from the perspective of a father (King, 2006; Pfiffner et al., 2001).

The research methods used in the study include a qualitative design. The study uses in-depth, individual interviews to collect rich data from Latino fathers and from their children. This design is appropriate for the study because it allows participants to narrate their own stories and experiences of fatherhood, and to do so in their own words.

## Significance of the Project for Social Work Practice

The impact of fatherlessness on Latino children's overall wellbeing highlights the deep need for this study to be conducted. Moreover, the lack of research in Latino fatherhood that focuses on the perspective of the father and the barriers they face also shows the need for this study. Bringing these two factors up the forefront may bring a greater awareness to the community and in turn bring about change at the individual, community, and organizational level. The current research available mainly examines the impact it has on the child. This shows a deep need for more research to be on the reasons for the lack of the father's involvement and the toll it takes on their emotional health afterwards.

Latino fathers are the population of interest because people of color have proven to have little representation in the previous research on fatherhood. With more research on Latinos, this will aid Latino communities in educational awareness and more advocacies for accessible resources to them as well. The hope is that this will spark a greater need for more research on other communities of color within this same issue of fatherlessness. Furthermore, the results of the study will potentially contribute to social work practice, policy, and research by educating social workers on the impact of fatherlessness on communities of color. The results will also help inform change at the policy level for more accessible resources to Latino fathers and other fathers of color, such as a secured path to citizenship, rehabilitative sentences, and more programs to educate and build up men to be healthy fathers.



Furthermore, the potential findings of the proposed study will contribute to social work practice by gathering valid and reliable data on Latino fathers. As a result, this data will aid in three ways: assisting social workers on how to best help populations who have grown up without a father or who lacked being involved in their child's life, advocating for culturally grounded fatherhood curricula in educational forums, and pushing for policies to help Latino fathers overall.

The assessing and implementation phase of the generalist intervention process will be informed by the study. However, as the findings come to the surface, more phases may come about in the process. With that said, the research question for the proposed study is as follows: What are the experiences of Latino immigrant fathers and their family members, and how do they describe the barriers and facilitators in becoming involved in their child's life?

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Introduction

This chapter will cover existing research that examines the barriers and facilitators of Latino father involvement across nationalities. The subsections will include factors such as poverty and its connection to substance abuse, education, and employment. Additionally, this chapter will discuss cultural factors and the gender ideology of Marianismo and Machismo. Finally, the chapter discusses the impact of law and immigration enforcement on fathers, including incarceration and deportation. Lastly, intergenerational transmission of trauma will be covered as learned behaviors passed down through families, likely impact fatherhood. The final subsection will examine the Ecological Systems Theory and the Empowerment Approach, which are relevant to this issue.

#### Factors Impacting Father Involvement

Latinos are one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in our nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). As they increase in number, so do the challenges they face. Among all of them, fatherlessness is spreading at an alarming rate. In fact, about 30% of Latino children grow up without a father in their lives (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Swinger (2009) found that father absence affects a child's ability to gain positive outcomes in life pertaining to school, friendships, family

relationships, social interaction, cultural identification, and personal beliefs. It is evident that the lack of father involvement is negatively impacting this community at large, yet the literature on Latino fatherhood remains limited (Mirandé, 1991; Parke et al., 2004). Thus far, research suggests that poverty, cultural factors, gender ideology, law and immigration enforcement, and intergenerational transmission are all possible factors in the absence of Latino fathers.

### Poverty

According to Swinger (2009), single-parent households are at a greater risk for living in poverty. Furthermore, one out of every five Latinos in the United States are affected by poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). This sheds light on the challenges that come with having an absent father in Latino households. However, it also points in the opposite direction of how poverty impacts these very same fathers. Just for being a person of color, one runs the risk of poverty, as do Latino fathers (Robbers, 2009). Research also shows that Latino fathers who are undocumented and/or who immigrated have greater chances of struggling financial hardship, and that a correlation between absence of fathers and intergenerational poverty has been found (Behnke, Brent, & Parra-Cardona, 2008; Anderson et al., 2002). Sorensen & Zibman (2001) found that less than half of the poor, noncustodial fathers in 1966 that failed to pay child support were working. This indicates that about 60% of the remaining noncustodial fathers did not pay due to their financial hardship. Another factor found within poverty is substance abuse. Brooks-Gunn and McLanahan (2002) examined fathers of low-

income families are at a greater risk for abusing substances. Unfortunately, due to a lack of current research on Latino fatherhood, there is not enough recent data to examine current trends.

Education. Poverty also affects other resources, such as education. King, Harris, and Heard (2004) found that there is a correlation between the level of a father's education and their involvement with their child. This implies an importance in the accessibility of this resource to Latino fathers. However, many Latinos have not had the same educational opportunities as many of their peers especially if they are undocumented (Hanna & Ortega, 2016).

Employment. Poverty also impacts how one is able to access employment opportunities. Latino fathers often face various challenges whether they are unable to find a job because of structural and cultural barriers or they find one that demands too much out of them. Behkne and colleagues (2008) found that employment pressures strained undocumented fathers and their ability to father. They reported these pressures were depleting them of energy and time since most of it was invested in their job. In fact, fathers have reported that their sole purpose is to be the financial provider as the main male in the home (Swinger, 2009).

### Cultural Factors

When looking at an ethnic group, it is important to consider the cultural context. However, there is a lack of examination on cultural differences within Latino fatherhood (Saracho & Spodek, 2007). These cultural differences include

the way Latino fathers feel and interact with their children. For example, Julian et al. (1994) found that Latino fathers do display positive parenting skills, such as positive social skills, whereas many people's perception is that Latino fathers are inadequate to be competent fathers. Furthermore, a correlation between the level of acculturation and Latino's parental stress was found, and in turn shows leading to negative disciplining behaviors (Dumka, Prost, & Barrera, 1999).

### Gender Ideology

Gender roles impact the interaction of our society. When looking at Latino fatherhood, this ideology is imperative to examine because they have been seen to prevent Latino fathers from fully engaging in the lives of their families (Julian et al., 1994). With that being noted, it is important to further explore specific belief systems that impact parenting styles. Two concepts will be further introduced under the following heading in exploring cultural contexts within the Latino community that impact a father's ability to parent and interact in their family system.

Machismo and Marianismo. Cauce and Domenech Rodríguez (2002) describe Marianismo as a concept within the Latino community that highlights the role of a woman in the context of motherhood. It sees mothers as selfless and devoting to her children even at the cost of herself. Machismo is a concept that is more conversed about and it emphasizes that the role of a man is one who has the final say and has full authority (Cauce & Domenech Rodriguez, 2002). Unfortunately, this has affected many families. Mirandé (1997) examined the role

that machismo played in the oppression of women and indicated further research to be conducted. Other findings have shown that these ideologies impact the paternal involvement, which include the father's engagement, accessibility, and responsibility (Glass & Owen, 2010). Latino fathers may parent in a way that is derived from these ideologies, but it impairs the family system because it continues the oppression of the female role and continues to be taught generationally. Even more so if the father was born in a Spanish-speaking country where these ideologies derived from, making it even more imbedded in their cultural mannerisms and ways of living.

#### Law and Immigration Enforcement

Immigrant law and enforcement in the U.S. are increasingly punitive and oppressive; they are especially disadvantageous for Latinos. For example, practitioners should take into consideration that Latino immigrant families may have experienced political and or physical violence before, during, or after their migration experience. This type of trauma requires cultural sensitivity. Similarly, immigration enforcement policies that drive fear of detainment, family separation, and discrimination also place immigrant families at risk for trauma (Ayón, 2018). For example, ICE detentions increased by 22.5% in 2018, resulting in over 350,000 people being detained, with over 55,000 of them being unaccompanied minors (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2018). Studies have shown that immigrants who experience this process may endure mental trauma, including PTSD symptoms on top of the crises they may have already endured in their

home country (Shapiro & Atallah-Gutiérrez, 2012; Dorfman, Meyer, & Morgan, 1988; Capps, Castañeda, Chaudry, & Santos, 2007; Vostroknutov, 2011).

Incarceration and Deportation. Bilchik et al. (2001) found that Latino men are among the ethnic groups that are incarcerated at elevated levels, and more than half of them are fathers. Unfortunately, this has severe consequences on their fathering abilities, not to mention the many other mental health concerns incarceration spreads. Another key factor are Latino fathers who are undocumented and/or immigrated. Research shows that Latino fathers suffered in their mental health about their legal status and the concerns that come with the fear of deportation, which in turn impacted their fathering abilities (Behkne et al., 2008; King, 2006).

