

Annual Report 2024-2025

Dr. Edwin J. Asencio Pagán

14 de mayo de 2025

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A. Misión

B. Institucionalizar una cultura de planificación estratégica y avalúo

C. Estar a la vanguardia de la educación superior en Puerto Rico garantizando que nuestros alumnos reciben la mejor educación

D. Aumentar y diversificar las fuentes de ingreso de la Institución

E. Implementar procesos administrativos ágiles y eficientes

F. Fortalecer la investigación y labor creativa competitiva

G. Impactar a nuestra sociedad puertorriqueña

H. Fortalecer el sentido de pertenencia y "orgullo colegial"

I. Actividad internacional

I. General Information of the Dean's Office and Associated Units

a. Mission and Vision

1. Mission and Vision of the Dean's Office

b. Organizational Structure

1. Organizational Chart of the Dean's Office

2. Organizational Chart of associated units under the Dean's Office

II. Report on Initiatives, Activities, and Achievements in Accordance with the Strategic Plan and International Activity

a. Executive Summary

- During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Department of Social Sciences met the programmatic objectives in accordance with the department's strategic plan: institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment, be at the vanguard of higher education in Puerto Rico, guaranteeing that our students receive the best education, increase and diversify the sources of income of the institution, implement agile and efficient administrative processes, strengthen research and competitive creative work of the faculty, impact Puerto Rican society and strengthen the sense of belonging and "Collegiate Pride". Next, we present the achievements of the faculty with the support of the administrative staff of the Department of Social Sciences.

• Mission and Vision of the Social Science

Offer a solid academic preparation in the Social Sciences that is characterized by theoretical and methodological diversity, and by inter and multidisciplinary work. Promote the training of competent leaders and professionals, with the capacity for critical thinking and mastery of their discipline, with ethical values sensitive to working with human and socio-cultural diversity, and committed to the well-being of society. Promote research and interest in continuous learning in its faculty and students.

The vision of the Department of Social Sciences is to be at the forefront in the development and application of knowledge in the Social Sciences and in the training of competent professionals committed to finding solutions to the social challenges of Puerto Rico and society global.

b. Objective 1: Institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment

- The Department has four academic programs:
 - Politic Science
 - General Social Sciences
 - History
 - Sociology

To facilitate the strategic planning of the academic offer and continuous curricular review, the faculty is assigned to one of the academic programs

and these in turn select a coordinator to facilitate the planning of the academic offer of each program. However, there are faculty members who offer courses in more than one program. During this year, the program coordinators together with the director of the Department coordinated the course programming of all the programs.

In the same way, our students maintain a database of the Social Sciences program. Its purpose is to generate information that helps us to describe the effectiveness of the Programs, to identify areas that need attention, and to develop strategies to improve the teaching and learning process in them.

- c. Objective 2: To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students

The Department has three Curricular Sequences:

- International Relations - This sequence is particularly important in a globalized world that requires movement of personnel beyond national borders, so it is a benefit that students understand the international system.
- Human Well-being - Human well-being refers to the activities designed by state or civil society organizations with the purpose of satisfying the basic needs of people and communities in areas such as health, education, housing, and employment, among others. The objective of the action is usually of a community nature, serving groups of people, geographical or functional communities, cities or nations. To this end, it is intended that they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in the identification of problems, effective communication and conflict management to apply them in the work carried out in government agencies, as well as in civil society organizations.
- Sociology and Environmental Public Policy - promotes the analysis of environmental issues, combining scientific-natural, technical and social aspects of the relationship between human beings and their environment from an integrating perspective.
- The creation of the minor concentration in Criminology was submitted. This sequence intends to promote the study of criminal behavior, the factors that provoke it, its manifestations, the social reaction; strategies for the prevention and control of criminal conduct. Therefore, the courses are

aligned with the sociological focus of the Sociology Program. What allows a theoretical approach, based on the scientific foundations exposed by sociologists and criminologists. In turn, the academic offering as designed shows a specific and interdisciplinary approach, which facilitates in students the understanding and analysis related to criminal behavior.

