

# Christina Huerta, MSW

University of Pittsburgh  
2117 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
ceh110@pitt.edu

## EDUCATION

---

Doctor of Philosophy, Expected Graduation: March 2021  
University of Pittsburgh| Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
School of Social Work

Master of Social Work, June 2015  
Portland State University| Portland, Oregon  
Concentration: Direct Human Services

Bachelor of Arts, June 2007  
University of California, Riverside| Riverside, California  
Major: Psychology

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

---

Traumatic Stress, Anti-Opressive Practice, Harm-Reduction Model, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health, Culturally-Specific Mental Health Services

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

**Research Coordinator** July 2020-Present

*The Impact of COVID-19 on Human Service Organizations*

**University of Pittsburgh| Funded through Florence Stier Research Development Award**

Supervisors: Dr. Jeffrey Shook & Dr. Rafael Engel

Assists in the development of interview protocol, survey creation, and the implementation of in-depth interviews. Oversees qualitative data management and analysis. Collaborates in the preparation of manuscripts for presentation and publication. Responsible for the training and supervision of a Master's level research assistant.

**Graduate Research Assistant** July 2020-Present

*Navigation and Parent Peer Support to Promote Access and Retention of Children in Mental Health Services*

**University of Pittsburgh| Funded through National Institute of Mental Health| R34-MH119431|**

Supervisor: Dean Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer

Collaborates with a team to assist in data collection and analyses for a randomized control trial.

**Graduate Research Assistant** December 2019-July 2020

**University of Pittsburgh|**

Supervisor: Dean Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer

Drafted literature review for a program evaluation of a Kinship Navigator program in Allegheny County. Executed quantitative analysis for a paper about the effects of traumatic stress on first responders.

**Teaching Fellow**

August 2019-December 2019

**University of Pittsburgh|**

*Introduction to Social Work*- BSW level course

Designed and implemented course content, activities, assignments, and discussions. Developed the syllabus and curriculum to introduce and engage students in an overview of the social work profession and social welfare system. Provided student support during weekly office hours.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

August 2017-April 2019

**University of Pittsburgh|**

Supervisor: Dr. Jaime Booth

Assisted with focus group implementation, transcription of audio data, qualitative analysis, and manuscript writing for 2 publications associated with the Latino Ethnic Identity Project.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS AND GUEST LECTURES**

---

- Fall 2017      **Guest Lecture**- University of Pittsburgh- School of Social Work  
*Foundations of Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations*-MSW level course
- Spring 2016      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**- University of Pittsburgh-School of Social Work  
*Introduction to Social Work*- BSW level course  
*Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations*- BSW level course
- Fall 2016      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**- University of Pittsburgh-School of Social Work  
*Health and Public Policy*-MSW level course  
*Working with Group and Intergroup Relations*- MSW level course

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

---

*Huerta, C. & Booth, J. Discrimination, Ethnic Identity, and Mental Health and Latinx Youth. In V. Copeland (Ed.) Contemporary Issues and People of Color: Living, Working, and Learning in the US. Santa Barbara, CA. ACB-CLIO. (Forthcoming)*

**PUBLICATIONS**

---

Booth, J., *Huerta, C.*, & Thomas, B. (2020). The role of bilingualism in Latino youth experiences of acculturation stress when living in an emerging Latino community. *Qualitative Social Work*, 1473325020923012.

Booth, J. & **Huerta, C.**, Political climate, discrimination, and mental health: Understanding Latino Youth Experience during the 2016 Presidential Election. (Approved for Publication, *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*)

Shook, J., Plassmeyer M., VanHook C., Goodkind S., **Huerta C.**, & Lee L., Do Young People Sell Drugs to Support their Habit? Exploring Links Between Depth and Breadth of Drug Use and Drug Dealing. (Under Review)

**Huerta, C.**, Petracchi, H., Mackenzie, K. & Ballentine, K. Preparing Social Work Doctoral Students for Teaching: Current State of the Art. (In Progress)

Farmer, E.M.Z., Lee, D.H.J, & **Huerta, C.** Program Evaluation of Kinship Navigator Program in Allegheny County. (In Progress)

**Huerta, C.** & Farmer, E.M.Z. Mental Health Outcomes of Traumatic Event Exposure: An Exploration of the Effects of Personal Threat and Secondary Trauma among First Responders. (In Progress)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Huerta, C.** (January 2020). Political Rhetoric during the 2016 Presidential Election: Understanding the Experiences of Discrimination and Coping Among Latinx Youth. Oral paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Washington, DC.

**Petracchi, H. & Huerta, C.** (October 2019). Preparing Social Work Doctoral Students for Teaching: Current State of the Art. Oral paper presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council of Social Work Education, Denver, Colorado.

Booth J. & **Huerta, C.** (January 2019). Exploring the Role of Ethnic Identity among Latino Youth Living in an Emerging Latino Community. Oral paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference, San Francisco, California.

