

Noni K. Pinales

Research Coordinator

Case Western Reserve University
Department of Psychological Sciences
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AREAS OF INTEREST

Interventions targeting cognitive-affective transdiagnostic mechanisms for traumatic stress and anxiety disorders, integration of spiritual principles into psychological interventions, post-traumatic obsessive compulsive-disorder, community-based participatory research, dissemination of anxiety interventions in performance-based settings, treatment adaptations in collectivist populations, evaluating effects of religious and spiritual struggles on psychopathology, development of interventions to alleviate religious and spiritual struggles

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Clinical Research

August 2024 - Present

*Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine
Cleveland, OH*

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Thesis: Transdiagnostic Cognitive-Affective Factors for OCD and PTSD in Catholics

Advisor: Norah Feeny, PhD

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology & Communications

May 2024

*University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC*

Concentration in Media Production, Minor in Writing for the Screen and Stage

Communications Major GPA: 3.85 | Psychology Major GPA: 3.91

Independent Study: Behavioral Compulsions and Electrodermal Activity in Relationship OCD

Advisors: Jonathan Abramowitz, PhD., Nicholas Myers, M.A.

HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

Vershosek Travel Award <i>Case Western Reserve University, School of Graduate Studies</i>	<i>October 2025</i>
Rick Dees Scholarship <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Communications</i>	<i>January 2019</i>
Dean's List <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	<i>Multiple semesters</i>
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Member	<i>2025-Present</i>
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Member	<i>2025-Present</i>

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation

1. Mattson, E., Bagley, J., Splaine, C. Tully, I., **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C. *Predicting Risk and Resilience in PTSD and Depression from Baseline Executive Functioning: The Role of Cognition and Memory Processing* (In preparation).
2. Pandey, S., Ali, E., Pecogna, E., **Pinales, N.K.**, Bentley, J., Feeny, N.C., Zoellner, L. *Mental Health of Displaced Peoples: The Role of Religious Coping and Struggles* (In preparation).

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Pinales, N.K.**, Bentley, J.A., Feeny, N.C., & Zoellner, L. *Anxiety Disorder Diagnosis Buffers PTSD Treatment Effect in Novel Exposure-Based PATH Intervention*. (2026, August). Washington D.C., United States (In preparation)
2. Chen, C., **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C., Bentley, J.A., & Zoellner, L. *PTSD Arousal Associated With Self-Blame in Somali Refugees*. (2026, August). American Psychological Association. Washington D.C., United States (In preparation)
3. **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C., Bentley, J.A., & Zoellner, L. (2025, November). *Avoidance in Female Somali Refugees Associated with Negative Cognitions About Oneself and The World*. Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States (Accepted).
4. **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C., Bentley, J.A., & Zoellner, L. (2025, November). *Negative Religious Cognitions and Strong Belief in Fate and Destiny as Predictors for Self-Efficacy Among Displaced Individuals*. Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States (Accepted).

5. **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C., Bentley, J.A., & Zoellner, L. (2025, September). *Interpersonal Trauma in Somali Refugee Women: Correlates of Exposure and Co-Occurrence*. International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies Convention, Baltimore, Maryland United States
6. **Pinales, N.K.**, Feeny, N.C., Bentley, J.A., & Zoellner, L. (2025, September). *Poverty, Insufficient Healthcare, and Communication Difficulties Associated with PTSD Symptom Severity in Somali Refugees*. International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies Convention, Baltimore, Maryland United States
7. Tully, I.A., Klein, A., Deericks, H., **Pinales, N.K.**, Zoellner, L., Bedard-Gilligan, M., & Feeny, N. (2025, June). *Change in Global and Trauma-Related Sleep Difficulties Among Adults Receiving Trauma-Focused Treatment*. Associated Professional Sleep Societies Convention, Seattle, Washington, United States.
8. Myers, N.S., **Pinales, N.K.**, Xavier, I.G., Friedman, J.B., Juel, E.K., Tadross, M.E. DuBois, C.M., Nestadt, G., Kimmel, M., Samuels, J., Osborn, L., Storch, E., Musci, R., & Abramowitz, J.S. (2024, November). *Prenatal Obsessive-Compulsive Symptoms Predict Insomnia During the Perinatal Period*. Association of Cognitive Behavioral Therapies Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Coordinator

June 2024 - Present

PTSD Research and Treatment Program

Case Western Reserve University

Department of Psychological Sciences

Principal Investigator and Supervisor: Norah C. Feeny, Ph.D

Positive Processes and Transition to Health (PATH): National Institute of Health (NIH) funded multisite study, evaluating the efficacy of a novel intervention which targets transdiagnostic mechanisms that maintain depression and posttraumatic stress.

