



# La Comunidad

California Latinx Psychological Association

Volume XV March 2022

The California Latinx Psychological Association (CLPA) is dedicated to advocating and serving the mental health needs of the Latinx community. CLPA is invested in the clinical, research and academic issues related to Latinx Psychology. The CLPA advocates for social justice regarding the issues that impact the mental health of Latinx communities; and the quality of education, training and work environments of Latinx Psychologists.

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## President's Column

Dear CLPA Familia,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to a very special edition of our newsletter, as it inaugurates the 2021-2023 CLPA Board and a new year 2022 in our Gregorian calendar! Additional information regarding our new board members is available on our website at [myCLPA.org](http://myCLPA.org).

It is my hope that this newsletter will plant the seed towards strengthening the ties among all CLPA members. Thus, in this current edition, we are introducing our CLPA leadership team to offer a glimpse into our stories and shared interest to hopefully inspire fruitful collaborations in our CLPA *Familia*. My emphasis on connections comes from the acknowledgement of current uncertainties, highlighted inequalities, grief, and social distancing. It is in this context where a lesson learned from my Quechua ancestors brings a ray of light and hope: “*Ñaupaqman puriy, qhepaman chayay*” (*camina hacia adelante y llegaras hacia atrás; walk forward and you will reach backward*). The Quechua people, alike many other communities, experience their world through the balanced relationship between beings, cosmos, nature, space, and time. Also, in Quechua, the same word *Ñawpa* depicted past and ahead. They recognized their past was visible and in front of them as a lighthouse guiding their present. This vision differs from our Western view of linear time. In the present circumstances where the notions of planning and interconnectedness are being challenged, I pause and wonder how we can draw from ancestral wisdom and ponder on our past to navigate our ambiguous present (and future) as individuals and community.

As a recently elected team, our CLPA Board strives to collectively care for our/your organization from an appreciation of the past *in front of us*. Therefore, we celebrate all the contributions from all our past presidents, Board members, and community partners whose wisdom have shaped the present and future of CLPA. As an organization we recognize the richness in every member's voice and in the connection of our unique experiences. We look forward to listening to each of you, seeing each of you, and affirming the wisdom that each of you/us bring into this organization. I invite you to explore and embrace your identity as a CLPA member and join our journey to promote education, advocacy, fellowship, and empowerment as means to foster *Bienestar* in our personal and professional Latinx communities.

With gratitude,

Teresa Celada Dalton, Ph.D.

*CLPA President*

## CLPA Officers!

**President:**

Teresa Celada-Dalton, Ph.D.  
*Pepperdine University*

**Secretary:**

Maribel Leon, Ph.D.  
*CA Dept. of State Hospitals Patton  
State Hospital*

**Treasurer:**

Jesus Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
*CA Dept of State Hospitals  
Patton State Hospital*

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Susan Arias Klenk, Ph.D. Candidate  
*Pepperdine University*

Denise Patino, MA, AMFT  
*Alliant International University*

**Social and Events Co-Chairs:**

Alejandra Alvarez, MA, LMFT  
*Private Practice, Long Beach, CA*

Jennifer Medina Vaughn, Ph.D.  
*Pepperdine University*

**Website Coordinators:**

Gabriela Pineda, MA, AMFT,  
& PsyD. Clinical Psychology Student  
*Pepperdine University*

Jacqueline Florian, MA, AMFT, &  
PsyD. Marital & Family Therapy  
Student  
*Alliant International University*

**Community Outreach/Fundraising Coordinator:**

Mercedes P. Palacios, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow *New York-Presbyterian  
Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center*

**Social Media Coordinators:**

Tamara Obregon Madera, PsyD.  
*Joy in Healing Psychotherapy & Assessment, Inc.*

Jacqueline Juarez, MA, PsyD. Clinical Psychology  
Student  
*Pepperdine University*

