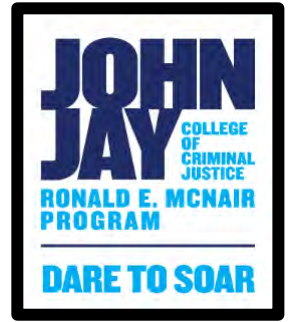


2019-2020



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Ronald E. McNair  
Research Journal



John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of New York (CUNY)



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# Message From The Director

This Journal is a labor of love and a testament to all that our McNair Scholars achieve in the program. We celebrate all our scholars but especially highlight our 2<sup>nd</sup> year scholars, most of whom graduated May 2020. I hope you enjoy reading about their research and accomplishments.

This this past academic year, 2019-20, our 27<sup>th</sup> year at John Jay, has been a record-breaking year! Eight of our graduating Scholars have been accepted to fully-funded Ph.D. programs, one of our highest records ever. They will be attending programs at SUNY University at Albany, Rutgers University, University of North Texas, Wayne State University, and the Ohio State University. We of course have students going on to Master's Programs as well. In addition, several John Jay McNair alumni have also been accepted to Ph.D. programs, with one winning a prestigious NSF graduate fellowship. All of our Scholars excel in other areas such as Pinkerton and Vera Fellowships, the McCauley Honors Program, and/or are scholar athletes. The second-year (graduating) scholars presented their research at the Florida International University McNair Scholars Research Conference in Miami in October 2019; some also attended the SUNY University at Buffalo McNair Conference in July 2019 and the SAEOP McNair Conference in Atlanta in June 2019. Just before the March 2020 lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they also participated in person at the 5<sup>th</sup> NY/NJ Metro McNair Poster conference held this year at Rutgers University New Brunswick, in February 2020. This summer 10 of our first-year scholars gave video presentations during the UCLA National McNair virtual Conference in July 2020. We continue to represent - and showcase our Scholars' hard work and great research. These are all terrific accomplishments. Congratulations Scholars!

The McNair Program is a federally funded program, part of the TRIO programs in the U.S. Department of Education, whose purpose is to increase the participation of first generation, low-income college students and students from under-represented groups (especially African Americans, Latinx, and Native Americans) in Ph.D. programs of study. The U.S. Department of Education first awarded John Jay College a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Grant in 1992, and we have hosted the program continuously since then. Approximately 380 Students in 28 Cohorts have been served by our McNair Program to date. We have an over 75% success rate of students going to graduate school within 2 years after achieving their bachelor's degree. Our program's strengths lie in our mentoring component, and all the supports we provide for research and scholarship development, and graduate school preparation.

By itself all that our Scholars annually accomplish is phenomenal, but this past semester was unprecedented and monumental. Not just were we forced to stay at home because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also the demands of the Movement for Black Lives became louder and clearer than ever. We at John Jay and we in the McNair Program have been adjusting and responding. I am proud of how our Scholars have handled themselves in this crisis.

The McNair Program and McNair scholars put out statements of solidarity and action with Black Lives Matter in June 2020. Here I repeat our program's statement:

*"The McNair Program at John Jay College stands in solidarity with the protests for justice for George Floyd and the fight against police brutality and systemic injustice. We are angered by the vile and inhumane murders of Ahmad Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd that led to these protests. The McNair Program was created to address the need to diversify faculty in higher education due to the severe underrepresentation of faculty of color, particularly African Americans. While our focus is higher education, we recognize the inequalities that exist at all levels of education as well as in wealth accumulation, housing, and the criminal justice system. In short, it permeates our country at every level and interaction. We vow to not only continue to prepare our students to pursue doctoral degrees, to diversify our country at the highest level, but also to address how research can be utilized to create the knowledge necessary to create change and initiate the policies to undermine and dismantle systemic racism and injustice. We also pledge to support our McNair Scholars and alumni as they struggle to make sense of this time in history and as they stand with their classmates to demand changes both here at John Jay and in the larger community."*

John Jay's McNair Program is one of the few that requires and relies on full time faculty to be McNair mentors. Twenty-five to twenty-seven faculty each year give time, expertise and guidance to the McNair program. At our May 2020 graduation and awards program and banquet, we honored Professor Isabel Martinez with the Kwando Kinshasa Mentoring Award, and Professor Heath Brown with the Above and Beyond Mentoring Award. Congratulations and thank you to them and all the mentors. We appreciate all that the mentors do. Finally, huge thanks to Associate Director Dr. S. Ernest Lee, and Graduate Assistant Erica Klafehn for their hard work and leadership. They consistently give their all, with wisdom and grace. We cannot run this program without them.

Let us celebrate all the successes. Congratulations all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Gordon-Nembhard', with a stylized, elongated flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Ph.D., Director

# Alumni Spotlight

This year the McNair Program recognizes an alumnus who received her PhD during the 2019-2020 academic year. She is:

**Dr. Susybel Roxy Kallsen** ('12) earned her PhD in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. She previously earned her B.A./M.A. in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr. Kallsen is broadly interested in how juvenile delinquency intersects with socioeconomic status, immigration, and policing practices. Additionally, she examines factors (e.g., social support) related to an adjudicated juvenile's adjustment to correctional confinement. To investigate these phenomena, she uses both quantitative and qualitative data. Specifically, longitudinal data and mixed methodology with a focus on grounded theory approach. Dr. Kallsen's dissertation was entitled, "Examining the Family Contact-Institutional Adjustment Link Among Confined Male Juveniles: A Mixed Methods Approach". She completed her dissertation while raising two young children while her husband was deployed. On a personal note, we are so proud of Roxy for all that she has accomplished. Not only was she a McNair Alumnus, she also served as the McNair Program Assistant the Office Assistant for the Africana Studies Department. Dr. Kallsen is currently a full-time lecturer in the Criminal Justice Studies Program at the University of Dayton.





# McNair Awards

**Dr. Ronald E. McNair** was born in Lake City, South Carolina in 1950. He picked cotton and tobacco as a child to help his family's finances. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1971 with a B.S. in Physics. He enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As his dissertation was nearing completion, he lost all of his research data and re-created it within a few months. He received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1976 and was selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in 1978. The second African American in space, McNair logged a total of 191 hours in orbit before he died in the *Challenger* disaster in 1984. He was a married father of two, a fifth-degree black belt, and an accomplished jazz saxophonist.

**The Spirit of McNair Award** has been established to honor McNair Scholars who best exemplify the qualities of Dr. Ronald E. McNair. This year, the award is given to **Ms. Kamar Tazi**

This year marked the closest competition for the Spirit of McNair Award since its inception. We could have equally given this award to several different scholars. However, in the end, longevity won out and this year's award goes to McNair Associate Kamar Tazi. Ms. Tazi entered John Jay as a



Macaulay Honors student and she has excelled her entire tenure at the college. She is a model of consistency and excellence. Her awards and scholarships are too numerous to mention. For McNair she not only was awarded the “Diligent Scholar” award for her consistently outstanding work in the McNair Research Seminar class, but she has been a great advocate for the program and has recruited Macaulay Honor students to the program. In addition to McNair, she was selected as a Pinkerton Fellow and took part in the APPLE (Psychology and Law Experience) program. She has also had her academic work published in John Jay's *Finest* and selected for the Edward Davenport Writing Award. She finished her undergraduate career by being awarded the Elaine Noel Commencement Award for outstanding forensic psychology student who has made special contributions to the John Jay community. Kamar has been accepted to the University of North Texas's PhD Program in Clinical Psychology with full funding.

The **One-of-A Kind McNair Awards** were established to honor the special qualities in each and every Second Year Scholar. We would also like to recognize some of our Associate and First Year Scholars who went **Above and Beyond** over the past year.

*Presented at the McNair Research Roundtable Reception via Zoom– May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

### Second Year Scholars

**Alondra “Candi” Aca** – *The “Activist Scholar” Award*

In recognition of the passion and dedication that you displayed in serving the immigrant community in both your research and advocacy endeavors.

**Faizun Bakth** – *The “Persistant Scholar” Award*

In recognition of your relentless and pragmatic efforts in your research and in pursuit of acceptance to a graduate program.

**Brandon Dial** – *The “Strong and Silent Scholar” Award*

For your calm and dignified demeanor and the excellence you displayed in all of your academic pursuits.

**Evalaurene Jean-Charles** – *The “Vanguard Scholar” Award*

In recognition of your passion and dedication to teaching and changing the field of education as well as your willingness to go above and beyond in sharing your expertise to benefit your fellow McNair Scholars.

**Mariah Lutchman** – *The “Stylish Super Woman” Award*

In recognition of your ability to balance motherhood, employment, and coursework with your responsibilities as a McNair Scholar, all done with a stylish flair.

**Idalina Marin** – *The “Resolute Scholar” Award*

For your tenacious efforts in finding alternative paths to achieve your goal of a graduate degree in the medical sciences.

**Stacey Morales** – *The “Passionate Scholar” Award*

For the passion and intensity that you displayed in both the graduate application process as well as in bringing attention to the area of gender studies.

**Saliha Noor** – *The “Blossoming Scholar” Award*

For the growth you displayed during your tenure as a scholar, both personally and academically, in completing your McNair research project.

**Aida Murati** – *The “Focused Scholar” Award*

For the singularity of your efforts in obtaining opportunities in preparation and pursuit of being accepted to doctoral program.

**Christopher Saint-Jean** – *The “GQ Scholar” Award*

For the stylish and professional demeanor that you displayed in your conference, research and graduate school endeavors.

**Yasmina Singh** – *The “Determined Scholar” Award*

For your exceptional efforts in overcoming adversity in pursuit of your academic aspirations.

### **First Year Scholars**

**Lorraine Iglesias** – *The “Diligent Scholar Attendance” Award*

In recognition of your outstanding attendance, performance and participation during the Spring 2020 McNair Research Seminar.

**Rachel Rosado** – *The “Diligent Scholar Attendance” Award*

In recognition of your outstanding attendance, performance and participation during the Spring 2020 McNair Research Seminar.

The **McNair Mentor Awards** were established to honor the encouragement, dedication, and guidance given by a mentor to their McNair Scholar student.

***Presented at the McNair Research Roundtable Reception via Zoom – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020***

**Dr. Isabel Martinez** – *The “Kwando Kinshasa Excellence in Mentoring” Award\**

For the tireless effort and commitment to excellence you displayed as a mentor in the John Jay College McNair Program.

❖ Dr. Martinez was nominated by mentee Alondra “Candi” Aca.

\*The Kwando Kinshasa Excellence in Mentoring Award was established in 2014 in honor of Dr. Kwando Kinshasa, who retired as a Professor in John Jay’s Department of Africana Studies in 2014. In addition to being a faculty member, Dr. Kinshasa was a mentor with the McNair Program from its inception at the college in 1992 until his retirement. He also served as Interim McNair Director.



**Dr. Heath Brown** – *The “Above and Beyond” Mentor Award*

For the commitment to excellence you displayed as a mentor in the John Jay College McNair Program.

❖ Dr. Martinez was nominated by mentee Christopher Saint-Jean.

The **Administrative Awards** recognize individuals who have played a critical role in guiding students and contributing to the McNair Program.

***Presented at the McNair Research Roundtable Reception – May 24th, 2019***

**Ms. Erica Klafehn** – *McNair Program Assistant*

In appreciation of the dedication, hard work, and commitment that you have displayed in assisting the McNair Program and its participants.

# Meet the Scholars



Pictured Above and Below: McNair Scholars with Dr. Gordon-Nembhard & Dr. Lee







Pictured Above & Below: McNair Scholars at Orientation with Dr. Gordon-Nembhard & Dr. Lee





# McNair Conference – Miami Florida (September 2019)









# Study Abroad Adventures (January 2020)

## ~Guayaquil, Ecuador~



“This past winter I was lucky enough to study in the city I call home: **Guayaquil, Ecuador**. I had not been to Guayaquil in 13 years, which was initially a big reason why I sought the program out. However, I had also been looking to learn Spanish in Latin America, where I can have formal instruction and constant practice in my daily interactions. This program, housed by the College of Staten Island, gave me the best of both worlds. I took intermediate Spanish and from start to finish, there was a massive improvement in my Spanish. I’ll never let go of my Puerto Rican (other half of my family) Spanish, but it feels good to properly be able to communicate with my family and loved ones who speak little to no English. I was reunited with my cousins, uncles, and aunts that I had met as a child and I was so happy there. Ecuador will always be a part of me, and I can’t wait to go back.”

~*Stacey Morales, Class of 2020*



## ~Havana, Cuba~



“This past winter I had the opportunity to study abroad in **Havana, Cuba**. The reason why I initially wanted to go to Cuba was because of the many questions I had while undertaking my Latin American and Latinx Studies classes and to further understand U.S. hegemonic interference in Latin American countries. I wanted to understand the flow of Cuban migrants into the U.S both in the past and present, also the overlooked impacts Cubans who stayed in the island dealt with and lastly to understand nationalism and patriotism on the island and how it influenced art. With these questions in mind, I began to comprehend the true and real effects of policies that the U.S had implemented and the resilience amongst Cubans. Having had first-hand encounters individuals who lived through important moments in Cuban history as well as visiting historical sites allowed me to understand the Cuban revolution from a different perspective, one that I would not have gotten from textbooks.”

~Alondra “Candi” Aca,  
*Class of 2020*



## ~Cape Town, South Africa~



“I spent the first three weeks of 2020 in **Cape Town, South Africa**. I took a history of South Africa course at the University of Cape Town, one of the best universities in all of Africa. In class, we learned about the country’s inception, colonization, diamond mining, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and Apartheid. I not only read about history but was able to meet people who lived through the horrors of Apartheid. I also met young people my age that are fighting to create a better South Africa, one that begins to undo the horrors of the past. My trip to Cape Town inspired me to come back and continue my committed to re-writing history in the United States, the same way the young people in South Africa are re-writing them.”

