

## Veterans' Reintegration Research Cluster Faculty

### **Dr. Victor Garcia**

University Professor, Anthropology Chair,  
Director, Mid-Atlantic Research and Training  
Institute

**Email: [vgarcia@iup.edu](mailto:vgarcia@iup.edu)**

Dr. Victor Garcia is an expert in substance abuse and ethnographic field methods. He has conducted three NIH funded studies on substance abuse, is a member of an NIH study group, and a member of National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Use. He has recently received recognition being awarded the prestigious title of University Professor.

### **Dr. Alex Heckert**

Chair, Sociology  
Training Director, Mid-Atlantic Research and  
Training Institute

**Email: [aheckert@iup.edu](mailto:aheckert@iup.edu)**

Dr. Alex Heckert has extensive research experience in quantitative approaches to understanding intimate partner violence, social deviance, and family problems. His work includes predicting levels of abuse and re-assault among batterers and an NSF grant for creating measurement scales on family violence.

### **Dr. Michele Papakie**

Associate Professor, Journalism  
Lieutenant Colonel, Pennsylvania Air National  
Guard

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Dr. Michele Papakie is an expert interviewer and ethnographer with special expertise in military culture as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 171st Air Refueling Wing whose service has taken her to at least twelve countries, including Afghanistan in 2010, and has served as the unit's public affairs officer and equal opportunity officer.

### **Dr. Christian Vaccaro**

Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Research Associate, Mid-Atlantic Research and  
Training Institute

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Dr. Christian Vaccaro is an expert in sociological social psychology and ethnographic methods with a previous research record on the social interactional processes of men in the sport of mixed martial arts and batterer intervention programs.

### **Dr. Demond Mullins**

Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Armor Crewman, US Army (former)

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Dr. Demond Mullins is a military sociologist with expertise in qualitative research methods. He has conducted extensive research on veteran reintegration in higher education. In addition, he has been an advocate for veterans issues as a legislative assistant for Barak Obama and as a board member for Veterans Green Jobs.

### **Dr. Michelle Sandhoff**

Assistant Professor, Sociology  
National Security Education Program (former)

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Dr. Michelle Sandhoff is a military sociologist with expertise on issues of race and gender stratification in the military. Her work includes examination of women's roles in the militaries internationally; work on gender and sexuality in the U.S. military; and the role of Muslims in the U.S. military. She is an expert qualitative researcher.

### **Dr. Brandon Vick**

Assistant Professor, Economics  
Research Consultant, World Bank (former)

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Dr. Brandon Vick is an economist with expertise in Applied Microeconomics, Labor, Development, and Health Economics. His work includes research on the relationship between mental health and economic outcomes. Dr. Vick also has worked for the U.N. and World Bank on projects exploring the relationship between disability and economic inequality. He is a skilled quantitative researcher.

### **Dr. Susan Boser**

Associate Professor, Sociology  
Assistant Chair, Sociology

**Email: [cvaccaro@iup.edu](mailto:cvaccaro@iup.edu)**

Dr. Susan Boser is an expert on social policy, human service, and program evaluation. Her previous work has been on integration of rural primary and behavioral healthcare. Dr. Boser is an expert on facilitating policy and evaluation research that includes the input and co-inquiry of program participants and stakeholders.