

GENIA M. BETTENCOURT, PH.D.

3470 Trousdale Pkwy • Wait Phillips Hall 701 • Los Angeles, CA 90089 • gbettenc@usc.edu

Education

- 2019 **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Higher Education**
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dissertation: (Social) class is in session: Examining the experiences of working-class students through social class identity, class-based allyship, and sense of belonging
Dissertation Committee: Ryan Wells (Chair), Chrystal George Mwangi, Joya Misra
- 2014 **Graduate Certificate in Social Justice Education**
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2010 **Master of Science (M.S.) in College Student Services Administration**
Oregon State University
- 2007 **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English, History, and Political Science**
University of California Davis

Academic Appointments

- 2020– **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Pullias Center for Higher Education
University of Southern California
- 2019–2020 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Center for Student Success Research
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2019–2020 **Instructional Fellow and Adjunct Instructor**
Department of Educational Leadership, Evaluation and Organizational Development
University of Louisville

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Bettencourt, G. M.** (in press). “You can’t be a class ally if you’re an upper-class person because you don’t understand”: Working-class students’ definitions and perceptions of social class allyship. *Review of Higher Education*.
- Bettencourt, G. M.** (2020). “When I think about working-class, I think about people that work for what they have”: How working-class students engage in meaning-making about

- their social class identity. *Journal of College Student Development*, 61(2), 22-38.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2020.0015>
- Bettencourt, G. M.,** Manly, C. A., Kimball, E., & Wells, R. S. (2020). STEM degree completion and first-generation college students. A cumulative disadvantage approach to the outcomes gap. *Review of Higher Education*, 43(3), 753-779.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/rhe.2020.0006>
- Bettencourt, G. M.,** Mansour, K. E., Hedayet, M., Feraud-King, P.T., Stephens, K.J., Tejada, M. M., & Kimball, E. (2020). Is first-gen an identity? How first-generation college students make meaning of institutional and familial constructs of self. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory, & Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1521025120913302>
- Bettencourt, G.M.,** George Mwangi, C. A., Green, K. L. & Morales, D. M. (2020). High school-university collaborations for Latinx student success: Navigating the political reality. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 24(1), 17-41.
- Green, K. L., Morales, D. M., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** & George Mwangi, C. A. (2020). (Responding to) youth epistemologies to create a third space: A reclamation of learning in an English language arts classroom. *English Teaching: Practice and Critique*.
- Bettencourt, G. M.** (2019). #Activism: Understanding how student leaders utilize social media to create change. *Journal of Student Affairs Inquiry*, 5(1), 1-33.
- Bettencourt, G. M.,** Kimball, E., & Wells, R. S. (2018). Disability in postsecondary STEM learning environments: What faculty focus groups reveal about definitions and obstacles to effective support. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, 31(4), 387-400.
- Bettencourt, G. M.** (2018). Embracing problems, processes, and contact zones: Using youth participatory action research to challenge adultism. *Action Research*, 18(2), 153-170.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1476750318789475>
- George Mwangi, C. A., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** & Malaney, V. K. (2018). Collegians creating (counter)space online: A critical discourse analysis of the I, Too, Am social media movement. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 11(2), 146-163.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000054>
- Bettencourt, G. M.,** Malaney, V. K., Kidder, C. J., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2017). Examining scholar-practitioner identity in peer-led research communities in higher education programs. *Journal for the Study of Postsecondary and Tertiary Education*, 2, 95-113.
<https://doi.org/10.28945/3783>
- Morales, D. M., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** Green, K., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2017). "I want to know about everything that's happening in the world": Enhancing critical awareness through youth participatory action research with Latinx youths. *The Educational Forum*, 81(4), 401-417. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131725.2017.1350236>

Manly, C. A., Wells, R. S., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2017). Financial planning for college: Parental preparation and capital conversion. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 38(3), 421-438. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-016-9517-0>

Manuscripts Under Review

Bettencourt, G. M. (revise and resubmit). "I belong because it wasn't made for me": Understanding working-class students' sense of belonging on campus.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Friedensen, R. E. (under review). Re-envisioning doctoral mentorship through a power-conscious framework.

