

Rene R. Rocha

Educational History

Texas A&M University

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2006

Fields: Public Policy, American Politics, Race and Politics

Doctoral Advisor: Kenneth J. Meier

University of Texas – Pan American

B.A. in Political Science, 2002

Positions Held

University of Iowa

Academic Appointments

Professor, Department of Political Science & Latina/o/x Studies Program, 2019 – Present

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2012 – 2019

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2006 – 2012

Administrative Appointments

Departmental Executive Officer, Department of American Studies, 2026 – Present

Interim Departmental Executive Officer, Department of American Studies, 2025 – 2026

Interim Departmental Executive Officer, African American Studies Program, 2025 – 2026

Director, Latina/o/x Studies Program, 2016 – 2025

Research Interests

Racial and Ethnic Politics in the United States, Immigration Policy, Voting Rights

Refereed Articles

1. Park, Jihye, Rene R. Rocha, Stephanie M. DiPietro, Thomas D. Stucky, and Qianyi Shi. Forthcoming. “Make America Safer? Interior Deportation for Non-Serious Offenses and Crime.” *Journal of Crime and Justice*
2. Park, Jihye, and Rene R. Rocha. 2026. “The Impacts of Restrictive Interior Immigration Enforcement on Undocumented Immigrants’ Decisions: Self-Deportation Out of Fear?” *The Sociological Quarterly* 67: 5680.
3. Rocha, Rene R. 2024. “Black–Brown Coalitions in Local City Council Elections.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 9: 442-453.

4. Coll, Joseph, Elizabeth Maltby, and Rene R. Rocha. 2024. "Race and Democratic Decline in the US: How Minority Population Growth Affects Election Administration." *Social Science Quarterly* 105: 160-179.
5. Torres, Rachel, Jielu Yao, Elizabeth Maltby, Rene R. Rocha, and Adriano Udani. 2024. "Crossed Wires: Understanding Policy Feedback in Varying Policy Environments." *Journal of Public Policy* 44: 229-257.
6. Jones, Bradford, Jeffrey W. Sherman, Natalie E. Rojas, Adrienne Hosek, David L. Vannette, Rene R. Rocha, Omar Garca-Ponce, Maria Pantoja, and Jesus Manuel Garca-Amador. 2021. "Trump Induced Anxiety among Latina/os." *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations* 24: 68-87.
7. Maltby, Elizabeth, Rene R. Rocha, Bradford S. Jones, and David L. Vannette. 2020. "Demographic Context, Mass Deportation, and Latino Linked Fate." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 5: 509-536.
8. McNeely, Natasha Altema, Elizabeth Maltby, and Rene R. Rocha. 2019. "How the Link Between Social Capital and Migratory Duration Helps Us Understand Immigrant–Native Inequality." *Social Science Quarterly* 100: 749-761.
9. Rocha, Rene R., Natasha Altema McNeely, and Carlos E. Cuellar. 2015. "How Support for Latino Candidates Encourages Municipal Reforms." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 3: 335-349.
10. Rocha, Rene R., Benjamin R. Knoll, and Robert D. Wrinkle. 2015. "Immigration Enforcement and the Redistribution of Trust." *Journal of Politics* 77: 901-91.
11. Rocha, Rene R., and Tetsuya Matsubayashi. 2014. "The Politics of Race and Voter ID Laws in the States: The Return of Jim Crow?" *Political Research Quarterly* 67: 666-679.
12. Rocha, Rene R., Daniel P. Hawes, Alisa Hicklin Fryar, and Robert D. Wrinkle. 2014. "Policy Climates, Enforcement Rates, and Migrant Behavior: Is Self-Deportation a Viable Immigration Policy?" *Policy Studies Journal* 42: 79-100.
13. Rocha, Rene R., and Tetsuya Matsubayashi. 2013. "Latino Representation and Immigration in Local Politics." *Urban Affairs Review* 49: 353-380.
14. Hawes, Daniel P., Rene R. Rocha, and Kenneth J. Meier. 2013. "Social Capital in the Fifty States." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 13: 121-138.
15. Matsubayashi, Tetsuya, and Rene R. Rocha. 2012. "Racial Diversity and Public Policy in the States." *Political Research Quarterly* 65: 602-616.
16. Hawes, Daniel P., and Rene R. Rocha. 2011. "Culture, Capital, and Diversity: Assessing the Determinants of Civic and Economic Equity in the American States." *Political Research Quarterly* 64: 924-937.
 - Winner of the Lucius Barker Award