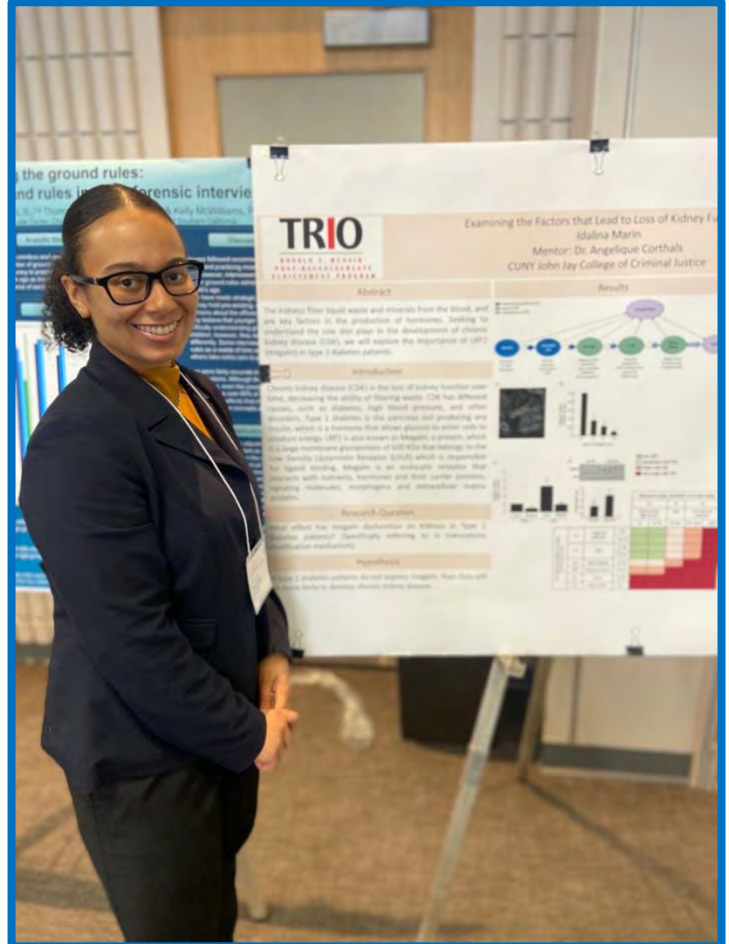
*Evalaurene Jean-Charles, Class of 2020*



# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NY/NJ Metro McNair Poster Conference & Graduate School Fair

## Rutgers University – Newark

### February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020





# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Malcolm/King Breakfast

## February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020





# Associate McNair Scholars



## The Relationship between Defense Mechanisms and Eating Disorders

**Susana Cruz-Garcia**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **William Gottdiener, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

### Biography

Susana Garcia received her bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology in December 2019 and will attend the University at Albany for a PhD in clinical psychology. Her ultimate academic goal is to conduct research on mood disorders and eating pathology.

Susana kept herself busy during her time at John Jay. In her first year of college, Susana published an article in a journal published by NYU. She also volunteered in a variety of research labs, ranging from social psychology to neuropsychology. Susana participated in the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) Michigan State University, where she examined eating disorders and their symptoms in female twins with mood/anxiety disorders. She has presented her McNair and SROP research projects at five national and international conferences. In addition to being a former McNair scholar, Susana is a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and was on the Dean's list for three years in a row.

### Project Description

**Literature Review:** The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2016) defines Eating Disorders (EDs) as serious and often fatal psychiatric illnesses that disturb the eating behaviors of an individual. EDs can lead to severe medical consequences, such as cardiovascular problems, electrolyte imbalance and organ failure (Barlow, Durand, & Stewart, 2009). Empirical studies show that the prevalence of anorexia nervosa (AN), bulimia nervosa (BN), and binge eating disorder (BED) are significantly higher in women in comparison with men and affect people from all races and ethnic groups (Neumark-Sztainer, Wall, Larson, Eisenberg, & Loth, 2011). Defense Mechanisms (DM) are unconscious mental processes used by individuals to protect

themselves from negative thoughts and affect, such as anxiety and stress (Cramer, 2000). EDs and disordered eating co-occur with other psychiatric disorders, which are often associated with emotional disturbance (Barlow, Durand, & Stewart, 2009). Disordered eating habits include unhealthy weight control behaviors, extreme weight control behaviors, and binge eating with loss of control (Neumark-Sztainer, Wall, Larson, Eisenberg, & Loth, 2011). The goal of this meta-analysis is to identify the defense mechanisms used by people with an eating disorder diagnosis and disordered eating patterns. More specifically, this study aims to determine the nature of the relationship between defense mechanisms and these symptoms. It is hypothesized that the use of immature defense mechanisms is positively correlated with an eating disorder diagnosis and disordered eating.

**Methods:** Reference databases were used to find relevant quantitative studies on defense mechanisms (IV) and eating disorders and disordered eating (DV). The inclusion criteria for this research study consisted of peer-reviewed quantitative ED and disordered eating articles that looked at defense mechanisms. Type of eating disorder, eating habits, race, age, dependent measure descriptors were among the variables of interest. Prospective studies were examined and summarized using standard meta-analytic methods in order to determine the type of relation existing between these variables. Studies' information were first coded and entered on two coding manuals and then coded using the comprehensive meta-analysis software.

**Preliminary Results:** Twenty potential studies were identified to synthesize in this meta-analysis. The preliminary results of the first four studies shows a small, but significant correlation coefficient between immature defenses and having an eating disorder or disordered eating. There is no significant correlation between mature defenses and having an eating disorder ( $r = 0.111$ , 95% CI [0.022, 0.197]).

**Discussion:** Research on EDs has attempted to develop effective treatment interventions for people with AN, BN, and BED. Although there are various treatment approaches for patients with EDs, research has shown that these approaches do not work for everybody. Defense mechanisms are useful not only to understand psychopathology but to also try to help people at risk of developing an ED and ED patients. The preliminary results show no relationship between the use of mature and eating disorders. Although these results are preliminary, they support our hypotheses. Understanding defense mechanisms would help better understand the nature of psychopathology, its prevention and its treatment.

**Future Implications:** In order to improve current intervention treatment for these psychiatric illnesses, it is crucial to first dismantle the habitual behavior of EDs and disordered eating habits while also teaching patients how to effectively cope with negative affect. Similarly, it needs to be investigated which defense mechanisms are often used by patients with eating disorders. Defense mechanisms are important contributors to the onset and maintenance of eating disorders. By identifying the DM commonly used by these populations, clinicians may be able to better help people suffering from these dangerous mental illnesses.





# The Role of Countertransference in Risk Assessments of Justice-Involved Youth

**Kamar Tazi**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Rebecca Weiss, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Kamar Tazi is the proud daughter of immigrant parents from Cuba and Morocco. Activism has been important to Kamar all her life and this passion has guided her personal and professional goals. In fact, she picked John Jay because of its focus on educating for justice. In her time at John Jay, Kamar's interests took form and developed as her coursework exposed her to forensic psychology, and her research experiences gave her insights into clinical psychology and how the two can overlap. Kamar has come to see the ways in which psychologists can be an asset and integral component of the legal field. Within this field of interest, Kamar also evolved her sense of justice for the rights of youth who come in contact with the justice system. After being in psychology research labs where she was able to explore questions within the intersections between forensic and clinical psychology, she has become very sure that this is the field for her. In the fall, Kamar will be starting a Clinical Psychology PhD program with a forensic concentration at the University of North Texas where she will be researching juvenile forensic assessments and young people's comprehension of their Miranda rights.

## Project Description

**Introduction:** Clinical relationships, like all working relationships, are susceptible to biases such as countertransference: the emotional reactions of clinicians when working with their clients (Stefana, 2015). Two studies have attempted to understand the relationship between risk assessments and countertransference. Both studies found that negative emotions such as feeling controlled (as though a client were trying to control the clinician) related to high risk assessments (Dernevik, Falkheim, Holmqvist, & Sandell, 2001; de Vogel & de Ruiter, 2004). Conversely, positive emotions such as feeling happy and relaxed correlated to lower risk assessments (de Vogel & de Ruiter, 2004). Structured clinical assessment is the most commonly recommended strategy for risk assessment (Hurst, 2011), yet it is not always utilized. Many mental health professionals rely on unstructured clinical judgment due to time constrictions, resource accessibility, and lack of training (Pederson et al., 2010). The unstructured approach could exacerbate the role of countertransference. This

study is one of the first to examine the role of countertransference in risk assessments of juvenile offenders. It also examined the degree to which evaluators utilized empirically supported risk items in unstructured assessments.

**Measures:** An online pre-screening survey determined participant eligibility. Next, the FWC-58 (Rössberg, Hoffart, & Fris, 2003) was utilized as a measure of countertransference when thinking about an unsuccessful client. Emotions on the FWC-58 are divided into positive and negative emotions, and further into seven categories (*Important, Confident, Rejected, On Guard, Bored, Overwhelmed, Inadequate*). Participants then reviewed a vignette describing a typical justice-involved youth client (by Holloway, Cruise, Morin, Kaufman, & Steele, 2018), categorized the youth as low/medium/high risk, and determined his likelihood of successfully completing the program. The vignette included traumatic event exposure and traumatic stress symptom factors, as well as other validated factors. Researchers inquired about what factors participants considered in their evaluation of the described youth's risk level, and then compared the results to empirically supported factors gathered from the Youth Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI, Hoge & Andrews, 2002).

**Procedures:** Researchers conducted interviews with service providers working in alternative to incarceration programs across New York City. Interviews were conducted in a private room in John Jay College of Criminal Justice's Psychology Department. Participants met with a primary investigator, filled out survey materials including demographics information and measures, and every participant was interviewed. At the end of the study all participants were compensated one hundred dollars.

Participants considered their most recent unsuccessful client when filling out the FWC-58. Scores on the FWC-58 were calculated into percentages by emotional category. Self-reported treatment success rates were compared between participants with predominantly positive reported emotions, and those with predominantly negative reported emotions. The percentages of positive and negative emotions were also compared with the participants' perceived risk level for the youth described in the vignette. We hypothesized that participants' endorsement of negative emotions would negatively correlate with their success rates, and positively correlate with their perceived risk of the youth described in the vignette. Researchers also analyzed what factors participants considered in their evaluation of risk in the vignette, and compared them to the empirically supported factors gathered from the YLS/CMI (Hoge & Andrews, 2002). We hypothesized that the service providers would recognize and consider the empirically-based factors drawn from the YLS/CMI.

## **Results:**

### **Participants**

Ten eligible participants were interviewed. Participants aged between 23-45 years old and 60% ( $n = 6$ ) identified as female, 40% ( $n = 4$ ) identified as male. All worked full-time. Most participants had an MA (60%,  $n = 6$ ), two had BAs (20%), and two (20%) reported some college coursework. Five participants (50%) indicated using standard risk assessments at their sites including trauma screenings, intervention measures, and need-based questionnaires. The rest used clinical judgment. The data represent a subsample of a larger study examining strategies utilized in juvenile diversion settings.

### **Emotional Responses and Success Rates**

Results of preliminary analyses indicated that 67% of participants most strongly endorsed a negative emotional category. Of the 6 participants who most endorsed a negative emotion category, 4 (67%) rated the emotional category *Inadequate* highest. Notably, the majority of participants (60%,  $n = 6$ ) decided that the youth described in the vignette was high risk. Strikingly, two participants whose most endorsed category was negative predicted that the youth's likelihood of program completion was no better than a 50% chance. Participants in the negative emotion group generally self-reported a lower success rate (74.7%) than the success rate of participants who scored higher on positive emotions (91.3%).

### **Risk Assessment Factors**

The majority of participants acknowledged empirically supported external factors such as prior and current offenses and substance abuse. Few participants (10%,  $n=1$ ) acknowledged the youth's multiple neglect cases or exposure to domestic violence. Only one (10%) participant identified a described traumatic stress symptom which included the youth's sadness, nightmares, depressed mood, fear, and feeling on edge. The majority of these participants (80%,  $n=4$ ) acknowledged at least five of the eight scales on the YLS/CMI.

**Discussion:** Initial analyses suggest that countertransference may impact treatment and risk assessment in these settings. Participants conveyed a high degree of confidence with higher scores of the youth's likelihood of program completion despite high risk assessment. However, higher scores in the category *Inadequate* may indicate that professionals might not feel as though they are enough. This may negatively influence the effectiveness of programming. In the vignette participants considered several empirically informed factors in their decision, but, there was a focus on the external factors. It is possible that the training and experiences of service providers in ATI settings is more geared towards avoiding danger and preventing future violence rather than focusing heavily on symptomology. Efforts should be increasingly dedicated to more internal, or less easy to detect risk factors. Future research could aim to combine the present hypotheses to analyze whether the degree to which providers consider and acknowledge empirically supported variables in their decisions is related to countertransference.

**Limitations:** A notable limitation of this study's methodology is the comparison of responses to the FWC-58, which were feelings when thinking of each participants' most recent unsuccessful client, to their risk assessments of the youth described in the vignette. These responses are based off of two different clients and is therefore limited with regards to how the clinicians' countertransference impacted their risk assessments. This methodology was chosen because the client population in question, juveniles, were not directly incorporated in this study. Efforts were made to ensure that the vignette chosen for this study would replicate typical justice-involved youth that the service providers would see in their practices as it was validated and used empirically by juvenile justice researchers.



