

Merab Gomez

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- PhD June 2026 **UC Riverside:** *Social & Personality Psychology*
Area of Specialization: Industrial-Organizational Psychology
LAB: *Leadership & Group Dynamics Lab*
GPA: 3.9
- M.A. May 2020 **Texas State University:** *Psychological Research*
GPA: 4.0
- B.A. May 2018 **University of Texas at San Antonio:** *Psychology*
GPA: 3.12

PUBLICATIONS

- Gomez, M.**, Kaiser, S., Klare, D., Ceballos, N., Dailey, S., & Howard, K. (2022). Do you dare to compare? Identifying key characteristics of social media users who frequently make online upward social comparisons. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*.
- Kaiser, S., Klare, D., **Gomez, M.**, Ceballos, N., Dailey, S., & Howard, K. (2021). A Comparison of Social Media Behaviors Between Sexual Minorities and Heterosexual Individuals. *Computers in Human Behavior*.
- Howard, K., **Gomez, M.**, Ceballos, N. & Dailey, S. (2019). Digital Depression: A review of social media behaviors and their relationship with mental health and well-being. *The American Bar Association GP Solo Group Magazine*, 36(6), 16-19.

CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Liu, K., Sonekar, S., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., & Sy, T. (May 2023) *Follower Self-Esteem on Perceptions of the Authenticity of Social Media Influencers*. Presented at R'PSYC Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Riverside, CA
- Lopez, R., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., & Sy, T. (May 2023) *Interview Performance and Confidence with Anxiety as a Moderator*. Presented at R'PSYC Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Riverside, CA
- Amador, J., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., & Sy, T. (May 2023) *Agency and Communion in Social Media Influencers and Followers*. Presented at R'PSYC Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Riverside, CA
- Vasquez, B., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., & Sy, T. (April 2023) *Social Media Intensity and Trust in Social Media Influencers*. Presented at UC Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA
- Pi, C., Rodriguez, K., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., & Sy, T. (April 2023) *Personality Traits of Followers Influence Social Media Influencer Perceptions*. Presented at UC Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA
- Ahuja, R., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L. & Sy, T. (April 2023) *Mindset Training Application Impact on Self-Efficacy and Job Interview Performance*. Presented at UC Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA

- Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., Stein, K., & Sy, T. (2023). *Examining Retention within Public Social Services*. Presented at the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology Annual Conference, Boston, MA
- Stein, K., Ashlock, L., **Gomez, M.**, & Sy, T. (2023). *Enhancing goal achievement with a mobile app: Role of gender*. Poster session presented at the Annual Convention of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP), Boston, MA.
- Chen L., Nguyen, K., Ashlock, L., **Gomez, M.**, Stein, K., & Sy, T. (May, 2022) *The Role of Self-Efficacy in Achieving Different Goals*. Presented at R'PSYC Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Riverside, CA
- Kieta, A., Claar, T., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., Stein, K., & Sy, T. (April 2022) *A Mobile Application Intervention for Improving Life Satisfaction, Gratitude and Optimism*. Presented at UC Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA
- Schofield, C., Ashlock, L., **Gomez, M.**, Stein, K., & Sy, T. (April 2022) *Leader's Perceptions of Themselves and Their Perceptions of their Followers*. Presented at UC Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA
- Leung, A., **Gomez, M.**, Ashlock, L., Stein, K., & Sy, T. (April 2022) *Galatea Intervention for Enhancing Leadership via Associative Conditioning*. Presented at the Society of Industrial and organizational Psychology Annual Conference, Seattle, WA
- Gomez, M.**, Tooley, K. & Howard, K. (April 2019) *Social Media Behaviors of Multilingual Users*. Presented at the South Western Psychological Association Research Conference, Albuquerque, NM
- Gomez, M.**, & Romanowich, P. (May 2018) *Misconceptions of Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy on Autism Spectrum Disorders in Children*. Presented at the 18th Annual University of Texas at San Antonio Spring College of the Liberal and Fine Arts Conference, San Antonio, TX

INVITED LECTURES AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Gomez, M.** (2023). Abstract Reviewer. R'PSYC Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Riverside, CA
- Gomez, M.** (2020). 5 Ways to Create a Healthy Relationship with Screens and Technology. Featured Interviewee for Authority Magazine
- Gomez, M.** (2019). Do you dare to compare? Identifying key characteristics of social media users who frequently make online upward social comparisons. Panel presentation at the Graduate College International Research Conference, San Marcos, TX
- Gomez, M.** (2019). "FAÇADE: Into the minds behind the screen." Documentary Interview: Studio A Texas State University
- Gomez, M.** (2019). Graduate Abstract Reviewer. The Graduate College International Research Conference, San Marcos, TX

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor

Sep 2023-Present

UC Riverside, Psychology Department, Riverside, California

- Serving as the primary instructor on record for the Personality Psychology course
- Designed course materials including the syllabus, lecture slides, exams, assignments, activities and grading rubrics
- Providing lecture to class of over 100 students twice a week
- Managing and organizing teaching assistants and their respective discussion sections
- Keeping in communication with students to answer questions, holding weekly office hours and supporting students of all backgrounds for success in the course
- Ensuring that the gradebook is updated regularly and in a correct manner

