

DIEGO F. LEAL

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1145 E. South Campus Drive, Social Sciences Bldg., Rm. 433, Tucson, AZ, 85721

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 – Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Arizona.
- 2022 – Faculty Affiliate (by courtesy), Binational Migration Institute, University of Arizona.
Faculty Affiliate (by courtesy), Center for Latin American Studies, University of Arizona.
- 2022 – 2024 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Arizona.
- 2018 – 2022 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of South Carolina.

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Massachusetts.
Committee: James A. Kitts (Chair), Joya Misra, Mark C. Pachucki, Justin H. Gross.
- 2012 M.A., Political Science (*cum laude*), Universidad de los Andes.
Committee: Mónica Pachón Buitrago (Chair), Miguel García Sánchez, Juan Camilo Cárdenas.
- 2010 B.A., Political Science, Universidad Nacional de Colombia.
Honors thesis chair: Miguel Ángel Herrera Zgaib.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Migration, Social Networks, Minority Health, Latin America, Agent-Based Modeling.

PUBLICATIONS (*indicates graduate student co-author)

BOOK

- Roll, David, María C. Robayo, **Diego F. Leal**, Enrique Serrano, Jessika Gómez, Juan C. Escamilla. 2014. *The Latin American Diaspora in Spain, 1997–2007*. Bogotá: Editorial Universidad del Rosario. (In Spanish).

ARTICLES

- **Leal, Diego F.** 2025. “Locating Cultural Holes Brokers in Diffusion Dynamics Across Bright Symbolic Boundaries.” *Sociological Methods & Research* online first. [[pdf](#)] [[online appendix](#)] [[data & code](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** and Natalie L. Cadwalader. 2024. “Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tool: The Case of Border Patrol Detentions of Immigrant and Asylum-Seeking Families in the United States,” *Journal on Migration and Human Security* online first. [[pdf](#)] [[online appendix & instrument](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** and Nicolas L. Harder.* 2023. “Migration Networks and the Intensity of Global Migration Flows, 1990-2015,” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 49(2): 445-464. [[pdf](#)] [[online appendix & data](#)] [[code](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** 2021. “Network Inequalities and International Migration in the Americas,” *American Journal of Sociology* 126(5): 1067-1126. [[pdf](#)] [[online appendix & data](#)] [[code](#)]
- *James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award, section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society of the American Sociological Association.*

- Kitts, James A. and **Diego F. Leal**. 2021. “What is(n’t) a Friend? Dimensions of the Friendship Concept among Adolescents,” *Social Networks* 66: 161-170. [[pdf](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** and Nicolas L. Harder.* 2021. “Global Dynamics of International Migration Systems across South-South, North-North, and North-South Flows, 1990-2015,” *Applied Network Science* 6(8): 1-27. [[pdf](#)] [[appendix & code](#)]
- Pachucki, Mark C. and **Diego F. Leal**. 2020. “Is Having an Educationally Diverse Social Network Good for Health?,” *Network Science* 8(3): 418-444. [[pdf](#)] [[appendix & code](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** 2020. “Mass Transit Shutdowns as a Tactical Innovation in Bogotá, Colombia,” *Social Currents* 7(4): 299-309. [[pdf](#)] [[code](#)] [[appendix](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.**, Anthony Paik and Steven A. Butcher. 2019. “Status and Collaboration: The Case of Pro Bono Network Inequalities in Corporate Law,” *Social Science Research* 84: 102325. [[pdf](#)] [[data & code](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.**, Ragini S. Malhotra and Joya Misra. 2019 “Visualizing Feminized International Migration Flows in the 1990s,” *Socius* 5: 1-3. [[pdf](#)] [[data & code](#)]
- Kitts, James A., **Diego F. Leal**, Will Felps, Thomas M. Jones and Shawn L. Berman. 2016. “Greed and Fear in Network Reciprocity: Implications for Cooperation among Organizations,” *PLoS ONE* 11(2): e0147264. [[pdf](#)] [[data & code](#)]
- Malhotra, Ragini S., Joya Misra and **Diego F. Leal**. 2016. “Gender and Reproductive Labor Migration in Asia, 1960-2000,” *International Journal of Sociology* 46(2): 114-140. [[pdf](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** 2014. “Well-Being, Social Capital, and International Migration: An Exploration of a Latin American Spain,” *Migraciones* 36: 369-401. (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.** and David Roll. 2013. “Think Tanks and Political Parties in Colombia: The Constitutional Reforms of 2003 and 2009,” *Ciencia Política* 16: 89-112. (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]
- Roll, David and **Diego F. Leal**. 2010. “Migration, Co-Development and Social Capital: Guidelines for an Integration Strategy of Two Worlds,” *Colombia Internacional* 72: 89-110. (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]
- Roll, David and **Diego F. Leal**. 2010. “How did a Latin-American and Andean Spain Emerge after Eleven Years of Immigration?” *Ciencia Política* 9: 35-61. (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]