The minor concentration in criminology seeks to promote and develop critical analysis of the social factors that affect criminal behavior in order to develop recommendations for public policies in the area of security; as well as, also achieve recognition of the figure of the victim in the legal process. The criminological study affects the study and description of criminal phenomena that directly and indirectly affect the individual and collective levels. Concern about the increase in criminal activity entails analyzing different social and individual factors such as poverty, social inequality, racial segregation, institutional violence, interpersonal violence, psychological aspects, among others. For this purpose, it is intended to study and investigate criminological phenomena and other manifestations of socially deviant behavior, requiring the need to train students with the expectation of understanding the phenomenon of criminal actions.

The minor concentration in Criminology proposes that students can develop their analysis skills and reading comprehension in the field of Criminology. That inspires the student to continue graduate studies and develop in students the capacity for scientific analysis of the factors that promote criminal behavior.

- Courses created for the Curricular Sequence in Criminology, such as:
 - **CIPO 3007 – CRIMINOLOGICAL POLICIES IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC SECURITY**
Analysis and discussion of the typologies of crimes with their penalties that are exposed in the public policies aimed at the prevention and control of crime; from a comparative and interdisciplinary criminological perspective. In addition, the different explanatory theories of crime will be studied as a fundamental basis to focus public policies and the role of the criminologist in the discussion of the political.
 - **SOCI 3018 – VICTIMOLOGY**
Analysis of criminal acts from the perspective of the victim or survivor, their role in the Criminal Justice System and the process of victimization. It is expected to link students with the essential aspects of victimization and victimization. Analysis of criminal acts from the perspective of victims of violent crimes. Femicides, gender violence, attempted murders, and murders will be among the cases studied. Each crime and the affected party are the object of study that allows

one to identify the types of victims according to existing theoretical models.

- **SOCI 3017 - FOUNDATIONS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

Study of the basic concepts related to modern techniques to investigate different types of crimes. Relevant facts and evidence encounter at crime scene.

- **SOCI 300X – INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINALISTICS**

The course focuses on familiarizing students with the processes that allow the identification of the various types of evidence, its mechanisms of scientific validity to determine the conviction of the perpetrator in legal forums in the Puerto Rican and Federal Department of Justice. They will know what resources and protocols are used by the Institute of Forensic Sciences, the Puerto Rican Police Bureau, and the federal agencies to protect, collect, package, and identify the various types of evidence found at the crime scene.

- The Department of Social Sciences is proud of Mr. Orlandy Cabrera Valentín, a distinguished graduate of our Department and the Political Science Program, for his recent confirmation in the Puerto Rico Senate to occupy the position of Prosecutor I at the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. Mr. Cabrera Valentín stood out during his undergraduate years as a disciplined, committed, and academically excellent student. His exemplary career included active participation in research projects of the Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program, under the supervision of Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán, significantly contributing to the research and community efforts of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.



- The Public Security and Urban Affairs Observatory, affiliated with the Department of Social Sciences, organized the discussion “Critical

Observations on Feminicides in Puerto Rico,” bringing together specialists to analyze the causes and consequences of feminicides — an expression of gender-based violence. It is crucial to highlight and take action on this issue, which deeply affects our society.



- Participation of the undergraduate research group in the Public Security and Urban Affairs Observatory, under the mentorship of Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán, in the development of the research project: “Administrative Management and Reduction of Type I Crimes in Mayagüez: Experiences of Administrators in State and Municipal Security Agencies.”



Research Title: "Professional Experiences Regarding Feminicides, Trans-feminicides, and Gender-based Violence"



This academic effort represents the commitment of our students and faculty to the rigorous analysis of security challenges in Puerto Rico, from a critical and interdisciplinary perspective. This type of research strengthens the training of our future professionals in the fields of Criminology, Political Science, and Public Administration.

