

EMMA CLAUDIA PEREZ, PHD

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EDUCATION

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| PhD | Developmental, Cognitive, & Behavioral Neuroscience (DCBN) Dissertation: Developmental Exercise Effects on Adult Brain and Behavior Committee chair: Dr. J. Leigh Leasure | 2020 |
| MA | Psychology (DCBN program) Advisors: Drs. M. Waleed Gaber & J. Leigh Leasure University of Houston | 2016 |
| BSs | Biology & Psychology, Summa Cum Laude (double degree) University of Houston | 2014 |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Postdoctoral Research Associate | | 2023 – current |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dept. of Educational Administration & Human Resource Development School of Education & Human Development Texas A&M University | |
| Postdoctoral Research Fellow | | 2021-2023 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dept. of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies College of Education University of Houston (UH). <i>PI: Elsa M. Gonzalez, PhD</i> | |
| Project Manager – secondary role | | 2021 – current |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dept. of Educational Administration & Human Resource Development School of Education & Human Development Texas A&M UniversityDept. of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, College of Education University of Houston (UH). <i>PI: Elsa M. Gonzalez, PhD</i> | |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| Postdoctoral research | | 2021-current |
| | NSF project: “Broadening Participation in STEM: A Qualitative Analysis of Resilience Experiences and Strategies of Latina STEM Majors in Hispanic Serving Institutions.” | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify and understand key factors that promote and hinder the success of Latina STEM majors at HSIs in Texas through qualitative methodology through asset-based and resilience approach. Use key factors to guide mentorship program centered on Latina undergraduates STEM majors within the same HSIs.Data management, analysis, and reporting/publishingProject management<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interviewing and hiring process of undergraduate and graduate studentsTraining and guiding research team members | |

Graduate research assistant – Brain Health & Plasticity Lab 2017-2020
Dept. of Psychology, UH. Advisor: J. Leigh Leasure, PhD

- Dissertation work: Developmental exercise effects on adult brain and behavior in rats
 - Determine if developmental exercise results in altered behavioral response to a challenge (stress) in adulthood, i.e. stress resilience, or reduced anxiety-like and depressive-like behavior.
 - Determine if developmental exercise buffers stress effects on brain structural plasticity through cell quantification in relevant rat brain region (hippocampus)

Graduate research assistant – Gaber Lab 2014-2017
Pediatric Dept., Baylor College Medicine / Texas Children's Hospital
Advisors: M. Waleed Gaber (PI) & J. Leigh Leasure, PhD (UH advisor)

- Contributed to multi-disciplinary, collaborative project funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute by investigating long-term outcomes of pediatric radiotherapy
 - Expertise in animal behavioral analysis: anxiety-like behavior, recognition memory, attention/inhibition, and ethologically relevant (olfactory) tasks

Undergraduate research assistant – Frankino Lab 2012-2014
Dept. of Biology & Biochemistry, UH. PI: W. Anthony (Tony) Frankino, PhD

- Fly colony maintenance and data collection on the experimental evolution of species
- *Environment-Phenotype Matching* summer 2013 project: examined relationship between thermally induced morphology and its reproductive success; funded by SURF fellowship (below) & presented at UH Undergraduate Research Day

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, UH Fall 2021
Instructor: Elsa Gonzalez, PhD

- *Research Methods in Education*: major research paradigms and how they determine research questions and methods.
 - Co-taught 3 lectures on quantitative methodology and assisted instructor as needed

Instructor, Department of Psychology, UH 2017 – 2020

- *Physiological Psychology*: an undergraduate course averaging 80 students per semester, covering the following topics: neuronal communication, neuroanatomy, addiction, biology of sex/gender, emotion/stress, body senses, and learning/memory
 - Lectures, exams, homework and in-class activities.
 - Revised syllabus to meet accreditation standards.
- *Introduction to Methods in Psychology Lab*: an introductory lab course where students learn how to write a research proposal, beginning with how to do a literature review.
 - Lectures (modified, provided from previous instructor) and grading of essay papers.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, UH 2014 – 2015

- *Introduction to Psychology*
 - Graded written examinations and assisted students with questions

PUBLICATIONS

Journal publications

Deis, C., Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E.C.** (2023). Roots of cultural resilience: A case study on the resilience of Latinx medical students. *Journal of Latinos and Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15348431.2023.2263783>

