

Cristina Muñiz de la Peña, Ph. D.

Licensed Psychologist in NY

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.
December, 2010 **State University of New York at Albany**
Albany, New York
Counseling Psychology
- Dissertation: *How Do Therapists Ally with Adolescents in the Context of Family Therapy? An Examination of Relational Control Communication Patterns*
Committee: Myrna Friedlander (Chair), Valentín Escudero, Laurie Heatherington
- Post-Graduate
Degree
May, 2010 **Universidad de A Coruña**
A Coruña, Spain
Expert in Family and Couples Therapy
- Bachelors of Arts
May, 2005 **Universidad Complutense de Madrid**
Madrid, Spain
Major in Clinical Psychology

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- At present **Institute of Core Energetics, NY**
Practitioner Training: A 4 year practitioner training in somatic psychotherapy.
Currently in 4th year.
- 2014 **Center for Attachment Research, The New School for Social Research, NY**
Training on Dyadic Attachment Therapy: intensive training on attachment-based dyadic therapy with at risk mothers and their infant children.
- 2010 **Unidad de Investigación en Intervención y Cuidado Familiar (UIICF)**
Family and Couples Therapy post-graduate training: specialized training in family-systems therapy based on a “live-supervision” approach.
- 2007 **The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)**
Hudson Valley Community College, New York
“Train-the-Trainer” Seminar: Intensive training to become a facilitator of NCBI’s “Prejudice Reduction” and “Controversial Issues Process” workshops.
- 2007 **The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)**
Hudson Valley Community College, New York
“Prejudice Reduction Workshop”: 30 hour weekend training on multicultural issues (prejudice reduction, social justice, conflict resolution).
- 2004 **Ayuntamiento de Leganés, Madrid, Spain**
Sexual Educator Certificate: Training to attain the necessary knowledge and skills to implement sexual education programs to children and adolescents.
- 2004 **Colegio Oficial de Psicólogos, Madrid, Spain**
Crisis Intervention Training: 30-hour training in specific crisis management skills after traumatic events (natural catastrophes, terrorist attacks, war, etc.).
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CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012 to present
The Center for Child Health and Resiliency
The Bronx, NY
Psychologist: Provide individual, couple's, family, and group therapy to diverse, low income, individuals from the South Bronx community.
- 2013 to present
Terra Firma Immigrant Youth Clinic
Medical-Legal Partnership at the Center for Child Health and Resiliency
Bronx, NY
Co-founder and director of Mental Health Services for the *Terra Firma Immigrant Youth Clinic*: Manage mental health services for undocumented youth and their families, including group, individual and family therapy. Coordinate with medical and legal services.
- 2010-2011
Unidad de Investigación en Intervención y Cuidado Familiar (UIICF)
A Coruña, Spain
Psychologist: Provide family, group and individual therapy in Spanish in a "live-supervision/intervention" approach to underserved families; participate in the design and development of research projects; and coordinate video-recording of sessions and data gathering.
- Meniños, Fundación para la Infancia**
A Coruña, Spain
Psychologist: provided clinical supervision to therapists working in child protective services; provided training, and coordinate the design, development, and implementation of two projects:
- *The Conecta Project* – collaborative effort between the UIIC and Meniños Foundation focused on designing a training and therapy manual for families with adolescents at risk and empirically examining its efficacy.
 - *The Impacto Project* – collaborative effort between the UIICF, Meniños Foundation, and the General Office of Social Reintegration of the Portuguese Department of Justice in Açores Islands to design, develop, and implement an therapy manual for children victims/witnesses of inter-partner violence
- 2009-2010
Unidad de Investigación en Intervención y Cuidado Familiar (UIICF)
A Coruña, Spain
Pre-doctoral intern: provided psychological services and assisted in research
- 2008-2009
Counseling Services Center, College of St. Rose
Albany, New York
Advanced Practicum: Provided psychological
- 2008
Community Maternal Services of Albany
Albany, New York
Co-facilitator: Co-designed and co-facilitated a 10-week anger management group in a residential program for adolescent mothers and mothers-to-be.
- 2007
Psychological Services Center, State University of New York at Albany
Albany, New York
Practicum: Provided individual psychotherapy and career counseling to low-SES adults with a variety of presenting psychological, emotional, and career concerns.

TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- October 31, 2014 **Catholic Charities New York**
New York, NY.
The mental health needs of unaccompanied undocumented children. Training provided at Youth Immigration Department to the team of attorneys, case workers and social workers.
- October 30, 2014 **The Children's Defense Fund**
New York, NY
Mental Health of Unaccompanied Undocumented Youth. Webinar presented to audience of over 100 clinicians working in different community agencies in NYC
- 2009-2011 **Meniños Fundación para la Infancia**
A Coruña, Spain
"Family Therapy Focused on the therapeutic Alliance for Adolescents at Risk"
Trained mental health professionals working at social service agencies about skills and effective interventions when working with adolescents
- Fall 2008
Spring 2009
Summer 2009 **Division of Educational and Counseling Psychology,**
University at Albany, Albany, New York
Lecturer, ECPY-421 Introduction to Counseling Psychology
Provided students with an overview of the foundations of Counseling Psychology as a field (origins and historical developments, principles, ethical practices, research methodology, major psychological theories and practices).
- Fall 2007
Spring 2008 **Middle Earth Peer Counseling Program**
School of Education, University at Albany, Albany, New York
Lecturer/Supervisor, ECPY-403 Foundations of Peer Counseling & Peer Education I
Provided training and supervision to students on peer counseling and education skills during their work in the Middle Earth crisis hotline and outreach education programs

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2009-2011 **Unidad de Investigación en Intervención y Cuidado Familiar (UIICF)**
A Coruña, Spain
Research project coordinator: coordinate design and development of research projects on therapy process (family, group, and multi-family group therapy), the therapeutic alliance, foster care, relational trauma (sexual, emotional or physical abuse)
- 2006-2008 **Division of Counseling Psychology, University at Albany**
Albany, New York
Psychotherapy Research Team Coordinator: train and coordinate research team members in observing and rating therapist interactions in family therapy. Meet regularly with the team members to discuss inter-rater reliability. Discuss psychotherapy outcomes and process research and develop research ideas with other team members.
- 2006-2008 **Division of Counseling Psychology, University at Albany**
Albany, New York
Multicultural Research Team Member: Attend and participate in weekly meetings. Assist in the development of code book. Assist in completing a

meta-analysis of vocational multicultural research. Assist in the development of a social justice measure.

2004-2005

Dept. of Clinical Psychology, Universidad Complutense
Madrid, Spain

Mental Health Prevention Program for Adolescents: get training in mental health promotion and prevention issues in adolescence, get training in specific prevention program, implement program in high schools of the area

Gender Violence Prevention Program for Adolescents: get training in sexuality education and counseling, design specific sexuality education program for youth, implement program in high schools in the area

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2017 **Robin Hood Foundation Heroes Award**
In support of the Terra Firma Program
- 2011 **President's Distinguished Dissertation Award**
School of Education, State University of New York at Albany
- 2011 **Edward S. Bordin Memorial Award**
For student research presented at the 2011 Annual International SPR Conference in Bern, Switzerland
North American Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR)
- 2008 **Sol L. Garfield Memorial Award**
For student research projects presented at the 2008 Annual International SPR Conference in Barcelona, Spain
North American Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR)
- 2008 **Dr. Kimberly E. Esterman Memorial Award**
For graduate students working as supervisor for the Middle Earth Peer Counseling Program
School of Education, State University of New York at Albany
- 2007 **Initiatives for Women Award**
For research projects led by women and involving women issues
State University of New York at Albany
- 2006 **Spanish Teacher Assistant Scholarship**
Institute for the International Education of Students (IES)
To study abroad at a university in the US while working as a Spanish lecturer
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
- 2005 **Summer Study Abroad Scholarship**
Institute for the International Education of Students (IES)
To study abroad at a university in the US
Loyola University, Chicago, IL
- 2003 **Socrates-Erasmus European Exchange Scholarship**
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
To study abroad at a European university