## Second Year McNair Scholars



### An Examination of Mixed-Status Families & Its Long-Term Psychological Impact Over Generations

**Alondra "Candi" Aca**

Major: Forensic Psychology & Latin American and Latino/a Studies

Mentor: **Isabel Martinez, PhD**, Latin America and Latino/a Studies Dept.

#### Biography

Alondra has graduated John Jay college with a Double Major in Latin American and Latinx Studies, Criminal Justice and minored in Art. She was awarded a NSF ten week research experience for undergraduates in the summer of 2019 where she did on the ground research and advocacy work in collaboration with grassroots organization Hope Border Institute across El Paso, Texas, Las Cruces, New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. There she examined the impact of immigration policies in border communities. That same summer, she served as a CUNY Ambassador through the CUNY Service Corps- Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative program where she spent two weeks working alongside Heart 9/11 an emergency aid, disaster non-for-profit team and assisted with the rebuilding of homes affected by Hurricane Maria. Candi served as the La Voz president, a Latinx Student organization for the 2019-2020 term where she organized, facilitated events and promoted a safe space for members. Candi is also a recipient of the Rosanna Rosado Fellowship for the 2019-2020 year, through this award she was able to work with The Brave House a non-for-profit organization in New York City helping immigrant young women. Candi is currently the community advocate for The Brave House and is assisting with Covid-19 relief aid and services. Candi has also interned at the Immigrant Student Success Center at John Jay where she served as a peer coach. She is also a CUNY Service Corp intern and a part of the Unaccompanied Latin American Minor Project (U-LAMP), an initiative program directed by Dr. Isabel Martinez, Associate professor of the Latin American Studies Department. Candi studied abroad twice, she went to Quintana Roo, Mexico in the 2018 winter session and recently went to Cuba this past winter and was awarded the 2019-2020 Study Abroad Scholarship. Candi is a recipient of the Dean's List Achievement Award for Graduating Seniors and has been designated as a Fulbright Alternate Candidate for the 2020-2021 year. She will be pursuing a Ph.D in Cultural Anthropology this Fall 2020. She is the recipient of the Carson

Carr Fellowship offered by the University at Albany which aids in a full tuition scholarship, academic-year stipends, and a teaching Assistantship while undertaking her Ph.D.

## Project Description

**Literature Review:** According to Allen, Cisneros, and Tellez (2015), “About a hundred thousand U.S. born citizen children had at least one parent who was deported from 1997 to 2007.” Within a span of ten years, family separation was emphasized over the well-being of children. Mixed-status families are composed of children who are “themselves unauthorized, children who were unaccompanied by adults upon migration to the United States but reunited after arrival, and the U.S.-citizen children of unauthorized parents”, (Hamilton, Patler, and Hale, 2019). Internalizing behaviors developed in children vary in forms of psychological trauma, stress, anxiety, fear, depression, and isolation”, (Delva, Horner, Martinez, Sanders, Lopez, and Doering-White (2013) Allen, (2015), Brabeck and Sibley (2016), Collier (2015). The fear of deportation in a family heightens socioeconomic disadvantages and educational barriers for children. Children whose parents were detained or deported were more likely to report “depressive symptoms, negative mood, negative self-esteem, showed separation anxiety disorder felt shame and lack of social support”, (Zayas and Heffron (2016), Rojas-Flores, Clements, Hwang Koo, London, (2017). According to Gonzales (2015), emerging adults experience “exclusion, stress, stigma, and expulsion.” The distress young adults experience is visible and they refrain from living a healthy lifestyle often turning down opportunities because of their own or families’ legal status.

**Methodology:** This study takes a qualitative approach in which interviews were conducted to find the correlation between legal status and internalizing behaviors in Latinx young adults living in mixed-status families. I recruited a total of eight participants who identify as Latinx and are between the ages of 18-24 the following findings however pertain to three interviews. In addition to the age requirement participants must have been full time college goers for this 2019-2020 year in which this study was conducted, and live within a mixed status family. Interviews were transcribed and coded to understand new perceptions of the realities of young adults. The interview consisted of questions that pertained to concepts of obligations, lifestyle, legal-status, education and internalizing behaviors triggered by the thought of family apprehension, detention or deportation. This study had to undergo several changes due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Interviews were conducted via Zoom. Participants were allowed to stop, pause or skip a question at any time during the interview. Only the audio aspect of the Zoom meeting was required, I then transcribed the recordings. Participants were given the option to withdraw from the study at any time and decide whether collected data may still be included in the study as well.

**Results:** An equal ratio of male to female participants was anticipated, but due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the original number of participants which was twenty was diminished and almost impossible to attain. For this interview the ratio of male to female participants was 1:2, the conclusions are drawn from this sample population. Intervening factors such as money, obligations, education, and maturation presented themselves as factors that contributed and provided a clear understanding as to how internalizing behaviors are developed, expressed and coped amongst young adults in college. Findings suggest that living with someone who may

face deportation disrupts the psychological well-being of young adults. The constant fear, stress and anxiety expressed by two of the three participants indicates that worrying about a family's unity and stability was a top priority for them.

### **Money**

When discussing financial concerns all three participants have mentioned having their own saving or money for themselves. All three participants were not expected to contribute to their families' needs but expressed that since they were not expected to contribute to family rent, or groceries, house bills, they decided for themselves to alleviate their parents burden to provide for their own needs. Mateo believed that the tranquility that his mother expressed regarding the possibility of deportation was based on the fact that he was a young adult in college, working with the NYPD as a cadet and would eventually become financially stable in the future.

Teresa and Katherine expressed having jobs within their college institution and allows them go out and pay from their own earnings and do not ask their parents for money. Teresa had offered her family financial help but her offer has been rejected. When asked why she felt she needed to contribute she simply said, "I know when my parents are having problems like financially, I have some savings but I always tell them you can take from there, but they don't like accepting it.. but I know that it's like *Mi Deber Como Hija*...like I feel they have sacrificed and given so much to me it's only right that I help too." Teresa in this case has started demonstrating self-sufficiency and concerns for her family's financial situations. For Latinx young adults there is no such thing as "self-interest" or this notion of only thinking for the benefit of oneself.

### **Legal Status**

Teresa expressed uncertainty and shared her distress while trying to navigate her status, she is a current holder or a green card that has expired. Due to the unique situation she finds herself in currently she expressed having fear, stress and anxiety about her situation. These stressors in many ways are due to the fact that she does not have complete control of the current Covid-19 situation which has also increased this anxiety. The current pandemic has made it difficult to process her mothers and her own green card renewal due to the closure of government agencies that would have otherwise assisted with their renewal and U.S. citizenship application. Uncertainty about the issues that may arise from these pending matters affect her well-being, causing her to further experience stress due to the fear of not having some sort of legal protection.

### **Responsibilities**

Latinx young adults have shown to take parental roles and have assumed responsibilities for their younger siblings in the case that something was to happen to their direct care-givers. Teresa and Katherine both expressed similar experiences where they were the direct care-givers when their parents were off to work, or in the instance that anything such as a parental deportation occurred.

Teresa is the eldest sibling of three, her two younger sisters ages twelve and eighteen need her assistance, the second eldest needing the most attention due to medical conditions that require specific medical care: "If my mom or dad are working then I have to like step in and look after her so it's hard for me to do work. When my mom used to work (currently not working due to Covid-19), I would make sure that they ate. I looked

after them, my sister can't do things that we can do on a daily basis, she can't do it alone: she can't eat by herself. I'll have to help her.”

Katherine has expressed having to take the most responsibilities at home at a very young age, and has thought of the ways a parental deportation would affect her life. She mentioned that she would take the role of the caregiver whilst her elder brother would take the breadwinner role. The ways in which she detailed her current responsibilities at home, which in many ways have made her take the role of a parentified parent, since she recalls taking care of her younger brother from a very early age.

### **Education**

Latinx young adults who attend college go through many hurdles to achieve their educational goals. Participants in this study are full time college goers and they all experienced difficulties to some extent. They noted confusions with family obligations, school/ job roles and concerns for their families' safety. Participants noted having to do the impossible to finish their school responsibilities while also having to rearrange their schedules to help out their nuclear family. Teresa, for example, had to allocate one specific day for her to complete her own work, while sparing time to help out at home. Teresa expressed having concerns with her educational attainment due to the fears that she would not be able to renew her green card. The uncertainty about changes to her lawful status were expressed and she noted that she faced ramifications from her expired green card when it came to her financial aid for college. Her challenge to get approved for Federal Work Study for the semester was almost denied if not for what she describes as a sticker that extends her green card expiration date. Katherine on the other hand, has felt that she felt unable to participate in research studies she was interested in due to the fear her parents expressed to her about her disclosing information regarding legal-status.

**Discussion:** This research aimed to comprehend 1) whether legal status and the possibility of apprehension, detention or deportation link to evolving internalizing behaviors in Latinx college students living in mixed-status households 2) If so which intervening factors heighten their psychological well-being. While most young adults in the U.S expect to live a care-free, Latinx young adults do not share that same experience. In fact, the majority of Latinx young adults have significant responsibilities within their families. Internalizing behavioral problems are experienced in two of the three participants, who have disclosed that this is due to the fear of a family member's possibility of facing apprehension, detention or deportation. The psychological impacts experienced by both participants living in mixed-status households increase from childhood to young adulthood. These two participants: Teresa and Katherine expressed experiencing anxiety, suffering from stress or depression, and constantly being worried for the safety and well-being of their family members.

The results that I have found clearly show that symptoms such as depression, anxiety, stress, and fear are just a few of the symptoms that were expressed by young adults in this study. Like children, Latinx young adults have demonstrated an understanding of the issues and challenges their nuclear family may face if they are threatened with a family or several family apprehensions and possibly deportations. Young adults demonstrated being more cognitive of the different scenarios, plans, problem solving and the steps they would take to morph and reshape their lives according to the situations they infer could happen.

Since there is no one established mixed-status familial composition, the experiences for each and every Latinx young adult varies depending on the severity of familial composition, which members have precarious status, and how the family has viewed and managed situations affected by fear. Internalizing behaviors and repercussions that young adults face are dependent on the severity of the case and the intervening factors (variables) that change the dynamics of their psychological well-being.

Latinx young adults do not experience the “typical young adulthood” that the U.S. portrays, they carry the burden of having to endure the possibility of a family separation while at the same time of trying to understand themselves, their needs both physically and mentally and take control of their future goals. The infliction of psychological stressors caused by precarious status implications are just one of the many challenges young adults go through as they try to navigate their young adulthood.

**Implications:** One of the most important implications of this study was the sample size. The number of anticipated participants was affected due to unforeseeable event, the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in fewer participants. The target population are college students, therefore the timeframe given to adapt to changes in education was difficult for most students and thus could have also interfered with their interest in participating. Participants who were living at home could have also refrained from sharing something because of the possibility that family members would hear. This study was specifically intended to occur at school for reasons of confidentiality and comfort to share their experiences regarding a sensitive topic in the Latinx community, therefore the fact that this study was conducted at the home of the participant it is uncertain if they refrained from sharing their experiences freely without them feeling heard by family members. There were instances when the time frame given to conduct the research interfered with their priorities such as online classes, homework, exams, and finals which resulted in rescheduling. Issues with internet access for example has also been one of the concerns with this study, depending on the access to the internet to conduct this study was one of my concerns for participants who could have been interested but refrained from possibly doing so due to the limitations of internet access.





# Setting the Ground Rules: Use and Practice of Recommended Ground Rules in Child Forensic Interviews

**Faizun Bakth**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Kelly McWilliams, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Faizun N. Bakth graduated from John Jay College with a B.A in Forensic Psychology, with minors in English and Counseling. Faizun worked with Dr. Kelly McWilliams for her McNair project about ground rules, published in the Child Maltreatment journal in 2020. Faizun also presented the project as a poster at the American Psychology-Law Society conference. She also worked with Dr. Yijie Wang as part of the Summer Research Opportunity Program at Michigan State University in 2019, studying how sleep moderates the relationship between racial/ethnic peer victimization, and academics and school engagement. The project was accepted for a poster presentation in the Society for Research on Adolescence conference in 2020. Faizun will be starting her first year at Wayne State University in the Developmental Psychology Ph.D. program. She will be working with Dr. Hannah Schacter. Her research interest includes examining how adolescents' racial/ethnic identity developments in the presence of racial/ethnic discrimination/victimization and how the bio-behavioral and environmental protective factors play a role in the development of minority youth. Faizun was also awarded the Dean's Diversity Fellowship from Wayne State University.

## Project Description

**Introduction:** Many child forensic interviewing protocols recommend that interviewers administer ground rules. The topics and wording of ground rules vary across protocols, but they typically encourage children to (1) say "I don't know," (2) ask for clarification, (3) correct the interviewer, (4) communicate interviewer ignorance, and (5) promise to tell the truth. Laboratory studies have examined the efficacy of various ground rules with mixed results (Brubacher et al., 2015). There is limited research examining the use of ground rules in real-world forensic interviews (Earhart et al., 2014; Teoh & Lamb, 2010) and no study has examined the pattern of interviewer use across each ground rule. The present study examined trained forensic interviewers' adherence to best practices regarding the use of five recommended ground rules. Specifically, how often interviewers presented the rules, whether they practiced the appropriate rules and if children demonstrated an

understanding of the rules. Additionally, we examined the relations between the use of ground rules and children's responses in the later phases of the interview.