- Dr. Gustavo Cortina Rodríguez, Associate Director of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (RUM), participated in the program “*Cuarto Poder*” on WAPA TV with Jay Fonseca. In this segment, Dr. Cortina shared his perspective on the growing concern regarding “tusi” or “pink cocaine,” a synthetic drug that has gained notoriety on the island.



- The Department of Social Sciences obtained several programs used by researchers and student-researchers of the Department, including those linked to the Center for Applied Social Research (CISA) and the Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (CIEL), as well as by those

professors who teach social research methods course and research seminars. They are also used for online research and collaboration. The methods and social research courses of the Department of Social Sciences benefit from these programs, as professors integrate them into their courses to provide their students with practical experience with these innovative and versatile programs. The skills acquired are very useful both in graduate school and in the job market.

- IBM SPSS
 - Qualtrics.XM
 - End Note
 - N Vivo
- During this 2024-2025 academic year, sixty-six (66) students from our Department were recognized on the Honor Roll.



- Salvador Brau Award for academic excellence from the RUM Department of Social Sciences, for the student DANIELA M. ITURRINO BETANCOURT, from the Politics Science Program. Degree collation June 2025.



- The Student Associations of the Department of Social Sciences presented a well-deserved recognition to Dr. Tania del Mar Lopez during the 30th Social Sciences Research Symposium: The Contribution of Undergraduate Students to Applied Social Research. This tribute highlights Dr. Lopez's

deep commitment to the academic formation and research development of our student body. In particular, we proudly acknowledge the career of Dr. Tania del Mar Lopez, whose work has been instrumental in promoting undergraduate research. Her dedication as a mentor has enabled numerous students to engage in rigorous projects, fostering a strong research culture from the early stages of their academic journeys and significantly contributing to the academic and professional growth of our student community.



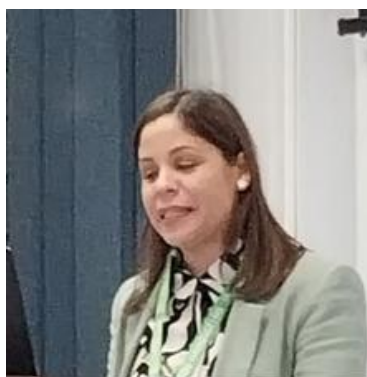
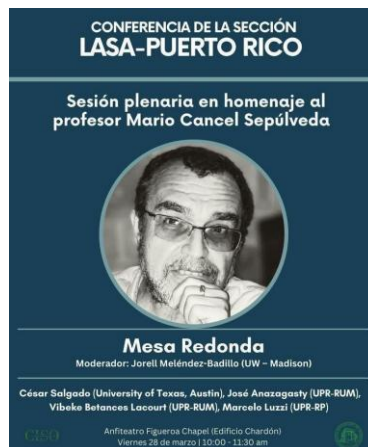
- Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos received a grant from the Puerto Rican Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation for her project “*Empowerment Through Poetry*.” This achievement reflects her strong commitment to research, community service, and social transformation.

<https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2025/03/28/empoderamientopoesia/>



- The event organized by Dr. Melody Fonseca Santos, titled *Latin American Studies Association – Puerto Rico Section*, enabled our Campus and Department to serve as collaborators in this important activity. This roundtable offered a profound reflection on the life and work of Professor

Mario Cancel Sepúlveda, highlighting his impact on literature, history, and sociology, as well as his unique way of constructing knowledge through critical thought and affective engagement.



- Dr. Waldemar Arroyo provided exceptional mentorship and support to the UPRM delegation at the United Nations Congress of Puerto Rico. Our students stood out remarkably in this competition, earning first and fourth place in the University Committee of the United Nations Congress of Puerto Rico, where the topic of debate was the militarization of the Arctic and its implications for world peace. This accomplishment reflects Dr. Arroyo's commitment and dedication, which have guided our students to achieve a high level of excellence in research, argumentation, and diplomatic representation.



- Students Olearys Crespo Zeno and Kiara M. Cruz Figueroa, It is an honor to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements in the Puerto Rico United Nations Congress competition held on March 29. Olearys, for earning first place, and Kiara, for securing fourth place—these accomplishments reflect your dedication, hard work, and academic excellence.

