



Dear Selection Committee Members:

Please accept this letter of recommendation in **strong support** for Elizabeth Silva's application. Dr. Silva is a highly qualified candidate, and she merits your selection. I have known Dr. Silva for several years as her primary advisor and dissertation chair. My first encounter with Dr. Silva was in the fall of 2014. During that period, she was assigned to me as a doctoral advisee. The admission's committee and I found Elizabeth's application to be very impressive. She represented the type of student we desired to recruit and become a part of our department's community. She exemplified the qualities we wanted in doctoral applicants—critical and analytical thinkers, excellent writers, academically strong, and committed to social justice issues. Hence, the admission's committee enthusiastically admitted Elizabeth and we looked forward to guiding her in her academic pursuits.

Elizabeth turned out to be one of our top graduate students, in our department. Faculty members have described her as being very intelligent and studious. We were very impressed with her deep level of intellectualism. As a member of my 2016 summer course, Elizabeth demonstrated the superb ability to write and think reflectively and critically, with regards to the topics/issues at hand. On assigned collaborative projects or in group discussions, she exhibited the capability and team spirit to work with other students. She was responsible, reliable, creative, and organized. In the class, Elizabeth submitted excellent work. Her writing samples were very good. I was very impressed with the quality of work that she submitted for all her assignments and final collaborative project—all of which revealed that she has excellent analytical skills.

Additionally, when Elizabeth spoke in class, she made profound and carefully thought-out comments that shed new light on the issues that we were discussing. In this class, I noticed that students would listen attentively to what Elizabeth would say with regards to the topics that were discussed. It appeared that the students were appreciative of her insights. It is important to note that other faculty members have stated similar comments regarding Elizabeth—that being students truly appreciated her voice in their classes. Elizabeth's contribution and participation, in my course, were great assets to me as well as to her classmates. During the 2016 fall semester, Elizabeth took her preliminary examination, and the committee was very impressed with the quality of the exam questions she submitted. It revealed that she was well-grounded in her topic area of interests. She passed the exam with an "A" grade. Dr. Silva left a lasting impression on me by being a fervent and intense intellectual, who is committed to issues of education, gender, race, class, diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice transformation, to name a few.

Elizabeth has solid interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary training and experiences in racially and culturally diverse settings as well as in theoretical disciplines, such as multicultural education, cultural diversity, feminism, queer, and inter/multi/trans-disciplinary areas. Also, she has a

significant amount of teaching experiences in social cultural foundations of education, ethnic studies, and gender studies. She also holds a gender studies certificate. Elizabeth's teaching experiences and scholarly knowledge has prepared her to work with students from a myriad of backgrounds and scholarly disciplines. As Elizabeth explained to me, she implements "innovative pedagogical approaches and methodologies," in efforts to enable her students to better understand their *own* perspectives of the world.

Dr. Silva successfully defended her dissertation in the Spring of 2021. With regards to her dissertation research, she explores a research problem that has many levels of significance. In her project, she traces the feminist genealogy of the Chicana/o/x Movement in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Specifically, she uses anthropological, historical, feminist, queer, and philosophical theories to unpack the "collective identity formation, student resistance, and dissent from whiteness and Hispanidad." One of the significant things about her research is that she was able to situate race as a central theme in identity politics. And thus, in turn, this allowed her to examine "the ways in which the performance or different performances of Latinidad(es)" work to resist and disrupt white supremacy as well as challenge and defy socially constructed "monolithic identity constructions." Dr. Silva's research is significant and timely. It adds new data to the growing body of literature regarding Chicana/o/x, identity, race, colorism, and U.S. social movement struggles. Her research will make an important impact in the disciplinary fields, such as history, gender studies, ethnic studies, education, among others.

She is a consummate learner and has the makings of being a well-sought after accomplished scholar. She is engaged, motivated, energetic, professional, and hard-working. She would certainly make an excellent colleague in your department. She has my enthusiastic recommendation!

Please feel free to contact me at [johnsonkarenann@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonkarenann@gmail.com) with regards to additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Johnson

Karen A. Johnson,

Associate Professor Emerita

Department of Education, Culture & Society