

ÚRSULA ARAGUNDE KOHL

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (Psy. D.) (2003-2009)

G.P.A. 3.97- Utmost Distinction

Carlos Albizu University- San Juan, Puerto Rico

Doctoral Thesis

Program Design of Animal-Assisted Therapy for Elderly People in Nursing Homes

Post Graduate Studies in Experimental Psychology (1999–2002)

Bavarian Julius-Maximilians University- Würzburg, Germany

Courses taken:

- Emotional and Social Development in Childhood
- Assessment and Decisions
- Experimental Practical Training: General Psychology
- Experimental Practical Training: Social Psychology: Representational Change of Prejudices
- Quantitative Methods A and B (Statistics)
- Psychophysics
- Research Methods in Psychology
- Empirical Practical Training in Infant and Toddler Research
- Introduction to Biological Psychology
- Introduction to Test and Questionnaire Construction
- 20 Hours of experimental research

B.A. Psychology (1995-1999)

G.P.A. 3.84 – Magna Cum Laude

University of Puerto Rico- San Juan, Puerto Rico

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Caguas, Puerto Rico

Practicum Coordinator Doctorate & Master Level (2018-Present)

Clinical Supervision A.A.T. –VOCA (2018-Present)

Clinical Supervision (2013-Present)

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology (2015-Present)

Practicum Coordinator Master Level (2013-2017)

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology (2011-2015)

Adjunct Faculty Member, Department of Psychology (2009-2011)

Courses taught:

Graduate Course: Fundamentals of Investigation, Animal Assisted Therapy: Animals as Co-therapists in Health Care Settings, Program Evaluation, Introduction to Learning Theory, Behavioral and Motivational Psychology, Supervision & Consulting, and Test Construction.

Proposed and developed the first in Puerto Rico: Graduate Certificate of Animal-Assisted Interventions

Supervises doctoral thesis in counseling psychology and proposed and developed an innovative graduate educational syllabus for Universidad del Turabo about **Animal Assisted Therapy: Animals as co-therapists in Health Care Settings**.

University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico (2009-2011)

Adjunct Faculty, Department of Social Sciences

Sub-Graduate Course: Introduction to Social Sciences I and II, Introduction to Learning Theory and Behavioral Psychology, General Psychology, and Introduction to Psychology

Universidad del Turabo, Caguas, Puerto Rico, (2011)

Academic Consultant, School of Health Sciences

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Development of curriculum and organizational capabilities of new higher education academic programs at the School of Health Sciences including Associate Degrees in Veterinary Technology, Pharmaceutical Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Respiratory Care Technician, and Paramedic Technician; and Master's Degrees in Public Health, Health Services Management, and Clinical Research.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) (2011-2012)

Academic Consultant on Humane Education

Working with WSPA and the Puerto Rico Department of Education Health and Art Teachers to support, mentor, and provide adequate tools to integrate Humane Education in their classroom that create and promote safe, respectful, and compassionate environments free of violence, neglect, and abuse against animals, where individuals, groups, and communities help, support and value all forms of life.

Ombudsman for the Veteran (2012)

Animal Assisted Therapy Consultant

Working with the Ombudsman to develop a program to unite returning Puerto Rican war veterans suffering from PTSD or any related war injury (physical or mental) with homeless, rescued shelter dogs, who are evaluated and deemed viable to be a service or therapy dog for the veteran requesting to be part of the program.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

May 2023, Baylor College of Medicine Fellowship Summit in Houston, Texas

March 2020, UAGM: Investigator Professor Recognition of the Liberal Arts Division, Universidad Ana G. Méndez Gurabo Campus, Puerto Rico.

September 2018: U.T. Health Ambassadors, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar Fellow

March 2018, UT: Investigator Professor Recognition of the School of Social Sciences and Communications, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico.

March 2017, UT: Investigator Professor Recognition of the School of Social Sciences and Communications, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico.

March 2016, UT: Outstanding Investigator Professor of the School of Social Sciences and Communications, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico.

