

Curriculum Vitae
Gesenia Sloan-Pena, Psy.D.

College of Psychology
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
Email: gsloanpe@nova.edu

LICENSE

Licensed Psychologist
State of Florida License Number PY9976

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
(PSYPACT)
APIT Provider # 17317

EDUCATION

Pepperdine University- Los Angeles, CA
APA Accredited Clinical Psychology Program
Dissertation Title: Assessment and Diagnosis of
Autism Spectrum Disorder in Latino Children
Degree conferred 2015

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology
Pepperdine University, Los Angeles CA
Degree conferred 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Speech
Northwestern University, Evanston IL
Degree conferred 1998

LANGUAGES

Bilingual Spanish - Native Fluency

TRAINING

October 2016- March 2018 Post-Doctoral Neuropsychology Resident

Comprehensive MedPsych Systems

Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL

Supervisors: John Meyers, Psy.D., ABN, ABPdN; Kathy
Baum, Ph.D., ABN; Geoffrey Kanter, Ph.D., ABN, ABPdN

- Conducted comprehensive adult and pediatric neuropsychological evaluations
- Complete inpatient and outpatient medical consultation

March 2015- April 2016 **Post-Doctoral Registered
Neuropsychological/Psychological Assistant
Fullerton Neuropsychological Services**
Fullerton, CA
Supervisor, Priscilla Armstrong, Psy.D., ABPdN

- Comprehensive neuropsychological assessment for children and young adults
- Play therapy, CBT, family therapy with children, young adults and their families

August 2009- August 2010 **Doctoral Psychology Intern
Orange County Healthcare Agency
Clinical Evaluation & Guidance Unit (CEGU)**
Orange, CA

- Evaluations for minor dependents of the Orange County Court from birth to 17 years of age
- Comprehensive neuropsychological testing of children and adolescents exposed to trauma, abuse and neglect
- Provided brief individual and family therapy
- Assisted in crisis calls and psychiatric hospitalizations; conducted mental status and risk assessment evaluations
- Consulted with County Social Services, therapeutic behavioral service coaches (TBS), and psychiatrists

July 2008- July 2009 **Doctoral Psychology Intern
Kaiser Permanente Behavioral Health
Department of Psychology/Psychiatry**
Tustin/Santa Ana, CA

- Neuropsychological assessment of children, adolescents, and adults including the Autism Clinic
- Provided inpatient hospital consultation/interventions
- Individual, family, and couple's psychotherapy
- Psychoeducational and psychotherapy groups for children/adolescents and adults
- Provided evaluations, consultations and brief psychotherapy in a community based Diabetes Clinic and Behavioral Medicine Clinic

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

November 2023- Present **Clinical Faculty
Nova Southeastern University (NSU)**

- Train and supervise doctoral level students, interns and residents in the School Related Psychological Assessments and Clinical Interventions (SPACI Clinic)
- Facilitate didactic seminars and group supervision/grand rounds
- Obtain grant funding and manage research projects
- Provide multidisciplinary consultation to the Shepard Broad College of Law, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Patel College of Allopathic Medicine
- Teach doctoral psychology classes in the College of Psychology
- Act as a First Reader/Committee member for doctoral psychology students Directed Study/Dissertation
- Develop and review curriculum as part of the College of Psychology Doctoral Program Assessment Committee
- Review applications and conduct interviews of doctoral psychology candidates

May 2021- Present

**Chief Neuropsychologist
Florida Neuropsychology Associates**

Offices throughout Florida

- Conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for pediatric (beginning at 18 months of age) and adult patients in English and Spanish
- Civil forensic evaluations including medical malpractice, birth injury, and personal injury
- Worker's compensation and fitness for duty evaluations

March 2018- August 2023

**Staff Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Comprehensive MedPsych Systems**

Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL

- Comprehensive neuropsychological test batteries in English and Spanish for children, adolescents, adults, older adults with TBI, concussion, strokes, neurocognitive disorders, spinal cord stimulators, deep brain stimulation, bariatric surgery, epilepsy, ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental delays, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance abuse disorders, somatic/conversion disorders, personality disorders, pain disorders, movement disorders, and various medical conditions including cancer, Lupus, and Multiple Sclerosis
- Civil forensic evaluations and workers compensation

- Evaluations of toddlers and children using the ADOS-2 and other measures to assess and diagnosis Autism Spectrum Disorder

