

# Edlyn Vallejo Peña, Ph.D.

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## Current Position

**Assistant Professor of Higher Education Leadership:** California Lutheran University

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.)** with a concentration in Higher Education  
University of Southern California (USC)  
Dissertation: *The Responsive Academic Practitioner: Using Inquiry Methods for Self-Change*

**Masters of Education (M.Ed.)** in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs  
USC

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)** in Psychology with Highest Honors (equivalent to Magna Cum Laude)  
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

## Areas of Expertise

- College students with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities
- Doctoral student education
- Equitable educational outcomes for college students
- Action research/collaborative inquiry in higher education

## Publications

### **Journal Articles**

- **Peña, E.V.** & Kocur, J. (under review). Parenting experiences in supporting the transition of students with autism spectrum disorders into community college. *Journal of Applied Research in Community Colleges*.
- **Peña, E.V.** (in press). Marginalization of published scholarship on students with disabilities in journals of higher education. *Journal of College Student Development*.
- \*Hoffman, J. & **Peña, E.V.** (in press). Too Korean to be White and too White to be Korean: Ethnic identity development among transracial Korean American adoptees. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*.

- \*Carrasco Nungaray, M. & **Peña, E.V.** (in press). Faculty institutional agents at community colleges. *Journal of Applied Research in Community Colleges*.
- **Peña, E.V.** (2012). Faculty development aimed at redressing inequitable educational outcomes: Using inquiry methods for critical consciousness and self-change. *Review of Higher Education*, 36 (1), 69-92.
- Jimenez y West, I., Gokalp, G., **Peña, E.V.**, Fischer, L. & Gupton, J. (2011). Exploring effective support practices for doctoral students' degree completion. *College Student Journal*, 45 (2), 310-323.
- **Peña, E.V.**, Colyar, J. & Bensimon, E. M. (2006). Contextual problem-defining: Learning to think and act from the standpoint of equity. *Liberal Education*, 92 (2), 48-55.
- Bensimon, E. M., Polkinghorne, D. E., Bauman, G., & **Vallejo, E.** (2004). Doing research that makes a difference. *Journal of Higher Education*, 75(1), 104-132.

\*Articles noted with an asterisk are co-authored with doctoral students

### Book Chapters

- **Peña, E.V.** & Polkinghorne, D.E. (2012). Evaluating the Equity Scorecard project: The participants' points of view. In E.M. Bensimon & L. E. Malcom (Eds.) *Confronting Equity Issues on Campus: Implementing the Equity Scorecard in Theory and in Practice*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
- **Peña, E.V.**, Harris, F. & Bensimon, E. M. (2012). The Equity Scorecard: Chronicling the change process. In E.M. Bensimon & L. E. Malcom (Eds.) *Confronting Equity Issues on Campus: Implementing the Equity Scorecard in Theory and in Practice*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
- Palucki-Blake, L., **Peña, E.V.** et. al. (2012). Faculty learning and reflection from student interviews. In E.M. Bensimon & L. E. Malcom (Eds.) *Confronting Equity Issues on Campus: Implementing the Equity Scorecard in Theory and in Practice*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

### Book Reviews

- **Peña, E.V.** (2012). Review: *Disability and Campus Dynamics: New Directions for Higher Education*. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, 25(2), 203-205.
- **Vallejo, E.** (2004). Review: *Colegio Cesar Chavez, 1973-1983: A Chicano struggle for self-determination*. *Aztlan*, 29(1), 311-313.