Your performance not only brings pride to our Political Science program but also serves as an inspiration to your peers and future generations of students. We are extremely proud to have students like you who represent our institution with such distinction at events of this magnitude.



- The University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (RUM) and the Autonomous Municipality of Aguadilla signed a collaboration agreement that will allow students from the Department of Social Sciences to undertake academic internships in various municipal departments. This initiative aims to enrich their education through hands-on experience in key areas such as public safety, administration, and urban planning. It will provide opportunities for internships focused on community development and participation in discussions on social issues. Our approach is applied, and we aim for students to gain practical experience in planning, environmental matters, and other pressing challenges.



- Dr. Carlos Hernández was appointed Official Historian of Puerto Rico, representing the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. We wish to highlight that Dr. Hernández has been a professor at RUM for over a decade, and his contributions to the history of Puerto Rico have been essential to the education and culture of our country.



- During the 2024–2025 academic year, the coordination of the International Relations Curricular Sequence, under the direction of Dr. Melody Fonseca, organized and participated in a variety of academic and recruitment activities, in addition to promoting curricular initiatives.

Notable academic activities:

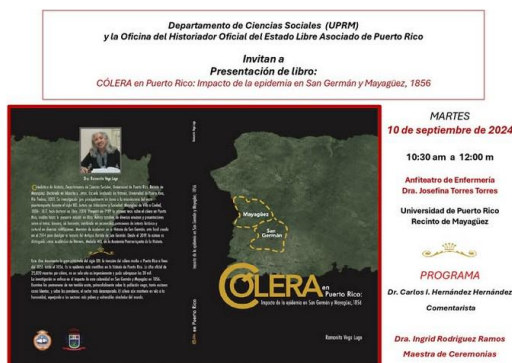
- Activity series “Memoria y Derechos Humanos. Radiografía del Golpe de Estado en Chile a 50 años” (November 2023): Included lectures, exhibitions, and guided tours.
- Panel discussion “Conflicto en el Medio Oriente: Hamás e Israel en la encrucijada” (November 2023), featuring participation from several faculty members.
- Presentation of the book *The Right to the Commons: Common Goods, Property, and Climate Justice* (April 2024).
- Planning of conferences with scholars from Brazil and Mexico for 2025, as well as virtual events within courses.

Recruitment activities:

- Participation in the Social Sciences Department and College of Arts and Sciences Summer Camp.
 - Visit to the Aguadilla University Campus.
 - Implementation of virtual activities for admitted students.

Various activities were carried out:

- ✚ Book Presentation: *CÓLERA in Puerto Rico: Impact of the Epidemic in San Germán and Mayagüez, 1856*. Author: Dr. Ramonita Vega, Professor in the History Program.



- ✚ Dr. Michael González Cruz, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences, presented "The Contribution of Puerto Ricans in the Nicaraguan Revolution, 1978-1984". The historical legacy of the 19th-century independence movement served as a historical reference and personal inspiration for Puerto Rican urban guerrillas who, since the mid-20th century, broke the colonial siege by tactically collaborating with militants and revolutionary organizations in Latin America. The political-military experiences

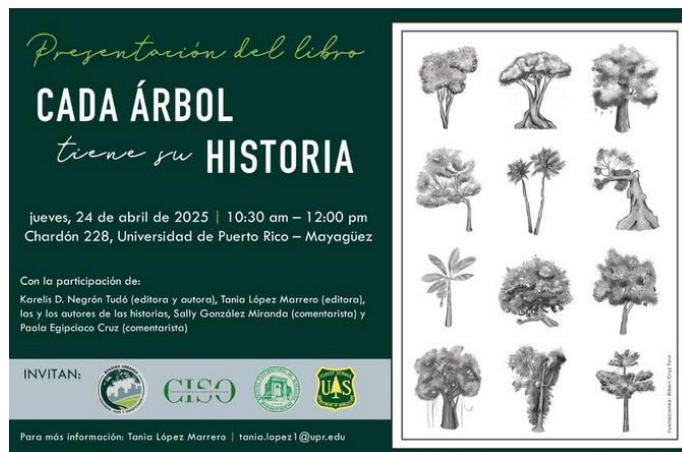
interwoven by the trajectories of Antonio Valero Bernabé and Simón Bolívar, Juan Ruiz Rivera and Antonio Maceo, Ramón E. Betances and the Italian anarchist Michele Angioligo, stimulated the anti-imperialist networks developed throughout the 20th century. In this presentation, the doctor proposes to explore Puerto Rican armed solidarity before and after the triumph of the Nicaraguan Revolution through two case studies selected for this symposium.



