


FRANCESCA RAMIREZ

Doctoral Candidate & Clinical Intern
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EDUCATION

- 2017 - PH.D CANDIDATE, Clinical Science
Harvard University
- 2012 - 14 M.A., Neural Science & Psychology
New York University
- 2005 - 10 B.S., Biology & Psychology minor
Florida International University
- 2003 - 05 A.A., Biology
Broward Community College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 - Harvard University - *Ph.D student researcher*
Advisors: Joshua Buckholtz, Ph.D & Matthew K. Nock, Ph.D – Dept of Psychology
- CURRENT AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION & INTERESTS
- Clinical early-life trauma, impulse control, violence, suicide
Cognitive decision-making, reinforcement learning, emotion regulation
Biological systems neuroscience, stress physiology, neurodevelopment
- 2015 - 17 Harvard University - *research coordinator*
Advisor: Matthew K. Nock, Ph.D – Dept of Psychology
Project: “New approaches to the measurement of suicide related cognitions.”
- 2014 - 15 Harvard University - *lab manager*
Advisor: Joshua Buckholtz, Ph.D & Jason Mitchell, Ph.D – Dept of Psychology
Project: “The effect of social isolation on decision making.”
- 2012 - 14 New York University - *graduate student*
Advisors: Catherine Hartley, Ph.D & Elizabeth A. Phelps, Ph.D – Dept of Psychology
Thesis: “Instrumental avoidance modulates fear extinction.”
- 2010 - 13 New York University - *graduate student & research assistant*
Advisor: Joseph LeDoux, Ph.D – Center for Neural Science
Thesis: “The nucleus accumbens & amygdala neural circuit encodes instrumental avoidance behaviors”
- 2009 Massachusetts Institute of Technology - *undergraduate research assistant*
Advisor: Ki A. Goosens, Ph.D – Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Project: “Manipulation of neural circuitry by viral vector-mediated gene delivery in a chronic stress model.”
- 2008 - 10 Florida International University - *undergraduate research assistant*
Advisor: Ophelia Weeks, Ph.D – Dept. of Biology
Thesis: “Hormones regulate anxiety behaviors and biomarkers for learning & memory.”

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Ramirez, F.**, Baskin-Sommers, A., Karmarkar, U., Treadway, M., Buckholtz, J. (2019). Uncertainty aversion, regret sensitivity, and effort-based decision-making during cost-benefit choice behavior among individuals exposed to violence. *Manuscript in preparation*.
- Ramirez, F.**, Nock M.K., (2019). Social and personal combat experiences predict suicidal behavior. *Manuscript in preparation*.
- 2018 Nock M.K., **Ramirez, F.**, Rankin O., (2018). Advancing Our Understanding of the Who, When, and Why of Suicide Risk. *JAMA Psychiatry*.
- 2018 Hartley, C.A., Coelho, C.A.O., Boeke, E., **Ramirez, F.**, Phelps, E.A. (2018). Individual differences in blink rate modulate the effects of instrumental control on Pavlovian responding. *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
- 2015 **Ramirez, F.**, Moscarello, J.M., Sears, R.M., LeDoux, J.E. (2015). Active avoidance requires a serial basal amygdala to nucleus accumbens shell circuit. *Journal of Neuroscience*.
- 2013 Hartley, C.A., Gorun, A., Reddan, M.C., **Ramirez, F.**, Phelps, E.A. (2013). Stressor controllability modulates fear extinction in humans. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*.
- 2010 Valdes, J.J., **Ramirez, F.**, Juarez, B., Weeks, O.I. (2010). Lithium Enhances Cortical mRNA Expression in Ovariectomized C57BL/6J Mice. *Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 Nock M.K., Boccagno C., Kleiman E., **Ramirez, F.**, & Wang S., (2019). Mood Disorders and Self-Harm: Suicidal and Nonsuicidal Self-Injury In Prinstein M.J. Ed., Treatment of Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence. New York, NY: Guilford Publications.
- 2018 **Ramirez, F.**, Kleiman, E., Boccagno, C., Nizzi, M., Nock, M.K. *Clinical Manual for Management of PTSD, 2nd Ed; Suicide*, Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