#### Intergenerational Transmission of Fatherhood Skills / Trauma

Shears et al. (2006) found that fathering skills can be generationally passed down. Furthermore, Latino men who have had absent fathers in their lives are more likely to be absent themselves in their own child's life. It can also be said of fathers who have had fathers who grew up with machismo ideals and other factors that are mentioned above. Unfortunately, they are more likely to repeat the same actions and live out similar beliefs. Within this same concept, there is previous research that examined another concept known as the Father Wound, which shows the impact on their biopsychosocial functioning that fatherlessness plays and continues as a cycle (Miller, 2013). This highlights the need for more research to assess any association between any psychological

distress and how fathers as a whole have been affected in their mental health before and after their paternal involvement. The current findings show fathers with a lack in paternal involvement struggle with low self-esteem, inability to establish lasting intimate relationships, and engagement in anti-social and/or violent behavior (Dishion et al, 2004; Balcom, 2002; Miller, 2013).

### Theories Guiding Conceptualization

Two theoretical perspectives were found in past literature and they will be used to conceptualize the ideas in this study as well. They are Ecological Systems Theory and the Empowerment Approach to frame the discussion of Latino fatherhood among undocumented families.

The Ecological Systems Theory fully explores the concept of person-in-environment. Lesser & Pope (2011) explain it as a mutual behavioral and developmental impact between individuals and the environments they live in, taking into account culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and other variables such as these. A key component within this theory is the social justice orientation that gives attention to macro systems and the disparities in power distribution that highly disadvantages individuals from oppressed communities, such as people of color (Lesser & Pope, 2011). Many scholars (Roopnarine & Ahmeduzzaman, 1993; Taylor & Behnke, 2005) have presented this model as a cultural ecology or Bronfenbrenner's (1992) ecological systems theory with a focus on the macro system. Overall, this theory helps to examine Latino father



involvement because it holds certain principles accountable that put this population to a disadvantage. The influences mentioned above in this study are imperative in looking at how variables in the macro system do impact individuals in those environments (Turner, 2011). This framework allows social workers and the general public to understand the barriers that Latino fathers face as men of color. Furthermore, acknowledging the discrimination and prejudice at the societal level that takes place through these barriers is also something to take into consideration when looking at the absence of Latino fathers.

Due to the challenges that Latino fathers face, the Empowerment Approach is a valuable tool in working with this population. Turner (2011) describes this as an approach that is used to empower disadvantaged groups and advocate for change at the environmental and structural level. Within this framework, there is research (Hossain, Field, Pickens, Malphurs, & Del Valle, 1997) that highlights the adaptive-resilient perspective. This perspective focuses on the strengths of the family and the cultural context behind each individual. Moreover, this approach can be utilized in any setting that serves Latino fathers and anyone impacted by the lack of father involvement in the following ways: a) for social policies and programs that push for accessible resources that specifically help fathers of color and overall communities of color and b) guiding Latino fathers and their children to empower themselves through the process of healing. This is similar to the strengths-based perspective that Lesser & Pope (2011) describes as one that focuses on an individual's strengths and goals.

Additionally, this theory goes against the negative perception that machismo paints on Latino fathers (Mirandé, 1997), and instead it strives for a focus to be on the strengths of these men of color and how we can best aide them in becoming the best fathers they can be for their children

### Summary

This study will explore the barriers of Latino father involvement within Southern California across nationalities. The lack of father involvement as a whole is detrimental to society. However, there is a greater need for more research on specific communities of color. More research will aid in bringing about change at the policy, agency, and organizational level to help this specific population. The literature shows a need for a representation among nationalities within Latino fathers and the cultural differences between them that affect their involvement. The Ecological Systems Theory and the Empowerment Approach are helpful in understanding Latino fatherhood and empowering them to be involved in their child's life despite any setbacks and challenges they face. This study aims to look from the social worker's perspective at this issue, and to strive for lasting change.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODS

#### Introduction

This study examined Latino fatherhood among immigrant families in Southern California. Factors explored include gender ideology, law enforcement, and poverty. This chapter describes the details of the specific methods that were used to carry out this type of study. The sections provided are study design, sampling, data collection and instruments, procedures, protection of human subjects, and data analysis.

#### Study Design

The purpose of this study was to explore Latino fatherhood among immigrant families. Due to the lack of research on ethnic minority fatherhood from the social workers' perspective, this was an exploratory research project (Rohner & Veneziano, 2001). The specific goals of the research coincided with an exploratory type, such as gathering in-depth information on the population being studied, gaining insight into the issue, examining possible theories at play, and proposing some practice services for further implementation (Grinnell & Unrau, 2013). Furthermore, the study used qualitative methods, including in-depth individual interviews with immigrant Latino fathers and their family members.

Some of the practical methodological strengths of the qualitative method include the rich information that it provides and the ability for participants to share their experiences in their own words. As such, the researcher expected the data to highlight the unique and diverse experiences of Latino fatherhood. The one-on-one interviews provided deep insights unable to be generated through structured surveys. In addition, the use of fathers and their family members as participants allowed the researcher to triangulate findings, improving the study's rigor.

Some of the limitations of the chosen design are that this type of study can be intrusive for the interviewee and it also requires more of the interviewer. Interviews are intrusive in the sense that they require the interviewee to answer honestly about personal questions given by the interviewer that they hardly know anything about. On the other hand, the interviewer must also be flexible in how they conduct their interviews since some questions can be given a longer answer than others unexpectedly. They are also required to check their personal biases since subjective information is used as data. This shows another limitation in that qualitative has limited generalizability for identifying trends and such to the larger population as a whole.

### Sampling

This study obtained data from a nonprobability sample of Latino fathers in Southern California. The researcher used convenience, snowball, and purposive

sampling to recruit study participants. Immigrant Latino fathers and their adult children were recruited from a non-profit organization called Riverside City Missions and recruiting in public spaces, such outside grocery stores. Approval was requested from the designated administration of each of these organizations via letters. A total of ten subjects participating in individual interviews.

### Data Collection and Instruments

Qualitative data was collected via in-person, audio-recorded individual interviews which took place from November 2019 to February 2020. Each individual interview began with an introduction and description of the study and its purpose. Some demographic information was collected prior to the start of each interview (see appendix A). It includes age, gender identification, marital status, country of birth, and achieved level of education.

The researcher facilitated each individual interview using procedures as outlined in the interview guide sheet in Appendix B. The researcher developed the interview guide. Some questions in the interview guide include: 1) How would you describe your role or your responsibilities as a father? 2) Was your father involved in your life and how has that affected your childhood? How about other male relatives? 3) Tell me about a time you found it challenging to be a good father and how did you deal with this? 4) How has immigrating impacted you as a father and/or how does raising a family in America impact your role as a father?

## Procedures

The data was gathered by soliciting participants through the use of fliers and word of mouth. A flier was distributed throughout Southern California and it consisted of the purpose and goals of the study, as well as recruited participants. The same flier was distributed at Riverside City Mission and outside of grocery stores. It is important to emphasize that the flier highlighted the confidentiality and anonymity of the data collected and also the expected amount of time per interview. With the permission of the facilitator of Riverside City Mission, the researcher explained the study, the confidentiality requirements, and answered any questions that people associated with potential participants had during their food banks on Tuesdays. The researcher distributed the fliers (see Appendix C) at that time as well for them to pass out to other Latino fathers who may have been interested.

Each individual interview took place in an easily accessible place in public locations suggested by the participants. Interviews occurred during the month of November 2019 to February 2020. Each interview lasted less than sixty minutes per participant. Once a participant arrived at the designated meet up spot, they were asked to sign in with their pseudonym and their number as mentioned above. Then the interview guide was used to navigate the rest of the interview, and at the end of the interview, the participant was given a \$15 gift card in appreciation of their time.

## Protection of Human Subjects

The confidentiality of each participant was protected by the use of non-identifying information and by proper storage of the data which was destroyed after the study was completed. This was explained beforehand to each participant. For the one-on-one interviews, they were instructed to use pseudonyms when sharing their experiences and they were also given one to ensure anonymity. There was an informed consent sheet (Appendix D) that was required to be submitted before participating in any interview. Each participant was instructed to read and sign it, as well as giving consent to be audio-recorded. A debriefing statement (Appendix E) was required of each participant to fill out after each interview. The audio recordings were downloaded onto a password encrypted USB drive and stored in a locked folder along with the interview notes. Their pseudonym was assigned a number for transcription to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of each participant. All sign-in sheets and documentation were kept in a locked folder. One year after completion of the study, all data collected was permanently deleted and/or shredded.

## Data Analysis

All data gathered from the interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis. First, audio recordings of the interviews were transcribed into written form by a professional transcription service. They were also translated from

Spanish to English. Each participant was given a pseudonym to be used while transcribing for the purpose of knowing who was talking as in the interviewer and the interviewees. However, for the sake of the limited time, one-word responses was not considered exact statements, but were still documented for protocol purposes. Non-verbal actions were definitely noted in field notes, as well as any behavior noticed throughout the interview.