**Methods:** We reviewed transcripts from 241 forensic interviews of 4-12 year-old children ( $M = 7.77$ ,  $SD = 2.65$ ; 77.18% female) alleging sexual abuse. All interviewers had previously received training on the Ten Step Investigative Interview (Lyon, 2005).

### **Coding**

Coders reviewed the transcripts and dichotomously coded for: (1) the presence of the five ground rules recommended in the Ten Step, (2) whether the interviewer practiced the appropriate ground rules (i.e., *I don't know*, *I don't understand*, *you're wrong*; e.g., "What is my dog's name?"), and (3) children's comprehension of practice questions (e.g., accurate: "I don't know," inaccurate: "Rufus" in response to "what is my dog's name?").

Children's responses throughout the interview were evaluated for either a lack of knowledge (i.e., "I don't know") or misunderstanding (i.e., "seeks clarification"). Proportion scores were created for both responses by dividing the sum of each category by the total number of all responses per interview. For each coding scheme, two research assistants coded 20% of the sample and reached reliability ( $Kappa > .80$ ).

**Results & Discussion:** Across ground rules, there were significant differences in the presence of specific rules ( $F(4,944)=36.46$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $n_2=.13$ ). Interviewers were less likely to present the *ignorant interviewer* (60.17%) and *I don't understand* (77.18%) ground rules than the *I don't know* (85.48%), *you're wrong* (85.48%), and *promise to tell the truth* (89.63%) ground rules. However, there was no difference in the rate of practice ( $F(2,334)=0.63$ ,  $p=.53$ ,  $n_2=.004$ ) or children's comprehension ( $F(2,368)=2.3$ ,  $p=.10$ ,  $n_2=.01$ ) across ground rules. The motivation for differential administration is unclear; it is possible that interviewers made strategic, child-based decisions or that they hold pre-existing, experience-based opinions regarding the efficacy of certain rules. Regardless of the reason, the selective omission of certain ground rules is important in light of past research suggesting that some ground rules have a stronger impact when presented together (Cordón, Saetermoe & Goodman, 2005).

Age effects emerged for the presence ( $F(2,236)=13.69$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $n_2=.10$ ), practice ( $F(2,167)=15.68$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $n_2=.16$ ), and comprehension of ground rules ( $F(2,136)=5.97$ ,  $p=.003$ ,  $n_2=.08$ ). Interviewers were less likely to present ground rules to the youngest children (i.e., 4-6-year-olds, 68.31%) compared to 7-9-year-olds (86.75%;  $p < .001$ ) or 10-12-year-olds (86.85%;  $p < .001$ ). However, they were more likely to practice ground rules with the 4-6-year-olds (98.04%,  $p < .001$ ) and 7-9-year-olds (93.12%,  $p < .001$ ) than with the oldest children (i.e., 10-12-year-olds, 70.24%). These results suggest that interviewers may believe that younger children have more difficulty understanding ground rules than older children, however, they address this limitation differently. Some interviewers may see ground rules as a waste of time and omit them, while others may take extra care to practice ground rules. Consistent with interviewers' beliefs, the youngest children (i.e., 4-6-year-olds, 86.11%) did inaccurately respond to more practice questions than 7-9-year-olds (95.98%,  $p = .002$ ) and 10-

12-year-olds (95.96%,  $p = .01$ ). However, they still provided accurate responses to the vast majority of practice questions.

Finally, the use of these ground rules did not predict significant differences in children's responses, which could be interpreted in two ways. It could indicate that ground rules do not work and children continue to guess in the face of difficult or suggestive questions. Contrarily, it could reflect the difficulties in capturing the true influence of ground rules within the complex dynamics of an interview. For instance, it is possible that the rules are effective and children's adherence (e.g., saying "I don't know") early in the interview changes the scope of questioning resulting in higher number of answerable questions and, thus, a lower level of "I don't know" and "seeks clarification" responding.

**Future Implications:** Future studies should empirically examine the modifications made by interviewers (implementing certain ground rules and omitting others vs. administering all five ground rules) and its impact on children's responses. Also, further research investigates the relationship between length of time it takes to administer and practice the ground rules and younger children's responses.



# Student-Athletes and Mental Health Stigma: An Exploration into Student Athlete Experience and Adherence to Masculinity Norms

**Brandon Dial**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Philip Yanos, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Brandon Dial is a senior Macaulay Honors Student majoring in Forensic Psychology. He is mentored by Dr. Philip Yanos, and his research focuses on Student-Athletes and Mental Health Stigma. As a Forensic Psychology major and Captain of John Jay's Cross-Country team, Brandon's interest in the topic formed. He wondered why mental health is such a taboo topic in athletics.

For his research project, Brandon interviewed 11 John Jay student-athletes to learn more about their relationships with their coaches, teammates, and family members, and how these relationships may perpetuate mental health stigma.

Brandon lives on Long Island with his family. He will continue researching student-athletes and mental health stigma with Dr. Philip Yanos as he begins John Jay's Forensic Psychology Master of Arts Program in the Fall.

## Project Description

**Introduction:** There is a significant amount of stress associated with being a student-athlete, potentially more than most realize. College students in general are subject to tremendous amounts of stress, whether it be the pressure to earn good grades in school, the desire to maintain an active social life, the need to work to help pay for their education, or some combination of many stressors (Bullock, 2016). Because adolescence is a period of such extreme physical and psychological change, many mental illnesses might develop during this time. In fact, half of all mental disorders develop by the mid-teens, and three-fourths by the mid-20s (Kessler et al., 2007). College athletes face the added pressure of representing their university, as well as pressure from coaches to perform at the highest level possible. In some families, there also may be the pressure to continue the family tradition and excel within a particular sport. As a result, student-athletes need to be both physically

and mentally disciplined to balance these different facets of their lives. In doing so, some may come to believe that athletes are not as susceptible to mental health issues, when in reality it is quite the opposite entirely (Bullock, 2016).

Research has shown that college students often do not recognize or admit their own mental illness symptoms, or may be unaware of the mental health resources that they have at their disposal (Moreland, Coxe, & Yang, 2018). This speaks to the stigma associated with seeking treatment for a mental illness. Although collegiate student-athletes have reported being more willing to seek help for a potential mental health issue than their non-athlete peers, they have been paradoxically less likely than non-athletes to report receipt of mental health care (Moreland, Coxe, & Yang, 2018). Given this unwillingness to report help seeking, it is plausible that the perceptions of student-athlete's stakeholders, including their teammates and coaches, as well as their social and cultural environment, such as their athletic department or university, may taint their views regarding mental health care and the individuals that seek it (Moreland, Coxe, & Yang, 2018). Lack of help-seeking may also serve as evidence of the "tough" culture in sports, dominated by social masculinity norms.

**Methods:** Prior studies have confirmed that mental health stigma poses a challenge for the student-athlete. However, there is a gap in the literature when it comes to investigating these social norms of masculinity, and whether or not they are fostered by student-athlete experiences of mental health stigma. These experiences of stigma encompass the student-athlete relationships with their coaches, teammates, and family. The literature is conflicting regarding the likeliness of student-athletes to seek help compared to their non-athlete peers. What is largely unstudied across the literature are the everyday lives of student-athletes at urban institutions, and their relationships with their teammates, coaches, and parents, as well as how they may or may not conform to social norms of masculinity in sports. The use of qualitative interviews will allow for an in-depth understanding of these relationships, and how they may aid in the perpetuation of mental health stigma, and adherence to masculinity norms.

Qualitative interviews were conducted with student-athletes at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, NY. The participants were recruited on a volunteer basis after an email was sent to all student-athletes by the Assistant Athletic Director that informed them of the study. The qualitative interview was designed to explore relationships with their teammates, coaches, and family members, and how these relationships may perpetuate mental health stigma. Transcripts were read and were coded using an "open coding" approach (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). The student-athletes' responses to the interview questions were qualitatively coded into domains to most efficiently present the results. Examples of questions posed to the students athlete include, "how do you think your coaches and teammates would view you if you were suffering from a mental health issue?" which would illuminate experience with stigma, and "have you ever felt pressure to play through a physical injury?" which would demonstrate conformity to the "pain principle," which is synonymous with social norms of masculinity (DeLenardo & Terrion, 2014).

**Results:** The findings from the present study are consistent with prior research in suggesting student-athlete experience with mental health stigma and adherence to the "pain principle," but add to our knowledge in several ways. Although the majority of student-athlete volunteers indicated that they believed their coaches

(10 of 11) and teammates (9 of 11) *would* be supportive of them if they were suffering from a mental health issue, the majority of the student-athletes (6 of 9) *did not* disclose their mental health issue to either their coach or their teammates. This could be seen as some level of mental health stigma within the athletics department. When one student-athlete was asked why she chose not to disclose her mental health issue to her coach, she explained that she feared they would think “lesser of her.” This is consistent with the findings of DeLenardo and Terrion (2014), who found that the perceived public stigma among their participants was that “mental illness is a reflection of weak character.”

**Discussion:** This study aimed to investigate adherence to the “pain principle” discussed by DeLenardo and Terrion (2014) and Sabo (1998) at an urban institution that is Division III, and with a sample that is predominantly female rather than entirely male. The findings suggest that adherence to the “pain principle” is not something that is inherently male alone, but also female. Interestingly, of the two male participants that indicated they had suffered an injury during their time as a college athlete, both of them asserted that they had *not* felt pressure in any form or fashion to play through their injury. Of the eight athletes that experienced an injury as a college athlete, four indicated that they had felt pressure in some form to play through their injury. All four of these athletes were *female*. It is worth noting that three of these four described the pressure as being self-inflicted, rather than inflicted by their “stakeholders.” Thus, one may conclude that adherence to social masculinity norms is not something that is exclusively male, but also female.





# Is College Preparing its Students?: Exploring Attitudes Towards Incarcerated Individuals at a College of Criminal Justice

**Evalaurene Jean-Charles**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Matthew Johnson, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Evalaurene Jean-Charles is a graduating senior from the CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies program with two concentrations in The Sociology of Education Inequity and Social Justice in Underserved Communities. While studying primarily at John Jay College of Criminal Justice she maintained a 3.91 GPA, was a Ronald e. McNair Scholar, a Peer Mentor for the Honors Program, and the recipient of 6 scholarships, 3 fellowships, and 2 commencement awards. She also spent one winter semester studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. Upon graduation she will be working at Urban Dove Charter School II as a participant in the Teach for America program and will continue to grow as the founder of Black on Black Education.

## Project Description

**Literature Review:** The relevant literature explores culture, education, visits to a correctional facility, race, age, gender, and career as factors that may influence attitudes toward incarcerated individuals. The body of research has yet to explore the implications of ‘global belief in a just world’, relationship with PEI, and educational institution attended. The current study seeks to fill this gap in the literature.

**Methods:** Potential participants will be recruited through in-person introductions to the study. Those who chose to participate will be provided with a link to the online survey. Upon following the link to the survey, participants will be provided with an informed consent form [see Appendix 4]. After agreeing to participate, participants will have the option of answering all or some of the questions in the survey. All information will be obtained through a self-administered questionnaire, including the ATPS (Melvin et al., 1985), GBJWS

(Lipkus, 1991), demographic questions, and one open-ended response question. The data will be collected through *Qualtrics Surveying Software* and further analyzed in *Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)*.

**Results:** This preliminary analysis finds a statistically significant relationship between ATPS and GBJWS. Previous studies failed to find GBJW to be a predictor variable in assessing attitudes toward PEI. Although other studies have found gender, race, academic standing, and major to be predictors of ATP score, this preliminary analysis failed to find those same relationships. The thematic analysis served to explain the attitudes held by students as it pertains to their beliefs about PEI's ability to be rehabilitated. The most pertinent finding in the study was that the vast majority, 92.65%, of respondents expressed a belief that PEI can be rehabilitated.

**Discussion:** Although the findings of this preliminary analysis failed to confirm or reject the findings of previous literature the proposed study has the potential to add to the existing literature as it pertains to students intending to work in the criminal justice system. As government officials continue to discuss options to solve the problems of mass incarceration and maltreatment of PEI, it is necessary to understand the underlying factors that may influence attitudes toward incarcerated individuals. The current study wishes to add to the body of knowledge surrounding such attitudes. The findings of this study aim to help educational institutions with public service majors better prepare students to do effective work in their future careers.

**Future Implications:** Attitudes toward the incarcerated population not only inform decisions about policy changes for criminal justice reform but also influence the way one may treat this population when coming in contact with them. The career paths of many John Jay students may lead to one where they interact in some capacity with PEI in courts, jails, correctional facilities, outpatient mental health clinics, etc. As defined attitudes can be formed unconsciously (Eagly et al., 2007), and as people who both can vote for representatives that wish to make changes in the criminal justice system, and can also work directly with this population, it is important to take notice of pertinent attitudes such as attitudes toward the incarcerated population. Studying students from other CUNY colleges will serve as a helpful comparison to discover whether John Jay students have a particularly specific set of attitudes toward PEI and what variables may influence those attitudes.



# **Does Watching Video Footage Alter Memory of an Event?: Memory Beliefs and Their Effect on Police Departmental Policy Regarding Watching Body-Worn Camera Footage**

**Mariah Lutchman**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Deryn Strange, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## **Biography**

Mariah Lutchman is a first-year PhD student in the Cognitive Psychology program at Rutgers University. Mariah's research interests include learning, memory errors, and cognition within a criminal justice setting. As a McNair scholar, she and her research team (composed of her mentor Dr. Deryn Strange, Dr. Lorraine Hope, a colleague of Dr. Strange and Dr. Kristyn Jones, a newly minted PhD and former advisee of Dr. Strange) investigated the role that memory beliefs can have in body-worn camera policy. As a PhD student, Mariah is in the planning stages of her first-year project, but she anticipates she will be investigating the role of context in eyewitness memory recall. One of the major reasons Mariah is pursuing a PhD is because she has a desire to reform and improve the criminal justice system through academic research and advocacy for criminal justice reform. In her free time, Mariah likes to read crime novels, do nail art on family and friends, and spend time with her three-year-old daughter Aurora. On juggling her many responsibilities, Mariah has said "I'd be lying if I said it was easy. It's unbelievably difficult trying to give 110% to everything I do, but in the end, there is nothing else that I can see myself doing. Research and academia are my purpose".