AD HOC REVIEWS

The Lancet Psychiatry
Journal of Neuroscience
JAMA Psychiatry

AFFILIATIONS

- 2018 - Harvard Brain Science Initiative - *Cambridge Area Scientific Liaison for Behavior Meetings*
2018 - Harvard Inclusion, Diversity & Community Initiative - *Leverett House Coordinator*

- 2017 - Harvard Graduate Student Council - *Psychology Department Representative*
 2016 - Science Club for Girls - *Mentor & Editor*
 2013 - Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) - *Member*

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

- 2018 The National Academies of Sciences Engineering & Medicine, Ford Fellows Conference - *Irvine, CA*
 2018 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, ABCT - *Washington, DC*
 2014 Neuroscience of Affect, Learning & Decisions Group - *New York, NY*
 2013 Physiology & Molecular Mechanisms of Threat Behaviors Group - *New York, NY*
 2009 Annual Biomedical Research Conference - *Phoenix, AZ*
 2009 Biomedical & Comparative Immunology Symposium - *Miami, FL*

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2018 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, SANS (Brooklyn, NY)
Ramirez, F., Baskin-Sommers, A., Karmarkar, U., Buckholtz, J., Blunted ambiguity aversion during cost-benefit decisions among antisocial individuals with a history of violence.
- 2017 International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, ISTSS (Chicago, IL)
Ramirez, F., Nizzi, M., Gomez, S., Combat, suicide, and coping styles of U.S. veterans. (presented by research mentee)
- 2017 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, ABCT (San Diego, CA)
Martin W.B., **Ramirez, F.**, Nock M.K., Childhood trauma predicts lethality of suicidal behavior. (presented by research mentee)
- 2016 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, ABCT (New York, NY)
Ramirez, F., Pixley, H., Nock, M.K., Personal combat experiences predict suicidal behaviors.
- 2013 Gordon Research Conferences, GRC: Amygdala (Easton, MA)
Ramirez, F., Sears R.M., Moscarello J.M., LeDoux J.E., The nucleus accumbens & avoidance behavior. (by invitation only)
- 2012 Society for Neuroscience, SfN (New Orleans, LA)
Ramirez, F., Sears R.M., Moscarello J.M., LeDoux J.E., Excitatory neural activity in the nucleus accumbens is required for acquisition of threat memories.
- 2009 MIT- Summer Undergraduate Research Conferences (Cambridge, MA)
Ramirez, F., Burgos-Robles A., Goosens K.A., Chronic stress amplifies threat learning and extinction: implications for anxiety disorders.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS, SELECTED

2018	FORD Foundation PreDoctoral Fellowship - <i>The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine</i>
2013	Gordon Research Conferences Poster Award - <i>GRC: Amygdala</i>
2009	MIT Summer Research Program Fellowship - <i>Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT</i>
2009	MBRS-Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Fellowship - <i>National Institutes of Health, NIH</i>
2008 & 2009	South East Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP) Award - <i>National Science Foundation, NSF</i>
2008	Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program Award - <i>The Council for Opportunity in Education, COE</i>

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

TEACHING

2016 - 17	Science Club for Girls - <i>Topics in STEM for girls age 7-9</i> , Cambridge, MA
2011 - 13	Tutor for topics in STEM - <i>Biology, chemistry & math</i> , Brooklyn, NY
2007 - 10	Peer Lead Teaching & Learning Laboratories - <i>Genetics & cell biology for undergraduate students</i> , Miami, FL
2003 - 06	First Aid, CPR & AED - <i>American Red Cross</i> , Miami, FL
2005	Sex Education & HIV Prevention - <i>Mirimar Senior High</i> , Miami, FL
2003 - 05	English as a second language (ESL) - <i>Domestic Violence Center</i> , Miami, FL.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

FLUENT IN

R, Stata, Matlab, L^AT_EX

ANALYTICAL INTERESTS & EXPERTISE

Reinforcement Learning
 Computational Social Science Modeling
 Machine Learning & Natural Language Processing
 Computational Psychiatry