



Outstanding Dissertations Competition **2024**



AAHHE

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Inc.

Deadline: August 8, 2023

Outstanding Dissertations Competition 2024

Given the needs of the growing English language learning population in the United States, AAHHE and ETS especially welcome the submission of dissertations relating to English-language learners (ELLs).

Introduction

The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and ETS are proud to announce the Outstanding Dissertations Competition 2024. AAHHE and ETS recognize the need to greatly increase the number of Hispanics receiving doctoral degrees, entering higher education on the tenure track, and serving in faculty, administrative and leadership roles.

Although Hispanics are the fastest-growing population in the country, they are underrepresented in all areas of higher education: undergraduate, graduate, faculty and administration. Gains are being seen every year in the number of Hispanics earning doctoral degrees and serving in full-time faculty positions. However, the percentages are not climbing commensurate with the population's growth.

By sponsoring this competition, AAHHE and ETS provide an opportunity to spotlight top doctoral students and reward excellence in doctoral-level Hispanic student performance.

The goals are to encourage greater numbers of prepared students to enter and complete doctoral programs and to enhance the quality of the dissertations they write.

Competition Eligibility

The competition is open to any Latinx who has completed a dissertation as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences, broadly defined, and/or anyone whose dissertation research conducted as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences focuses on the Latinx community. Additionally, the dissertation needs to have been completed between December 2021 and August 1, 2023.

Dissertations are eligible if they are in domains related to the ETS corporate mission, including education, linguistics, psychology, statistics and testing. Studies using any research approach (historical, experimental, survey, quantitative, mixed methods, etc.) are eligible. Dissertations in the humanities, basic sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics are not eligible.

Previous applicants are ineligible to reapply.

General Procedure

The judging occurs in two phases. The first phase is based on dissertation abstracts received by the deadline. The writers of the top seven to ten dissertation summaries (semifinalists) will be asked to submit a copy of the complete dissertation. Judging in the second phase determines the top three dissertations and honorable mentions, if applicable.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the dissertation:

- appropriateness of the research approach used
- significance of the impact of the research in the field
- creativity and innovation of the study
- scholarly quality of the dissertation
- significance of its contribution to knowledge in the field

Dissertation Summary

The dissertation summary for the first round of judging is due on **August 8, 2023**. The summary must reflect accurately, concisely and precisely the research of the full dissertation.

It is very important that each candidate follows the dissertation summary preparation instructions carefully. The dissertation summary should include a title page, an abstract letter signed by the chair of the dissertation committee, a main report section and an appendix. Detailed instructions are available at www.aahhe.org.

Award Recognition

Two levels of winners will be recognized: finalists (first-, second- and third-place winners) and honorable mentions (out of the remaining semifinalists). The three finalists will be formally recognized at the 19th Annual AAHHE National Conference scheduled for March 2024.

The three finalists also will receive:

- a monetary award (\$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place)
- an AAHHE certificate
- support to attend the 2024 AAHHE National Conference to present their dissertations in an individual concurrent session

The Kurt M. Landgraf Outstanding Dissertation Award



Kurt M. Landgraf joined ETS as President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2000, and he retired in December 2013. During his tenure, he oversaw ETS's entrance into the K–12 field, expanded its international services, broadened its education research activities and raised the company's profile as a voice for education reform. In honor of his contributions to quality and equity in education at all levels, the first-place award in this competition is named the Kurt M. Landgraf Outstanding Dissertation Award.

2023 Competition Winners

FIRST PLACE



Rosalinda Godínez, Ph.D.

Degree Granting Institution: University of California, Berkeley

Mexicana/Latina Campesinas Cultivating Knowledge: A Collective Agricultural Land-Based Education in Central Washington State in the Homelands of Yakama Nation

Rosalinda Godínez is a postdoctoral fellow at Cleveland State University in the Center for Urban Education. Her research interweaves critical, interdisciplinary and Chicana/Latina feminist perspectives. It is deeply rooted in social justice orientations, lived experiences and her desire to establish collaborative partnerships that honor people's everyday lives and education practices of community, movement, and imagination, which she argues entails the co-creation of literacies (as social practice), life strategies and pedagogies.

SECOND PLACE



Roberto C. Orozco, Ph.D.

Degree Granting Institution: Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Aquí entre nos: Identity and socio-political consciousness development of queer Latinx/a/o college student activists through the Muxerista activist consciousness development framework

Roberto C. Orozco received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Rutgers University–New Brunswick along with a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He serves as a presidential postdoctoral associate in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. His research explores questions around race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality with relation to college student activism and student development, queer resistance and queer worldmaking in and outside of higher education contexts.

THIRD PLACE



Beatriz Maldonado, Ph.D.

Degree Granting Institution: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ordinary Salviness and the Exceptional Everyday

Beatriz Maldonado achieved a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. While in graduate school, she completed ethnographic fieldwork in El Salvador, analyzing how families remember and forget traumas of disappearance, separation and loss as a result of El Salvador's civil war and its aftermath. Maldonado's current research explores postwar ordinariness, kinship entanglements and practices of memory. Alongside her academic trajectory, she has worked collaboratively with college and career access programs, as well as other mentorship opportunities. Her motivation for equity and sustainability derives from the journeys and successes of students of color.

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Visit www.aahhe.org for details.

