University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department: PSYCHOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023 June 30, 2023

Submitted by:

Dr. Douglas Santos Sánchez

Internal Director, Department of Psychology

Report of Activities in Accordance to the Strategic Plan

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

A. Executive Summary - The Department of Psychology was established on May 26, 2015 through Certification Number 141 of the Government Board of the University of Puerto Rico, and prior to the recommendation of the UPRM Rector Dr. John Fernández Van Cleve, the UPRM Academic Senate (Certification Number 06-53) and the RUM Administrative Board (Certification Number 08-09-054). The Department of Psychology officially began its administrative and academic operations on July 1, 2015.

Academic Component

<u>School Psychology Doctorate Program</u>: The Department continued with the School Psychology Doctorate Program. The Program received 10 applications and 9 were admitted to the Program for the 2022 – 2023 academic year.

<u>Service Clinic for Kids and Adolescents</u>: The Department continued with the process of establishing a service clinic for kids and adolescents in which the students of the School Psychology Doctorate Program will carry out some practices of various graduate courses. House 4A (*Casita 4a*) has been rehabilitated and the furniture and materials have been bought in order for the clinic to operate.

Research Component

In the area of investigation, the Department's faculty obtained several significant achievements with outstanding participation from Dr. Bernadette Delgado, Dr. Milagritos Gonzalez, Dr. Ana Nieves, Dr. Janet Bonilla and Dr. Eduardo Lugo.

Dr. Milagritos Gonzalez is the PI of the project titled: Pathway to Success: RUMbos for Success – US Department of Education, Title V (*Pathway to Success: RUMbos para el éxito – US Department of Education, Título V*). This broad project is primarily aimed towards new students. They offer a variety of services directed to the students such as tutoring, educational and psychological counseling, personal development workshops, among others.

Dr. Bernadette Delgado was in charge of the general evaluation of the project titled: Ecosystem to Expand Capabilities and Opportunities for Scholars (EECO Scholars) (NSF EECOS-STEM #1833989). EECOS' aims to provide to academically talented, low income UPRM STEM students who were impacted by Hurricane Maria with the economic, academic, and socio-emotional support they need to amplify their academic, personal, and professional capacities and thus complete their program within institutionally established time limits (retention and student success). In order to achieve these objectives, an ecosystem is established based on three components:

- 1. Financial Support
- 2. Academic Support
- 3. Socio-emotional Support

Finally, Dr. Delgado also participated in the written proposals of investigation: Evaluation of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Coastal Resilience Center (UPRM-CRC) and Co-Design of Integrated Energy and Mobility Hubs for Service and Resiliency.

Dr. Janet Bonilla is the external evaluator of the program P.E.A.R.L.S: Engineering PEARLS: Program for Engineering Access, Retention and LIATS Success. This program is offered to help students with a bachelor's and master's degree in all the engineering disciplines to successfully complete their study programs and transition to a professional life. Specifically, this program seeks to improve the recruitment, retention, time to graduation and graduation rates of Low Income Academically Talented Students (LIATS).

Dr. Ana Nieves provides a variety of services and psycho-social-emotional support to women and their children who are survivors of violence. She particularly works with children who are survivors of domestic abuse. She was PI and Co-PI in the following proposals of research with external funds:

- SIEMPREVIVAS Transformando Vidas: Servicios integrales para la Autonomía. Departamento de Justicia Federal – VOCA
- 2. Interdisciplinary Data-Driven Discovery Traineeship (b) NSF-(NRT)

Dr. Eduardo Lugo participated as Co-PI in the proposal titled: Opportunities for Distributed Solar to Improve Resilience and Energy Justice in Puerto Rico". Department of Energy from the US.

The Department of Psychology continued to implement the Undergraduate Research Training Program (*Programa de Adiestramiento en Investigación Subgraduado – PAIS*). This Program is directed by Dr. Douglas Santos and Dr. Janet Bonilla. During the year 2022 – 2023, the research projects were managed by the following graduate students from the School Psychology Doctorate Program: Brenda Cintrón, Desiree Paz, Maryliz Soto, Mariely Vélez, Yan Feng, Xiomara Aponte and Mónica Ruiz. In total, 7 research programs were developed and a total of 53 undergraduate students from the Department of Psychology participated.

Participation Conferences and Professional Forums

The faculty and students of the doctorate program participated in various professional conferences and forums. The outstanding participations via presentations and forums in the convention of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in Denver, CO. are listed:

Vélez, M. (2023). Undergraduate Research Training Program (PAIS): Graduate Students as Mentors. Posters in the Trainers of School Psychology (TSP) Convention in the University of Colorado Denver. February 6, 2023.