17. Rocha, Rene R., and Robert D. Wrinkle. 2011. "Gender, Ethnicity, and Support for Bilingual Education: Will Just Any Woman or Latino Do? A Contingent 'No.'" *Policy Studies Journal* 39: 309-328.
18. Rocha, Rene R., Thomas Longoria, Robert D. Wrinkle, Benjamin R. Knoll, J.L. Polinard, and James P. Wenzel. 2011. "Ethnic Context and Immigration Policy Preferences among Latinos and Anglos." *Social Science Quarterly* 92: 1-19.
19. Rocha, Rene R., Caroline J. Tolbert, Daniel Bowen, and Christopher Clark. 2010. "Race and Turnout: Does Descriptive Representation in State Legislatures Increase Minority Voting?" *Political Research Quarterly* 63: 890-907.
20. Rocha, Rene R., and Rodolfo Espino. 2010. "Segregation, Immigration, and Latino Participation in Ethnic Politics." *American Politics Research* 38: 614-635.
21. Rocha, Rene R., and Rodolfo Espino. 2009. "Racial Threat, Residential Segregation, and the Policy Attitudes of Anglos." *Political Research Quarterly* 62: 415-426.
22. Rocha, Rene R., and Daniel P. Hawes. 2009. "Racial Diversity, Representative Bureaucracy, and Equity in Multiracial School Districts." *Social Science Quarterly* 90: 326-344.
23. Rocha, Rene R. 2007. "Black-Brown Coalitions in Local School Board Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 60: 315-327.
 - Winner of the *Political Research Quarterly* Best Article Award
24. Meier, Kenneth J., Carl Doerfler, Daniel Hawes, Alisa K. Hicklin, and Rene R. Rocha. 2006. "The Role of Management and Representation in Improving Performance of Disadvantaged Students: An Application of Bum Phillips' 'Don Shula Rule.'" *Review of Policy Research* 23: 1095-1110.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

1. Rocha, Rene R. 2011. "Black Empowerment and the Substantive Representation of Latinos on Local School Boards." In *The Politics of Latino Education*, eds. David Leal and Kenneth J. Meier. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.
2. Rocha, Rene R. 2007. "Cooperation and Conflict in Multiracial School Districts." In *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization, and Representation*, eds. Rodolfo Espino, David Leal, and Kenneth J. Meier. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.

Book Review

Rocha, Rene R. 2011. Review of Luis Ricardo Fraga, John A. Garcia, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, and Gary M. Segura, *Latino Lives in America: Making it Home* and Amalia Pallares and Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, eds, *Marcha!: Latino Chicago and the Immigrant Rights Movement. Perspectives on Politics* 9: 911-913.

Funded Grant

Wanzer-Serrano, Darrel, Rene R. Rocha, and Ariana Ruiz. 2018. *Imagining Latinidades: Articulations of National Belonging*. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Cultures. \$225, 000.

Expert Reports and Testimony

1. *LULAC of Iowa v. Pate*, Iowa State Court, Polk County, 2021–2025
2. *United States v. Galveston County*, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, 2022–2023
3. *LULAC of Iowa v. Pate*, Iowa State Court, Polk County, 2022–2023
4. *Flores v. Town of Islip*, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 2019–2020

Honors and Awards

American Political Science Association

Section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics best paper award, 2015

Midwest Political Science Association

Lucius Barker Award for best paper presented on the race and ethnicity, 2007

Western Political Science Association

Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper presented at the annual meeting, 2014

Political Research Quarterly best article award, 2008

Southwest Political Science Association

Ted Robinson Memorial Award for the best research proposal by a graduate student on race, 2005

University of Iowa

Herman J. & Eileen S. Schmidt Chair recognizing excellence in undergraduate teaching, mentoring, and curriculum development, 2021 – 2026

Hubbard-Walder Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2024

Collegiate Teaching Award, 2013

Professional Service

American Political Science Association

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Latino Caucus, 2026
Emerging Scholar Award Committee, Latino Caucus, 2023
Best Paper Committee, State Politics and Policy Section, 2022
Program Committee, Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, 2016, 2019
Nominations Committee, Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, 2017–2019
Latino/a Politics Best Book Award Committee, 2015
Ralph Bunche Award Committee, 2015
Executive Council of the Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, 2010–2012
Best Dissertation Committee, State Politics and Policy Section, 2012
Vice President of the Latino Caucus, 2007–2008

Midwest Political Science Association

Executive Council, 2016–2019
President of the Latino Caucus, 2006–2008
Program Committee, Latino Caucus Section, 2007, 2008
Advisory Board Member for the Latino Caucus, 2005–2006

Western Political Science Association

Program Committee, Public Policy Section, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2020
Committee on the Status of Latinos/as in the Profession, 2014–2017
Best Paper in Latina/o Politics Award Committee, 2010

Southern Political Science Association

Program Committee, Public Policy Section, 2015

Southwest Political Science Association

Jewel Prestage Award Committee, 2015
Program Committee, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics section, 2011

Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *American Review of Politics*, *Election Law Journal*, *Equity and Excellence in Education*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Journal of Latinos and Education*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*, *Journal of Women Politics & Policy*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Politics & Governance*, *Politics Groups and Identities*, *Politics & Policy*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*

Service at the University of Iowa

University

Public Policy Center External Review Committee, 2023

Master of Public Affairs Steering Committee, 2020–2023

UI Path Forward working group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 2018–2020

Faculty Senate, 2012–2015

Executive Committee for the Latino Council, 2009–2011

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Named and Distinguished Professorships Committee, 2022–2025

Co-facilitator of Dean’s Charge for Social Justice, Ethnic, Racial and Cultural Studies Group, 2022

Dean’s Search Committee, 2018–2019

Task Force on Outreach and Engagement, 2018–2020

Faculty Assembly, 2012–2015

Advisory Board for the Latina/o Studies Minor, 2014–2016

Department of Political Science

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2020–2023

Departmental Executive Committee, 2010–2012, 2014–2016, 2018–2020, 2022–2024

Graduate Studies Committee, 2006–2008, 2018–2023

PhD Placement Director, 2017–2020

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2011–2012, 2016–2018

Honors Program Director, 2016–2017