**Petracchi, H. & Huerta, C.** (October 2018). Assistant Professors' Pedagogical Training: The Next Generation's Preparation to Serve the Profession. Oral paper presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, Florida.

## **SERVICE**

---

President, Doctoral Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2019

Business Manager, Latin American Graduate Organization of Students, 2017-2018

Treasurer, Doctoral Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh, 2017-2018

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

---

### **The Next Door**

2019-Present

*Research Consultant*

Hood River, Oregon

Collaborated with a team of clinicians to develop and implement a culturally relevant survey for the Community Identification Program. Analyzed data for the initial pilot program and continued to meet with team members to modify surveys in order to meet the needs of individuals of varying immigration statuses.

### **Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare**

*Counselor III*

2016

Portland, Oregon

Intensive Street Outreach Team

Partnering with the Native American Rehabilitation Association, Urban League, and a specialized team of trained officers with the Portland Police Bureau. Identified and formed therapeutic relationships with vulnerable, minority populations within the houseless community to assist them in attaining housing and other immediate needs.

### **Telecare Corporation**

*Personal Service Coordinator III*

2015-2016

Gresham, Oregon

ACT team

Completed new client intakes, psychosocial assessments, and recovery plans with service users experiencing mental health and substance use issues. Conducted weekly individual therapy, bi-weekly home visits, skills training, and crisis intervention services in the community setting.

### **Girls Empowerment Project (contracted through Portland Public Schools)**

*Latina Youth Groups Facilitator*

2013-2016

Portland, Oregon

Assisted in the development of age appropriate and culturally-specific curriculum for Latinx female-identifying youth. Independently facilitated weekly groups for the purpose of supporting group members toward: understanding and establishing effective boundaries and strengthening understanding of intersections of race, gender, and class.

### **Telecare Corporation**

*Recovery Specialist*

2012-2015

Portland, Oregon

72nd Avenue Recovery Center

Provided care for the psychological needs of 16 adult males, some with sex and other violent offenses, experiencing a severe and persistent mental illness in a residential treatment facility. Provided direct services to individuals in a manner consistent with Recovery and Harm Reduction principles. Responsible for completing assessments and monthly summaries regarding the mental, physical, and psychological well-being and progress of clients.

**Maple Star Oregon***Family Care Coordinator*

2010-2012

Portland, Oregon

Evaluated referrals and coordinated placement meetings with case workers and foster parents. Completed assessments for youth in foster care including: behavioral, independent living, education, health, family, and cultural assessments. Trained foster parents on therapeutic interventions regarding youth behavior. Participated in weekly unannounced home visits with youth.

**Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare***Skills Trainer*

2008-2009

Portland, Oregon

Prescott Terrace Program

Served as an advocate for a caseload of twelve Extended Care Management Unit clients in a supportive housing site for individuals who previously experienced homelessness or discharged from the state hospital system. Evaluated referrals, determined placements, and completed intakes. Assessed the needs of clients and helped foster independence at home and in the community.

**Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare***Residential Counselor II*

2007-2008

Portland, Oregon

Bridgeview Transitional Housing Program

Provided services to dual-diagnosis clients with a history of homelessness with the intent of stabilization and assisting them in finding a more permanent housing situation. Worked with 48 clients with a dual-diagnosis using the Harm-Reduction model; as well as 15 women in the Women's Emergency Services Collaborative shelter. Led daily peer support groups, recreational groups, and informative safety groups.

**Albertina Kerr Centers***Treatment Counselor II*

2006-2008

Portland, Oregon

Intensive Treatment Program

Ensured safety and security to male juvenile clients with developmental disabilities who had concurrent mental health challenges. Engaged with clients according to basic child development principles and client's individual treatment plans. Led daily therapeutic, life-skills, and education groups.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

---

2019 Kevin Corcoran Endowed Dissertation Award

2014 Ben McCloud Scholarship

2014 Portland State School of Social Work Staff and Faculty Scholarship

2013 Ben McCloud Scholarship

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)

Member, 2017-Present

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Member, 2017-Present

## **GRADUATE INTERNSHIPS**

---

### **Providence St. Vincent Psychiatric Unit**

#### **Social Worker**

**2014-2015**

Conducted psychosocial assessments and worked with families in an effort to plan for and support patients in transitioning to a lower level of care. Worked on client discharge planning in collaboration with community partners and the unit team.

### **Telecare Corporation- 72nd Avenue Recovery Center**

#### **Discharge Planner**

**2013-2014**

Completed assessments and interviewed residents for the purpose of finding a discharge plan that suited the residents' needs. Communicated information to the treatment team and worked with community providers to find the best placement possible for residents.

## **STATISTICAL SOFTWARE**

---

Qualitative Analysis: Dedoose, NVivo

Quantitative Analysis: Stata, R