## **Project Description**

With body-worn cameras (BWC) becoming prevalent within our criminal justice system, it is crucial to understand how beliefs about BWC may affect policy within police departments. In this study, we will be investigating how memory beliefs vary between laypersons, police officers and memory experts. Through a self-report survey, participants will respond to statements that are designed to establish their beliefs about memory and how those beliefs affect how they feel about pre-report viewing of BWC footage within police departments. We expect that the beliefs about memory between laypersons and police officers will be inconsistent with the beliefs of memory experts, who will hold beliefs that are founded in scientific evidence.



# Factors which Effect the Loss of a Kidney Function

**Idalina Marin**

Major: English

Mentor: **Angelique Corthals, PhD**, Science Dept.

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## Biography

A Dominican girl, from Dyckman, Idalina Marin wanted to make a difference in her society by improving the educational system within the STEM field. Growing up in a community where there are not sufficient resources for the department of science and math. The lack of resources in the STEM department causes for the students to struggle in college when taking a science course, which is what happened to Idalina. The lack of preparation Idalina received in the STEM department in school forced her to always book an appointment in the Math and Science Resource Center (MSRC) in order to comprehend the material and pass the course. Idalina will also be in the Writing Center, for her grammar mistakes within her writing. Idalina was told by tutors and professors that she would follow the Spanish rule when it came to writing, and pursued Idalina to improve her writing. Idalina figured out a plan to strengthen her writing skills, while pursuing the love for science. Idalina is an English major with minors in Biology and Latin American and Latino/a Studies (LLS), a member of the Urban Male Initiative, and captain on the Cheerleading Team. Both a PRISM and McNair Scholar, Idalina's research focuses on exploring whether Chronic Kidney Disease is an effect towards type 1 diabetics with the lack of LRP2, working with Dr. Angelique Corthals. Idalina plans to continue her education with a second major in Cell and Molecular Biology, to attain a MD-PhD focusing on immunology and diseases.

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## Project Description

This study examined the factors that lead to the loss of kidney functions—concentration of patients who are under the age of 18 years old, type 1 diabetic (T1D), lack of LRP2 (a protein) and are in the final stage of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Patients' results were collected from previous articles, to expand the authors research topic and results. Information was gathered and placed into an excel sheet, where the results would be analyzed, trying to answer What happens to Type 1 diabetic patients' kidneys when the function of megalin

is partially altered or completely stops? (Specifically referring to is transcytosis modification mechanism). The prediction is if type 1 diabetics do not express megalin, then it will demonstrate a low molecular weight proteinuria, an overproduction of proteins by the body and the loss of lysosomal proteins in the urine, creating chronic kidney disease. T1D is the cause for CKD, mainly with the lack of LRP2, this research study will help create a strategy for the ability to prevent death from many conditions also seemed to swell the ranks of the chronically ill population (Weisz, 2014, p.3).

End-stage Kidney disease is known as Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD) which is a disease that causes the kidneys not to function efficiently for a period of time. There are five stages of CKD. In the first stage of CKD, the kidneys continue to work, the only limitation is that the kidney is not doing their job as well as healthy kidneys. With the decline of the function in the kidney, may cause for the body of a youth adapt without causing changes in physical appearance or pain. A cause of CKD is the lack of LRP2. LRP2 is a megalin, a multi ligand endocytic receptor (also known as a low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 2) or LRP2. Onodera, & et. al. state, "High levels of megalin protein are produced in the early parts of the endocytic pathway of the renal proximal tubule" (2012, p.92). Megalin is a protein that helps function with the kidney and help function other parts in the body, helping to coordinate complexes. A coordinate complex would have to be the ligand which is a central metal ion that can bind to megalin at the apical membrane.

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. Insulin is a hormone needed to allow sugar (glucose) to enter cells to produce energy. The role of insulin once a significant number of islet cells are destroyed, you'll produce little or no insulin. Insulin is a hormone that comes from a gland situated behind and below the stomach (pancreas). The pancreas secretes insulin into the bloodstream. Insulin circulates, allowing sugar to enter your cells (Humme, & at. el. 2012). Insulin lowers the amount of sugar in your bloodstream. As your blood sugar level drops, so does the secretion of insulin from your pancreas.

Answering the proposed question, literature review data analysis is used for research methods. A way to expand the research that most researchers have begun on the effects of CKD from the lack of LRP2 with youth who have T1D. During the research process, collecting data from previous scholarly articles and placing the numbers into an excel sheet. The results prove the lack of dietary and control of weight from T1D patients, under the age 18, will have a higher chance of having CKD because the patient is not consuming healthy food into the body. The unhealthy decisions lead to lack of LRP2 (protein) which is needed for the function of a kidney. The data is taken from Perkins, at. el, 2010. Control cases of young women with certain health situations being tested on the youth with CKD and diagnosed with T1D at a certain age. The biochemical variables, glycosylated hemoglobin, were high in the case. Yet the cholesterol and urinary of the women were affected from the lack of LRP2. This study demonstrates that patients who are 2-years-old and under and ages 13-15-years-old are at higher risk for CKD. The reason is from the lack of dietary the patient is not consuming. There are restrictions for a T1D patient to consume food and beverages, yet, the limitations should not prevent the patient eating their nutrients.

Future implications for the research would be to collect data from the hospital for better results.



# A La Luz: Looking at Sexual Coercion in the Latinx Community

**Stacey Morales**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Chitra Raghavan, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Stacey Morales is a graduating senior and second-year scholar in the McNair program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is graduating with a major in Forensic Psychology and an honors minor in Latin American Studies. Her mentor is Dr. Raghavan, who supervised her undergraduate thesis on sexual coercion in Latine communities. Her interests include studying sexual violence and how cultural values impact disclosure and coping methods, especially within Latine communities. She will be attending John Jay College through the CUNY Graduate Center in Fall 2020, as a Clinical Psychology PhD student. Her primary advisor will be Dr. Silvia Mazzula.

## Project Description

**Introduction:** Sexual coercion is when one partner obtains sex with an unwilling partner using non-violent means such as threats and physical force, exploitation, humiliation and intimidation, pressure, relational threats, and past histories of retaliation for non-compliance. While sexual coercion is an emerging area of interest among mental health professionals, it remains heavily understudied within ethnic groups such as Latinxs in the United States. Existing literature notes cultural influences, including familism, which prioritizes the well-being of a family unit over that of an individual, and religiosity, as factors impacting disclosure.

**Literature Review:** To build upon existing literature, the current study examined sexual coercion as experienced by college-aged Latinx women, identified the tactics most frequently experienced, and investigated how cultural factors of familism and religiosity play a role in disclosure of experiences of coercion. Based on extant research, it was hypothesized that relational threats, humiliation/intimidation, and complying out of hopelessness because of past pressure would be the coercion tactics most frequently used within Latinx



communities. Furthermore, it was hypothesized that religiosity and familism will be negatively correlated to rates of disclosure of sexual coercion within Latinx women.

**Methods:** Latinx women (N = 63) from two public colleges were surveyed anonymously. Participants were queried about unwanted sexual experiences, disclosure of and coping with coercion, shame following coercion, posttraumatic symptoms, Latinx identity, religiosity, familism, internalized misogyny, and relationship attitudes. Participants were granted academic credit in an introductory psychology course for their time.

Most participants (87.3%) were born in the United States, and the sample mainly originated from the Caribbean, South America, or Mexico, had an average age of 19.5 years old and approximately 70% of the sample was heterosexual. At the time of their first sexual encounter, almost a quarter of the sample was under 15 years old. Most of the sample was currently sexually active, and about 60% of these intimate relationships were over a year long with about 40% indicating shorter term sexual relationships (less than a year).

**Results:** Preliminary results indicate that 59% of the sample (n = 38) reported having experienced sexual coercion at some point in their life. Of the women that reported coercion, approximately 20% reported coercion within the last twelve months. The most frequently used tactics were helplessness (46%) and relational threats (14.2%). Of the 38 women who disclosed some sexual coercion, most women also sought informal help after an unwanted experience (73%; n = 27), and most specifically spoke to a female friend (87%, n = 23). Many women also sought formal help by going to the doctor (23.7%, n = 9) or seeing a counselor, social worker, or psychologist (21.6%, n = 8). The least reported coping behavior was taking drugs (21.6%, n = 8), with the most common drug of choice being alcohol (87.5%, n = 7). Lastly, twelve women reported neither disclosing nor seeking help (31.6%). Data collection is ongoing and due to a small sample size, cultural factors affecting disclosure will be examined at a later date.

**Discussion:** In the current study, we found that about three out of five women reported experiencing sexual coercion at any point in their life, with one in five women reporting this happening in their current or most recent relationship. Women reported that they most frequently experienced helplessness, relational threats, and pressure, which are all interpersonal tactics aimed at gaining compliance by exhausting the victim and falsely creating an appearance of compliance. These findings suggest that even youthful sexual experiences are being marked by male control and result in women abandoning their sexual agency at an age in which they should be celebrating sexual discovery. Of the women who had reported unwanted experiences, most of them spoke to a female friend, along with other women close to them (i.e., mother or sister) or their partner. This suggests that women recognized the experience as harmful and sought help from female peers. A few women also reported seeking medical or psychological help, but not going to the police or calling a hotline. Lastly, a few women reported just going home, showering, or doing nothing. Overall, these suggest that Latinx women may recognize the pain and harm that was done to them and rely on intimate friends for support, rather than formal help-seeking structures.

**Implications:** These findings are important for several reasons. One, they suggest that sexual coercion is widespread and begins in girlhood and appears to continue to young adulthood. Two, they suggest that

coercion continues even when women are able to identify that they experienced sex against their will, indicated by the number of women who disclosed their experiences. Three, while many dating studies emphasize drugs and alcohol as a precipitant for dating violence, in our sample, most young people were already in serious dating relationships and very few experienced coercion as a result of deception but rather through leveraged importance of relationships. It is possible that young Latinx women date more seriously than other ethnic groups their age and that this focus on the importance of relationships shapes how men acquire sex. If so, education around sexual safety for young Latinx adults must be informed by this specific cultural context. Existing safe sexual practices may be irrelevant to Latinx girls and women. The study's findings aim to contribute to existing literature by creating a foundation for future research on sexual coercion among Latinxs.



# Relationship Between Defense Mechanisms, Religious Coping, and Food Addiction

**Aida Murati**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **William Gottdiener, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

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## Biography

Aida Murati was born in Albania and moved with her family to New York City at the age of ten. She is currently a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she is pursuing a major in Forensic Psychology, in addition to a minor in Human Services. She has been a Dean's list recipient since her first semester and is also a member of the Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology. Aida has worked with several professors in different disciplines and labs to understand the various methodologies and procedures that she can use in her future work as a perspective doctorate student in Clinical Psychology. Some of these experiences include working with a faculty mentor, Dr. William Gottdiener, as part of the McNair program studying the relationship between defense mechanisms, religious coping, childhood trauma, and food addiction. Aida is also a research assistant at the Couples Lab at Columbia University working with physiological measurements. She also is a research assistant in the Developmental Affective Neuroscience (DAN) Lab. Aida is a Homeland Security scholar, and this has enabled her to work on two separate funded research projects. Aida was also the operations manager for the INSPIRE lab at John Jay. Moreover, Aida has presented her research at two leading undergraduate conferences, the Leadership Alliance Symposium, and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. In addition, she was part of the 2020 MIT Summer Program in Biology and Neuroscience. Through this opportunity, Aida joined the Human Cooperation Lab led by Dr. David Rand at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in which she continues to conduct research on the amplification of false news. Her ultimate goal is to become a clinical psychologist and professor.

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## Project Description

Substance use disorders (SUD) are one of the world's largest public health problems, with approximately 10% of people 12 and over having a diagnosable SUD. Psychoanalytic theory argues that people develop an



SUD to cope with unbearable emotional pain via the use of a variety of defense mechanisms such as, denial and rationalization. The use of alcohol and other drugs assists the defenses in reducing conscious awareness of the person's emotional pain. A growing body of research on the relationship between defense mechanisms and SUD has accrued, including the variety of defenses used and the changes in defenses that occur from effective SUD treatment. The purpose of this study is to use meta-analysis to synthesize this growing body of research and bring order and clarity to it. To date, we have identified the extant empirical research and have begun to code the studies for inclusion in the meta-analysis. We expect to finish coding the research by February and run the analyses in February and have a final report done by April of 2021.