- On April 22, 2025 (Earth Day), the student organizations **Conciencia Colectiva RUM** (affiliated with the Department of Social Sciences) and **Colegiales Contra la Contaminación** (Triple C) organized the sustainable market (Thrift fair). The students from the environmental sociology course — where the topic of fast fashion is discussed — created posters (and other initiatives) to raise awareness about the socio-environmental impacts of clothing consumption patterns and fast fashion. This is the second time the event has been held.



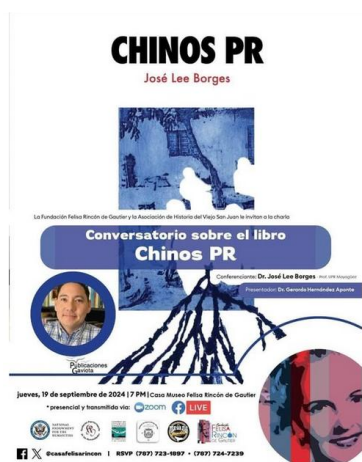
- ✚ Presentation of the book '*Cada árbol tiene su historia*' (Each Tree Has Its Story). The book is one of the publications from the project *Urban Forests: Stories, Uses, and Meanings*. In it — through anecdotes, stories, and verses — a group of 11 undergraduate students from various disciplines (sociology, comparative literature, art theory, biology, microbiology, geology, and engineering) from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, approach ecology from a clever and engaging perspective. The texts highlight the importance of trees both in the ecological sphere and in the social and cultural fabric of our country.



- ✚ The *Siempre Vivas* Project, led by Dr. Luisa Seijo, in collaboration with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 154 and its president, Mrs. Nancy Vega Ortiz, successfully organized the conference: Gender Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking.



- ✚ Book presentation and discussion of *"Los Chinos en Puerto Rico: Inclusión, Exclusión y la Era de Trump"* (The Chinese in Puerto Rico: Inclusion, Exclusion, and the Trump Era) by Dr. José Lee Borges from the Department of Social Sciences, professor in the History Program. This event was an excellent opportunity to reflect on recent immigration policies and their impact on the Chinese community in Puerto Rico.



- a. Objective 3: To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue
 - The creation of a joint Master's and Doctoral program in Applied Social Sciences was approved. This graduate program will be offered online and in the evening. The program consists of 51 credits, an internship, and a doctoral dissertation. The program can be completed in a minimum of four years and a maximum of six years.
- b. Objective 4: To implement efficient and expedient competitive creative endeavors
 - In order to streamline administrative processes and provide updated information about the Department throughout the year, the Department's WEB page continued to be updated on the WordPress platform:
<https://www.uprm.edu/cienciassociales/>.
- c. Objective 5: To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors
 - **CISA - Center for Applied Social Research**

The Center for Applied Social Research (CASR) is affiliated to the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus. Founded in 1989, CASR has an operations center in the Center of Research and Development (CRD) on campus. Through a diversity of theoretical approaches and a plurality of research techniques from various social sciences, CASR deals with various social problems and challenges to develop practical solutions to these while responding to the community in general as well as to the needs of the public and private sectors. CASR is an academic organization dedicated to social research, used not only to improve our understanding of human social action and various social problems and challenges but also to develop practical solutions to these problems and challenges. The Center carries out interdisciplinary applied social research to inform and promote academic studies, public policy, planning, social services and community action.