May 2012, UT: NIH NIH UK-NIGMS Grantwriting Workshop, University of Kentucky

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Aragunde Kohl, U. & Hernández Rivera, I. (June 16, 2023). *The importance of pets in mental Health*. EsMental. <https://www.esmental.com/la-importancia-de-las-mascotas-en-la-salud-mental/>

Aragunde Kohl, U., Rivera, G., Montañez, S.D. (April 2023). *Pets in Times of COVID*. Poster presented in the XX Investigator Encounter at Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde Kohl, U., Hernández Rivera, I. Cintrón Torres, Y., Montañez, S.D., Dalmau Ramirez, N.I. & Sánchez Henriquez, C. (November 2022). *Pets in times of COVID-19*. Conference presented in the 69th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde Kohl, U., Hernández Rivera, I. Cintrón Torres, Y., Montañez, S.D., Dalmau Ramirez, N.I. & Sánchez Henriquez, C. (November 2022). *Giving voice to pain: Grief for Pets*. Conference presented in the 69th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico.

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Aragunde-Kohl, Ú., Hernández-Rivera, I., Martínez Reyes, L., Cintrón Torres, Y., Morales Rivera, J. & Sánchez Henriquez, C. (2022). La Comunidad de Bienestar Animal como ejemplo de Resistencia Social, *CRUCE*, 8-19.

Aragunde-Kohl, Ú., Hernández-Rivera, I., Cintrón Torres, Y., Morales Rivera, J. & Rivera Perez, G. (2022). Interacción y conexión emocional con los animales de compañía en la vida de muchos y muchas en Puerto Rico, *Ámbitos de Encuentros*, 15, 254-282.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., & Jové-Jiménez, K., (June, 2022). **More than a vest: Emotional Support Animal Certification.** Continuing Education Seminar presented at the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Zoom.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2022). The whirlwind that changed my life. In Kogan, L. (Ed.). *The Gifts we receive from Animals*. (pp.144-146). Routledge.

Aragunde Kohl, U., Rivera, G., Morales, J., Montañez, S.D. (April 2022). Interaction and emotional connection with pets: a descriptive analysis. Presentation presented in the XIX Investigator Encounter at Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Carolina, Puerto Rico

Aragunde Kohl, U., Rivera, G., Morales, J., Montañez, S.D. (April 2022). A love that sustains-The support offered during domestic violence. Presentation presented in the XIX Investigator Encounter at Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Carolina, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, Ú., Hernández-Rivera, I., & Martínez, L. (2021). Un amor que sostiene: El apoyo de las mascotas en situaciones de violencia de género, *Revista Puertorriqueña de Psicología*, 32(2), 176-188

Aragunde-Kohl, Ú., Segarra-González, Y., Meléndez-Samó, L. M., Hernández-Rivera, I., & Quiles-Peña, C. (2021). A View from Inside: Understanding Puerto Rico Cockfighting, *Society & Animals* (published online ahead of print 2021). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-bja10060>

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2021). Rescuing Street Dogs as a Passion and Way of Being. In Kogan, L. & Erdman, P. (Eds.). *Career Paths in Human-Animal Interaction for Social and Behavioral Scientists* (pp. 36-38). Routledge.

Perez, M., Hopson, R., Boxerman, J. Nelson-Barber, S. Nguyen, K., Aragunde-Kohl, U. & Stout, J. (2021). Designing Indigenous and Culturally Responsive Qualitative Design: Lesson Learned from the First Year of Research in the SEAS Islands Alliance Project. Paper presented in 17th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2021). Interaction and Emotional Connection with Pets: A Descriptive Analysis from Puerto Rico. *Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*, Journal Club, Division 17 A.P.A.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Jové-Jiménez, K., Medina-Ortiz, K. & Quiles, C. (February 2020). **More than a vest: Emotional Support Animal Certification.** Continuing Education Seminar presented at the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Zoom.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. & Jové-Jiménez, K. (2020). Resiliencia y la Relación Humano Animal. En Gómez-Sierra, K., Martínez-Taboa, M., Álvarez-Dominguez, L., Boulon-Jiménez, F. & Santiago-Pérez, J. (Eds.), *Resiliencia-Potenciando Destrezas de Afrontamiento* (pp.231-260). Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Gómez-Galán, J., Lázaro-Pérez, C., & Martínez-López, J. Á. (2020). Interaction and Emotional Connection with Pets: A Descriptive Analysis from Puerto Rico. *Animals*, 10(11), 2136

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Jové, K. Segarra, Y. & Meléndez-Samó, L. M. (November, 2020). Introduction to Animal Assisted Interventions & their Implications in diverse contexts of Health. Continuing Education Seminar presented at the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Hato Rey.