Bettencourt, G. M., George Mwangi, C.A., Green, K. & Morales, D. (under review). *But, do I need a college degree?: College-going perceptions of students enrolled in career and technical education.*

Abbott, J. A., Thoma, H. S., Steinberg, R., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** & Kimball, E. (under review). Disability, Admissions, and the Web: An Analysis of College-Going Information in Google Search Results

Book Chapters

Bettencourt, G. M. (in press). A class on social class: Lessons from a first-year seminar. In G. L. Martin & S. Ardoyn (Eds.), *Social class supports: Programs and practices to serve and sustain poor and working-class students through higher education.* Stylus.

George Mwangi, C. A. & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2017). A qualitative toolkit for institutional research. In E. Kimball & K. I. Loya (Eds.). *Using qualitative research to promote organizational intelligence.* New Directions for Institutional Research, no. 174, pp. 11-23. Jossey-Bass. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ir.20217>

Editor-Reviewed Articles

Bettencourt, G. M. (2020). Using asset-based frameworks to support students: Celebrating the work in working-class. *2020 NASPA Knowledge Community Publication.* Retrieved from <http://naspa.org/files/dmfile/2020KCONlinePublication.pdf>

Bettencourt, G. M. (2019). (Social) class is in session: Becoming student-ready for the working-class. *About Campus*, 24(3), 4-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1086482219882408>

Bettencourt, G. M., Malaney, V. K., Kidder, C. J., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2018). Developing the "scholar" in scholar-practitioner: How peer-led communities of research promote agency and growth for student affairs master's students. *ACPA Developments*, 16(1-2).

Bettencourt, G. M. (2016). If it isn't on __, it didn't happen: Examining the links between technology and connection. *About Campus*, 21(5), 27-31.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/abc.21267>

Book Reviews

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017). Book review: Disability studies: An interdisciplinary introduction (2nd ed.). *Education Review/Reseñas Educativas*, 24. Retrieved from
<http://edrev.asu.edu/index.php/ER/article/view/2244/691>

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017). Book review: Meritocracy and the university: Selective admission in England and the United States. *Education Review/Reseñas Educativas*, 24. Retrieved from
<http://edrev.asu.edu/index.php/ER/article/view/2157>

Bettencourt, G. M. & Kimball, E. (2015). Book review: What is college for? The public purpose of higher education. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 52(2), 234-236.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19496591.2015.1018271>

Refereed Research Conference Presentations

Bettencourt, G. M., Wells, R. S., & Abbott, J. A. (2020, November 18-21). Students with disabilities navigating the college choice process: A mixed-methods study of public 4-year universities. [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Online.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Wells, R. S. (2020, November 18-21). On the path to higher education: Who influences working-class students' college-going predispositions? [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Online.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2020, April 17-21). *The impact of social class on working-class students' college choice process* [Roundtable presentation]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. *Conference canceled due to COVID-19*

Friedensen, R. E., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2020, April 17-21). *Power-conscious doctoral advising: Re-envisioning mentorship in the era of MeToo* [Roundtable presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. *Conference canceled due to COVID-19*

