

Purpose: (1) Utilize a participatory approach to investigate the impact of 'sense of belonging' on positive youth development PYD amongst vulnerable marginalized groups (e.g., juvenile justice-involved, those experiencing homelessness, and undocumented immigrants); (2) Implement, evaluate and create evidence-based strategies to promote PYD.

Education

City University of New York, Graduate Center | 2023 – Present

Doctor of Philosophy, Social Welfare

Advanced Certificate: Critical Theory & Data Science

Thesis topic: *The Impact of 'Sense of Belonging' on Positive Youth Development (PYD) Amongst Immigrant Youth Who Experience Homelessness*

New York University, Steinhardt | 2018 - 2020

Master of Arts, Human Development and Social Intervention

Specialization: Developmental Psychology

Thesis: *Adolescent Girls' Use of Hesitant Language: Voices of Resistance and Accommodation*

Florida International University Honors College | 2014 - 2018

Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences

Second major: Interdisciplinary Studies

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Honors Thesis: *The Evaluation of Internet-delivered Coping Approach behavior and Leading by Modeling (I-CALM) as a way to treat Anxious Children*

Work Experience

Research Foundation City University of New York | September 2024 – Present

Research Associate, Youth Police Initiative, Dr. Nina Rose

- Observe sessions of the Youth Police Initiative (YPI) implemented across the United States.
- Analyze data from pre and post surveys collected before and after implementation of YPI for 50 cohorts.
- Report findings from YPI data analysis in cohort reports evaluating the impact of YPI on participants.

Research Foundation City University of New York | September 2024 – Present

Research Assistant, Mental Health Transfer of Learning, Dr. Geetha Gopalan

- Conduct data collection procedures on articles selected for the Mental Health Transfer of Learning (MhToL) paper.
- Collaborate with team members to resolve discrepancies amongst coded data.
- Lead MhToL paper preparation including the development of a literature review and written drafts.
- Identify journal to submit MhToL paper for publication and coordinate submission.

The Samuels Group | October 2023 – Present

Research Interviewer, Growing Strong: a direct cash transfer program for homeless families.

- Translate survey instruments and consent form in Spanish.
- Develop phone screen protocol for participants' enrollment.
- Administer consent form to participants.
- Conduct structured quantitative interviews with participants in English and Spanish
- Conduct semi-structured qualitative interviews with participants.
- Actively engage and collaborate with program implementation and research teams

Evaluation and Learning | January 2023 – January 2025

Program Evaluation Lead Consultant, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

- Develop focus group and interview protocol for the evaluation of (1) New York Community Trust (NYCT) initiative to train MSW students to deliver social services in languages other than English, (2) life skills workshops for middle and high school students, and (3) parent workshops
- Conduct focus groups and interviews with MSW Students participating in NYCT
- Create and administer exit surveys to evaluate the impact of (1) NYCT program on MSW Students, (2) life skills workshops for middle and high school students, and (3) parent workshops
- Analyze data obtained from focus groups, interviews, and exit surveys for 1) NYCT program on MSW Students, (2) life skills workshops for middle and high school students, and (3) parent workshops
- Create final report annually evaluating each program: 1) NYCT program on MSW Students, (2) life skills workshops for middle and high school students, and (3) parent workshops

Good Shepherds Services | April 2020 – Sept 2023

Program Analyst (Child Welfare Residential), Program Evaluation & Planning Department

Special projects: The development of the inaugural Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of the Youth & Family Wellbeing division | Developed an evidence based YAB Impact Survey designed to assess advocates' communication, advocacy, and decision-making skills | Program co-management

- Partner with program leadership and staff in foster care residential programs to implement continuous quality improvement efforts in a trauma-informed, youth and family development organization.
- Host participatory, action-oriented conversations around data with program staff, by connecting data to lived experiences of staff and participants.
- Lead the development and ongoing revisions of program logic models to guide data collection and outcomes plans.
- Bring data to life by analyzing and visualizing outcome and output data (in graphs, charts, and infographics) to tell a clear, compelling story in a user-friendly format.
- Create and frequently reproduce performance and compliance-related reports to identify performance strengths and areas in need of development.
- Proactively and creatively involve participants and communities in program evaluation and planning, including developing surveys and running focus groups.
- Actively engage and collaborate with staff across the agency in multiple departments (i.e., grants management, compliance and risk management, executive office). Pull and analyze data to respond to government and private funder audits and requests.
- Act as a liaison between GSS and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), including representing GSS at Council of Family & Child Caring Agencies Accountability meetings, ACS workgroups, and other relevant forums.

