Jose Alfredo Cervantez

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow

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Education

2018 – 2020	**University of California, Los Angeles** *B.A. Psychology (Departmental Highest Honors)* *Specialization in Computing* *GPA: 3.70* *Honors Thesis: Enacting Institutional Connection to Reduce Stereotypes in STEM* *Honors Advisor: Tiffany Brannon, PhD*
2016 – 2018	**Cerritos Community College** *A.A. in Psychology* *GPA: 3.97*

Research Interests

- Theory
    - Group-based Hierarchies
    - Social Inequalities
    - Prejudice Reduction
    - Diversity Messaging
    - Economic Inequalities
- Methods
    - Big Data and Archival
    - Field Experiments
    - Lab Experiments

Research Experience

Jun 2020 – Current	**Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow** *UCLA Anderson School of Management*

- Executed online and field research projects on behalf of Professors Hengchen Dai, Jana Gallus, and Sherry Wu.
    - Literature reviews, IRB proposals, field partner outreach
    - Advanced survey design via Qualtrics
    - Project management and financial bookkeeping on Prolific and MTurk
    - Data cleaning, data management, data visualization, data analysis, and exploratory analysis
    - Manuscript editing and revisions
- Professional and career development
    - Faculty/Grad student research presentations from Behavioral Decision Making and Management departments
    - Data visualization and data analysis workshops via Institute for Digital Research and Education (Statistics Department)

Mar 2021 – Current

Research Data Analyst
Carnegie Mellon University
- Data analyst for the Behavioral Change for Good flu shot mega study
- Supervisors: Professors Hengchen Dai (UCLA) and Silvia Saccardo (CMU)
  - Summary statistics (e.g., demographics, dependant variable verification, transformations)
  - Data wrangling
  - Ordinary Least Squares regression analysis
  - Robustness checks using Logit regression
  - Heterogeneous Treatment Effects of preregistered variables of interests
  - Data visualization via ggplot (graphs) and overleaf (tables)

Jun 2019 – Jun 2020

Student Affairs Research Analyst
UCLA Student Affairs Research and Information Office (SAIRO)
- Project: MyUCLA mobile application development
  - MyUCLA is the central hub for all communication and records for students and staff
- Supervisor: Kristen McKinney PhD, (SAIRO Director)
  - Data mining of existing UCLA staff/student records for the development of a survey.
  - Literature reviews, IRB proposals, advanced survey design, and project brief editing.

Jun 2018 – Jun 2020

Research Assistant/Departmental Honors Student
Culture and Contact Lab, UCLA
- Honors Thesis: Enacting Institutional Connection to Reduce Stereotypes in STEM
- Principal Investigator: Tiffany Brannon, PhD (Psychology)
- Abstract excerpt:
  > The present research investigated whether priming an institutional social connection may spill-over to change existing beliefs of STEM. Approximately 185 UCLA undergraduates were recruited to measure (if any) social identity benefits for participants in STEM. Results showed that students under the experimental condition displayed higher situational interest in their STEM courses, and a decrease in their extrinsic motivation for careers in STEM. Lastly, the experimental condition display an increase in their beliefs of inclusivity for underrepresented groups in STEM.

Jan 2019 – Jun 2020

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Scholar
Academic Achievement Program, UCLA
- McNair Thesis: Sense of Belonging and the role of Stereotype Threat on Resource Utilization to Incoming UCLA Transfer Students
- Principal Investigator: Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, PhD (Education)
- Abstract excerpt:
  > Fifty-nine students were recruited and self-selected to either an intervention or comparison (control) condition. Participants in the intervention condition received letters from graduated transfer students and completed reflection exercises; both were used to generate feelings of interdependence at the transfer university. Analysis plan included measuring within-group differences bi-weekly from the start to the end of the term and between-group differences were analyzed at the conclusion of the term. Results indicated that participants in the intervention condition reported: higher collective self-esteem, reduction in independence and an increase of interdependence over the course of the term.

Research Experience (cont'd)

Aug 2017 – May 2018	**Community College 2 PhD Scholar (CC2PhD)** *UCLA and Cerritos College* • Project: Adverse Childhood Experiences and their Impact on Academic Achievement • Supervisor: Jaclyn Ronquillo-Adachi, PhD (Psychology) • Abstract excerpt: Forty-one undergraduate community college students were recruited through haphazard sampling and completed an online survey. Prior scales for adverse childhood experiences, resiliency and academic self-efficacy were used. Participants were aggregated into either high or low ACE categories. Results found that lower level of self-reported trauma were linked with decreased perseverance, decreased adaptive help-seeking behavior, and decreased academic self-efficacy.

Work in Progress

2021	• Gallus, J., **Cervantez, J. A.** & Saleska, J. Symbolic Tokens for Plasma Donations: A Natural Field Experiment. *(Manuscript under preparation)* (2021). • Wu, S. J., **Cervantez, J. A.** & Mei, B. Preferences and Perceptions of Workplace Participation: A Cross Cultural Study. *Frontiers in Psychology (under review)* (2021).

Professional Work Experience

Oct 2009 – Apr 2014	**Kogi Group Corporation** *Kogi BBQ* • Line Cook (Oct 2009 to Sep 2011) • Operations Manager (Sep 2011 to Oct 2012) *Chego* • General Manager (Oct 2012 to Apr 2014)
Sep 2014 – Oct 2016	**Salt & Straw Ice Cream** *Larchmont, Los Angeles* • Store Manager

Skills and Software Expertise

- R Programming (fluent)
    - dplyr/tidyverse
    - ggplot (graphs)
    - stargazer (regression)

- Python (fluent)
    - pandas/NumPy
    - SciPy/Sci-kit learn
    - matplotlib

- Web Design (conversational)
    - HTML/Web scraping
    - Javascript/CSS
    - APIs

- Survey Design (fluent)
    - Qualtrics/Survey Monkey
    - MTurk/Prolific
    - formr

- Miscellaneous
    - C++
    - LaTeX/Overleaf
    - Stata

Honors and Recognition

2020
- UCLA Psychology Departmental Highest Honors
- UCLA College Honors
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar

2018
- UCLA Alumni Scholarship
- UCLA Transfer Alliance Scholarship
- Cerritos College Highest Honors, Scholars Honors Program
- Cerritos College Academic Excellence Award
- Edison STEM Award

Poster Presentations

2020
- **Cervantez, J. A.** Enacting institutional connection to reduce stereotypes in STEM. *UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference* (2020).

2019
- **Cervantez, J. A.** Sense of belonging and the role of stereotype threat on resource utilization to incoming UCLA transfer students. *Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel* (2019).

2018
- **Cervantez, J. A.** Adverse childhood experiences, self-efficacy, self-esteem and it's role in community college Latinx students. *APA San Francisco* (2018).