## Other Publications & Creative Works

- **Peña, E.V.** (2011). *Finding Diego*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUoBM-l2nRA>
- **Peña, E. V.** & Mondschein, H. (2011). *Sage Research Methods Online (SRMO): Sample classroom assignments*. Retrieved from <http://srmo.sagepub.com/page/facultyresources>

## Conference Presentations

- **Peña, E.V.** (2012). *Uncovering the Invisibility of Published Scholarship on Students with Disabilities in Top-Tier Higher Education Journals*. Paper presented at Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Las Vegas, NV.
- Sorter, B. & **Peña, E.V.** (2012). *A Qualitative Case Study Exploring the Academic and Social Experiences of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder on Their Transition Into and Persistence at a Four-Year Public University*. Paper presented at Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Las Vegas, NV.
- **Peña, E.V.** (2012). *Prompting Faculty Growth: An Investigation of Identity, Development, and Renewal across Three Contexts*. Symposium paper presented at Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Las Vegas, NV.
- **Peña, E.V.**, Peña, D.A., & Cirino-Paez, V. (2012). *Strategies to Promote Inclusion of and Awareness about Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Social Justice Conference, California State University, Channel Islands.
- **Peña, E.V.**, Harris, F.H., & Bensimon, E.M. (2011). *Building the Capacity of Community College Practitioners to Become Responsive to Students of Color*. Paper presented at Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Charlottesville, NC.
- Carrasco Nungaray, M. & **Peña, E.V.** (2011). *Faculty Institutional Agents at a California Community College*. Symposium paper presented at Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Charlottesville, NC.
- **Peña, E.V.** (2011). *The Marginalization of Published Scholarship on Students with Disabilities in Higher Education Journals*. Paper presented at American Education Research Association (AERA). New Orleans, LA.
- Hoffman, J. & **Peña, E.V.** (2011). *How Lived Experiences Affect Ethnic Identity Development for Transracial Korean American Adoptees and Influence Their College Experience*. Paper presented at American Education Research Association (AERA). New Orleans, LA.
- Sheridan, D., Hoffman, J., Person, D., & **Peña, E. V.** (2010). *Sustainability in Doctoral Education: Factors that Motivate and Propel Ed.D. Students Toward Degree Attainment*. Paper presented at the WASC Academic Resource Conference, Long Beach, CA.

- Gokalp, G., Jimenez y West, I., **Peña, E.V.**, Fischer, L. & Gupton, J. (2010). *The Practice of Supporting Doctoral Students: Lessons Learned*. Roundtable session presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Chicago, IL.
- **Peña, E.V.**, Gokalp, G., Jimenez y West, I., Fischer, L., & Gupton, J. (2009). *Exploring Effective Support Practices for Doctoral Students' Degree Completion*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA.
- Gokalp, G., Jimenez y West, I., **Peña, E.V.**, & Fischer, L. (2009). *A New Approach for Supporting Doctoral Students: Rossier School of Education's Doctoral Support Center (DSC)*. Roundtable session presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Seattle, WA.
- Jimenez y West, I., **Peña, E.V.**, Gokalp, G., & Fischer, L. (2008). *Understanding Barriers to Pursuit of a Professional Doctoral Degree in Education: Navigating Challenges Through Social Support Structures*. Roundtable session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Jacksonville, FL.
- Bustillos, L. & **Peña, E.V.** (2007). *What Works in Faculty Development? A Comparative Analysis of Two Collaborative Inquiry Projects*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Louisville, KY.
- **Peña, E.V.** (2006). *Developing Practical Judgments While Teaching and Advising Students of Color*. Symposium paper presented at the Professional and Organizational Development Network (POD) Conference, Portland, OR.
- **Peña, E.V.** (2006). *Engaging Faculty Members in a Collaborative Action Research Project: Changing Perceptions Toward Improving Outcomes for Students of Color*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, San Francisco, CA.
- **Peña, E.V.** & Bensimon, E.M. (2005). *Using Interviews with Students of Color to Inform Faculty Practices*. Symposium paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Philadelphia, PA.
- **Peña, E.V.** & Peña, D.A. (2005). *How to evaluate your SSS/McNair Program: Conducting Interviews, Focus Groups and Surveys of your students*. Workshop presented at the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP) Conference, Hollywood, CA.
- Bensimon, E. M., **Peña, E. V.**, & Castillo, C. (2004). *The cognitive frames through which institutional actors interpret inequality in educational outcomes among Black and Hispanic college students*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Kansas City, MO.

- **Vallejo, E.** & Contreras-McGavin, M. (2004). *Evaluating Individuals in the Diversity Scorecard Project: Transforming Institutions by Changing Individuals*. Paper presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA.
- Vigil, V. & **Vallejo, E.** (2004). *Efficiently Serving the Often-Forgotten Student Population: Improving Graduate Student Services*. Paper presented at National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Denver, CO.

### **Invited Talks & Community Presentations**

- Peña, E.V. (2012). *Teacher In-service Training on Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Regional Occupational Center, Ventura County Office of Education, CA.
- Peña, E.V. (2012). *Workshop to California Lutheran University Peer Advisors on Supporting Students on the Autism Spectrum*. California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA.
- Peña, E.V. & Peña, D.A. (2011). *Presentation about being a parent with a child diagnosed with autism*. Channel Islands Social Services All Staff Meeting. Camarillo, CA.
- Addison, L., Peña, E.V., Peña, D.A. (2011; 2012). *Managing Challenging Behaviors for Children with Disabilities: Behavior Strategies for Daily Life*. Walking the Path Together Conference. Oxnard, CA.

### **Professional Experience**

- **Assistant Professor of Higher Education Leadership:** California Lutheran University

June 2009 – present

Teach courses on research methods, student development and success, and dissertation development in the Higher Education Leadership Doctoral Program; Chair dissertations and serve on dissertation committees; Assist Program Director of Higher Education Leadership Doctoral Program in developing curriculum.

- **Assistant Professor of Clinical Education and Writing Advisor:** Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California

August 2007 – May 2009

Instructor for doctoral level courses; Developed programming and workshops for the Doctoral Support Center to advise students through the doctoral process; Provided support and feedback to doctoral students on their dissertations, proposals, and class papers; Served on dissertation committees.

- **Research Assistant and Postdoctoral Researcher:** Center for Urban Education, University of Southern California

June 2003 – August 2007

Managed research projects involving teams of faculty members and administrators at 2 and 4-year institutions in California with the goal of improving success rates for students of color; Advised faculty, staff, and students on executing tasks to carry out project; Coordinated programmatic and research activities to evaluate project.

- **Educational Consultant:** Community Education Academy, University of Southern California

October 2005 – January 2006

Created a report outlining research and recommendations to improve the data collection of college-bound students and their parents involved in five outreach programs affiliated with USC; Wrote a proposal for the Kellogg Foundation to support the recommendations listed in aforementioned report.

- **Multicultural Program Coordinator:** California Lutheran University

August 2001 – June 2002

Created, coordinated and implemented multicultural events for CLU faculty, staff, and students including New Student Orientation, Intercultural Luncheons to facilitate faculty and student interaction, student officer leadership retreat, and ethnic celebration weeks; Supervised and assisted students, including six multicultural student organizations, in educational, cultural, social, leadership and recreational programming.

### Research Projects

- **Parents' Experiences of the College Access and Pathways of their Children with Autism in Higher Education**

Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Jodie Kocur

January 2012 to present

Interviews of up to 40 parents who have children gaining access or already enrolled in postsecondary institutions to understand the successes and challenges they face in higher education.

- **Doctoral Support Center Evaluation Project**

Collaborative effort among three faculty members affiliated with the USC Doctoral Support Center.