BOOK CHAPTERS & PAPERS IN WORKING PAPER SERIES

- **Leal, Diego F.** 2013. “The Dual Infrastructure of Protest Behavior in Bogotá: Transmilenio, Social Capital, and Collective Dissent in the Colombian Capital,” *Documentos de Política* No. 22, Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá). (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]
- **Leal, Diego F.**, Camilo Camacho, Ángela Bohórquez and Steffany López. 2012. “The Return Migration of Colombians from Spain: A Social Capital Approach,” In *Research Results: Unal Researchers 2009-2010*, pp. 41-81. Bogotá: Unibiblos. (In Spanish). [[pdf](#)]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Afrodescendant Resistance to Deracination in Colombia: A Review. 2019. *Mobilizing Ideas*, The Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame. [[see review](#)]
- Becoming Black Political Subjects: A Review. 2017. *Mobilizing Ideas*, The Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame, Summer 2018. [[see review](#)]

GRANTS

- 2024 – 2029 National Cancer Institute/NIH (R01 CA290828) \$2,769,942
 “Building Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models to Investigate Social Network Influences on Youth Nicotine Product Use Transitions and to Simulate Different Intervention Effects across Contexts.”
Role: Principal Investigator (with J. Thrasher).
- 2023 – 2026 National Science Foundation (NSF 2241536) \$403,730
 “Collaborative Research: HNDS-R Networks and Health Disparities in Delays in Diagnosis of Medical Conditions with Ambiguous Symptoms.”
Role: Principal Investigator (with K. Corcoran & S. Martínez)
- 2022 – 2025 American Cancer Society (CHERC-MSI-21-167-01) \$4,080,000
 “Success, Health, Innovation, and Equity-Arizona Research Center (SHINE-ARC).”
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: D. Ortiz)
- 2022 – 2024 Defense Health Agency (HT94022210012) \$797,006
 “Examining the Role of Social Networks on Health-Related Behaviors and Musculoskeletal-Related Injuries.”
Role: Co-Investigator (PIs: Westrick; K. Wilburn)
- 2020 – 2023 National Cancer Institute/NIH (R01 CA215466-S1 Adm. Supplement) \$199,913
 “Evaluation of Cigarette Package Inserts for Communication with Smokers.”
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: J. Thrasher)
- 2020 – 2021 American Cancer Society (ACS IRG-17-179-04). \$270,000
 “Supporting Outstanding Academic Research Seed Grants at USC (SOAR USC).”
Subaward: “Communication Interventions and Social Networks for Enhanced Communication with Latino Smokers.” \$19,773
Role: Principal Investigator to the subaward (PI: C. Bennett)
- 2010 – 2011 Colombian Agency of Science, Virginia Gutierrez. Junior Researcher Grant \$9,513
 “Social Networks, Social Capital, and Return Migration in Colombia.”
Role: Principal Investigator.
- 2010 – 2011 Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Institute for Socio-Legal Research Grant. \$7,721
 “Dynamics of Political Participation in the 2011 Colombian Elections.”
Role: Principal Investigator.
- 2009 Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Institute for Socio-Legal Research Grant. \$2,054
 “Return Migration Dynamics in Bogotá.”
Role: Principal Investigator.

