

Julia LeFrancois, M.A.

SCHOLAR ● CHANGE-MAKER ● STORYTELLER

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She/Her/Ella

EDUCATION

University of Hartford

Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology (GIPP)
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program

West Hartford, CT
2023 - present
Psy.D. expected - 2026

University of New Haven

M.A., Community Psychology
Concentration: Research and Evaluation
Thesis Title: "*Embodied youth narratives: A national photovoice project*"

West Haven, CT

May 2023

California State Polytechnic University Pomona

B.A., Psychology

Pomona, CA
June 2020

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023

Counseling and Psychological Services

University of New Haven
West Haven, CT

Community Wellness Advocate

Supervisor: Sam Kent, M.A., LPC - Clinician II

- Promoted and recruited participants for peer-led support groups on campus
- Engaged in regular individual supervision meetings to gain and improve clinical skills
- Participated in group supervision with all CAPS supervisors and peer Community Wellness Advocates for collective growth and learning
- *Body Talks: Conversation Series:*
 - Initiated and established *Body Talks*, a unique weekly peer-led support group, as a creative and personally driven initiative that provided a safe space for participants to engage in candid discussions about body-neutrality and body-image-related trauma. This innovative series was introduced to CAPS supervisors and offered as a platform for empowering conversations on these important topics among campus community members.

CLINICALLY-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

2023 – Present

The Consultation Center at Yale (TCC)

New Haven, CT

Research Assistant (RA) II

Supervisors: Joy Kaufman, Ph.D. and Amy Griffin, M.A.

- *General research support services:*
 - Oversee project data collection for interdisciplinary and capacity-building

- evaluations within a mental health facility serving the local community
 - Take a lead role in report writing and spearhead data visualization and product designs
 - Present workshops and demonstrations of specialized skills to Yale faculty and TCC affiliates
 - Actively engage in disseminating research findings to community members, ensuring accessibility and relevance of evaluation results
- *CONNECT Initiative (Dr. Kaufman):*
 - Manage and report quantitative data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SPARS website
 - Ensure data accuracy and GPRA Modernization Act compliance for the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) grant
 - Utilize National Outcome Measures (NOMs) to establish consistent metrics across SAMHSA programs
 - Evaluate training programs for Connect to Care Program Care Coordinators, assessing program effectiveness
 - Conduct comprehensive reviews of training satisfaction and provide feedback in evaluation reports to enhance training program
 - CONNECT is a collaborative effort to provide effective and equitable care to children with severe behavioral and mental health needs and was established in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy. It now offers wraparound support from early intervention to behavioral health recovery, involving state and local agencies, service providers, and partners like CHDI, FAVOR, DCF, and more. The Consultation Center, Inc. contributes to monitoring and evaluating the CONNECT initiative
- *Evaluation for emme Coalition (Ms. Griffin):*
 - Work centers on identifying strengths, challenges, and organizational contributions
 - Co-evaluator and lead report writer for the evaluation of the emme program
 - Assess the effectiveness of the program's reproductive and relationship health education and support for women and young women in Bridgeport, Connecticut
 - Collaboration with OPTIMUS Healthcare and Fairfield County's Community Foundation (FCCF)
 - Examine program expansion, staff development, and the significance of community connections for the overarching goal of program sustainability
- *Social Equity and Inclusion (SEI) Workgroup - Community Engagement and Partnerships (CEP) Subcommittee Member*
 - Collaborate with the SEI Workgroup develop internal newsletters equipped with on-brand data visualizations and resources
 - Coordinate with TCC-backed volunteer events and establish community-based partnerships to strengthen organizational ties
 - Plan fundraisers to help build evaluation capacity through community fairs and pro-bono trainings
 - Develop a directory of staff pro-bono activities to contribute to community outreach and solicit diverse voices on SEI topics

Summer 2023

**National Resource Center on
Domestic Violence (NRCDV)**

Harrisburg, PA

Research Consultant II

Supervisor: Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo Ayeni, Ph.D.

- *General research support services:*
 - Managed and executed community-based research and evaluation projects
 - Coordinated logistics for the Linguistic Justice Workgroup, an assembly of practitioners and researchers dedicated to language justice for their communities
 - Organized and managed quantitative and qualitative data
 - Conducted technical assistance and training (TTA) duties
 - Facilitated effective communication between community partners
- *Black Immigrant and Refugee Housing Project*
 - Led and coordinated all aspects of project, collaboration with community experts and survivor participants, and authorship of evaluation report
 - Project aimed at developing policy recommendations to improve the housing options for Black immigrant and refugee survivors of gender-based violence
 - Conducted key informant interviews with participants across multiple agencies

2021 – 2023

Esperanza United

New Haven, CT

Graduate Assistant (GA)

Supervisor: Lillie Macias, Ph.D.