October 2020- July 2021

**Consulting Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Kindred Hospital**

Hollywood & Fort Lauderdale, FL

- Neuropsychological and psychological evaluations, mental status examinations and brief psychotherapeutic interventions for patients within a hospital including a rehabilitation unit, general medical floors, oncology, and Emergency Department
- Patient population: Stroke, spinal cord injury, pain management, oncology, pulmonary and sleep medicine, and endocrinology

June 2020- July 2021

**Staff Neuropsychologist
The Neurology Institute/The Neurobehavioral Institute**

Coral Springs, FL

- Conduct comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for children, adults, and geriatric patients in English and Spanish
- Assessments to evaluate TBI/concussion, stroke, neurocognitive disorders, epilepsy, memory and dementia, ADHD, learning disabilities, Tic Disorder/Tourette's, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, substance abuse disorders, somatic/conversion disorders, personality disorders, pain disorders, movement disorders, degenerative disorders, and various medical conditions
- Evaluations of toddlers and children using the ADOS-2 and other measures to assess and diagnosis Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorder

October 2019- July 2020

**Staff Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Segel Psychological Center**

Coconut Creek, FL

- Neuropsychological, psychological, and psychoeducational evaluation and psychotherapy for children and adults
- Patient population: neurocognitive impairment, learning disabilities, personality disorders, ADHD, Tic Disorder/Tourette's, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Vocational Interest and Aptitude, intellectual disability, dementia and memory dysfunction, stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy/seizures, and medical disability

- Referral sources: primary care physicians, neurologists, Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD), worker's compensation/civil attorneys, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors, medical disability adjudicator (SSI), schools and families

**March 2018 - October 2019 Consulting Psychologist/Neuropsychologist
Fawcett Memorial Hospital**

Port Charlotte, FL

- Neuropsychological and psychological evaluations, mental status examinations and psychotherapy for inpatients within a hospital stroke rehabilitation unit, general medical floors, and Emergency Department including pain management evaluations and substance use/abuse assessment

**August 2013- April 2016 Post-Doctoral Resident
Neuropsychological/Psychological Assistant
Private Practice**

Newport Beach, CA

Supervisor, Christopher Ingalls, Ph.D., Q.M.E.

- Comprehensive neurocognitive and psychological assessment for children and adults: intellectual disability, dementia and memory dysfunction, stroke, learning disorders, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, TBI, concussion, sports injury/CTE and epilepsy/seizure surgery

**July 2010- April 2016 Independent Mental Health Consultant
Hannah's Children's Homes
Adoption Program & Foster Program**

Orange, CA

- Psychosocial assessments of children and families
- Devised thorough and comprehensive Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Home Studies for foster/adoption families
- Directed in home, school and community interventions for foster children and families

**July 2010- July 2011 Independent Mental Health Consultant
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Early Headstart Program**

Santa Ana, CA

- Parent/child interaction therapy, play therapy, caregiver consultation and attachment oriented interventions, for infants and toddlers and their families/caregivers
- Crisis intervention, couple's/family therapy and individual psychotherapy
- Developed Spanish and English infant-child mental health, infant-parent dyad, child development and behavioral training programs for teachers, staff and parents of children in the program
- Consulted and collaborated at IFSP meetings and with multidisciplinary treatment team members

**October 2007- June 2009 Registered Psychological Assistant
Private Practice
Los Angeles, CA**

- Comprehensive psychological and educational assessments to evaluate for cognitive delays, emotional difficulties, learning disorders, memory and attention problems, Autism Spectrum Disorder and giftedness

**August 2005- August 2008 Independent Mental Health Consultant
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)
& Inglewood Headstart
Huntington Park, South Gate & Inglewood, CA**

- Implemented cognitive-behavioral interventions for preschool children; social skills training groups for children with behavioral and attentional issues, speech and language disorders, developmental delays, and Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Crisis intervention, domestic violence counseling, couple's therapy and individual psychotherapy
- Created and conducted Spanish psycho-educational, child development and behavioral workshops for teachers and parents of children in the program

**June 2004- September 2005 Mental Health Specialist
Starview Community Services
Long Beach, CA**

- Developed behaviorally based treatment goals and comprehensive service plans as part of a treatment team
- Provided in home, school and community based cognitive behavioral therapeutic interventions for severely emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families

- Provided Co-occurring Disorder/Dual Diagnosis and wraparound services individually and through after school groups, relapse prevention, crisis intervention, medication support and skills development