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 – 2024 Research Leadership Institute Fellow, University of Arizona.
- 2022 – 2023 Faculty Research Fellowship – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE).
- 2022 James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award, Section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society, American Sociological Association.
- 2021 – 2022 R25 Big Data Health Science Fellowship, Big Data Health Science Center, University of South Carolina (R25AI164581 NIAID - NIH).

- 2020 Fellowship to participate in the Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Duke University.
- 2019 Fellowship to participate in the BIGSSS Summer School in Computational Social Science and Migration, Bremen University and Jacobs University.
- 2017 Young Scholar in Social Movements, Center for The Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame.
- 2015 Clifford C. Clogg Scholar in Sociology, ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan.
- 2012 Graduated *cum laude*, M.A. in Political Science, Universidad de los Andes.
- 2011 - 2012 “Virginia Gutiérrez de Pineda” Junior Scholar Fellowship, COLCIENCIAS (Colombian Agency of Science and Technology).
- 2010 – 2012 “Academic Excellence” Fellowship (full tuition and stipend for Masters’ program), College of Social Sciences, Universidad de los Andes.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS (*indicates virtual talk)

- 2024 “Leveraging Agent-Based Simulations: Diffusion as Bridging of Cultural Holes along Bright Symbolic Boundaries & The NicoTeen Project.” Human Nature Lab, Yale University (Invited talk).
- “Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tool.” University of Southern California (Invited talk).
- “A Framework for Efficient Computation of Sufficient Statistics in Relational Event Models (REM) Applied to Large Two-Mode Networks.” (with Kevin Carson) American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- “STEM Racial Representation for Black and Hispanic/Latino Americans” (with Dylan Simburger, Daniel Martinez, and Anna Marlatt) American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2023 “The Gendered Patterns of International Migration Systems: The Role of Need for Care” (with Chang-Yi Lin), American Sociological Association 118th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA
- “Political Use of Social Media and Offline Protest Participation: Consistent Estimates from Three Different Population-based Surveys in the U.S.” (with Kevin Carson), American Sociological Association 118th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA.
- “Diffusion as the Bridging of Cultural Holes,” 15th Conference for the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, Princeton, USA
- “Agent-based Modeling of Cigarette Use Among Mexican Adolescents,” Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting, San Antonio, USA (with Ricardo Chávez, Désirée Vidaña, James Thrasher, and Inti Barrientos).
- 2022 “Leveraging Social Media Data to Model Risk Perceptions and the Politics of Mask Use in the U.S.,” National Big Data Health Science Conference, Columbia, SC, USA.*
- 2021 “Gender, Labor Migration, and Global Inequalities,” Society for the Study of Social Problems 2021 Annual (Virtual) Meeting (with Joya Misra and Ragini S. Malhotra).*
- 2021 “Characterizing the Venezuelan Diaspora in Colombia. The Case of Bucaramanga,” Human Rights on the Edge Conference, Arizona State University.*