All of the transcripts were coded by the researcher. First, the researcher used open coding to identify any factors related to father involvement, such as incarceration, deportation, mental illness, and accessible resources. Second, the researcher noted statements as being barriers and facilitators to father involvement. Third the researcher read and reread transcripts with the codes in mind, and consulted with the Faculty Advisor to develop themes and sub-themes that emerged based on these codes. Finally, the researcher used axial coding to identify ways the themes related to one another.

### Summary

This study analyzed the factors that act as barriers and facilitators to immigrant Latino father involvement. The individualized interviews and the use of a demographic questionnaire was used as a part of the qualitative research design. The results of the study were published to contribute to further findings of fatherlessness among minority groups in hopes of creating programs to help marginalized communities.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

#### Introduction

The researcher interviewed a total of ten individuals. All participants were interviewed from November 2019 to February 2020. The majority of the ten individuals were clients of a non-profit organization that provides food and donated goods for the local community. The following paragraphs describe the study's findings. First, the researcher discusses participants' demographic characteristics and migration histories. Next, the researcher discusses the key themes that emerged from the data as listed: fatherlessness, present but inattentive fathers, values and beliefs that help and hinder, legal status, and painful childhoods with positive role models.

#### Participant Demographics

Most participants were aged 65 years or more, with a few participants ranging in age from 40-65. Half of the participants identified as female and the other half identified as male. Four of the ten participants identified their relationship status as either single or separated with the rest identifying as married. Eight participants identified their birth country as Mexico with the two remaining participants identifying El Salvador and Panama. Fifty percent of those interviewed had little to no schooling with five participants having graduated high

school and only one earned a graduate level degree from a scholarship they won to study in France. In fact, one of those participants only attended a school for nuns and continued on in private schooling afterward. The majority of the interview participants attend an organization's weekly food bank which provides services for Southern California area; the rest of the participants are members of the community. Half of the participants are retired with one participant currently looking for a temporary job. Two female participants stay at home with their children as their husbands work and two other participants work cleaning houses and performing construction work. One participant owns their own business.

Of the ten participants, the five female participants reported on their perspectives of their husbands' fathering and their own fathers' fathering as well. The rest of the participants reported on their own experiences of parenting children and on their experiences of being parented by their own fathers.

### Fatherlessness

Many participants described childhoods in which their fathers were entirely not present or were present in only limited ways. As a result, participants explained that they struggled to know how to parent their own children. These participants reported having been raised by grandparents or other extended family members, whose parenting skills were sometimes equally underdeveloped.

### Fathers Lost to Violence or Illness

Four of the participants reported having fathers who passed away at a young age and six participants reported being raised by someone other than their own biological parents. Thus, the majority of participants were not raised by their biological fathers. Participants recounted the deaths of their fathers and other male relatives to murder and to illness, as well as to abandonment. Some described these losses matter-of-factly, while others described these events as quite painful. For example, Participant 1 explained that his father was murdered when he resisted a robbery when the participant was 11 years old. Although the participant lived with both his grandparents from that point on, the participant did not discuss his grandfather until the researcher inquired. He explained that, although he lived with both grandparents, his grandfather had little involvement in his upbringing. Instead, he reported,

my grandpa would go to the fields and in those times, one would go to the fields in the morning as soon as one wakes up and comes home until it's dark...I was never close to my dad. I grew up with my grandparents, with my grandma. (Participant 1)

Similarly, several other participants described their childhood losses of parents to illness or violence. Participant 8 shared that she did not know her father because, "they killed him when I was nine months old, I didn't know him." She further mentioned that her mother abandoned her and her siblings when she was two years old to be raised by her grandparents. Participant 8 described her husband's loss of a parent, explaining, "his mother died when giving birth to him,

and he did have a very ugly childhood” due to being mistreated by his aunts that raised him until he ran away to live with his father at nine years old. Participant 6 also described her husband as having, “lost his father when he was six years old” due to pancreatic cancer that was “very sudden.” The death of parents during childhood seemed all too common among participants.

### Absent Fathers

Other participants described absent fathers who were alive and well, but not actively involved in their lives, whether by the choice of the father or the child. Participant 5 shared that she was raised by her aunt and uncle from her father’s side, and that her father did not raise her due to being “a hummingbird with all the women out there.” She mentioned that he had several children with different women. Participant 9 mentioned that he was not close to neither his mother nor father as he left home to live on the streets at age 15. He explained that he, “hardly lived with them because I didn’t like their way of living and at a young age, I left...” because “my dad was always a slacker...”

Participant 10 shared that he did not get along with his father and stated, “he was never with us much, he was almost always working.” He mentioned that his father would often have problems with his mother due to his drinking and being with other women. He concluded talking about his father by stating that he found out about his father’s death at 14 years old from word of mouth where he lived and that he died a sudden death after his car accident injuries worsened.

He also mentioned that he was raised by his grandparents although he stated, “my mom paid for them to take care of us there.”

### Present but Inattentive Fathering

For the participants who expressed that their fathers were physically present in their lives, they also identified the lack of their father’s attentiveness related to poverty, substance abuse, and mental health problems including health issues overall. These factors served as barriers to participants’ abilities to remain emotionally present in their children’s lives as fathers. These participants reported their responsibility to financially provide for their families as a vital role of being a father. On the other hand, participants, of some who were wives, expressed that a father’s responsibility is not only to provide, but to invest time and attention to their families. They identified this as a common lack experienced in families across the board. Along with this stressor, the majority of participants identified substance abuse and overall health problems as contributors to their abilities to father well.

### Fathers in Poverty

All male participants reported the lack of money or poverty as an overall stressor for them as a father, which only propelled them to working more and spending less time with their family. All female participants related similar sentiments about their own fathers and their husbands as fathers as well. Moreover, their ideology on financial provision presented itself as barrier on a

father's ability to be fully present with their family. Participants recounted the all-consuming aspects of a job and how it was still not enough to provide for the ever-increasing expenses. Participants 2 and 3 expressed that not having enough money led to Participant 2 habitually working overtime. Further, the jobs all the participants qualified for were typically high-risk with low pay, such as in construction, dining, cleaning, farming, and factory labor. Although half of the participants are retired, two reported that they lost their jobs due to random checks for social security numbers and currently live off of any daily work they can find. Participant 5 explained that despite being retired, needs to find a part-time job to help her husband, who was deported back to his birth country.

Participant 1 shared that relationships are difficult to maintain while people are focusing on accumulating enough money. He explained that he has to, "balance my time and my responsibility since the man has to be the one who carries the butter and the bread so after that we will see how much love remains, but well love is nothing more than habit, right?" The researcher went on to inquire on the participant's belief in love, to which he answered he did not believe in love, but that his kids do when they ask him to buy them something. Participants 4 and 5 explained that what they earn goes to their children's needs. For example, Participant 4 stated, "when I came to the United States, my daughters were 11 and 12 years old, but I left them enough money to live and...I still do when I find work..." Yet when the researcher inquired about his relationship with them, he mentioned that it was beautiful when he was able to be physically

present with them. Moreover, female participants 5, 6, and 7 described their father figures as men who were more to themselves and attributed it to the demands of their workload. Some expressed it straightforwardly while others appeared defensive. In fact, Participant 6 explained that people who live in this country are often found to be busy with little time to dedicate to their families as she shared that at times, her husband arrives from work when their children are asleep and is unable to see them. For example, she stated,

In this country, for the Latino it is more difficult because when both partners work, the children spend more time alone...You feel the time go by very fast...The difference in this country is that there isn't much freedom to spend time with family as much because it is more essential to go to work. (Participant 6)

Similarly, the resounding description of growing up in poverty was also present among 80 percent of the participants. The male participants mainly described these realities as inevitable, while the female participants described them stressfully and in need of a change. Participant 10 described his childhood as "a very tough life in that time since we lived very, but very poor." Participant 5 recounted living in "extreme poverty," as did several other participants.