Vélez, M. (2023). Psychological Needs Assessment in Puerto Rican Deaf Children. Poster in the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Convention in Denver, CO. February 9, 2023.

Vélez, M. (2022). Accessibility of Psychological Services for the Deaf Youth Community: A Systematic Revision. Poster in the Annual Psychology Association of Puerto Rico Convention in Ponce, PR. November 4, 2022.

Vélez, M. (2023). Accessibility of Psychological Services for the Deaf Youth Community: A Systematic Revision. Poster in Research Symposium for Faculty and Graduate Students, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Campus, ADEM. May 17, 2023.

Cortina, G. (2022). Anxiety and COVID-19 in University Students, Poster, Annual Psychology Association of Puerto Rico Convention in Ponce, PR. November 4, 2022.

Cortina, G. (2022). Humanization in the Health Education and Prevention in Educational Environments Poster 10th Ibero-American Congress of Health Promoting Universities. October 11, 2022. Coimbra, Portugal.

López del Puerto, C, Alfero. M., Bellido, C., Cafaro, M., Delgado, B. (2023). Implementing Ecosystems to Expand Capabilities and Opportunities for STEM-Scholars (Cartel). University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. American Society of Engineering Education June 25, 2023.

Bellido, C., Orengo, M., Delgado, B. (2023). Implementing an Ecosystem to Expand Capabilities and Opportunities for STEM Scholars - Poster Investigation Symposium 2023 UPRM. May 17 2023

Cruz López, I., & Delgado, B. M. (2023). School Psychology in Puerto Rico: Barriers to Recruitment and Retention. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of Trainers of School Psychologists, February 2023, Denver, Colorado.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2022). The Impact of the Interdisciplinary Dialogue of Neuropsychoanalysis in Clinical Praxis and Supervision. Keynote at 21st International Neuropsychoanalysis Congress. San Juan, Puerto Rico. July 14 – 16, 2022.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2023). Introduction to Neuropsychoanalysis and Affective Neuroscience. 4th West Puerto Rico Neuroscience Symposium. Universidad de Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Campus, Infirmary Amphitheatre (*Anfiteatro de Enfermería*) EE-117. April 29, 2023.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2023). Moderator in dialogue forum: Mental Health Practices from a Socially and Culturally Sensitive Perspective for our Children and Youth. Comprehensive Development and Well-being of Children and Youth: A Sociostructurally Perspective. May 5-6, 2023. Online.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2023). *I processi neurali secondari e le sue implicazioni nella psicoterapia psicoanalitica /* Affective Systems in Nested Hierarchies: The Role of Secondary Processes in Psychotherapy and Psychodynamic Supervision. CFR Centro di Formazione e Ricerca in Psychotherapy Psychoanalytical, University of Trieste, Italy. May 26, 2023.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2022). Basic Principles of Neuropsychoanalysis. Organized by the Department of Psychology in the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez, Stefani S-113. November 22, 2022.

Nieves A. (2023). The Capacity, Ethical, and Moral Issues of Large Language Models like Chat GPT. Panel, Ponente, Celis 116 UPRM, April 4, 2023.

Nieves A. (2023). Community and Studies Against Violence: Collaborative Work between the University Institute for the Development of Communities, *SIEMPREVIVAS*. Oral presentation, XXVIII Research Symposium in Social Sciences UPRM.

Nieves. A (2023). Culture of Peace for Children Project: Novel and Multisectoral strategies to address violence, Dialogic Forum, APPR Thematic Symposium.

Lugo, E. (2023). Energetic Justice and Mental Health: The Imperative of Transdisciplinary for Psychology. Keynote speech at the 9th Albizu Research and Innovation Meeting. June 2023

Lugo, E. (2023). Precarious Childhood: The Consequences of Austerity on Poverty and Education in Puerto Rico. Oral presentation as part of the panel at the Law and Society Conference. June 2023.

Baez, L & Lugo, E. (2023). Decolonial Perspectives in the Development of Research and Intervention Strategies with Children and Youth. Workshop presented at the Symposium of the Psychology Association of Puerto Rico. May 2023.

Lugo, E. (2023). Interprofessional Efforts for Prevention and Adverse Experiences in Childhood. Keynote Speech at the Symposium of Capable Families. May 2023.

Lugo, E. (2023). Synergy and Transdisciplinarity: The Prevailing Relationship between Engineering, Social Sciences and Community. Oral presentation at the UPRM Engineering students. April 2023.