Bettencourt, G. M. (2019, November 19-21). *"I belong because it wasn't made for me": Understanding working-class students' sense of belonging on campus* [Paper presentation]. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2019, November 19-21). *"You can't be a class ally if you're an upper-class person because you don't understand:" Working-class students' definitions and*

perceptions of social class allyship [Paper presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2019, November 19-21). *Parts of the whole?: The relationship between first-generation status and other aspects of social class identity*. [Roundtable presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2018, November 14-17). *"I know we're above the poverty line, but I know we're not comfortable": How working-class students describe and identify their class background* [Roundtable presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Johnson, C. (2018, April 13-17). *Social class in the contact zone: A content analysis of Ivy League class confessions* [Roundtable presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Bettencourt, G. M., George Mwangi, C. A., Green, K. L., & Morales, D. M. (2018, April 13-17). *High school-university collaborations for Latinx student success: Navigating the political reality*. [Roundtable presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Morales, D. M., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** Green, K., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2018, April 13-17). *"I want to know about everything that's happening in the world:" Enhancing critical awareness through a youth participatory action research project with Latinx youth*. [Symposium]. AERA Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017, November 8-11). *Low-income students at selective institutions: The complicated relationship between financial redistribution and cultural recognition*. [Paper presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Houston, TX.

George Mwangi, C.A., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** Green, K. & Morales, D. (2017, November 8-11). *But, do I need a college degree?: College-going perceptions of students enrolled in career and technical education*. [Roundtable presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Houston, TX.

Bettencourt, G. M., Kopp, R., & Henningson, M. (2017, October 18-20). *Examining the ways in which students with disabilities perceive costs within higher education* [Paper presentation]. Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) Conference, Trumbull, CT,

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017, April 27-May 1). No publication without representation: A case study of women's activism in the *Massachusetts Daily Collegian* [Paper presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

George Mwangi, C.A., Green, K., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** & Morales, D. (2017, April 27-May 1). *Reclaiming the classroom: Engaging YPAR in school to create a third space*. [Paper presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Kimball, E.K., **Bettencourt, G. M.,** Manly, C.A., Ruiz-Hau, J. M., & Wells, R.S. (2017, April 27-May 1). *STEM degree completion and first generation college students: What explains the gap?* [Paper presentation]. AERA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017, April 5-7). *Understanding class disclosure. How low-income students come out at selective institutions* [Paper presentation]. New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO) Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2017, March 26-29). *#Activism: Understanding how student leaders utilize social media platforms to create social or political change* [Paper presentation]. American College Personnel Association (ACPA) College Student Educators International Convention, Columbus, OH.

Bettencourt, G. M., Malaney, V. K., Kidder, C. J., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2017, March 26-29). *Developing peer-led communities of research in higher education preparation programs* [Paper presentation]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Columbus, OH.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2016, November 10-12). *Students as change agents: Examining the links between student identity, values, and behaviors across emerging adulthood* [Paper presentation]. ASHE Annual Conference, Columbus, OH.

Bettencourt, G. M., Morales, D., George Mwangi, C., & Green, K. (2016, October 26-28). *Our literate lives matter: Raising youth critical awareness* [Paper presentation]. NERA Conference, Trumbull, CT.

Professional Conference Presentations

Bettencourt, G. M., & Bussey, K. (2019, November 19-21). *Office hours: Conversations with advanced scholars and practitioners* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Bussey, K., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2019, November 19-21). *Scholars who lunch: Newly minted and early career scholars session* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Bussey, K. (2019, November 19-21). *Publishing as a graduate student* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Crespín-Trujillo, V. (2018, November 14-17). *Scholars who lunch: Newly minted and early career scholars session* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Crespín-Trujillo, V., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2018, November 14-17). *Office hours: Conversations with advanced scholars and practitioners* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Crespín-Trujillo, V., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2018, November 14-17). *Woke scholarship and self-care: Strategies for graduate student community and longevity* [Conference session]. ASHE Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Bettencourt, G. M., & George Mwangi, C. A. (2017, November 12-15). *Developing the “scholar” in scholar-practitioner. Using qualitative interviews to support students on campus* [Conference session]. National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.

