

DARLIS PANTOJA-BENAVIDES

Department of Human Development and Family Sciences

University of Connecticut

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[Department Profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut - Storrs, CT Present

Ph.D. - Human Development and Family Sciences

- Specialization in [Diversity and Culture](#)
- Advisor: [Kevin Ferreira van Leer, Ph.D.](#) | Committee Members: [Sarah Rendón García, Ph.D.](#); [Annamaria Csizmadia, Ph.D.](#)
- Dissertation: *Between two heritages and a new home: Cultural negotiation processes among first-generation immigrant parents from different countries living in the U.S.*

University of Connecticut - Storrs, CT 2024

Master of Arts in Human Development and Family Sciences

- Thesis: *Including caregiver beliefs in a VIP intervention in Southern Brazil*
- Advisor: [Sara Harkness, Ph.D.](#) | Committee Members: [Charles M. Super, Ph.D.](#); [Saskia van Schaik, Ph.D.](#)

Purchase College, SUNY - Purchase, NY 2020

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology *Summa Cum Laude*

- Minor in Sociology

Westchester Community College, SUNY - Valhalla, NY 2018

Associate in Arts - Liberal Arts in Social Science *Highest Distinction*

PROFESSIONAL NAME HISTORY

Former Name: Darlis Juvino

All publications, conference presentations, talks, and degrees prior to 2026 are under this name.

HONORS & AWARDS

2025 Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

2025 CLAS Graduate Student Fellowship

2025 Anonymous Benefactor Scholarship

2023	Conference Participation Award, The Graduate School, UConn
2022	HDFS Internal Support for Graduate Students' Research
2021-2027	CLAS Graduate Fellowship, University of Connecticut
2021	Gloria Roth Award for Excellence in Science Recipient, SUNY Purchase
2020-2021	Yale BBS Diversity & Inclusion Collective-PATHS Mentoring Program
2020-2021	Yale - Program to Advance Training in Health and Science (PATHS)
2019-2021	MARC U-STAR Honors Program Associate/Affiliate Member
2019-2020	S&R Durst Scholarship, SUNY Purchase
2019-2020	Dean's List, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, SUNY Purchase
2019	Academic Recognition Award, SUNY Westchester

CERTIFICATIONS

Culture, Health, and Human Development Graduate Certificate Issued 2024
University of Connecticut – [CHHD](#)

Social/Behavioral Research Issued 2024
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program – UConn)

Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Issued 2021
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program – UConn)

New York State Citizen Public Health Leader Issued 2021
New York State Department of Health – hosted by Cornell University

COVID-19 Contact Tracing (Coursera) Issued 2020
New York State Dep. of Health - hosted by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

SKILLS

Software: JASP, Jamovi, SPSS Statistics, Microsoft Office, Qualtrics, Dedoose, NVivo, Psychtoolbox, PsyToolkit, E-prime, Survey Monkey, MTurk, VoiceThread, Powerbase, SAP, DB2, Lotus Notes, Salesforce, CommCare

Programming: Familiar with MATLAB and R

Languages: Proficient in Portuguese and Spanish

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broadly interested in immigrant parent experience, parental socialization, parental ethnotheories on child/youth development, identity development, impacts of cultural diversity on social identity, and cultural adaptations of interventions.

Current areas of interest include immigrant parenting in the US, multicultural/mixed-race socialization, cultural and social identity development, ethnic-racial socialization and identity, and how parental ethnotheories can inform adaptations in parent-child interventions.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, UConn 2024–Present
[Latinx Student Perceptions of “Servingness”](#): Kevin Ferreira van Leer, Ph.D. Storrs, CT
 Research project, “Using our voice to transform Hispanic serving Institutions”, a participatory action study aimed to explore Latinx student perceptions of “servingness” at California State University, Sacramento, a Hispanic-serving institution, and how it can be improved.

Research Assistant, UConn 2025–2026
 Principle Investigators: [Nadiyah J. Humber, J.D.](#) & [Yvette N. A. Pappoe, J.D.](#) Hartford, CT
 Title: Artificial Intelligence (AI) & the Racial Wealth Gap
 Funded by The Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights, research study exploring how AI-driven decision-making tools—such as tenant screening systems, mortgage underwriting software, home appraisals, automated hiring systems, and workplace automation—impact the economic opportunities of communities of color.

