

Elisa Avila

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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016-Present

Sociology, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology

University of Chicago, Master of Arts, 2009

Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences

Concentration: Sociology

Thesis: *Public Spaces and Contentious Politics in Chicago: Glossing Over Grant Park*

Tulane University, Bachelor of Arts, 2008, cum laude

Newcomb College

Majors in History and Sociology, concentration on Environmental Studies

Select Honors and Scholarships

Tulane University Partial Scholarship: 2004-2008, Merit based award for half tuition, room, and board.

University of Chicago Partial Scholarship: 2008-2009 Academic Year, for Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences

Mortar Board Honor Society: 2007-2008 Academic Year, Inducted April 2007

National honor society recognizing college seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership and service. Activities included participating in running the Annual Leadership Conference for Girls, bringing middle school girls to a university setting and providing motivational speakers and activities.

Oak Wreath Award 2008: Newcomb College award for distinguished senior women engaged in pursuit of learning, leadership, activities, and contributing to the Newcomb/Tulane community.

Research Experiences for Undergraduates: Summer 2008 NSF fully funded summer program at Sociology Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Presentations

Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference, San Antonio, TX April 2012

“What Basic Outcome and Data Tracking Should Every Agency be Doing?”

Co-presented with Cayuga Centers C.E.O Edward Hayes.

Southwestern Social Science Association, Denver, CO April 9, 2009
“The Role of Space and Place in Protest”

Additional Training and Certifications

Advance Analytics for Child Welfare Administration: Five day course funded by Casey Family Programs and Chapin Hall Center for State Child Welfare Data, Albany, NY February 14-17 2011

Leadership Development Program: March 2012 to March 2013, Program consisted of 1 year of monthly 12 hour sessions. Members functioned as an incubator team for organizational decisions and planning. Topics covered included case studies, simulations, nonprofit management, accounting, and human resources.

Personal Outcomes Measures: Certified Training by Council on Quality and Leadership, July 2013. Interview based assessment of quality of life specific to assessing quality of life for people of varying physical and cognitive abilities.

NIH Office of Extramural Research Protecting Human Research Participants
March 7, 2015, Certification Number 1714299

Professional Affiliations

American Evaluation Association: 2012-2014

Human Services Topical Interest Group program co-chair and webmaster.

Languages

Native Spanish Speaker

Beginner Portuguese

Professional Experience

Independent Consultant-Various locations.

November 2014- August 2016

Consultation with a range of clients working in the nonprofit sector. The underlying philosophy behind my work is good implementation practice and organizational capacity building.

- Garibay Group: Program Evaluation, including instrument development, qualitative data analysis, and in depth interviews with 10 subjects.
- Tibet Action Institute: Nonprofit organizational management, systems, and compliance.
- Cayuga Centers: Capacity building and team facilitation

Cayuga Centers (formerly Cayuga Home for Children), Auburn, NY
September 2010-November 2014

Evaluation and Research Specialist, Continuous Quality Improvement

- Implemented agency wide research agenda to support a stronger link between research and practice while supporting staff needs. Educated staff on evidence-based practices, regional trends, and providing consistent access to relevant research findings about their field.
- Built and designed useful infrastructure for measuring outcomes program evaluations.
- Completed troubleshooting systems design and technical barriers to outcomes tracking
- Facilitated training and workshops for staff development on adult learning, logic models, and on program accountability.
- Led 15 teams through accountability cycles to review and refine their internal systems using the Getting to Outcomes Model by Abraham Wandersman (2004).
- Maintained informational blog and listservs for staff.
- Assisted in agency wide continuous quality improvement through planning, audits, reviews, systems checks, process reviews, and other actions as needed.
- Produced reports for public dissemination. Projects typically had no formal monetary budget. Projects included recruiting internal volunteers for survey administration, training, survey writing, and analysis. Reports can be found at <http://cayugacenters.org/news/program-outcomes/>
- Managed surveys from instrument design to supervising staff completing phone calls or survey administration as needed annually by funders, and for targeted reports
- Supported grant writing staff through research, program design, editing, and proofreading.
- Advised agency leadership on decision making, program development, and strategic planning.
- Facilitated team in development of implementation plan and strategy for Creative Approach to Residential Enrichment, a residential program designed for girls using evidence based and research informed practice. January 2014 to September 2015
- Assisted the Vice President of Continuous Quality Improvement as needed to ensure compliance with state and independent accreditation standards and internal policies.