**Newsletter Editors:**

Leticia Arellano-Morales, Ph.D.  
*University of La Verne*

Danusia Nedilskyj Ph.D.  
*Private Practice*

**\*Early Career Representative:**

Connie Morlett, MA, LMFT  
*Morlett Counseling and Psychotherapy*  
\* Position will become vacant after April 2022

**Northern California Representative:**

Martha Hernández, Ph.D.  
*Ronald McDonald House Charities &  
Palo Alto University*

**Student Representatives:**

Rosa M Marín, MA, AMFT, & PsyD.  
Clinical Psychology Student  
*Pepperdine University*

Karla Y. Rodas, MA, AMFT, & PsyD.  
Clinical Psychology Student  
*Pepperdine University*

For further information or inquiries, please contact Dr. Celada-Dalton at  
[drtcelada@gmail.com](mailto:drtcelada@gmail.com)



## CLPA Mission Statement

The California Latinx Psychological Association (CLPA) is dedicated to advocating and serving the mental health needs of the Latinx community. CLPA is invested in the clinical, research and academic issues related to Latinx Psychology. The CLPA advocates for social justice on issues affecting the mental health of Latinx communities; and the quality of education, training and work environments of Latinx Psychologists. The CLPA has the following goals:

- A. To advance the development, understanding and dissemination of Latinx Psychology by fostering its application for the benefit of Latino communities throughout California;
- B. To advocate for the enhancement and integration of research, practice and scholarship on Latinx mental health issues.
- C. To improve the quality of training that prepares all mental health service providers to work with Latinx communities and to endorse the study of Latino issues in psychology.
- D. To facilitate interdisciplinary communication by creating a network among Latinx service providers and educators of all disciplines who address the quality of life and mental health issues within the Latinx community.
- E. To promote and support mentoring programs that specifically prepare Latinx psychologists and other mental health workers to become leaders in the field and to advocate Latinx Psychology as an area of study.

The California Latinx Psychological Association is open to all those who are interested in Latinx mental health issues, endorse the principles of the CLPA, meet the membership requirements, and participate in the development of the association.



## Meet Our New CLPA Board Members!



### ***Teresa Celada Dalton, Ph.D. – President***

Dr. Celada-Dalton is a licensed psychologist who earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Irvine and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an Emphasis in Individual, Couples and Families from the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University.

Dr. Celada Dalton also completed an APA accredited post-doctoral fellowship at CHLA-USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities where she specialized in the assessment and treatment of childhood trauma within a multidisciplinary setting. She worked as a psychologist and clinical supervisor at the Community Mental Health Center of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Project HEAL Trauma Program where she provided supervision and training to doctoral psychology trainees, as well as culturally sensitive treatment to children and families impacted by trauma. Dr. Celada-Dalton also served as the Associate Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where she coordinated mental health services for survivors of abuse. Finally, Dr. Celada-Dalton teaches at Pepperdine University's MFT program with an emphasis in Latinx communities. In this role, she teaches graduate courses and coordinated a professional summer immersion program in Argentina and Peru. Starting April 2022 Dr. Celada Dalton will join Pepperdine University's Community Counseling Center at the Irvine GSEP Campus as Clinic Director.



### ***Maribel Leon Ph.D. - Secretary***

Dr. Leon attended the University of California, Riverside, and earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Law & Society and Spanish. She also attended California Baptist University, and earned a master's degree in Counseling Psychology, with an emphasis in Forensic Psychology from Pepperdine University.

Dr. Leon also completed an APA accredited internship at the Department of State Hospitals-Atascadero. She transferred to DSH-Patton and works with patients adjudicated as Incompetent to Stand Trial. Dr. Leon also participates in the training program at DSH-Patton. Dr. Leon is a licensed psychologist and has a private practice. She conducts psychodiagnostic assessments related to ADHD, learning disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and mood disorders. She also participates in the University of California Riverside's Summer Student Alumni Mentorship Program and mentors individuals interested in psychology.