Grant: HHS-90EV0431

Organization: National resource center for gender-based violence

- *General research support services:*
 - Project coordinator and research leader for multiple mixed-methods studies
 - Trained undergraduate assistants in research procedures
 - Performed comprehensive literature reviews
 - Conducted qualitative and quantitative analyses
 - Collaborated on co-authorship of peer-reviewed articles
- *Restorative Approaches for Partner Violence*
 - A mixed-method study involving qualitative interviews with restorative justice experts with the aim of fostering collaborative police-community and marginalized youth-educational leader relations
 - Uncovered key themes highlighting relationship-building, rehabilitation, and humanization in restorative practices
 - Findings offered actionable insights for addressing domestic violence complexities within the realm of restorative justice

Summer 2021

Fairfield University College Corps

Fairfield, CT

Lead Facilitator

Supervisor: Terri Williams, Ph.D.

- *General research support services:*
 - Developed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging training materials
 - Led individual and group training sessions with the aim of assisting K-12 students in their post-COVID-19 transition back to educational environments
 - Created and distributed original training materials to enrich training sessions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023– Present

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT

Adjunct Faculty

- *Teaching approach:* Includes a self-designed Care Praxis with an emphasis on inclusion, accessibility, and decolonizing practices within academia.
- *Courses taught:* Introduction to Sociology - Includes developing course syllabi, creating assignments and assessments, conducting all course meetings, and providing guidance and feedback to undergraduate students' submitted material.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANTSHIPS

2023 – Present

University of Hartford

West Hartford, CT

Graduate Assistant (GA)

Supervisor: Jennifer Petro, GIPP Program Director, Ph.D.

- Support Program Director with program-related research, updates, and initiatives
- Develop original needs assessments to gather student feedback on GIPP website to identify areas needed for program success and accessibility
- Maintain and update program materials, documentation, and resources for accuracy and relevance according to program policies and procedures
- Engage in regular meetings to discuss program goals and disseminating updates

2021 – 2023

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT

Dean of Students Graduate Assistant (GA)

Supervisors: Dean Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Ed.D. and Dean Ric Baker, Ed.D. (Dean of Students Office)

- Managed university-wide data, enhancing organization and accessibility across departments and on behalf of various staff
- Designed and implemented inclusive marketing initiatives to promote antiracist and improved campus culture
- Conducted office administrative duties to ensure efficient operations
- Supported the Title IX coordinator in training and investigation data management
- Assisted department staff in various student-related projects and tasks

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT

Master's Thesis

Title: "*Embodied youth narratives: A national photovoice project*"

Thesis Committee: Alexandria Guzmán, Ph.D. (Chair), Lillie Macias, Ph.D., Shayda Kafai, Ph.D., Melissa Whitson, Ph.D.

- My thesis used a qualitative research design that explored sources of stress reported by Latiné youth, cultural identity and body-image perceptions, and photovoice as a method to engage youth in social action. Data revealed themes of navigating Eurocentric body norms, strengths and challenges of cultural identity, and wellbeing in emerging adulthood.

McNair Research

Title: “*Embodied narratives: Bodymind resistance through storytelling*”

McNair Committee: Shayda Kafai, Ph.D. (McNair Committee – Winnie Dong, Ph.D., Alejandro Morales, Ph.D., & Wei Bidlack, Ph.D.)

- Qualitative study with the aim of investigating the narratives of historically excluded communities, focusing on Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Disabled, and LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Conducted key informant interviews to assess how storytelling can empower individuals and drive social change. Findings indicated an increase in social responsibility and expressed reclamation of narrative ownership from marginalized community members

Presented Findings and Showcased at Multiple Symposia:

- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) McNair Symposium
- Research Scholarship Creative Activities Conference (RSCA Conference)
- California State Polytechnic University Pomona (CPP) McNair Symposium
- Creative Activities and Research Symposium (CARS)

Publications and Presentations

Publications

Macias, R. L., Grajo, K., & **LeFrancois, J.** (2022, June). *Gender-based violence prevention with Latin@ communities: A review of social indicators of need* (Report No. OVW-2022.1). Esperanza United Research Advisory Council.

LeFrancois, J. (2022). Reborn in crip kinship [review of *Crip Kinship: The Disability & Art Activism of Sins Invalid*, by S. K.] *Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry & Literature*, 16(1), <https://wordgathering.com/vol16/issue1/reviews/kafai/>

LeFrancois, J. (2021). *Embodied narratives: Bodymind resistance through storytelling*. Bronco Scholarworks: Creative Research & Activities Symposium [Deposited and archived] <https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/concern/theses/w6634866s?locale=en>

In Preparation

Macias, R. L., **LeFrancois, J.**, Coker, K., & Cooper, D. [in preparation]. Restorative approaches for partner violence: Findings from a culturally-specific needs assessment. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Mercado-Diaz, V., & **LeFrancois, J.**, [in preparation]. *Migrant farmworker and gender-based violence* [Factsheet]. Esperanza United Research and Evaluation Center [in preparation.]

