

MIRIAM J. ALVAREZ

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at El Paso - El Paso, TX

Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental Psychology
Expected Graduation Date: May 2018

Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Methods
Expected Completion Date: December 2016

Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology, Graduation Date: May 2016
Master Thesis, "The Impact of Bicultural Identity on Academic Engagement."
Main Thesis Advisors: Professor Michael A. Zárate and Craig Field

Bachelor of Arts, Graduation Date: May 2013
Major: Psychology Minor: Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Member
- American Psychological Association, Member
- Research Society on Alcoholism

PUBLICATIONS

Zárate, M. A., Ramos, C., **Alvarez, M. J.**, (2015). Immigration: Coerced migration, social change, and reality versus myth. In Czopp, A., *Social Issues in living color: Challenges and solutions from the perspective of ethnic minority psychology* (pp. 999-1000). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Books.

IN PREPARATION:

Alvarez, M.J., Fietze, G., Ramos, C., Field, C., Zárate, M.A. (in preparation). A quantitative analysis of Latino acculturation and alcohol use: Myth vs. Reality.

Oviedo Ramirez, S., **Alvarez, M.J.**, Field, C. (in preparation). Brief intervention for alcohol delivered in Spanish or English is equally effective.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA) - \$3966
- UTEP Student Travel Grant - \$850
- Dodson Fund Travel Grant – \$400
- UTEP Graduate Scholarship - \$20,000)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Alvarez, M.J.**, Oviedo Ramirez, S., & Field, C. (2016). Examining the role of social support on alcohol use and alcohol related problems. Poster presentation at 39th Annual Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Oviedo Ramirez, S., **Alvarez, M. J.**, Richards, D. K., Puentes, R. P., & Field, C. (2016). Predictors of readiness to change alcohol use prior to intervention among at risk, non-treatment seeking drinkers. Poster to be presented at Latina Researchers Network Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Portillo, C., **Alvarez, M.J.**, & Field, C. (2016). Emergency Department Healthcare Providers' Understanding and Skill Level of Alcohol Treatment and Service. Poster presentation at COURI Symposium - Summer 2016, El Paso, Texas.
- Puentes, R. P., Richards, D. K., **Alvarez, M. J.**, Oviedo Ramirez, S., Woolard, R., & Field, C. (2016). Emergency department health care provider views toward patients with alcohol and drug use disorders. Poster to be presented at AMERSA National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Portillo, C., **Alvarez, M.J.**, & Field, C. (2016). The Role of Gender and Ethnicity on Alcohol Use and Injury. Poster presentation at COURI Symposium - Spring 2016, El Paso, Texas.
- **Alvarez, M.J.**, Balcazar, P., Oviedo Ramirez, S., Frankowski, S., & Morera, O. (2016). Development of a scale measuring abstract and concrete factors of social vengeance. Poster presentation at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, California.
- **Alvarez, M. J.**, & Zárate, M. A. (2015). Understanding Immigration: A look into the Migrants' Experiences. Poster presentation at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, California.
- Ramos, C., Smith, B., **Alvarez, M. J.**, & Zárate, M. (2015). This is How a Revolution Begins: Analyzing Conditions that Lead to the Radicalization of Latinos. Poster presentation at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, California.

RESEARCH INTEREST

Immigration - Reasons for migration and its effects on migrants' incorporation into a host society. Protective factors amongst voluntary and involuntary immigrants.

Identity - Individual differences in conceptualization of two identities. Characterizations of the experiences of individuals attempting to become incorporated into a new culture/society.

Latino Health Disparities: Address the public health burden and health disparities related to binge drinking in the Paso Del Norte region. The primary outcomes of interest include alcohol use, alcohol problems, help seeking, and treatment utilization.

Cultural Change - Perceptions of cultural change and how it influences identity and intergroup relations.

