

## **Fernando Enrique Villegas Rivera**

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### **Education**

B.A., Political Science and Public Administration, Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, México. Graduated with honors.

M.A., Social Sciences with emphasis in regional studies, Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, México, Graduated with honors.

### **Biography and Interests**

Fernando was born and raised in Mazatlan, also known as the Mexican pearl of the Pacific which is located in the northern state of Sinaloa, México. His deep interest in migration-related research has led him to obtain various scholarships, grants and awards from prominent institutions such as the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Inc.

During his graduate studies, he undertook a research project of transnational nature, devoting himself to the study of the relationship between Hometowns Associations (HTAs), clubs and Mexican government agencies. Specifically, his work focused on the economic, social and political impact of collective remittances in community development in Sinaloa, México.

Because of his work, Fernando was invited by the Latin American Research Centre (LARC) at the University of Calgary in Canada to serve as a Visiting Researcher in Residence. More recently he served as a field researcher in an international interdisciplinary project called: "Transit migration along Mexico's Ruta Pacifico: analyzing the State, civil society, and communities". Through ethnographic interviews and participant observation, he examines transit migration by focusing on practices, discourses and relations between state institutions, civil society organizations and local communities.

Currently, he was awarded with the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellowship to study at the University of California Los Angeles, where he will also serve as a teaching assistant in the Chicana/o studies department. Regarding his doctoral research project at UCLA, Fernando intends to focus on the study of the political involvement of Mexican migrant organizations in the United States and Mexico, taking into account inherent factors to the country of origin and destination, all from a transnational approach.

### **Research Interests:**

International migration, social and collective remittances, international migration policies, regional development, organizational development, transnationalism, social networks, transnational political participation, among others.