

*Curriculum Vitae***J. ALEJANDRA VALENCIA MEDINA**

java2017@mymail.pomona.edu

**EDUCATION**

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- University of California, Santa Barbara** June 2028  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chicana/o Studies
- Pomona College, Claremont, CA** May 2021  
Bachelor of Arts in Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies  
Minor in Psychological Science  
Thesis title: "Platicando Sobre la Sexualidad: Delving into the Nuances of Latina Sexuality"

**PUBLICATIONS**

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- Valencia Medina, J. A.**, Rios, K., Aleman Tovar, J., Burke, M. (2019, July). *Exploring patterns between school perceptions, child behavior, and maternal well-being among Latina mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)*. International Journal of Developmental Disabilities.

**SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS**

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- Valencia Medina, J. A.** (2020, September). *Latina Sexuality and Mothering Literature Review*. 2020 Pomona College Intensive Summer Experience Symposium, Oral Presentation, Virtual Symposium.
- Valencia Medina, J. A.** (2019, November). *The Sanctuary Movement and Religious Activism*. 2019 California Sociological Association (CSA) Conference, Oral Presentation, Sacramento, California.
- Rufino, J., **Valencia Medina, J. A.**, Meza Lazaro, Y., Acevedo, J. Bacio, G. A. (2019, November). *The relationship between respeto and family functioning among the Latinx millennial generation*. 2019 Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference, Poster Presentation, Honolulu, Hawai'i.
- Ambriz, C., Martinez, V., **Valencia Medina, J. A.**, Ochoa, G., Castillo, J., Flores, N., Wu, C. (2019, September). *Struggling for sanctuary: Activism and notions of belonging in the Latinx community*. 2019 Intensive Summer Experience Poster Conference, Claremont, California.
- Valencia Medina, J.A.**, Rios, K., Aleman Tovar, J., Burke, M. (2019, July). *Exploring patterns between school perceptions, child behavior, and maternal well-being among Latina mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)*. 2019 Illinois Summer Research Symposium, Oral Presentation, Urbana Champaign, Illinois.
- Valencia Medina, J.A.**, Rios, K., Aleman Tovar, J., Burke, M. (2019, July). *Exploring patterns between school perceptions, child behavior, and maternal well-being among Latina mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)*. 2019 Illinois Summer Research Symposium, Poster Presentation, Urbana Champaign, Illinois.
- Valencia Medina, J.A.**, Rios, K., Aleman Tovar, J., Burke, M. (2019, July). *Exploring patterns between school perceptions, child behavior, and maternal well-being among Latina mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)*. 2019 Illinois Summer Research Symposium, Round Table Presentation, Urbana Champaign, Illinois.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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| Pomona College Remote Alternative Independent Summer Experience Program (RAISE) Fellowship | 2020 |
| Emory University Laney Graduate Summer Opportunity for Academic Research Program           | 2020 |
| Pomona College Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)                                | 2019 |

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)	2019
Pomona College Scholar <i>Top 25% of class determined by GPA</i>	2018
Posse Foundation Full Tuition Leadership Scholarship <i>Four-year full tuition leaderships scholarship</i>	2016

## RESEARCH

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### **Santa Barbara Research Lab** Dec 2021 – Present

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

*Research Assistant, PI: Aída Hurtado, Ph.D.*

- Attend bi-weekly meetings to discuss current and past studies
- Analyzed Little Bill show episodes for representations of intersectionality

### **Cultural Contexts, Adolescent Health Behaviors & Development Research Lab** Nov 2018 – May 2021

Pomona College Department of Psychological Science, Claremont, CA

*Research Assistant in CENTRO Lab, PI: Guadalupe A. Bacio, Ph.D.*

- Attend weekly meetings to discuss current research, relevant literature, and discuss current and past studies (listed below).
- Advertise, recruit, and interview potential research assistants.
- Research, contact, and compile information about culturally competent mental health resources for Latinx communities in the Inland Empire.
- Facilitated mental health workshop for first-generation high school students to prepare for college.

### **Latinx Generational Family on Mental Health** Nov 2018 – May 2021

- Assist in conceptualization of a study on mental health and substance use outcomes in adolescent-parent dyads.
- Develop qualitative measures of alcohol expectancies for interviews with participating families.
- Help review standard operating procedure to recruit, contact, run, and go over consent procedures with 60 eligible participants.
- Review Spanish version of Pomona College Institutional Review Board approved consent form, participant eligibility, subject participant procedures, and data management protocols.
- Participate in training for collecting cortisol biomarkers in participants to assess effects of long-term stress.
- Review Qualtrics survey and focus group interview questions used for data collection.

