

Yareli Perez is an undergraduate student, majoring in Forensic Psychology and minoring in Criminology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (JJC, City University of New York). She is currently a part of the Honors Program, Psi Chi, INSPIRE Lab, McNair Program and now works in the Office for Student Research and Creativity as an Administrative and Research Assistant.

Yareli has a deep passion for learning about human behavior, specifically, the reasoning behind criminals' actions. Initially inspired by popular shows such as Criminal Minds and Law and Order, she decided to explore the field of forensic psychology in more depth by incorporating aspects into her high school curriculum and extra-curricular activities. As part of the McNair and Honors Programs at JJC, she is conducting research to study the relationship between male sexual abuse and its connection to gender, specifically when committed by female perpetrators.

She is also a Bilingual Research Assistant in Dr. Weiss' study, which hopes to research the mental health system and its effectiveness for Spanish-speaking individuals. Her tasks will include communicating with patients in Spanish and eventually coding their responses. The ultimate goal is to help improve mental health treatment for a highly underrepresented group.

More of Yareli's research experience stems from her roles as Deputy Lab Manager and Research Assistant at INSPIRE Lab, which focuses on social topics within psychology. She also helps other research assistants prepare for their future within the field of psychology by offering advice on graduate school or career options after graduation.

In addition to her research experience, she is now a mentor for Psi Chi, the International Honor Society of Psychology. She meets bi-weekly with her mentee to discuss her academic and career goals and creating plans to achieve them. She hopes to be able to provide the best advice and help she can based on her own experiences.

Yareli's goal is to obtain a PhD in Clinical Psychology and become a criminal psychologist to possibly work in a prison setting. With her future career she hopes to gain a better understanding of particularly heinous crimes and participate in some form of activism for victims.