Participant 9 confessed that his family was considered the poorest of the neighborhood, which led to him wanting to live on the streets at 15 years old. He appeared to carry shame about the way his family lived as he stated that he did not want to live the way they lived or remain in poverty. Moreover, Participant 8

touched on the aspect of poverty as a visible stressor for many fathers. Both Participants 7 and 8 expressed that fathers overall need to work less and dedicate more time to their children. They stated,

...you see that many don't work on the weekends, but they still do other things. They're never with their family, I think time is more than money. I think that time is more. (Participants 7)

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems

The majority of the participants reported substance abuse, mental health, and other stressors as potential barriers and facilitators to either their ability as a father to remain involved in their child's life or their father's involvement in their own life. For example, Participants 1 and 10 shared that they do drink above their limit whereas Participant 9 shared that he stopped drink habitually when his children were born. When the researcher inquired about Participant 9's father, he also stated that something he did not like about his father was the fact that he was "always drinking." Other participants explained that their father figure was often intoxicated, which led to more time spent apart and aggression inside of familial conflict. Participant 10 further explained alcoholism as a barrier in that he sees fathers who are alcoholics "forget that they have children, that they have a wife, spend all their money, and are no longer good dads." Additionally, Participant 4 shared that what actually helped him become a good father was observing how other fathers treat their children as an example on what not to do. He went on to say,



...they hit them, they don't buy them clothes, their children don't eat because they like to drink...many times there are men who, instead of being with their family, they go out with their friends or to a bar, and then their children look at the example of their father so they also grow up learning to do the same thing to their children. (Participant 4)

As far as mental health and additional stressors, all participants expressed differing perspectives as fathers. The way participant 1 explained that an example of discipline could be taking an individual to a psychiatrist or in-patient treatment center. This portrays this father's stigma towards mental health resources. On the other hand, participants 2, 3, and 9 expressed positive regard for these same resources as participators and fathers. In fact, Participant 2 shared that the United States is better than Mexico in that everything he needs is there including doctors, psychiatrist, and a therapist whereas in his birth country he states, "I would've died there already." He explained that his health issues, including anxiety, are related to his relational strain with his son that he attributes to his son's substance abuse. He is currently utilizing mental health services to treat his anxiety. Moreover, most participants reported additional stressors, such as expectations, commuting, poverty, not feeling safe to be out, personal problems, payments, and the like. In fact, Participant 7 correlated stress to physical illness and noted the stressors that she encounters is what makes living in this country "difficult." When the researcher inquired whether that difficulty had anything to do with fearing law enforcement or being detained, she did not deny

that. Participant 8 stated, “yes, for those without papers, yes, it is stressful. Fear, yes.” This relates to fathering in that all these factors either debilitate or facilitate a father’s ability to remain present in not only their lives, but in the lives of their families.

### Values and Beliefs that Help and Hinder

All of the participants reported personal values and beliefs that either helped or hindered their ability to parent their child as was modeled by their own father figures. These values include concepts, such as machismo and marianismo, as well as religious and educational beliefs. As a result, male participants explained that their masculinity was shaped by these ideologies whereas female participants painted the picture of either healthy or unhealthy masculinity that was modeled by their father figures and husbands.

#### Machismo and Marianismo

Every participant reported experiencing machismo through the example of their fathers or themselves as fathers. This concept has been imbedded within the Latino culture and is portrayed in different ways whether in superstitions or customs. For example, Participant 1 shared superstitions, such as males only being able to bathe with cold water to prove their masculinity, but he also shared that he was raised with some principles that went against machismo, such as cleaning and cooking despite being male. Participants 2, 9, and 10 also reported being machistas at some point in their fathering. On the other hand, Participants

5, 6, and 7 shared that although their fathers were not machistas, they did witness machismo in either their ex-husband and other families along with participants 4, 8, and 10 witnessing it in their husband, fathers, and grandfathers. For example, participant 4 shared that although his father hit his mother, he chose to not be the same way. He said,

Even my daughters, I don't treat them bad and I never treated any woman bad, never. It's because that's the culture, it comes from people back then, but one must understand that it isn't necessary to follow that example of our parents...one has to change that. (Participant 4)

Machismo was often described as a form of aggression, possessiveness, and having a low view on women. For example, participant 6 shared that although her family does not experience machismo, she has seen "other families that suffer from that problem." She described machistas as "people who had a past that marked them that way and for them to change, they would need help to find out what happened to them as a child." Participant 7 knew machismo as fathers not allowing their wives and daughters to go out anywhere or hitting them although she did not personally experience that growing up with her father. Participant 8 did witness her grandfather mistreating her grandmother growing up and ended up marrying a man who did not hit her but would not let her go out. She explained that it "was jealousy, his insecurity...sometimes one leaves their house because of bad treatment and they fall into a worse situation."

What is more, participant 9 shared that everyone in his family is machista due to “ignorance” and believes it is “genetic.” He explained that “a machista never says he’s one, just like a drunk.... I am a modern machista, an educated machista.” He continued to report,

...society is supporting women in a lot of things and women are elevating higher and higher while leaving men behind, taking away values. I understand violence is not good. I disagree that a man should hit a woman. But nowadays, women take advantage of what they’re being offered and they’re taking away the value of a man. (Participant 9)

Participant 9 further explained that the reason why families are separating and children are being abandoned is because mothers are wanting to have their way. He voiced his opinion strongly especially when expressing his disagreement with women who he was convinced lived off of welfare to do nothing. He expressed that such women do not deserve freedom to go out with their friends, which showed a glimpse of a common aspect within the machista perspective. It is important to note that his answer may have come from a place of pain as his wife abandoned him and their children early on.

Furthermore, another aspect of machismo is it possibly leading to abandoning one’s child as participant 10 shared that machismo impacted his ability to father his three children from an estranged relationship due to having constant conflict with their mother. Other aspects also include the belief about friendships as a barrier rather than something positive. Participants 9 and 10

reported not believing there are friends due distrusting them with their wives, which they explained was taught to them by father figures.

It is important to note that marianismo was neither reported nor known by any participant although it was unknowingly explained among some of the participant's answers. This concept highlights the belief on femininity as self-sacrificing at the cost of one's self. For example, participant 5 shared that she realized this too late as she "went to the extremes so that my children could be placed first before me." She explained that she did not see it then, but she does now and grieves doing so because she could have furthered herself more. She reports this as a mother, but not having the help of her children's fathers also contributed to this. This idea of a wife and mother doing everything for their husband and children and representing the Virgin Mary is part of marianismo. Likewise, participants 9 and 10 shared their views on women as "the one who gives love and maintains the home while the man is clumsier" and a good woman is one who "helps with everything, which helps me think of not doing anything I shouldn't be doing, like going to the bar or finding other women." These beliefs explain that wives and mothers are the ones who act with love and sacrifice whereas husbands and fathers are given permission to behave recklessly, which shows how this concept can enable fathers to not fully show up in the lives of their families.

## Faith

The majority of participants reported their religious beliefs as a facilitator in their ability of fathering while one expressed his own set of beliefs that served him as well. All in all, these beliefs impacted their way of doing things, such as raising their children with certain morals and teachings, as well as their ability to take ownership, to dream, and handle conflict.

Participant 1 shared that his family experienced persecution from the catholic community because his grandfather received land from Lazaro Cardenas, who was the president at the time and aimed to advance social and economic efforts in the Mexican revolution. This land was taken from the church and given to the farmers. The religious community in their village were outraged at how his grandfather could accept land taken from God, which led to a lot of danger and ostracization for him and his family due to the priest ordering nobody to associate with him. He further shared that his grandfather had magazines of Time Life and Sputnik at home and instilled in them the belief in science over religion. He also decided to hang out with classmates that were more interested in science although the majority were interested in religion. His teachers were influential because they taught science lessons in the classrooms although students' parents protested against it.

The rest of the participants all reported their faith in God as an important part of their lives. Participant 2 mentioned that he attends church three times a week and that God has helped him learn how to become a father. Participants 9

and 10 identified a good father is someone who teaches their children about having faith in God. Participant 9 shared how God has answered his prayers about his children's health, including his differently abled son, who also has cancer. He reported that what has helped him to become a father is "only God." Participant 10 shared that many of his values are impacted by the Bible, such as his refusal to divorce his wife and his children being good people, which he attributes the level of their relationship as to whether or not they are actively involved in their faith. He said,

There is not one of them who doesn't know the word of God, all of them.

There are some more than others that go to church. With those who do go to church more regularly, we get along better. (Participant 10)

### Education

The participants who reported not being able to finish their education expressed so with embarrassment. The few participants who reported receiving an education attributed it to having the financial means of doing so and also described having a better childhood than those who were unable to attend school. Despite these differences, all fathers viewed the opportunity to learn as a facilitator to their fathering in that they experienced positive teaching to pass down to their children. For example, participant 1 did not need to take care of his siblings due to going to school and reported school as a positive experience that helped him enjoy his childhood. Participant 5 also attended school, which helped her aspire for more unlike her parents who she described as "passive" and

“avoiding risk.” On the other hand, participants 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 reported either unable to attend or finish school due to poverty and being unable to afford it. Participant 2 explained that he had to drop out to start working to help his father provide for the family. He stated, “I feel sad because I did want to go so, I continued learning when I entered the military and now through reading and attending workshops.” His desire to continue acquiring knowledge is what he considered a facilitator to helping him become a better father. Participant 9 shared that when giving advice to a father, he would recommend they never let their children miss school. He explained, “...my daughters never missed school, not one day.”

### Legal Status

At some point in their life, all the participants experienced living in the United States undocumented. Although the majority of the participants reported a variety of citizenship statuses with very few remaining undocumented, the importance of detailing the barriers that each of these participants faced prior to receiving legal documents is vital in understanding immigrant Latino fatherhood. It is also imperative to examine the importance of Latino collectiveness and the differences of raising children in the United States in comparison to one’s birth country from the perspective of fathers in order to bring more understanding.

