

Research Track

Carmela Alcántara, MA received her masters in psychology from the University of Michigan in 2006 where she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in clinical psychology. She expects to complete her degree in 2010. Her research focuses on exploring the interrelationships immigration/accultrative stress, acculturation, nervios/ataque de nervios, proneness to anxiety, anxiety sensitivity, and psychiatric disorder.

Rachel Casas, is currently pursuing doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Iowa. She expects to complete her degree in 2011. Her research interests include determining whether using an interpreter to conduct neuropsychological testing of monolingual Spanish speakers affects the conduct assessments of the Hispanic patients.

Kyla Day, MS received her masters in developmental psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 2006. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in developmental psychology from the University of Michigan. Her research interests include examining the ways in which healthy notions of sex and gender are socialized in the African American community and what affect these notions have on sexual behavior, as well as examining whether healthy sexual behavior emerges with age.

Aisha Dixon-Peters, PsyD received her doctoral degree in clinical-community psychology from the University of La Verne in 2007. She is currently employed at University Counseling Services as a staff psychologist. Her research interests include a study of the effects of yoga, a mind-body technique as a therapeutic adjunctive to psychological treatment.

Ayorker Gaba, MS is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Rutgers University. Presently, she is working as a health group intern at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her research focuses on the role that school and acculturation play in high school aged immigrant students' substance abuse risk.

Cesar Gonzalez, PhD received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Alliant International University's California School of Professional Psychology in June 2008. His research seeks to provide further understanding of the interaction between acculturation, mental health, HIV, and high-risk sex behaviors within the Latino transgender male-to-female community. He is currently the Director of Evaluation and Research at Bienstar Human Services.

Nidal Karim, MA received her masters in counseling psychology from Texas Tech University. She is currently in the process of completing her doctoral degree at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on the mental health impacts of domestic violence on rural Mayan women in the Guatemalan highlands.

Ayanna Lynch, PhD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Howard University in May 2008. Her research interests include assessing the differences in psychological functioning of mothers and children in African-American families before and after participating in a brief intervention consisting of family coping skills and psychoeducation about the effects the heightened risk of mood and behavior disorders among children of depressed mothers. She is currently a psychology associate at Mental Health Resources Plus, LLC.

Catherine Packer-Williams, PhD received her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Georgia in 2006. Presently, she works as a Counselor Educator at the University of South Carolina. Her research focuses on creating a conceptual manuscript for a program aimed at preventing academic disidentification among fifth-graders at a low performing, predominantly African-American middle school in South Carolina.

Miwa Yasui, PhD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Oregon in May 2008. She is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research focuses on whether use of a culturally enhanced observational feedback paradigm increases engagement of low income ethnic minority families referred to a disruptive behavior clinic.

Services Track

Hana Adams, MA is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Argosy University where she also received her masters in 2003. Her research interests include exploring the development of a home based parent education program that provides families with individualized treatment through the utilization of attachment theory and multicultural concepts.

Yolanda Barrera, PsyD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Denver in 2006. Her current research focuses on developing a program in which Hispanic immigrants can receive a culturally-competent, psycho-educational program aimed to facilitate mental health and successful adjustment. She is currently in private practice at Bienstar Latino: Private Practice in Denver, Colorado.

Le Ondra Clark, MS is currently a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin in Madison pursuing a degree in clinical psychology. Her research interests include introducing a plan for evaluating a community mental health agency in Madison, Wisconsin. Her efforts will particularly focus on the cultural competence of the agency being evaluated. She is currently a professional counselor at the Mental Health Center of Dane County-Integrated Services Unit.

Arturo Corrales is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Wright State University's School of Professional Psychology. His research interests include creating a workshop consisting of three main components, psychoeducation, networking, and process, focused on ethnic identity as a means to improve academic achievement among Latino undergraduate students.

Lisa Coyne, PhD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Mississippi in 2004. Her research focuses on program evaluation of culturally adapted empirically based mental health services, and describing the phenomenology of Chinese immigrant families referred for mental health services. She is currently an assistant professor, director of the Early Child Research Clinic, as well as an associate director of the graduate curriculum in Suffolk University's psychology department.

Amy Johnson, MA received her masters in clinical psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006 where she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree. She expects to complete her degree in 2008. Her research interests include creating a program that addresses the mental health needs of families affected by HIV/AIDS from a culturally relevant perspective.

Bianca Jones, MA received her masters in clinical psychology from Xavier University in May 2008. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Xavier in pursuit of a degree in clinical psychology. Her research focuses on creating a program that bolsters the protective factors of educational attainment for underprivileged female students in the Cincinnati, Ohio region by establishing a link between African-American female students at Xavier University and the young ladies of the elementary school system.

Gagan “Mia” Khera, PhD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from George Washington University in 2008. Her research focuses on promoting pro-social behavior, decrease physical aggression, increasing positive reinforcement, and impacting social climate during elementary school recess. Her study targets negative reinforcement, lack of communication, and aggressive and inappropriate behaviors in the current system. She is currently a psychologist at the Children’s Hospital of Boston.

Kimber Shelton, MS received her masters in mental health counseling from Niagara University in 2005. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia and is expected to graduate in 2009. Her research interests include creating a program to provide sexual minority and heterosexual youth with a safe space to explore aspects of identity, attraction, relationships, and sexual orientation.

Aileen Torres, PhD received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Carlos Albizu University in 2007. She is currently employed as a Postdoctoral Clinician at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Her research focuses on providing bilingual students with an intensive training on Latino mental health issues as they apply to child maltreatment services.

ProDIGS Track

Marie Hammond, PhD received her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri in 1999. She is currently employed as an Assistant Professor in Tennessee State University’s department of psychology. Her research includes an analysis of the variability of using an online human subjects database for gathering data from community mental health center clients; and to evaluate the impact of personality on presenting symptoms of African American and White patients at community-based mental health clinics.

Wendi Williams, PhD received her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Georgia State University in 2006. She is currently employed as an Assistant Professor at Long Island University. Her research interests include establishing a program, Project SisterCircle, which aims to address physical and mental health disparities among African descent girls in an urban community. Project SisterCircle promotes wellness attitudes and behaviors, while investigating the psychosocial and sociocultural factors that influence health behaviors and attitudes among this population.