

ARI ACOSTA (she/ella)

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Fully Work Authorized • No Visa Sponsorship Required • Austin, TX

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mental health and equity specialist known for providing deep expertise and authenticity to the work, while supporting organizations and mental health professionals on delivering effective, culturally responsive and quality services for their communities. International speaker and trainer, passionate about educational and workforce development projects on gender equality, cultural diversity and mental health.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2022 - Present	Senior Policy Analyst <i>Center for Innovation in Population Health, University of Kentucky.</i> Bilingual Senior Policy Analyst, providing training support and technical assistance conducted in English and Spanish on the use of the TCOM Tools: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) the Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST), and the Safe System Improvement Tool (SSIT). Support in the implementation and evaluation of adult and children's systems of care, behavioral health and child protection with agencies and jurisdictions across the United States.
September 2019 - April 2022	Behavioral Health Equity Specialist <i>Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, University of Texas at Austin.</i> Coordination of training and technical assistance to behavioral health, health, and social service providers on culture, diversity, equity and inclusion; culturally and linguistic appropriate services (CLAS) and other strategies to address behavioral health equity. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Behavioral Health Equity Specialist for Texas System of Care.</i> Providing trainings and technical assistance Cultural Responsiveness to mental health agencies along with youth engagement and family centered approach.○ <i>Behavioral Health Equity Specialist for the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network. South Southwest.</i> (HHS Region 6) providing training and technical assistance around cultural and linguistic competency to the Behavioral Health workforce for the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.
<i>May 2018 – July 2019: Immigration period - work authorization being processed. Developed fluent English and, provided support and care for family members.</i>	
January 2011 - May 2018	Assistant Professor <i>"Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado" University, Venezuela.</i> <i>Undergraduate – Psychology:</i> Professor of (1) General Psychology, (2) Professional Practice level 1 and (3) Sexuality from a New Paradigm, at the Psychology Department of Humanities and Arts Faculty. Main Tutor and General Evaluator of Gender Studies, Sexuality and Social Psychology dissertations and final presentations. Chief of "Basic Psychological Processes" Department. <i>Graduate – Women's Studies Masters:</i> Professor of (1) Qualitative Research from a Gender Perspective, (2) Women Psychology and Sexuality. Main Tutor and General Evaluator of Gender Studies, Sexuality and Social Psychology dissertations and final presentations.

January 2011 - March 2014	<p>Clinical Psychologist <i>Institute of Social Prevention for the staff and their families at "Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado" University, Venezuela.</i> Provided counseling for children, youth and adults and referrals to other programs inside the institute. Wrote and published several articles about Mental Health in the Institute's Journal. Provided psychological evaluations, psychometric and projective tests applications for staff and supervisors. Coordinated mental health projects and services for the community related to mental health.</p>
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VOLUNTEER WORK:

Amnesty International Venezuela:

- Elected as National Board Member (2014 - 2019) and Human Rights Activist (2011-present)
- Organized workshops, conferences, presentations and cultural activities about Human Rights, Equality and Diversity.
- Speaker in national and international conferences about Human Rights Education, non-discrimination and equality.
- Specialist interviewed for articles/blogs related to Women's Human Rights

EDUCATION

Institution and location	Degree	Year	Field of study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado" University. Barquisimeto, Venezuela 	Masters in Science	2017	Women Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centro de Especialidades Psiquiátricas, Psicológicas y Sexológicas de Venezuela. Caracas, Venezuela. 	Masters in Science	2016	Sexology Counseling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instituto Global para el Desarrollo Humano. Madrid, Spain. 	International Master	2016	Women's Human Rights, Domestic Violence and Gender Violence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rafael Urdaneta" University. Maracaibo, Venezuela. 	Licensure in Psychology	2010	Psychology

CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER TRAININGS

Institution and location	Certificate	Year	Field of study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praed Foundation 	Certificate of Completion	2022	Standard CANS Comprehensive 3.0 Standard ANSA Comprehensive 3.0 Standard FAST 3.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program - University of Kentucky 	CITI Program	2022	Human Research Social/Behavioral Investigators and Key Personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program - University of Kentucky 	CITI Program	2022	Responsible Conduct of Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia University. New York, USA. 	Online Specialization	2022	Social Policy for Social Services & Health Practitioners Specialization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada. 	Online Specialization	2021	Gender Analytics: Gender Equity through Inclusive Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence 	Certification	2020	Cultural Formulation Interview

Examples of Journal Publications:

- *Psychology and sexuality: a look at the demands of education in psychology in Venezuela* (2018) Scientific Journal: Revista Intercontinental de Psicología y Educación. Mexico. Link: <https://www.scribd.com/document/396032621/Revista-Intercontinental-de-Psicologia-y-Educacion-Vol-20-nums-1-y-2>
- *Rewritings of the body and female Sexuality since pregnancy: A life Story* (2017) Scientific Journal: Boletín Medico de Postgrado, UCLA. Venezuela. Link: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/187422887.pdf>

Examples of Presentations:

- *Decolonizing Self Care for the Hispanic/Latinx Community* (2021) Webinar for the South-Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center. Link: [Decolonizing Self Care Practices for the Hispanic/Latinx Community | Mental Health Technology Transfer Center \(MHTTC\) Network \(mhttcnetwork.org\)](#)
- “*The limits of our language are the limits of our world*” *Language and Culture in Mental Health*. (2020) Advisory Board Meeting - South Southwest Technology Transfer Center. Texas, USA.
- *Supporting (Im)migrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)* (2020) Presentation at the Zarrow 2020 Mental Health Symposium.
- *Self-care practices for Human Right's activists*. (2020) International online live session. Amnesty International Venezuelan section. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k39U7I8Fi8>
- *Venezuela - Human Rights in Crisis*. (2017) Venezuelan representative at the 33rd International Council Meeting (ICM) Amnesty International, Rome, Italy.
- *Gender Perspective in Social Media Networking: A toolkit for Human Rights Organizations*. (2017) Amnesty International Venezuelan Section National Conference. Caracas, Venezuela.
- *Narratives in the Feminist Movement: History, Progress and Perspectives*. (2015) Human Rights Education Conference. Universidad Rafael Urdaneta. Maracaibo, Venezuela.
- *UCLA Network of Amnesty International Venezuela: Promoting a culture of peace and non-discrimination*. (2015). XIII Latin American Congress of University Extension. Havana, Cuba.

Other skills:

- Training platforms and survey tools: Zoom, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting, Mentimeter, ThoughtExchange, Padlet, Canva.
- Office: Microsoft Office 360, Google Apps, Asana, Zendesk.
- Designing platforms: Canva, WordPress.
- Languages: Bilingual English / Spanish.