



The NLPA Student Committee 2022-2023

NLPA Student Rep-Trio 2022-2023



Elizabeth Cárdenas Bautista, M.Ed.
Past Student Representative
 Pronouns: she/her/ella

Elizabeth is a Mexicana from El Estado de Mexico who resettled in the state of Georgia. She is currently a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Georgia. As a first-generation college student, she is empowered to continue her educational path, always keeping in mind her fiancé, parents, sisters and community's apoyo. Elizabeth's research interests include multicultural counseling, Latinx mental health, social justice, and advocacy. Focused on complex trauma and post traumatic growth encountered in immigrant communities due to mixed document status in families and the relationship with the social-political climate. Elizabeth is passionate about providing competent and accessible bilingual/bicultural counseling services to the Latinx community.



Aldo M. Barrita, M.A.
Student Representative
 Pronouns: he/his/él

Aldo is a queer Mexican immigrant doctoral student in his 3rd year at the Psychological and Brain Sciences Ph.D. Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2017 with high honors and his Masters at UNLV in 2019. His research focus includes how different forms of discrimination, primarily microaggressions, psychologically impact individuals from marginalized communities. Aldo Barrita currently serves as Current Student Representative for the National Latinx Psychology Association (NLPA). He recently received the NLPA President Citation in 2020 and the NLPA Distinguished Service Award in 2021 for his advocacy, scholarship, leadership and service. He also serves as Elect-Student Chair for APA Division 52 International Psychology in 2022.



Loíza Dejesús Sullivan, M.A.
Student Representative -Elect
 Pronouns: she/her/ella

Loíza is an Afro-Taina puertorriqueña, born and raised in Chicago. She is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program at Arizona State University. She received her Master's in General Psychology from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor's in Power and Identity Studies from Roosevelt University. Loíza's research interests include youth community empowerment, generational trauma, and mental health. She plans to incorporate collective healing and liberatory praxis into her clinical work. During the 2021-2022 school year, she served as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow. In addition to her work with the Student Committee, Loíza is the assistant editor of NLPA's newsletter, Latinx Psychology.



The NLPA Student Committee 2022-2023



Mariana Vázquez, M.Ed.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Mariana is a fourth-year School Psychology doctoral candidate at the University of Houston. Mariana's research interests focus on the influence of cultural values on Latinx parents' involvement and Latinx students' educational and psychological outcomes. She is passionate about identifying personally relevant interventions for Latinxs to promote engagement and satisfaction with services and wellbeing.



Sandra Bertram Grant Solis, M.Ed.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Sandra is a first-generation graduate student pursuing her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Denver. She is a proud Mexican and passionate about Latinx Psychology. Her research interests are rooted in social justice practices. She hopes to explore health behaviors and overall positive livelihood experiences, specifically amongst Mexican/Mexican American immigrants in the U.S. Her goal is to produce scientifically informed strategies that adopt a preventive, rather than reactive, approach in alleviating the psychological distress experienced by Latinx immigrants adapting to new communities, and engage in culturally sensitive practices to increase access and encourage service utilization. She is excited to be a part of the student committee and to continue to build an organization led by the voices of its members.



Leo Covarrubias, B.S.
Pronouns: he/him/él

Leo is a Chicano/Mexican first-generation student from Los Angeles, California. He is a second year Master's of Counseling student at Arizona State University and earned his Bachelor's of Science in Psychology at Washington State University. Leo's research and clinical interests involve Latinx youth and their families, colonial mentality, and access to equitable mental health resources for BIPOC communities.



Tatiana M. Vera, B.A.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Tatiana is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program at Teachers College (TC), Columbia University, working with Dr. Marie L. Miville. Her research and clinical interests take a multicultural approach to understanding how educational systems impact the mental health of STEM Latina Doctoral students and gathering primary qualitative sources to see how culturally affirming mentorship models can act as a supportive catalyst for Latina Doctoral STEM students. She is receiving specialized training through TC's concentration in Bilingual Latinx Mental Health and a TC-wide advanced certificate in Sexuality, Women, and Gender in Psychology & Education.



Manuel Teran, B.A.
Pronouns: he/him/él

Manuel is a first-year doctoral student in Counseling Psychology at the University of Maryland, College Park. He was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA and became a first-generation college graduate from UC Irvine where he graduated with honors and was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Academic Distinction. At UMD, he works in Dr. Richard Shin's lab examining how privileged social status in terms of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and (dis) ability result in discriminatory attitudes and behaviors among mental health professionals. Manuel's research interests include experiences of discrimination and identity-related attitudes with psychosocial outcomes (e.g., psychological well-being, academic persistence, body image) among people with multiply marginalized identities, including Latinas and Latinx Queer/Trans folks.





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Abigail Sharer, M.Ed.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Abigail (Abby) is a queer biracial woman from New Jersey. She is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at Texas A&M University. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and Psychology from Carleton College, and an M.Ed in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M. Abby's research and clinical interests center on the experiences of Latinx immigrants in the United States, gender diversity, integrated behavioral health, and trauma stemming from experiences of racism and discrimination. She is also interested in the provision of multicultural, bilingual, and culturally-adapted services and integrated social justice and advocacy into all facets of her work. Abby is elated to continue serving on the NLPA Student Committee.



Denisse Ochoa, M.Ed.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Denisse is a certified Professional Counselor in K-12 schools. For the last few years, she worked with NYC schools and internationally before returning to the USA to begin her doctoral degree. She is a huge fan of Intersectionality by Kimberlé Crenshaw and incorporates it throughout all of her work! Although she is trying to learn Arabic at the moment, she is a native Spanish speaker. Denisse also identifies as Ecuadorian, queer, and first-generation. She believes it is our responsibility to diversify the field of psychology, and unapologetically advocate for the needs of marginalized communities.



Rita M. Rivera, M.S., CTP.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Rita is pursuing a Psy.D. in clinical psychology at Albizu University in Florida. She is past chair of the Florida Psychological Association of Graduate Students (FPAGS) and Student Representative for Divisions 1, 15, 49, and 52 within the APA. Rita has clinical experience working with Hispanic/Latinx patients and high-risk populations both in the United States and in her home country, Honduras.



Anyoliny Sánchez, M.S.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Anyoliny is an Afro-Latinx, first-year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at Arizona State University. She holds a Master's in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kentucky. Currently, Anyoliny is a member of the PLENA Research Lab, where she engages in behavioral science research related to colonialism, acculturation, and colorism under the mentorship of Dr. Capielo Rosario. Her scientist-practitioner goal is to identify the needs of adolescents from racially and ethnically marginalized Latinx communities and suggest interventions that will improve their QOL. Anyoliny is also an Interdisciplinary Enrichment Fellowship (IEF) and ASU Presidential Fellowship recipient.



Sandra Gomez, M.Ed.
Pronouns: she/her/ella

Sandra was born in Illinois with strong ties to Durango, Mexico where she spent much of her upbringing with familia. She is a second year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at Teachers College, Columbia University. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Cornell College and her M.Ed in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Rooted in social justice efforts and collective healing, her research interests focus on ethnic identity development, acculturative experiences, and educational/career trajectories of Latinx populations. She is passionate about providing culturally sensitive and accessible Spanish bilingual and bicultural services to Latinx populations.

