

Monica B. Perez
Miami, Florida • monperez@fiu.edu

EDUCATION

Florida International University (FIU) Honors College, Miami, FL.

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology with Religious Studies Minor

Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (ARCH) Program

GPA: 3.97, **Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Psi Chi Member**

July 2020 - August 2023

TRAININGS

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Adapted for Selective Mutism Online Course (PCIT-SM) (2023) – Kurtz Psychology
- Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders (HTKS) task (2023)- Florida International University
- Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Achievement (2023) – Florida International University
- Bracken School Readiness Assessment (2023) – Florida International University
- Differential Ability Scales-II (2023) – Florida International University
- Dialogic Reading Coding System (2022) – Florida International University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator: Florida International University (FIU) (December 2023-Present)

NTA Solution Project- Institute of Environment, Center for Children and Families

Supervisors: Dr. Natalia Soares-Quinete, PhD., Dr. Daniel Bagner, PhD.

Focus of project: Implement an innovative methodology based on non-targeted screening approach (NTA) to identify specific tracers of dust and soil exposure, which combined with relevant information on children's behavior, activities, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic data for different age groups could provide a more accurate estimates of soil and dust ingestion rate.

Responsibilities:

- Schedule and carry out sampling kit drop off, sample pickup, and survey completion with families across multiple timepoints using an institutional vehicle
- Prepare samples for processing, ensuring specimens are organized and accounted for
- Thank and compensate participants via electronic gift cards, logging and reconciling the distribution to ensure no discrepancies
- Independently build study databases with behavioral scores and chemicals found in respective samples on SPSS for collections across several timepoints
- Revise and create scoring syntax for several clinical measures: Parenting Scale, Infant-Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (ITSEA), and Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) for Ages 1.5-5 and 6-11 years on REDCap and SPSS
- Create scoring for Activity Pattern Survey (measure devised by Dr. Quinete) to measure levels of childhood chemical and soil/dust exposure

Undergraduate Research Assistant: FIU (August 2022-July 2023)

School Readiness Interventions to Improve Academic and Disruptive Behaviors in Young Children

(R.E.A.D.Y.) Laboratory, Florida International University, Miami, FL

Supervisor: Dr. Katie C. Hart, Ph.D.

Focus of project: Development, evaluation, and dissemination of early behavioral and academic interventions and treatments across home, school, clinic, and community settings designed to promote school readiness.:

Responsibilities:

-
- Assist in data entry and verification using REDCap.
 - Prepare Deep Learning Institute (DLI) Teaching Kits for various community sites, ensuring the proper materials were in each kit depending on the age group and target skills
 - Transcribe videos using the Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICS)
 - Lead child intakes for FIU's Summer Academy program by administering the Woodcock-Johnson Test of Cognitive Abilities (WJ), Differential Ability Scales (DAS-II), the Bracken School Readiness Assessment, Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders Measure of Self-Regulation, and Challenging Situations Task (CST)
 - Keep detailed records of weekly Research Assistant coding progress on Google Sheets, troubleshooting any issues or discrepancies when necessary

Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (ARCH) Program (January 2023- July 2023)

- Assist on a lab initiative to match Child Opportunity Index (COI) levels and scores to participants of the Summer Reading Explorers program (SREP) to inform future research projects examining social determinants of health
- Present Undergraduate Research at FIU (URFIU) Conference (co-author)
 - Assist in the development of the research question, article selection, and coding process
 - Generate written points for poster, ensuring sections are informative and concise
 - Assist in aesthetic design of the poster, so elements are cohesive, appropriate, and pleasing to the eye
- Publish an article in FIU Undergraduate Research Journal (FIUURJ) (co-author)
 - Assist in the writing of the paper (methods, results)
 - Collaborate with undergraduate primary author, faculty mentors, and graduate editor to ensure consistency and accuracy

Undergraduate Research Assistant: FIU (December 2022- July 2023)

Mental Health Interventions and Technology (MINT) Laboratory, Florida International University, Miami, FL

Supervisor: Jonathan S. Comer, Ph.D.