Clinical Responsibilities

- Screen over 140 participants for eligibility by administering an adapted Posttraumatic Stress Symptom Interview (PSSI), Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology (QIDS)
- Conduct over 75 destabilizing event interviews to determine if non-Criterion A traumatic events experienced by participants meet study standards for an event that involved a serious loss or threat
- Administer 45 Behavioral Approach Tasks (BAT), building and guiding participants through a collaboratively built personalized exposure hierarchy for feared stimuli
- Administer over 15 suicide risk assessments (C-SSRS) to participants as part of clinical safety protocols
- Administer clinical computer-based lab tasks including the Affective Updating Task (AUT) and Probabilistic Reward Task (PRT)
- Train multiple graduate research assistants to conduct assessments such as the PSSI, QIDS, BAT, C-SSRS, AUT, and PRT

Research Responsibilities:

- Customize, and maintain the online data collection platform using REDCap, troubleshooting technical issues to ensure uninterrupted data capture
- Monitor participant and staff completion of study-related materials, such as ecological momentary assessment surveys, interviewer-administered assessments, and self-report batteries
- Support data sharing efforts by preparing and submitting over two dozen reports to the National Data Archives (NDA), Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB), and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Prepare and submit over 12 Institutional Review Board (IRB) modifications and continuing review applications to maintain study compliance
- Continuously monitor and oversee data tracking efforts across 3 sites, including ensuring data completeness and accuracy throughout REDCap and study tracking documents
- Clean, audit, and prepare treatment stratification and participant demographic reports to monitor internal and external validity of the study
- Lead and optimize multi-channel participant recruitment efforts including launching paid advertising, organic social media marketing, organizational outreach, and flyering
- Mentor undergraduate research assistants in research-related projects such as capstone and honors theses, conference presentations, and manuscript preparation
- Coordinate and ensure fidelity to standard operating procedures across all sites to control for site-effects
- Assist in manuscript development by cleaning study data and generating detailed reports, tables, and visual data representations to support findings

Administrative Responsibilities

- Manage study communications and scheduling between 3 study sites, and over 65 participants, principal investigators, graduate research assistants, and undergraduate research assistants
- Onboard and train over a dozen research team members, including undergraduate research assistants and graduate research assistants, fostering adherence to study protocols
- Assign study therapists and assessors to ensure balanced caseloads and allocation across treatment conditions
- Write, edit, manage, and maintain study documents, including protocols, standard operating procedures, supplemental consent forms, and related materials, ensuring they reflect current procedures
- Coordinate scheduling between participants and study staff to ensure timely completion of study procedures
- Prepare and distribute agendas, detailed notes, and action items for weekly recurring cross-site meetings to foster enhanced collaboration, clarity, consensus, and timely completion of study-related tasks
- Supervise over 12 undergraduate research assistants in executing study tasks and maintaining data quality
- Oversee grant-related financial management, including budgeting, expense tracking, and allocation of funds for participant recruitment and compensation
- Coordinate professional development opportunities for undergraduate research assistants such as guest speakers, workshops, and Q&A sessions

Research Assistant

August 2023 - May 2024

Anxiety and Stress Lab

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department of Psychology

Principal Investigator: Jonathan Abramowitz, PhD

Behavioral Compulsions and Electrodermal Activity in Relationship OCD (Independent Study): Graduate study examining the effect of neutral negative relationship-focused stimuli on electrodermal activity and behavioral compulsions in college students

Clinical Responsibilities:

- Collected electrodermal activity data using AcqKnowledge software, including data from sensors and biofeedback equipment
- Administered an in-vivo laboratory paradigm to over 15 participants and ensured proper execution of study procedures
- Measured and systematically coded behavioral compulsions for use in quantitative analyses

Research Responsibilities:

- Developed training materials and trained over half a dozen undergraduate research assistants in psychophysiological data collection and behavioral coding protocols to ensure methodological consistency and adherence to study procedures
- Drafted modifications to IRB-approved study protocols and research documents in collaboration with the principal investigator
- Managed communications between research participants and study staff, facilitating timely scheduling and clear information sharing
- Scheduled over 25 participant visits and prepared study materials to support laboratory-based data collection

Mom2Be Postpartum OCD Study: Multi-site longitudinal study following expecting mothers throughout and after the course of their pregnancy to understand risk and predictors associated with depression post-partum obsessions and compulsions

Responsibilities:

- Prepared biospecimen collection kits for participants in coordination with study protocols
- Entered data from a comprehensive battery of psychological assessments into a REDCap-based data management system
- Monitored REDCap data for completeness and accuracy, identifying and resolving missing or inconsistent entries

Dimensional OCD Meta-Analysis: Meta-analysis that reviewed dozens of studies evaluating symptom dimensions of OCD

Responsibilities:

- Reviewed and screened scholarly literature related to obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) symptom dimensions
- Coded peer-reviewed studies using Covidence software, applying standardized inclusion and exclusion criteria

OCD Misinformation on TikTok: Experiment examining the effect of watching user-generated and professional-generated videos containing truthful information and misinformation about OCD on TikTok

Responsibilities:

- Conducted laboratory sessions with participants, administering scripted experimental protocols with consistency and attention to detail
- Identified and resolved technical issues and protocol deviations to maintain data integrity and ensure adherence to study procedures
- Performed accurate data entry and contributed to ongoing data management, organization, and quality control for research analyses

Research Assistant

August 2023- May 2024

QUEST Study

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

School of Social Work

Principal Investigator: Will Hall, PhD

Queer Experiences of Stress, Strength, and Hope: NIH-funded mixed-methods study evaluating trajectories of sexual-identity development and mental health challenges in sexual minority youth

Responsibilities:

- Conducted in-depth, hour-long Life Event Calendar interviews with study participants, focusing on childhood experiences, mental health, sexual identity, adverse life events, and queer identity development
- Transcribed and cleaned qualitative interview data; applied thematic coding and analysis to identify patterns and key narratives
- Designed and implemented participant recruitment strategies, including developing visually engaging graphics, targeted social media advertisements, and community outreach materials
- Proactively engaged with historically underrepresented communities through partnerships with local minority organizations, inclusive design practices, and targeted digital outreach to ensure diverse participant representation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

July - August 2025

ISC236A: Abnormal Psychology

Department of Psychology

Korea University

Seoul, South Korea

Instructor: Norah Feeny, PhD

Responsibilities:

- Worked as a teaching assistant for a class of 40 undergraduate students.
- Graded all course examinations efficiently and accurately, delivering prompt feedback to support student learning and course progression
- Created and managed REDCap online examination links for undergraduate course assessments in coordination with the course instructor
- Provided timely technical support and troubleshooting for online exam access issues to ensure a smooth testing process for students

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Community Mentor

April - June 2023

Connected Communities

Winchester, VA

Responsibilities:

- Provided therapeutic mentoring to at-risk adolescents with co-morbid diagnoses such as PTSD, OCD, ADHD, Conduct Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder in both individual and group settings within a community-based residential diversion program
- Participated in individualized treatment planning, collaboratively addressing clients' emotional, behavioral, and skill development needs
- Conducted behavioral observations and maintained accurate, confidential clinical documentation in support of treatment goals
- Managed behavioral incidents and crises using evidence-based de-escalation techniques to ensure client and staff safety
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team, including clinicians and case managers, to develop and implement comprehensive care strategies
- Facilitated engagement in center-based and community-based enrichment activities to support social-emotional growth and life skills development
- Attended weekly clinical supervision with program leadership to reflect on practice, enhance clinical skills, and ensure adherence to ethical standards

SPECIALIZED TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND COURSEWORK

Assessment Training:

- MINI
- PSSI

July 2025

September 2024

- QIDS September 2024
- Affective Updating Task (Conducted 45) September 2024
- Probabilistic Reward Task (Conducted 45) September 2024
- Behavioral Approach Task (Conducted 45) September 2024
- SCID September 2024
- Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale May 2024

Clinical Training:

- Prolonged Exposure June 2025
Kathy Shektman, PhD
New York University- Langone Health

Research Certifications:

- CIRTification: Community Involvement in Research Training July 2025
- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI): Human Subjects Research June 2025
- CITI: Conflict of Interest June 2025
- CITI: Health Information Privacy and Security June 2025
- CITI: Good Clinical Practice September 2023

Graduate Coursework: Research Design and Quantitative Methods, Clinical Trials & Intervention Studies, Research Ethics, Statistical Methods I, Community Interventions & Program Evaluation, Introduction to Clinical Research, Epidemiology, Working in Interdisciplinary Research Teams

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head Speech and Debate Coach

July 2024- Present

Revere Middle School

Richfield, OH

Responsibilities:

- Designed and led weekly coaching sessions in Original Oratory, Declamation, and Interpretation, supporting middle and high school students in public speaking and performance-based skill development
- Taught students to research and write persuasive, evidence-based speeches, emphasizing logical structure, clarity, and credibility of sources
- Edited student speeches to enhance logic, flow, clarity of expression, argumentative strength, and rhetorical impact
- Integrated psychoeducation into coaching by teaching students emotion regulation strategies, affirmation exercises to boost self-confidence, and grounding techniques to manage performance-related anxiety during competitions
- Provided individualized, developmentally appropriate feedback on student writing and performance, focusing on verbal and nonverbal communication skills
- Guided students in setting and evaluating SMART goals to support short- and long-term skill development, self-awareness, growth, and resilience in a competitive environment
- Facilitated reflective discussions with students to identify areas for improvement and personal growth, as well as strategies for enhancing performance

- Interpreted and helped students apply external feedback (e.g., tournament judges) to foster adaptive learning and self-efficacy
- Recruited and supported diverse student participants, including working closely with parents to promote inclusive access and involvement in the program
- Judged over 12 local tournaments, including the Middle School State Finals, and provided structured, constructive feedback aligned with performance rubrics and developmental levels
- Trained parent volunteers on tournament judging protocols to ensure consistency and fairness across categories
- Managed logistical operations including tournament registration, transportation requests, team communications, and budgeting

Marketing & Communications Manager

July 2021- October 2022

College Consensus

Hillsborough, NC

Responsibilities:

- Developed and executed original strategies across email marketing, public relations, and digital advertising to enhance brand reach and engagement
- Collected, analyzed, and presented key performance metrics related to marketing and PR initiatives to stakeholders for data-informed decision-making
- Directed a comprehensive rebranding initiative, overseeing strategy, messaging, and visual identity across all internal and external channels
- Managed high-level communications with internal and external stakeholders, ensuring consistent messaging and professional rapport
- Continuously assessed and refined marketing strategies based on historical performance data and evolving industry best practices
- Created, scheduled, and distributed original content across multiple channels, including press releases, email campaigns, and social media platforms
- Conducted regular audits of website content and user interface, implementing updates aligned with UX and SEO best practices
- Supervised and mentored a marketing intern, guiding content ideation, creation, and workflow management

Content Marketing Specialist

January - December 2020

Printful

Charlotte, NC

Responsibilities:

- Researched, wrote, and edited diverse content including website copy, blog articles, press releases, and social media posts to align with brand voice and strategic goals
- Conducted SEO research and trend analysis to develop high-performing video content ideas with viral potential
- Participated in the company's crisis communication team, coordinating timely and effective internal and external responses to urgent issues

- Collaborated with video production team to draft original video scripts and copyedit all outgoing video content for clarity, accuracy, and tone
- Served as an on-camera host and interviewer for the company's YouTube channel (70K+ subscribers), contributing to audience engagement and brand visibility
- Captured and edited on-site photography and videography for multi-platform social media distribution (300K+ followers)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Committee Member

2024-Present

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Stephen's Church

President

2017-2019

Creatives of Color

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

President

2017-2019

Comedy in Color

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Member

2017-2019

Carolina Film Association

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SKILLS

Research: SPSS, R, REDCap, Excel, Statistical Testing, Data Visualization, Qualtrics, AcqKnowledge, Behavioral Approach Tasks, Data Coding, Data Cleaning, Data Management, Psychophysiological Data Collection, Biospecimen Data Collection, Participant Recruitment

Other Skills: Spanish (Conversational), French (Reading), Project Management, Community Outreach, Digital Advertising, Graphic Design, Public Speaking, Email Marketing, Copyediting, Social Media Analytics, Public Relations, Crisis Management, On-Camera Hosting, Copywriting, Video Production