Teaching Assistant

Jun 2022-Present

UC Riverside, Psychology Department, Riverside, California

- Assistant to instructors for the following courses:
 - I-O Psychology (Summer 2022 & Summer 2023)
 - Introduction to Psychology (Summer 2022, Spring 2023 & Summer 2023)
 - Personality Psychology (Fall 2023)
- Leads discussion sections
- Schedules and maintains regular office hours to assist students
- Grades assignments in a timely manner

Graduate Instructional Assistant

Aug 2018-May 2020

Texas State University, Psychology Department, San Marcos, Texas

- Assistant to instructors for the following courses:
 - Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2018)
 - Psychopharmacology (Fall 2019)
 - Research Methods (Spring 2019, Summer 2019 & Spring 2020)
 - Personality Psychology (Spring 2020)
- Developed instructional materials such as test reviews, course page and class syllabi
- Scheduled and maintained regular office hours to assist students
- Promptly replied to emails and answered questions from students
- Uploaded/graded exams, essays, and assignments

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**Research Specialist II**

Sep 2021-Present

Riverside County, Riverside, California

Department of Public and Social Services

- Collaborates with research team and administrative personnel to develop employee satisfaction surveys and exit surveys
- Provides consulting advice to help DPSS reach their organizational goals
- Manages data collection, creates reports and presents findings to administrative personnel

Research Area Specialist

Oct 2020-Aug 2021

UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas

Department of Psychiatry, Aging and Geriatrics Division

- Performs duties in support of research projects such as scheduling research subjects, researching records, data collection and management
- Administers and scores standardized battery of cognitive and behavioral assessments to research subjects with cognitive and behavioral impairments, dementia and Alzheimer's disease
- Trains and guides other lower-level research support personnel in instrument use and operations
- Conducts literature reviews and prepares materials for publication
- Serves as the primary Spanish translator of written documentation and assessment administration for research subjects

Project Manager

Jan 2020-Dec 2020

Texas State University, Learning in Context Lab, San Marcos, Texas

An examination of belief development of children from non-religious households

- Working on grant funded developmental research study with supervising professor and research team
- Developed IRB application materials for a pilot study examining religious and non-religious child and parent implicit/explicit levels of teleological reasoning
- Created and designed online questionnaire using the Gorilla and Qualtrics survey platforms
- Assist in study design, participant recruitment strategies, data collection and analyses

Graduate Research Intern

Aug 2019-Dec 2019

Live Oak Living Community

Assisted Living for Cognitive Disabilities, San Marcos, Texas

- Met with the director of resident services to collaborate on research project
- Constructed a research study to meet the research and recruitment needs of the facility
- Developed an IRB application and created a survey in order to help the facility identify potentially successful direct support professionals
- Prepared articles, reports, and presentations for facility administrators

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug 2019-Dec 2019

Texas State University, Psychology Department, San Marcos, Texas

Does Social Media Make Us Sick? Phase 3 – Testing Physiological Reactivity

Assisted principal investigator in a study about physiological responses to social media content

- Organized time slots and monitored compensation for participants
- Administered surveys, collected saliva samples, measured heart rate and blood pressure from participants in lab
- Assisted with analysis of cortisol levels and other physiological measurements

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Jan 2018-May 2018

The University of Texas at San Antonio, Psychology Department, San Antonio, Texas

A Cross-Cultural Examination of Social Discounting in Sharing Behaviors

- Assisted principal investigator in a cross-cultural study comparing sharing behaviors in Japanese, Mexican and U.S. students
- Administered in-person interviews and questionnaires to participants
- Managed time slots and provided compensation to participants
- Translated survey responses to data spreadsheets and assisted with data cleaning

LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Lab Manager

2021-Present

UC Riverside, Psychology Department, Riverside, California

Leadership and Group Dynamics Lab

- Recruits, trains and manages undergraduate research assistants
- Leads weekly lab meetings and prepares tasks for lab members
- Provides professional development advice and research opportunities
- Designs workshops on data cleaning, statistical analyses, IRB applications and research design
- Collaborates and assists research assistants in developing research posters for presentation at conferences and honors theses

Student Mentor

2022-2023

UC Riverside, Chicano Student Programs, Riverside, California

Chicano Student Link Mentorship Program

- Assigned to a mentee within the Chicano student programs to help them navigate being a first generation Chicano student pursuing higher education
- Scheduled bi-weekly meetings with mentee for check-ins and to provide assistance (i.e., registering for classes, obtaining a student ID, advice on how to be a teaching assistant)
- Attended Chicano Student Programs events and socials with mentee to enhance their university experience

Treasurer

2017-2018

The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

Psychology Student Association

- Selected to serve as the treasurer for the academic organization
- Managed student membership dues and purchases made by the organization
- Completed 5 hours of volunteer service each semester at the Children’s Shelter
- Attended weekly meetings and assisted the president and vice president of the organization

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Industrial-Organizational Psychology
- Experimental and Research Methods
- Bivariate and Multivariate Statistics
- Advanced Statistical Analysis
- Latent Variable Analysis
- Social and Personality Psychology

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Native Spanish speaker, writer and reader
- Research specialization in I-O psychology
- Proficient in statistical analysis software: SPSS and R
- Great presentation, independent work, communication, time management and collaborative skills
- Experienced with survey and psychometric construction platforms: Qualtrics, MTurk, Survey Monkey and Gorilla
- Knowledgeable with IRB application submissions and following ethical procedures
- Familiar with physiological measurement: salivary assays, EEG, heart rate and blood pressure
- Advanced scientific writing, manuscript drafting and research poster design
- Great administrative and organizational skills
- Highly motivated and detail oriented