



## WEBINAR GUEST BIOS

### *Immigration policy and health: Building understanding and solidarity*

January 20, 2026



**Elizabeth Aranda**

**Director of the Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center  
University of South Florida**

Elizabeth Aranda is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at the University of South Florida (USF). Ms. Aranda is also the founding director of the Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center in the College of Arts and Sciences at USF. Her research examines migrants' emotional well-being and how they adapt to challenges posed by racial/ethnic inequalities and legal status, and how state and federal policies structure im/migrant incorporation.

Aranda has published two books, *Emotional Bridges to Puerto Rico: Migration,*

*Return Migration, and the Struggles of Incorporation* (2006), and *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City* (2014) (lead author). She has edited five volumes and published over 60 peer-reviewed articles, essays, and op-eds in national and local media outlets. Her current work, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation, focuses on how Puerto Rican post-disaster migrants construct homes in new places. Her second strand of research, funded by the Sociological Initiatives Foundation, examines how immigrants and their U.S.-born children navigate contemporary immigration policies, and how policies affect their well-being. Ms. Aranda is the recipient of the American Sociological Association's (ASA) International Migration Section Public Sociology in International Migration Award, and the ASA's Latina/o Sociology Section's Julian Samora Distinguished Career Award.



**Ivy Suriyopas**

**Vice president of programs**

**Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees  
(GCIR)**

Ivy Suriyopas leads Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees' (GCIR) program, policy strategy and development, funder education and engagement, and funder mobilizing and organizing. Previously, she was a program officer at Open Society Foundations (OSF), where she focused on immigrant and refugee justice, managing a multimillion-dollar portfolio, and developing a strategy challenging the systems rooted in the racialized treatment of immigrants throughout U.S. history. Prior to joining OSF, she

was an attorney and director of the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, working at the intersection of migrants', workers', and women's rights, providing legal representation, and advocating for policy changes informed by the lived experiences of her clients.