Kimball, E., & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (2017, November 12-15). *How postsecondary staff and faculty members understand the needs of students with disabilities* [Conference session]. NASPA Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Baptista, R. (2016, March 6-9). *Revisiting the impostor syndrome: Supporting women in higher education* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Montreal, Canada.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2016, March 6-9). *Microaggressions: Understanding the current landscape and developing strategies for intervention* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2016, March 6-9). *Beyond surviving to thriving: Strategies to overcome student affairs attrition* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Montreal, Canada.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2015, March 5-8). *Deconstructing the “impostor syndrome:” Women in higher education* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Tampa, FL.

Bettencourt, G. M., & McGeehan, A. (2013, December 12). *Modeling social justice engagement: Innovative activities for students* [Conference session]. Massachusetts ACPA Chapter Drive-In Conference, Brookline, MA.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2013, December 12). *Universal design for student affairs: Enhance engagement for all learners* [Conference session]. Massachusetts ACPA Chapter Drive-In Conference, Brookline, MA.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Johnson, C. (2013, March 4-7). *Cultivating critical conversations about classism: Beginning inclusive dialogue with students* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Bettencourt, G. M., & Johnson, C. (2012, December 7). *Cultivating critical conversations about classism: Beginning inclusive dialogue with students* [Conference session]. Massachusetts ACPA Chapter Drive-In Conference, Cambridge, MA.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2011, March 27-30). *Helping first generation students be more through meaningful involvement* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Bettencourt, G. M. (2011, March 27-30). *Empowering graduate students to be more through peer leadership* [Conference session]. ACPA College Student Educators International Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Invited Talks

Bettencourt, G. M. & Morales, D. M. (2018, April 13-17). *High school-university collaborations for Latinx student success: Navigating the political reality* [Research presentation]. School/University/Community Collaborative Research Special Interest Group Business Meeting, AERA Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Graduate Teaching Experience

University of Louisville

2020 Instructional Strategies (ELFH 670-50, online & in-person)
 2019-2020 College Teaching & Learning (ELFH 683-50, online & in-person)

University of Massachusetts Amherst

2020 Foundations of Higher Education (EDUC 601A; online)
 2020 Supporting Student Success (EDUC 697K; online)
 2018 History of Higher Education (Co-Instructor, EDUC 844; in-person)
 2017 Student Life Research (Co-Instructor, EDUC 641; in-person)
 2016 Student Life Research (Teaching Assistant, EDUC 641; in-person)

Undergraduate Teaching Experience

University of Massachusetts Amherst

2018-2019 Power Up for College Success (UNIV 191A; in-person)
 2017-2018 (Social) Class is in Session: How Money, Knowledge, and Connections Shape the College Experience (EDUC 191; in-person)
 2016 (Dis)Ability in American Civic Life and Education (Co-Instructor, EDUC 191; in-person)
 2013 Social Justice Issues: Ableism (Co-Instructor, EDUC 392G; in-person)
 2012 First-Year Academic Advising Seminar (UNIV 125; in-person)
 2011-2012 Resident Advisor Leadership (Co-Instructor, EDUC 391; in-person)

Oregon State University

2009 First Year Seminar: Leadership (Teaching Assistant, ALS 119; in-person)
 2009 Introduction to Sociology (Teaching Assistant, SOC 204; in-person)
 2009 Career Decision Making (Instructor, ALS 114; in-person)

Grants and Contracts

2020 Friedensen, R. E., (Principal Investigator) & **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Co-Principal Investigator). Exploring the experiences of STEM doctoral students with advising and mentorship, *St. Cloud State University* (\$7168)

- 2020 **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Principal Investigator). How post-graduate transitions influence the social class meaning-making of working-class students. *NASPA Social Class in Higher Education Knowledge Community* (\$250).
- 2019 **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Principal Investigator). Working-class, first-generation, low-income, or another option D? Understanding how students from marginalized social class backgrounds identify and define their status. *ACPA Foundation* (\$2400)
- 2018 **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Principal Investigator). (Social) Class is in session: Examining the experiences of working-class students through social class identity, class-based allyship, and sense of belonging. *Jerome and Florence McCormick Doctoral Award, College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst* (\$1500)
- 2018 **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Principal Investigator). (Social) Class is in session: Examining the experiences of working-class students through social class identity, class-based allyship, and sense of belonging. *Educational Policy, Research, and Administration Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Massachusetts Amherst* (\$1000).
- 2018 **Bettencourt, G. M.** (Principal Investigator). (Social) Class is in session: Examining the experiences of working-class students through social class identity, class-based allyship, and sense of belonging. *Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant, University of Massachusetts Amherst*. (\$1000).