LeFrancois, J., Aquino, M., Ramirez, A., & Macias, R. L. [in preparation]. *Program evaluation for SUCCESS Mentoring Program at the University of New Haven*.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

- LeFrancois, J.,** Nava, N., & Macias R. L. (2023, October). *Embodied storytelling and youth empowerment through photovoice and community workshops* [Conference session]. American Evaluation Association Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- Clark, H., Nava, N., Macias R. L., **LeFrancois, J.,** Martinez-Paz, R. F., & Cardenas, A. (2023, June). *Fostering restorative practice and programs for men in the field of gender-based violence* [Symposium]. Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- LeFrancois, J.,** Lipa, M., & Macias, R. L. (2023, June). *Examining gender-based violence through the lens of disability justice* [Conference session]. Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Nava, N., **LeFrancois, J.,** & Macias, R. L. (2022, October). *Photovoice technology innovations and engagement with BIPOC youth* [Conference session]. National Photovoice Conference, Virtual.
- LeFrancois, J.,** Nava, N., Macias, R. L., & Kuperminc, G. (2022, October). *Storytelling as reclamation: Adapting photovoice in the name of equity and access* [Poster presentation]. National Photovoice Conference, Virtual.
- Kafai, S., **LeFrancois, J.,** & Boyd, S. (2022, June). *Storytelling as transformation and revolution* [Conference session]. Cultural Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- LeFrancois, J.,** & Whitson, M. (2022, April). *New Haven body liberation: Body neutrality program proposal* [Poster presentation]. University of New Haven Graduate Showcase, West Haven, CT.

Invited Academic Presentations

- LeFrancois, J.** (2023, April). *Ability & bodies: Disability justice vs. Disability awareness* [Lecture]. Social Inequalities master's course, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT.
- LeFrancois, J.** (2021, September). *Graduate school preparation and introduction to research* [Lecture]. Ethnic & Women's Studies undergraduate course, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.
- LeFrancois, J.** (2021, July). *Remote learning, research organization, and preparation* [Lecture]. McNair Research Experience for Undergraduates, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.

Invited Workshops

- LeFrancois, J.** (2023, November). *Canva training and tutorial: Your shortcut to evaluative success* [Training]. The Consultation Center, Inc., Yale University, New Haven, CT
- LeFrancois, J.** (2023, April). *Disable the label: Deaf culture and Disability justice* [Workshop]. University of New Haven, West Haven, CT.

LeFrancois, J., Van Buren, P. Chagnon, M., Clark, H., McGray, G., & Alani, H. (2023, February- May). *Career-building series* [Workshop]. University of New Haven Community Psychology Clinical Mental Health Club, West Haven, CT.

LeFrancois, J., & Imbriale, A. (2022, September-December). *Body talks: Conversations about body-neutrality* [Group Session]. Counseling and Psychological Services, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT.

Dunn, A., & **LeFrancois, J.** (2022, September-October). *Step up: Moving from bystander to upstander* [Training]. University of New Haven Sexual Violence and Safety Training, New Haven, CT.

LeFrancois, J., Van Buren, P., & Macias, R. L. (2022, July) *Using art and storytelling to engage youth in social change* [Workshop]. Tow Youth Justice Institute and the Office of Youth, Family, & Engagement Social Justice Summer Program, New Haven, CT.

Macias, R. L., **LeFrancois, J.,** & Nava, N. (2022, July) *Cultural competence and program adaptation* [Workshop]. Esperanza United, Research and Evaluation Center, Virtual.

Macias, R. L., Grajo, K. M., O'Connor, R., Beschel, J., **LeFrancois, J.,** Nava, N. (2022, June). *Leveraging technology to center marginalized communities in evaluation practice* [Workshop]. American Evaluation Association 2022 Summer Institute, Atlanta, GA.

LeFrancois, J., Lipa, M. Whitson, M., Dunn, A., & Macias, R. L. (2022, April). *Transforming rape culture into resilience culture: Deconstructing gender norms & harmful messaging* [Workshop]. ResilienceCon, Virtual.

LeFrancois, J., & Whitson, M. (2022, February). *Storytelling as a liberatory methodology for BIPOC communities* [Workshop]. Teachers College, Columbia University Winter Roundtable, Virtual.