## **Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) Among Urban Undergraduate Students: Effects of Gender, Political Identity, and Country of Origin**

**Saliha Noor**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Shuki Cohen, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

### **Biography**

Saliha is graduating with a bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology with a minor in Art. She is the oldest of her 4 siblings and loves digital photography. She has been part of the photography and Arab Union club at John Jay. She started as the research assistant for two labs, one with Dr. Cohen on Arab Prejudice and Violence and the second one with Dr. Glasford in the INSPIRE lab. Currently, she is working as the lab manager for Dr. Glasford's lab. She is also a peer outreach counselor and an art assistant at John Jay College and has been participating in academic programs like McNair and DLEAP. Her research proposal focuses on using Dr. Cohen's 2015 dataset collected from John Jay students, to examine the effects of gender, political identity, and country of origin of Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) among urban students. She presented her research proposal at a McNair conference sponsored by the University of Buffalo. During the summer of 2018, she participated in an abroad program at Lorenzo de' Medici Institute in Florence, Italy where she took a psychology of crime class as she learned about the culture and country as well as the effects on the psychological aspects regarding art, mind, and crime. She has also done various internships, her last one was at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in the public affairs department. She has also received the NECO first in family scholarship, Gillman scholarship, and chancellor global scholarship. She is also on the John Jay Dean's list. Saliha wants to continue to apply for doctoral programs in social or counseling psychology. Currently, she is taking a year off to work as a lab manager as well as apply to internships. Saliha wants to work with South Asian Muslim women that have been victims of sexual and/ or domestic violence to examine the impact of religion and gender roles within the extended family to better understand how the community views sexual violence/ domestic violence and ultimately build more effective counseling techniques for this vulnerable population.

### **Project Description**

## **Literature Review:**

### **Characteristics of Individuals with high RWA score:**

- Strong trust in the authorities
- Respect and follow laws and norms
- Preference for traditional values and lifestyle
- Five-Factor Model of Personality: Politically Conservative (Rattazzi et al., 2007); High on Conscientiousness and Low on Openness to Experience (Sibley et al., 2012)
- Cognitively Rigid (Van Hiel et al., 2016) and Intolerant of Ambiguity (Jost, Sterling et al., 2017; Van Hiel, 2016)
- Lower Overall Cognitive Abilities (Onaret et al., 2015); Prefer simplistic explanations (Van Hiel et al., 2010)
- More prejudicial, intolerant and aggressive towards designated outgroups, presumably due to their threats to traditional values (e.g. Rattazzi et al., 2007; Whitley, 1999)

### **Gender Differences in Right-Wing Authoritarianism**

- RWA was originally conceived to be similar among men and women (Altemeyer, 1998; Peterson & Lane, 2001; Rattazzi et al., 2007; Zakrisson, 2005)

### **Culture and Country of Origin**

- The study by Brandt and Henry (2012) showed that the experiences of stigma for women are not similar across all cultures. Additionally, women tend to adopt authoritarian values when there is severe gender inequality but that also doesn't mean that they do not experience prejudice and discrimination in those cultures. Other studies (Glick & Fiske, 2001) suggest that women might accept the idea of sexist ideology that portrays women like these weak "creatures" needed to be protected, supported and that requires a man to feel complete. Moreover, the number of gender differences in RWA and inequality can also depend on the culture, for example, if its and individualistic or collectivistic culture (Brandt & Henry, 2012).

**Methods:** This study will take advantage of its highly diverse nature of John Jay students (Urban College in NYC) to examine the effect of gender, political orientation and country of origin. The study will examine self-reported data from 205 students and of those 144 will be women. For ethnic/ cultural identity explore the country of origin of self and parent. Data analysis will be compromised of preliminary studies of RWA that have shown that the data adequately split into two modestly correlated and distinct clusters:

- 1. Authoritarian Aggression and Submission
- 2. Conservatism

Naturally both the wish to submit to an authoritarian leader and endorsement of conventionalist political attitudes by the perceived power of the respondents be them minority, immigrants or females

**Significance:** The study is designed to shed light on the individual differences under-girding Right-Wing Authoritarianism, and in particular to the effects that political self-identification, gender and ethnicity might affect it, in a large multi-ethnic academic environment. The study's significance is underscored by the dearth



of research that looked specifically at the intersection of ethnicity and/or country of origin of the individual, their gender and their support for RWA. This would be the first step towards understanding the attitude of women, and especially women of color to authoritarian sentiments and rhetoric. As women of color become more active in the political life in general and the legislature in particular, this understanding may become increasingly useful. Additionally, this research might even generate further models of how domestic and international policies may be endorsed by both genders

**Results:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the study's results are on hold; it will be continued to the next semester (Fall or Spring).



# Is Diversity Necessary?: Understanding the Role of Diversity in B Corps Within the United States

**Christopher Saint Jean**

Major: Political Science

Mentor: **Heath Brown, PhD**, Political Science Dept.

## Biography

Christopher Saint Jean is a graduating senior with a major in Political Science and a 3.59 GPA. Throughout his time in John Jay, Chris has been able to obtain multiple accomplishments and accolades; he is a Malcolm/King Scholar, Ron Moelis Social Innovation Fellow, UMI Peer Advocate, Peer Ambassador, and multiple time Dean's List member. Chris is also a Spring 2019 initiate of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. His research interest includes the political participation of African Americans, as well as discriminatory policy and legislation created in the United States. Under the guidance of Dr. Heath Brown, Chris had the opportunity to work and complete an individual research project that sought to determine the diversity within B Corporations; he would later present his findings at several academic conferences located in Atlanta, Miami, and New Jersey. Chris has also worked as a research assistant for Dr. Brown as well. Recently, Christopher has taken part in an independent study course that involved him researching political machines and their relevancy within the Black community in the United States. He hopes that the data collected during the independent study will allow him to gain a better understanding of what political solutions might be able to provide the African American community within the United States. In the fall, Chris will be enrolled in the Political Science doctoral program at Rutgers University-New Brunswick with full funding. Christopher will also be taking part in the 2020 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where he will have the opportunity to learn about computational social science skills with peers from around the world. With a doctoral degree on Political Science, Christopher hopes to work as a professor. His ultimate goal is to inspire students to be more curious about the world, and the social and political dynamics that are around them. Chris would also like to work in politics as well and help create impactful legislation that would change the lives of people of color for the better. With his career aspirations, he hopes to become a poignant activist within his community, and help provide disenfranchised people with more opportunities.

## Project Description

**Introduction & Literature Review:** The purpose of this qualitative research project is to assess the diversity levels within B Corporations. A B Corporation (or B Corp) has the dual mission of generating revenue, while also giving back to communities in several philanthropic methods. Although their existence as a B Corp allows for social change to be, theoretically speaking, if possible, the diversity of said corporations should be discussed. To complete the research projects, I first began to gather peer-reviewed literature that focused on several different topics: diversity, racism, corporations, B Corps, and job segregation. The literature review was an integral portion of the project, as it allowed me to understand the history of job segregation in the United States, and how corporations have always had low diversity within their C Suites [1]. Furthermore, the peer-reviewed literature gave me insight into how B Corps have come about, and what their existence means to the possibility of ushering in a wave of social innovation [2].

**Methods:** After completing the literature review, I started my initial hypothesis: I did not believe that the C Suites of the B Corps would have a significant level of people of color [3]. Nothing that I read in the peer-reviewed articles had given the impression that B Corps wouldn't have the same diversity issues that traditional corporations do. Although B Corps could be considered to be "socially innovative", there wasn't an indicator (before I gathered data) that they would be diverse. To analyze the diversity within B Corps, I conducted a research experiment that would give me a statistical answer to my question. First, I choose three specific cities to pull data from Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City. There wasn't a particular reason that I selected the cities; they are simply known to be prominent American cities that are geographically spread out across the country. Within each city, I choose fifteen corporations from each city to analyze their diversity. In total, 45 corporations were evaluated for my study.

**Results:** Using a website called bcorporation.net, I found the B Corps within their respective cities. The type of B Corps ranged; some were food-based, while others focused on other trades (such as photography). After the 45 corporations were identified, I placed their information on an Excel sheet and begun the next phase of the research experiment. Utilizing the website of a B Corp (or a LinkedIn profile if the B Corp website didn't have an about us tab), I screenshotted the profile pictures of the C Suite members and placed their images into three different google documents that were separated by city. After this portion of the research was concluded, I found my initial hypothesis to be correct. To avoid bias and unethical conclusions, however, I choose to execute an inter-rater reliability trial. The trial involved me finding three different participants (from John Jay College) and having them analyze the photos of the C Suite members. Upon viewing the images, the participants would write down how many people of color<sup>3</sup> and women they saw within each corporation. Once they were finished, I compared their answers with one another and took the agreed upon identifications to analyze the level of diversity within the B Corps.

**Discussion:** With the results from the inter-rater reliability trial, I concluded that my initial hypothesis was correct. The diversity within the forty-five corporations was not significant; white males made up the majority of C Suite members. Of the 146 people that were analyzed, 43.83% were identified as women, while only

13.01% was identified as a person of color. None of the C Suite members was identified as an African American male. After using SPSS to create pie graphs to represent the data, I once again utilized Excel to complete a statistical analysis.

**Future Implications:** After completing the research project, I determined that if B Corps would like to improve their diversity among C Suites in B Corps. Although women made up almost 50% of members, people of color are not regularly employed within these high positions. Future diversity inclusion efforts should focus on both recruiting more people of color and ensuring that the work environment allows them to perform without facing discrimination. With more people of color in their C Suites, B Corps might be able to better serve the communities that they serve, while allowing for more diverse thinking, which could increase revenue. A significant push for more diversity within B Corps can change both their performance and image within the communities that they serve on a daily basis

<sup>[1]</sup> C Suites are made up of the highest positions within a corporation (i.e. CEO, CFO, Executives, etc.)

<sup>[2]</sup> Social innovation is the practice of creating positive impacts within a community through a never before the used method

<sup>[3]</sup> For this experiment, a person of color would be considered someone who is deemed to be of either African or Latinx descent





# How to Muslim-Americans View Public Spaces and Why Does it Matter?

**Yasmina Singh**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Demis Glasford, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Yasmina Singh is a New York native of Moroccan and Indian descent. Ms. Singh obtained her Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice Spring 2020. She was a former Auxiliary Officer in the NYPD and has worked an extensive list of jobs since the age of 14. Ms. Singh is working in the Criminal Court Bureau at the NYC District Attorney's Office. Ms. Singh's interests consist of linguistics, social psychology, criminology, and social work. She is also an active participant in the Moroccan American Association in NYC. A future goal of Ms. Singh is to go to law school.

## Project Description

Public spaces are defined as spaces that are open to all, which are generally funded by local governments. Examples of public spaces are museums, parks and public transportation. These spaces provide many opportunities for people to socialize and engage with other communities and at their greatest effectiveness, public spaces are diversely inclusive and pluralistic.

Stigmatized identity cues refer to aspects of the environment or social setting that communicate the value of one's stigmatized social identities, such as gender, race, religion and sexual orientation (e.g. Major & O'Brien, 2005; Steele, Spencer & Aronson, 2002), within the respective environment. This study will employ an identity cues framework to examine factors on how cues may communicate safety or potential threats in public spaces. A variety of things factor into cues having an essential impact in social settings. Things such as the type of art that surrounds the individuals within a space, or the topics individuals are discussing create social cues in a public space. As an example, when identity safety cues are given off in a public space, individuals gain a sense that their social identity is protected and valued in that space. On the contrary, certain cues such as normalized stereotypes in a space may be a threat to self-identity.

This could take many forms such as in the presence of specific publicized branding, modern segregation, an individual's changing identities to conform with social norms in public spaces and the decor of the environment. An example of a popularized branding or labeling cue which is communicated to threaten the public's social identity is the Make America Great Again logo. The utilization of a slogan during a political campaign has the effect of creating a large gap in common public opinion, thus creating division among social groups.

This research study will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods to investigate Muslim-Americans experiences in NYC. Due to the tragic events of 9/11, Muslim Americans face a unique kind of discrimination routed in xenophobia and islamophobia. This study has been implemented for a variety of reasons; one of which is to identify the cues that shape public social settings into being safe or threatening. This study will also identify what factors explain Muslim-Americans preference to engage or approach public spaces. We will investigate whether there are differences in the experiences based on ethnicity. The quantitative portion of the survey will examine a variety of variables such as trust, safety, and identity amongst a large number of Muslim-American individuals. The qualitative part will provide participants the opportunity to take an in depth look into their stories. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used in comparison to find any distinguishes between participants. We will identify cues in public space that communicate safety vs. threat; trust; preferences to approach vs. avoid public spaces. Is there a lack of willingness for Muslim-Americans to participate in public spaces? Muslim-Americans well-being, integration, and public spaces will be explored and interrogated. The implication is that Muslim-Americans are perceived negatively and thus endure discrimination.

# First Year McNair Scholars



## One Man, No Vote: The Legacy of Felon Disenfranchisement

**Angelina Benli**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Andrew Sidman, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

### Biography

Angelina Benli is a senior in the Honors Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice where she is double majoring in Criminology and Forensic Psychology with a minor in English. She is a second year McNair Research Scholar, researching the political implications of felon disenfranchisement in the United States over the last twenty years with Dr. Andrew Sidman. She is a teaching assistant in the Sociology Department at John Jay College, working with Dr. Liza Steele. She serves as the treasurer of SEEK Society and a Peer Advocate for Urban Male Initiative on campus. She is a 2018 America Needs You Fellow and a 2019 Futures Initiative Leadership and Democracy Fellow. She completed an legislative and communications internship with the office of New York City Council Member, Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. She's completed additional internships with non-profit organizations such as Let's Get Ready!, Generation Citizen, and Reading Partners. She is the recipient of the CUNY Chancellor's Global Scholarship and CUNY SEEK Global Scholarship. Outside of academics, she enjoys making jam, baking scones, and obscure movie trivia.

