

Justina Avila, UNM-CHP Research Fellow
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Education

- 2014- *Anticipated 2019* **Doctorate in Philosophy, Clinical Psychology**
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2011-2013 **Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology**
California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA
Master's Thesis: Avila, J. (2013). *The effects of acculturation on neuropsychological test performance in English-speaking and Farsi-speaking Iranian individuals.*
Advisor: Jill Razani, PhD
- 2006-2011 **Bachelor of Arts, Psychology**
California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA

Research Experience

- 2014- **Research Coordinator**
UNM Culture and Cognition Lab
Steven P. Verney, Ph.D
Projects: Rhythm and Timing Cognitive Rehabilitation Intervention for College Students with ADHD; Quality of Education and Health Literacy Project
Duties: Design and implement projects; analyze and disseminate data; literature reviews; organize, administer, and score neuropsychological test batteries; enter, organize, and prepare data; coordinate testing arrangements; train new research assistants on battery administration; mentor/supervise lab members on analysis and dissemination of their own projects
- 2010-2014 **Research Coordinator**
CSUN Neuropsychology Dementia and Multicultural Research Laboratory
Jill Razani, Ph.D
Projects: Relationship between cognitive function and daily abilities of patients with dementia (NIH-funded study); Relationship between acculturation and performance on various neuropsychological tests in normal ethnically diverse individuals (NIH-funded study); Reliability and validity of new acculturation scale for Iranian individuals.
Duties: Design and implement projects; analyze and disseminate data; literature reviews; organize, administer, and score neuropsychological test batteries; enter, organize, and prepare data; recruit participants;

track patients for annual assessments; coordinate testing arrangements; train new research assistants on battery administration; mentor/supervise lab members on analysis and dissemination of their own projects

- 2012-2014 **Research Assistant/Neuropsych Technician**
The Green Lab UCLA/VA Greater Los Angeles
Michael Green, Ph.D
Projects: Test-retest reliability and validity of effort-based decision-making measures of motivation and effort in patients with schizophrenia; Biobehavioral markers of negative symptoms and assessing the relationship between negative symptoms and functional outcome; Efficacy of 3 social cognition training programs (VA-funded study); Suitability of specific social neuroscience measures for use in clinical trails of schizophrenia (NIMH-funded study); Differences in emotional response profiles of patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder-I (R21 exploratory grant)
Duties: Administer various batteries of neuropsychological and social cognitive measures to individuals with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder; administer several EEG paradigms using *BioSemi* software; score and enter data; assist post-doctoral fellow in implementing a cognitive training program and a social training program; participate in weekly diagnostic review meetings and project design/implementation meetings with P.I.'s and post-doctoral fellows
- 2010-2011 **Community Agency Research Intern**
Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
Stacey To, MPH
Duties: Assisted in conducting community-based participatory research; managed and administered program evaluations; created satisfaction surveys, collected and analyzed data for evaluations; developed a codebook the agency continues to use while collecting and analyzing data
- 2010-2011 **Research Assistant**
CSUN Decision Making Laboratory
Jill Quilici, Ph.D
Duties: Conducted experiments on decision making; collected and analyzed data using several tools
- 2009-2011 **Research Assistant**
CSUN Adult Behavioral Medicine Laboratory
Luciana Lagana, Ph.D
Duties: Conducted experiments; collected, scored and analyzed data using several tools; coded qualitative data from older adult population; and assisted in writing research protocols for CSUN IRB approval

Clinical Experience

- 2011-2013 **Child and Adolescent Assessment Clinic**
California State University, Northridge, *Northridge, CA*
Supervisor: Gary Katz, Ph.D
- 2014- **Center for Neuropsychological Services (CNS)**
University of New Mexico Hospital, *Albuquerque, NM*
Supervisors: R. Brock Frost, Ph.D., John King, Ph.D

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

- 2015- **Research Fellow**
University of New Mexico Center for Health Policy
University of New Mexico, *Albuquerque, NM*
- 2015 **Jose Martin Rodriguez Travel Award**
Awarded to a psychology graduate student who has been selected to present at a national conference with preference given to underrepresented ethnic minorities and those with demonstrated financial need
University of New Mexico, *Albuquerque, NM*
- 2013 **Donald Butler Quantitative Research Award**
Awarded to a graduate student who has completed outstanding research utilizing advanced quantitative methods of data analysis
California State University, Northridge, *Northridge, CA*
- 2010-2013 **Research Fellow**
National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Research Infrastructure for Minority Institutions
California State University, Northridge, *Northridge, CA*
- 2009-2013 **Deans List**
California State University, Northridge, *Northridge, CA*

Bibliography

Peer Reviewed Manuscripts

Avila, J., Flowers, A., Shivley-Scott, T., Quilici, J., Apostolova, L. G., Woo, E., Ringman, J., & Razani, J. (in press). Daily activity abilities in MCI, Alzheimer's disease and healthy controls. *Journal of Gerontopsychology and Geriatric Psychiatry*.