Tang, T. T., Zawaski, J. A., Kesler, S., Beamish, C. A., Inoue, T., **Perez, E. C.**, Bronk, L., Poenisch, F., Briere, T. M., Sabek, O. M., Grosshans, D. R., & Gaber, M. W. (2021). Cognitive and imaging differences after proton and photon whole brain irradiation in a preclinical model. *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2021.09.005>

Perez, E. C., Bravo, D. R., Rodgers, S. P., Khan, A. R., & Leasure, J. L. (2019). Shaping the adult brain with exercise during development: Emerging evidence and knowledge gaps. *International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdevneu.2019.06.006>

Perez, E. C., Rodgers, S. P., Inoue, T., Pedersen, S. E., Leasure, J. L., & Gaber, M. W. (2018). Olfactory memory impairment differs by sex in a rodent model of pediatric radiotherapy. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdevneu.2019.06.006>

Book chapter publications

Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** (2023). Latina resilience in engineering and the impact of COVID: Strategies of success in a Hispanic serving institution. In L. Perez-Felkner, S. L. Rodriguez, & C. Fluker (Eds.), *Latin* students in engineering: An intentional focus on a growing population*. [Manuscript in press]. Rutgers University Press.

Conference proceedings

Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** (2022). CAREER: Broadening Participation in STEM: A Qualitative Analysis of Resilience Experiences and Strategies of Latina STEM Majors in Hispanic Serving Institutions NSF Award # 2045802. In *Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education*.

In review / submitted and in preparation (submitted 2/6)

Montecinos, M. J., Sevilla, M. P., González, E., & **Perez, E. C.** (2023). *Latina resilience in STEM: The case of Chilean female faculty in Vocational-Technical Education*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Houston.

Perez, E. C., Gehm, K.H., Gaume Lobo, V., Leasure, L. J. (2023). *Adulthood effects of developmental exercise in male and female rats*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Houston.

Gonzalez, E., **Perez, E. C.**, Sanchez Hernandez, I., Deis, C., & Corral, J. (2023). *Embracing Latina Learners' Assets in STEM (ELLAS) at a Hispanic Serving Institution*. [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development, Texas A&M University.

Perez, E. C., Gonzalez, E., Sanchez Hernandez, I. (2023). *Latina Students' Resilience Strategies in STEM Spaces in an HSI*. [Manuscript in preparation.] Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development, Texas A&M University.

Perez, E.C., Corral, J., & Gonzalez E. (2023). *ELLAS peer mentoring among Latinas in STEM: Developing meaningful relationships and support*. [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development, Texas A&M University.

Rivera, J., Garcia, K. A., Martinez-Cortes, J., & **Perez, E.C.** (2024). Developing a Community of Postdoctoral Scholars to Enhance Latinas' Experience into the Academy. [Manuscript in preparation].

Other

Corral, J., Perez, E. C., & González, E. (2022, November 12). *Latina in STEM Student Peer Mentorship Handbook*. Houston, Texas.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic Presentations & Proceedings

Higher education research & scholarship

Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.** Latina Resilience in Engineering: Strategies of Success in a Hispanic Serving Institution. In S. Rodriguez (Chair), *Constructing Educational Possibilities for Latin* Engineering Students: Call to Action for the Institutions and Systems That Serve Them* [Symposium submission]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

Perez, E. C., Gonzalez, E., & Sanchez Hernandez, I. How do Latina STEM majors succeed in an HSI? Resilience Strategies in STEM spaces. In F. Contreras (Chair), *Advancing Latino/a/e STEM Education Research in Hispanic Serving Institutions* [Symposium submission]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.

Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** & Corral, J. *Servingness in Action: Latinas Mentoring Latinas in STEM* [Paper presentation accepted]. Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

Rivera, J., Garcia, K. A., Martinez-Cortes, J., **Perez, E. C.** *Developing a community of postdoctoral scholars to enhance Latinas' experience into the academy* [Presentation accepted]. Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Corral, J., Pacheco, H., **Perez, E. C.**, & Gonzalez, E. (2023, May 17-20). Practice-based Servingness: Mentoring Latinas in STEM in HSIs using strategies of success [Poster presentation]. Annual International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Urbana, IL, United States.

