



Carlos A. Benitez Cruz

 Doctoral Student

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EDUCATION

- Present* **University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)**
Ph.D. in Community & Prevention Research
- 2021 **Dominican University (DU)**
B.A. in Psychology and Study of Women & Gender
Degree with Distinction and Honors
Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present **Graduate Research Assistant**
Gender Justice Initiative, UIC Psychology Department
- Assist team on research that focuses on improving system responses to sexual assault and gender-based violence led by PI Dr. Jessica Shaw.
 - 4 hours per week.
- 2019 - 2021 **Degree with Distinction and Honors Project**
Disrupting Sexist Ideologies, DU Department of Psychology
- Adapted and revised a primary sexual assault prevention program to a ten-week credit-bearing course at DU (listed as *SJCE 205: Men and Masculinities*).
 - Approved by Department of Justice under the CASE-SAP grant; if proven effective, the program would be recommended for campus wide implementation.
 - Collaborate and communicate with on and off-campus partners to build course lectures and activities.
 - Worked with primary course instructor in delivering class material and leading class discussions.
 - Collected and analyzed pre- and post-data to evaluate the efficacy of the program in activating students against sexism and empowering students to prevent and intervene in sexist and potentially sexually violent situations.
- 2019 - 2020 **Independent Research Project**
Gender Inequality Framing and Sexism, DU Department of Psychology
- Administered surveys to understand how the framing of gender inequality affected reported sexism in college aged men.
 - Gathered, analyzed, and interpreted data on men's beliefs.
- 2019 **Research Assistant**
Promising Pathways Initiative at Dominican University, DU Department of Psychology
- Developed coding scheme to interpret Promising Pathways Initiative (PPI) qualitative data.
 - Applied coding scheme to PPI student responses.
 - Interpreted themes and experiences of students to better understand their first-year experience.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2020 PSYC 270: Social Psychology
- Experimental class project exploring the effects of anxiety reappraisal on academic exam performance.
- Fall 2019 PSYC 445: Program Planning and Evaluation
- Analyzed data from DU's Promising Pathways Initiative (PPI) Program.
- Spring 2019 PSYC 370: Community Psychology
- Analyzed data from UNICEF on the effects of female genital mutilation on women's lives across the globe.
 - Investigated the causes and outcomes of sexual assault at different levels of the social ecology.
- Fall 2018 PSYC 291: Research Methods & Statistics II
- Experimental group project investigating the effects of gender framing on reported sexism from male-identifying students at Dominican University.
- Spring 2018 PSYC 290: Research Methods & Statistics I
- Group project analyzing the relationship between religious beliefs, happiness, and well-being.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 - 2021 **Immigrant Student Support Specialist**
Center for Cultural Liberation (CCL) & El Centro, Dominican University
- Provide clerical support to the Director of El Centro and the CCL for immigration related issues and student cases.
 - Plan, execute, and evaluate programs, workshops, and events to center undocumented immigrant experience and inform immigrant students of on-campus and local resources.
 - Assist undocumented students with issues pertaining to their legal status.
 - Create and actualize an UndocuStudent Student (Advising & Resource) Handbook.
- 2019 - 2021 **Resident Assistant**
Student Life Office, Dominican University
- Create and maintain a safe and inclusive community in the Residence Halls.
 - Communicate and support resident students experiencing academic, social, and emotional challenges.
 - Act as first-responder in the case of emergencies, distressing situations, and safety concerns.
 - Uphold University and Housing policies and procedures.
- 2018 - 2020 **Orientation Leader**
Student Success and Engagement, Dominican University
- Facilitate first-year and transfer students' acclimation to DU.
 - Communicate and uphold the expectations and standards of DU.

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- Support various offices at the university in administrative tasks.
 - Decorate campus facilities to welcome students.
 - Provide English-Spanish translation support for parents, families, and DU staff.