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Aragunde-Kohl, U., Jové-Jiménez, K., Medina-Ortiz, K. & Quiles, C. (November 2020). Animal Assisted Intervention: Transforming Lives. Continuing Education Seminar presented in the 67th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Zoom, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Jové-Jiménez, K., Medina-Ortiz, K. & Quiles, C. (November 2020). The trajectory of the human-animal bond and animal-assisted intervention in Puerto Rico. Round Table presented in the 67th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Zoom, Puerto Rico.

Comité de Asuntos Relacionados a los Adultos y Personas de Edad Avanzada de la Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico & Aragunde, U. (2020). *Estrategias o actividades relacionadas a la interacción con las mascotas en la Adulterz Tardía.*

Segarra-González, Y., Meléndez-Samó, L. M. & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2019, December). The impact of hurricanes Irma & Maria in Puerto Rico and the human-animal relationship. *Human-Animal Interaction Newsletter.*

Medina-Ortiz, K. & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2019). *Manual of Dog Assisted Therapy: Strengthening the Wellbeing of Older Adults.* Bibliográficas.

Aragunde-Kohl, U & Quiles, C. (November 2019). A reflection of the relationship between mascots and their caretaker. Paper presented in the 66th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U & Quiles, C. (November 2019). Ethical and Practice Considerations for Psychologist: Certification of Emotional Support Animals. Continuing Education Seminar presented in the 66th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Jové, K. & Meléndez-Samó, L. M. (June, 2019). Introduction to Animal Assisted Interventions & their Implications in diverse contexts of Health. Continuing Education Seminar presented at the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Hato Rey.

Aragunde-Kohl, U & Quiles, C. (November 2019). A Reflection of the Relationship of Pets and their Guardians in Puerto Rico. Paper presented in the 66th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Martínez-Reyes, L. (2019). “Sentando Pauta: Remembranza del Primer Foro sobre Salud Mental y la Relación Humano Animal.” *Puerto Rico Psychology Association Bulletin*, 41

Segarra-González, Y., Meléndez-Samó, L. M., & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (August 2019). *Natural disasters - Psychological challenges and interventions.* Collaborative Program Proposal presented at the 2019 Annual Convention in Chicago, IL

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Martínez-Reyes, L. (2018). “Sentando Pauta: Remembranza del Primer Foro sobre Salud Mental y la Relación Humano Animal.” *Puerto Rico Psychology Association Bulletin*, 41

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (November 2018). **The role of companion animals in decision-making.** Paper presented in the 65th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico

Jové, K. (Producer) & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (Producer) (November 2018). *The animals in our lives.* Documentary presented at the 65th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico

Jové, K. (Producer) & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (Producer) (October 2018). *The animals in our lives* [Video File].

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Aragunde-Kohl, U. Méendez-Samó, L. & Segarra, Y. (November 2018). Creating more compassionate and healthier communities within social action of animal welfare. Paper presented in the 65th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico

Jové, K. & Aragunde-Kohl, U. (November 2018). The animals in our lives. Documentary presented at the 65th Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Ponce Hilton, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (May 2018). Human-Animal Relationship: A Source of Wellbeing and Resilience. Paper presented in the Resilience Symposium of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association, Universidad Interamericana, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Aragunde, U. (2018, July 7 & July 28). Optimism in Action. First Mental Health Forum – The Human Animal Relationship; A new look. Ponce & Carolina, P.R.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. and Martínez, L. (October 2017). P.R. Animal Foundation: Humane Education and Solidary Actions with the Animals of Puerto Rico. *Fronteras de la Ciencia*, 2.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (March 2017). Human-Animal Relationship: A Source of Wellbeing and a Therapeutic Catalytic Tool. Paper presented in the XV Investigator Encounter at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Casiano, A., Oliveras, C., Padrón, G., Pagán, L. and Torres, N. (March 2017). A journey on Sexual Health and H.I.V. educational modules for Hispanic youth on a minority serving Institution. Paper presented in the XV Investigator Encounter at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Gutierrez-Cabán, G., and Álamo-Mercado, D. (March, 2017). Human-Animal Relationship: A Source of Wellbeing and a Therapeutic Catalytic Tool. Paper presented in the Interdisciplinary Symposium at Medicine School San Juan Bautista, Caguas, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, U., (2016). The Human Animal Bond: the mutual caretaking in older people Paper presented at the conference of the National Association of Social Workers, Chapter Puerto Rico, Universidad Interamericana, Cupey, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., (2016). Human-Animal Relationship: A Source of Wellbeing and a Therapeutic Catalytic Tool. *Animalia: An Anthrozoology Journal*. <https://animaliajournal.com/>.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Casiano, A., Oliveras, C., Padrón, G., Pagán, L. and Torres, N. (May, 2016). Cuidate – An Educational Intervention on Sexual Health and H.I.V. Prevention for Youth in a University Setting Paper presented in the "Solidaridad Política y Cuidanía por la Salud" at Universidad de Puerto Rico, Ciencias Médicas Campus, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Casiano, A., Oliveras, C., Padrón, G., Pagán, L. and Torres, N. (March 2016). Cuidate – An Educational Intervention on Sexual Health and H.I.V. Prevention for Youth in a University Setting Paper presented in the XIV Investigator Encounter at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Aragunde-Kohl, U. & Torres-Lugo, N. (August, 2015). Poster presentation of **Puerto Rico comprehensive companion animal survey** at the A.P.A. Annual Convention, Division 17, Toronto, Canada, August 2015.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Martínez-Reyes, L. and Torres-Lugo, N. (2014). Study about the use of Animal Assisted Therapy for Elderly People in Nursing Homes. *Análisis*, 14.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Morales, N & López, R. (November, 2014). Pasos Program: An Hiv Prevention Program at Universidad Del Turabo. Paper presented at the 16th Annual Convention "Advancing Equity: Interdisciplinary Focus." Puerto Rico Psychological Association, 2014.

Aragunde-Kohl, U., Morales, N & López, R. (May, 2014). Pasos Program: An Hiv Prevention Program at Universidad Del Turabo. Paper presented at the 2nd Interuniversity Symposium at Universidad Interamericana, Metro Campus, Puerto Rico.

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Aragunde-Kohl, U., Morales, N & López, R. (March 2014). Pasos Program: An Hiv Prevention Program at Universidad Del Turabo. Paper presented in the XI Investigator Encounter at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. & Melendez, P. (July 2013). Poster presentation of **Puerto Rico comprehensive companion animal survey** at Science in the Service of Animal Welfare: Priorities around the World UFAW International Animal Welfare Science Symposium, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain 4-5th July 2013

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (2012). Los miembros invisibles de nuestras familias. *Revista CRUCE, I.*

Reyes Nieves, Y., Cordoliani, N., Aragunde, U. and Nieves R. (November 2012). **The significance of the relation and interaction between elders and their animal companions: a look towards psychological practice.** Paper presented in the Annual Symposium of the Psychology Association of Puerto Rico, Humacao, Puerto Rico.

