

Rita M. Ewaz

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Emotional regulation; implementation science; child mental health and well-being; youth participatory action research; social-emotional learning; community-based research; psychological interventions.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), University of California- San Diego *Sept. 2023 – June 2028 (Expected)*
La Jolla, CA

Degree: Education Studies

Advisor: Dr. Shana Cohen, Ph.D.

Master of Arts (MA), Tufts University *Sept. 2022 – May 2023*
Medford, MA

Degree: Education Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Shameka Powell, Ph.D.

Bachelor of Science (BS), University of California- San Diego *Sept. 2018 – June 2022*
La Jolla, CA

Degree: Human Developmental Sciences

Relevant coursework: Independent Research, Calculus based Statistics, Developmental Psychology, Research Methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Adolescent Well-Being Lab *Jan. 2020 - Present*
Department of Education Studies - University of California, San Diego

PI: Dr. Amy Bintliff

- Designed mentorship curriculum that teaches middle school youth how to mentor elementary school students in a low-income community in Solana Beach, CA. Curriculum includes modules regarding well-being, healthy relationships, and academic goal setting with role playing, art based, and peer to peer communication-based activities.
- Write and revise IRB applications, collect field observation data, interview study participants, and draft surveys for studies on well-being and social-emotional learning.

McNair Scholar- University of California, San Diego *Nov. 2021 – Sept. 2022*

PI: Dr. Amy Bintliff

- Co-principal investigator on a mixed method independent research project that examines how academic resilience, well-being practices, and familial income influence student academic performance.
- Attended and presented my research at academic symposiums and conferences and engage in student events and research-based presentations.

Research Assistant, Contra Costa County Department of Education
Pleasant Hill, CA

June 2019 – Sept. 2019

PI: Emily Justice M.A.

- Analyzed adolescent drug abuse trends within the Contra Costa County school districts and developed drug-specific, evidence-informed educational instruction and activities.
- Collected data and conducted per school analysis to develop trend reports on the current drug abuse trends for public health use.

Research Assistant, Dr. Bonnie-Halpern Felsher Lab

June 2017 – Aug. 2017

Stanford University- Palo Alto, CA

PI: Dr. Bonnie Halpern- Felsher

- Created in-classroom use activities and gave presentations to high school students on the effects of tobacco-related abuse.
- Assisted with curriculum writing for the Tobacco Prevention Toolkit Curriculum for high school teachers to utilize.

PRESENTATIONS

“Academic Resilience in Relation to Socioeconomic Status During COVID-19”. *Summer Research Conference*. University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, August 12, 2022.

“Academic Resilience in Relation to Socioeconomic Status During COVID-19”. *Undergraduate Research Conference*. University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, May 14, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

Ewaz, Rita M. "A Thematic Analysis of the Relationship between Socioeconomic Status and Student Academic Resilience in Higher Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Order No. 30489416 Tufts University, 2023. United States -- Massachusetts: *ProQuest*. Web. 7 Sep. 2023.

(In-preparation) Ewaz, R; Levine, R. “How Childhood Socio-Economic Status Impacts Academic Trajectories: College Students’ Perspectives.” University of California, San Diego, 2023. United States –

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor- Invest in Girls by The Council of Economic Education
Boston, MA

Sept. 2022 – Present

- Taught financial literacy classes to high school females from underserved backgrounds in the Boston public school system.
- Facilitated discussions around financial well-being, budgeting, investing, and taxes etc. to empower women to be financially independent.
- Assessed curriculum, created activities, and fostered a safe space in the classroom for women to ask questions and share their stories to better have agency.

Program Assistant- Cambridge School Volunteers

Sept. 2022 – Present

Cambridge, MA

- Recruited volunteers and actively worked with PAUS staff to match referred students with a tutor
- Supervised the student/tutors’ pairs at the Learning Center
- Solicited feedback from students, volunteers, and CPS staff to assess successes and opportunities for improvement
- Acted as a liaison between the tutors/students to make sure healthy relationships are fostered

Clinical Trial Assistant Intern- Vanguard Clinical Inc.

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022

Solana Beach, CA

- Obtained, reviewed, processed, and tracked study related documents (CVs, FDA 1572s, lab certifications, IRB approvals, contracts, protocols, etc.)
- Provided support to the Clinical Trial Assistants in maintaining the Trial Master File under the supervision of the Regulatory Operations Manager.
- Wrote and revised Informed Consent Forms for clinical trials.
- General administrative assistant to the study team.

Project Management Intern- Catalent Pharma Solutions, LLC

July 2020 – June 2021

San Diego, CA

- Supported customer pain points and business needs to develop customer centric experiences
- Standardized project plans/scope changes that are used to detail our contracts with clients.
- Strong usage of oral and written communication skills to explain concepts clearly and gain alignment from stakeholders
- Worked cross functionally within various departments to execute client needs and project timelines.

AWARDS

Provost Honors, University of California- San Diego

2018-22

“People Who Make a Difference”- Leadership Award
Contra Costa County Department of Education

June 2019

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND LICENSES

CITI Training- Social and Behavioral Research

Fluent in Persian (Farsi), proficient in Spanish