Lugo, E., Rosa, Y. & Ortiz, L. (2023). After George Floyd, What? The Puerto Rican Psychology Silence About Race and Racism. Oral presentation at the Latin American Society Association. March 2023.

Lugo, E. (2023). Liberation Psychology. Oral presentation for students of the Medical University of South Carolina Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. March 2023.

Lugo, E., Maldonado, H. & López, D. (2023). Towards a New Educational Paradigm in midst of the crisis: the example of Aula in the Mountain. Oral presentation at the First Congress of Work and Community Development. January 2023.

Lugo, E. (2023). Youth Impact. Oral presentation at the Strategies for College Success Symposium. February 2023.

Rivera, M., Cepeda-Hernández, S., Sánchez-Cardona, I & Lugo, E. (2022). It Rains on Wet: The Impact of Hurricane Fiona on the Quality of Life in Puerto Rico. Discussion at the 69th Annual Convention of the Association of Psychology of PR. November 2022.

Jimenez, A, Lugo, E., Bruno, T., Santiago, A. & Porche, M. (2022). The Construction of "The Other" and its Consequences in a Colonial Context. Roundtable discussion at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference. May 2022.

Lugo, E. (2023). The Contribution of Puerto Rican Psychology to Public Policy. Preconference oral presentation at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference. June 2023.

Publications

Doctoral Program faculty and graduate students published articles in several peer journals.

Cortina. G. (2022). Anxiety and COVID-19 in University Students: A Systematic Review UNEMI Psychology Journal, 6, 11, July 1, 2022.

Cintrón, B. (2022). Reflection on Miscegenation and Identity Construction in the Caribbean and Latin America. Puerto Rican Journal of Psychology on Equity, Racism and Mental Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (Submitted).

Vélez-Pérez, M. (2022). School-Based Work in Suicide. *Communiqué*, *50*(5), 38. https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and publications/periodicals/communiquévolume-50-number-5-(january/february-2021)/school-based-work-in-suicide (Published)

Vélez-Pérez, M. (2023). ADHD Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Professionals. *Communiqué*, *51*(8), 37-38. https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and publications/periodicals/communiqu%C3%A9-volume-51-number-8-(june-2023)/hiperactivo-impulsivo-distra%C3%ADdo-%C2%BFme-conoces-3rd-edition (Published)

Service and Community

Dr. Eduardo Lugo continued with the initiative titled Youth Impact (*Impacto Juventud*) along with the students enrolled in PSIC3039 Adolescence. The objective of the initiative is an educational one and it consists of the production of short videos which

addresses a variety of topics concerning the youth population. Some of the issued covered so far includes: poverty in children, participation of young people in the public policy, sexual harassment, emigration, gender discrimination, among others. The graduate students participated in various activities. On the other hand, Dr. Ana Nieves continued participating in activities related to violence in the family domestic and gender-based violence and promoting a culture of peace.

The following are the main activities in which faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students participated:

Vélez, M. *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. In collaboration with ESCAPE on a Family Day of reading stories, Drawings and games. Family Day with ESCAPE. July 16, 2022 San Germán, PR.

Montalvo, K & Vélez M. 17th Puerto Rican Lecture Marathon reading a story and interpreting Sign Language in *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. September 8, 2022.

Vélez, M. Children's Rights from the Deaf Children Community's Perspective. Dialogue on Facebook Live de *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. November 29, 2022.

Vélez, M. Challenges and Experiences in Research in the UPR system. Participation in the Health and Justice Radio Program of Youth Impact with Dr. Eduardo Lugo Hernández. February 28, 2023.

Nieves, A. Violet March, Orientation *SIEMPREVIVAS* and Culture of Peace, Undergraduate Students Interdisciplinary in Psychology in the University Carlos Albizu, Practice Course. April 2023

Nieves, A. 25th Anniversary Celebration of *SIEMPREVIVAS*, Mezzanine – UPRM.

Nieves A. Coffee Evenings, *La Casita* 5B, Friday 4:00 pm to the University Community.

Nieves A. UPRM Game Day, Activity Institute of Game Studies, Chardón Plaza (*Placita de Chardón*). May 2, 2023.

Student Component

The Department supported various activities to Student Associations from the Department such as the Psychology Students Association AEPSIC (Asociación de Estudiantes de Psicología) and the International Psychology Honor Students Association PSI-CHI (Asociación Internacional de Honor de Estudiantes de Psicología).

Recognitions and Prizes

The students Nicole Mendoza, Bianca Cintrón y Giuliana Conty received the Prize of the Department of Psychology Profa. Hilda Bacó and the Luis Stefani Award during the Collation of Degrees 2023.