Research Assistant, UConn 2025
 Principle Investigator/Faculty: [Marketa Burnett, Ph.D.](#) Storrs, CT
 “Dear Dreamer” Pilot Project

Research Assistant, UConn 2024–2025
 Integrated Care Pilot Project: [Beth Russell, Ph.D.](#) & [Malina Her, Ph.D.](#) Storrs, CT
 Research project aimed to evaluate the [CT Association for Infant Mental Health](#) (CT-AIMH) Integrated Care Pilot program set out to promote and support families with children referred for appropriate developmental and mental health services in their community by an integrated team.

CHHD Project, UConn 2023–2024
 Directors: Sara Harkness, Ph.D. & Charles M. Super, Ph.D. Storrs, CT
 Independent Study: *Including caregiver beliefs in a VIP intervention in Southern Brazil*

Research Assistant, UConn 2023–2024
 Diversity Grant: Sara Harkness, Ph.D. Storrs, CT
 Working with Charles M. Super, Ph.D., [Clewiston D. Challenger, Ph.D.](#), and [Caroline Mavridis, Ph.D.](#) on research project, Educators' Perceptions of Challenges and Competence in Working with Students of Color: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiative, aimed to increase knowledge about how secondary school teachers in CT perceive their own level of cultural competence and comfort working with students as they encounter particular race-related situations.

- Assist in creation of interview protocol, guide, and questions
- Conduct interviews
- Edit, code, and analyze transcriptions

HDFS Departmental Development Research Assistant, UConn 2022–2023
HDFS Department Head: [Eva Lefkowitz, Ph.D.](#) Storrs, CT
Worked with the HDFS Department Head on administrative tasks. Manage the HDFS Twitter account, provide support with creation and submission of the HDFS Alumni Newsletters, manage live documents, and assist in any additional departmental tasks.

Consultant/Research Assistant, NYU Langone Health 2021–2023
Pilot Feasibility Project: [Luciane Piccolo, Ph.D.](#) New York, NY

- Transcribe and/or code English and Brazilian Portuguese standardized developmental assessments of child cognitive and language development
- Conduct interviews and intervention sessions, coding, and analysis of transcripts
- Work with local team at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre

Research Assistant, Purchase College, SUNY 2021
Parent-child Reading Interactions Project: [Carolyn Cates, Ph.D.](#) Purchase, NY

- ACIRI transcript coding of Spanish/English transcripts

Research Manager, Purchase College, SUNY 2020–2021
Lab of [Kaori Kubo Germano, Ph.D.](#) Purchase, NY

- Running the lab and acting as the sponsor of three seniors
- Conduct weekly meetings with lab and provide assistance with reviews
- Report and maintain records of the status and timelines of the senior projects in the lab

Research Assistant, Purchase College, SUNY 2020–2021
Career Development Center: “[Life After Purchase](#)” Purchase, NY

- Executed research (in-person and remote) regarding the employment and further education of recent college graduates
- Supervised and conducted phone interviews; input and analyzed survey data using SPSS Statistics
- Reformatted and streamlined post-internship evaluation form to increase response rate among students

Senior Thesis, Purchase College, SUNY 2020
Sponsor: Kaori K. Germano, Ph.D. Purchase, NY
Cognitive aging of bilinguals: A theoretical analysis

This independent research project was conducted over two semesters. Published research articles and student theses, between 2010-2020, on cognitive aging of bilinguals were collected

for analysis. Both samples were categorized per the respective results and if the bilingual advantage was supported or challenged. It was hypothesized that a pattern would emerge from the categorization that may explain why the bilingual advantage is not found in every circumstance. Although no such pattern was identified, other possible explanations for the bilingual advantage were investigated. Review of research on brain mechanisms reported to be involved with the bilingual advantage was included. In conclusion, an argument for where future research on cognitive aging of bilinguals was made.

Independent Research Project, Research Methods II: Purchase College, SUNY 2019

Title: *New technologies and retention* Purchase, NY

- Analyzed the impact of watching a video on a laptop or smartphone had on retention scores
- Worked with a team of two peers through research design, data collection, and data analysis; presented research findings to the class

Independent Research Project, Research Methods I: Purchase College, SUNY 2019

Title: *Implicit association task - Gender bias associated with activities* Purchase, NY

- Examined the gender bias associated with specific activities by creating an implicit association task
- Worked with a team of three peers and created the task via TellLabs

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecture: Comparative Family Policy, UConn Fall 2025

Professor: Sara Harkness, Ph.D.