### **First-Year Adjustment of First-Generation College Students Study** Nov 2018 – May 2021

- Run participants through a consent form, a series of self-report measures, and a cognitive task.
- Design relevant qualitative research questions for participants.
- Organize and review list of on-campus and off-campus mental health resources for participants.

### **TransLatina Mental Health Study** Jan 2020 – May 2020

- Reviewed Spanish version of Pomona College Institutional Review Board approved consent form, participant eligibility, subject participant procedures, and data management protocols.
- Read 4 individual interview transcriptions and reviewed coding responses using grounded theory analysis to support the development of thematic categories

### **High Achieving Latinx College Students Study** Nov 2018 – May 2019

- Helped revise standard operating procedure to recruit, contact, run, and go over consent procedures with 200 eligible participants.
- Ran research participants following research protocol.

### **Pomona College Remote Alternative Independent Summer Experience Program** June 2020 – July 2020

Pomona College Department of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Claremont, CA (virtual program)

*Research Assistant, PI: Guadalupe A. Bacio, Ph.D.*

- Met weekly for 5-weeks to discuss personal research on Latina sexuality and mothering.
- Assigned readings and facilitated discussions on relevant literature.
- Assisted lab mate in developing research question, literature search, and reviewing conference materials.
- Created questions and participated in weekly professional development workshops.
- Recorded first virtual presentation on findings about Latina sexuality.

**Laney Graduate School Summer Opportunity for Academic Research** May 2020 – July 2020  
Emory University, Laney Graduate School, Humanities and Social Sciences, Atlanta, GA (virtual program)

*Contributing Member, Director: Amanda Marie James, Ph.D.*

- Participated in 10-week remote program and fostered relationships with scholars across the nation.
- Attended professional development, research ethics, and social science and humanities specific workshops.
- Observed and contributed to graduate school level discussions on methods and methodology, research ethics, and academic literature.

**Sanctuary City Research Collective** July 2019 – Dec 2019  
Pomona College Departments of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies and Sociology, Claremont, CA

*Research Collective Member, PI: Gilda Ochoa, Ph.D.*

- Met with collective weekly to discussion individual research projects, collective goals, and other relevant topics; biweekly meetings with professor.
- Participated in collaborative writing of final research paper.
- Transcribed six interviews conducted by professor.

**Special Education Research Group** May 2019 – Dec 2019  
University of Urbana-Champaign Department of Special Education, Urbana-Champaign, IL

*Research Assistant, PI: Meghan M. Burke, Ph.D.*

- Published peer reviewed manuscript titled: “Exploring patterns between school perceptions, child behavior, and maternal well-being among Latina mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)” in the *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*.
- Assisted with demographic and other personal information data entry.
- Transcribed two Spanish interviews to English; translated and back translated three Spanish interviews.
- Developed research questions, engaged relevant literature, and led collective writing process of manuscript.
- Coded 13 interviews and created thematic categories to use for the manuscript results.
- Presented research in poster presentation, oral presentation, and roundtable discussion at 2019 Illinois Summer Research Symposium.

## TEACHING

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**Graduate Teacher Assistant** Mar 2022 – June 2022  
University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

- Serve as a teacher assistant for 60+ undergraduate students for the Chicana/o Studies Introduction to Gender Course taught by Dr. Micaela Díaz-Sánchez.
- Facilitate 3 sections per week for 10 weeks addressing topics of gender, race, sexuality, intersectionality, Chicana Feminisms, and other topics.
- Review quizzes and written assignments and provide socioemotional support and academic resources for students.

**Teacher Assistant** June 2018 – July 2018  
Pomona College Academy for Youth Success, Claremont, CA

- Served as a teacher assistant for 15 high school sophomores in a 5-week full-emersion summer program.
- Attended 2-week training (i.e. engaged in conversations about gender, race, sexuality, emotional support).
- Designed and taught age-appropriate four-week course on Self-Care and Mental Health.
- Led daily homework sessions, graded their homework, and provided socioemotional support for students.

## LEADERSHIP

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**Residence Advisor** Aug 2018 – May 2021  
Pomona College Office of Housing and Residence Life, Claremont, CA

- Supervised, fostered, and maintained communication and community with 100+ students.
- Organized and hosted relevant virtual and in person programming for residents.
- Employed conflict resolution training during enforcement of college policy.
- Participated in trainings to navigate issues of race, gender, sexuality, class, and school policy.
- Design advertisement material for campus events and distributed relevant campus and virtual resources.
- Communicate through email, in person, and other virtual platforms (i.e., Zoom) with 50+ residents.

