

Dr. Morgan Montañez

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Radford University
Director, Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR)

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Director of the Center for Social and Cultural Research (8/2024-present)
Began as the CSCR director in August 2024 with responsibility for supervising three research assistants. During the Fall 2024 semester, two new research assistants and a spring semester intern were recruited. Assisted by Dr. Joanna Hunter and Bianca Dickerson, initiated the Virginia 211 data mapping project. Coordinated student work on other faculty projects including that of Dr. Melinda Wagner and Dr. Allison Wisecup.

Projects:

Virginia 211: Coding of qualitative data from a dataset that includes more than 1 million entries. This data will be used to map density of need by zip code and county as well as underserved areas to better help the aid network in Virginia reach those in need. This project included training and supervising two research assistants and one intern. In addition to helping the commonwealth, this project serves to provide hands-on experience in data analysis to undergraduate students at Radford University. (9/2024-present)

Project Manager (1/2023-present)

Began as the qualitative research lead Project Manager for the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) in January 2023. Qualitative work includes in-depth interviews (both structured and semi-structured depending on client/project requirements), focus groups, and analysis of findings. I developed and managed mixed-method and survey research projects and developed my GIS skills. My work included mixed-methods SCRI-Grant projects, assessment, and phone, web, pick-up/drop-off, intercept, and mail surveys. I was responsible for management, research design, training, survey programming, implementation, report writing, academic manuscript writing, and analysis of a variety of projects as listed below. I had opportunities to collect additional data for analysis, including for the Hops and Kitsap County projects.

Projects:

Project Title: *Enhancing Supply Chain Sustainability and Global Competitiveness for Pacific Northwest Hops*: USDA SCRI Grant. Multi-year grant looking at Hops growing to enhance supply chain stability. Joined Washington State University's group in year two—the project also includes researchers at Oregon State University and University of

Idaho. I wrote technical reports of findings and two journal articles. Beginning in January, I developed a survey based off qualitative findings for growers. Using these tools, we measured farmers' opinions and attitudes toward sustainably grown hops. I also aided in creation of a survey, research design, programming, and implementation of the survey, as well of analysis of results for both the qualitative and survey aspects. Will be active in writing findings and resulting journal articles. (3/2022-present)

Project Title: *Healthy Ferry County Coalition*: Project looking at barriers to volunteering in Ferry County, Washington. Aided in research design, IRB, and creation of measurement instruments. Conducted nine in-depth interviews with volunteer organization leadership and used findings from interviews to inform script for six focus groups of volunteers and community members. Conducted analysis and report. This project included working closely with the Colville Reservation in Northern Washington State. (1/2023-present)

Project Title: *Dwelling in American Literature: An Experimental Program for Architects and Engineers*: Assessment of student needs and concerns for a new certificate program in the engineering and literature departments at Washington State University. Crafted measurement tool, prepared IRB, conducted six focus groups, and provided a technical report. Trained several SESRC staff on focus group protocol and qualitative note taking. (1/2023-5/2023)

Project Title: *Improving End-of-Life Management of Plastic Mulch in Strawberry Systems*. USDA-SCRI grant. Multi-year project looking at use of standard polyethylene (PE) plastic mulch and soil-biodegradable mulch in strawberry industry. SESRC's role on grant was an outcome evaluation survey. I developed a baseline survey for overall project outcomes and helped develop the research design for a web survey of strawberry growers working closely with Lisa Wasko DeVettar (PI), Lena Le, Tom Marsh, and Jessica Goldberger (Co-PI's) as well as stakeholders from the larger grant project. I programmed the web survey and will implement and analyze results in a technical report for the research team. The baseline survey will be used again at the end of the project to measure research outcomes. In English and Spanish. (1/2023-present)

Project Title: *Logistics and Efficiency of Local Food Distribution in Kitsap County*. USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant. Qualitative grant submitted with WSU Extension team in Kitsap County, Washington for a project interviewing 65 farmers, vendors,

and emergency food workers in Kitsap County to improve movement of food and to explore barriers to providing healthy options across the county. The aim is to reduce food waste and improve efficiency. Grant award notification received October 11, 2023. Amount received: \$59,610 (project total amount is larger; this reflects what Dr. Rose Krebill Pather and I brought into SESRC to cover my time conducting the research, the analysis, and writing). Research will begin in early 2024. PI on the grant is Jess Sappington. (4/2023-present)

Project Title: *Link Transportation Survey-Wenatchee, Washington*. Intercept survey conducted on behalf of Link transportation systems in Wenatchee, Washington and the surrounding areas where public transportation visits to ascertain demographics of bus riders and reasons for using public transportation. Aided in IRB and logistical planning. (8/2023-10/2023)

Project Title: *Survey of Texas Pecan Grower Crop Cycle Survey*. Helped develop, program, field and wrote report of results from a survey looking at issues of sustainability and changing climate for the Texas Pecan Growers Association and Dr. Monte Nesbitt with Texas A&M. (8/2023-1/2024)

Project Title: *Survey of Texas Pecan Grower Crop Cycle Survey*. Survey two is under development. Working with Dr. Monte Nesbitt at Texas A&M and the Texas Pecan Growers Association to develop a second survey to better understand problems facing pecan growers and industry workers in Texas. (1/2024-present)

Project Title: *Climate Smart Humanities Organization*. National Science Foundation project with Dr. Julia Day (PI) looking at sustainable building practices for construction companies using modular building techniques. I helped to conduct in-depth interviews with representatives from firms, code findings, and wrote a report on findings for Dr. Day. (10/2023-1/2024)

Graduate Research Assistant (3/2022-12/2022)

Worked on both qualitative and survey projects for the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) starting March 2022. I also filled in roles within the SESRC research clinic such as conducting phone interviews and helping prepare mail surveys.