- Manage primary databases used by staff: maintain systems to proactively ensure accurate user accounts, security access and business functions.
- Provide technical assistance, trouble-shoot and be a resource for staff on the use of databases and updates to the system.
- Perform data quality management: reconcile data between systems, perform data checks and produce data quality reports to ensure data integrity of all systems.

Research Experience

Project for the Advancement of Our Common Humanity | January 2019 – May 2020

Research Assistant with Dr. Niobe Way

PACH projects are designed to challenge stereotypes and disrupt marginalizing practices. PACH designed the Listening Project (LP), an intervention implemented in 7th grade classrooms across NYC.

- Implemented LP: a school-based intervention designed to foster curiosity and connection
- Collected qualitative data from 7th graders participating in the LP
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with 7th graders after the implementation of LP
- Coded and analyzed qualitative survey data collected from 7th graders participating in the LP
- Assisted in the development of formative assessments for LP
- Translated consent forms from English to Spanish
- Contributed and participated in weekly research meetings

Science of Human Connection Lab | September 2018 – May 2020

Research Assistant with Dr. Niobe Way

Projects focus on the intersection of culture, context, and human development to study the social and emotional development of adolescents.

- Performed qualitative coding on transcribed interviews of adolescent girls
- Contributed to the development of the coding scheme for transcribed interviews of adolescent boys
- Created literature review on adolescent boys' language
- Participated in weekly research meetings

Good Shepherd Services | May 2019 – August 2019

Research Intern with Dr. Miranda Yates (Program Evaluation & Planning Department)

A nonprofit organization that operates over 95 programs across NYC designed to improve the development of young people in disadvantaged contexts.

- Participated in meetings with the GSS program evaluation and planning (PEP) team and the Administration for Children Services (ACS)
- Created a library of evaluation methodology guides (i.e. fishbone diagram, ripple effect mapping, etc)
- Participated in strategic planning team meetings with the East NY Community Partnership Program (CPP)
- Created a needs-based assessment for the East NY CPP in collaboration with community partners to create a resources map and identify gaps in services needed in the community
- Analyzed responses to the Prince Joshua Avitto Community Center (PJACC) community engagement survey to identify (1) the services participants are engaged in and (2) those services that are desired.

Mental Health Interventions and Technology Program | January 2015 – May 2018

Research Assistant with Dr. Jonathan Comer

The MINT program is a clinical research program devoted to expanding the quality and accessibility of mental healthcare by evaluating the efficacy and feasibility of Internet-delivered mental health services.

- Administered the Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICS)
- Assisted and shadowed therapists conducting in-clinic sessions
- Data processing, including use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
- Trained fellow Research Assistants in data entry procedures
- Ensured quality and timeliness of data entry efforts
- Participated in weekly clinical and research meetings
- Received training in completing phone evaluations and risk assessment of treatment-seeking populations
- Translated documents from English to Spanish and Spanish to English.

Mind and Development Lab (MaD Lab) | June 2017 – August 2017

Research Assistant with Dr. Adena Schachner

A developmental psychology research lab which focuses on the development of social cognition, cognitive development, causal inference, mental state inference and music cognition.

- Contributed to the development of the intuitive archeology: social transmission *adult version* experimental design
- Developed the TelLab computational modeling task for participants
- Conducted the intuitive archeology: social transmission *adult version* experiment
- Analyzed data collected from the experiment and presented preliminary findings
- Participated in weekly research and reading group meetings

Social Effectiveness Therapy for Children & Adolescents | January 2016 – May 2016

Clinical Assistant with Dr. Jami Furr

SET-C is a behavioral therapy program designed to decrease social anxiety and increase interpersonal skills.

- Assisted in the setup of treatment rooms and preparation of materials
- Engaged participating families in psychoeducation about the nature of anxiety disorders and the basics of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).
- Aided in the collection of clinical outcome data.