Honors and Awards

- 2020 Diversity Scholar, National Center for Institutional Diversity
- 2019 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) NOW Professional Recognition, NASPA Core Value: Inquiry
- 2019 Selected Participant, ASHE Higher Education Early Career Workshop
- 2018 Selected Participant, AERA Division J Emerging Scholars Workshop
- 2017 Selected Participant, ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar
- 2015 Selected Participant, *About Campus* Inaugural Writer's Retreat
- 2014-2016 College of Education Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2013 Selected Participant, Social Justice Training Institute

Research Experience

- 2017 **Qualitative Consultant**, Liberian Citizen-Government Engagement Project
The Global Citizen's Initiative (TGCI)
- 2015-2019 **Research Assistant for Dr. Ryan Wells**
Center for Student Success Research, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2015-2017 **Research Assistant for Dr. Chrystal George Mwangi**
Center for Student Success Research, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Professional Experience

2018 **Residence Life Intern**, Residence Life
ACUHO-I Summer Internship, University of Edinburgh

2016 **Residential Life Dean**
Summer Institute for the Gifted, University of California Berkeley

2015-2019 **Center Coordinator**, Center for Student Success Research
College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2015 **Residential Life Dean**
Summer Institute for the Gifted, Princeton University

2014 **Program Director**, Social Entrepreneurship Program
Academic Study Associates, Yale University

2011-2014 **Residence Director**, Residential Life
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2009 **Resident Director**, Office of Residential Life and Housing
ACUHO-I Summer Internship, Pratt Institute

2008-2010 **Graduate Advisor**, Student Alumni Association
Oregon State University

2008-2007 **Resident Director**, Campus Housing
Academy of Art University

Professional Service

American College Personnel Association (ACPA)

2015-2016 Leadership Pathways Implementation Team

2013-2016 Directorate, Coalition for Women's Identities

2011- Program Reviewer, Annual Convention

2010 ACPA On the Road Planning Committee, Oregon State University

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

2018 Program Reviewer, Annual Meeting

2017-2018 Session Chair, Annual Meeting

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

2019 Conference Workgroup, Co-lead

2018-2019 Search Committee, Conference Coordinator

2017-2019 Graduate Representative, Board of Directors
 2015– Program Reviewer, Annual Conference
 2015-2018 Session Chair, Annual Conference

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

2019–2020 Region I Representative for the Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education Knowledge Community
 2016-2018 Program Reviewer, Annual Conference

Journal Review Activities

2020– Review Board, *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*
 2019– Reviewer, *Journal of College Student Development*, Research in Brief
 2019– Reviewer, *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory, & Practice*
 2018– Assistant Editor, *Higher Education Politics & Economics*
 2017– New Professional and Graduate Student Review Board Member, *The Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education*

University Service

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2016-2017 Student Representative, College Leadership Advisory Council, College of Education
 2015-2016 Student Representative, Department of Education Policy, Research, and Administration
 2013-2014 Chair, Student Staff Training Committee, Residential Life,
 2013 Member, Search Committee for Associate Director, Residential Life
 2012-2013 Chair, Graduate Selection Committee, Residential Life
 2012 Member, Residence Director Search Committee, Residential Life

Oregon State University

2009-2010 Executive Council, College Student Services Administration Student Association

Academy of Art University

2007-2008 Chair, Programming and Community Development Committee, Campus Housing
 2007-2008 Member, Student Staff Training Committee, Campus Housing