Guest Lecture: The Family-School Partnership, UConn Fall 2024

Professor: Sara Harkness, Ph.D.

Guest Lecture: Families and Work, UConn Fall 2024

Professor: Sara Harkness, Ph.D.

Teaching Assistant: Individual and Family Development, UConn 2023-2024

Professors: [Raymond Moody, Ph.D.](#) (Fall 2023) & [Shannon Weaver, Ph.D.](#) (Spring 2024)

- Assisted with grading and student learning
- Provided support with class tasks

Teaching Assistant: HD – Infancy through Adolescence, UConn Fall 2022

Professor: Charles M. Super, Ph.D.

- Assisted with attendance, grading, and student learning
- Provided support with class tasks

Psychology/Sociology Tutor, [Purchase College Einstein Corner](#) 2020

- Offering virtual one-on-one peer tutoring in six courses in psychology including courses in physiological psychology, developmental psychopathology, forensic psychology, and research methods & statistics I and II.
- Offering additional support in a few sociology courses.

Teaching Assistant: Research Methods I, Purchase College, SUNY Fall 2020

Professor: Carolyn Cates, Ph.D.

- Assisted with virtual teaching through breakout rooms during class/lab
- Held a weekly office hour for virtual one-on-one or group session help and/or review
- Held study sessions to review and prepare students before exams
- Graded homework/labs and obtained attendance

Statistics Tutor, Private 2019-2020

- Reviewed and assisted with statistical methodology, analysis, and report. Followed by assistance with poster information to be presented at The Westchester Science & Engineering Fair ([WESEF](#)).

Psychology Tutor, Purchase College Einstein Corner 2019

- Offering in-person peer tutoring, either one-on-one or group sessions, in two courses of psychology. Courses included research methods and statistics I, and developmental psychopathology.

Teaching Assistant: Research Methods I, Purchase College, SUNY Fall 2019

Professor: Carolyn Cates, Ph.D.

- Assisted, when necessary, during class/lab
- Held a weekly office hour for in-person one-on-one or group session help and/or review
- Created study guides and held study sessions to review and prepare students before exams. Proctored over exams.
- Graded homework/labs

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, [Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights](#) (Storrs, CT) 2024-Present

Participate in the promotion of OICR (formerly known as the Office for Diversity and Inclusion - ODI) events and provide support during events. Aid in the integration of OICR strategies/aims to achieve aims. Work in collaboration with other campus departments for events and for implementation of OICR strategic goals.

Operations Coordinator, [UConn Graduate Employee & Postdoc Union](#) 2023-2025

Previously titled as staff organizer, essential organizer for UConn Grad union (GEU-UAW Local 6950) that includes assisting with union events, speaking with the members of the bargaining

unit, educate Graduate Assistants and Postdocs on our contract, and assisting with workplace issues.

Graduate Assistant, CHHD (Storrs, CT) 2021-2022
 Manage the CHHD website, updates, and improvements. Participate in the promotion of CHHD events and post-event evaluations. Assist with the management of CHHD media archives and listservs. Assess areas where the CHHD could strengthen and expand its virtual presence.

Contact Tracer, Staffing Solutions Organization LLC (Albany, NY) 2020-2022
 Manage ongoing communication with contacts of newly diagnosed cases (of COVID-19), remotely, to determine exposure, assess symptoms, refer for testing according to established protocols, and provide contacts with instructions for quarantine, and determine social support needs.

Bilingual Coordinator, Westchester Board of Elections (White Plains, NY) 2019-2021
 Provided assistance to Spanish, Portuguese, and all other voters during the November 2019 election, the June 2020 primary, the November 2020 general election, and June 2021 primary.

Student Assistant, Purchase College, SUNY (Purchase, NY) 2019-2020
 Worked in three positions: assistant in the Library Director’s office, tutor at the Einstein Corner, and research assistant at the Career Development Center.

Staff Development Assistant, Berkeley College (White Plains, NY) 2017-2019
 Provide excellent customer service on all outbound and inbound calls. Assist and/or handle any calls that are required. Supervise and monitor staff while writing evaluations. Exceed report goals and manage staff work when necessary.