### Abstract

Over the past half century, the population of those incarcerated in the United States has increased to 2.2 million. The state laws that govern whether felons can vote are not uniform, which leads to an unequal participation and unfair disparity in elections based on where an individual resides. Due to variant felon disenfranchising policies across the country, an estimated 6.1 million Americans are unable to cast ballots, which is 3% of the voting population. This project will have two phases, the first is to use national surveys that include ex-felons, along with national and county level election returns to examine the political behavior and participation of ex-felons. This will help answer if re-enfranchisement leads to increased county-level turnout, both in elections and other political activities. These empirical results will be followed by a second phase, involving a case study of New York City, which will focus on voter turnout after Governor Cuomo's 2018 executive order. This study can provide a greater understanding of how the political participation of ex-felons, or lack thereof, can inform future election and voter policy at the county, state, and federal levels.



# The Impact of Matter of A-B- on Asylum Claims due to Domestic and Gang Violence

**Melissa Ceren**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Rebecca Weiss, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Melissa Ceren is a first-generation Latina who is majoring in Forensic Psychology along with dual minors in Law and Human Rights. Early in her academic journey at John Jay she joined and continues to be a research assistant in the Memory and Cognition Lab in which she receives intensive research and mentoring from Dr. Charles B. Stone. Through this mentorship, she was inspired and influenced to consider the psychological stressors involved in the process of immigration for immigrants, refugee, and asylum populations at the individual (internalized stigma, self-conceptions), cultural (stereotypes, microaggressions), and structural (law, education, political) levels. In her second and third year, she worked as a Math and Science Resource Center (MSRC) Tutor/Workshop Facilitator and a Student Council Representative which allowed her to provide advocacy, mentoring and academic support for fellow students to grow academically and professionally. Through this professional and research experience, she was confident to apply to both Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program and Diverse Leadership in Education and Academic Pursuit (D-LEAP) Mentorship Program. She was accepted to both programs and conducted an original research project under the guidance of her mentor, Dr. Rebecca Weiss analyzing asylum seekers denial/acceptance rate based on former U.S Attorney General Jeff Sessions ruling in *Matter of A-B-*. In her transition from third to fourth year, she is a volunteer clinical intern at Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry and New York State Psychiatric Institute and recognized for her overall academic excellence in the Africana Studies Department, Student Council's Excellent Innovator Award, the Upper Division Scholarship, the Rising Star Fellowship, and has been accepted to the John Jay-Vera Institute of Justice Fellowship Program. She also had the opportunity to conduct, present, and publish on the consequences of undermatching in New York City's public education system for ethnic minority families at New York University over the 2020 summer as part of NYU's Summer Research Experience Program.



## Abstract

The Refugee Act of 1980 states that individuals who have experienced inhumanity and torture may seek asylum in another country if they can demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. The strict criteria regarding the cause of the persecution make asylum difficult to obtain for victims of domestic or gang violence. In specific cases, victims of domestic or gang violence have been granted asylum in the United States under the criteria of membership in a social group. After a successful appeal in the *Matter of A-R-C-G-* (2014), a woman received asylum in the United States after repeated emotional, psychological and physical abuse from her husband in El Salvador. However, this verdict was overturned by former Attorney General Jefferson Sessions in *Matter of A-B-* (2018). The proposed study will utilize Google Scholar and LexisNexis to systematically review the relevant legal and psychological literature in order to discuss how does former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' implementation of *Matter of A-B* in asylum regulation affect the grant and denial rate for victims seeking asylum or other forms of relief from removal due to domestic or gang-based violence. Implications among the asylum outcomes will discuss the origin of asylum policy, specific criteria of persecution and the impact of the recent ruling.



# An Examination of the Relationship Between Minority Communities, Mental Health, and Justice-Involved Youth

**Ruth Folarin**

Major: **Forensic Psychology**

Mentor: **Maureen Allwood, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

My name is Ruth Folarin and I am a Forensic Psychology major. I am also part of the Macaulay Honors Program. My mentor is Dr. Maureen Allwood of the Psychology department, and my research addresses the relationship between communities of color, mental health, and justice-involved youth. I am also a research assistant in Dr. Johnson's Race & Equity Lab as well as Dr. Allwood's Youth and Trauma lab. I recently presented my research at the 2020 UCLA McNair Conference. My goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a forensic focus and work with justice-involved youth.

## Abstract

Many minority communities do not have access to mental health resources. In a study of African American women, a major theme was that residents did not know how to access services that were available (Robert et.al, 2008). For youth, especially Black youth, this can lead to increased involvement with the juvenile justice system. In a study using over 50,000 juvenile cases, about 59% of cases involving Black youth had a recommendation for formal processing, which is processing youth through the juvenile justice system without considering alternatives or diversions, or mental health services. Furthermore, 47% of Black youth had a petition for their case to be taken to court (Bishop and Frazier, 1988). In the 1829 youth that were detained in Cook County, Illinois, 66% of the male population met the criteria for 1 psychiatric disorder and 73% of the female population met the criteria for 1 as well (Teplin, et.al, 2002). The proposed study will focus on two research questions. Does lack of access to mental health services increase the risk of contact with the law enforcement and the juvenile justice system? If so, does this disproportionately affect minority youth? The study will use a quantitative survey to gather information about opinions about mental health and treatment, utilization of mental health services for their children, interactions with the juvenile justice system, and barriers to mental health help seeking. The survey will be administered to parents. The expected results for this study are that minority communities and the barriers of mental-health help seeking will directly impact the rate at which minority youth are incarcerated.



# The Relationship Between Depression, Cultural Stress, and Suicidal Behavior among Latinas

**Lorraine Iglesias**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Elizabeth Jeglic, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Lorraine Iglesias was born and raised in Brooklyn's most at-risk neighborhoods: Sunset Park, Brownsville, Crown Heights, and East New York. So, to make it out of the hood, she made education her top priority. With the help of her parents, APPLE Corps, and McNair Program's support, Ms. Iglesias laid the foundation for the life she wanted. APPLE Corps gave her the guidance she needed to not only finish college but also to pursue the career of her dreams. Now she aspires to earn her PhD in Clinical Psychology, where she hopes to expand her research on multigenerational trauma from which people of color suffer. Afro-Latinas have so much to offer the world than stereotypes, so she wants to be a role model, to encourage Latinx communities to resist the status quo. If she could offer advice to future college students, she would say this: "College isn't for everyone, but if it's for you then it's worth the attempt because if you succeed, you'll be proud of your efforts and achievements. As an Afro-Latina, I understand the societal and familial pressures of being a woman and of being a minority, so if that's you, don't give up because your hard work is going to speak for itself the same way mine is starting to speak for me." Ms. Iglesias has volunteered for the Fortune Society and Legal Hand, was a part of the NYPD Auxiliary, APPLE Corps Program, and McNair Program and is a reoccurring Dean's List recipient. She will graduate with her bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology in August 2020.

## Abstract

The rates of suicidal behavior among Latina emerging adults are rising. Consequently, it is important to understand factors that may be contributing to this increased risk. Thus, this study examines the role of cultural stress and depression in suicidal behavior, specifically we will examine whether cultural stress moderates the relationship between depression and suicide among a sample of 800 emerging adult Latinas. Researchers collected four questionnaire responses from each of the participants: The Social, Attitudinal, Familial, and Environmental Acculturative Stress (SAFE) Scale, which measures acculturation stress; Family Emotional Involvement and Criticism Scale (FEICS II), which measures family involvement; Trauma and History and Life Stress, which measures traumatic life experiences; and Perceived Stress Scale, which measures perceived stress. We hypothesized that depression would be significantly positively associated with suicidal behavior, and that cultural stress would moderate this relationship, due to the effects of the relationships between (1) Latinx cultural stress and depression, (2) family involvement/acculturation stress and depression, (3) depression among Latinas, and (4) depression and suicidal behaviors among Latinas. The results of this study will be discussed as they pertain to prevention and intervention for depression and suicide among Latinas.



# The Adult Male Survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse

**Sundesh Latchman**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Mickey Melendez, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Sundesh (Sunday-sh) Latchman (Lutchman) is a McNair scholar at John Jay College of Criminal Justice researching Childhood Maltreatment and their traumatic implementation on psychological development. Sundesh has been awarded The CUNY Chancellor's scholarship, The York College Study Abroad Scholarship, and Cesiah Toro Mullane Scholarship Fund from Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, to complete his Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology and an opportunity to Study Abroad in Bali, Indonesia gaining insight to multicultural issues, and psychopathologies with cultural healing.

As a student advocate and a compassionate leader for justice, Sundesh has been awarded for his hard work and dedication to Student Government Association and excellence in Representation at York College. His thankless service to the under-represented communities on Campus or off, empowered many and created a lasting Impact at CUNY York College by being a part of a bigger solution—assisting the development of The Center for Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Service where he held a position to service, engage, and lead within his community. Sundesh worked with the local district to plant trees during his free time.

## Abstract

Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is an issue that is receiving increasing attention in the current cultural climate. A disproportionate amount of the existing literature is focused on examining and treating the long-term impact CSA has on female survivors. Research has also found that gender roles play a part in the disclosure and recovery of survivors' memories. Male survivors face a higher rate of stigmatization, and as a result, are less likely to seek treatment. The current study aims to collect data from male survivors through online forums and open floor discussions. This approach reduces stigma and places the victim in control of their disclosure of trauma. The current research is an exploratory study utilizing data collected from male survivors from various settings including in religious institutions and sports.





## Being Multiracial in America: Self-Esteem and Microaggression among Multiracial Individuals – Secondary Data Analysis

**Rieanna McPhie**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Sylvia Mazzula, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

### Biography

Rieanna S. McPhie is a recent graduate from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a B.A. in Forensic Psychology. Upon graduating, she received a Dean's List Achievement Award and Scholarship & Service Award. Rieanna was born in New York City, but spent most of her life in Japan, therefore, college was her first education in the United States. She transferred to John Jay in the Fall of 2018 with a Transfer Student Scholarship after spending two years at Pace University. At Pace, she was a Deans and Honors Program student. She also displayed leadership there by creating a Japanese Language and Culture Club and serving as the president in hopes to create a new community for students on campus.

After taking a Correctional Psychology course her first semester at John Jay, she developed a keen interest in prison issues. Her current research interest includes rehabilitation strategies in corrections, effective probation and parole to decrease recidivism, mindfulness and emotional intelligence in prison, mental illness of incarcerated individuals and correctional officers, and housing of special offender populations (e.g., female, sex offenders, juveniles, transgenders, etc.).

As a biracial individual, she is also interested in multiracialism and proposed to research the relationship between multiracial identity with self-esteem and the experience of microaggression under the mentorship of Dr. Silvia Mazzula from the psychology department. She presented her research titled "Being Multiracial in America: Self-Esteem and Racial Microaggression among Multiracial Individuals – a Secondary Data Analysis" at the 2020 UCLA Virtual National McNair Conference.

Rieanna hopes to apply to Ph.D. programs next year to pursue research and fulfill her goal to work as a psychologist in corrections and teach in higher education. Also, with her background and fluency in Japanese, she hopes to work in Japan to increase mental health awareness and explore the relationship between Japanese culture and aggression, criminality, antisociality.

## Abstract

The multiracial population, regardless of their consistent population growth, higher use of counseling services, and unique experiences due to their background, has been significantly underserved in scientific research. This study will explore the unexamined relationship between self-esteem and racial microaggression among multiracial individuals. Multiracial is defined as possessing two or more races and racial microaggressions are characterized as subtle, indirect, and often unintentional prejudice or discrimination. Some forms of microaggression specific to multiracials are exclusion (e.g. being told you're not really Black by a Black aunt) and exoticization (e.g. a Spanish man saying I want to marry a Korean girl so I can have babies like you). Moreover, microaggressions have shown to negatively affect the individual's self and group identity and mental health. Thus, the researcher hypothesizes that 1) lower levels of self-esteem is related to higher experiences of microaggression and 2) the negative correlation will be greatest among multiracial folks, followed by monoracial minority, then monoracial Whites. The study will utilize a secondary data analysis of descriptive survey data of 669 diverse participants. The study will exert data from the Personal Data Sheet for race, ethnicity, and other potential control variables, Collective Self-Esteem Scale for self-esteem, Symptom Checklist-90 Revised for mental health status, and the Racial and Ethnic Microaggression Scale for microaggression. By conducting this study, the researcher hopes to increase knowledge and competency of the multiracial population among researchers and counselors, and provoke additional research within this population.



## **Understanding the Casual Relationships Between Climate Change, Global Warming, and Environmental Crimes: An International Criminal Justice Inquiry**

**Kavita Mohammed**

Major: International Criminal Justice

Mentor: **Mangai Natarajan, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

### **Biography**

Kavita Mohammed is a first-generation Trinidadian-American. She grew up in New York City, and is currently a senior at John Jay College majoring in International Criminal Justice and double minoring in Environmental Justice and Theatre Arts. Early in her college academic career, Kavita's interests within Environmental Justice sparked from the issues of climate change and global warming. This interdisciplinary minor allowed her to discover her passion for environmental criminology, sustainability, their relationship with design and fashion, and thus take a closer look as to how these aspects interact with each other.

Within her International Criminal Justice major, Kavita's interests ranges from understanding organized crime, such as the Mafia, to transnational environmental crimes, where various issues such as wildlife trafficking, poaching and the dumping of hazardous wastes present themselves as increasing threat to the well-being of the Earth's ecosystems. More specifically, Kavita's McNair research project focuses on various transnational environmental crimes in regard to their relationship with climate change and global warming. This project aims to assess the extent of this relationship as well as any possible solutions, or the beginnings of solutions, to the environmental crises.

In addition to academic passion, Kavita also holds an immense amount of appreciation for creative expression and is often an advocate for making the arts more accessible to those in a lower socioeconomic standing, especially for individuals of color. Kavita's future research interests revolve around environmental sustainability and its future with design and architecture, and she plans to apply to PhD programs involving environmental design and sustainability.