- 2021 “Diffusion as the Bridging of Cultural Holes,” (invited talk).
 – University of Arizona, School of Sociology.*
 – University of Illinois - Chicago, Department of Sociology*.
 – University of Notre Dame, Department of Sociology.
 “Building a Relational Theory of International Migration Systems,” (invited talk).
 – University of Arizona, School of Sociology.*
 – University of California - Irvine, Department of Sociology.*
- 2020 “The Dual Infrastructure of Protest Behavior in Bogotá,” Department of Sociology Colloquium on Research Design, Universidad de los Andes.*
 “Diffusion as the Bridging of Cultural Holes,” American Sociological Association 115th Annual Meeting.*
- 2019 “What is(n’t) a Friend? Dimensions of the Friendship Concept among Adolescents,” (with James A. Kitts).
 – American Sociological Association 114th Annual Meeting, New York, USA.
 – Int’l Network for Social Network Analysis Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- 2018 “Status and Collaboration: Pro Bono Networks” (with Anthony Paik and Steven Boutcher) American Sociological Association 113th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA.
- 2017 “Mapping Feminized Migration Globally: 1960-2000,” (with Joya Misra) American Sociological Association 112th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
 “Liminality and the Diffusion of Beliefs and Behaviors in Social Networks: An Agent-Based Model,” 10th Conference for the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, Oslo, Norway.
 “Shut the Damn Thing Down!” Mass Transit Shutdowns in Bogotá,” 2017 Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, USA.
- 2016 “Gender and Reproductive Labor Migration in Asia, 1960-2000,” American Sociological Association 111th Annual Meeting, Seattle, USA.
- 2015 “Linking Subjective and Objective Political Opportunities. The Case of Transmilenio,” American Sociological Association 110th Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA.
 “Developing Hands-on Computer Tools to Explore Social Theories using Dynamic Computer Simulations,” (with James A. Kitts) *Carla B. Hovary Teaching Enhancement Grant Award*, American Sociological Association 110th Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Arizona

- Graduate Statistics I (Ph.D. class) [[syllabus](#)],
- Quantitative Reasoning in Sociology (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)],
- Race & Ethnic Relations (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Health Disparities in Society (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)].

Independent studies, University of Arizona

- Brokerage, Cultural, and Structural Holes (Ph.D. class).
- Collective Action and Social Movements (Ph.D. class).

Instructor, University of South Carolina.

- Social Network Methods (Ph.D. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Graduate Statistics I (Ph.D. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Race & Ethnic Relations (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Introduction to Social Problems (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Elementary Statistics for Sociologists (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)].
- Health Disparities in the U.S. (B.A. class) [[syllabus](#)]

Independent studies, University of South Carolina.

- Inferential Network Analysis (Ph.D. class).
- Health and Social Networks (Ph.D. class).
- Race and Ethnic Relations (B.A. class).
- Collective Action and Social Movements (B.A. class).

Instructor, University of Massachusetts.

- Race & Society (B.A. class).

Teaching Associate, University of Massachusetts.

- Social Simulation (Ph.D. class) [[see materials](#)]

Social Science (AP) Teacher, Reuven Feuerstein High School.

- Social Studies, 2008 – 2010.

ADVISING

CURRENT ADVISORY ROLES

- Dissertation committee:**
- Kevin Carson (Chair).
 - Jun-Jie Lin (Chair).
 - Jeffrey Shen (Co-chair).
 - Dylan Simburger (Member).
 - Jingwen (Zoe) Zhong (Member).
 - Minyoung An (Member).
 - Nicolas Harder (Member)

PAST ADVISORY ROLES

Ph.D.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Kristen L. Zosel | Health Promotion, Education & Behavior Ph.D., 2024
University of South Carolina
First job: Tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, Georgia Southern University.
Role: Committee member. |
| Victoria Lambert | Health Promotion, Education & Behavior Ph.D., 2023
University of South Carolina
First job: Reproaction.
Role: Committee member. |
| Zackery Butler | Sociology Ph.D., 2021
University of South Carolina.
First job: Full-time instructor, Cape Fear Community College, NC.
Role: Committee member. |

M.A.

Kevin A. Carson Sociology, University of Arizona (2024). **Role:** Chair.
 Sarah B. Steiner Sociology, University of Arizona (2024). **Role:** Member.
 Chang-Yi Lin Sociology, University of South Carolina (2023). **Role:** Chair.

B.A.