2018 -2019

Scholarship Assistant*El Centro, Dominican University*

- Compile available scholarships for students at DU.
- Meet and advise students to apply for scholarships.
- Share school resources and direct students to appropriate offices for support.
- Develop workshops and information sessions to help student success.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGOSpring 2022 **Teaching Assistant, PSCH 343 Statistical Methods in Behavioral Science***Undergraduate course; Two discussion sections; 42 students*Spring 2022 **Teaching Assistant, PSCH 231 Community Psychology***Undergraduate course; Main grading responsibilities; 150 students*Fall 2021 **Teaching Assistant, PSCH 343 Statistical Methods in Behavioral Science***Undergraduate course; One discussion section; 20 students*Fall 2021 **Teaching Assistant, PSCH 242 Introduction to Research in Psychology***Undergraduate course; One Discussion Section; 25 students***DOMINICAN UNIVERISTY**Spring 2021 **Co-Instructor, SJCE 205 Men & Masculinities***Undergraduate course; One section; 7 students.*Fall 2019 **Peer Mentor/Teacher Assistant, LAS 108 Identity Blueprint***Undergraduate course; One Section; 24 students***Guest Lecturer**

Spring 2019 "A Crash Course on Sex, Gender, and Sexuality" LAS 105, First-Year Seminar

"Deconstruyendo la Caja de Masculinidad" SPAN 325, Intro to Hispanic Cinema

"Lead Like a Man: Gendered Leadership and Overcoming Toxic Masculinity as a Leader" DU Lead

LEADERSHIP

Present

Social Media Coordinator & Leadership Team Member*Coalition of Undocumented Scholars & Professionals in Psychology (CUSPP)*

- Manage and curate communications on CUSPP social media platforms.
- Support and lead outreach to undocumented undergraduate students and undocumented people interested in the field of psychology.

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- 2019 - 2021 **Member**
Sanctuary Campus Subcommittee, Dominican University

 - Plan and execute events and meetings to highlight the voices of undocumented people in the U.S. within and outside of the field of psychology.
 - Communicate with undocumented, racially marginalized, and otherwise marginalized students about their needs on campus.
 - Revise and actualize the Sanctuary Campus Covenant to protect undocumented, racially marginalized, and otherwise marginalized students on campus.
 - Develop contingency and emergency plans as immigration policy and culture changes in the U.S. to support undocumented students.

 - 2019 - 2021 **Undocumented & Immigrant Allyance Student Representative**
President's Advisory Council, Dominican University

 - Attend monthly meetings with student leaders, Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and university president.
 - Raise concerns from the undocumented student body.
 - Help develop solutions to concerns from the student body.

 - 2019 - 2021 **Co-Creator and Lead Organizer**
Monarch(a) Showcase 2019 & Beyond Borders Showcase 2021

 - Conceptualized, planned, and executed a research and creative work exposition to center and celebrate the works of 50 undergraduate undocumented students, immigrant students, and children of immigrants.
 - Delegated and supervised subcommittees overseeing fundraising efforts for the Immigrant Student Emergency Fund, marketing, and design.

 - 2018 - 2021 **Member and Student Leader Liaison**
Coordinated Community Response Team, DU Wellness Center

 - Facilitate communication between DOJ Sexual Assault Prevention (CASE-SAP) grant director and student leaders on campus.
 - Create opportunities for male engagement on issues regarding relationship and sexual violence prevention, and opportunities to participate in gender equity.
 - Adapt and evaluate *Men's Project* course curriculum to meet the standards and goals of the DOJ CASE-SAP grant.

 - 2017 - 2021 **President**
Undocumented & Immigrant Allyance, DU

 - Coordinate events to inform DU community of issues impacting and the experiences of undocumented and immigrant students, usually 60-100 attendees.
 - Hold bimonthly meetings to build community amongst undocumented students, immigrant students, and allies.
 - Plan and execute demonstrations, meetings, and events to advocate for the rights of immigrants on and off campus.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2017 - 2020 **Volunteer**
Proyecto de acción de los suburbios del oeste (PASO), Melrose Park

 - Be the liaison between Dominican University's UIA members and PASO.

- Bring and refer volunteers to PASO from Dominican University and elsewhere.
- Attend monthly meetings to participate in discussions about how to better support the Latine community and immigrants
- Support PASO by bringing volunteers from DU to demonstrations, rallies, and other political actions. Notably, I organized UIA members to aid PASO in lobbying for the RISE Act in March 2019.

