

Bruna Cardoso Lopez, MSW

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

Expected May 2026

Master of Social Work

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

December 2017

Bachelor of Human Services

Columbia College of Missouri, Elgin, IL

October 2015

Research Interests

Gerontology, Immigration, Financial Capability

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Halvorsen, C., **Lopez, B.**, Collier M.K., Medved C., Emerman J. (under review). Pre-post data from a Cogenerational Health Outreach Program within Federally Qualified Health Centers.
2. **Lopez, B.**, Cui, X., Mayanja-Sserebe, R., Hawkins, S.S. (pending submission). Medicaid Expansion and State-Funded Health Care: Immigrant Inclusion in California, Illinois, and Oregon.
3. Mendez, B.C., **Lopez, B.**, Román, C. C., Sabbath, E. (pending submission). Relational-Level Factors and Vaccine Behaviors among Latinx Older Adults: A Systematic Review.
4. **Lopez, B.**, & Piedra, L. M. (2022). Elderhood: Redefining aging, transforming medicine [book review]. *Qualitative Social Work*, 21(1), 217-220.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/14733250211069433>
5. Cardoso, B. and Kopels S. (2017). Bridging Undocumented Status and Educational Barriers. *National Association of Social Work Specialty Practice Sections*, Issue 11. Washington, DC: NASW.

Additional Scholarly Publications

1. Halvorsen, C., & Lopez, B. (2025, January). Supporting Older Workers: Trends in Employer-Provided Benefits — 2010 to 2020. Available SSRN:
<https://ssrn.com/abstract=5092550> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5092550>

2. Halvorsen, C., & Lopez, B. (2023, November). Entrepreneurship Past 50: Self-Employment Trends 2000 to 2022. Boston College School of Social Work. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4651610>
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Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

- Lopez, B., Halvorsen C. (2025, January). Approaches to Enhance Racial and Ethnic Representation in Secondary Data Analysis. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Lopez, B., Halvorsen C. (2024, November). Self-Employment Among Older Hispanics: Intragroup Diversity, Workplace Benefits, and Citizenship Status. Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Halvorsen, C., Matz, C., Lopez, B. (2024, November). Documenting the Vulnerabilities of Self-Employed Older Adults: An Example from the Pandemic. Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Mendez Campos, B., Lopez, B., & Lyons, K. (2024, March). Health Horizons: Exploring How Interpersonal Factors Shape Health Behaviors among Hispanic Older Adults: A Scoping Review. Boston College Graduate Research Symposium, Chestnut Hill, MA.
- Lopez, B., Mendez, B.C., Sabbath, E. (2023, November). Financial Capability Among Older Adult Immigrants: A Systematic Review. Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Invited Presentations

- Halvorsen, C., & Lopez, B. (2024, March). Entrepreneurship past 50: Self-employment trends, 2000 to 2022. Presentation to AARP and AARP Foundation.
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Research Experience

Doctoral Research Assistant

PI: Cal Halvorsen, Ph.D., MSW, Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. "Supporting Older Workers: Trends in Employer-Provided Benefits – 2010 to 2020"

Funding: AARP Thought Leadership and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (U19 OH008861)

October 2024-January 2025

- Managed and analyzed data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) dataset.
- Examined employer-provided benefits among Americans between the ages of 50 and 64 years between 2010 to 2020 by gender, race, and ethnicity.
- Contributed to the development of a translational report to disseminate study results.

Doctoral Research Assistant

PI: Cal Halvorsen, Ph.D., MSW, Center on Aging & Work at Boston College "Shining a Light on Marginalized Older Workers in the Wake of COVID-19"

Funding: AARP Thought Leadership

June 2023 – December 2023

- Conducted data management and analysis on the Current Population Survey (CPS) dataset.
- Investigated nonstandard, informal, and precarious work among older workers.
- Assisted in writing a translational report on employment experiences.

Doctoral Research Assistant

PI: Mary C. Waters, Ph.D. CoPI: Rocio Calvo, Ph.D., How Social Protection Policies and Institutions Contribute to Older Immigrants Well-Being and Sense of Belonging in America

Funding: Russell Sage Foundation Trustees Grant

August 2022 – December 2022

- Searched for recurrent themes in 300 semi-structured interviews with Latine older immigrants.
- Provided coding assistance and qualitative analysis.
- Assisted in drafting initial journal manuscript.