Lastly, Dr. Leon's clinical interests include severe mental illness, forensic setting, competency to stand trial, and clinical work with diverse populations. She is passionate about working with underserved populations that would not otherwise receive clinical services.



***Susan Arias Klenk, MA - Membership Co-Chair***

Susan Arias Klenk is a first-generation Ecuadorian American, mother of two teenagers, and spouse of 15 years. Her family sacrificed their love and time to enable her to devote the necessary time and energy to her academic and career accomplishments. She is guided by her faith and spiritual beliefs, a sense of compassion, cultural humility and social justice.

Ms. Arias Klenk is oriented by Humanistic, Liberation and Community psychologies and incorporates cognitive behavioral techniques such as modeling, exploration of thoughts, and role playing, as well as mindfulness practices as tools for self care and emotional tolerance. She is currently a fifth-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at Pepperdine University. She earned a BA in Psychology from California State University San Marcos and a MA in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy with Latinx from Pepperdine University. Ms. Arias Klenk's clinical interests include working from a multicultural and social justice relational approach by recognizing intersecting identities, acculturation, cultural influences on decision making and values, and cultural humility. She also focuses on the impact of racial trauma, from microaggressions and inequities within educational, health field, and criminal justice systems to vicarious and direct racial violence on the health and well-being of Latinx communities.

Ms. Arias Klenk's research interests include mental health stigma, health disparities, religious/spiritual, attitudinal and structural barriers to care, racial/ethnic identity development, trauma, adversity, and resilience. She gained research experience and training in community-based participatory research (CBPR). She is passionate about her commitment to justice, equity, and rights of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).



***Denise Patino, MA, AMFT – Membership Co-Chair***

Denise Patino is an AMFT who earned her B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Northridge and a M.A. in Clinical Psychology MFT/Latino emphasis from Pepperdine University's Aliento Program.

Ms. Patino is currently pursuing her PsyD. in Clinical Psychology, MFT at Alliant International University. She works as a mental health clinician for Wraparound Intensive Mental Health Services under Los Angeles County. She currently works with at-risk children/youth with an open DCFS and/or probation case. She previously worked with clients with eating disorders at a psychiatric hospital.

Her areas of expertise include the following: Depression, trauma, eating disorders, anxiety, LGBTQ+, veterans, family conflict, grief, adoption, coping skills, domestic violence, emotional disturbance, sexual abuse, stress, abuse, parenting, peer relationships, and working with minorities. Ms. Patino values working with the Latinx community and is working to eliminate the stigma of mental illness.



***Jose De Jesus Rodriguez, Ph.D. - Treasurer***

Dr. Rodriguez earned his Ph.D. in 2006 from the combined program in Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology at Utah State University. He completed an APA approved pre-doctoral internship at Patton State Hospital (PSH) before joining PSH as a staff member in 2006.

Dr. Rodriguez' primary duties include providing clinical/forensic psychological services to individuals with severe mental illness who were criminally adjudicated and committed to a psychiatric hospital for treatment. He has a strong interest in psychotherapy, assessment, and forensic psychology. Dr. Rodriguez uses an integrative approach although client-centered theory is foundational in his clinical work.

Dr. Rodriguez also has a strong interest in ethnic minority mental health issues, with special emphasis on the relationship between acculturation and mental health. When Dr. Rodriguez is not working, he enjoys watching sports, watching films, fishing, and spending time with his family.



***Connie Morlette, MA, LMFT - Early Career Representative***

Effective May 2022 Ms. Connie Morlette is transitioning out and we wish her the best. Below are some words from Ms. Morlette to all our CLPA members. If you are interested in this position, please email Dr. Celada-Dalton at [drcelada@gmail.com](mailto:drcelada@gmail.com)

Dear CLPA Community,

It is an honor to formally say farewell to the roles of CLPA Board Member and Early Career Specialist at the end of April 2022.

