

Curriculum Vitae

SOHANI CHAR, PSY.D.

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LICENSURE

09/01/2019: Florida Licensed Psychologist, PY 9969

EDUCATION

08/11-08/16: Psy.D., Clinical Psychology

Nova Southeastern University, Center for Psychological Studies. Fort Lauderdale, FL.
American Psychological Association accredited clinical psychology program.

08/11-08/13: M.S., Clinical Psychology

Nova Southeastern University, Center for Psychological Studies. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

01/06-04/10: B.A., Psychology (Summa Cum Laude)

Major: Psychology, Minor: Sociology
Florida International University. Miami, FL.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Psychological Association
- Association for Behavioral Analysis International

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

09/06/17-Present. Licensed Psychologist, Supervisor of the Developmental Assessment Clinic

Unicorn Children's Foundation Clinic

Developmental Assessment Clinic

College of Psychology

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Responsibilities: Directly supervise and provide support for all activities within the Developmental Assessment Clinic. Provide supervision for psychology practicum students and psychology postdoctoral residents. Provide training in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of various psychological assessments. Conduct psychodiagnostic evaluations for individuals ages 18 months-18 years. Conduct intakes and assessments in Spanish to serve the Hispanic community and international clients residing in Latin America. Provide feedback to parents by discussing assessment results and individualized recommendations. Provide seminars in English and Spanish to the community on a variety of topics related to autism. Train and evaluate pediatric residents from Joe Di Maggio Children's Hospital and Palms West Hospital. Collaboratively work with Director of Research and Grants to develop research projects approved by administration. Represent the clinic on local, state,

and national conferences. Conduct community outreach to increase knowledge and access to early intervention.

Supervisor: Ana Martinez, Psy.D.

09/01/16-08/31/17 Postdoctoral Psychology Resident

Unicorn Children's Foundation Clinic

College of Psychology

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Responsibilities: Lead teacher in Starting Right, an early intervention, parent-child class serving children ages 18-36 months exhibiting delays in language and social skills. Collaboratively work with teacher assistants and parents on developing goals to improve the child's social, independent, academic, behavioral, and communicative functioning. Complete intake interviews and conduct developmental evaluations for children ages 18 months to 18 years of age suspected of having a developmental delay or autism spectrum disorder utilizing gold-standard assessment tools. Conduct intakes and assessments in Spanish to serve the Hispanic community and international clients residing in Latin America. Provide feedback to parents by discussing assessment results and individualized recommendations. Supervise practicum students and provide them with training in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of various psychological assessments. Provide seminars to the community on a variety of topics related to autism.

Supervisors: Alessandra Shapiro, Psy.D., Roseanne Lesack, Ph.D., BCBA-D, ABPP

09/01/15-08/31/16 Psychology Intern

The South Florida Consortium Internship Program

Broward Sheriff's Office in Custody Behavioral Services Division, North Broward Detention Center, Pompano Beach, FL

Responsibilities: Provided individual and group therapy (i.e., psychoeducational and process groups) to inmates with challenging behaviors and a broad range of disorders. Provide crisis intervention and consult with professionals from a multi-disciplinary team. Conduct intake evaluations to determine client's level of appropriateness for the various mental health program services offered within the correctional facility. Develop curriculum for psycho-educational programs as well as conduct the programs on a weekly basis. Administer full batteries of tests, including assessments of intelligence, personality, and malingering in order to help clarify diagnosis and help guide treatment recommendations. Provide inmates with feedback regarding their assessment results and discuss post-release plans and recommendations. Provide mental health education and training for Department of Detention and Community Program staff.

Supervisors: Timothy Ludwig, Ph.D., Michele Sanchez, Psy.D., and Barbara Garcia-Lavin, Ph.D.

08/14-08/15: Psychology Trainee. Elective Practicum

University of Miami Autism Spectrum Assessment Clinic, Coral Gables, FL.

