

Education

Ph.D., Duke University <i>Social Psychology, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience</i> Advisors: Dr. Sarah Gaither & Dr. Cristina Salvador Dissertation: "U.S. Latine racial ethnic identification and presentation across development"	Expected May 2026
Certificate in College Teaching, Duke University <i>Preparing Future Faculty Fellow</i>	Expected May 2026
M.A., Duke University <i>Psychology & Neuroscience</i> Thesis: "Latine as Both a Race and an Ethnicity: A Proposed Re-Conceptualization of Race and Ethnicity in Psychology"	September 2024
B.A., Boston University <i>Psychology with Honors, Magna Cum Laude</i> Thesis: "Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics: Effects of Generic Versus Statistical Language" Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Corriveau	May 2021

Research Interests

Race, Culture & The Self, Latine Identity Formation, Social Norms, Stereotyping & Generic Language

Awards and Honors

Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship, <i>Duke University</i>	2025
Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence (<i>Psychology & Neuroscience's Anti-Racism Community</i>), <i>Duke University</i>	2023
National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP) Title: "What is your race? Examining developmental predictors for Latino racial self-identification"	2022-2026
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention	2022
Provost Scholar Award for Academic Exploration in the First Two Years, <i>Boston University</i>	2019
Outstanding Student Researcher Award, <i>Boston University</i>	2018

Grants

Charles Lafitte Foundation Program for Research in Psychology & Neuroscience, <i>Duke University</i> Title: "Exploring the Effect of Different Demographic Forms on Latine Adults' Self-Perceptions" (\$3,120)	2025
Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award, <i>Duke University</i> (\$1,600)	2024
Duke Graduate School Travel Award, <i>Duke University</i> (\$525)	2024
Cognitive Development Society Diversity Travel Award (\$750)	2024
Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award, <i>Duke University</i> (\$1,250)	2023
Charles Lafitte Foundation Program for Research in Psychology & Neuroscience, <i>Duke University</i> Title: "Race or Ethnicity? Demographic Forms as Signals for Inclusion for Latinx Students" (\$2,860)	2023
TESS Young Investigators Competition Research Grant Title: "Emotional Interdependence in the United States: A Comparison of Latinx, East Asian, African and European Americans" (Data Collection costs covered by NORC)	2023

Social Sciences Research Institute Grant, <i>Duke University</i>	2022
Title: "Understanding the Development of Latino Self-Identification and its psychological consequences" (\$12,495)	
Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award, <i>Duke University</i> (\$1,500)	2022
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Diversity Graduate Travel Award (\$500)	2022
Internal DEI Grant: Duke Graduate and Professional Student Government Underrepresented Scientists in Psychology and Neuroscience Panel (\$1,000)	2022
National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) Language, Cognition, and Computation (\$6,200)	2020
Santander Summer Research Grant, <i>Boston University</i> (\$3,000)	2019
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Research Grant, <i>Boston University</i> (\$1,250)	2019
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Research Grant, <i>Boston University</i> (\$1,250)	2018
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Research Grant, <i>Boston University</i> (\$4,800)	2018

Publications

* indicating co-first authorship

Muñoz, M. A. & Gaither, S. E. (in press). Considering Multiplicity in Racial Ethnic Socialization. *Annual Review, Developmental Psychology*.

***Muñoz, M. A., *E. A., Enright., Gaither, S. E., Halim, M. D., Pauker, K. Olson, K. R. & Dunham, Y.** (2025). Children's Use of Race in their Social Judgements: A Large, Multi-site, Multi-racial Group Comparison. *Collabra Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.132489>.

Albuja, A. F., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Kinzler, K., Woodward, A., & Gaither, S. E. (2023). Hypodescent or Ingroup Overexclusion?: Children's and Adults' Racial Categorization of Ambiguous Black/White Biracial Faces. *Developmental Science*, e13450. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13450>.

Manuscripts Under Review

Muñoz, M. A., Andrade, F. C., Carbajal, I. Gaither, S. E. (R&R). Latino Voters Are Not a Monolith: Exploring the Influence of Identity on Mexican and Cuban Americans' Voting Behaviors in the 2024 Presidential Election.

Salvador, C. E., Lam T K., **Muñoz, M. A.** (R&R). Social and Emotion Norms: Features and Cultural Variation. *Handbook of Emotion and Culture*. Oxford University Press.

Muñoz, M. A., Orvell, A., Salvador, C. E. (R&R). One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Racial Ethnic Groups in the United States. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/mequ4_v1.