Razani, J., Corona, R., Matevosyan, A., Funes, C., Larco, A., Miloyan, B., **Avila, J.**, Chung, J., Goldberg, H., Lu, P. (2012). *The Effects of Declining Functional Abilities in Dementia Patients and Increases in Burden on Caregiver Psychological Distress Over a One-Year Period*.

Miloyan, B., Razani, J., Larco, A., **Avila, J.**, & Chung, J. (2012). Aspects of attention predict real-world task performance in Alzheimer's disease. *Applied Neuropsychology: Adult*.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Avila, J., Verney, S., Razani, J., & Mitrushina, M. (2013). *The effects of acculturation on neuropsychological test performance in English-speaking and Farsi-speaking Iranian individuals.*

Poster Presentations

Avila, J., Flowers, A., & Razani, J. (2015). The relationship between cultural factors and executive functioning in english-speaking and farsi-speaking Iranian individuals. *Poster presented at 2015 INS Conference.*

Tabak, N.T., Green, M.F., Wynn, J.K., **Avila, J.**, Bender, A., Dolinsky, M., Fazli, C.S., Iglesias, J., McGee, M.R., Proudfit, G.H., Altshuler, L., & Horan, W.P. (2014). Perceived emotional intelligence and functioning in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology.*

Avila, J., Flowers, A., & Razani, J. (2014). The advantage of using a performance-based task to differentiate MCI subtypes. *Poster presented at 2014 APA convention.*

Avila, J., & Razani, J. (2014). The influence of culture on performance on neuropsychological measures that require little verbal mediation in English-speaking and Farsi-speaking Iranian individuals. *Poster presented at 2014 INS meeting.*

Flowers, A., **Avila, J.**, & Razani, J. (2013). Performance of participants with different subtypes of mild cognitive impairment on an activity of daily living task. *Poster presented at 2014 INS meeting.*

Murcia, M., Flowers, A., **Avila, J.**, & Razani, J. (2013). Quality of education and its effect on WASI test performance in ethnically diverse individuals. *Poster presented at 2014 WPA conference.*

Bax, K., **Avila, J.**, & Razani, J. (2013). Performance of Immigrants of Eastern Ethnicities on a Verbal Learning Test. *Poster presented at 2014 WPA conference.*

Sarkissians, S., **Avila, J.**, & Razani, J. (2013). Cultural variation influences the performance of executive functions. *Poster presented at 2014 WPA conference.*

Scott, T., **Avila, J.**, Woo, E., Apostolova, L., Ringman, J., Razani, J. (2013). Classifying individuals with MCI and healthy elderly with daily activities task. *Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science.*

Avila, J., Meza-Gonzalez, I., Wong, J., Murcia, M., Razani, J. (2012). The utility of the CVLT-II and a performance-based task in differentiating MCI patients from controls. *Poster presented at the 2013 INS conference.*

Jahshan, C., Wynn, J.K., McCleery, A., **Avila, J.**, Green, M.F. (2012). Cross-diagnostic comparison of visual processing in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. *Poster presented at the 2012 ICOSR.*

Jahshan, C., Wynn, J.K., **Avila, J.**, Green, M.F. (2012). Relationship between auditory processing and affective prosody in schizophrenia. *Poster presented at the 2012 ACNP.*

Avila, J., Scott, T., Madore, M., Burciaga, J., & Razani, J. (2011). The performance of farsi-speaking and english-speaking iranians on the WCST. *Poster presented at the 2012 American Psychological Association Annual Convention.*

Amin, N., **Avila, J.**, Neswald, J., Razani, J. (2011). Utilizing the WCST to differentiate executive performance in AD and MCI individuals. *Poster presented at the 2012 Western Psychological Association Conference.*

Avila, J., & Razani, J. (2011). The advantage of using daily functional tasks to differentiate patients from controls. *Poster presented at the 2011 National Academy of Neuropsychology Convention.*

Avila, J., & Lagana, L. (2010). The need to identify both “sexual” and “general” psychopathology related to sexual difficulties experienced by ethnically diverse women. *Poster presented at CSUN’s RIMI Conference 2011.*

Miloyan, B.H., **Avila, J.**, Ghajoyan, I., Razani, J. (2010). Memory and executive functioning predict shopping ability in alzheimer’s disease. *Poster presented at the 2011 American Psychological Association Convention.*

Avila, J., & Lagana, L. (2010). A literature review on the trauma-drug abuse link. *Poster presented at the 2011 Western Psychological Association Convention.*

Avila, J., Garcia, J., Latini, G. (2010). “Getting even”: Unhealthy relationship attitudes predicts angry attitudes towards partners in multi-ethnic adolescents. *Poster presented at the 2011 Western Psychological Association Convention.*

Garcia, J., Lagana, L., **Avila, J.**, & Oliver, T. (2010). Linking sexual satisfaction and masculinity to women’s depression and anxiety. *Poster presented at the 2010 Western Psychological Association Convention.*