

**SAMUEL GARCÍA JR.**  
*NASA EPDC Specialist – Assistant Professor of Practice*  
Texas State University/JPL  
LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research  
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## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. **Texas State University**  
2017 School Improvement  
Dissertation title: Cultivating Leadership for School and Community Change: A Case Study of Theory, Research, and Practice
- MS **University of Texas Pan American**  
2011 Educational Leadership
- BS **University of Texas Pan American**  
2004 Kinesiology

## **RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS**

Engineering Education  
STEM Education and Pedagogy  
Educational Leadership and Teacher Development  
Sociocultural Issues in Teaching and Learning  
Qualitative Methodologies  
Historical Educational Research  
K-16 university-community partnerships

## **PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2017 – Present **Texas State University**, LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research  
NASA Education Specialist – Faculty of Practice – Assistant Professor of Practice. Have assisted with numerous efforts designed to support the development, learning, and cultural proficiency of STEM educators such as: Organize and facilitate professional development for STEM pre-service, in-service, and teacher educators via face-to-face and online workshops; engage in research projects that examine impact of professional development on teacher beliefs and practices; assist with writing NSF grant proposals; and assist with developing NASA micro certification (digital badges) courses for STEM educators.
- 2016 - 2017 **Texas State University**, Center for the Study of the Southwest  
*Editorial Fellow*  
Served as editor for *Sound Historian* and *Southwestern American Literature*. Assisted with the Center's promotional advertisements, events, and installation of rotating exhibits.
- 2016 – 2017 **Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos**

*Museum Curator*

Served as museum curator of the Ofelia T. Vasquez-Philo Mexican American Culture Museum. I assisted the museum by installing exhibits, serving as docent and assisted with events and celebrations.

- 2012 - 2016 **Texas State University**, Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology  
*Doctoral Research Assistant (DRA)*  
Served as a researcher and instructional assistant in the Education and Community Leadership program and Ph.D. School Improvement program. I assisted Dr. Miguel A. Guajardo and Dr. John A Oliver on numerous research, community, and leadership endeavors such as: Conducting oral histories with community members, co-facilitating educational leadership graduate courses, co-facilitating leadership development sessions with local school district leaders and staff, and organizing annual youth leadership conferences at the university.
- 2008-2012 **Mercedes Independent School District, Mercedes TX**  
*Geography Teacher*  
Mercedes High School  
Taught Social Studies to general education students.  
Developed and established an organization called Voices of Mercedes with high school students. The organization centered on community knowledge, research, and youth participatory action research and leadership. Students participated in numerous community-based activities such as oral histories with community members, beautification efforts, and fundraising events. Organized a homecoming event honoring Mercedes alum and University of Texas professor Dr. Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Spring 2012.
- 2005-2008 **Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District**  
*Geography Teacher*  
PSJA High School  
Taught Social Studies to general education students.  
Coached freshmen boys basketball team.
- 2005 **Donna Independent School District**  
*Substitute Teacher*  
Substituted in various campuses in the district.

***Consulting***

- 2017 **Department of Education HSI STEM Grant Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**  
Planned, organized, and facilitated a day and half long orientation with undergraduate STEM majors.
- 2016 **Project SUPERB Immersion: Language, Culture, and Lived Experience**  
Llano Grande Group  
Facilitated a two-week professional development and social-cultural immersion experience for emerging bilingual school psychologists. Used video equipment to capture interviews, experiences, and thoughts of participants throughout the immersion.
- 2015 **Rural Trust Global Teacher Fellowship** evaluation team member.

- 2014 **Ignite Public Schools parent and community conference**, *Riquezas de la Casa*. co-facilitator, documentarian, and planning team member. Documented the experience and edited a short film to screen for conference participants.
- 2014 **A Community building workshop with Ignite Public Schools**, *Building your story*. Mission campus. El Rocio B&B, Mission, Texas. A professional development session focusing on the internal development of educators working along the Rio Grande Valley.
- 2014 **A Community building workshop with Ignite Public Schools**, *Building your story*. Raymondville campus. Hilltop Gardens, Lyford, Texas. A professional development session focusing on the internal development of educators working along the Rio Grande Valley.