Projects:

Project Title: *Enhancing Supply Chain Sustainability and Global Competitiveness for Pacific Northwest Hops*. USDA multi-year grant

looking at Hops growing to enhance supply chain stability. Joined Washington State University's group in year two—the project also includes researchers at Oregon State University and University of Idaho. With a team of researchers at SESRC I helped with the qualitative and survey research aims of this interdisciplinary undertaking. I developed a literature review, helped write IRB documents, informed the sampling and recruitment plan, and developed in-depth interview guides. I conducted 35 interviews during summer and fall 2022. Analysis of interviews concluded in summer 2023 in my new role as project manager. I developed a codebook of major themes and oversaw a team of transcribers and coders. (3/2022-6/2023)

Project Title: *Survey of Colville Tribal Reservation Enrolled Member*. In May-July 2022 I worked on several areas of this large project, helping to test data collection tools, developing training materials, and training local employees before traveling to the Colville Reservation and conducting pick up-drop off surveys on the south region of the reservation. I was a field supervisor on the project and had a significant role coordinating with the Tribal Government Office in Nespelem and with WSU Extension contacts. (6/2022-7/2022)

Project Title: *2021 Behavioral Health Enrollee Survey*. Washington State Healthcare Authority. Cleaned up qualitative data (spell check and redacted names) and conducted simple statistics on findings before helping to draft the 2021 annual report and fact sheets to the state agency based off web, mail, and phone surveys. (5/2022)

Project Title: *Idaho Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System Results*. I tested the web survey and helped with prepping mailing for this survey. (6/2022)

Project Title: *University of Washington Minority Owned Business Survey*.

I set up the web version of the survey for the client and tested the web survey after setup. (8/2022)

Co-Principal Investigator (7/2020- 8/2022)

Researcher on study exploring the relationship between COVID-19 mortality and rurality. Resulted in one paper, written with co-PIs Namrata Ray and Dr. Anna Zamora-Kapoor exploring the relationship between COVID-19 mortality, rurality, and insurance coverage for individuals using CDC unrestricted data and later the CDC restricted data. For this project I helped formulate the research question, wrote the literature review, helped with methods, and

wrote the analysis and discussion sections. Michelle Weston joined the project in 2022 to help revamp paper and find new journal fit.

Research Assistant (5/2021-8/2021)

“Survey of Native Seed Suppliers and Buyers” project conducted by the SESRC on behalf of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Aided in the analysis of qualitative survey data through the creation of a codebook and then coding responses. I worked with Dr. Lauren Scott on this project on behalf of the SESRC.

Co-Principal Investigator (Dissertation Research) (12/2020-present)

Developed and conducted research for dissertation study on rural Northern New Mexico poverty, aid programs, and healthcare access during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic. Qualitative study recruiting 50-100 informants from a remote, persistently poor, and majority minority county to learn about how they weathered the challenges of the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Also included 300+ hours of community service/volunteer participant observation data collection during summer 2021. Conducted all aspects of study: design, recruitment, interviews, transcriptions, analysis, and any resulting publications. More information is available at taosstudy.com. (12/2020-present)

Research Assistant for IREACH (10/2018-12/2019)

Project providing data analysis for Dr. Anna Zamora-Kapoor for her work with IREACH. This project used the Add Health Dataset and resulted in the paper “Risk Factors for Elevated Blood Pressure and Hypertension in American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Compared to Three Other Racial/Ethnic Groups” for the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Also identified literature on hypertension and helped to develop a literature review exploring hypertension in Native American populations.

Survey Design Consultant for SESRC (08/2018-12/2022)

Consultant for the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center’s (SESRC) free clinic providing guidance on survey design and qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Our clinic served the Washington State University community including administration, faculty, outreach and extension, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the Pullman community. We also worked on SESRC-paid client work to gain experience in client consultation.

Co-Principal Investigator (Master’s thesis research on the Gleaner Oral History Project, 10/2014- 9/2017)

Primary researchers: Nancy Rosenberger (through 2018) Joan Gross (2018-present). Conducted in-depth interviews, transcription, and coding in NVivo.

300 hours of participant observation at each of the 14 Gleaner nonprofits.
Designed, printed, distributed, entered, and analyzed a survey of 350 households.

Research Assistant (6/2016-10/2016)

ADVANCE Oregon State University. Provided transcription work for a project at OSU looking at inequality and discrimination among faculty.