### **Abstract**

Climate change and global warming persist as an imminent threat to human health and human ecology, and each year, these issues are becoming worse. In recent years, green criminologists continue to debate causal

relationships between climate change, environmental crimes, and lucrative transnational criminal activity. The magnitude of environmental crimes calls for an extensive understanding of state law and international law, as well as investigating the global impacts of transnational environmental crime and climate change. Therefore, this proposed study aims to explore the causal relationships and global impact between transnational environmental crimes and climate change. It also seeks to assess the criminal liability of an individual who breaches the rule of international environmental law, which implicates jurisdiction for the International Criminal Court. This study will identify and examine a sample of 60 federal environmental court cases from various databases to answer the following research questions: Does transnational environmental crimes contribute to climate change and global warming, or vice versa? If so, what is the nature and extent of the damages to humanity? Would the impact add to the grounds of “Ecocide”, as a fifth core crime in the Rome Statute? Answering these questions would identify the direct and indirect impact of environmental crimes, which would help governments and corporations (both individually and as a joint effort) create effective international responses towards environmental sustainability and justice.





# Expanding American Narratives: The Novelty of *Crazy Rich Asians*

**Rachel Rosado**

Major: English

Mentor: **Olivera Jokic, PhD**, English Dept.

## Biography

Rachel is a senior majoring in English and double minoring in Art and Criminology. Growing up as a multiracial woman in the United States during the technological advancements of the 2000s has largely shaped her research interests. Her research interests include mass media, media studies, popular culture, US history and culture in terms of race. Rachel is currently working on her project titled “Expanding American Narratives: the Novelty of *Crazy Rich Asians*” with her mentor, Dr. Olivera Jokić. This project explores the significance of the narratives that *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018) presents, within the context of popular culture, media studies, and US history. In addition to being a McNair scholar, she is also part of the Critical Interdisciplinary Research Group. She has been awarded the Presidential Collaborative Faculty-Student Research Award and the Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Outside of academic responsibilities, Rachel enjoys going to museums, traveling, and playing video games.

## Abstract

In 2018 Warner Bros. released *Crazy Rich Asians*, a film eagerly anticipated because it features an all-Asian cast in the industry that has a history of stereotyping Asians and Asian-Americans. Prior research has confirmed that yellow peril and the model minority stereotypes have had a negative impact on Asian-Americans. Mainstream movies that portray Asian and Asian-Americans using stereotypes feed the idea that they are foreigners. The film industry (usually led by non-Asians) have used such narratives to maintain a racial order, where Asians have continuously been portrayed as the racialized other. Although existing research validates film as a major contributor to popular culture, there is a lack of studies on recent movies. The current study would contribute to the existing research by focusing on *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018), the latest and most successful example of exploring the complexities of the Asian and Asian-American experience. It uses textual interpretation and historical contextualization to better understand social and cultural history. The current findings show how *Crazy Rich Asians* 2018 has contrasted prior movies in major ways that answered an increase in demands from American audiences. Audiences responded in commercially viable ways to a more inclusive cast and production. However, as successful as the movie is, it also continues the idea that Asia consists of a few countries and neglects the broader idea that Asia is made up of 48 countries.



# Types of Deception in Everyday Life: Detection and Frequency Mapping

**Saira Tariq**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Maria Hartwig, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Saira Tariq is a senior majoring in Forensic Psychology with a minor in Criminology. In addition to being a McNair Scholar, Saira works at the John Jay Academic Advisement Center as a Peer Advisor. Being the first in her family to successfully obtain her bachelor's degree in the near future, she hopes to continue her studies and pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology. Saira comes from a traditionally cultured background where women aren't valued for their education. However, her goal is to show how important it is for women to be well versed in all areas. She is an advocate for mental health and has taken part in publishing a book on mental health awareness and acceptance. During her time at John Jay, Saira was a Research Assistant for the Extremist Crime Database and has also been a Dean's list recipient for several years. In her free time, she offers solicited life advice to her friends; as well as likes to read mystery novels and watch foreign shows.

## Abstract

Deception can occur with the motives to protect, harm, or even sway others. This correlational research study aims to measure the frequency of deception in everyday life, classify the motivations of deceivers, and identify common targets of deception. This study will discuss previous research conducted on lies and deception, as well as their methods and results. Additional research is needed on deception, which commonly occurs in everyday life and is a fundamental aspect of society. For this study a total of 60 participants will be recruited from the John Jay College community. They will be required to journal their social interactions for a week and include any deceptive messages they convey to others. Participants will complete two questionnaires throughout the study. I hypothesize that participants will willingly deceive strangers more often than friends and that participants who deceive their friends will be part of the other-oriented category of deception than self-oriented.



# Racial Trauma in Latinx Communities

**Emily Velasco**

Major: Forensic Psychology

Mentor: **Veronica Johnson, PhD**, Psychology Dept.

## Biography

Emily is currently a senior at John Jay College majoring in Forensic Psychology and minoring in Criminology. She has been a Dean's List recipient and is a second-year scholar of the Ronald E. McNair Program. She is currently working on her project with Dr. Veronica Johnson titled, "Racial Trauma in Latinx Communities". Through achieving her goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and state licensure, Emily hopes to diversify the field by becoming a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist. In the long term, Emily would like for her research to aid mental health service providers who may be unaware of the impact of discrimination. Emily would like to start a nonprofit to provide mental health resources and destigmatize mental health in underrepresented communities, particularly Latinx communities.

## Abstract

There is ample evidence that affirms that the physical and psychological health of people of Color are affected by racism. Sociodemographic and phenotypic factors have been proposed to modify the relationship between racial trauma- defined as the severe reaction to a discriminatory experience- and health behaviors such as diet, physical activity, smoking, drinking, and age. Research on racism and its effects have not looked at the Latinx community thoroughly and do not account for phenotype, legal status, and socioeconomic status as possible moderators in the relationship between racism and health behaviors. Using the model of race-based traumatic stress, this study aims to understand the way social class affects the relationship between racial trauma and health behaviors among the Latinx community. Participants will complete the Race-Based Traumatic Stress Symptom Scale (RBTSSS), along with other measures of health behaviors, phenotype (e.g., hair texture, skin color), and demographics (e.g., social class). On the RBTSSS, the participant must report an encounter with racism that was negative or emotionally painful, sudden and uncontrollable. This scale will measure how participants felt immediately after a discriminatory encounter and how they feel now looking back at their experience. Understanding the role socioeconomic status and skin color have on the relationship between racial trauma and health behaviors will pave the way for future research and have clinical implications for how mental health professionals understand factors germane to racial trauma in Latinx communities.

# McNair Mentors



**Dr. Maureen Allwood**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Heath Brown**  
Public Management Dept.



**Dr. Shuki Cohen**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Angelique Corthals**  
Science Dept.



**Dr. Demis Glasford**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. William Gottdiener**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Jill Grose-Fifer**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Maria Hartwig**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Elizabeth Jeglic**  
Psychology Dept.





**Dr. Olivera Jokic**  
English Dept.



**Dr. Matthew Johnson**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Veronica Johnson**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Isabela Martinez**  
Latin American &  
Latinx Studies Dept.



**Dr. Silvia Mazzula**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Mickey Melendez**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Kelly McWilliams**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Kevin Nadal**  
Psychology Dept.



**Dr. Mangai Natarajan**  
Criminal Justice Dept.



**Dr. Richard Ocejo**  
**Criminal Justice Dept.**



**Dr. Chitra Raghavan**  
**Psychology Dept.**



**Dr. Andrew Sidman**  
**Political Science Dept.**



**Dr. Deryn Strange**  
**Psychology Dept.**



**Dr. Rebecca Weiss**  
**Psychology Dept.**



**Dr. Philip Yanos**  
**Psychology Dept.**

# McNair in Graduate School

*“You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.”*

~Dr. Ronald E. McNair



The following McNair Scholars have been accepted to the listed graduate schools and programs for the **Fall 2020** semester. We had a *record* number of acceptances into graduate school programs this year! Congrats scholars!

**Alondra “Candi” Aca** graduated with her Bachelors in Criminal Justice and Latin American & Latinx Studies. She has been accepted to the University of Albany’s PhD program in Anthropology.

**Faizun Bakth** graduated in February 2020 with her Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted to Wayne State University’s PhD Program in Developmental Psychology.

**Susana Cruz-Garcia** graduated with her Bachelors & Masters in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted to University of Albany’s PhD Program in Clinical Psychology.

**Brandon Dial** graduated with his Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. He has been accepted into John Jay College’s Master’s Program in Forensic Psychology.

**Evalaurene Jean-Charles** graduated with her Bachelors in Sociology of Educational Inequity & Social Justice in Underprivileged Communities from the CUNY BA Program. She has been accepted to The Ohio State University’s PhD Program in Educational Policy.

**Mariah Lutchman** graduated with her Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted to Rutgers University’s PhD Program in Cognitive Psychology.

**Stacey Morales** graduated with her Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted into the CUNY Graduate Center’s PhD Program in Clinical Psychology.

**Christopher Saint-Jean** graduated with his Bachelors in Political Science. He has been accepted into Rutgers University’s PhD Program in Political Science.

**Kamar Tazi** graduated with her Bachelors in Forensic Psychology. She has been accepted into the University of North Texas’ PhD Program in Clinical Psychology.



### *McNair Alumni*

**Dasharah Green ('17)** has been accepted into the PhD program in English at The CUNY Graduate Center. She earned her Master's degree in English from St. John's University in 2020.

**Imtashal Tariq ('14)** has been accepted to the University of Massachusetts' PhD program in Political Science. She earned her Master's degree in Criminological Research from Cambridge University in 2015.

**Fatoumata Ceesay ('17)** was awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. She started her doctoral program in Sociology Stonybrook University and is now currently continuing doctoral studies at Rutgers University.

Thank you to all of our McNair Mentors!

*Congratulations Class of 2020!*

## McNair Program Staff & Journal Editors



**Dr. Jessica Gordon-Nembhard**  
Director, McNair Program  
Department Chair & Professor,  
Africana Studies

Dr. Gordon-Nembhard became director of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program in September 2011. In her first year she held the first McNair mentor's retreat and solidified the mentor-Scholar benchmarks and contract process. She and Dr. Lee have been working to create a comfortable up-to-date computer lab space - allowing scholars to spend longer hours working on their research and socializing with their peers. Dr. Jessica Gordon-Nembhard is a political economist whose research focuses on community economic development, worker ownership and cooperative economics; wealth inequality; Black Political Economy; popular economic literacy; and community-based approaches to justice. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; an M.A.T. in Elementary Curriculum and Teaching at Howard University; and her B.A. in Literature and African American Studies at Yale University.





**Dr. S. Ernest Lee, Jr.**

Associate Director, McNair Program  
Adjunct Professor Political Science &  
Africana Studies

Dr. Lee is responsible for the day to day operations of the Program including teaching the fall Graduate School labs and spring McNair Research Seminar as well as providing academic counseling for McNair Scholars. He also works with the director on grant writing and scholar and mentor recruitment. Dr. Lee wants to ensure that the Program provides a great source of information and support to scholars during the process of their research projects and graduate program applications. In addition to his McNair responsibilities, Dr. Lee also serves as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in both the Political Science and Africana Studies Departments. He earned his B.A. in Government and Law from Lafayette College and his M.A., M.Phil, and PhD from the Graduate Center, CUNY. He also has a Certificate in Africana Studies from the Graduate Center.

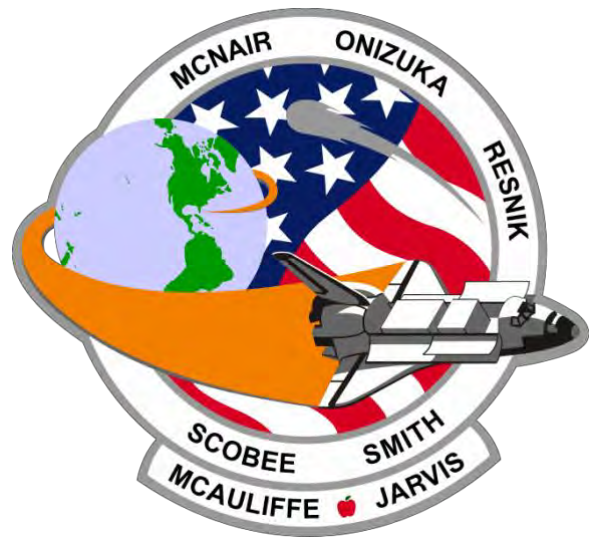


**Erica Klafehn, B.S.**

Graduate Program Assistant

Ms. Klafehn became a part of the McNair staff during the summer of 2018. While at John Jay, Ms. Klafehn majored in Cell and Molecular Biology and double minored in Anthropology and Psychology. She is a Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math (PRISM) and Ronald E. McNair Program alumna and completed research in identifying the histological morphology of trauma under forensic anthropologist Dr. Angelique Corthals. In addition to assisting with the program's administration, Ms. Klafehn serves as a guide to current and prospective scholars aspiring to obtain a doctorate degree. Ms. Klafehn is continuing her Master's Program in Forensic Science-Toxicology at John Jay with her thesis focusing on the effects of blowfly larval feeding on bone decomposition in sites of trauma, and would like to continue her research in a Ph.D. program in forensic anthropology and entomology.

## In Remembrance of 34 Years since the Space Shuttle Challenger's Last Voyage



“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.”

- Ronald E. McNair

# Acknowledgements

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