Macias, R. L., Nava, N., Beschel, J., Grajo, K. M., & **LeFrancois, J.** (2021, October) *Graduate school preparation* [Workshop]. Esperanza United, Research and Evaluation Center, Virtual.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2021 – Current

Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services

New Haven, CT

- Assist in refugee housing preparations for newly arrived refugees and their families
- Volunteer for community cooking classes presented by immigrant and refugee participants
- Promote the sale of meals and desserts prepared by immigrant and refugee community members during the holidays to boost community funds and support
- Establish and maintain connections between the organization and academic communities, past and present, to which I belong

2021– 2023

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT

- **Student Journal Peer-Reviewer** (2021-2023)

- *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*
- *Journal of Family Violence*
- *Feral Feminisms*
- **Community Psychology Club Public Relations Chair (2022 – 2023)**
 - Developed promotional materials, including flyers and visual assets, to advertise club events and community networking opportunities
 - Managed and maintained the club's social media accounts to enhance visibility and engagement among the campus community
- **Community Psychology Club Community Service Liaison (2021 – 2022)**
 - Orchestrated on-and-off campus community service contributions and connections
 - Forged partnerships with community-based organizations to create volunteer opportunities for students and club members
- **MLK Jr. Vision Award Committee Member and Nominee (2021-2022)**
 - Nominated as a recipient of the award and concurrently served as a student member of the award committee
 - Acted as a key contributor to the selection process, honoring my dedication to social justice and the legacy of Dr. King

2019-2020 **Black Lives Matter – Pro Bono ASL** Los Angeles, CA

- **Volunteer Community Interpreter (American Sign Language – ASL)**
 - Provided ASL interpreting services for community meetings, social justice protests, and counseling sessions during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Connected local and non-local organizations with available interpreting support, expanding access to essential resources and assistance

2019 – 2020 **Scheherazade Project** Los Angeles, CA

- **Project Captioning Coordinator**
 - Spearheaded the recruitment of volunteers and worked together to ensure accessibility of project videos through captioning
 - Contributed to the project's mission to inspire voter engagement in the 2020 elections by showcasing the creative political work of women and nonbinary artists

2018 – 2019 **AdeRisa Productions** Los Angeles, CA

- **Lead American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter and Coordinator**
 - Functioned as the lead interpreter and coordinator, overseeing all interpreting services throughout film rehearsals, production, and post-production events
 - Produced ASL training tutorials for actors and crew, ensuring effective communication on and off set
 - Consulted on cultural adaptations for filming, script-writing, and promotional event coordination
 - Contributed to the success of an independent production company specializing in LGBTQIA+ films
 - Fostered inclusive and accessible practices in communication and cultural/linguistic representation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychological Association (APA), Graduate Student Affiliate, 2018 – Present
American Evaluation Association (AEA), Graduate Student Affiliate, 2021 – Present
Association for Size Diversity and Health (ASDAH/HAES), Member, 2022 – Present
Access & DisABILITY Alliance (ADA), Student and Staff Member, 2018 – Present
Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Los Angeles, Big Sister, 2017 – Present
Eastern Psychological Association (EPA), Graduate Student Affiliate, 2021 – Present
Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, Volunteer, 2021 – Present
National Register of Health Service Psychologists (NRHSP), Associate member, 2023 – Present
Pro Bono ASL, Volunteer Interpreter, 2020 – Present
PSI CHI, National Honor Society in Psychology, Member, 2019 – Present
Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf, Member (RID), 2012 – Present
Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, Member, 2019 – Present
Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), Graduate Student Affiliate, 2021 – Present

HONORS AND AWARDS

Diversity Fellow, University of Hartford, 2023
Excellence in Graduate Community Psychology Research Award, University of New Haven, 2023
Phenomenal Women Award, University of New Haven, 2023
Inclusive Excellence Award, University of New Haven, 2023
Dean's Scholar, University of New Haven, 2022, 2021
Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award Nominee, University of New Haven, 2021
Michael A. Morris Community Psychology Endowed Scholar, University of New Haven, 2021
Ronald E. McNair Scholar (and Summer REU Scholar), Cal Poly Pomona University, 2020, 2019
Research Distinction Award, Cal Poly Pomona University, 2020
President's Scholar, Cal Poly Pomona University, 2019
Access DisABILITY Scholar, Cal Poly Pomona University, 2018
Staff Council Scholar, Cal Pomona University, 2018

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Language Skills	Data Analysis Tools	Software Proficiency
American Sign Language (ASL) - Fluent	SPSS	Qualtrics
Spanish – Conversationally Proficient	Excel	Microsoft Suite
	NVivo	Adobe Suite
	Delve	Canva - Data Vis
	SPARS	Word Press – Web Design

References available upon request.