I joined CLPA while still in my MFT program in 2009. And since then, I abundantly received, and later returned the support that is so needed for upcoming Latinx and BIPOC students and clinicians. I knew that having CLPA by my side gave me the confidence, camaraderie, and skills set that I required to become a more culturally humble and competent therapist for our community. And, for this, I am eternally grateful.

My hope is that in my leadership role, I, too, have left one or more clinicians a little more confident than when we met.

Thank you, CLPA Team and members, for over a decade of memories, familia y amor! I will remain a dedicated lifelong member of CLPA and wish you all the best!

Let's stay connected!

In Love,  
Connie Morlett, LMFT





***Jacqueline Juarez, MA - Social Media Coordinator***

Jacqueline Juarez is currently a first-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Pepperdine University. She earned a M.A. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy with Latinx from Pepperdine University.

Ms. Juarez participated in qualitative research that focused on the collaborative communication styles among children from Mexico, as well as parent-child interactions. As a first-generation Latina, she is committed to serving the Latinx community by providing culturally and integrated mental health care. Her current interests include Spanish assessments, the intersection of religion and culture within Latinx children's neurodevelopmental disorders, and therapeutic services to Latinx children and adolescents. Other interests include parenting, culture, and Latinx children's attachment.



***Tamara Obregon Madera, PsyD. Social Media Coordinator***

Dr. Obregon Madera is a bilingual/bicultural English/Spanish speaking licensed clinical psychologist with a dual one-year post-doctoral specialization/training in rehabilitation psychology and neuropsychology.

Dr. Obregon Madera's master's thesis focused the assessment of executive functioning in college students presenting with attention deficits. She completed a second master's degree and doctoral degree at the APA accredited Clinical-Community Psychology program at the University of La Verne. Her dissertation focused on the cognitive assessment of adults following unilateral cerebrovascular accident. She current reviews for the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology, Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, and Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology.

Dr. Obregon Madera's pre-doctoral experiential training focused on the neuropsychological assessment of children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. She completed her APA accredited internship at the Child and Family Guidance Center and focused on the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. In her psychotherapy practice she frequently works with clients who present with a range of medical and psychological issues including stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, health issues related to aging, chronic pain, grief and loss, and individuals coping with new levels of functioning following medical decline. She also has experience working with parents with children with developmental and acquired disability. Dr. Obregon Madera provides neuropsychological assessments to clients 16 and older for concerns related to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other genetic/developmental disorders, learning disabilities, and psychiatric illness. She also provides neuropsychological services in English and/or Spanish to adults and older adults for concerns related to the diagnosis and treatment of stroke, traumatic brain injury and concussion, dementia, and other psychiatric and medical illnesses.



***Jacqueline Florian, MA, AMFT – Website Coordinator***

Jacqueline Florian earned her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Alliant International University, Los Angeles. She is currently a second-year student in the Psy.D. Marital and Family Therapy Program at Alliant International University.

Ms. Florian is also a registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and has worked with marginalized communities. Her research interests include the impact of deportation and separation on Latinx immigrant families, as well as the impact of internalized racism on Latinx children and adolescents. Ms. Florian also hopes that her work can help create positive changes within others, both within her clinical work and research.



***Gabriela Pineda, MA, AMFT – Website Coordinator***

Gabriela Pineda earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the Aliento Program at Pepperdine University. She is a first-generation transfer student and earned B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Dance.

Ms. Pineda is currently works with Open Door Center in Santa Ana, CA and Casa De La Familia in Los Angeles as an AMFT. She is currently preparing to pursue a doctoral degree while maintaining her clinical practice. In her work with Victims of Crime, she has grown interested in adapting a Radical Healing framework into her practice and hopes to help clients move beyond surviving and coping. Ms. Pineda also initiated a Wellness Circle that is open to mental health professionals to promote *el que la cultura cura*.