### AWARDS & HONORS

2014 UCEA Barbara Jackson Scholar Network Recipient

### GRANTS

#### Funded

2016 **Texas State University College of Education: Total Funding \$2,000**  
*Accelerated Dissertation Completion Stipend*

#### Not Funded

2018 Rice Engineering Summer Institute for Underrepresented Minorities. National Science Foundation.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Referred Journal Articles*

**García, S.**, & Guajardo, M.A. (2018). Eternal vigilance: Politics, race, and the struggle for educational equity in a central texas community. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 31(8), pg 726-746.

Guajardo, M.A., & **García, S.** (2016). Educational leadership for community development. *National Forum of Applied Educational Research Journal*, 29(1), pg 62-72.

Guajardo, F., Alvarez, S., Guajardo, M., **García, S.**, Guajardo, J.A., Márquez, J. (2013). Braceros, Mexicans, Americans, and Schools: (Re)Imagining Teaching and Learning in Mexican America. *Rio Bravo Journal*, University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, TX.

#### *Non-Referred Publications*

Cano-Amaya, L., Concepcion-Santiago, V., Ortiz, A., & **Garcia Jr., S. (2019)**. NASA Educator Professional Development Collaborative Impact on Educators' Teaching Practices in Puerto Rico. Vol. 1, Issue 1. LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research Report, Texas State University.

**Garcia Jr. S.**, & Garcia-Torres, S. (2019). NASA, Engineering Practices & the NGSS Science Standards: A Conversation with Teachers about Integrating NASA STEM EPDC Pedagogical Practices in the Classroom (STEM Research White Paper Series, Vol. 3, No.2). Texas State University: LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research.

**García Jr., S., & García-Torres, S. (2018).** NASA STEM EPDC Long- Duration Professional Development Leads to Positive Changes in Educator Professional Practices (STEM Research White Paper Series, Vol. 2, No.7). Texas State University: LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research.

### ***Newsletter Articles***

- García, S., Jr. (2016). From the queen city to the ivy league: hometown citizen graduates from rice university. *Mercedes Enterprise*, article published August 2016.
- García, S., Jr. (2016). Calaboose african american history museum opens new exhibit. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published February 26, 2016.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). Bracero film screening at centro cultural hispano. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published October 11, 2015.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). Little joe lights up cuauhtémoc hall. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published September 29, 2015.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). La sociedad mutualista cuauhtémoc celebrates its 73<sup>rd</sup> year of service. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published July 8, 2015.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). Cuauhtémoc hall hosts tejano legend augustin ramirez. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published May 3, 2015.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). Latin music studies hosts la feria del mariachi. *San Marcos Daily Record*. Article published May 8, 2015.
- García, S. Jr. (2015). Igniting a passion: de zavalva elementary dance club. *San Marcos Daily Record*, article published March 27, 2015.

## **SCHOLARLY MANUSCRIPTS & ACTIVITIES**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Referred Papers***

- Márquez, E. & **García, S. Jr.** (June 2019). Creating a Learning Environment that Engages Engineering Students in the Classroom via Communication Strategies. Paper Presented at American Society for Engineering Education Annual Convention, Tampa, FL.
- Márquez, E. & **García, S. Jr.** (June 2019). Implementation of Visual Supplements to Strengthen Pedagogical Practices and Enhance the Physical Understanding of Fundamental Concepts in Engineering Mechanics. Paper Presented at American Society for Engineering Education Annual Convention, Tampa, FL.
- Márquez, E. & **García, S. Jr.** (June 2019). Nurturing Brilliance in Engineering: Creating Research Venues for Undergraduate Underrepresented Minorities in Engineering as an Initiative from Faculty Members that Foster Academic Inclusion. Paper Presented at American Society for Engineering Education Annual Convention, Tampa, FL.
- García, S., Jr. (November, 2016). Living for Community: Cultivating School Leadership for School and Community Change. Paper presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Detroit, MI.
- García, S., Jr. & Márquez, J. (November, 2015). Teaching, Learning, and Leading in the Militarized Border of Rio Grande Valley: A Policy Analysis. Paper presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- García, S. Jr. (November, 2015). Educational Leadership for Community Development. Research presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- García, S., Jr., Márquez, J., Guajardo, M.A., & Guajardo, F.J. (November, 2014). Bracero Stories as Text. Research presented at University Council for Educational Administrators, Washington, D.C.

#### ***Referred Symposia and Roundtables***

- García, S. Jr. (April 2017). Nurturing Hope for Our Schools: A Pedagogy for Revitalizing School and Community Leadership. Research presented at American Educational Research Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Pelton, R., Lee, B., García S. Jr., & Guajardo, M.A. (April 2017). From Segregation to Celebration: A Dynamic Methodology That Rebuilds Communities. Research presented at American Educational Research Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- García, S., Jr., Lee, B., & Pelton, R. (November, 2016). From Segregation to Celebration: A Dynamic Methodology That Rebuilds Communities. Research presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Detroit, MI.
- Rocha, P., Cantu, Y., Márquez, J. & García, S. Jr. (April 2015). Emerging research scholars with activist modes of inquiry: Inquiry strategies that empower communities and schools. Research presented at Cultural Studies in Education Conference, Austin, TX.
- Martinez, G., Guajardo, M.A., & García, S. Jr. (March, 2014). San Marcos Hispanic Musicians' Oral History Project: Community Development as Performance. Research presented at the Couch-Stone Symposium: "Symbolic Interactionist Takes on Music." The Center for Social Inquiry and the Department of Sociology, Texas State University.
- Guajardo, M.A., & García, S. Jr. (February 2014). Symposium presentation at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) conference. *Voces de Braceros Del Valle del Rio Grande*. Research presented at NACCS San Antonio.
- Guajardo, M.A., Valadez, M., & García, S. Jr., (November 2013). Critical Conversations on Advocacy: The Political Imagination. Research presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Indianapolis, ID.
- García, S. Jr., Francis, L., Grijalva, B. & Márquez, J. (April 2013). The Community Learning Exchange (CLE): Cultivating Spaces for Relationships, Stories, Wisdom, and Collective Action: Research presented at Cultural Studies in Education Conference, Austin, TX.
- Guajardo, F.J., Guajardo, M.A., & García, S. Jr. (February 2013). Symposium presentation at the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) conference. *Braceros, Mexicans, Americans, and Schools: Reimagining Teaching and Learning in Mexican America*. Research presented at University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas.
- Guajardo, M.A., Valadez, M., Guajardo, J.A., Francis, L., Henderson, K., Grimaldo, L., & García, S. Jr., (November 2012). Exploring New Leadership Terrain: Mapping Educational and Cultural Fronts. Research presented at University Council for Educational Administration Annual, Denver, Colorado.
- Guajardo, F.J. & García, S., Jr., (February, 2012). Braceros del Valle del Rio Grande. North Dakota Study Group. Research presented at University of St. Mary of the Lake<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>Mundelein, Illinois.

#### ***Invited Lectures, Talks, and Presentations***

- García, S.** (May, 2019). *Exploring Pedagogies of Power*. California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA.
- García, S. (February, 2019).** *Designing a Mission to Mars*. Association of Teacher Educators 2019 Atlanta, Georgia.
- García, S. & Morales, L.** (September, 2018). *Return to Flight for American Astronauts from American Soil*.
- García, S. & Anumudu, C.** (February, 2017). *Panel: Students Engaged in Dissertation Research*. Texas State Qualitative Research Conference.
- Guajardo, M.A. & **García, S. Jr.** (March, 2015). Common Experience Symposium. *Segregating Mexican Americans in Texas*: Research co-presented at De-Segregating Education in Texas, 1890-1971 Symposium with Richard Valencia, San Marcos, TX.
- Guajardo, M.A. & **García, S. Jr.** (January 2015). *Voces de Braceros del Valle del Rio Grande* Museum Exhibit opening at The Center for the Study of the Southwest, Texas State University, 2015.
- Guajardo F.J., **García, S. Jr.**, & Márquez, J. (April, 2012). Voces De Braceros Symposium. *Braceros Del Valle del Rio Grande*. Research presented at University of Texas Pan

American in Edinburg, Texas.  
Education and Community Leadership Conference (ECL) Conference, 2012. *Braceros Del Valle del Rio Grande*. Presented at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

## **Documentary and Film Screenings/Presentations**

### National Conference Screenings

#### **University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Film Festival:**

- *Voces de Braceros UTPA*, Washington, D.C. – November 2014.
- *Overcoming Inequities: Story of El Centro*, Washington, D.C. – November 2014.
- *Community Learning Exchange*, Washington, D.C. – November 2014.

