

# Kate Elizabeth Masley

## **EDUCATION**

**Case Western Reserve University**, Cleveland, Ohio,

Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology,

Graduated Summa cum laude

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

**Case Western Reserve University**, Cleveland, Ohio,

Master of Arts in Medical Anthropology

Graduated Summa cum laude

**Kenyon College**, Gambier, Ohio

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

Graduated Magna cum laude with highest departmental honors

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

Recipient of The Molly R. Hatcher Prize in Women's and Gender Studies

## **SELECTED POSITIONS**

**LEO Lecturer I, Anthropology Program, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 7/24-Present**

As a lecturer in Anthropology at UM-D, I teach ANTH 470: *Medical Anthropology* (which I also designed), ANTH 101: *Introduction to Anthropology*, ANTH 370: *Indigenous Peoples of North America*, and ANTH 202: *World Cultures*. I teach in-person and fully online asynchronous courses using Canvas LMS.

**Special Lecturer, School of Health Sciences, Oakland University, 9/19-Present**

As an adjunct faculty member, I have taught courses in health sciences and public health. In addition, I have taught a graduate course in the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. I have taught in-person, hybrid, and fully online asynchronous courses using Moodle LMS.

**Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences, Oakland University, 8/18-8/19**

As a visiting faculty member in the Department of Public and Environmental Wellness at Oakland University for a one-year appointment, I taught courses in health sciences along with a course in medical anthropology. I also served on a faculty search committee and engaged in other service activities.

**Director, Research Center for Women and Girls, Alverno College, 8/09-2/11**

As Director, I was in charge of creating and developing the new Research Center for Women and Girls (RCWG) at Alverno College from the ground up. Under my leadership, the RCWG was a collaborative, multidisciplinary, and action-oriented research center focused on initiating positive social change in the lives of women and girls in Milwaukee and beyond. In addition, I had the responsibility of initiating and maintaining community outreach/partnerships and creating a center that acted as a bridge from academia to the community.

**Assistant Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Cleveland State University, 8/07-5/08**

In this multidisciplinary department focused on providing a curriculum that prepares students for careers in healthcare, I designed and taught three undergraduate and graduate courses. I advised and mentored undergraduate and graduate students with their independent research projects. I also took a lead role in developing a health disparities curriculum for Cleveland State University (NIH P60 EXPORT Grant). Additionally, I was an affiliated faculty member in the CSU Women's Studies Department.

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Medical Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Research Methods (Ethnographic, Qualitative, Quantitative, Mixed Methods)
- Women's Health and Immigrant Health
- Indigenous Peoples of North America
- Political Economy
- Health Disparities
- Social Determinants of Health

**SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS****National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS 0413836), 9/04-5/07**

A grant funding my dissertation research focusing on Mexican immigrant women's pregnancy management practices and childbirth experiences titled, *Living the "Latina Paradox": An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*.

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (ID: 0413836), 9/02-9/05** A three-year fellowship supporting my graduate education and living expenses.

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

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

**SELECTED RESEARCH/FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE****Current Research**

I am currently in the process of turning my dissertation, *Living the "Latina Paradox": An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*, into a book.

**Dissertation Research**

From 10/04-5/07, I conducted my dissertation research titled, *Living the "Latina Paradox": An Ethnography of Pregnant and Postpartum Mexican Immigrants in Northeast Ohio*.

My research was rooted in what many public health researchers call the "Latina Paradox."

According to this “paradox,” statistics show that Mexican women in the U.S. are generally having healthy babies (i.e., their children are born of a healthy weight and rarely premature). Even though many Mexicans in the U.S. generally represent a low-income group, lack sufficient health insurance, and many maintain low education rates and low prenatal care utilization, Mexican women are still giving birth to healthy infants. This project sought to understand what Mexican women and families in the United States may be doing to help prevent poor infant health outcomes.

This study has two major findings regarding women’s reproductive practices. First, this study provides Mexican immigrant women’s own perspective on the “Latina paradox” and why U.S. Mexicans are giving birth to healthy babies. Mexican women attributed these positive infant health outcomes to their pregnancy practices, which they characterized as “taking care of ourselves.” Even Mexican immigrants who reported not following this constellation of practices described them as practices that they learned from their mothers and which contribute to healthy babies. A second important finding is that the cost and payment structure of biomedical care is linked to patterns of use of informal pregnancy management and postpartum practices. Specifically, in locations which require per-visit fees, as opposed to more flexible payment plans, women relied more on informal practices.

In sum, these findings demonstrate that Mexican immigrants in Northeast Ohio use a range of biomedical and informal pregnancy management and postpartum practices which are affected by their cultural background and the socioeconomic realities of the biomedical system. As such, this study provides support for investigations of the “Latina paradox,” which acknowledge and examine both sociocultural and structural factors shaping Mexican women’s pregnancy and postpartum practices.

### **SELECTED AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

**Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, Member**, May 1998 – Present

**Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Member**, May 1998 – Present

**American Anthropological Association, Member**, September 2000-Present

**Society for Medical Anthropology, Member**, September 2000-Present

### **SELECTED RELATED WORK/ LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

#### **DONA-Certified Birth Doula**

*Cleveland, Ohio, January 2004-May 2008*

A birth doula is a trained labor support person that assists women during pregnancy and birth. I began training in January 2004 and became certified by DONA in October 2006.

I volunteered as a bilingual birth doula at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio from September 2004-May 2008. I supported and helped women, many of whom were Spanish speaking only, who did not have support during pregnancy and birth.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND THESES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (fluent), Maya Hieroglyphics