Investigations conducted at the CASR involve the collaboration of researchers and students of various disciplines: anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, history, and social work, among others. From an interdisciplinary perspective, CASR researchers develop multifaceted and complex social research to improve our understanding of human social action and develop practical solutions to various social problems and challenges. CASR promotes interdisciplinary social research and collaboration among researchers through various working groups, coordination of research projects with other research institutes, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. CASR also promotes public and academic debates with respect to various social problems, social services, public policy and planning. It also promotes public and academic debates about theoretical and methodological issues relevant to applied social research. CASR organizes and sponsors talks, presentations, and symposia that encourage reflection and debate on campus and the community in general. CASR, committed to the teaching and learning of applied social research, also promotes workshops and other educational activities for the benefit of researchers, students, educators and the community in general.

Finally, CASR offers students the opportunity to apply the concepts and methods learned in their university courses to social reality, this through participating in various research projects conducted at the Center. CASR is one of the most important research “workshops” for college students. The interdisciplinary perspective that permeates our projects expose faculty and students to processes of analysis, and to a diversity of social and cultural situations. As part of this effort, the Center is co-sponsors the Symposium of Research in the Social Sciences: The Contribution of Undergraduate Students to Applied Social Research, together with the Department of Social Sciences and various student organizations.

- **“Proyecto Siempre Vivas”**: This is a project sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences and directed by Professor Luisa Seijo Maldonado. The project provides

advocacy for women survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence. It offers support groups and individual counseling services for women, as well as for their sons and daughters, based on the needs identified by the participants themselves. Support groups have proven to be a valuable resource in the transformation of women who have survived domestic violence. They are an essential part of the work needed to help women stay out of the cycle of violence. These groups provide a peaceful, nonjudgmental space where women offer each other support, comfort, understanding, and knowledge—a safe space where they can regain hope and form meaningful bonds with others.

- The Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (**CIEL**- El Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios del Litoral) is a research center attached to the Department of Social Sciences of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the Mayaguez Campus. Based on interdisciplinary study and applied research, CIEL investigates, educates, and disseminates information on coastal social processes with an emphasis on the relationship between human beings, society, and the environment. CIEL is also a place of work, research and training for undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines. The center's website, www.cieluprm.com, offers more details on research, creative work, publications and activities carried out during the semester in question and in previous periods.

CIEL page: <https://cieluprm.weebly.com/>

Facebook page: Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies
<https://www.facebook.com/cieluprm/>

- **The Public Safety and Urban Affairs Observatory**, founded by Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán, is an initiative of the Department of Social Sciences and the Center for Applied Social Research (CISA) at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Its main purpose is to study and analyze social phenomena that affect public safety and urban affairs, with a special focus on communities in the western region of Puerto Rico. Additionally, it aims to provide a space for research, participatory action, and the practical application of key issues relevant to students at the campus.

The **Supervised Practice Program** promoted by the Public Safety and Urban Affairs Observatory is designed to provide students with an educational experience in an agency (municipality or institutions dealing with public safety and urban planning), where they can apply theoretical knowledge by working with individuals, families, groups, and communities.

The assigned tasks are planned to help students develop skills in data collection, creating and analyzing databases, conducting interventions,

preparing interviews and reports, designing questionnaires, performing statistical analyses, and delivering oral presentations.

The overall goal of the practical experience is to enable students to gain knowledge of the functions, objectives, and resources of public safety, planning, and urban affairs agencies.

Active Research Projects

Professional Experiences Regarding Femicides, Transfemicides, and Gender-Based Violence

Mentorship: Dr. Edwin J. Asencio Pagán

This research critically explores the experiences of professionals who confront the challenges of gender-based violence in its various forms. Participating students included Pedro Jiménez (Political Science) and Edylis Seguí López (Psychology). The integration of six new students from the Psychology Program is planned for the next phase (August–December 2025), demonstrating the continuity of the study and a strong commitment to applied social research on human rights and public safety.