Montecinos, M. J., Sevilla, M. P., Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.** (2023, May 4-5). *Latina resilience in STEM field: the case of Chilean female faculty in Vocational-Technical Education* [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, United States.

- Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** (2023, April 13-6). Are HSIs in Texas Serving Latinas in STEM? In L. Leyva (Chair), *Servingness in STEM education for Latiné/a/o/x/* students across Hispanic-Serving Institutions* [Symposium]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Corral, J., **Perez, E. C.**, & Gonzalez, E. (2023, March 1-3). *Latina STEM Student Peer Mentorship: Applying Strategies of Success in HSIs* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE), North Las Vegas, NV, United States.
- Perez, E. C.**, Gonzalez, E., Sanchez Hernandez, I., & Corral, J. (2023, February 23-25). *Embracing Latina Learners' Assets in STEM (ELLAS) in Texas* [Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE), Houston, TX, United States.
- Deis, C., Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.** (2022, November 16-19). *Roots of cultural resilience: A case study on the resilience of Latinx medical students* [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV, United States.
- Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.**, & Horn, C. (2022, November 16-19). *Embracing Latina Learners' Assets in STEM (ELLAS)* [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV, United States.
- Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.** (2022, June 26-29). *CAREER: Broadening Participation in STEM: A Qualitative Analysis of Resilience Experiences and Strategies of Latina STEM Majors in Hispanic Serving Institutions NSF Award # 2045802* [Poster presentation and Paper]. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Gonzalez, E., & **Perez, E. C.** (2022, June 26-29). *Towards Enacting Hispanic-Servingness within Engineering* [Panel presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** (2022, April 21-26). *Latina Resilience in STEM, Strategies of Success in a Texas Hispanic-Serving Institution*. In R. Lopez (Chair), *From early college to graduate school: Highlighting multiple experiences of Latina students in Hispanic-Serving Institutions* [Symposium]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA, United States.
- Perez, E. C.** & Gonzalez, E. (2022, February 27-March 2). *An Asset-Based Approach: Resilience Strategies and Experiences of Latinas in STEM*. [Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, Fort Worth, TX, United States.
- Gonzalez, E. & **Perez, E. C.** (2021, November 3-6). *Latina Resilience in STEM and the impact of COVID, Strategies of Success in Hispanic Serving Institutions*. [Poster presentation]. Transforming STEM Higher Education, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU), virtual.
- Deis, C., **Perez, E. C.**, Gonzalez, E. (2021, October 14). *Latina Resilience in STEM, Strategies of Success in a Texas HSI*. [Presentation]. Latinx Connect Conference, virtual.

Behavioral neuroscience (graduate research)

Perez, E. C. & Leasure, J. L. (2019, November 1). *The long-term effects of developmental exercise on outcomes of stress in adulthood* [Poster presentation]. Annual SACNAS conference, Honolulu, HI, United States.

Perez, E. C., Leasure, J. L., Gaber, M.W. (2016, October). *Olfactory memory deficit: An ethological measurement of radiation -induced impairment in an animal model.* [Poster presentation]. Annual conference of the Radiation Research Society, Hilton Waikoloa Village in Waikoloa Village, HI, United States.

Perez, E. C., Inoue, T., Leasure, J. L., Gaber, M. W. (2016, April) *Olfactory memory impairment in an animal model of pediatric radiotherapy.* [Poster presentation]. Texas Children's Hospital Annual Research Symposium, Houston, TX, United States.

Perez, E. C., Inoue, T., Leasure, J. L., Gaber, M. W. (2015, November) *Olfactory memory deficits in an animal model of pediatric radiotherapy.* [Poster presentation]. Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference, Renaissance Arboretum Hotel in Austin, TX, United States.

Other Academic Presentations

Perez, E. C. & Leasure, J. L. (2020, 2019, 2018). Developmental exercise effects on adult brain and behavior. [Oral presentations]. Annual DCBN Brown Bag Seminar, UH.