- B. MISSION The Department of Psychology remained at the forefront in the development and application of knowledge in Psychology, consistent with the training of professionals of the 21st century.
 The Department of Psychology continued the Doctoral Program in School Psychology. 10 applications were received and 9 students were admitted to the program.
- C. INSTITUTIONALIZE A CULTURE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND APPRAISAL

 a. COMPLETED ACTIVITIES –
- D. INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE SOURCES OF INCOME OF THE INSTITUTION The Department continued the process of establishing a service clinic for children and adolescents from which students of the Doctoral Program in School Psychology can perform internships of several graduate courses. Specifically, it is proposed to establish a clinic of psychological services aimed at the population of children and adolescents in the western region of Puerto Rico. Services would be offered in the following areas:
 - 1. Evaluation (Administration of psycho-educational and psycho-neurological tests)
 - 2. Intervention (Psychological therapy)
 - 3. Training-education (Workshops, prevention and education seminars)
 - 4. Program evaluation

E. IMPLEMENTING AGILE AND EFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

The Department continued to use the Sign Request platform to accelerate the submission of various administrative and student documents of the Department. The use of this platform was indispensable given the situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

F. STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK

In the area of research, the faculty of the Department had several significant achievements. The participation of Dr. Bernadette Delgado, Dr. Milagritos González, Dr. Ana Nieves, Dr. Janet Bonilla, and Dr. Eduardo Lugo are outstanding.

- a. Dr. Milagritos González is the PI of the project entitled: Pathway to Success: RUMbos for Success – US Department of Education, Title V. This broad project is aimed primarily at the new student population. They offer a variety of direct services to this population (tutoring, counseling and education services and psychological services, personal development workshops, among others).
- b. Dr. Bernadette Delgado is in charge of the overall evaluation of the project titled "Ecosystem to Expand Capabilities and Opportunities for Scholars (EECO Scholars) (NSF EECOS-STEM #1833989). EECOS aims to provide academically talented and low-income UPRM students who were impacted by Hurricane Maria with the financial, academic and socio-emotional support they need to expand their academic, personal and professional capabilities and thus complete their program within institutionally established time limits (retention and student success). To achieve the established objectives, an

- ecosystem is established based on three components: financial, academic support and social-emotional support. Finally, Dr. Delgado also participated in the writing of the following research proposals: Evaluation of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Coastal Resilience Center (UPRM-CRC) and Co-Design of Integrated Energy and Mobility Hubs for Service and Resiliency.
- c. Dr. Janet Bonilla is the external evaluator of the program PEARLS "Engineering PEARLS: Program for Engineering Access, Retention and LIATS Success". This program is aimed at helping bachelor's and master's level students in all engineering disciplines successfully complete their programs of study and transition to professional life. Specifically, this program seeks to improve the recruitment, retention, time to graduation and graduation rates of Low Income Academically Talented Students (LIATS).
- d. Dr. Ana Nieves provides various services and psycho-social-emotional support to women and their children who are survivors of violence. Dr. Nieves works particularly with children and women survivors of domestic violence. She was PI and Co-PI in the following externally funded research proposals: SIEMPREVIVAS Transforming Lives: Integral Services for Autonomy. Federal Department of Justice –VOCA; and, Interdisciplinary Data-Driven Discovery Traineeship, (b) NSF-(NRT).
- e. The Department of Psychology continued implementing the Undergraduate Research Training Program (*Programa de Adiestramiento en Investigación Subgraduada*) PAIS. PAIS is led by doctors Douglas Santos and Janet Bonilla. During the year 2022 2023, the graduate students of the Doctoral Program in School Psychology (Brenda Cintrón, Desiree Paz, Maryliz Soto, Mariely Vélez, Yan Feng, Xiomara Aponte, and Mónica Ruiz) were in charge of the research projects. In total, 7 research projects were developed and a total of 53 undergraduate students from the Department of Psychology participated.
- f. Dr. Eduardo Lugo participated as Co-PI in the proposal entitled "Opportunities for Distributed Solar to Improve Resilience and Energy Justice in Puerto Rico". U.S. Department of Energy.

G. PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL FORUMS COMPONENT

Faculty and graduate students of the Doctoral Program participated in several professional conferences and forums. Highlights include participation in: The Annual Convention of the Puerto Rico Psychological Association and the Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in Denver, CO. Presentations in these and other professional forums are included.