RESEARCH

November 2023 – Present

Principal Investigator

NOVA Southeastern University

- Co-Director, Diversity in Assessment Research Initiative (DARI)
- Develop a testing battery for school neuropsychologists to utilize with students following a mTBI
- Consult with the Shepard Broad College of Law as part of the Neurobridge Inclusion and Advocacy Law Clinic (NIAL)
- Determine validity of the Spanish versions of the WAIS-III and WAIS-IV with bilinguals in the U.S
- Identify assessment measures to aid in the accurate identification of the neurodevelopmental impact of trauma in children and adolescents
- Investigating the Influence of Language of Administration on Baseline ImPACT scores
- Conduct neurodevelopmental evaluations and provide parent education to high-risk infants discharged from the NICU (Tiny Tots Transition to Home)
- Revise and collect data for standardization of rating scales and neuropsychological tests/measures

October 2016- 2019

Principal Investigator & Co-Author

Comprehensive MedPsych Systems (CMPS)

Fort Myers & Sarasota, FL

Supervisor: John Myers, Ph.D., ABN, ABPdN

- Determine validity of the MNB with Spanish speaking individuals
- Identify differences in gender scores when using the MNB with transgender adolescents
- ImPACT Normative Extension site to establish the validity and reliability of ImPACT Online for adults age 60 through 80

June 2004- June 2006

Research & Project Assistant

Pepperdine University, Psy.D. Department

Los Angeles, CA

Principal Investigator: Shelly Harrell, Ph.D.

- Organized, collected and coded qualitative data using *NVIVO*, formulated and determined emerging themes from the narrative data
- Aided in the research, peer review, publication and editing process of articles in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*
- Facilitated dissemination of the Racism and Life Experience Scales (RALES) (Harrell, S.P., 1997) data and psychometric properties, assisted in the design and composition of the scoring manual
- Assisted in the writing and composition of grants for narrative research and project funding

**August 2003- March 2004 Research Assistant
Bellevue Hospital & NYU School of Medicine
New York, NY**

Principal Investigators: Purnima Thyagarjini-Valdez, M.D.
& Allen Mendelsohn, M.D.

- Assessed motor, cognitive and behavioral skills using the Dial-3, the ESI-R, the STIM-Q, the ADDES, the BASC, the EBPS, and other behavioral and developmental assessments/ tests in English and Spanish
- Conducted inclusive evaluation of school readiness in 3-6 year old children, reviewed medical charts, referred patients found to have developmental, social/emotional or behavioral delays for further evaluation and determined standard deviation and cut-off rates for referrals
- Compiled and reviewed data with SPSS to determine what qualifies school readiness and what intervention pediatricians and mental health professionals can provide for children who exhibit deficits and developed early intervention research
- Participated in the weekly research seminar and lab as part of the NYU Langone's Division of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship
- Results of research published in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*.

TEACHING

Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology

- PSY 1501 Assessment: Intelligence Testing with Lab
- PSY 1416 Cognitive/Affective Aspects of Behavior

- PSY 0700 Learning and Human Development
- PSY 1408 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
- PSY 8115 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
- PSY 1610 Adult Intervention

DIRECTED STUDY/DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Valdes, Evelyn (2027) The effects of sleep deficiency on emotional regulation in obsessive compulsive disorder.

Espinosa, Brianna (2027): Challenges in identifying autism spectrum disorder in young females.

Chamberlain, Liana (2027): Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors in autism spectrum disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder: Challenges with misdiagnosis.

Tchienga-Nana, Ines (2026): Alzheimer's and vascular dementia in sub-Saharan Africa: The social and cognitive burden of living with neurodegenerative disorders in Cameroon.

Ciapa, Adriana (2026): Understanding inclusion: A systematic literature review on including children with autism spectrum disorder in mainstream education for teachers.

Maguire-Khan, Lamiya (2025): The neurodevelopmental effect of pediatric TBI on child and adolescent functioning: Implications for psychological assessment.

PUBLICATIONS

Layne, C., Sloan-Pena, G., Kasi, I., & Sheinburg, N. Developmentally Informed Trauma Assessment. *European journal of psychotraumatology*. Manuscript in preparation.

Layne, C., Dixon, K., Jimenez, N., Sloan-Pena, G., & Adams, L. Predicting Long-Term Adjustment in War-Exposed Adolescents: A Pilot Study of Stressors, Protectors, and Developmental Impacts. *Psychiatry: Interpersonal and biological processes*. Manuscript in preparation.

Layne, C., Dixon, K., Jimenez, N., Sloan-Pena, G., & Adams, L. Bereavement, Loss, and Grief in War-Exposed Youth: Implications for Assessment, Intervention, and Policy. *Psychiatry: Interpersonal and biological processes*. Manuscript in preparation.

Bond, M.A. & Harrell, S.P.(2006). Diversity Challenges in Community Research and Action: The Story of a Special Issue of AJCP. *American journal of community psychology*. 37. 157-165.