One of the barriers includes undocumented fathers’ inability to receive social services, which has served the participants who later received it after



receiving legal status as a facilitator to their fathering abilities. For example, many participants utilized social services to aid them in their family's medical expenses as they all either have a differently abled family member or have health issues themselves. Participant 9 refused to receive welfare, which was recommended by a social worker due to having four children, although he received medical assistance for his son who has special needs. Participant 8 also received medical assistance to pay for her husband's nursing home due to being comatose after surviving a stroke. Other participants received financial assistance due to their retirement, which helped them continue providing for their family.

Another barrier appears to be the lack of knowledge pertaining to resources that could aid them in parenting their own child, such as acquiring legal documentation and receiving more help from one another and the government. For example, participant 9 shared that he could have become a resident earlier on in life had he not thrown away his paperwork due not knowing what he was doing. Receiving his residency helped him as a father to receive financial help from the government to cover the costs of his son's medical expenses. Now that his son has cancer, this only benefits him all the more. However, his refusal to receive help is attributed to his belief that "those who have welfare are those who don't work." This lack of knowledge limits fathers like him in receiving more financial help to lighten his workload and become more present in their children's life. Participant 2 shared similar sentiments towards

social services in that he believes it would “take money away from my retirement,” therefore he depends on food banks rather than food stamps.

Despite whether a participant has legal documents or remains undocumented, there has been a consistent report on a desire for togetherness as a people group whether expressed through hurt or matter-of-factly. For example, participant 2 reported that the father’s role is in strengthening the race of his people while participant 5 shared that our people would get further ahead if they “support one another and unify.” Likewise, participant 1 explained that he will never become a citizen due to being more accepted by people of color as Mexican rather than American. Participant 5 shared that she is in the process of becoming a citizen but will return to live in her birth country regardless if her papers go through or not. This desire for collectiveness transcends across legalization and into Latinos as a people group communally. Participant 4 paints the picture when he reported that “Mexicans are stuck-up; I know some that have become citizens and already see themselves as better because they’re Americans.” Whereas, participant 2 shared that he has a green card, but renewed it late, which had him “sick with anxiety” and “afraid thinking about Trump.” These participants show that Latino fathers, wives, and children all desire to come together within their own culture, expressing a distaste for cultural assimilation. Those who have gone through the arduous process of obtaining legal documentation shared that it was more so done out of fear and to receive their proper rights. There were four participants that revealed their legal status

cautiously with sadness in their eyes as they explained how it has prevented them from receiving proper work, pay, and the ability to see extended family. Participant 6 shared that she misses her birth country and Participant 5 shared that her husband was deported, limiting his ability to be a present father and grandfather.

Furthermore, 70 percent of the participants reported a distinct difference in raising a family in the United States in comparison to their birth country with the exception of three participants that either found raising a family in Mexico the same or better due to being together with extended family and the availability of similar opportunities. For example, participant 10 shared that in the United States, a father who hits their child as a form of discipline “enters into huge problems with the police.” Participant 4 explains that the difference would have been the inability “to give my daughters the help that I’ve given them.” He reported that migrating here proved to be difficult because he missed his children, which he stated was “a hard time for me to be a good dad.” Participant 5 shared similar thoughts as she described that this country comes with “giving your children better things, better education.” For other participants, the difference was a matter of more or less suffering. Participant 6 explained that raising her family in her birth country would have been “dangerous” and “a very difficult life” due to “more worry with young boys being recruited by gangs forcefully and whoever doesn’t comply gets killed,” which recently happened to her nephew. Participant 8 explained that staying in her birth country would have

been “a very sad life” because her reason for leaving was being hit by her abusive grandfather. In fact, every participant left their country at a young age.

### Painful Childhoods with Positive Role Models

Half of the participants described painful childhoods for either their children that they fathered, for themselves by their own fathers, or witnessing it in other families. As a result, participants explained that they may have provided an unhealthy environment for their child to be raised in. Fifty percent of the participants also reported having had positive role models in their life, which helped them become better fathers in the long run.

### Childhood Pain

Participants identified painful past experiences in one’s formative years as barriers to healthy fathering. The impact of this pain marks people throughout their lives to how they interact with others and themselves. Many participants 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 all mentioned trauma related to childhood pain. For example, participant 1 shared that children who engage in inappropriate behavior is due to “the environment in which they were raised.” He further explained that his children grew up in a toxic environment for his divorce finalized as they both became aggressive, instilling fear in their children. Participant 2 also shared about his estranged son experiencing a painful childhood as participant 3 explained that “our son believed we loved our other sons more than him,” to which their son “blamed me for being a bad dad” turning to substance abuse,

kicked them out of his house, and still refuses to speak to them. Additionally, participant 10 reported that his three children his previous estranged relationship feel resentment towards him for abandoning them. He explained that he is aware that his six children from his current marriage have a different experience of him in comparison to his three children because “I never lived with them” and also attributes it to relational conflict related to infidelity. He shared that he has reached out to them to form a relationship, but they refuse to do so.

Other participants reported direct traumatic experiences as children by their own fathers. For example, participant 4 shared that he often watched his father “hit my mom a lot” yet explained that although he never went to school, he did not think to be a father like him to his own children. He stated that his father is now living alone and “paying for what he did.” Participant 8 also witnessed similar abuse within her household as a child. Moreover, participant 5 shared that she experienced “a very disappointing trauma” when she went looking for her biological parents after being told that her aunt and uncle raised her. She discovered her parents were people she did not want in her life as they were riddled with substance abuse and incapable of being her parents. Participant 10 shared about a time when his mother hurt him deeply at the age of 15. He explained that he gave her flowers and in response, she threw them at him and yelled, “do you think I’m dead or something? No, take off with your filthy things over there!” He shared that this experience as a child impacted not only the way he showed up affectionately as a father, but as a husband as well. He stated,

...I'd like to bring my wife some flowers, you see there are flowers out there that are very beautiful. But since I'm not used to it, I remember my mom and I think, 'she's going to throw them at me too, that would be worse if she also did what my mom did.' so I lose the desire to do it.

(Participant 10)

Participants that witnessed the impact of trauma on the ability for a man to father his children identified the antidote as the healing process that requires confronting the pain and taking ownership. For example, participants 7 and 8 shared similar sentiments when stating,

...More than anything, I think that when they are not good dads, it is their past, what they have been carrying since childhood. What they saw in their houses, so they or we become traumatized. (Participant 8)

Participant 7 further explained that the healing process requires "a person to check them, to tell them what they're doing is wrong, but many choose to remain in denial." This lack of ownership and confronting pain serves as a barrier for fathers to parent their own child in a healthy manner. In fact, participant 9 reported that children grow up to live on the street or become incarcerated "because parents didn't do their job well." All in all, a father's upbringing has a lot to do with how they show up in their relationships with their children and families.

Participant 6 summed it up best,

...It depends on how you are treated, sometimes that's how you keep treating others, because it runs in the family...Have patience with children

when they're small, because what one sows in the hearts of children, that is what one will see when they grow up. If they're mistreated as a child, they're going to be an aggressive person – their heart will become damaged. So, if you are going to have children, arm yourself with patience because I would say, it is the most difficult job. But, with love, you can do anything.

### Positive Representations of Fatherhood

Half of the participants reported experiencing tangible positive representations that helped them become a better father. These representations range from teachers to relatives. For example, participant 1 mentioned a teacher who was very influential in showing him genuine care. He said, "...I had a very affectionate teacher, to everyone, she'd ask, 'how are you?' and someone would be sad, and she would immediately ask, 'what happened to you, why are you so quiet?'" He shared that students would share with her about what was going on and she'd listen, providing comfort. Participants 2 and 3 mentioned their church as being a helpful tangible example on what it looks like to parent well. Although participant 2 denied having any personal masculine role models, he explained that the military was influential for shaping him into the man he is today.

On the other hand, participants who lived life with a personal masculine role model described it as a helpful example on what it looks like to be a good father. For example, participant 4 shared that his uncle served as his main example growing up. He explained,

He was a very affectionate father. He would come home from work tired, but even then, he would hug his children. And that man, he never mistreated his wife...and he was the one in our village who defended the women who were being mistreated and he told those men that they were ignorant idiots.

He shared his other uncle would discipline him when he was caught stealing or hanging out with negative influences on which he explained, "I'm glad he was tough on me...if it hadn't been for him, how would I have turned out?" Participant 9 also shared a wealthy man found him living on the streets and helped him turn his life around by giving him consistent counsel. He explained that this man advised him to change his spending habits that he learned from his own father, which constantly led him without money for even food. He stated, "I think God sent me that man on my path...he was my guardian angel." Furthermore, participants 6 and 7 expressed similar sentiments that having present parents themselves helped them in their parenting as well, which was described as "a chain of love."



## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION

#### Introduction

In this study, the researcher aimed to explore fatherhood among immigrant Latino families in Southern California. This chapter explores the study's findings and practice implications, as well as the relationship between the study findings and the existing literature related to Latino fathering within immigrant populations. The study's limitations are discussed and recommendations for social work practice and research are included. Furthermore, the overall experiences of Latino immigrant fathers and their family members will be reviewed through the barriers and facilitators to becoming involved in their child's life that they reported.

#### Main Findings

The main findings of this study are comprised of reported barriers and facilitators to paternal involvement, such as fatherlessness, present but inattentive fathering, values and beliefs, legal status, and painful childhoods with positive role models. Depending on the presence or lack thereof each of these factors identified them as either a barrier or facilitator to the participant's ability to parent their own child as a Latino father. The primary barriers include the wound that painful childhood experiences can create, such as losing one's father

whether by loss or by choice, as well as the lack of accessibility a father has to resources depending on their legal status. The primary facilitators include the presence of positive representations in one's life that helped shape their values and beliefs impacting the way they fathered their own children. Overall, these findings were mainly consistent with the existing literature, adding to the literature on Latino fatherhood, which is noted to be scarce.

### Fatherlessness

One of the primary themes found in this study includes fatherlessness. During the review of the transcripts, it was noticed by the researcher that every participant who reported that their fathers were entirely not present due to death or absent by choice also reported having been raised by grandparents or other extended family members. They explained that despite the presence of those family members, their parenting skills were as equally under-developed. Participants shared that having these experiences as a child led to more difficulties in parenting their own children. This study's findings suggest that in Latino families, the lack of a present father in one's childhood may limit their ability as a parent to be involved in their own child's life. This is consistent with the literature on father-absence which describes this factor as a barrier in one's ability to proactively engage in education, cultural identity, beliefs, including family relationships (Swinger, 2009; Markowitz & Ryan, 2016; Piffner, McBurnett, & Rathouz, 2001). This is also consistent with the Latino literature on

reasons for father-absence, which includes poverty, machismo, immigration policies, and traumatic childhood experiences (D'Angelo, Palacios, & Chase-Lasdale, 2012, Bilchik et al., 2001, Wilkinson, Magora, Garcia, & Khurana, 2009). Yet, it is important to note the literature on Latino fatherhood remains limited.

### Present but Inattentive Fathering

Another significant theme found in this study involves fathers who were physically present, yet emotionally absent. During the review of the transcripts, it was noticed by the researcher that the participants who reported present fathers in their lives also explained their father's inability to be fully attentive due to the demands that come with poverty, substance abuse, and mental health problems including overall health. Participants attributed some of these stressors to their cultural traditions while others were intentionally chosen across generations. Every male participant reported that a father's primary role is to be a financial provider while many of the female participants expressed that a father's responsibility is also to invest time and attention to their families. Substance abuse and overall health issues were identified as barriers to a father's ability to proactively engage with their children and wives past financial provision. This study's findings suggest that the immigrant Latino fathers are more at risk of being unable to provide their families with the time and attention needed due to their heavy workload, which contributes to further problems. This is consistent with the literature on Latino fatherhood, which indicates that fathers who either

are or once were undocumented are at greater risk of experiencing intergenerational poverty, which has been proven to further contribute to father-absence (Behnke, Brent, & Parra-Cardona, 2008; Anderson et al., 2002). Moreover, this is also consistent with the literature that on fathers of low-income families that have their fathering abilities further strained by employment pressures and placing them at greater risk for abusing substances (Behkne et al, 2008; Brooks-Gunn & McLanahan, 2002). Although it is essential to note that current trends are unable to be examined due to a lack of recent data on Latino fatherhood.

#### Values and Beliefs that Help and Hinder

An expansive theme discovered in this study includes a range of values and beliefs that either helped or hindered one's parenting skills as fathers. Upon reviewing the transcripts, it was observed by the researcher that every participant touched on personal values and beliefs unknowingly of which was modeled or taught by their own life experiences. These values include concepts, such as machismo and marianismo, as well as faith and educational beliefs. Participants reported that these ideologies either helped them raise their children with certain morals or it hindered their ability to display healthy masculinity to their families. Female participants further confirmed whether masculinity modeled to them by their father figures and husbands was a positive or negative event. This study's findings suggest that in Latino families, gender ideology negatively impacted

everyone involved. This is consistent with the literature on gender ideology within Latino culture, which has shown to prevent fathers from becoming fully involved in their child's life including a father's ability to engage, remain accessible, and responsible (Julian et al., 1994; Glass & Owen, 2010). The findings also suggest that faith and education served as facilitators to one's fathering abilities, such as teaching them important principles in life. This is partly consistent with the literature due to a lack of data on the correlation between faith and paternal involvement, but the founded literature does draw a parallel between the level of a father's education and their ability to engage with their child, which has been observed is less common for those undocumented (King, Harris, & Heard, 2004; Hanna & Ortega, 2016).

### Legal Status

Another central theme found in this study revolves around the legal status of a Latino father living in the United States. Upon analyzing transcriptions, the researcher uncovered a significant finding directly related to Latino fathers who are born in a different country. All participants reported being undocumented at some point while living in the United States and shared common barriers across the board pertaining to their legal status, such as the inability to receive social services and lack of knowledge. They also explained the importance of Latino collectiveness as a people group and the differences of raising their children in this country in comparison to their country of birth. Many participants reported

raising their family here was a better decision due to the danger and lack of resources in their country. These findings suggest that in Latino communities, immigration policies in place lead to further barriers that act as added stressors, impacting a father's ability to not only disengage in their child's life but risk the possibility of deportation for the means of survival. This is consistent with the literature on immigrant law and enforcement in this country that show these policies lead to added stressors, such as fear of detainment, family separation, and discrimination, which places them at higher risk for further trauma after already possibly experience trauma before, during, or after their migration experience (Ayón, 2018; Rousseau & Drapeau, 2004; Shapiro & Atallah-Gutiérrez, 2012; Dorfman, Meyer, & Morgan, 1988; Capps, Castañeda, Chaudry, & Santos, 2007; Vostroknutov, 2011). These findings are also consistent with the literature on incarceration due to deportation that shows Latino fathers are not only more concerned about racial profiling, but are incarcerated at higher levels, which severely impairs their fathering abilities (Bilchik et al., 2001; Behkne et al., 2008; King, 2006).

### Painful Childhoods with Positive Role Models

The final theme uncovered in this study includes fathers' experiences of painful childhoods and positive role models growing up. Upon reviewing the transcripts, the researcher found that fifty percent of the participants experienced traumatic childhoods modeled by their fathers, which in turn they realized they

also modeled for their children as well. These traumatic experiences include physical abuse, estrangement, verbal abuse, and substance abuse. Those who had positive representations of fatherhood explained that they helped them become better fathers, which included teachers, uncles, and mentors. This study's findings suggest that how a child is treated by their parental figures is likely how they will parent their own children or treat others. This is consistent with the literature on generational trauma that indicates fathering skills can be passed down generationally, which leads to one's childhood pain being re-experienced through their relationships as adults (Shears et al., 2006). Furthermore, these findings are also consistent with the literature on biopsychosocial functioning that is impaired by fatherlessness, also known as the Father Wound, along with other data that shows fathers who lack paternal involvement at any capacity also have difficulties in the areas of self-esteem, relational intimacy, and aggressive behavior (Dishion et al, 2004; Balcom, 2002; Miller, 2013).

### Limitations

The researcher notes some limitations of this study. To begin with, the perspective gathered for this study included only that of older fathers and wives, whom also shared on their childhood experiences of their fathers. Choosing this perspective provided a one-sided view of the barriers and facilitators to immigrant Latino paternal involvement and failed to address many questions pertaining to

this population. Another limitation includes the answers received to the interview questions due to the sensitive nature of each question, especially regarding their legal status. The participants may have felt inclined to withhold the complete truth in order to feel safer or portrayed more positively. The researcher also noticed that after analyzing the data, new questions arose to gather more concise data whereas other questions could have been asked more thoroughly. Regardless, the value and amount of content gained from each interview suggests otherwise. In order to combat these possibilities in future research, self-administered surveys may be conducted with a focus on the perceptions of younger participants.