Aragunde-Kohl, U. (March 2012). **¿Animal Assisted Therapy for Elderly People in Nursing Homes?** Paper presented in the X Investigator Encounter at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Companion Animal Survey III – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2022 – Present)

Giving Voice to Pain– UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2022 – Present)

Pets in Times of COVID – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2022 – Present)

Tú y yo = Juntos – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2020 – Present)

A View from Inside: Understanding Puerto Rico Animal Fighting – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2019)

Companion Animal Survey II – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2018)

Companion Animal Survey I – UAGM Gurabo Campus
Research Director (2010-2012)

AIDS Clinical Trials Unit Project, U.P.R. Medical Sciences Campus- San Juan, Puerto Rico
Research Assistant (2007-2008)

Responsible for the submittal of documentation to I.R.B. committees in Puerto Rico and in the United States for units that specialized in various H.I.V. scientific research looking for new and better treatments for AIDS and other conditions related to H.I.V. infections; worked on all the FDA 1572 required documentation, consents forms, protocols, proposals and investigators of new research protocols. Translated consent forms. Submitted and organized the data of Adverse Event Reports.

Carlos Albizu University- San Juan, Puerto Rico
Research Assistant-(2003-2007)

Outreach on Hispanic Research Program for Mental Health Disparities, Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Core Narrative (Grant No. I R24 MD00152-01, N.I.H.)

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Researched mental health professionals need to further develop educational material regarding public health services, including the development of crisis intervention material, assessment of risk factors in depressive and suicidal behavior, and other informational bulletins to reduce disparities in health services.

Publications:

- Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Homeless People in the Municipality of Caguas, Puerto Rico (2004).
- A Mental Health Training Needs Assessment of Health Professionals in Primary Care Setting in Puerto Rico (2005).
- Needs Assessment of the Mental Health Services Provided by Primary Health Care Centers in Puerto Rico (2006).

Carlos Albizu University- San Juan, Puerto Rico

Research Assistant (2005)

Researched and assisted in developing the Proposal: "Superintendents (M.G.T.) of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation for E.L.A.." Contributed to all aspects of research, including project evaluation and proposal design. Performed various editorial duties; developed, reviewed, and edited various materials for publication. Prepared tables, graphs, fact sheets, and written reports summarizing research results. Prepared and managed extensive databases.

APPROVED PROPOSALS:

From Love to Political Action: Compassionate Leadership

Project Director (2021)

Co-wrote and submitted a proposal to expose the Animal Welfare Community's limited access to the development of public policies to promote social services for the care and protection of companion animals by the Animal Welfare Community. This project proposes clear leadership roles as well as developing and implementing a comprehensive and effective Peer Leadership Program that will increase the competencies and tools of the Animal Welfare Community. The training aims to equip attendees with skills to promote new educational and work strategies and to encourage the development of public policies to address the need to approach animal abandonment as a public health concern that has increased due to COVID.

A View from Inside: Understanding Puerto Rico Animal Fighting

Project Director (2019-2020)

Co-wrote and submitted the Proposal of A View from Inside: Understanding Puerto Rico Animal Fighting to Animals and Society, Inc. The purpose of this research initiative is to better understand better the beliefs, attitudes, behavior, and practices towards the practices of cockfighting better, including their view of the recently passed prohibition against animal fighting in Puerto Rico. We also want to explore and understand their relationship with their fighting animals. The study will be conducted in one year. Research results are also expected to be useful nationwide, particularly in areas with high Hispanic populations, given the cultural relevance behind the study in Puerto Rico.

U.T. Health Ambassadors

Project Director and Fellow (2018-2021)

Co-wrote and submitted the Proposal of U.T. Health Ambassadors to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and its primary goal is to increase knowledge and access to healthy eating options and environments in Puerto Rican Adults at Universidad del Turabo that will promote and facilitate a culture of Health for all involved. For this purpose, our project will have three major phases that, in turn, are subdivided into short and long-term phases: educational aspect: was focused on impact not just the students and university staff; also, we want to extend this educational process to geographic communities near to the Campus, growing seeds of health program: activity in which we expect students from the three academic programs to be involved in the planting and harvesting of food to be distributed among the university community and access to healthy food: space in which the student will be able to obtain healthy meals on the university campus; as well learn how to make healthy and economical menus.

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¡Cuidate! An HIV/AIDS Educational Health Prevention and Promotion Project

Project Director (2014-2017)

Co-wrote and submitted Proposal to H.H.S./Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) to (1) prevent human immunodeficiency virus (H.I.V.) infection and its related illness and death; (2) improve the healthy development, Health, safety, and wellbeing of adolescents and young adults; and, (3) increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of educational and community-based programs designed to prevent disease and injury, improve Health, and enhance quality of life.

