



Meet the Researchers

Dr. Gabriella E. Sanchez – The University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Gabriella E. Sanchez (Ph.D., Arizona State University) is a faculty member of the National Security Studies Institute at the University of Texas El Paso. She specializes in the study of the social organization of transnational criminal groups. Her work has primarily examined human smuggling and trafficking operators, their interactions with other criminal organizations, their potential for market diversification, and their decision making processes. She has been assistant professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC, research fellow at Monash University's Border Crossing Observatory in Melbourne, Australia, visiting lecturer at Wellesley College, Fulbright Scholar at the Criminology Department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Maryland's Consortium for the Study of Terrorism (START). Dr. Sanchez is also a US State Department Boren National Security Fellow. A socio-cultural anthropologist by training, Dr. Sanchez has completed extensive ethnographic research in smuggling and trafficking hubs in over 20 countries. A former criminal investigator, she also has extensive experience as a consultant for US federal and state agencies and global NGOs.

Dr. Sheldon Zhang – San Diego State University

Sheldon X. Zhang is Professor of the Sociology at San Diego State University. He has been conducting funded research on transnational human trafficking and smuggling activities for more than a decade. He has published two books on human smuggling/trafficking activities: *Chinese Human Smuggling Organizations—Families, Social Networks, and Cultural Imperatives* (Stanford University Press, 2008) and *Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings: All Roads Lead to America* (Praeger, 2007). His research has also led to numerous publications in journals as *Criminology*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *Crime, Law and Social Change*, and *Global Crime*. His current research on human trafficking focuses developing and testing measurement instruments and sampling strategies to produce prevalence estimates of the human trafficking problems for U.S. agencies such as the National Institute of Justice (U.S. DOJ), and United Nations agencies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and International Organization on Migration (IOM). Zhang has led multiple federal and state funded projects studying issues ranging from human trafficking to evaluations of various community reentry programs.



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