University of Chicago Survey Lab Chicago, IL

Research Assistant, May 2010-August 2010

- *Cancer Risk Study* Interviewed respondents about personal and family medical history during 30-60 minute long interviews using closed-coded interviewing.
- *Cultural Infrastructure Study* Worked on a team to contact, schedule, and interview leadership staff in cultural institutions.

Garibay Group, Chicago, IL

Lead Research Assistant June 2010-August 2010

- Field observations of informal learning and use of learning aids in a children's garden. Audio and film recording of a group, aggregating observations.
- Interviewed participants on their experience of the garden.
- Collaborate with whole team and principal on synthesis of all data collection.

National Opinion Research Center Chicago, IL

Interviewer for CDC Study on Pandemic Flu Aug. 2009- June 2010

- Perform interviews in Spanish and English with active listening and clear communication with respondents to maintain data integrity, respect subject's rights, and manage time.

- Assigned and trained to work with respondents that were hesitant to participate by addressing any concerns, explaining purpose and process of the interview and encouraging participation.

Data Collector for Elizabeth Fussell (Washington State University) New Orleans, LA
February 2008 – May 2008

- Administered approximately 50 half-hour long surveys in Spanish at Honduran Consulate.
- Subjects were recruited and interviewed on-site with no identifying information gathered.
- Surveys questions included subjects' residential, work, safety, and health history.

Center for Health Equality Research (CHER) New Orleans, LA

Research Assistant for Pilot Study on Latino Access to Healthcare Oct. 2007- Nov. 2007

- Contacted and coordinated with five businesses and organizations to interview approximately 35 adults in Spanish; each interview took approximately fifteen minutes, questions were about health care access.

Molecular Ecology Laboratory New Orleans, LA

Lab Assistant, September 2007-May 2008

Assisted with research on hybridization between non-native red shiner and native blacktail shiner in the Coosa River basin.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Austin, TX

Mickey Leland Intern May-July 2007

- Worked in the Occupational Licensing Section processing large groups of applications and examinations, filing, trouble shooting to ensure database input.
- Completed independent tasks as needed with different projects within the section.
- Created standard operating procedures for using database software.

Incell, Corp. San Antonio, TX

San Antonio Education Partnership Summer Internship Summer 2005

- Functioned as an intern and independent assistant in a biotechnology production company.
- Completed a week long soft skills course for professional development prior to working in company as an intern.
- Performed daily quality control measurements and assisted with production of liquid media, quality testing, and maintenance of cultures and samples.

Volunteer Experience

Tompkins Learning Partners September-October 2014, One-on-one tutor.

Cayuga County Government, NY: Suicide Prevention website development
(Helpingcasey.org) Jan –April 2014

American Evaluation Association: International Buddy at a conference-October 2013

Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago, IL Office Assistance, one day per week as needed
(September 2009 to July 2010)

Erie Neighborhood House, Chicago, IL January to April 2009 ESL Tutoring. Included one small class for intro to computer use, creating audio practice materials for individual student, and one- on-one tutoring.

Louisiana Bucket Brigade, New Orleans, LA Jan to May 2007, interviewing community leaders for compilation for the Fenceline Friends Conference.

Select Undergraduate Activities

WTUL 91.7FM 2004-2008

DJ and Volunteer

Tulane Amnesty International 2004-2008

Member, Fall 2004

Committee Chair Jan. 2005- June 2006

Co-President June 2006-2008

Green Club, member September 2004-May 2007

Member, campus environmental club.

Intensive Newcomb Jan 2007-May 2008

Member, Women's studies organization, active in providing feminist programming on campus.

Office of Multicultural Affairs Spring 2006

Volunteered as "Big" Duties included acting as ambassador and mentor to an incoming freshman.

Student at Incarnate Word University San Antonio, TX-Fall 2005

Note: Attended as a guest student during closure of Tulane University due to Hurricane Katrina.

Incarnate Word Amnesty International, Fall 2005, member

Recycling Club, Fall 2005, member

Select Conference Attendance

Feminist Majority Foundation's Southern Leadership Summit, New Orleans, LA October 2007

Aporia Philosophy Undergraduate Conference Dartmouth, Hanover, NH April 4-6, 2008

Southwestern Social Science Association, Denver, CO April 2009

Newcomb Summit: Educating Women For A World In Crisis, New Orleans, LA Feb 8-11, 2007

American Evaluation Association: Minneapolis, MN 2012, Washington, DC 2013

Global Implementation Conference (Biennial) Washington, DC 2011 2013

Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference April San Antonio TX 2012

Madison Mayor's Neighborhood Conference, Madison, WI October 8, 2016

Service

Sociology Graduate Student Association, Cohort Representative 2015-2016