Manuscripts In Preparation

* indicating co-first authorship

Naidu, E. S., Zhou, J., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Wiswall, M. S., Gaither, S. E. (in prep). Living with Other-Race Roommates Opens Doors to Flexible Thinking.

*Wiswall, M. S., ***Muñoz, M.A.**, Naidu, E. S., Gaither, S. E. (in prep). Distinctly Ambiguous: How Monoracial South Asian and Latine Faces are Miscategorized and Mis-stereotyped

Muñoz, M. A., Gaither, S. E. (in prep). Ethnicity or Race: Latine College Students' Reflections on their Racial and Ethnic Latine Identity.

Teaching Experience

Instructor on Record, Duke University

Summer 2025

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104)
11 students; Instructor Rating: Course ongoing**Teaching Assistant, Duke University***Introduction to Cultural Psychology (PSY 245D)*
Lecture Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salvador
Discussion Section Instructor: Mercedes Muñoz
19 students; TA Rating: 4.94 / 5

Fall 2024

Graduation with Distinction Thesis Workshop (PSY 496)
Instructor: Dr. Makeba Wilbourn
27 students; TA Rating: 4.8 / 5

Spring 2024

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104)
Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salvador
100 students; TA Rating: 4.4 / 5

Fall 2022

The Self & Social Identities (PSY 223)
Instructor: Dr. Sarah Gaither
25 students; Course Rating: 4.9/5

Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant Training, Duke University

Fall 2022

Guest Lectures

Moral Development (PSY 335), <i>Duke University</i> "Cultural Psychology of Morality & Religion"	Summer 2025
Honors Colloquium: (PHYS 392H3), <i>University of Arkansas</i> "Psychology, Identity, & Creativity: How our multiple identities help us think 'outside the box'"	Spring 2025
Graduation with Distinction Thesis Workshop (PSY 496), <i>Duke University</i> "Data Visualization: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices"	Spring 2024
Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104), <i>Duke University</i> "The Power of Groups"	Fall 2022
The Self and Social Identities (PSY 223), <i>Duke University</i> "Talk American: Language as an Identity Marker"	Spring 2022

Mentorship**Graduate Student Research Mentor to Undergraduates, Duke University**

Fall 2021 – Current

Mentorship in Honors Thesis (2)Rose Naderi, "The Effect of Language on Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics"
Nicole Izquierdo, "Exploring Racial Ethnic Identity in Latino Families"**Mentorship in manuscript writing (4)**

Rose Naderi; Nicole Izquierdo; Alyssa Jurewicz; Noelia Piedra

Mentorship in poster making and presenting (12)Maria Brown; Carly Blank; Diana Silver; Janvi Kavathia; Charli Cordoves; LaNaiah Frieson,
Rose Naderi; Nicole Izquierdo; Diana Tobon; Noelia Piedra; AJ Kochuba; Serena Raj,**Mentorship for in-person and online data collection, survey building / methods creation (34)**Rose Naderi; Nicole Izquierdo; Diana Tobon; Alyssa Jurewicz; Noelia Piedra;
AJ Kochuba; Jalen Faison; Kaitlyn Bumpers; Simone DeBerry; Antonio Marrujo; Ashley
Alcantar; Bri'Yon Watts; Camila Jimenez; Sejal Mayer-Patel; Jaime Gonzalez; Vicky Jin; Carmel
Falek; Michelle Igbinadolor; Loey Allen; Rani Jones; Akuorkor Allotey; Alyssa Gabidon; Chi
Nghiem; Collin Pitts; Julia Zheng; Kelly Wang; Sarah Pepka; Maria Brown; Carly Blank; Diana
Silver; Janvi Kavathia; Charli Cordoves; LaNaiah Frieson**Mentorship in qualitative coding (10)**Rose Naderi; Camila Jimenez; Sarah Williams; Noelia Piedra; Jamie Gonzalez; Kaitlyn
Bumpers; Simone DeBerry; Jalen Faison; Krystal Archer; Jasmine Cuevas-Lopez**Mentorship in data analysis (6)**

Nicole Izquierdo; Rose Naderi; Noelia Piedra; AJ Kochuba; Alyssa Jurewicz; Camila Jimenez

Bass Connections Graduate Student Mentor, Duke University

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Title: "Increasing Children's Sense of Belonging in STEM Fields"

Guiding 6 undergraduate students through a year-long research project with the Durham Museum of
Life and Science

Chaired Symposia

Muñoz, M. A., Andrade, F. C., Carbajal, I. & Gaither, S. E. (submitted). Distinct Voting Patterns for Mexican and Cuban Americans in 2024. *Talk submitted to Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.* (Symposium title: *The Role of Racial/Ethnic Identity on Political Attitudes and Behavior*).

