

## Curriculum Vitae

# Monica M. Paez, M.A.

Sam Houston State University

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### EDUCATION

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*Sam Houston State University, Huntsville TX*

**2024-Present**

#### **Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program**

Research supervisors: Daniella K. Cash, Ph.D., Jared R. Ruchensky, Ph.D.

*Sam Houston State University, Huntsville TX*

**2021-2024**

#### **Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology**

Current GPA: 4.00

Masters' Thesis: *Exploring the link between personality pathology and perceptions of sexual orientation microaggressions*

Committee Members: Jared R. Ruchensky, Ph.D., Daniella K. Cash, Ph.D.

Tiffany D. Russell, Ph.D.

*Sam Houston State University, Huntsville TX*

**2020**

#### **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**

Minor in Criminal Justice

GPA: 4.00

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Lone Star College, Montgomery TX*

**2018**

#### **Associate of Arts**

GPA: 3.88

*Magna Cum Laude*

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## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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- Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish.

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Paez, M. M.**, Cash, D. K., Ruchensky, J. R. (2024, March). *The role of personality pathology on interpretations of microaggressions against lesbian and gay individuals*. Poster to be presented at the 2024 Annual Conference of the Society for Personality Assessment, San Diego, CA.

Birkenholz, S., **Paez, M. M.**, Rodriguez, C. M., Natoli, A. P. *Test-retest reliability of the PID-5-BF+M*. Poster to be presented at the 2024 Annual Conference of the Society for Personality Assessment, San Diego, CA.

Concannon, A. B., **Paez, M. M.**, Varela, J. G., Ruchensky, J. R. (2024, March). *Examining the personality assessment inventory-levels of personality functioning scale in SVP evaluations*. Paper to be presented at the 2024 American Psychology and Law Convention, Los Angeles, CA.

**Paez, M. M.**, Natoli, A. P., & Ruchensky, J. R. (2023, March). *Confirming the measurement model of the CAPP-SR and examining its validity*. Poster presented at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Society for Personality Assessment, Austin, TX.

**Paez, M. M.**, Ruchensky, J. R., Natoli, A. P. (2023, March). *Examining gender differences on the triarchic model of psychopathy through the interpersonal circumplex*. Paper presented at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Society for Personality Assessment, Austin, TX.

**Paez, M. M.**, Concannon, A. B., Ruchensky, J. R. (2022, March). *Factor analysis of the Personality Assessment Screener*. Paper presented at the 2022 American Psychology and Law Convention, Denver, CO.

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 BOOK CHAPTER
 

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Natoli, A. P., **Paez, M.**, & McGowan, T. G. Psychodynamic psychotherapy. (2023).  
 In C. Markey, & H. S. Friedman (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Mental Health* (3rd ed.).  
 Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-91497-0.00074-6>

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 MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS
 

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Lesure, B., Rahman, S., **Paez, M. M.**, & Natoli, A. P. (in preparation). *Associations between defensive functioning and sexual kinks and fetishes: Adaptive and maladaptive patterns.*

**Paez, M. M.**, Ruchensky, J. R., Cash, D. K. (in preparation). *Exploring the link between personality pathology and perceptions of sexual orientation microaggressions.*

Rodriguez, C. M., **Paez, M. M.**, Ruchensky, J. R., & Natoli, A. P. (in preparation). *Uncovering the interpersonal profiles of psychopathy measures: An interpersonal circumplex approach.*

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 RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
 

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**Graduate Research Assistant** **2024-Present**

Juror, Eyewitness, Deception, and Inference Lab

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniella Cash

Working in a lab concentrating on cognitive and social psychology within the legal system.

**Lab Manager & Graduate Research Assistant** **2021-Present**

Personality, Evaluation, and Psycholegal Lab

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jared R. Ruchensky

Working in a lab focused on criminal behavior and models of psychopathy, personality disorders, and measures of psychopathology.

Projects:

*Personality & Roommate Relationships (2021-present).* This study examines agreement between self and informant perceptions of personality traits among roommates and the

relationship between self/informant-reported personality and actual behavior.

Responsibilities:

- Organizing study from the ground up (e.g., submitting IRB application, programming into Qualtrics, writing study protocol, training and supervising research assistants, collecting data with participants)
- Writing training materials for joystick data coding using DARMA software and leading coding for study

*Background Characteristics, Personality Profiles, and Re-offense Risk Among Sexual Offenders Evaluated for Civil Commitment (2023-present)*. This study examines clinical outcomes and evaluation procedures of individuals evaluated for Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) status. Responsibilities:

- Coding clinical archival data from SVP files (e.g., court documents, parole reports, clinical interviews) provided by Jorge G. Varela, Ph.D.
- Transcribing measure score reports (e.g., PCL-R, PAI, Static-99) onto coding forms

## **Graduate Research Assistant**

**2021-2024**

### Multi-Method Assessment and Personality Lab

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Adam P. Natoli

Worked in a lab focused on multi-method assessment and personality research.

### Projects:

*My Skills Coach Building Competency Pak (2023-present)*. Working as a federally funded research assistant to help develop a self-regulating tool for individuals with intellectual disability with co-occurring behavioral health issues for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

Responsibilities:

- Data entry

*Developing a New Forensic Test (2022-present)*. Developing a new test of legal knowledge for use in competency assessments. Responsibilities:

- Assisting with stimulus production

- Assisting with translation for the Spanish version of the measure
- Writing study protocol and training research assistants

### **Undergraduate Research Assistant**

**2020**

#### Cognitive Research Lab

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Anastasi

Worked in a lab focused on general cognitive research and aspects of memory.

Responsibilities:

- Reading and discussing research articles
- Running different statistical tests on SPSS
- Programming a research study focused on change blindness into Qualtrics
- Working with the lab group to generate research study ideas

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

### **Practicum Clinician**

**Fall 2023-Spring 2024**

*Harris County Juvenile Detention Center – Forensic Unit*

Conducting psychological evaluations for English and Spanish-speaking youth housed in the detention facility for felony offenses under the supervision of Toni Walker, Ph.D. and Alexandra Tellez, Ph.D. Responsibilities include:

- Administering intelligence, achievement, and personality assessments (in person and via videoconference)
- Conducting clinical interviews with parents and youth (in person and via videoconference)
- Writing court-mandated psychological evaluation reports
- Attending court hearings with adolescent defendants
- Training in the Spanish administration of clinical interviews and cognitive and psychological measures will be completed in Spring 2024
- Will provide individual therapy to adolescent clients in Spring 2024

### **Practicum Clinician**

**Spring 2023**

*Sam Houston State University Counseling Center*

Provided treatment for mental health concerns at the university's counseling center. Used an integrative therapeutic approach to address anxiety, mood, and body dysmorphia symptoms in university students under the supervision of Shelley Riggs, Ph.D. Responsibilities included:

- Conducting clinical interviews
- Providing individual therapy
- Clinical documentation such as intake reports, session notes, and treatment plans

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## HONORS & AWARDS

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- Graduate School Travel Award
  - Awarded \$500 (2023)
  - Awarded \$1,000 (2022)
- Graduate Student Scholarship
  - Awarded \$2,000 (Fall 2023)
  - Awarded \$1,000 (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)
- Induction to Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology (2020)
- President's and Dean's list (2019, 2020)

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- Society for Personality Assessment Student Member (2023-present)
- Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology Student Member (2022-present)
- American Psychology-Law Society Student Member (2021-present)
  - Conference Reviewer (2021)
- Psi Chi member (International Honor Society in Psychology) (2020-present)