Vélez, M. (2023). Undergraduate Research Training Program (PAIS): Graduate Students as Mentors. Poster at the Trainers of School Psychology (TSP) Conference in the University of Denver, Colorado. February 6, 2023.

Vélez, M. (2023). Psychological Needs Assessment in Puerto Rican Deaf Children. Poster in the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Conference in Denver, CO. February 9, 2023.

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Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2023). Moderator of the dialogic forum: Practices in Mental Health from a Socially and Culturally Sensitive Perspective for our Children and Youth.

APPR Thematic Symposium: Integral Development and Well-being of Children and Youth: A Sociostructural Perspective, May 5 - 6, 2023. Online.

Ríos Ruiz, E. J. (2023). *I processi neurali secondari e le sue implicazioni nella psicoterapia psicoanalitica /* Affective Systems in Nested Hierarchies: The Role of Secondary Processes in Psychotherapy and Psychodynamic Supervision. CFR Centro di Formazione e Ricerca in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, University of Trieste, Italy. May 26, 2023.

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Lugo, E. (2023). Precarious Childhood: The Consequences of Austerity on Poverty and Education in Puerto Rico. Oral Presentation as part of the Law and Society Conference Panel. June 2023.

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Lugo, E. (marzo, 2023). Liberation Psychology. Oral presentation for students of the Medical University of South Carolina Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences.

Lugo, E., Maldonado, H. & López, D. (2023). Towards a New Educational Paradigm in the Midst of the Crisis: The Example of Aula in the Mountain. Oral presentation at the First Congress of Work and Community Development. January 2023.

Lugo, E. (2023). Youth Impact. Oral presentation in the Symposium of Strategies for College Success. February 2023.

Rivera, M., Cepeda-Hernández, S., Sánchez-Cardona, I & Lugo, E. (2022). It Rains on Wet: The Impact of Hurricane Fiona on the Quality of Life in Puerto Rico. Discussion at the 69th Annual Convention of the Association of Psychology of PR. November 2022

Jimenez, A, Lugo, E., Bruno, T., Santiago, A. & Porche, M. (2022). The Construction of "The Other" and its Consequences in a Colonial Context. Roundtable discussion at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference. May 2022.

Lugo, E. (2023). The Contribution of Puerto Rican Psychology to Public Policy. Preconference oral presentation at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues conference. June 2023.

H. PUBLICATIONS

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Vélez-Pérez, M. (2023). ADHD Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Professionals. *Communiqué*, *51*(8), 37-38. https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and publications/periodicals/communiqu%C3%A9-volume-51-number-8-(june-2023)/hiperactivo-impulsivo-distra%C3%ADdo-%C2%BFme-conoces-3rd-edition (Published)

I. IMPACTING OUR PUERTO RICAN SOCIETY

Collaboration with the *SIEMPREVIVAS* Project directed by professor Luisa Seijo from the Department of Social Sciences. Dr. Nieves works specifically with the children and women survivors of domestic violence.

J. COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTICIPATION

Vélez, M. *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. In collaboration with ESCAPE on a Family Day of reading stories, drawing and games. Family Day with ESCAPE. July 16, 2022 San Germán, PR.

Montalvo, K & Vélez M. 17th Puerto Rican Lecture Marathon reading a story and interpreting Sign Language in *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. September 8, 2022.

Vélez, M. Children's Rights from the Deaf Children Community's Perspective. Dialogue on Facebook Live de *Chiqui Impacto* – Youth Impact. November 29, 2022.

Vélez, M. Challenges and Experiences in Research in the UPR system. Participation in the Health and Justice Radio Program of Youth Impact with Dr. Eduardo Lugo Hernández. February 28, 2023.

Cortina, G. & Vélez, M. Sensibility towards the population with Functional Diversity. Oral Presentation at SHRM, Mayagüez Chapter, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. March 7, 2023.

Nieves, A. Violet March, Orientation *SIEMPREVIVAS* and Culture of Peace, Undergraduate Students Interdisciplinary in Psychology in the University Carlos Albizu, Practice Course. April 2023.

Nieves, A. 25th Anniversary Celebration of SIEMPREVIVAS, Mezzanine – UPRM.

Nieves A. Coffee Evenings, *La Casita* 5B, Friday 4:00 pm to the University Community.

Nieves A. UPRM Game Day, Activity Institute of Game Studies, Chardón Plaza (*Placita de Chardón*). May 2, 2023.

K. STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF BELONGING AND "COLLEGIAL PRIDE"

New Students Orientation Week 2022 – 2023. The various Student Associations, Administrative Staff and professors of the Department of Psychology participated in this activity to welcome and integrate the new students.