2019

Teaching Fellow*Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program, Oak Park*

- Assist the primary instructors in the creation of the week's lesson plan.
- Engage children, ages 4-6, in conversations and activities to help them understand the body, love, and relationships as a means to normalize conversations about the body and sex.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

*Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

Benitez Cruz, C. A., and Garcia, K. (2021). *Gender Inequality and Sexism, A Conceptual Replication of Powell et al.* Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.*

Benitez Cruz, C.A., and Garcia, K. (2020). *Gender Inequality and Sexism, A Conceptual Replication of Powell et al.* Undergraduate Research Study and Creative Investigation Expo, River Forest, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A. (2020). *Men's Project at Dominican University.* Undergraduate Research Study and Creative Investigation Expo, River Forest, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A., Arias, I. (2019). *Gender Inequality and Sexism, A Conceptual Replication of Powell et al. - Pilot Study.* Undergraduate Research Study and Creative Investigation Expo, River Forest, IL.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Malone, S., DeViera, A., Cutler, C., **Benitez Cruz, C. A.** (2021). *Planting New Seeds: Mobilizing Anti-Colonial and Anti-Carceral Pedagogy and Training in Psychology.* Uprooting Carceral Psychology: Healing Justice Conference, Online.

Benitez Cruz, C. A. (2021). *Disrupting Sexist Ideologies and Behaviors: An Evaluation of a Mixed-Approach Sexual Assault Prevention Program.* Undergraduate Research Study and Creative Investigation (URSCI) Expo, River Forest, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A. (2021). *Beyond DREAMers and Saints: Discussing Illegal Alien and Radical UndocuQueer Potential.* URSCI Expo, River Forest, IL.

Cheng, S., **Benitez Cruz, C. A.**, Duarte, G., Lopez-Benitez F. Y., Ibarra, R. L. (2021). *Truth as We Speak It: Navigating Personal and Institutional Violence.* Women and Gender Studies Conference, River Forest, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A., and Arroyo, L. (2020). *Centering UndocuVoices: How to be an Ally to Undocumented Students.* Association for Latino Professionals of America (ALPFA) Latinx Conference, Peoria, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A., and Arias, I. (2019). *Gender Inequality and Sexism, A Conceptual Replication of Powell et al. – A Pilot Study*. Women and Gender Studies Conference, River Forest, IL.

Diaz, J., **Benitez Cruz, C. A.**, Jones, M., Kimbrough, D., Rodriguez, B., Villegas, L. (2019). *On the Global Oppression of Women, Student Panel*. Women and Gender Studies Conference, River Forest, IL.

Diaz, L., **Benitez Cruz, C. A.**, Hernandez, Y.. (2019). *DREAM.US - Undocumented Student Panel*. Caritas Veritas Symposium, River Forest, IL.

Benitez Cruz, C. A., and Hernandez, D. (2019). *Nothing About Us Without Us: Combatting Ageism at Universities*. Sharing the Dream Conference, DeKalb, IL.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2021	Outstanding Senior Award – Study of Women & Gender
2020	Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award
2020	St. Catherine Medal for Student Achievement
2020	Golden Star Leadership Award
2017 - 2020	DU Dean's List
2019	Golden Star Leadership Award
2018	DU Honor's List

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2017 - 2021	Dominican University Presidential Award
2017 - 2021	DREAM.US National Scholarship
2018 - 2021	Adelante Scholarship
2020	Undergraduate Research and Creative Investigation (URSCI) Summer Grant
2019	Undergraduate Research and Creative Investigation (URSCI) Summer Grant
2018	Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2022- present	Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA)
2021- present	The Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA)
2020- present	The Lincoln Academy of Illinois
2020- present	Psi Chi International Honor Society

CERTIFICATIONS

2020- 2022	National Council for Behavioral Health - Mental Health First Aid
2021	Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault – 42 Hour Crisis Intervention Training

SKILLS

Proficient in computer system applications; *Microsoft Suite, Google Drive, OneDrive*
 Proficient in learning management system *Canvas*

Proficient in data analysis applications; *ESCI*, *SPSS*, *R*

LANGUAGES

Spanish - Native proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing.

French – Intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing.