

Nicole A. Vargas-Fuentes

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EDUCATION

University of California-Irvine

Ph.D. in Language Science, expected June 2025

University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR

Bachelor of Arts, May 2020

Double Major: Psychology and Foreign languages

GPA: 4.0, Dean's List

Honors Program

GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bilingualism, Mind, and Brain lab, University of California-Irvine , PI: Dr. Judith Kroll, *Graduate student*, 2020 to present

El Areyto lab, University of California-Irvine , PI: Dr. Julio R. Torres, *Lab Coordinator and Graduate student*, 2020 to present

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Campus-wide Honors program, University of California, Irvine, 2021

- Mentee: Gwendolyn Donley
- Project: *Emotion-Memory Effect in Face-word Stroop Task*

National Science Foundation Grant, OISE -154900: PIRE (Partnerships in International Research and Education): *Translating cognitive and brain science in the laboratory and field to language learning environment*, June - December 2020.

- Position: Mentor and Project Leader
- Mentee: Katherine López
- Project: *Emotion, Memory, and Bilingualism*
- International Partner: Dr. Teresa Bajo, University of Granada, Spain

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Neurolinguistics Lab, University of Puerto Rico Department of Psychology, *Undergraduate Research Assistant*, 2018

- Translated documents from English to Spanish.
- Literary review.
- Validated surveys for investigations.

- Data entry and analysis in Excel.

Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab, University of Puerto Rico Department of Psychology, *Undergraduate Research Assistant*, 2017–2018

- Contributed in the recruitment of participants.
- Validated surveys for investigations.
- Data entry in SPSS.

Communication between Couples and Technology Interference, University of Puerto Rico Department of Psychology, *Volunteer*, 2017

- Collaborated in the recruitment of participants and survey distribution.

Time Usage in Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico Department of Geography *Volunteer*, 2016-2017

- Data entry into SPSS.

UNDERGRADUATE HONOR THESIS

Language attitudes and the Foreign Language effect in decision-making. (December 2019). University of Puerto Rico: Honors Thesis (Advisor: Dr. Rosa Guzzardo-Tamargo)

CONFERENCE/PRESENTATIONS

Vargas-Fuentes, N.A. (October, 2020). Decision-making and language attitudes: The Foreign Language effect among Puerto Rican bilinguals. *6th Annual Penn State Undergraduate Linguistics Exhibition*, Penn State University, University Park, PA.

Vargas-Fuentes, N.A. (September, 2020). Rather be *feliz* than happy: The interaction between language and emotion. *2020 Competitive Edge Virtual Research Symposium*, University of California, Irvine, CA.

Maldonado-Martínez, J.A., Abboud-Chalhoub, C., Rodríguez-Colón, R.J., Rivera-López, D., **Vargas-Fuentes, N.A.**, Rodríguez-Carrasquillo, D., Rodríguez-Corcelles, L.C., De la Cruz-Pérez, A.T., & Tirado-Santiago, G. (August, 2019). Relationship between mindfulness and anxious thoughts in young adults: A mediation model. *172nd American Psychological Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL.

Maldonado-Martínez, J.A., Abboud-Chalhoub, C., Rodríguez-Colón, R.J., Rivera-López, D., **Vargas-Fuentes, N.A.**, Rodríguez-Carrasquillo, D., Rodríguez-Corcelles, L.C., De la Cruz-Pérez, A.T., & Tirado-Santiago, G. (May, 2019). Relationship between self-punishment worrying and anxious thoughts in young adults: A mediation model. *31st Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention*, Washington, DC.

Maldonado-Martínez, J.A., Abboud-Chalhoub, C., Rodríguez-Colón, R.J., Rivera-López, D., **Vargas-Fuentes, N.A.**, Rodríguez-Carrasquillo, D., Rodríguez-Corcelles, L.C., De la Cruz-Pérez, A.T., & Tirado-Santiago, G. (March, 2019). Relationship between cognitive flexibility and anxious thoughts in young adults: a mediation model. *3rd International Convention of Psychological Science*, Paris, France.

Maldonado-Martínez, J.A., Abboud-Chalhoub, C., Rodríguez-Colón, R.J., Rivera-López, D., **Vargas-Fuentes, N.A.**, Rodríguez-Carrasquillo, D., Rodríguez-Corcelles, L.C., De la Cruz-Pérez, A.T., & Tirado-Santiago, G. (May, 2018). Avoidance strategies and a tendency for self-punishing thoughts as predictors of anxious symptoms in young adults. *30th Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention*, San Francisco, CA, Poster XX-74.

Vargas-Fuentes, N.A. (2018) Vivencia de los residentes de Collores ante el Huracán María. *7ma Jornada Estudiantil de Investigación en Psicología*, University of Puerto Rico, 2018

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Technical: SPSS (statistical software), Excel, JabRef, Rstudio

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (fluent), Portuguese (Advance Mid, OPI official level), French (Intermediate)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars, University of Puerto Rico, member since 2016.

Chapter President, 2019-2020

- Oversee and manage the university's chapter
- Facilitate chapter officers board and general body meeting for members

Vice-president of Planning to Achieve Collegiate Excellence (PACE), 2017-2019

- Directed mentoring program meant to encourage high school students towards pursuing a post-secondary education.
- Awarded chapter merit award for *2nd Best PACE Program* nationwide in 2018-19.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Head Start Program, Bayamón, Puerto Rico

Volunteer-Secretary, 2012-2017

- Redacted and organized official documents.
- Data entry of children's information into their respective logs.
- Helped organize conferences for the Alliance with Family program.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship, University of California-Irvine, Multi-year package (~\$85,000)

HONORS AND AWARDS

U.S. Department of State – Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), June – August 2019

- Group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experience in Florianópolis, Brazil with the target language of Portuguese.

NSCS Outstanding Scholar Award, 2019

- Award for upholding the National Society of Collegiate Scholar's pillars of Leadership, Service and Academic Excellence in my chapter as an undergraduate.

CERTIFICATES AND TRAINING

- Mental Health First Aid USA (08/2017-08/2020)
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research (03/2018-03/2020)
- Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS v. 24)
- Training sessions with Dr. Anne Beatty-Martínez (11/2018)
 - Completed 2 informative training sessions (approx. 3.5 contact hours) offered by Dr. Anne Beatty-Martínez on experiment design, equipment protocol, and data extraction and analysis with an eye tracker, as well as on the use of diverse behavioral laboratory tasks for bilinguals.