### Implications

While Latino fatherhood has encountered various barriers and facilitators in one's paternal involvement, it is important to look forward to action steps on what can be done to change the narrative. Furthermore, the implications for social work research, practice, and policy include recommendations at the micro, mezzo, and macro level. For example, at the micro level, clinicians would benefit from reviewing current research on culturally sensitive evidence-based practices when working with this specific population, especially mapping accessible resources for individuals who are undocumented. Additionally, at the macro level administration and clinicians need more training in cultural competency as well as staying up to date on immigration laws and policies in place potentially



impacting their Latino clientele. This lack of training may be explained by the narrow theoretical foundation of social work education that fails to include fatherhood curricula at the graduate and undergraduate level (Strug & Wilmore-Schaeffer, 2003). Lastly, at the policy level it is recommended that more professionals ally with marginalized people groups, such as Latinos, through policy advocacy and partnering with local organizations, such as Training Occupational Development Education Communities (TODEC) Legal Center. In fact, this particular organization would be an ideal partnership due to their constant dedication to the immigrant community through their grassroots efforts to empower, heal, and equip.

### Conclusion

All in all, this study explored the barriers and facilitators to Latino father involvement within Southern California. The data is not simply information, but tangible stories of lives being lived every single day. These are human beings, just like me and you. Upon hearing their words, one can see that the prevalence of father-absence in Latino communities is growing by large and has occurred by chance, but by painful experiences they themselves lived as children. The lack of research on marginalized communities only further displays the conscious choice we all have as human beings to hold space for the inner child in each of us.

APPENDIX A  
DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

**Instructions:** Please provide a response for each of the following questions:

**1. How old are you?**

18-25 years  26-49 years  50-64 years  65 and older

**2. Do you identify as?**

Female  Male  Transgender  Different Gender Identity

**3. What is your marital status?**

Single  Married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed

**4. What is your country of birth?**

United States

Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What is your highest level of education?**

No schooling  High school or equivalent  Certificate or training program   
Associate  Bachelors  Masters  Doctorate

***Demographic survey developed by researcher.***

**Instrucciones:** Proporcione una respuesta para cada una de las siguientes preguntas:

**1. ¿Cuál es su edad?**

18-25 años  26-49 años  50-64 años  65 o más

**2. ¿Se identifica como?**

Mujer  Hombre  Transgénero  Diferente identidad de género

**3. ¿Cuál es su estado civil?**

Soltero  Casado  Separado  Divorciado  Viudo

**4. ¿Cuál es su país de nacimiento?**

Estados Unidos

Otros (especificar): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. ¿Cuál es tu nivel más alto de educación?**

Sin escolaridad  Preparatoria o equivalente  Certificado o programa de capacitación  Asociado  Licenciatura  Maestría  Doctorado

***Encuesta demográfica creada por la investigadora.***

APPENDIX B  
INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview Guide  
*For Fathers*  
**(developed by the researcher)**

1. Tell me about yourself.
  - a. How old are you?
  - b. Where were you born? Are you a citizen of that country?
  - c. How long have you lived in California?
  - d. Are you working? What type of work?
2. Tell me about your family.
  - a. Who are your family members?
  - b. Are you married?
  - c. Do you live with your family members?
  - d. How involved are you in your family members' lives?
3. Now I'd like to ask you about your experiences as a father. How would you describe your role or your responsibilities as a father?
  - a. Is this role different than you thought it might be? Has your role changed over time?
  - b. Is your role different depending on your children's needs, or whether they are sons or daughters? (ask about Marianismo/Machismo)
4. How did you learn to be a father?
  - a. Was your father involved in your life and how has that affected your childhood? How about other male relatives?
  - b. Who or what else helped you learn to be a father?
5. What do you think makes someone a good father?
  - a. Describe what good fathers do.
  - b. Tell me about someone you consider a good father.
  - c. Tell me about a time you felt you were a good father.
6. What gets in the way of being a good father?
  - a. Work? Stress? Money? Relationships?
7. Tell me about a time you found it challenging to be a good father.
  - a. What happened?
  - b. How did you deal with this?
  - c. How did things turn out?
8. How has immigrating impacted you as a father?
  - a. How does your citizenship status impact your role as a father?
  - b. How does raising a family in America impact your role as a father?
  - c. Would your role as a father have been different if you had not immigrated?
9. Looking back, is there anything that would have helped you be a better father?
10. If you could give another father in your same circumstances advice about being a father, what would you tell him?

11. What else would you like to tell me about being a father?

Guía De Entrevista  
Para Los Padres  
(creada por la investigadora)

1. Háblame de ti.
  - a. ¿Cuántos años tienes?
  - b. ¿Dónde naciste? ¿Eres ciudadano de ese país?
  - c. ¿Cuánto tiempo has vivido en California?
  - d. Estás trabajando? ¿Qué tipo de trabajo?
2. Háblame de tu familia.
  - a. ¿Quiénes son los miembros de su familia?
  - b. ¿eres casado/a?
  - c. ¿vives con tu familia?
  - d. ¿Qué tan involucrado está en la vida de los miembros de su familia?
3. Ahora me gustaría preguntarle sobre sus experiencias como padre. ¿Cómo describiría su papel o sus responsabilidades como padre?
  - a. ¿Es este papel diferente de lo que usted pensó que podría ser? ¿Ha cambiado tu papel con el tiempo?
  - b. Es su papel diferente dependiendo de las necesidades de sus hijos, o si son hijos o hijas? (preguntar sobre Marianismo / Machismo)
4. ¿Cómo aprendiste a ser padre?
  - a. ¿Tu padre estuvo involucrado en tu vida y como eso te impacto tu niñez o modo de ser? ¿Y otros parientes masculinos?
  - b. ¿Quién o qué más te ayudó a aprender a ser padre?
5. ¿Qué crees que hace a alguien un buen padre?
  - a. Describa lo que los buenos padres hacen.
  - b. Háblame de alguien que consideras un buen padre.
  - c. Háblame de una época en la que sentías que eras un buen padre.
6. ¿Qué se interpone en el camino de ser un buen padre?
  - a. ¿Trabajo? ¿Estrés? Dinero? ¿Relaciones?
7. Háblame de una época en la que te resultaba difícil ser un buen padre.
  - a. ¿qué pasó?
  - b. ¿cómo lidió con esto?
  - c. ¿cómo resultaron las cosas?
8. ¿Cómo te ha impactado emigrar como padre?
  - a. ¿cómo impacta tu estado de ciudadanía en tu papel como padre?
  - b. ¿cómo influye la crianza de una familia en América en su papel como padre?
  - c. ¿tu papel como padre hubiera sido diferente si no hubieras emigrado?
9. Mirando hacia atrás, ¿hay algo que te haya ayudado a ser un mejor padre?
10. Si pudieras dar otro padre en tus mismas circunstancias consejo acerca de ser un padre, ¿qué le dirías?
11. ¿Qué más te gustaría decirme sobre siendo un papá?





APPENDIX C

FLIER

**¡TE NECESITAMOS!**

**COLLEGE STUDENT SEEKING  
PARTICIPANTS FOR A RESEARCH STUDY**

**EARN \$15 GIFT CARD**

**Are you a Latino father who was born in another country?**

**Do you have a Latino father who was born in another country?**

**PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY 😊**

*Share about your experiences and contribute to creating research on barriers and facilitators to Latino fathering in Southern California.*

As a participant in this study, you would be asked to:

**participate in 1 interview for 45 minutes**

Your participation is **voluntary** and your responses are **confidential**. In appreciation of your time, you will receive a \$25 gift card for your participation. If you believe you are eligible and want to participate, please contact me:

Jessica Martinez

Graduate Student, CSU San Bernardino

003774679@coyote.csusb.edu

(951) 867 - 0060

**The study has been approved by the  
Institutional Review Board, California State University, San Bernardino**

**¡TE NECESITAMOS!**

**ESTUDIANTE UNIVERSITARIO BUSCANDO PARTICIPANTES PARA UN ESTUDIO**

**GANA UNA TARJETA DE REGALO DE \$15 DÓLARES**

¿Es usted un padre Latino que nació en otro país?

¿Tienes un padre Latino que nació en otro país?

**PARTICIPE EN ESTE ESTUDIO 😊**

*Comparte tus experiencias y ayuda a crear datos sobre barreras y facilitadores de la crianza de los hijos Latinos en el sur de California.*

Como participante en este estudio, se le pedirá:  
**su participación en 1 entrevista durante 60 minutos.**

Su participación es **voluntaria** y sus respuestas son **confidenciales**. En agradecimiento por su tiempo, usted recibirá una tarjeta de regalo de \$25 para su participación. Si usted cree que eres elegible y quiere participar, por favor póngase en contacto conmigo:

Jessica Martínez

Estudiante de Posgrado, CSU San Bernardino

003774679@coyote.csusb.edu

(951) 867 - 0060

Este estudio ha sido aprobado por la  
Junta de Revisión Institucional, Universidad Estatal de California, San Bernardino

APPENDIX D  
INFORMED CONSENT

**INFORMED CONSENT**

The study in which you are being asked to participate is designed to examine the barriers and facilitators in Latino fathering that Latino fathers in Southern California face that impact their involvement in their child's life. This study is being conducted by Jessica Martínez, a graduate student, under the supervision of Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at California State University, San Bernardino.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the research study is to examine the experiences of immigrant Latino fathers and their family members.