Continuing Education Provider A.P.A. Approved, Graduate Counseling Program

Project Author (February 2014)

Co-wrote and submitted Proposal to A.P.A. Continuing Education Sponsor Approval. The Continuing Education An Advisory Group has been established to guarantee, implement and regulate standards and policies related to the Continuing Education Program at Universidad del Turabo. It wants to ensure the highest level of quality of continuing education for graduate students, faculty, and professionals in the areas of psychology. In addition, it will assist the program director in developing strategies to increase education and training relevant to psychology.

Integrated Services for Victims of Crime at the Clinic of Psychological Services Universidad del Turabo

Project Author (May 2014)

Co-wrote and submitted a Proposal to the Puerto Rico Department of Justice to provide psychological and social work services in individual and group modalities. Services will be directed to victims of domestic violence, abused children, sexual assault, and victims of crime. The service will be extended to both victims and close relatives who have been affected.

Universidad del Turabo H.I.V. Prevention a Graduate Student Peer Initiative

Project Director (PD) (2013-2014)

Co-wrote a proposal for AIDS United to expand the impact of the MSI Prevention Program (PASOS) Initiative that directly increases access to comprehensive, integrated substance abuse (S.A.), H.I.V. prevention, and early detection at the U.T. Main Campus. The MSI Prevention Program (PASOS) materials and knowledge will be transferred to the U.T. Psychological Services Clinic. The graduate students of the Psychology Program will enhance the materials and offer compulsory H.I.V. prevention modules to all freshman students in their Freshman Seminar Course as part of the health promotion section. In this manner, the developed materials will be an integral part of the seminar offering that is required for graduation.

Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) for Substance Abuse, H.I.V., and Hepatitis Prevention Awards,

"Universidad del Turabo" Project Director (PD) (June, 2011-October2012)

One of the project's main goals is to better serve the student population at U.T. through coordinated efforts with C.B.O.s, governmental agencies, and the private sector for the prevention, early detection, and proper referral of substance abuse, H.I.V., and hepatitis. The second main goal is directly increasing access to comprehensive, integrated substance abuse for the U.T. student population. The P.D. is responsible for conducting a community needs assessment with the project's partners, initiating capacity-building activities to address S.A. and hepatitis students' prevention needs, and developing a comprehensive strategic plan according to the needs assessment findings with project partners.

PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human-Animal Bond and Animal Welfare for All–Police Force

Puerto Rico Police Department (2022 – Present)

June 2022 - 75 police members impacted

October 2022- 50 police members impacted

November 2022 – 20 police members impacted

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Creating Humane Educators - Adolescence
Puerto Rico Department of Education (2019 - Present)
February 2019 - 150 Public Schools Adolescents Impacted

Creating Humane Educators - Teachers
Puerto Rico Department of Education
2018 - 800 Public Teachers Impacted
2019 - 150 Public Teachers Impacted
2022 - 50 Public Teachers Impacted
2023 - 80 Public Teachers Impacted

PR Animals (2010 - Present)
Humane Education
Community Outreach
2018 - 800 Student Impacted
2019 - 150 Student Impacted
2022 - 50 Student Impacted
2023 - 150 Student Impacted

Carlos Albizu University- San Juan, Puerto Rico
Intern Assistant (2006-2007)
Worked in the program "Apoyo a Víctimas de Abuso Sexual y sus Familias" (Program for Victims of Sexual Abuse and their Families, P.A.F.) of the Department of Family in the Clinic of Mental Health of the Community.

Caliopo Specialized School- San Juan, Puerto Rico
Educational Therapist (2005)
Provided educational and occupational therapy to children with learning disabilities. Helped them to improve their essential motor functions, reasoning abilities, visual acuity, or the ability to discern patterns. Therapies included facilitating the use of the hands and promoting skills for listening, following directions, social play, dressing, or grooming.