Muñoz, M. A., Salvador, C. E. & Gaither, S. E. (2025 May). The Role of Skin-Tone in Race and Ethnicity Self-Identification in Latine Children. *Talk presented to the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.* (Symposium title: *Exploring Latine and Indigenous Latine Identity: How Environmental Factors Influence Racial-Ethnic Identity*).

Muñoz, M. A., Orvell, A. & Salvador, C. E. (2024 October). The Role of Interdependence in Perceived Strength of Norms and Norm Adherence in Latine Americans. *Talk presented at the National Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA) Conference, San Juan, PR.* (Symposium title: *Expressions of Interdependence in Latine people: Perspectives from Social, Developmental, and Cultural Psychology*).

Research Talks

* Indicating undergraduate research mentees

*Jimenez, C., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E., (2025 March). Shades of Latino Identity: Ethnicity, Race, Skin Color, and Discrimination. *Talk presented at the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference, Pittsburg, PA.*

Muñoz, M. A., Salvador, C. E. & Gaither, S. E. (2024 March). Race or Ethnicity: Latino Identification Complexities and Considerations. *Talk presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference Pre-Conference: Why Basic Cognitive Developmental Science Needs Diversity: Theoretical Value and Practical Considerations, San Diego, CA.*

Muñoz, M. A. & Gaither, S. E., (2023 February). What is your Race? Examining Racial Self-Identification in Latinx Children. *Talk presented for Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2023, Atlanta, GA.*

Salvador, C. E. & **Muñoz, M. A.** (2022 October). One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Ethnic Groups in the United States. *Talk presented for the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), Philadelphia, PA.*

Muñoz, M. A. (2022 April). One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Ethnic Groups in the United States. *Talk presented for the Duke University Social Psychology Brownbag, Durham, NC.*

Albuja, A., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Kinzler, K. D., Woodward, A. L. & Gaither, S. E. (2021 October). Seeing Black, Seeing White: Ambiguous Categorization Outcomes for White and Black Children and their Parents. *Talk presented for Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (SSSP) Annual Virtual Conference.*

Research Posters

* indicating undergraduate research mentee

Revell, S. A., *Brown, M., *Blank, C., *Silver, D., *Kavathia, J., *Cordoves, C., *Frieson, L., Stegall J., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Gaither, S. E. & Kushnir, T. (2025 May). Exploring Children's Persistence in Museum Programming. *Poster presented for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.*

*Piedra, N., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2025 February). Race or ethnicity? Latinx Identity Complexity Through Focus Groups. *Poster presented for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2025, Denver, CO.*

*Jimenez, C., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2024 July). Shades of Latino Identity: Ethnicity, Race, Skin Color, and Discrimination. *Poster presented at the Duke Summer Research Showcase, Durham, NC.*

*Piedra, N., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2024 June). Factors Influencing Latinx College Students' Demographic Form Choices. *Poster presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Annual Convention 2024, Philadelphia, PA.*

*Naderi, R., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Kumar, S., Corriveau, K. H., Kushnir, T. & Gaither, S. E (2024 June). Half, a Few, Many: Language's Impact on Social Group Generalizations. *Poster presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Annual Convention 2024, Philadelphia, PA.*

Muñoz, M. A., Enright, E. A., Gaither, S. E., Halim, M. D., Pauker, K., Olson, K. R. & Dunham, Y. (2024 March). Children's In-Group Preferences: A Large-Scale Analysis on Racially Diverse Children's Race-Based Social Judgements. *Poster Presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, San Diego, CA.*

Muñoz, M. A., Orvell, A. & Salvador, C. E. (2024 February). One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Racial Ethnic Groups in the United States. *Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2024, San Diego, CA.*

*Naderi, R., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Kumar, S., Corriveau, K. H., Kushnir, T. & Gaither, S. E (2024 February). The Effect of Language on Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics *Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2024, San Diego, CA.*

*Kochuba, A., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Kumar, S., Corriveau, K. H., Kushnir, T. & Gaither, S. E. (2023 November). Linguistic Quantifiers Influence Children's Generalizations of Group Traits. *Poster presented at the Society for Southeast Social Psychologists (SSSP) Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC.*

*Izquierdo, N., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2023 November). Exploring Racial & Ethnic Identity in Hispanic/Latino Families. *Poster presented at the Society for Southeast Social Psychologists (SSSP) Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC.*

*Piedra, N., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2023 July). Factors Influencing Latinx College Students' Demographic Form Choices. *Poster presented at Duke University Summer Research Symposium, Durham, NC.*