Ms. Pineda is passionate about providing culturally-attuned services to those who experienced the stigma of mental health and hopes to help break intergenerational trauma cycles. She values working with the community and hopes to create space for collective healing to occur.

*When we drop fear, we can draw nearer to people, we can draw nearer to the earth, we can draw nearer to all the heavenly creatures that surround us.* - Bell Hooks



***Jennifer Medina Vaughn, Ph.D. – Social & Events Coordinator***

Dr. Vaughn is a scholar-practitioner and earned a M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology. She also earned a M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Mount St. Mary's University.

Dr. Vaughn is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and has several years of experience providing crisis intervention and stabilization services for underserved children and adolescents within inpatient and community-based settings. Dr. Vaughn has a broad background in psychology with specific training in the study of immigration and social determinism. Her research focuses primarily on the development and mental health needs of preschool-aged children of immigrants and opportunities for prevention and intervention at the community level. Dr. Vaughn is presently studying the impacts of anti-immigrant policy on young children of immigrants' mental and physical health. Currently, Dr. Vaughn is an Assistant Professor for the MACLP program at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology. In this role, her teaching approach emphasizes integration of research-based knowledge, theory, and clinical practice. Her teaching interests include research and evaluation methods, legal and ethical issues, and mental health assessment.

As a Mexican American woman and daughter of immigrants, Dr. Vaughn is committed to extending the reach of diverse voices in academia, mental health, and public policy.



***Alejandra Alvarez, MA., LMFT  
Social & Events Coordinator***

Alejandra Alvarez is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and earned her B.A. in psychology from CSU Long Beach, and a M.A., in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy from Pacifica Graduate Institute.

Ms. Alvarez completed her internship training hours in community mental health agencies. She is a licensed MFT and has a private practice in Long Beach, CA. She provides mental health services to individuals of all ages, as well as couples and families. Ms. Alvarez also serves as a provisional clinical supervisor to case manager staff that assist families for a Family Preservation Program. Ms. Alvarez serves as a mental health provider for couples who experienced domestic violence in a nonprofit organization located in Los Angeles, Becky's Angels Inc. She was born and raised in a small town in Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. in her late teens. As an immigrant, she also honors and values the healing traditions of her culture, and integrates the cultural ancestral healing practices of her roots and psychological theories within her clinical practice.

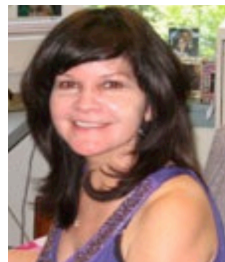


***Danusia Nedilskyj, Ph.D. - Newsletter Co-Editor***

Dr. Nedilskyj obtained her B.A in Psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis on Pediatric Psychology from Loma Linda University. Upon completion of her degree, she completed an advanced, APA accredited two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Division of Adolescent Medicine.

While there, Dr. Nedilskyj provided individual therapy and comprehensive psychological assessments to adolescents and young adults, within a multidisciplinary setting. Since then, she has worked in private practice, held an Adjunct position with Pepperdine University. She also served as a clinical supervisor for a non-profit organization that serves the Latinx community and also partnered with the Victims of Crime program. In particular, she provided bilingual supervision to practicum students, associates, psychology interns and post-docs. Currently, Dr Nedilskyj maintains a full time private practice and largely works with first generation Latinx young adults in their college adjustment, as well as provides trauma-informed and culturally relevant services to other BIPOC young adults.

As a daughter of immigrants, Dr. Nedilskyj is committed to connecting with the Latinx community by working with other daughters and sons of immigrants. She is committed to help them explore their own unique identities and intersectionalities, and helping break the stigma of mental health in the Latinx culture.



***Leticia Arellano-Morales, Ph.D.,  
Newsletter Co-Editor***

Dr. Arellano-Morales earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Michigan State University. She also completed an APA-approved predoctoral internship at UT Austin's Counseling Center.