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2008 to present **American Psychological Association**
- 2014 to present **New York Immigration Coalition**
Taskforce on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children's Health
- 2011 to present **Asociación Española para la Investigación y Desarrollo de la
Terapia Familiar**
A Spanish association to promote research on family therapy
- August 2006 to
August 2009 **University at Albany/SUNY Diversity Conference Committee**
Organize University at Albany, Counseling Psychology's Annual Diversity
Conference
- Responsible for obtaining Keynote speaker
 - Meet bi-weekly with committee members
 - Develop agenda and contact speakers for presentation
 - Assist with fund raising and advertisement
- August, 2006 to
August 2009 **Multicultural Counseling Coalition (MCC),**
Initiated the student-run organization, which focuses on the ongoing
exploration and challenging of biases, worldviews and stereotypes.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2018
- Muñiz de la Peña, C** and Punskey, B. *Terra Firma: A Medical-Legal Partnership for Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth*. New York Center for Children, February 29, 2018, New York, New York.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Working with unaccompanied immigrant children. Terra Firma: a tailored model for complex needs. Resources and Interventions in Child Protection, Conference of Child Protective Services*. March 16-18, 2018, Galicia, Spain.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C** and Pineda, Lisa. *Healing Trauma through Group Therapy. Annual Conference on the Early Intervention, Treatment and Prevention of Child Abuse*. The Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center, June 18, 2018, New York, New York.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C** and Ziesemer, J. *Caring for Undocumented Patients in a Hostile Political Climate*. Adelphi School of Social Work, October 13, 2017, Long Island, NY.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C,** Ziesemer, J and Stark, B. *Caring for Undocumented Patients in a Hostile Political Climate (Part Two)*. Adelphi School of Social Work, November 17, 2017, Long Island, NY.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Mental Health Care for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children*. Children's Hospital at Montefiore Department of Psychiatry, December 19, 2017, Bronx, New York.
- Stange, M, Shapiro, A, Stark, B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Terra Firma: Legal Outcomes of a Medical-Legal Partnership for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children*. National Medical Legal Partnership Summit, April 7, 2017, National Harbor, Maryland.

Stange, M, Shapiro, A, Stark, B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Terra Firma: Legal Outcomes of a Medical-Legal Partnership for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children.* New York City Research & Improvement Networking Group annual convocation, October 26, 2017, Bronx, New York.

2017

Shapiro, A, Stark, B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Stange, M. *Assisting Newly Arrived Children: Exploring the Terra Firma Model.* Maimonides Medical Center Pediatric Grand Rounds, February 7, 2017, Brooklyn, New York.

Shapiro, A, Stark, B, and **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Stange, M. *Assisting Newly Arrived Children: Exploring the Terra Firma Model.* Open Door Family Medical Center, March 16, 2017, Port Chester, New York.

Shapiro, A, Stark, B, and **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Terra Firma. Caring for Immigrant Youth and Families: A Multi-Disciplinary Panel Discussion.* American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Local Chapter Meeting, March 16, 2017, New York, New York.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *Vicarious Trauma Among Immigrant-Serving Clinicians and Service Providers.* Catholic Charities New York, March 30, 2017, New York, NY.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *The Multifaceted Needs of Unaccompanied Undocumented Children: A Tailored Model to Unique Needs.* American Psychological Association Annual Conference, August 4, 2017, Washington, D.C.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Providing Care and Supporting Resiliency.* Webinar for the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, Migration Policy Institute.

Shapiro A, Stark B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Ajl J. *Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Building Resiliency.* Maimonides Medical Center Pediatric Grand Rounds, Brooklyn, NY.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *Challenges to Deeper Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration on Asylum Representation.* (Panel discussion). Conference titled Country Conditions in Central America and Asylum Making Decision-Making. Washington College of Law, American University. Washington DC.

2016

Shapiro, A, Stark, B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Stange, M. *Assisting Newly Arrived Children: Exploring the Terra Firma Model.* Maimonides Medical Center, July 27, 2016, Brooklyn, New York.

2015

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *Systems-level and School-based Responses to Addressing the Complex Needs of Unaccompanied Minors* (panel discussion). National Immigrant Integration Conference, December 15, 2015, Brooklyn, New York.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. *Government and Service Provider Initiatives and Responses.* Panelist at the Conference Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth in New York: Findings from a Participatory Action Research Study, Center on Immigration and Justice Vera Institute of Justice and New York Law School. New York, NY.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. & Stark, B. *Breaking Down Social and Legal Barriers to Health: The Medical-Legal Partnership.* Panelist at the Annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference, Yale Law School, New Haven.

Muñiz de la Peña, C. & Stark, B. *The legal and mental health needs of unaccompanied undocumented children.* Training provided at Astor Services for Children and Families, Bronx, NY.

2014

Shapiro, A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, & Stark, B. *Caring for Unaccompanied Undocumented Youth.* The Children's Health Fund's Annual National Conference, New York, NY

Shapiro, A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, & Stark, B. *Healthcare of Unaccompanied Undocumented Youth.* NY Immigration Coalition Taskforce on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children's Health

Shapiro A, Stark B, **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Ajl J. *Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Building Resiliency.* Lincoln Hospital Grand Rounds, December 18, 2014, New York, NY.

Shapiro, A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Stark, B., Ajl, Jenny, and Roncaglione, V. *Medical Legal Partnership-Immigrant Youth Clinic Humane Care for Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth.* Global Health & Innovation Conference, Unite for Sight. Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Shapiro, A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Stark, B., Ajl, Jenny, and Roncaglione, V. *Immigrant Youth Clinic: A Medical-Legal Partnership.* Poster presented at the Annual Medical-Legal Partnership Summit. Sponsored by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. Seattle, WA

2012

Meacher, P. & **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Caring for Transgender Patients in the Bronx, a community health center perspective.* Family Medicine Grand Rounds. Montefiore Medical Center, New York.

