Dr. Valencia conducts collaborative ethnographic research on the interrelated nature of race, class, and gender with the state, social movements, and democracy. His doctoral research was conducted while living in a barrio of Caracas, Venezuela and focuses on the role of grassroots political participation in processes of state formation and in establishing democracy. Specifically, he examines the meanings ordinary citizens attach to the state, democracy, and political participation, their relationship with the larger state apparatus, and the formation of political subjectivity and direct action strategies for achieving social justice. Dr. Valencia is currently conducting multi-sited research of social, political, and economic transformations related to the energy industry – specifically off-shore and hydraulic fracturing techniques for exploiting natural gas and oil. The project looks at these transformations under capitalist and socialist state development models in the US Southwest and in Venezuela specifically with Chicano/Nuevomexicano and Afrovenezuelan/coastal communities.

Courses
ANTH 330 Principles of Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 343 Latin American Cultures and Societies
ANTH 347 Anthropology of New Mexico
ANTH 530 States and Social Movements
ANTH 537 Theory in Ethnology