

# **Jennifer Parga**

**Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work Field Education at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Emerging expert on identifying, integrating and harnessing technology opportunities to prepare students to improve their local communities.

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## **Biography**

JENNIFER PARGA joined as full-time regional field faculty in 2015 teaching Virtual Field Practicum, field seminar and serving as a point of contact for field liaisons assisting students in Southern California. Prior to joining USC, Parga diligently supported first-generation college students via service learning opportunities in partnership with San Diego-based high schools, nonprofits and community-based organizations in the most diverse community in San Diego. She avidly worked with donors to create a supplemental scholarship program to bring financial support to program alumni through a \$100,000 annual scholarship. As a community organizer with an emphasis in consensus organizing, Parga was contracted to provide state-wide trainings in Georgia and lead local initiatives with the San Diego Foundation to create sustainable solutions through identifying mutual self-interest and capacity building. During that time, she spent several years on the Coordinating Council of Mid-City Community Advocacy Network during one of the most impactful placed-based funding initiatives implemented in partnership with the California Endowment. From 2005 to 2015, she served on the board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers and served as San Diego-Region E regional director and California state secretary. Parga is currently a member of Online Learning Consortium, NASW and Council on Social Work Education, and gives strategic support and consultation to the Trauma Informed Care Task Force of Greater Los Angeles.

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## **Availability**

Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC

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## **Industry Expertise**

Information Technology and Services, Training and Development, Program Development, Education/Learning, Health and Wellness, Social Services, Information Services, Social Media

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Distance Education and Technology, Data and Technology for Social Good, Technology Integration in Education, Non-Profit Administration & Management, Board Development, Community Organizing & Development, Yoga and Meditation Intervention, Change Management & Strategic Planning

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## **Affiliations**

National Association of Social Workers , Online Learning Consortium , Council on Social Work Education

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## **Grand Challenges**

### **Harness Technology for Social Good**

Great explanation on website: (copy and paste) <http://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/grand-challenges-initiative/12-challenges/harness-technology-for-social-good/> My particular interests is in catching the profession of social work up with the integration of technology to better serve our clients and communities. I also think it is important as faculty to educate future social workers about the impact of technology in the clinical and macro settings.

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## **Conferences and Events**

### **Creating a Community of Inquiry in Online MSW Education Programs**

Council on Social Work Education Conference

### **Formal Collaborations Using Testimony in Blended Environments to Advance Social Justice**

Social Work Distance Education Conference

### **Strategies for Building Community Among Faculty on Virtual and Ground Campuses**

Council on Social Work Education Conference

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## **Education**

### **San Diego State University**

MSW

### **San Diego State University**

BSW

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Grant Recipient**

Diversity and Inclusion Through Testimony Grants? USC Shoah Foundation; Institute for Visual History and Education and USC Center for Excellence in Teaching

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## **Testimonials**

### **MSW Student**

Grateful to have a great role model in you who shows compassion towards the students

### **MSW Student**

Professor Parga is an excellent professor who allows students to debrief and talk about their experiences and is there for the students. She is always available and ensures that students get the best experience even as virtual students. She has made my experience at USC so much better. Thank you to professor Parga!!

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