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Professional development plan

(or "Why do I think it'd be great if I could get a travel award)

by Adriana Felisa Chávez De la Peña

My name is Adriana Chávez, I was born and still live in México City. Since 2015, I've been working at Lab25 (http://www.bouzaslab25.com/) a laboratory within the Psychology School of the National Autonomous University of México (UNAM). I got into the Lab when I was an undergrad student, and as years passed by I started getting more responsibilities in terms of both, the production of new experiments and research projects, and the introduction of new students to the lab. For the last 4 years, I've been one of the students of Dr. Arturo Bouzas Riaño (abouzasr@gmail.com), a former Faculty's principal, who got his phD at Harvard University and who's now in charge of Lab25: a research center where, by means of Bayesian cognitive and statistical modeling, we study all sorts of behavioral phenomena in terms of adaptive-seeking mechanisms. We've had the opportunity of hosting Michael D. Lee as a Lab guest on four different occasions now. He's been a great advisor ever since, and has helped us all to improve our modeling skills and techniques.

I got my bachelor degree last year, after that I decided to work for a couple months to make some savings at the National Institute for Educational Evaluation. This year I came back to the lab, determined to work on my own research project in order to be able to present a decent application for a Grad student. That being said, I'm not enrolled in any Grad program at the moment, however, that's precisely the main reason why I'm going to be presenting my work at the SMP Meeting of this year: because I'm certain that participating at the MathPsych meeting will give me the chance to meet a vast variety of the people who are working in the field and whose papers have helped me guide my own formation. Hopefully, presenting my work to them may help me to demonstrate my skills and abilities, and hopefully improve my chances to get into the Grad program I want (Right now, I'm planning to apply both for the NYU Cognition and Perception phD program, and the Cognitive Science phD program at the UCI).

I consider myself a very enthusiastic and hard-working student, who enjoys getting engaged in new research projects. I love programming on R; making plots is the part I enjoy the most about the data analysis, as well as the challenge presented by the construction of a Bayesian cognitive model. I'm interested in the study of Perception, Psychophysics, Psychometrics and Cognitive Development, although lately I've started to notice that my one true love may be modeling itself.

I know I'm not a Grad student right now, but I do consider myself a student. I do the work, and have the same responsibilities as any regular lab student would. To get this travel award would be a really good help for me, because being from México means that everything is a little bit more expensive when it comes to traveling abroad. I also have been covering the payments related to the GRE and TOEFL tests, so I'm in a position where I could really use that money to recover myself a little bit, and be able to afford a good course for the GRE.

If I get to win this travel abroad, you can expect me to write a very enthusiastic and detailed report about my participation at MathPsych 2019. I know I don't fit in the requirements because I'm not a Grad student right now, but I'm working really hard to get there!.

Thank you for your attention! I'll be happy to meet the rest of the WoMP group in a couple of weeks!