New Business Development Coordinator, Doowon Brasil (São Paulo, Brazil) 2014-2016
 Partner closely with the board of directors in order to meet and exceed yearly quotas. Ensure superior corporate client experience, identify business opportunities, acquisition of new clients, and project management (APQP: Advanced Product Quality Planning).

Client Service Representative, IBM (São Paulo, Brazil) 2012-2013
 Managed executive account to identify and resolve rebate system errors. Held weekly and bi-weekly meetings with business partners and executive accounts to verify client satisfaction and/or issues. Verify and execute rebates manually based on client requests within the time period while providing information and evidence to justify override.

SERVICE

Mentorship

Peer Mentorship

UConn Council on Family Relations ([UCCFR](#)) - affiliated with the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

Mentoring group – Four Ph.D. students (HDFS, UConn) Fall 2025

Sumin Kim – Ph.D. student (HDFS UConn) Fall 2024

Center for International Students & Scholars (CISS) – International Buddy Program

Sevgi Demiroglu – Ph.D. student (Anthropology, UConn) Fall 2022

Confidence Francis-Edoziuno – Ph.D. student (Nursing Instruct & Research, UConn) Fall 2022

Undergraduate Mentorship (MAGIC)

Carl E. Gaines – University of Connecticut 2025

Alysia Ma – University of Connecticut 2024-2025

Paige Bost – University of Michigan 2024-2025

Professional Service

Ad-Hoc Journal Reviewer

Journal of Family Psychology

Student Journal Reviewer

Journal of Research on Adolescence

Promotion Reviewer

State University of New York at Purchase College, Psychology 2020

University Service

Treasurer, [Graduate Organization of Latinx Students](#) (UConn) 2022, 2024-2025

Grad Student Representative, [CLAS Graduate Student Advisory Committee](#) (UConn) 2025-2026

Service to Community

Volunteer, Cena y Ciencias-CT (Hartford, CT) 2025

Translator, Love Lives Project (Ceará, Brazil) 2016

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Juvino, D., Harkness, S., Super, C., & van Schaik, S. (2024). *Including caregiver beliefs in a VIP intervention in Southern Brazil* [Unpublished manuscript]. Department of Human Development and Family Science, University of Connecticut.

PUBLICATIONS

White Papers:

Her, M., Salafia, C., **Juvino, D.**, & Russell, B. (2025). The Integrated Care Pilot Project program evaluation report March 2025. Storrs, Connecticut: The University of Connecticut at Storrs, Connecticut Center for Applied Research in Human Development.

Book Chapters:

Harkness, S., van Schaik, S., Tsamaase, M., & **Pantoja-Benavides, D.** (n.d.). *Nurturing care and cultural agendas for early childhood development: Disconnects and opportunities*. In

Mezzenzana, F., Scheidecker, G., & Siagian, C. (eds), *Early childhood development: Critical perspectives on a global movement* (1st ed., pp.). Oxford University Press. DOI.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations:

Harkness, S., van Schaik, S., Tsamaase, M., & **Juvino, D.** (2023, May 4-6). *Nurturing care and cultural agendas for early childhood development: Disconnects and opportunities* [Paper presentation]. CRC Affective Societies Invited Conference, Berlin, Germany.

Juvino, D. (2022, December 2). *The makings of Multicultural identity and expression* [Paper presentation]. UConn Early College Experience, HDFS CCP/1070 Instructor Workshop Training, Virtual, Storrs, Connecticut, USA.

Peer Reviewed Presentations:

Pantoja-Benavides, D., Kuang, Y., & Zhang, F. (2026, June 21-25). *Context, culture, and time: Proposing an integrated framework for international student identity development* [Poster to be presented]. 28th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Incheon, South Korea.

Zhang, F., **Pantoja-Benavides, D.**, & Kuang, Y. (2026, June 21-25). *Exploring international graduate students' identity across settings and historical contexts* [Poster to be presented]. 28th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Incheon, South Korea.

Pantoja-Benavides, D., Ferreira van Leer, K., Gonzalez, A. M., & Culbreath-Evans, A. (2026, April 8-12). *Beyond Latine enrollment: Fostering critical consciousness and identity development at a Hispanic-serving institution* [Paper to be presented]. 2026 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, USA.