Administrative Management and the Reduction of Type I Crimes in Mayagüez: Experiences of Administrators in State and Municipal Security Agencies

Mentorship: Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán

This study analyzes the experiences of administrators in state and municipal security agencies to identify effective practices in the reduction of Type I crimes in the city of Mayagüez. Active participants included students from the Sociology and Psychology programs: Joana Vélez Báez (Sociology), Valeria Duarte Bosch (Sociology), and Zoralys Nieves Rosado (Psychology). This project reflects the students' commitment to rigorous, interdisciplinary research that enhances their training in criminology, political science, and public management.



○ Dr. José Lee-Borges

Publications

Between August 2024 and May 2025, Dr. José Lee-Borges published numerous analytical columns in national media outlets, addressing topics such as geopolitics, history, migration, and identity, among others.

Newspaper Columns:

- "Geopolitics of Prejudice: From Trade War to Institutional Racism," *El Nuevo Día*, April 21, 2025.
- "125 Years: The Legacy of the Foraker Act," *El Nuevo Día*, April 11, 2025.
- "Slavery: A Lingering Past," *El Nuevo Día*, March 21, 2025.
- "China, the United States, and Taiwan: A Relationship of Ongoing Tension," *El Nuevo Día*, March 14, 2025.
- "China: The Great Winner Amid the Tariff Wave," *El Nuevo Día*, February 21, 2025.
- "Puerto Rico and the New Migration Crisis," *El Nuevo Día*, January 28, 2025.
- "Immigrants in the United States: What Now?" *El Nuevo Día*, November 30, 2024.
- "A Day Like Today," *El Nuevo Día*, October 12, 2024.
- "Obstructed Identities: Discrimination and Marginalization of Immigrants in the United States," *Revista 80grados*, October 4, 2024.
- "The Immigrant Vote," *El Expreso*, Issue 1398, September 26–October 2, 2024.
- "That September 11th," *El Nuevo Día*, September 11, 2024.

These publications reflect Dr. Lee-Borges's ongoing participation in public debates on social, historical, and geopolitical issues affecting both Puerto Rico and the international context.

○ **Dr. Manuel Valdés Pizzini**

Research and Publications

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Dr. Manuel Valdés Pizzini made significant academic, research, and editorial contributions from the Interdisciplinary Coastal Studies Center (CIEL).

Publications:

- Valdés Pizzini, Manuel. (2025). *Memories from the Coast: Essays on Ethnography, History, and Anthropological Imagination*. Ponce: Casa Paoli.
- Valdés Pizzini, Manuel. (2024). Foreword to the third edition of *Workers' Struggles in Puerto Rico*. Ediciones Laberinto.
- Torres-García, L.M., Valdés-Pizzini, M., Valdés-Calderón, K., et al. (2024). *Participatory Engagement to Reduce Communication Gaps. Natural Hazards*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-024-06860-2>
- Valdés Pizzini, Manuel. (2024). *Memories of the Carruchos: Reflections by Anthropologist Manuel Valdés Pizzini*. *Fuete y Verguilla*, Vol. 17(2). Sea Grant, University of Puerto Rico.

Research Projects:

- *MIA-PR: Flood Maps Adapted to Puerto Rico* (NOAA-NWS-Sea Grant): A three-year project studying community vulnerability to flooding. PI: Manuel Valdés Pizzini.
- *The Plight of Fishing Villages: Abandonment, Displacement, and Resistance* (Sea Grant): Evaluation of physical and social conditions. PI: Manuel Valdés Pizzini.
- *RAICES Project* (NSF-NCAR-UPRM): Climate research and its effects on society. Co-PI: Manuel Valdés Pizzini.

○ **Dr. Melody Fonseca Santos**

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Dr. Melody Fonseca published the following book chapter:

- Jerrems, Ari & Fonseca Santos, Melody (2025). *Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies*. In Iranzo, Ángela, Ruiz-Giménez Arrieta, Itziar, and Marta Iñiguez de Heredia (coords.), *Critical Studies Handbook: Dissident Cartographies of International Relations*. Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, pp. 277–300. This chapter provides a rigorous and up-to-date analysis of postcolonial and

decolonial approaches in the field of international relations, emphasizing the relevance of critical thought and interdisciplinary work in the social sciences.

