Dear SWS Members,

Sociologists for Women in Society is proud to announce the recipient of the 2018 Esther Ngan-ling and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship Marisa D. Salinas! Marisa has advanced to candidacy for the PhD in May 2018. She is a first-generation college student who grew up in a poor and underserved community and worked hard to secure good critical analytic skills eventually becoming a Sally Casanova scholar, an honor reserved for the best graduate students from the California State University and encourage their desire to complete the PhD at a Research 1 university. After college Marisa worked for the UC’s Center for Educational Partnerships- a unit created to address the San Joaquin Valley’s chronic failure to matriculate students into academia. Since commencing graduate study, she has pursued research on the negotiation between the personal and professional lives of Latina faculty. The combination of her research, her experience with a differential workload as a visibly working-class origin Chicana, and her dual frame of reference as a Chicana from and committed to working class barrios has led her to unpacking her version of an invisible knapsack and consider how the treatment of Latina academics in this secondary labor market may replicate stratification patterns outside of the Ivory Tower.
Marisa is doing pathbreaking research with the goal of developing a comparative theoretical model of the Prison Industrial Complex and the Academic Industrial Complex through analysis of the life histories of Latinas raised in carceral communities. Through in-depth interviews and extensive archival research, Marisa seeks to ascertain whether the persistent and different experiences of both Latina professors who were raised in carceral communities and Latina former prisoners that were funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline are related. She has been engaged in field work with re-entry programs, prisoner and ex-offender support groups, transitional housing providers, and educators seeking to help ex-offenders obtain college degrees. Salinas has successfully interviewed formerly incarcerated Latinas and college professors and has identified survival strategies in their lives that are both similar and different. She has started to fashion important arguments that connect criminal violence and police violence to experiences with partner violence and the violence of housing insecurity and hunger.

Marisa’s short term goal is to write and finish her dissertation and apply to post-doctoral fellowships and tenure track positions by August of 2019. Following, she plans to draft her dissertation into a book that connects the unlikely genealogies of struggle, resistance, and resilience among Latina academics and formerly incarcerated Latinas. Marisa’s long term goal is to be a public scholar as a tenure track professor and to widen the narrow Latina professoriate pipeline. She does not want to simply integrate marginalized folks into seats at the table in academia, but to decolonize an Ivory Tower that renders women of color vulnerable to internalizing our adversity within the institution as indication of failing as knowledge producers.

We would like to acknowledge the committee and outside reviewers: Co-chairs: Ranita Ray and Andrea (Drea) Boyles, and the two outside reviewers: Sasha Drummond-Lewis, and Bandana Purkayastha.