Harrell, S.P. & Sloan-Pena, G. (2006). Racism and Discrimination. In Y. Jackson (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Harrell, S.P. & Bond, M.A. (2006). Listening to Diversity Stories: Principles for Practice in Community Research and Action. *American journal of community psychology*. 37. 365-76.

Valdez, P., Dreyer, B., Estrada, P., Ko, S., Sloan-Pena, G., & Mendelson, A. (2004). Screening for Educational Readiness in Pediatric Primary Care. *Journal of developmental and behavioral pediatrics*, 25 (5): 371-373.

POSTERS/PRESENTATIONS

Sloan-Pena, G., Shakes-Malone, L., Kelderman, C., Flagg, A., Ciapa, A., Chavez, M.A., and Vogan, O. (2024) Neuropsychological Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). Austin, Texas.

Sloan-Pena, G., Shakes-Malone, L., Flagg, A., and Adams, L. (2024) Neuropsychological Testing to Increase Early and Accurate Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Black and Brown Children. National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). Austin, Texas.

Shakes-Malone, L., Sloan-Pena, G., Flagg, A., and Radar, K. (2024) The Use of Neuropsychological Assessments in the Diagnosis of ADHD Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the US. National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). Austin, Texas.

Sloan-Pena, G & Bennett, R. (2024) *Using the Spanish Language Versions of the WAIS-III and WAIS-IV with Bilinguals in the U.S.* Poster to be presented at the Global Neuropsychology Congress, Porto, Portugal.

Feldman, D., Sloan-Pena, G., & Stripling, A. (2024) *Diversity in Clinical Assessment*. Panelist/Presenter at Nova Southeastern University: Association of Neuropsychology Students and Trainees (NAST).

Valenzuela, J., Shakes-Malone, L., Levy-Johnston, A., Sloan-Pena, G. & Cross, J (2024) *Building a Diverse and Collaborative Student Body: Reducing Bias and Strengthening Admissions Practices*. Presented at Nova Southeastern University: Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Council (BEDI) Diversity Summit.

Sloan-Pena (2024). *Apoyando Juntos: Navigating the Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Latinx Families*. Presented at Nova Southeastern University: Hispanic Psychological Student Organization and Mentoring Program (HPSO).

Sloan-Pena (2024). *Pediatric Performance Validity Testing*. Presented at Nova Southeastern University: School Related Psychological Assessments and Clinical Interventions (SPACI Clinic) Didactic Presentation.

Sloan-Pena (2024). *Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presented at Nova Southeastern University: School Related Psychological Assessments and Clinical Interventions (SPACI Clinic) Didactic Presentation.

Sloan-Pena, G., Worton, S, & Kasi, I. (2024). *Nurturing resilience: Understanding and Addressing Anxiety, OCD, and School Refusal in Children and Adolescents*. Presented at Broward County Public Schools Professional Development Presentation.

Sloan-Pena (2023). *Specializations in Psychology: Pursuing your own niche*. Panel/Presenter for Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education & Psychology. JAMI Career Connect Series.

Sloan-Pena, G (2020). *Neuropsychological Assessment: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Presentation provided for neuropsychologists, employees, and staff of The Neurology Institute.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2017). *Neuropsychological Assessment with Transgender Adolescents*. Presentation provided for neuropsychologists, employees, and staff of Comprehensive MedPsych Systems.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2011). *Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Infants and Toddlers*. Presented at Rancho Santiago Community College Headstart and Early Headstart.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2010). *Early Childhood Mental Health (0-5) and Trauma*. Presented at Orange County Healthcare Association- Behavioral Health Services. CAPIC Intern Training Program.

Sloan-Pena, G. (2011-2013). *Attachment and Trauma in Foster Children*. Presented at Hannah's Children's Homes Staff and Foster Families.

GRANTS

Upcoming Research: Grant submitted May 2024

PI: Latoya Shakes-Malone, Ph.D. & Gesenia Sloan-Pena, Psy.D

Funding Organization: Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology

Award Amount: \$1,000

Period of Grant Award: June 2024-June 2025

Title of Project: Professional Development Scholarship: Diversity in Assessment Research Initiative (DARI)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Psychological Association (APA), Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice)

American Psychological Association (APA), Division 33 (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder)

American Psychological Association (APA), Division 40 (Society for Clinical Neuropsychology)

Psi Chi National Honor Society

California Latino Psychological Association (CLPA)

Florida Psychological Association (FPA)

National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN)

Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS)

American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology (AAPdN)

National Perinatal Association (NPA)