○ **Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos**

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos made multiple research contributions from the Department of Social Sciences:

Funded Research Projects:

- *Empowering Women through Poetry in Two Communities of Puerto Rico*
 - Lead Researchers: Dr. Ángela Valentín and Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos
 - Funding: Humanities Puerto Rico / Mellon Foundation (2025–2026)
 - Project approved in October 2024
- *Comprehensive Planning for Community Resilience (WCRP)*
 - CDBG-DR Program, involving seven communities
 - Research Team: Luisa Seijo Maldonado, Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos, Marcel Castro Siritiche, Reinaldo Rosado Silva, Ricardo Cortés Fuentes, Francisco Maldonado, and Lissette González (2023–2024)

Independent Research Projects (2024–2025):

- Development and validation of a service-learning manual based on the IUDC manual and program assessment data.
- Development of an inventory to assess the perception and internalization of aporophobia in the Puerto Rican context.

Publications:

- Rodríguez, I. & Rosado, R. (2025). *IUDC Service-Learning Manual* (book in progress)
- Rodríguez, I. & Rosado, R. (2025). *Community Work and Development* (book in progress)
- Course-level assessment of community practice at the University Institute for Community Development... *Avalúo Plus*, 2024.
- The model of the University Institute for Community Development... *Impacto Educativo*, 2023.
- Articles accepted for publication:
 - *Evidence-Based Adaptations of an Interdisciplinary Service-Learning Practice – Journal of Education Science*, 2025 (in press)
 - *Legacy of Inequality and Exclusion: A Psychological Perspective – Ceteris Paribus*, 2025 (in press)

Literary Contributions in Anthologies:

- *Book of the 7 Shadows: Poetic Conjuring of Puerto Rican Women Writers* (2025)
- *Crisol de Almas* (2024)
- *Celestina Cordero Medina: Always Alive* (2024)
- *Daughters of the Islands: Songs for Lola Rodríguez de Tió* (2023)

d. Objective 6: To impact our Puerto Rican society

- During June 5 and 6, 2025, the Department of Social Sciences carried out its summer camp called: **Reimagining the Possible: Youth, Society, and Change**. There was the collaboration of Professors, the Associations of Students and Administrative Staff of our department. The common denominator of all those who collaborated in this day of hard work was their high level of commitment to what our Department represents. The agenda of our event met its objectives, among which I must highlight the following:
 - Make the Department of Social Sciences visible among the students who attended.
 - Offer a suitable orientation for high school students.
 - Identify short- and long-term recruitment strategies that we must consider to achieve greater student recruitment.
 - Promote each of the academic programs and curricular sequences.
 - Present in detail our research centers CIEL, CISA, SIEMPRE VIVAS Project. We carry out activities in each of the centers that respond to our research centers. It allowed us to make research visible, contributions to the scientific community, to our communities and vulnerable populations.
 - The role of the Association of Political Science Students was very important since the importance of their contributions was reflected with their testimonies. They were motivating entities in the aspirations of those who appeared.
 - Efficient and assertive strategies were identified to enter the private and public school sectors of the educational regions of the country.

The Department of Social Sciences definitely has a wealth of colleagues committed to the country's education. We introduce students to our Department's Academic Programs and research opportunities. We compile very valuable information for the next year to obtain better results and aspire to a greater recruitment of students.



- **Activities aimed at students and school-aged youth:** During this academic year, several professors visited public and private schools to give talks on the Social Sciences and provide guidance on the four academic programs offered by the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.



e. Objective 7: To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

- During the year, several meetings were held with students to strengthen the sense of belonging and College Pride. Likewise, during the academic year, meetings were held with the students of each of the Department's programs: Political Science, Social Sciences, History and Sociology.