Dr. Arellano-Morales is currently a Professor of Psychology and interim chair of the Marriage & Family Therapy program at the University of La Verne. Her research and clinical interests include Latinx health and mental health, multicultural counseling competencies, and BIPOC women. She co-edited the *Handbook of Chicana/o Mental Health* (2004) with Dr. Brian McNeill and Dr. Roberto Velasquez and wrote *Latina/o American Health and Mental Health* (2018) with Dr. Erica Sosa. In collaboration with Dr. Fernando Ortiz and Dr. Brian McNeill, they recently published, *Mexican Psychology: Indigenous, Colonial, and Postmodern Contributions*, to highlight the numerous contributions of indigenous peoples and psychologists from Mexico. Her motivation for her professional work stems from the strong mujeres in her familia, and childhood experiences from living in a rural community near the California-Mexico border. Dr. Arellano-Morales enjoys teaching and mentoring college students and strives to increase the educational pipeline of talented Latinx students.





***Rosa M. Marín, MA, AMFT – Student Representative***

Rosa M. Marín is a doctoral student and earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ms. Marín earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pepperdine University. She is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and is currently pursuing her PsyD. in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University.

Ms. Marín currently works as a bilingual primary therapist with underserved populations who are navigating substance use at Avedis Recovery, Inc. She is also a primary therapist at Pepperdine Community Counseling Clinic, as well as a neuropsychology extern at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles. Her clinical interests include working with populations impacted by trauma and providing culturally sensitive treatment in both Spanish and English. Ms. Marín is also interested in becoming a board-certified neuropsychologist and providing services to adults with challenges in neurologic functioning. She has a strong relationship with her dimensions of diversity and values humility, inclusivity, and compassion. She strives to create a safe space for all individuals within clinical and nonclinical settings.



***Karla Y. Rodas, MA, AMFT  
Student Representative***

Karla Y. Rodas earned her master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Southern California. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University.

By recognizing her intersecting identities and narrative as a Hispanic/Latinx woman, Ms. Rodas gained insight on how to integrate cultural sensitivity into her work. She places this insight into practice by learning how to be proactive in adopting the needed skills to work with a diverse clientele. One of these skills is utilizing her linguistic capacity to reduce language barriers by providing services in both Spanish and English.

Ms. Rodas' past experience in the field included working in community mental health with children, adolescents, and adults in the following modalities: individual, family, and group. Most of her work has focused on assisting clients with adjustment issues, self-esteem, grief/loss, ADHD, anxiety, and depression. Working with children, families, and adults with a wide range of concerns (i.e., terminal illness, trauma, depression, anxiety, and adjustment disorders). When working with clients Ms. Rodas values meeting them at the place in their journey, as for some clients, this may be their first time in therapy. The foundation of her work is dedicated to creating a safe space and trusting relationship where her clients feel heard/understood. All in all, she believes that with therapy clients can uncover their full potential by utilizing the tools within themselves to help heal their invisible wounds.



**Martha Hernández, Ph.D. – Northern California Representative**

Dr. Martha Hernández is a bilingual clinical psychologist. She earned her B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles and earned both her masters and doctorate in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology - Los Angeles.

Dr. Hernández is the Associate Director of Family Support Services Manager at Ronald McDonald House Charities, Bay Area where she created and implemented a Spanish Track, which includes Spanish supervision and didactics for trainees. Additionally, Dr. Hernández provides training to practicum students who work with chronically and critically ill children and their families. Her areas of clinical and research interest include bilingual pedagogy and training, social justice and advocacy for BIPOC individuals, providing trauma-informed and culturally relevant services to immigrants, and working with families with a child with a critical illness.