### **Improving Dreams Equity Access and Success (IDEAS) Mentor**

Aug 2018 – May 2021

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

- Serve as mentor for 3 first years in past three years.
- Meet with mentees bi-weekly or depending on their needs; provide them emotional support to navigate a predominately white institution as a person with marginalized identities.
- Introduce mentees to campus resources such as: financial aid office, summer opportunities, writing center, mental health services, and other relevant services.

### **Documenting and Sharing Narratives Independent Study**

Sept 2020 – May 2021

Pomona College Department of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Claremont, CA

*Co-Creator, Faculty Advisor: Gilda Ochoa, Ph.D.*

- Design and arrange collaborative class syllabus among 7 people.
- Maintain communication between group members through group chats and other virtual platforms.
- Meet weekly and facilitate class discussions on topics of interest.
- Create consent form to inform participants about project.
- Manage \$2,450 budget to host speakers, purchase class materials, and collect and compensate participants for sharing their stories for semester long project.

### **UndocuWeek Organizer**

Jan 2020 – May 2020

Pomona College Department of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Claremont, CA

*Event Organizer, Faculty Advisor: Gilda Ochoa, Ph.D.*

- Fundraised over \$6,000 and created budget to host 6 events in the course of a week.
- Collectively designed 6 events to highlight different immigrant experiences (i.e. Black experience, Latinx experience, queer experience, Asian experience, and immigrant student experience).
- Contacted, invited guest speakers, and maintained communication to coordinate events.
- Advertised events on social media through social media posts and flyers.
- Unable to host events due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; will continue Spring 2021.

### **Activism in Higher Education Independent Study**

Jan 2020 – May 2020

Pomona College Department of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies, Claremont, CA

*Co-Creator, Faculty Advisor: Gilda Ochoa, Ph.D.*

- Collaborated with collective to design class syllabus.
- Advertised and recruited 8 people to join independent study.
- Maintained communication among group members.
- Weekly class meetings and facilitated class discussion of topics of interest.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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### **Student Leadership and Mentoring at Pomona College, Intern**

Jan 2020 – May 2020

Office of Student Leadership and Mentoring at Pomona College, Claremont, CA

- Effectively developed quantitative surveys for first generation, low income, students of color.
- Designed and distributed advertisement materials for various events.

### **Draper Center for Community Partnerships, Program Coordinator**

June 2018 – May 2019

Pomona College Draper Center for Community Partnerships, Claremont, CA

- Attended weekly group meeting to reflect on programming and improve events.

- Hosted weekly Sunday sessions for high school seniors for support with college application, Math, Science, and English; provided socioemotional support for first generation, low-income, students of color applying to college.
- Planned and hosted events relevant for high school juniors and seniors.
- Held weekly office hours, answered the phone, and directed people to appropriate resources.

**Dean of the College, Office Assistant**

Sept 2018 – Dec 2018

Pomona College Dean of the College Office, Claremont, CA

- Provided support for office staff, including managing and coordinating projects in support of effective office operations.
- Outstanding interpersonal and organizational skills, thrive within detail-oriented environments.

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**SERVICE**

**Staff Furlough Fundraising, Volunteer**

Sept 2020 – Dec 2020

Virtual Position (Zoom)

- Met weekly to fundraise immediate funds for Pomona College staff members furloughed during pandemic.
- Collaborated with team members to collect and share staff testimonies and information about staff furloughs.

**Chicago GEAR UP Posse Scholarship Information Session, Panelist**

July 2020

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL and Remote Workshop (Zoom)

- Supported, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), a federally funded program that works with Chicago Public students to prepare students for success in post-secondary education.
- Shared college experience and advice to apply for leadership scholarship with high school juniors and seniors, mostly first generation, low income, students of color during past 3 summers.

**Introduction to College Workshop for Parents, Presenter in Spanish**

June 2019

Pomona College and Uncommon Good, Claremont, CA

- Introduced California college system to Spanish speaking parents of mostly first-generation students.
- Answered parent questions about college and college process.

**Alternabreak, Volunteer/Participant**

April 2018

Draper Center for Community Partnerships, Claremont, CA and San Diego, CA

- Volunteered at Father Joe's Villages, a local non-profit organization, which provides warm food for people.
- Cleaned and repainted seats and benches at Chicano Park.

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**SKILLS**

**Languages**

Native Spanish Speaker (verbal and written fluency)

**Microsoft Office**

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote (advanced)

**Programming**

Qualtrics (advanced), Overleaf LaTeX [collaborate writing and publishing tool] (intermediate), WordPress [website and blog creation tool] (advanced), Omeka [digital collections web application] (advanced)

**Social Media**

Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook (advanced)

**Quantitative Analysis**

SPSS (intermediate)

**Qualitative Analysis**

Grounded Theory Analysis