QUANTITATIVE COURSEWORK

- Applied Correlation & Regression
- Experimental Design and Analysis of Variance
- Categorical Data Analysis
- Psychometrics
- Structural Equation Modeling
- Statistical Programming

CURRENT PROJECTS

Social Cognition Laboratory

Faculty Supervisor: Michael A. Zárate, Ph.D.

University of Texas - El Paso, El Paso, TX

August 2012– Present

Overview: Primary focus is to investigate cognitive processes underlying prejudice and stereotyping; Determinants of social categorization; Stereotypic trait inferences; Racial, ethnic, and gender categorization and stereotyping.

Project: Acculturation and Alcohol Use

- Conducted a p-curve and meta-analysis to address the question, “Are the effects of acculturation as a predictor of alcohol use (frequency, volume, and quantity) true, or do they merely reflect selective reporting?”
- Using a p-curve analysis is advantageous because it allows for the evaluation of the evidence for acculturation in health psychology and tests its robustness against questionable research practices, such as publication bias and p hacking. The effect size meta-analysis evaluated evidentiary value and effect sizes.
- Results demonstrated that acculturation is a useful predictor of alcohol abuse, but the meta-analysis revealed that acculturation accounts for 1% of the variance in drinking behaviors.

Project: Cultural Inertia

- Designed series of experimental design studies that investigate the extent to which people will resist change when change is expected or continuous.
- Conduct analyses to assess differences between conditions will be analyzed via regression and analysis of variance techniques using statistical programming software.

Project: Understanding Immigration

- Designed and conducted experiments to investigate attitudes toward migration and attitudes of migrants.
- Analyzed and interpreted statistical data to identify significant differences in relationships among sources of information using SAS.

Latino Alcohol Health Disparities Research Center

Faculty Supervisor: Craig Field, Ph.D.

University of Texas - El Paso, El Paso, TX

August 2014– Present

Overview: Investigate cultural factors that contribute to health behavior change among Hispanics on the US-Mexico border and promote improved health outcomes.

Project: Valor – Culturally adapted brief intervention for heavy drinking Hispanic men

- Collaborate with project staff to develop procedures for data analysis at baseline, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. This includes data merging and cleaning.
- Conduct standard examinations for outliers, data distribution, and internal consistency of measures will be conducted.
- Assess the homogeneity of error and normality of residuals at all levels of the model, test for multivariate normality of random effects, examine linearity, and identify outliers.
- Assist in focus groups that investigate the role of culture on alcohol consumption amongst Hispanics.

- Attended a series of workshops on the utilization and practice of Brief Motivational Interview and discussed the adaptation of intervention to serve Latino population.
- Developed and maintain baseline, 3 & 6 month follow-up assessments using Qualtrics Survey Software that is currently used by research staff and counselors for data collection
- Train research staff for the Screener / Assessor role which consist of a 2-hour instructional training by the Assessment Coordinator.

TEACHING

The University of Texas at El Paso - Fall 2013 & Spring 2014

Psych 1301 – Introduction to Psychology – Laura Gornick, Instructor

Teaching Assistant

- Evaluated and graded examinations, assignments, or papers and record grades for course of approximately 350 students.

The University of Texas at El Paso - Spring 2011-Fall 2013

University Career Center – Betsabe Castro, Director

Career Advisor

- Provided career advice and resources to University students via career development workshops and presentations to as many as 250 students on a weekly basis.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive use of IBM SPSS • Extensive knowledge of Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) • Proficient with MPlus and LISREL analysis software • Familiar with R | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluent in Spanish and English • Extensive knowledge of Qualtrics survey software • Familiar with BMI (Brief Motivational Interview) |
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VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Student Association – Fall 2015-Present

National Alcohol Screening Day – Volunteer– April 7, 2016

Sun Country Regional Science & Engineering Fair - Volunteer Judge – Feb. 2016

Go Blue on the Border Event for Diabetes – Volunteer - Nov. 2015

COURI Summer Symposium – Volunteer Judge – Summer 2015, Summer 2016