2011

Muñiz de la Peña, C., Friedlander, M., Escudero, V., & Heatherington, L. *Developing a Therapeutic Alliance with Adolescents in the Context of Family Therapy.* Paper presented at the International Institute of Psychotherapy Research Annual Conference in Bern.

Muñiz de la Peña, C., Heatherington, L., Varela, N., Friedlander, M., & Escudero, V. *The Self-Report version of the System for Observing Family Therapy Alliances: Reliability and Validity.* Poster presented at the International Institute of Psychotherapy Research Annual Conference in Bern.

Varela, N., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, & Escudero, V. *Applying the System for Observing Family Therapy Alliance to group therapy: An Exploratory Study.* Poster presented at the International Institute of Psychotherapy Research Annual Conference in Bern.

2010

Muñiz de la Peña, C., Friedlander, M., Escudero, V., and Heatherington, L. *Relational Control Patterns in Family Therapy with Adolescents.* Research presented at the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) Annual Conference, Paris

Varela, N., Escudero, V., & **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Qualitative Analysis of the Impact of the MDG (Multifamiliar Discussion Groups) in Patients with Physical Chronic Illness and their Families.* Poster presented European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) Annual Conference, Paris

- 2008 **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Rodriguez, I., Friedlander, M., Escudero, V. *Assessing "Split" Alliances Using the System for Observing Family Therapy Alliances (SOFTA) in Brief Conjoint Family Therapy*. Research presented International Institute of Psychotherapy Research Annual Conference, Barcelona
- Kerlow-Myers, A., Miller, M. J., Roy, K. S., Connacher, C. C., Blanco, S., **Muniz, C.**, Bernadi, S., Morere, L., Kasson, D. (2008, August). *Social-cognitive perspective on social-justice engagement*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- 2007 **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** Brief Presentation: *Does the SOFTA Identify "Split Alliances" in the Context of Family Therapy?* Research presented at Universidad de Coimbra, Portugal, conference entitled, Counseling Psychology at the Crossroads. Coimbra, Portugal.
- 2007 **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** *Searching for Independence in the Family's Shared Sense of Purpose*. Poster presented at Universidad de Coimbra, Portugal, conference entitled, Counseling Psychology at the Crossroads. Coimbra, Portugal.
- Kerlow-Myers, A., Blanco, S., Connacher, C., **Muñiz, C.**, Sendrowitz, K., & Miller, M. J. (2007, August). *An empirical review of acculturation in recent vocational literature*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

PUBLICATIONS

- Paris, M., Antuña, C., Baily, C. D. R., Hass, G. A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Silva, M. A., & Srinivas, T. (2018). *Vulnerable but not broken: Psychosocial challenges and resilience pathways among unaccompanied children from Central America*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association Immigration Working Group.
- Stark, B., Shapiro, A., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, & Ajl, J. (2015). Terra Firma: Medical-Legal Care for Unaccompanied Immigrant Garifuna Children. *Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy*, 97.
- Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Friedlander, M. L., Escudero, V., y Heatherington, L. M. (2011). How Do Therapists Ally with Adolescents in Family Therapy? An Examination of Relational Control Communication in Early Sessions. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*
- Escudero, V. y **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** (2010). *Adolescentes y Familias en Conflicto: Terapia familiar centrada en la alianza terapéutica*, Manual de Tratamiento. Fundación Meniños Eds.
- Escudero, V. y **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** (2010). Adolescentes y familias en conflicto: Un modelo de intervención focalizada en la alianza terapéutica, *Sistemas Familiares*.
- Miller, M., Sendrowitz, K., Connacher, C., Blanco, S., **Muñiz de la Peña, C.**, Bernardi, S., Morere, L. (2009). College Students' Social Justice Interest and Commitment: A Social-Cognitive Perspective. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 4, 495-507.

Muñiz de la Peña, C., Friedlander, M. L., & Escudero, V. (2008). Frequency, severity, and evolution of split alliances: How observable are they? *Psychotherapy Research, 1*, 1-10.

Friedlander, M. L., Lambert, J. E., & **Muñiz de la Peña, C.** (2008). A step toward disentangling the alliance/improvement cycle in family therapy. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 55*, 118–124.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Spanish Native Speaker

English fluent writing, speaking, and listening