Ramirez A., **Perez E. C.**, Saiz, L., & Azevedo R. (2019, November 2). *Transitioning from your Undergraduate to Graduate Career.* [Oral presentation]. Annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Honolulu, HI, United States.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mentorship (various regionalities)

Las Comadres College Mentoring program at UH 2021 – 2023

Latina undergraduate student and faculty/staff informal mentoring group

- Paired with undergraduate per academic year or semester

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Mentor Activation for Students (MAS) program 2022

- Paired with 2 undergraduate mentees in life science > guidance via direct support (eg. reviewing grad school application) and/or indirect support (eg. discussions of being Latine in STEM)

SACNAS-UH chapter mentoring 2019 – 2021

- Leading/guiding and mentorship of undergraduates for STEM research
 - Professional and personal development of undergraduate students
 - Guidance on graduate school applications/process

Teaching and guidance during graduate PhD work 2018 – 2020

- Taught approx. 9 undergraduates laboratory techniques and how to work with animals
- Advice on graduate school/applications and editing their apps

National

Latina Postdoc Collaborative – Co-founder & Executive 2022 - ongoing

Multi-institutional group of Latina postdoc scholars researching STEM education in Hispanic serving institutions (currently in process of formalization)

- Community for professional and personal development

Peer-review

- Reviewed proposals for AERA’s Annual Conference 2023 – 2024
- Reviewed proposals for ASHE’s Annual Conference 2022 – 2023
- Student applications for attendance to the annual SACNAS conference 2021 – 2022
 - Spring and/or summer application rounds
 - Review student research abstract or travel scholarship applications which include letters of recommendation and purpose statements
- “Mentor judge” at the SACNAS virtual conference 2021
 - Provided constructive feedback on students’ poster presentations and/or advice and support to support their growth in STEM.
- Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering 2021
 - 1 manuscript

State

Invited co-speaker –, EDAD 5371/6371 University of Texas at El Paso October 2023

- **Leading Hispanic-Serving Institutions** Invited speaker on a panel on HSI STEM research for a class in the

University & Departmental

Symposium speaker for Latinas REACH, University of Houston October 2021

Latinas Realizing Educational Attainment as a Community of Hermanas (REACH) Symposium, Centering the Latina Experience in Higher Ed

- Invited speaker for break-out session on *Latinas in STEM*

Co-founder of the SACNAS chapter at University of Houston 2018 – 2021

- Establish foundation for student organization with team of undergraduates
- Submitted annual reports to the national SACNAS Headquarters
- Recruitment of members and undergraduate student leadership
- Lead host for *First Generation Students: Minorities in STEM, A Panel Discussion*, SACNAS–UH Chapter & the Latinx United Student Association (LUSA) at UH, (2021, April 19).

Seminar planning – Planning committee member 2017 – 2020

- Developmental, Cognitive, & Behavioral Neuroscience (DCBN) Brown Bag
 - Weekly seminar speakers chosen by DCBN committee per semester

Local / Community service

Judge at the annual Science Engineering Fair of Houston February 2016, 2018- 2019, 2023
Judging of various posters/projects completed by middle and high school students. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

Graduate

- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities scholarship program: 2019-2020
Café Bustelo El Café Del Futuro Scholarship (\$2,500/semester)
- Cullen Graduate Fellowship Travel Grant (\$750) 2019
- Graduate Tuition Fellowship 2014-2020

Undergraduate

- Dean's list 2010 – 2014
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (\$3,500) 2013
- Academic Excellence Scholarship (\$4,500/yr) 2009 – 2013
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Metropolitan Scholarship (\$3,750/yr) 2009 – 2013
- Edmonds Educational Scholarship (\$2,000) 2010
- Top Ten Percent Scholarship (\$2,000) 2009

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Workshop – Understanding the Power and Potential of Mixed Method Designs in Higher Education

Workshop in the ASHE 2023 conference, November 18, 2022

Workshop – Write Winning Grant Proposals (virtual)

Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops. PO Box CA, United States. Sept. 23 – 24, 2021

Seminar – Summer Grant Writing Seminar (virtual),

Office of Faculty Engagement and Development & Division of Research, UH. June – July 2021.
Bimonthly session for writing and speakers from NSF and NIH.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) 2022 – current
- National Research Mentoring Network 2022 – current
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2021 – current
- Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) 2021 – current
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS; national organization) 2018 – 2021, current
- Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) 2021 – 2022
- Society for Neuroscience 2018 – 2019
- Association for Psychological Science 2019
- Radiation Research Society 2016

OTHER

Programming, Applications, or Platforms: Dedoose, SPSS statistical software.

Laboratory techniques (graduate research): rodent behavioral methods and analyses, immunohistochemistry, stereological cell quantification.

Languages: English & Spanish (native language)