**DESCRIPTION:** Participants will be asked questions on their background, family life, micro and macro barriers and facilitators that they faced as a Latino father, intergenerational transmission of trauma and fathering skills, possible gender ideology influences, and how immigrating has impacted their fathering abilities.

**PARTICIPATION:** Your participation in the study is totally voluntary. You can refuse to participate or discontinue your participation at any time without any consequences.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Your responses will remain confidential and audio recordings will be downloaded onto a USB drive and stored in a locked folder along with sign-in sheets and notes. Collected data will be safeguarded using password encryption. All data collected will be permanently deleted and/or shredded one year after the completion of the study.

**DURATION:** It will take 45 to 60 minutes to complete the interview.

**RISKS:** There are minimal risks associated with participation in this study, including feeling discomfort related to questions about challenges related to undocumented status and parent-child relationships. These risks are no more than one might experience in everyday life.

**BENEFITS:** There are no direct benefits to the participants, although what we learn from this study may help social workers better support undocumented and immigrant families. In addition, participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their participation in the study.

**CONTACT:** If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Lanesskog at (909) 537-5501.

**RESULTS:** Results of the study can be obtained from the Pfau Library ScholarWorks database (<http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/>) at California State University, San Bernardino after July 2020.

.....  
I agree to be audio recorded: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

This is to certify that I read the above, understand it, and give my consent, and that I am 18 years or older.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Place an X mark here

### CONSENTIMIENTO INFORMADO

El estudio en el que se le solicita participar está diseñado para examinar los barreras y facilitadores que impactan la participación en la vida de sus hijos para los padres latinos en el sur de California. Este estudio está siendo dirigido por Jessica Martínez, una estudiante posgrado, bajo la supervisión de la Dra. Deirdre Lanesskog, Profesora Asistente en la Escuela de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Estatal de California, San Bernardino (CSUSB). Este estudio ha sido aprobado por la Junta de Revisión Institucional de la Universidad Estatal de California, San Bernardino.

**PROPÓSITO:** El propósito del estudio de investigación es examinar las experiencias de los padres latinos indocumentados y sus familiares.

**DESCRIPCIÓN:** A los participantes se les harán preguntas sobre sus antecedentes, la vida familiar, las barreras micro y macro y los facilitadores que enfrentaron como padre Latino, la transmisión intergeneracional del trauma y las habilidades de paternidad, las posibles influencias de la ideología de género, y cómo la inmigración ha impactado sus habilidades de crianza.

**PARTICIPACIÓN:** Tu participación en el estudio es totalmente voluntaria. Usted puede plantar a participar o discontinuar su participación en cualquier momento sin consecuencias.

**CONFIDENCIALIDAD:** Sus respuestas se mantendrán confidenciales y las grabaciones de audio se descargarán en una unidad USB y se almacenarán en una carpeta bloqueada junto con hojas de registro y notas. Los datos recopilados se protegerán mediante el uso de una contraseña cifrada. Todos los datos recopilados serán eliminados permanentemente y/o triturados un año después de la finalización del estudio.

**DURACIÓN:** Tomará 45 a 60 minutos para completar la entrevista.

**RIESGOS:** Un riesgo previsible para los participantes incluye sentirse incómodo como resultado de la naturaleza de las preguntas formuladas en la guía de la entrevista.

**BENEFICIOS:** No hay beneficios directos para los participantes, aunque lo que aprendemos de este estudio puede ayudar a los trabajadores sociales a apoyar mejor a las familias indocumentadas. Además, los participantes recibirán una tarjeta de regalo de \$25 por su participación en el estudio.

**CONTACTO:** Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre este estudio, por favor no dude en ponerse en contacto con la Dra. Lanesskog al (909) 537-5501.

**RESULTADOS:** Los resultados del estudio se pueden obtener de la base de datos de L Pfa Library ScholarWorks (<http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/>) en la Universidad estatal de California, San Bernardino después de Julio de 2020.

.....  
Acepto tener mi voz grabado: \_\_\_\_\_ SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Esto es para certificar que he leído, entiendo, y doy mi consentimiento, y que tengo 18 años o más.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ponga una marca X aquí**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Fecha**

## **CONSENT TO AUDIO RECORDINGS AND TRANSCRIPTION**

*La Mera Verdad: Exploring Immigrant Latino Fatherhood*  
*Jessica Martínez, Graduate Student at CSUSB*

This study involves the audio recording of your interview with the student researcher. Neither your name nor any other identifying information will be associated with the audio recording or the transcript. Only the research team will be able to access and listen to the recordings.

The tapes will be transcribed and permanently deleted once the transcriptions are checked for accuracy.

By marking an X below, I am allowing the student researcher to audio record me as part of this research. I also understand that this consent for recording is effective until the following date: June 17, 2020. On or after that date, the tapes will be destroyed.

---

**Place an X mark here**

---

**Date**

## **CONSENTIMIENTO PARA GRABACIONES Y TRANSCRIPCIONES**

*La Mera Verdad: Explorando la Paternidad Inmigrante Latina*  
*Jessica Martínez, Estudiante de Posgrado en CSUSB*

Este estudio implica la grabación de audio durante la entrevista con el estudiante investigador. Ni su nombre ni ninguna otra información de identificación se asociará con la grabación de audio o la transcripción. Solo el equipo de investigación podrá acceder y escuchar las grabaciones.

Las grabaciones serán transcritas por el estudiante investigador y en cuanto las transcripciones sean revisadas para verificar su exactitud, serán borradas permanentemente.

Al marcar una X a continuación, estoy permitiendo que el estudiante investigador me grabe en audio como parte de esta investigación. También actúo que este consentimiento para la grabación es efectivo hasta la siguiente fecha: 17 de Junio de 2020. A partir de esa fecha, las grabaciones serán destruidas.

---

**Ponga una marca X aquí**

---

**Fecha**



APPENDIX E  
APPROVAL DOCUMENTS



October 23, 2019

CSUSB INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD  
Administrative/Exempt Review Determination  
Status: Determined Exempt  
IRB-FY2018-92

Jessica Martinez Deirdre Lanesskog  
CSBS - Social Work  
California State University, San Bernardino  
5500 University Parkway  
San Bernardino, California 92407

Dear Jessica Martinez Deirdre Lanesskog

Your application to use human subjects, titled "La Mera Verdad: Exploring Immigrant Latino Fatherhood" has been reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of California State University, San Bernardino has determined that your application meets the requirements for exemption from IRB review Federal requirements under 45 CFR 46. As the researcher under the exempt category you do not have to follow the requirements under 45 CFR 46 which requires annual renewal and documentation of written informed consent which are not required for the exempt category. However, exempt status still requires you to attain consent from participants before conducting your research as needed. Please ensure your CITI Human Subjects Training is kept up-to-date and current throughout the study.

The CSUSB IRB has not evaluated your proposal for scientific merit, except to weigh the risk to the human participants and the aspects of the proposal related to potential risk and benefit. This approval notice does not replace any departmental or additional approvals which may be required.

Your responsibilities as the researcher/investigator reporting to the IRB Committee the following three requirements highlighted below. Please note failure of the investigator to notify the IRB of the below requirements may result in disciplinary action.

- Submit a protocol modification (change) form if any changes (no matter how minor) are proposed in your study for review and approval by the IRB before implemented in your study to ensure the risk level to participants has not increased,
- If any unanticipated/adverse events are experienced by subjects during your research, and
- Submit a study closure through the Cayuse IRB submission system when your study has ended.



## City Mission Ministries

*Feeding the Hungry, Helping the Poor and the Homeless, Offering Hope in Jesus' Name.*

September 3, 2019

Institutional Review Board  
School of Social Work Subcommittee  
CSUSB

Jessica Martinez has requested permission to complete a Master's Research Project with our agency in order to fulfill the requirements of a Master of Social Work degree at CSU San Bernardino. This study will examine the barriers and facilitators to Latino fatherhood among immigrant families in Southern California.

The student will use data that she collects from City Mission Ministries clients to conduct this research. I have discussed this research topic with the student and agree to allow them to collect the data needed to complete the study. I expect this project to be completed by June of 2020.

The student shall share her finding with City Mission Ministries upon completing her research project.

I understand that students are required to publish the results of this research project online at the CSUSB Pfau Library. I understand that any reports generated by this research will not reveal participants' identities. I may request that any published, written, or oral presentations generated by this research preserve the anonymity of the program, agency, and county. If you require further information, please contact me at 909-649-0011.

Sincerely

Jackie Davis  
Director  
City Mission Ministries

Corp Office: 26200 Date St., Highland, CA 92346 \* 909-649-0011  
DBA: Riverside City Mission, San Bernardino City Mission, City Mission of Las Vegas

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