### Community Screenings

- **Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos**  
*Voces de Braceros del Valle del Rio Grande*, San Marcos, TX - March 2015.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### ***Texas State University***

University Seminar for Engineering Students 1100

## **COURSES CO-FACILITATED**

### ***Texas State University***

*Education and Community Leadership Program*

ED 7389 – Shifting Demographics in Texas

ED 7314 – Community Development for Educators

EDCL 5347 – Understanding Environments

## **LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

*Texas Educator Certifications*

**Social Studies 8-12 Composite**

**Physical Education EC-12**

*Professional Certifications*

**Dos Observer Certification**

**Globe Certification**

**NASA Lunar Certification**

## **OTHER CREATIVE WORKS**

### ***Audio and Visual Production:***

Video Co-Editor. *Parent Voice Along the Rio Grande Valley*, Mesa Comunitaria, August 2015.

Video Editor. *Overcoming Inequities: Story of El Centro*, UCEA Film Festival 2014.

Video Editor. *The Roots of Hispanic Music in San Marcos*, 2014.

Conducted interviews with San Marcos Hispanic musicians, (2013-2014).

Video Co-Editor. *Voces de Braceros del Valle del Rio Grande* documentary (40 min.), 2012.  
UTPA Bracero Oral History Project.

Conducted Interviews with Braceros and Families. UTPA Bracero Oral History Project (2011-2012).

## **SERVICE**

### ***National***

#### *Academic Journals*

2018 Peer Review for Educational Administration Quarterly

2016 Peer Reviewer for Journal of Latinos and Education.

2016 Peer Reviewer for National FORUM of Educational Administration and Supervision Journal

2015 Peer Reviewer for National FORUM of Educational Administration and Supervision Journal

### ***University***

2017-2018 Secretary for Hispanic Policy Network. Texas State University.

2017-2019 Bobcat Bond Mentor. Texas State University

*Portraits of Learning Community Learning Exchange* for San Marcos C.I.S.D. educators and community members. Planning team member, November 2015.

Co-Curated *Voces de Braceros del Valle del Rio Grande* Photography exhibit as part of the 2015-2016 Texas State University's Common Experience theme at Center for the Study of the Southwest, Texas State University, Fall 2015.

*Community, Love, Culture* Youth and Adult Partnerships Community Learning Exchange planning team member, Summer 2015.

*Remixing Communities: Music, Movement, and Identity.* Youth Adult Partnerships Community Learning Exchange, Texas State University, 2014.

*The Art(s) of Leadership: A Community Learning Exchange Focused on Youth Adult Partnerships,* planning team member. Texas State University, Summer 2013.

*Art(s) of Leadership* 2013 Education and Community Leadership Conference planning team member. Texas State University, Spring 2013.

San Marcos Tejano Music History Project co-researcher 2013-Present.

Servant Leadership Retreat Training for San Marcos School District leaders. Co-facilitator and planning team member. Summer 2013.

San Marcos Community Conversation hosted at Travis Elementary. Co-facilitator and planning team member for hosting professional development of educators.

Texas State University Planning team member for Education and Community Leadership Conference, 2013.

### ***Community***

- 2019 Volunteer. Adelante Mujer Latina annual conference. Adelante Youth Alliance, a non-profit in Pasadena, Ca.
- 2015-2019 Board member of the Calaboose African American Museum, a non-profit organization in San Marcos
- 2014-Present Contributing writer for San Marcos Daily Record covering community events and celebrations.
- 2014-2019 Photojournalist and Columnist for Mercedes Enterprise newspaper. Contributed articles focusing on community events, people, and history.
- 2014-2015 Served as youth mentor at De Zavala Elementary. Worked with youth by providing mentorship, support and encouragement.
- 2014-2015 Organized and facilitated morning conversations with parents at De Zavala Elementary.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- 2016-Present Hispanic Policy Network Member. Texas State University.
- 2014-Present Member of La Union del Pueblo Entero (L.U.P.E.), a non-profit organization that advocates for low-income community members in the Rio Grande Valley.
- 2014-Present Member of El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, a non-profit organization that promotes, celebrates, and preserves Hispanic arts and culture in San Marcos, TX.