

Marisol de Jesús Pérez

The Five Point Spread

- 3rd Year Clinical Student in PhD Program, Family Track
- Research Fellow for Dr. Lisseth Rojas-Flores in the Parenting in Context Lab
- Finishing her Master's Project on parental stress, acculturation levels, and children's externalizing behavior in Puerto Rican and Dominican immigrant mothers
- Loves Scuba Diving
- Someday, when all this is done, she can focus on having a family and working on her license!



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MEETING MARISOL...

Hailing from the beautiful island of Puerto Rico, Marisol De Jesus Perez is moving into her 3rd year as a PhD at Fuller. Marisol began her career at Fuller in the MFT program and then realized that she'd much rather spend six to seven years in school than just a measly two.

Her husband has been married to her during her entire time at Fuller, just making it to three years together and

still just the two of them. At any point, feel free to ask Marisol how did her husband propose to her? She'd be delighted to answer.

Looking forward to a future of more than the two of them, Marisol is studying everything related to parenting under the calm and stately guidance of her research professor, Lisseth Rojas-Flores, whom she likens to a Pupusa, for even though she is Columbian,

she acts much more like her Salvadorian husband, Carlos Flores!

Marisol dreams of the day that she can get a full night sleep, spend the afternoon with her husband at a nice location, and still have all her reading and assignments done. Sadly this will remain a dream—though I hear the dissertation doesn't take as long as you think it will...

REGARDING RESEARCH...

Marisol has been involved in research since being an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan where she was a fellow in the National Institute of Mental Health/Career Opportunities in Research (NIMH-COR) Program. This program allowed her to gain research experience and to focus on research during her undergraduate education. She

worked as a research assistant for Dr. Matos-Roman and studied parent child interactions. Later, she was able to present her senior thesis at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research.

Since coming to Fuller, she has continued to study parenting in Dr. Lisseth Rojas-Flores' lab, Parenting in Context. Her master's project will study the relationship between parent-

ing stress, acculturation, and parental perception of child behavior.

For her dissertation she will expand on the previous model by exploring the role that social support plays. This time she will be working with a sample of Hispanic parents that are dealing with immigration issues.

Ultimately, Marisol hopes to

continue producing research that generates empirically supported treatments for Latino families. Furthermore, she wants to teach at the graduate level in order to train the next generation of psychologists in research and clinical skills for working with Latino and other ethnic minorities.

Recent Presentations

Ramos, Z., Rojas-Flores, L., Herrera, S., & **De Jesús-Pérez, M.** (February, 2009). Community violence exposure and parental self-efficacy: A comparison of Salvadorian parents residing in the US and in El Salvador. Poster Presented at the International Conference on Parenting, Texas, USA.