MSW Research Assistant

PI: Lissette M. Piedra, Ph.D. CoPI: Melissa Howe, Ph.D. Illinois Positive Aging for Latinos Study (IPALS), University of Illinois Extension, Urbana, IL and NORC at the University of Chicago

June 2021 – March 2022

- Supported cultural adaptation of curricula on positive aging.
- Produced accountability questions for online learning modules.
- Transcribed investigators and steering committee meetings.

Research Intern

Prefeitura Municipal de São Carlos, São Carlos, Brazil

June 2014 – August 2014

- Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC) international internship at Centro de Atenção Psicossocial, Álcool e Drogas (CAPS-AD).

Research Intern

Teen Challenge, Rio Claro, Brazil

June 2014 – August 2014

- Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC) international internship at Rio Claro.

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Boston College School of Social Work

- Basic Skills Macro, Fall 2024
- Practicum, Program Evaluation, Spring 2025, Basic Skills Macro, Fall 2023

Practice Experience

Social Work Field Placement Coordinator and Employment Coordinator

International Rescue Committee, San Diego, CA / Baltimore, MD

August 2020 – July 2022

- Designed and implemented individualized learning plans.
- Facilitated training on standard operating procedures, code of ethics, laws and regulations, and workplace policies.
- Recruited and supervised graduate interns.
- Supported Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) refugees with employment and job coaching.

Bereavement Coordinator

Reliable Health, Anaheim, CA

July 2019 – February 2021

- Created a 13-month bereavement counseling curriculum.
- Provided emotional support and follow-up with customized mailing program.
- Completed training for medical staff on grief and mourning.

Social Work Coordinator

Riverside Regional Medical Center, Newport News, VA

August 2018 – April 2019

- Educated families on hospice philosophy and multidisciplinary services.
- Assessed patient eligibility and coordinated admissions and discharges.
- Organized patient demographic tracking and monitoring for quality control.

Medical Social Worker

Virginia Health Services

February 2018 – August 2018

- Conducted biopsychosocial assessments and end-of-life planning.
- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary treatment team.
- Recruited, trained, and coordinated team of volunteers.

Behavioral Health Intern

The Center for Child and Family Services, Hampton, VA

June 2017 – December 2017

- Initiated research for grant proposals.
- Participated in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).
- Constructed a learning series on best practices for working with undocumented clients.

Therapy Aid

Elgin Mental Health Center, Elgin, IL

March 2013 – May 2016

- Prepared psychosocial therapy groups.
- Applied Wellness and Recovery approach to treatment plans.
- Assisted case managers and community integration preparation.

Media Coverage

- Otwell, R. (2017, October 9). DACA recipient visits D.C. to plead for DREAM Act. NPR Illinois. [\[nprillinois link\]](#)
- Senator Tim Kaine, Virginia [\[CSPAN\]](#)

Consulting

- CoGenerate (formerly Encore.org) produced reports on intergenerational solidarity and age segregation. Contract: \$2,000 between June-Aug 2023
- Cogenerate (formerly Encore.org) project planning for the 'intergenerational index' Contract: \$250 Dec-2023

Statistical and Research Training

- University of Michigan Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, Introduction to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) Workshop, June 2023

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program, Conflict of Interest, Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research, Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research
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Professional Memberships

- Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
 - Member, Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
 - Member, Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW)
 - Member, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
 - Member, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
 - Member, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
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Service

Academic

- Ad-hoc Peer Reviewer: Gerontological Society of America 2024, 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting Abstracts
- Student Volunteer, SSWR Annual Conference 2024

Community

- Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions-2018
 - Kids Hope USA-2015
 - Illinois Certification Board- 2013
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Fellowships, Grants, Honors and Awards

- 2024-2025 Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) Pre-Dissertation Fellow
 - 2023, 2025 Boston College Graduate Student Association Grants
 - Boston College Social Work Doctoral Funding
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Certifications

- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor in Illinois, 2016-2018, #33275
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Languages

Portuguese, English, Spanish