Buffy Duncan Sociology, thesis (2020). **Role:** reader.
 Virginia Eith Sociology, thesis (2019). **Role:** reader.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Graduate

Jun-Jie Lin, SU24.
 Yiwen Zeng, SP 24 –
 Charlie Pollard, SU23 –
 Jeffrey Shen, SP23 –
 Kevin Carson, FA22 –
 Chang-Yin Lin, SP22.
 Victoria Lambert, FA20 – SP22.
 Lilith Green, SU23.
 Morgan Koziol, SU22.
 Justina Reiger, SU21.
 Victoria Money, SP21.
 Nicolas Harder, FA19 – FA20.

Undergraduate

Kevin Carson, SP21 – SP22.
 Isa Crooks, SP22.

SERVICE

2024 – **Chair**, Hiring Committee, University of Arizona.

2024 – **Member**, Computational Social Science Advisory Committee, University of Arizona.

2017 – **Co-editor**, the Mathematical Sociologist, Newsletter of the Mathematical Sociology Section at ASA.

2024 **Co-Organizer & Presider**, Session on Computational and Mathematical Approaches to International Migration, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Organizer, Session on Computational and Mathematical Approaches to Social Problems, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Member, Louis Wirth Best Article Award selection committee, International Migration Section, American Sociological Association.

Member, 5th Year Review Committee of the Directorship of the School of Sociology, University of Arizona

2022 – 2023 **Member**, Undergraduate Studies Committee, University of Arizona.

2023 **Member**, Hiring Committee, University of Arizona.

Discussant, Session on Social Networks, American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA

- 2023 **Chair**, James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award selection committee, Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society, American Sociological Association.
- Member**, Distinguished Contribution to Research Article Award selection committee, Latina/o Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
- 2020 – 2022 **Faculty Mentor**, Latino/a Sociology Section Mentor Program. Mentor to Alonso Aravena (Ph.D. student at Baylor) and Anna Hidalgo (Ph.D. student at Columbia).
- 2022 **Member**, Aristide Zolberg Distinguished Student Award selection committee, International Migration Section, American Sociological Association.
- Member**, Recruitment Committee, University of South Carolina.
- 2018 – 2022 **Member**, Latino Faculty Caucus, University of South Carolina.
- Member**, Colloquium Committee, Sociology, University of South Carolina.
- Member**, Undergraduate Committee, Sociology, University of South Carolina.
- 2021 **Member**, Geoffrey Tootell Mathematical Sociology Outstanding Dissertation-in-Progress Award.
- 2021 **Session Presider**, Activism in Today's World: New Agendas for Persistent Challenges, American Sociological Association 116th Annual Meeting.
- 2020 **Session Organizer**, open-theme regular session in Mathematical Sociology, American Sociological Association 115th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, USA.
- 2020 – 2021 **Faculty Liaison**, Ibero-American Grad. Student Association, U. of South Carolina.
- 2019 – 2021 **Faculty Liaison**, Sociology Graduate Student Association, University of South Carolina.
- 2017 – 2018 **Council Member**, Mathematical Sociology Section at ASA, Graduate Student Representative, elected.
- 2013 – 2015 **Co-Chair**, UMass Association of Latin American and Caribbean Students, elected.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- 2024 – Editorial Board, American Sociological Review.
- 2021 – Editorial Board, Revista Ciencia Política (Bogotá).

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent).

Ad-Hoc Reviewer: Advances in Group Processes || American Journal of Sociology || American Sociological Review || Canadian Studies in Population || Ciencia Política || Demography || Fondazione Cariplo || Geo-spatial Information Science || Globalisation, Societies, and Education || Historical Methods || International Migration || Journal of Health and Social Behavior || Journal of Mathematical Sociology || Migraciones Internacionales || National Science Foundation || Research in Social Movements, Conflicts, and Change || Social Forces || Social Networks || Social Psychology Quarterly || Socius || Springer Books || Stress and Health || Sustainable Futures || Youth & Society.

Software and programming: R, NetLogo, CSS, HTML5, STELLA.

Affiliations:

American Sociological Association:

Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society || Global and transnational sociology ||
International migration || Latina/o sociology || Mathematical sociology || Medical sociology ||
Racial and ethnic minorities || Sociology of mental health || Sociology of population.