*Raj, S., Wiswall, M. S., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2023 July). Perceptions of Emergent Minorities: An Exploration of Ingroup vs Outgroup Stereotype Incongruences. *Poster presented at Duke University VIP poster session, Durham, NC.*

Wiswall, M. S., **Muñoz, M. A.**, *Jaffe, T. & Gaither, S. E. (2023 June). Distinctly Ambiguous: An Exploration of South Asian and Latino Perceptions. *Poster presented for Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Annual Convention, Denver, CO.*

*Tobon, D., **Muñoz, M. A.** & Gaither, S. E. (2023 February). What Characteristics Make You Hispanic/Latino?: Examining Latino Identity Development. *Poster presented for Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2023, Atlanta, GA.*

Muñoz, M. A., Gaither, S. E. & Corriveau, K. H. (2022 February). The Effect of Language on Children's Assumed Within-Group Homogeneity. *Poster presented for Origins of the Social Mind Preconference at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention 2022, San Francisco, CA.*

Muñoz, M. A., Suárez, S., Kumar, S. & Corriveau, K. H. (2021 April). Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics: Effects of Generic Versus Statistical Language. *Poster presented for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Virtual Biennial Meeting.*

Ma, S., Cui, Y., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Qui, F., Suárez, S. & Chen, E. (2021 April). Examining the Relationship Between Authoritarianism and Children's Trusting Preferences in China and the U.S. *Poster presented for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Virtual Biennial Meeting.*

Muñoz, M. A., Zhang, M., Sullivan, N. & Markman, E. (2020 August). How does language affect children's developing representations of race? *Talk presented for Stanford University CSLI Summer Internship Final Presentation, Palo Alto, CA.*

Skubel, A., Koslouski J. B., Burke, E., **Muñoz, M. A.**, Chan, F., Fortuna, L. & Porche, M. V. (2019 August). The AIM Project: Applied Student Learning for Advocacy and Social Justice. *Poster presented for American Psychological Association (APA) Conference, Chicago, IL.*

Muñoz, M. A., (2019 August). Statistical v Generic: Exploring children's beliefs about gender stereotypes. *Talk presented for Yale University Summer Colloquium, New Haven, CT.*

Muñoz, M. A., Wilks, M. & Bloom, P. (2019 July). The Emergence of Speciesism Across Development. *Poster presented for Yale University Summer Research Symposium, New Haven, CT.*

Muñoz, M. A. & Corriveau, K H. (2018 October). Is adult help actually helpful?: Using guided intervention in child learning. *Poster presented for Boston University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Boston, MA.*

Muñoz, M. A., McMahon, J L., Campbell, I L. & Corriveau, K H. (2018 March). "What do you think will happen if?" Improving parent child conversations about science. *Poster presented for Eastern Psychological Association (EPA), Philadelphia, PA.*

Invited Research Talks & Panels

Duke University, Center for Multicultural Affairs
Panelist: Unity Through Diversity Conference

Spring 2025

Muñoz, M. A., Salvador, C. E., Gaither, S. E., Andrade, F.C. & Carbajal, I. (2025 April). Latine as a Race or an Ethnicity on Demographic Forms: Exploring Identity in Latine Children and Adults. *Talk presented virtually at the Technology, Race, and Prejudice Lab (TRAP Lab) led by Dr. Broderick Turner and Dr. Bregin Riley.*

Muñoz, M. A., Salvador, C. E. & Gaither, S. E. (2024 May). Race or Ethnicity: Latino Identification Complexities and Considerations. *Talk presented virtually at Dr. Hyesung Grace Hwang (UC Santa Cruz) and Dr. Rose Scott (UC Merced) joint lab meeting.*

Service

BOOST Beyond
Graduate student mentor
Mentor to Durham Public Schools high schooler applying to college

Fall 2023 – Spring 2025

Duke University, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience

Anti-Racism Community: Active Member
Pillar I: Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Students
Nominated Graduate Student Representative at Faculty Meetings
Panelist: Teaching Assistant Training
Panelist: Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Fall 2022 – Current
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
Summer 2023
Summer 2023

Ad-Hoc Reviews

Child Development
Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology
Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology
Developmental Science
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
Journal of Cognition and Development
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Social Development
Social Psychological and Personality Science

Professional Affiliations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology, *Student Member*
Society for Research in Child Development, *Graduate Student Membership / Latinx Caucus Member*
Cognitive Development Society, *Student Member*
Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, *Student Member*
American Education Research Association, *Student Affiliate*
Eastern Psychological Association, *Associate Member*
Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology, *Member*
National Latinx Psychological Association, *Member*

References

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