Whenever conversations of race and Blackness emerge on social media, it is only a matter of minutes before someone exclaims, "Dominicans don't know they're Black!" But what are the contexts upon which visibly-Black young people learn to deny their Blackness? What is the role of anti-Blackness and mestizaje on Latinx identity formation? And what are the spaces where a different kind of Latinx identity can emerge, one where young Afro-Latinxs embrace and affirm their Black identity?

Using ethnographic methods, Salas Pujols examines the Black identity development of Afro-Latina girls. She argues that while these girls must regularly contend with anti-blackness, they may not always see themselves as Black subjects. Once Afro-Latina girls are given the tools to name their racialized experiences, however, Salas Pujols finds that they enthusiastically embrace Black Latinidad. Ultimately, her presentation will call for an understanding of Afro-Latinidad that acknowledges the racialized experiences of Black Latina girls despite their self-identification.

Bio: Jomaira Salas Pujols is a doctoral candidate in the department of sociology at Rutgers University, where she uses qualitative methods to study race, place, education, and Black girlhood. Her dissertation examines the consequences of movement on Black girls' perceptions of self, their identities, and their worlds. Tracing the Black identity development of Afro-Latina girls, Jomaira is especially interested in interrogating how homes, schools, social media, and community-based educational spaces produce different forms of racial and ethnic identities among high school-aged Black girls. Jomaira is also a youth worker, community-based facilitator, and founding member of the Black Latinas Know Collective. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and published by the Youth & Society journal.