Responsibilities: Provided comprehensive diagnostic and psycho-educational evaluations to children, adolescents, and adults who were seeking clarification about an autism spectrum diagnosis. Completed intake interviews and provided feedback to parents. Administered, scored, and interpreted a variety of cognitive measures, autism measures, and language assessments.

Provided individual therapy to individuals on the autism spectrum. Co-led a social skills group for children with autism by promoting positive interaction and social skills development through a variety of therapeutic activities and discussion topics.

Supervisors: Amy Beaumont, Psy.D. and Melissa Hale, Ph.D.

08/13-08/14: Psychology Trainee

Anxiety Treatment Center, Nova Southeastern University, Psychology Services Center. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Responsibilities: Treated adults with various anxiety disorders, including Social Phobia, Specific Phobia, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Hypochondriasis, and Panic Disorder. Provided evidence-based, manualized treatment using a cognitive-behavioral approach focusing on psychoeducation, cognitive-restructuring, and exposure therapy. Completed biopsychosocial assessments and structured clinical interviews using the Anxiety Disorder Interview Schedule (ADIS). Conducted screenings and therapy in Spanish. Treatment also consisted of incorporating mindfulness and acceptance as well as motivational interviewing techniques. Administered, scored, and interpreted various anxiety measures. Created and revised treatment plans. Participated in weekly supervision and didactic trainings.

Supervisors: Jennifer Hochman, Psy.D. and Jedidiah Siev, Ph.D.

05/12-05/13: Psychology Trainee

Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, Nova Southeastern University, Psychology Services Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Responsibilities: Worked individually with children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 18 months and three years. Administered, scored, and interpreted various cognitive and developmental tests that assessed for developmental disabilities, such as autism. Applied behavioral interventions to increase communication and social skills. Collaboratively worked with teachers and behavior analysts on the different domains included in the child's intervention plan like social, independent, academic, behavioral, and communication functioning. Conducted a psycho-educational parent group and compiled training material containing a variety of "parent group topics" for future incoming practicum students.

Supervisors: Tanya Solomon, Psy.D. and Jennifer Ries, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

08/18- Present: Adjunct Faculty, College of Psychology

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Courses: PYCL 0669: Advanced Treatment Interventions

08/18-Present: Adjunct Faculty, Abraham S. Fischler College of Education

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Courses: EP 655: Nature of Autism: Intervention Methods, Strategies, and Application

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

05/17-08/15: Teaching Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Instructor: Jennifer D. Ries, Ph.D.

Courses: HSDD 5100- Program Design and Evaluation

Responsibilities: Assisted in answering students' inquiries about the course and assignments. Assisted in grading of weekly discussion postings and assignments. Provided feedback and critical evaluation of students' logic models and evaluation plans to measure outputs and outcomes. Provided students with guidance through the stages of designing a social services program, including developing a conceptual framework, conducting a needs assessment, and setting goals and objectives.

06/13-07/13: Teaching Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Instructor: Jennifer D. Ries, Ph.D.

Courses: HSDD 5200- Disability and the Family Cycle

Responsibilities: Assisted in answering students' inquiries about the course and assignments, and in grading of weekly discussion postings. Assisted students with any questions regarding the sociology of the family; the experience of family members of persons with a disability; the educational system and its impact on outcomes of children with disabilities, and characteristics of successful inclusion efforts. Graded and provided feedback on students' various literature reviews pertaining to early intervention services for children under the age of 3 years, inclusive education for students with developmental disabilities, and transitional issues. Also reviewed students' professional guide for families and parents who have a family member with a developmental disability.

06/13-07/13: Teaching Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Instructor: Jennifer D. Ries, Ph.D.

Courses: HSDD 5430- Integrating Children with Disabilities in Educational Settings

Responsibilities: Assisted in answering students' inquiries about the course and assignments, and in grading of weekly discussion postings. Assisted students with questions regarding the historical approaches to the education of children with disabilities, and the current models utilized in educational settings such as inclusion, mainstreaming, and self-contained classrooms. Provided feedback and critical evaluation of student's assignments regarding the supports that can be provided to children with developmental disabilities to promote successful educational outcomes.

08/12- 12/12: Teaching Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Instructor: Sarah Valley-Gray, Psy.D.

Course: PSY 1501- Assessment Intelligence Testing

Responsibilities: Trained psychology students on how to administer and score the WISC-IV and the WAIS-IV. Listened to trainees' tapes, provided feedback, and grading based on how accurately they administered and scored assessments.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

01/13-04/15: Research Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Project: Physical Activity and Parenthood

Responsibilities: Recruited participants for the study examining factors that may be associated with physical activity at different locations across Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Contacted schools and local communities to recruit participants. Collaborated with different team members to collect and organize data.

Supervisor: Mindy Ma, Ph.D.

01/13-08/14: Research Assistant

Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Project: Children's Bereavement Center Project

Responsibilities: Collaborated in the writing of the grant proposal. Assisted with the preparation of packets containing various psychological measures that assessed grief. Collected participant data and followed-up with participants. Attended bi-weekly meetings to discuss the project.

Supervisor: Nurit Sheinberg, Ed.D.

8/13-01/14: Research Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Center for Psychological Studies, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Responsibilities: Input data into the School Psychology Assessment and Consultation Center (SPACC) Database for the use of generating future studies pertaining to children with academic difficulties. Attended meetings to discuss research progress and prospective research ideas.

Supervisor: Gene Cash, Ph.D. and Sarah Valley-Gray, Psy.D.

03/12-08/12: Research Assistant

Nova Southeastern University, Center for Psychological Studies. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Project: Cultural Values and Sexual Risk Attitudes and Behaviors among Hispanic Youth

Responsibilities: Recruited participants for the study examining Latino cultural values as protective factors against sexual risks among adolescents, at different locations across Miami-Dade County. Collaborated with different team members to recruit participants and collect data. Attended meetings to discuss research progress and brainstorm new ways to recruit participants.

Supervisor: Mindy Ma, Ph.D.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Phi Beta Kappa Society, 2011
- Golden Key International Honor Society, 2011

POSTER PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Char, S. & Sheinberg, N. (2019). *Identifying factors associated with disparities in diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder in Hispanic children.* Presentation at 26th Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Statewide Annual Autism Conference, Orlando, FL.

Kniola, A., Shapiro, A., & **Char, S.** *Comparing parental report to standardized assessment scores in communication.* Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research 2019 Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.

Kniola, A., Shapiro, A., & **Char, S.** *Correlation between severity and cognitive functioning in autism spectrum disorder.* Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research 2019 Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.

Farias, A. & **Char, S.** *Communication differences in children with autism among non-minority and minority populations.* Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association 2019 Annual Convention. Chicago, Illinois.

Kniola, A., Shapiro, A., & **Char, S.** *The correlation between young children's cognitive functioning and autism spectrum disorder.* Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association 2019 Annual Convention. Chicago, Illinois.

Kniola, A., Shapiro, A., & **Char, S.** *Comparison between standardized assessment scores and parental report in communication.* Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association 2019 Annual Convention. Chicago, Illinois.

Ma, M., Malcolm, L.R., Diaz-Albertini, K., Klinoff, V.A., Leeder, E., **Barrientos, S.**, & Kibler, J.L. *Cultural Values and Sexual Risk Attitudes and Behaviors among Hispanic Youth.* Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association 2012, Orlando, FL.

Ma, M., Malcolm, L.R., Diaz-Albertini, K., Klinoff, V.A., Leeder, E., **Barrientos, S.**, & Kibler, J.L. (in press). Latino cultural values as protective factors against sexual risks among adolescents. *Journal of Adolescence*, 37, 1215-1225.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Volunteer Teacher, King Jesus Ministry, 2014 -Present
- Volunteer, Love Bags, 2012
- Volunteer, His House Children's Home, 2010
- Volunteer, Hands on Miami, 2010
- Volunteer, Victory's Autism School, 2010

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

- Fluent in Spanish
- Basic comprehension of French

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

