

Fernando Ricardo Valenzuela (they/he/el)

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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut Master of Social Work Community Organizing Concentration	Storrs, CT May 2024
Puerto Rico Travel Study Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Project	June 2023
University of Nevada, Reno B.S., Neuroscience	Reno, NV May 2014

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

Trinity College, Hartford, CT Visiting Lecturer, Community Learning Program	Jan. 2025 - Present
University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT Research Consultant Graduate Student Researcher Center for International Social Work Studies Graduate Student Intern	May 2024 - Present April 2023 - May 2024 Sept. 2022 - July 2023
Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT Project Coordinator, CT Youth Food Program Alliance Graduate Student Intern	March 2024 - Dec. 2024 Sept. 2023 - March 2024
Hispanic Health Council, Hartford, CT Community Research and Advocacy Assistant Community Health Worker	March 2022 - Dec. 2022 June 2021 - March 2022

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

Wisconsin Center for Educational Products & Services (WCEPS) CARE Coach	Dec. 2024 - Present
CREC Magnet Schools, Hartford, CT Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher	Oct. 2020 - July 2021
Nevada Learning Academy, Las Vegas, NV Spanish Vacancy Substitute Teacher	Oct. 2019 - Sept. 2020
Leopoldo Alas Bilingual Primary School, Madrid, Spain English Language Assistant and Cultural Ambassador	Sept. 2016 - July 2019
Pebetero English Immersion Camps, Extremadura, Spain Education Coordinator	Summers of 2017 - 2019

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Connecticut Social Workers for Palestine (CTSW4P), CT

Co-Founder, Steering Committee Member

Dec. 2023 – Present

Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), CT, NV, SC
Organizer, Translator

March 2020 – Oct. 2022

United Substitutes For Higher Wages and Better Benefits, Las Vegas, NV
Co-Founder, Steering Committee Member

Dec. 2019 – Jan. 2021

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Cheesecake Factory, Reno, NV
Server & Trainer

May 2014 – June 2015

BJ's Brewhouse and Restaurant, Reno, NV

Server & Trainer

March 2014 – July 2016

Food Runner

March 2014 – June 2015

Lead Host

July 2013 – March 2014

Starbucks, Las Vegas & Reno, NV

Barista

July. 2006 – Dec. 2009

CONFERENCES

Singh, S., Valenzuela, F., Adler, J., & Jeter, J. (December, 2024). How We Improve Conditions Within: Preliminary Findings from a Participatory Research Project With Beneficiaries of P.A. 15–84., In Judiciary/Labor [Panel], Moving Beyond Implications, Research into Policy, 2nd Annual Conference, Connecticut Scholars Strategy Network.

Thomas, R., Saghir, F. & Valenzuela, F.R. (October, 2024). *Understanding Climate Change Crisis: Comparing Perspectives of US-born and International Youth and Young Adults* [Oral Presentation]. Council on Social Work Education 70th Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO, USA.

Patten, E.* & Valenzuela, F.R.* (April, 2024). *Reflections on the ethics and implications of United States social work practice following a cross-cultural exchange between students from a colonial power and its colony* [Oral Presentation]. The Social Work & Social Development Joint World Conference. Panama City, Panama.

Singh, S., Adler, J.*, Champagne, L.*, Valenzuela, F.R.*, Jeter, J., Rhodes-Smith, T., & Petit, U. (January, 2024). Building Power with “Third Citizens:” Centering Critical Consciousness in Co-Transforming the Voter Engagement Model. In C. Elsaesser (Chair), Integrating Participatory Methods with Intervention Science: Unlocking Community Power to Co-Create Health Solutions [Symposium], Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference, Recentering & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science. Washington, D.C., USA

Caruso, C.C. & Valenzuela, F.R. (November, 2023). *HHC HEARS: Establishing a Community Advisory Committee to Address Health Equity and Social Justice* [Oral Presentation]. Connecticut Public Health Association Annual Conference. Plantsville, CT, USA

* Co-authors

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Singh, S., Jeter, J., Smith, T.R., Adler, J.G., & Valenzuela, F.R. (November, 2024). *Moving from Manufactured Ambivalence to Building Power: Recommendations for Voter Engagement Interventions Through a Participatory Project With Formerly Incarcerated People*. Invited speaker at the Office of Research and Scholarship Spring Fall Event Series, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut.

Keller, S.*, Lomonico, S.*, & Valenzuela, F.R.* (November 2024). *Community Organizing Career Panel*. Invited speaker at the School of Social Work, University of Connecticut.

Bulmash, A.*, Valenzuela, F.R.*, & Weingart, Z.* (November, 2024). *Why Social Workers Should Care about Palestine* [Event Presentation]. Central Connecticut State University, Voice for Palestine: Advocacy and Awareness Night. Social Work Club. New Britain, CT, USA.

Valenzuela, F.R. (September, 2024) *Celebrating 30 Years of Advancing International Learning and Connections*. [Panel]. University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Center for International Social Work Studies 30th Anniversary Reception. Hartford, CT, USA

Bissereth, C.*, Demichele, J.*, Valenzuela, F.R.* & Washington, R.* (September, 2023) *Turning Passion into Power: Overcoming Colonialism Through Art, Culture, Acompañamiento, and Community Action* [Event Presentation]. University of Connecticut School of Social Work Hispanic Heritage Month: Past, Present, Possible in Puerto Rico through Prosperity, Power, and Progress. Hartford, CT, USA.

Kotey, D.* & Valenzuela, F.R.* (March, 2022). *COVID-19 Racial Disparities, Barriers, and Vaccine Hesitancy* [Invited Presentation]. Trinity College Liberal Arts Action Lab. Hartford, CT, USA.

* Co-authors

PUBLICATIONS

Singh, S., Adler, J.G., Valenzuela, F.R., Jeter, J., & Smith, T.R. (under review, Jan 2025). *Moving from Manufactured Ambivalence to Building Power: Recommendations for Voter Engagement Interventions Through a Participatory Project With Formerly Incarcerated People*. American Journal of Community Psychology.

Valenzuela, F.R. (in preparation). *Emerging from the Depths of an Endless Abyss: A Critical Autoethnographic Account of Labor Organizing in the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*.

Thomas, R., Saghir, F., & Valenzuela, F.R. (in preparation). *Understanding Climate Change Crisis: Comparing Perspectives of Global North and Global South Youth and Young Adults*.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Valenzuela, F.R. (February, 2024). *With protesters from both sides on hand, Hartford City Council votes down Gaza cease-fire resolution*. Interview.

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/community/ct-cultured/debunking-covid-vaccine-theories-bipoc-community-connecticut/520-8f77e87c-7da5-4088-b281-a7e8650e10b3>

Valenzuela, F.R. (November, 2021). *Doctor debunked vaccine theories as hesitancy remains among CT's BIPOC community*. Interview. <https://www.ctinsider.com/capitalregion/article/hartford-ct-gaza-ceasefire-resolution-18689940.php>

Valenzuela, F.R. (January, 2020). *Clark County substitute teachers pursue better pay, benefits*. Interview.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/clark-county-substitute-teachers-pursue-better-pay-benefits-1929081/>

Valenzuela, F.R. (January, 2020). *Long-Term Substitutes Fill Hundreds Of Teacher Vacancies In CCSD*. Interview.

<https://knpr.org/show/knprs-state-of-nevada/2020-01-23/long-term-substitutes-fill-hundreds-of-teacher-vacancies-in-ccsd>

Valenzuela, F.R. (February, 2020). *CCSD workers speak out on payroll problems at school board meeting*. Interview.

<https://news3lv.com/news/local/ccsd-workers-speak-out-on-payroll-problems-at-school-board-meeting>

Valenzuela, F.R. (March, 2020). *'The last straw': Most CCSD subs go unpaid during school closure*. Interview.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/mar/24/last-straw-most-ccsd-subs-go-unpaid-school-closure/>

Valenzuela, F.R. (May, 2020). *Clark County School Board to discuss long-sought raises for subs*. Interview.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/clark-county-school-board-to-discuss-long-sought-raises-for-su>

[bs-2019408/](#)

Valenzuela, F.R. (July, 2020). With schools sitting empty longer, support staff wait for answers about their roles. Interview.

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/with-schools-sitting-empty-longer-support-staff-wait-for-answers-about-their-roles>

Valenzuela, F.R. (August, 2020). CCSD substitutes anxious over lost unemployment pay, new school year. Interview.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/ccsd-substitutes-anxious-over-lost-unemployment-pay-new-school-year-2095872/>

Valenzuela, F.R. (September, 2020). Between COVID-19 and layoffs, schools may not have enough teachers to get through the year. Interview.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/09/03/covid-back-school-layoffs-teaching-jobs/563828702/>

Valenzuela, F.R. (October, 2020). CCSD substitute teachers to get pay raises.

Interview. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/ccsd-substitute-teachers-to-get-pay-raises-2167618/>

United Substitutes for Higher Wages and Better Benefits, (September, 2021). Pandemic Teacher Shortages Imperil In-Person Schooling. Interview.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/19/us/pandemic-substitute-teacher-shortages.html>

Valenzuela, F.R. (April, 2021). Substitute Teacher Blues. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/63-substitute-teacher-blues-with-cohost-fernando>

Valenzuela, F.R. (April, 2020). We can Make it Better. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/22-unlocked-we-can-make-it-better-with-fernando-valenzuela>

Valenzuela, F.R. (March, 2020). Education Post-COVID 19. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/32-education-post-covid-19>

Valenzuela, F.R. (March, 2020). Brutally Honest: Coronavirus - Mutual Aid ideas, News and Updates from Educators, and Solidarity. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/bonus-brutally-honest-coronavirus-mutual-aid-ideas-news-and-updates-from-educators-and-solidarity>

Valenzuela, F.R. (March, 2020). The Continued Battle for Substitute Teachers. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/28-the-continued-battle-for-substitute-teachers>

Valenzuela, F.R. (February, 2020). The Myths of Subbing Leading to FullTime Teaching Positions. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/the-myths-of-subbing-leading-to-full-time-teaching-positions>

Valenzuela, F.R. (January, 2020). The Exploitation of Substitute Teachers. Podcast.

<https://littleredschoolhouse.libsyn.com/19-exploitation-of-substitute-teachers>