Gonzalez, A. M., Ferreira van Leer, K., Razo-Soto, M., Gonzalez, C., **Pantoja-Benavides, D.**, & Gomez, N. (2026, April 8-12). *More than enrollment: Examining institutional spaces, identity, and mental health at an HSI* [Paper to be presented]. 2026 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, USA.

Juvino, D., Harkness, S., Super, C., van Schaik, S., Piccolo, L., & Henz, K. (2024, June 16-20). *Understanding Brazilian ethnotheories of child development and education: An essential component of culturally adapting US interventions* [Poster presentation]. 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.

Akef, H., Kuang, Y., **Juvino, D.**, Harkness, S., & Super, C. (2024, June 16-20). *Parents' free descriptions of their children: Reflections on culture and temperament* [Poster presentation]. 27th

Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.

Kuang, Y., Akef, H., **Juvino, D.**, Harkness, S., & Super, C. (2024, June 16-20). *Chinese mothers' parental ethnotheories: Shifts in response to socioeconomic and population policy change* [Poster presentation]. 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.

Juvino, D., Kuang, Y., Henz, K., Harkness, S., & Super, C. (2023, November 8-11). *The role of socioeconomic status on parental stress and parental involvement in children education in Brazil* [Virtual poster presentation]. 2023 Annual National Council on Family Relations Conference, Orlando, Florida, USA.

Akef, H., Kuang, Y., **Juvino, D.**, Carneiro, D., Harkness, S., & Super, C. (2023, October 5-7). *Parental ethnotheories of children's temperament in 3 cultures* [Paper presentation]. 24th Edition of the Occasional Temperament Conference, Orford, Québec, Canada.

Piccolo, L., Kroeff, C., **Juvino, D.**, Ciochetta, F., Henz, K. G., Porto Alegre, R., Bandeira, D. R., & Mendelsohn, A. L. (2023, June 6-8). *Cultural adaptation and feasibility study of the implementation of an evidence-based parent-child reading program in Brazil: The video interaction project* [Video poster presentation]. International Congress on Evidence-based Parenting Support, Virtual, Australia.

Juvino, D., Harkness, S., Super, C., van Schaik, S., & Piccolo, L. (2023, March 23-25). *Parental ethnotheories about children's education in Brazil* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Juvino, D. (2022, November 16-19). *The makings of Multicultural identity and expression* [Paper presentation]. 2022 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

Kuang, Y., Super, C., Harkness, S., Zyllicz, O., Bonichini, S., Rios Bermúdez, M., Welles, B., Mavridis, C., & **Juvino, D.** (2022, June 19-23). *Parental ethnotheories about children's sleep in six western countries* [Poster presentation]. 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Conference, Rhodes, Greece.

Juvino, D. & Germano, K. K. (2021, April). *Cognitive aging of bilinguals: A theoretical analysis* [Video paper presentation]. SUNY at Purchase College Natural and Social Sciences Symposium, Purchase, New York, USA.

Juvino, D. & Germano, K. K. (2021, April). *Cognitive aging of bilinguals: A theoretical analysis* [Paper presentation]. SUNY Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, Virtual, New York, New York, USA.

INVITED TALKS

Alumni Panel, Purchase College, SUNY, March 18, 2026

Graduate Student Panel, UConn/Spelman Recruitment & Mentoring Event, June 27, 2025

Grad Chat - Roundtable, UConn Graduate School, January 16, 2025

International Graduate Talk, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, July 25, 2024

Graduate Student Panel, UConn HDFS, March 26, 2024

Graduate Student Panel, UConn HDFS, March 28, 2023

Alumni Panel, Purchase College, SUNY, December 7, 2022

Alumni Panel, Purchase College, SUNY, April 25, 2022

Natural & Social Sciences at Purchase: Past, Present, Future, Purchase College, SUNY, April 29, 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2025-Present	American Educational Research Association Member
2022-2023	National Council of Family Relations Member
2021-Present	International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development Member
2021-Present	Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society Associate Member
2021-Present	Society of Research in Child Development Member
2021-Present	APA Division 7 & Division 45 Member
2020-Present	American Psychological Association Member
2020-Present	Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology Member
2019-Present	Association for Psychological Science Member

PRESS COVERAGE

Phillips, K. (2023, May 24). *New CHHD, Global Affairs program offers graduate students virtual study exchange*. UConn Today. <https://today.uconn.edu/2023/05/new-chhd-global-affairs-program-offers-graduate-students-virtual-study-exchange/>