Dr. Kristina Lovato, Ph.D., MSW, joined the CSULB School of Social Work faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2017. She teaches courses in Child Welfare Practice, Social Work Practice with Latinx Populations, Applied Projects, Group Work, and Human Behavior and the Social Environment. Her research focuses on enhancing child and family well-being among vulnerable and undocumented immigrant families, particularly those subject to immigration and/or child welfare involvement. Her previous work examines how Latinx youth cope with family disruption following the deportation of a parent and how schools and social service providers respond to the needs of these immigrant families.

Dr. Lovato is currently working on a funded research study examining the impact of COVID-19 on Latinx immigrant communities in Los Angeles. Through her research, she aims to develop culturally grounded interventions to increase services and supports for families at risk of child welfare involvement. Dr. Lovato’s scholarly work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and she has presented at national conferences. As a Social Work Educator, Dr. Lovato draws upon over 12 years of clinical experience serving diverse children and families as a bilingual Child Welfare Social Worker, Child Therapist, and school-based Mental Health Clinician. Dr. Lovato serves on the Board of Directors at Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition in Long Beach, CA.