Municipal Government- Würzburg, Germany
Counselor and Instructor (2001 and 2003)
Responsible for the coordination and execution of initiatives such as Children Whitweek: Play Garden, "Fair of Possibilities" for children, adolescents, and families, and "Adventure Land" Summer Camp. Provided children with behavioral problems with tools for developing skills and strategies to improve their mental health. This was accomplished by designing outdoor activities in a residential camp in a non-competitive atmosphere.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Animal-Assisted Graduate Certificate
UAGM - Community Clinic
2022 - First Class Graduated

Animal Assisted Interventions Supervision
UAGM - Community Clinic
2018- Present

Support Group - Making Community - Human Animal Bond COVID 19
UAGM - Community Clinic
2019 - 4 virtual groups

Support Group - Grief related to losing a Pet
UAGM - Community Clinic
2021 - 4 virtual groups

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2022 – 4 virtual groups

Private Practice, Caguas, PR

Clinical Psychologist (2010)

Psychotherapy, psychological testing, and consultation. Individuals, couples, family; adults, children/adolescents, the elderly; brief and longer-term treatment. Career assessment/counseling and coaching. Animal Assisted Therapy, play therapy, parent guidance, family therapy, and couples therapy in an outpatient setting.

Correctional Health Services Corporation- Bayamon, PR

Internship (2008-2009)

Correctional Institution 308

Provided ambulatory psychological services to inmates, including coordinating services in crisis intervention, orientation, psychological evaluation, consultation, and individual psychotherapy. Provided individual and group psychotherapy specialized in Substance Abuse and Criminal Behavior to the adult male population.

Correctional Health Services Corporation- Bayamon, PR

Prison Psychiatric Unit 408 (2008-2009)

Provided psychological services in the unit specialized in managing and caring for acute psychiatric patients, including psychological assessment and evaluation, rehabilitation, consultation, case management, and specialized treatment of offenders with mental disorders. Also, provided individual, group, and family psychotherapy focused on essential skill building, substance abuse treatment, criminal conduct, psychosocial interventions, and psychiatric rehabilitation.

Victims of Domestic Violence Program, Carlos Albizu University San Juan, Puerto Rico

Psychology Trainee (2006-2007)

Provided ambulatory services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Duties included coordination of services in crisis intervention, orientation, consultation, and psychotherapy. Participated in weekly training and provided psychotherapy to children and adult populations.

Clinic of Mental Health of the Community, Carlos Albizu University San Juan, Puerto Rico

Psychology Trainee (2004-2006)

Provided ambulatory services to various clients, emphasizing community members with minimal social and economic resources. Also provided services in crisis intervention, orientation, consultation, psychometric and psychological evaluations, and psychotherapy. Participated in weekly training and practice of therapeutic skills. Conducted intake evaluations.

Sexually Abused Survivors Program, Carlos Albizu University San Juan, Puerto Rico

Psychology Trainee (2004-2006)

Provided ambulatory services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse. Coordinating services in crisis intervention, orientation, consultation, and psychotherapy. Participated in weekly training and provided psychotherapy to children and adult populations.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- Reviewer of Revista Interdisciplinaria de México (2023)
- Reviewer of the Revista Puertorriqueña de Psicología (2019)
- Reviewer of Human-Animal Bulletin, A.P.A. (2016,2017, 2022)
- Grant Reviewer Panel of HRSA (2015-2016)
- Evaluator of abstracts in the 35th Annual Research and Education Forum, Medical Science Campus, University of Puerto Rico (2015)
- Evaluator of abstracts in the 34th Annual Research and Education Forum, Medical Science Campus, University of Puerto Rico (2014)
- Reviewer of The International Journal of Ethnic College Health (IJECH) (2013-2015)

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND HONOR MEMBERSHIP

- Puerto Rico Association of Psychology (Current)
- Therapy Dog International, Inc. (Current)
- Association of Professional Humane Educators (2018)
- Honor Membership of the Committee of Animal Welfare Law, Puerto Rico Bar Association
- The International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ)
- Red Rover Responders
- Human-Animal Interactions, Division 17, Section 13 of the American Psychological Association