Focus of project: expanding the quality, scope, and accessibility of mental health care for kids by (a) improving the field's understanding of mental health problems affecting children and (b) developing and testing innovative methods to reduce systematic barriers to care and broadly deliver effective treatment

Responsibilities:

- Complete online training in PCIT skills for Selective Mutism and apply these skills by supporting interventions performed by a clinician via telehealth and in-clinic services
- Complete phone screens to determine eligibility for services with the clinic and maintain detailed records, safeguarding the confidentiality of participants
- Manage and send surveys to participants throughout the study using Qualtrics and REDCap, politely reminding them to complete the surveys when necessary
- Generate and verify translations of surveys, questionnaires, and research materials including the Anxiety and Related Disorders Interview Schedule for DSM-5 (ADIS) from English to Spanish, prioritizing accessibility and accuracy of the measure
- Input surveys and scientific measures into REDCap: creating fields, generating appropriate variable names, creating branching logic, focusing on both function and aesthetics for clinician use

EXPERIENCE: OTHER

Undergraduate Fellowship: Religious Leadership and Literacy for the 21st Century (August 2022-May 2023)

Department of Religious Studies, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

Director: Jeanette Smith, Ph.D.

- *Focus*: become familiar with different faith traditions, how they work with one another, and how they identify and address community needs
- Fall 2022: engage in discussions on interreligious dialogue and how it can be used to combat different social issues such as untreated mental health disorders, poverty, climate change, and interfaith conflicts around the world
- Spring 2023: attend events on and off-campus led by faith leaders, speak to them about how their community is helping to combat certain issues, and prepare for a lecture on interreligious dialogue

Honors College Internship (January 2022-July 2023)

Florida International University, Miami, FL

Mentor: John W. Bailly, M.F.A.

- *Teaching Assistant* (January- May 2022): Give feedback on assignments, proctor quizzes, supervise class excursions, troubleshoot student issues
- *Art Studio Manager* (May- August 2022): Ensure studio functions run smoothly, represent the artist at numerous events, handle sales of sketches (not paintings) through PayPal
- *Assistant Curator for In Situ Exhibit* (September- December 2022): Curate two cases on the artist's creative process and historic context for the works, speak at multiple events to represent the artist and his work, help with setup and cleanup
- *Teaching Assistant* (January- July 2023): Give feedback on assignments, proctor quizzes, supervise class excursions, troubleshoot student issues

CERTIFICATIONS

- GCP – Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research (2024)- CITI Program
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Certification (2022) – CITI Program
- CITI Health Information Privacy and Security (HIPS) for Clinical Investigators Certification (2022) – CITI Program
- Basic/Refresher Course-Human Subjects Research Course (2021- renewed every 3 years)– CITI Program

SKILLS

- **Research/Statistics**: RedCap/Qualtrics (online survey development), SPSS (statistics)
- **Computer based**: Microsoft 365, WordPress, Google Suite
- **Linguistic**: Spanish (written and oral bilingual proficiency)
- **Clinical**: PCIT training for Selective Mutism to support interventions by a clinician

POSTERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Cappellini, L. T. D.*, Ogunbiyi, O. D., Ferreira, V. G., Monem, M., **Perez, M. B.**, Gardinali, P., George, F., Bagner, D. M., & Quinete, N. (2024, October). *Monitoring emerging contaminants in soil and household dust samples in the Miami-Dade, Florida region* [Poster presentation]. SETAC 2024, Fort Worth, TX.

Ogunbiyi, O. D.*, Cappellini, L. T. D., Monem, M., **Perez, M.**, George, F., Gardinali, P., Bagner, D. M., & Quinete, N. (2024, October). *Longitudinal assessment of organic chemicals and prioritization of chemical tracers in drinking water from Miami, South Florida by non-targeted analysis* [Poster presentation]. SETAC 2024, Fort Worth, TX.

Fermin, C.*, **Perez, M. B.***, Obee, A. F., Hart, K. C. (2023). *Benefits of time spent outdoors in early childhood education: A systematic review*. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research at FIU (URFIU) Conference. Florida International University. Miami, FL.

Fermin, Crismely*; **Perez, Monica***; Obee, Averill F.; and Hart, Katie C. (2024) "Benefits of Time Spent Outdoors in Early Childhood Education: A Systematic Review," FIU Undergraduate Research Journal(FIUURJ): Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 6.