Additionally, Dr. Hernández is a clinical supervisor for Clínica Latina, at Palo Alto University and is highly involved with the PAU Latinx Taskforce. She is an adjunct professor at Palo Alto University, where she taught the first cross-programmatic Spanish clinical interviewing course and at Santa Clara University, as part of the Latinx emphasis. She maintains a private practice and provides psychotherapy, consultation to organizations and conducts psychological immigration evaluations. As a daughter of Mexican farmworkers, Dr. Hernández personally observed their struggles as immigrants, and has made their story her passion to advocate for the Latinx community. Lastly, although she currently resides in the Bay Area, her heart remains in southern California.



**Carrie Castañeda-Sound, Ph.D. – CLPA Advisor**

Dr. Castañeda-Sound is a member of the core faculty of Aliento: The Center for Latinx Communities and is a licensed psychologist.

Dr. Castañeda-Sound's teaching and research interests include Latinx psychology, Liberation psychology, and Mujerista Psychology. She directs the Language, Culture, and Gender Lab. She is also the director of the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with an Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy: Evening Format program. Dr. Castañeda-Sound is also president of APA's Division 35-The Society for the Psychology of Women. In collaboration Dr. Lillian Comas-Diaz, they coedited a special issue in Women and Therapy about Feminist Liberation Psychology for Latinx womxn. She is guided by the principle *In Lak'Ech / I Am You, You Are Me* (Luis Valdez, 1971).



***Mercedes P. Palacios, Ph.D. – Community Outreach/Fundraising Coordinator***

Dr. Palacios is a bilingual (Spanish/English) and bicultural Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and is currently working towards becoming a Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

Dr. Palacios earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Child/Adolescent Trauma from Palo Alto University. She earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pepperdine University. She also earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her clinical interests include childhood trauma, parenting, Latinx mental health, immigrant mental health, and social justice advocacy.

Dr. Palacios' research experience includes using community-based research methods to understand the trajectories of newcomer immigrant youth, complex trauma in immigrant populations, and risk and resilience factors among youth. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at Children's National Hospital in Washington D.C. and is currently completing her postdoctoral fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Palacios comes from a Mexican and Guatemalan background and was raised in South Central Los Angeles. She is keenly aware of the mental health disparities that exist in minority populations and has a genuine and deep desire to advocate for and improve the lives of ethnic minority and under-served populations, particularly Latinx youth and families. Dr. Palacios strives to be a culturally humble bilingual psychologist that provides services in underserved, low-income communities.



## JOIN US!

If you would like to become a member select your membership level and complete our online membership application. If you encounter any difficulties with completing your membership application online, please contact [myclpainfo@gmail.com](mailto:myclpainfo@gmail.com)

**Institution/Organization - \$100.00 (USD) One-Year - *The institution/organization must endorse CLPA's principles set forth in the bylaws and mission statement.***

**Mental Health Associate - \$30.00 (USD) One-Year - *Degree earned must be a bachelor's or master's degree in Psychology or a related field.***

**Professional - \$40.00 (USD) One-Year - *Must have a doctoral degree in Psychology or related field from a regionally accredited institution.***

**Student - \$10.00 (USD) One-Year - *Must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in the field of psychology or a related field.***

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**We are on the Web!**

*Visit us at:*

<https://www.myclpa.org/>

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The California Latinx Psychological Association was founded upon the guiding principles of enhancing the research, training, and practice of Latinx Psychology in California. In addition, we understand the need to become social advocates within the community of mental health professionals and for our community. While our numbers continue to increase, our voice slowly follows. In order to thrive, The CLPA must educate our students, colleagues, and Latinx/a communities across California.

As a state-chapter affiliate to the National Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA), The CLPA serves as an opportunity for professionals to network and dialogue about the mental health issues that affect the Latinx community in California. The CLPA is the platform that facilitates the process of uniting us to work towards one goal, advancing Latinx Psychology.

The CLPA is open to all individuals who endorse our mission. We welcome everyone and look forward to working with psychologists and other mental health professionals of all backgrounds invested in the Latinx community. We look forward to your membership!