Presentations and Publications

- Oro, K.,** Martinez, A. (2024), *Supporting Social Work Practice in A Second Language*
Poster presentation at National Association of Social Work Conference. Washington, D.C.
- Oro, K.** (2020), *Adolescent Girls' Use of Hesitant Language: Voices of Resistance and Accommodation*.
Virtual presentation at NYU Steinhardt's Human Development and Social Intervention's End of Year Conference. New York, NY.
- Oro, K.,** Knauff, E., Das, S., DeAngeliz, K., (2020). *Who am I? Who am I not? Adolescents' Personal Identity in Context*. Poster presentation at the 2020 Teachers College Columbia University's Winter Roundtable Conference. New York, NY.
- Schachner, A., Brady, T., **Oro, K.,** & Lee, M. (2018). *Intuitive archeology: Detecting social transmission in the design of artifacts*. In C. Kalisch, M. Rau, T. Rogers, & J. Zhu, Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Oro, K.,** Miguel, E., del Busto, C., Furr, J.M., & Comer, J.S. (March, 2018). *Evaluating Internet-delivered Methods for the treatment of Early Child Social Anxiety: A Randomized Control Evaluation of the I-CALM Program*. Poster presentation at the 2018 Conference for Undergraduate Research at Florida International University (CURFIU). Miami, FL.
- Oro, K.,** & Schachner, A. (November, 2017). *Intuitive Archeology: Detecting social transmission in the design of artifacts*. Poster presentation at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). Phoenix, AZ.
- Oro, K.,** & Schachner, A. (October, 2017). *Copied or designed independently? Adults' cognitive strategies for detecting social transmission of ideas*. Paper presentation at the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) & NIGMS Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Biomedical Research Mini Symposium. Miami, FL.
- Oro, K.,** & Schachner, A. (August, 2017). *Intuitive Archeology: Detecting social transmission in the design of artifacts*. Oral presentation at the University of California San Diego Summer Research Conference (SRC). San Diego, Ca.
- Oro, K.,** Miguel, E., del Busto, C., Furr, J.M., & Comer, J.S. (April, 2017). *The Evaluation of Internet-delivered Coping Approach behavior and Leading by Modeling (I-CALM) as a way to Treat Anxious Children*. Virtual Presentation at the Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase.
- Oro, K.,** Miguel, E., del Busto, C., Furr, J.M., & Comer, J.S. (March, 2017). *Evaluating Internet-delivered Methods for the treatment of Early Child Social Anxiety: A Randomized Control Evaluation of the I-CALM Program*. Oral presentation at the 2017 Conference for Undergraduate Research at Florida International University (CURFIU). Miami, FL.
- Oro, K.,** Miguel, E., del Busto, C., Furr, J.M., & Comer, J.S. (March, 2017). *The Evaluation of Internet-Delivered Coaching Approach behavior and Leading by Modeling (I-CALM)*. Poster presentation at the 19th Biomedical & Comparative Immunology (BCI) Symposium. Miami, FL.
- Oro, K.,** Miguel, E., del Busto, C., Furr, J.M., & Comer, J.S. (October, 2016). *Internet-delivered Coping Approach Behavior and Leading by Modeling (I-CALM)*. Oral presentation at the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) & NIGMS Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Biomedical Research Mini Symposium. Miami, FL.
- Oro, K.,** & Tempest, H. (August, 2012). *Meiotic sex chromosomes and their specialized*

localization along a meiotic spread. Oral presentation at the Summer Research Internship (SRI) Mini Symposium. Miami, FL.

Scholarships and Awards

Black Race Ethnic Studies (BRES) Fellowship | 2024

City University of New York, Graduate Center

CURFIU Cash Prize | 2018

Cash prize received at the Conference for Undergraduate Research at Florida International University (CURFIU).

SACNAS Travel Award | 2017

Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) 2017 Conference travel award.

MARC U* STAR Fellowship | 2017-2018

Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) U* STAR. Funding provided by the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Oral Presentation in Social Sciences Award | 2016

MARC U* STAR & NIGMS RISE Biomedical Research Mini-symposium

QBIC Scholarship | 2014-2018

Quantifying Biology in the Classroom Scholarship awarded annually. Funding provided by Florida International University Office of the Provost.

Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Scholarship | 2014

Scholarship awarded to aid Miami-Dade County students in achieving a college education.

Honors

Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) Program | 2017

A funded eight-week summer research program at the University of California San Diego

Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) U* STAR Fellow | 2016-2018

An NIH funded research training program for students from diverse backgrounds

Quantifying Biology in the Classroom (QBIC) Scholar | 2014-2018

A funded program comprised of an integrative four-year curriculum which emphasizes the study of living systems, while providing students the tools to critically evaluate biological concepts.

Miami Herald Silver Knight Nominee in the Science category | 2014

Recognition by the Miami Herald Newspaper for significant community service.

Relevant Skills

- Native Spanish Speaker, SPSS, REDcap, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, Entry level proficiency in R & STATA