November 2007 to 2009

- Developed survey and focus group protocol to assess Ed.D. students' perceptions about services they received from the Doctoral Support Center as well as their experiences in the doctoral program

- Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate Doctoral Support Center services and to contribute new findings to research literature on doctoral student persistence
- **Missing 87 Project**  
Graduate Research Assistant to Estela Bensimon at USC, Center for Urban Education  
Funded by the Lumina Foundation and California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
  
January 2007 – July 2007
    - Second phase of the Equity for All project wherein two teams of faculty and administrators at a California community college inquired into the “87 missing students” who were eligible to transfer to 4-year colleges but did not
    - Facilitated the work of teams to interview students and to conduct campus assessments of programs that facilitated student transfer
    - Co-led collaborative inquiry meetings to discuss interview and assessment findings in order to devise solutions to close the transfer gap
- **Equity for All Project**  
Graduate Research Assistant to Estela Bensimon at USC, Center for Urban Education  
Funded by the Lumina Foundation and California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
  
May 2005 – August 2007
    - Worked with teams comprising community college administrators and faculty members at four campuses in California to examine data on student outcomes and implement changes to improve the academic performance of students of color
    - Conceptualized and wrote project reports to campus presidents
    - Assisted institutional researchers on the teams to display and disseminate institutional data to various committees
    - Used the qualitative analysis software, ATLAS.ti, to code and analyze field notes from campus meetings
- **Faculty Interview Project**  
Graduate Research Assistant to Estela Bensimon at USC, Center for Urban Education  
Funded by The James Irvine Foundation  
  
January 2004 – October 2005
    - Co-led a two-year collaborative inquiry project with a team of five faculty members and three administrators at a small, liberal arts college
    - Facilitated the team's goals of interviewing students, and discussing interview findings and their implications during bimonthly inquiry meetings
    - Analyzed student interview transcripts and organized significant findings into a report to the campus president
    - Conducted interviews and participant observations of faculty members in this project
- **Diversity Scorecard Project**  
Graduate Research Assistant to Estela Bensimon at USC, Center for Urban Education  
Funded by The James Irvine Foundation

June 2003 – November 2004

- Responsible for coordinating action research group meetings of executive level administrators and faculty members at five universities and colleges in southern California
- Conducted participant observations of action research participants
- Assisted in writing project reports to campus presidents and research articles pertaining to equitable educational outcomes

### **Awards, Grants, & Honors**

- *New York University Visiting Faculty Program* Recipient 2012
- Ventura County Autism Society Conference Scholarship (\$250) 2012
- American Association for Hispanics in Higher Education *Junior Faculty Fellow* 2012
- California Lutheran University “Faculty Research and Creative Works Fund” Grant (\$4,535 total awarded to Drs. Peña & Kocur) 2011
- Hewlett Grant: California Lutheran University (\$1,000) 2011, 2010, 2009
- Junior Faculty Participant for the ASHE Equity Institute for Qualitative Research 2010
- Early Career Faculty Teaching Workshop Scholar by ASHE Council for the Advancement of Higher Education 2009
- Author of Evaluation Plan for awarded FIPSE grant, “Retaining California’s Beginning Teachers through Essential Online Course Offerings” (\$300,000) 2009
- Leadership Alliance National Symposium Scholarship 2006
- Rossier School of Education Research Institute Conference Award 2006
- National Conference on Race and Ethnicity Student Scholarship 2004
- Rossier School of Education Research Institute Conference Award 2004
- Rossier School of Education Summer Scholarship 2003
- USC Diversity Fellow 2002 – 2007
- The James Irvine Foundation Fellow 2002 – 2007
- Summer Research Opportunities Program Outstanding Research at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 2000
- Howard Hughes Fellow at Brown University 1999

### **Scholarly Service**

- Reviewer for *Studies in Higher Education* journal 2012-present
- Editorial board member for *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice* (JSARP) 2012-present
- Conference Proposal Reviewer for AERA 2011-present
- Conference Proposal Reviewer for ASHE 2011-present



### **Community Service**

- Ventura County Autism Society, Board Member 2010-2011
- Ventura County Autism Society, Volunteer 2009-present

### **Professional Memberships**

- NASPA (2008-present)
- Association for the Study of Higher Education (2002-present)
- American Educational Research Association (2001-present)