

Lives Still in Limbo: UnDACAmended and Navigating Uncertain Futures

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Abstract: Due to the political gridlock in the U.S. Congress, the fate of more than two million young immigrants remains uncertain. With legalization efforts stalled, On June 15, 2012, President Obama introduced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a change in his administration's enforcement policy that would temporarily defer deportations from the United States for undocumented youth and young adults, in addition to providing temporary Social Security numbers and two-year work permits. At the six year mark, more than 814,000 young people have benefited from the program and, as a result, had taken giant steps towards the American mainstream. Things changed under the Trump administration, on September 5, 2017 when U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced an end to what had become a very successful policy. What does this termination mean for these young people and their families? Based on a longitudinal multi-sited research, Professor Gonzales provides data driven insights to questions of policy and practice.



Bio: Roberto G. Gonzales is Professor of Education at Harvard University Graduate School of Education and director of the newly formed Immigration Initiative at Harvard (IIH), a university-wide effort aimed at advancing and promoting interdisciplinary scholarship and intellectual exchange around issues of immigration policy and immigrant communities. Since 2002, he has carried out one of the most comprehensive studies of undocumented immigrants in the United States. His book, *Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America*, is based on an in-depth study that followed 150 undocumented young adults in Los Angeles for 12 years. To date, *Lives in Limbo* has won eight major book awards, including the Society for the Study of Social Problems C. Wright Mills Award, the American Education Research Association Outstanding Book Award, the Law and Society Association Herbert Jacob Book Award, and the Sociology of Education Pierre Bourdieu Book Award. It has also been adopted by several universities as a common read and is being used by K-12 schools across the country in teacher and staff training. In addition, Professor Gonzales' National UnDACAmended Research Project has surveyed nearly 2,700 undocumented young adults and has carried out 500 in-depth interviews on their experiences following President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. His work has been featured in top journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Current Anthropology*, and the *Harvard Educational Review* as well as in the popular media. Prior to his faculty position at Harvard, Professor Gonzales held faculty positions at the University of Chicago and at the University of Washington. He received his B.A. from the Colorado College, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California Irvine. His research is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the WT Grant Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation.