

## **ESS Mini-Conference on Long-Term Impacts of Covid-19 on Latino Communities in the Northeast**

The goal of this mini-conference is to advance understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted and continues to impact Latino communities in the Northeast United States.

To date, Latinos and other communities of color have faced the highest rates of contracting and succumbing to the virus (CDC 2021). Living in early COVID-19 hotspots, Latino communities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut have faced a distinct set of regional public health conditions. In addition, Latinos were disproportionately laid off and less likely to have savings to compensate (Pew 2020). Understanding beyond these documented short-term challenges faced by Latinos is critical. Community contexts also differ significantly in how they shape these experiences with the pandemic. For example, Latino communities in the Northeast have varying contexts for work, access to health and other essential services, access to transportation, and more.

This Mini-Conference is a space for scholars in Latino social science to gather, share, produce, and disseminate knowledge on how the current crisis has affected Latino communities and how it is modeling and transforming social life among Latinos in the Northeast. In addition to showing how the current pandemic maps onto existing inequalities, presenters are encouraged to explore how it has contributed to new forms of inequality. Our aim is to document the intersecting needs, barriers, successes, opportunities, and priorities of regional Latino communities at this crucial moment. This scholarship is integral to promoting effective responses and policies that address the challenges these communities will face as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Potential themes include, but are not limited to, the impact of COVID-19 on:

- Health disparities and access to physical and mental health services
- Community structures, including the presence and role of community organizations
- Work, essential worker categories, and worker protections
- Language and access to essential services
- K-20 Educational processes including parent-school relationships and the digital divide
- Navigating the pandemic with different immigration statuses
- Media frames, social media, and deservingness

Co-organizers: Elizabeth Rivera Rodas, Montclair State University ([riverarodase@montclair.edu](mailto:riverarodase@montclair.edu)) and Stephen Ruszczyk, Montclair State University ([ruszczyks@montclair.edu](mailto:ruszczyks@montclair.edu))