

Mirella Díaz -Santos

Biography: Mirella is a former neuropsychology intern in the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Florida. She received her B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras with a major in psychology. Mirella obtained her M.A. in psychology at Boston University. She is completing her Ph.D. at Boston University under the mentorship of Dr. Alice Cronin-Golomb.

Research Focus: Mirella's research interests include the examination of potential mechanisms underlying visual hallucinations in non-demented Parkinson's disease patients. For her dissertation, she examined whether rigidity also extends to perception, through the use of ambiguous stimuli such as the Necker cube and binocular rivalry, and explored the relation between perceptual rigidity and other known rigidities in Parkinson's disease (i.e., motor, cognitive and personality). Her other research interests is in the examination of socio-cultural mechanisms underlying neurocognitive disparities among ethnic minorities.



Grants:

Implementation Grant Funds (IGF) Award: American Psychological Association (APA)/Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training II (CEMRRAT2)

F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA): National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fellowship Award: American Psychological Association (APA)/Minority Fellowship Program

Clara Mayo Research Fellowship Award: Department of Psychology, Boston University

Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research Award: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Professional Membership: (1) American Psychological Association (APA) : Division 40: Clinical Neuropsychology ; Division 45: Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues; (2) National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN); (3) Hispanic Neuropsychology Society

Courses taught: Psychology and Culture; Health Psychology

Publications:

Díaz-Santos, M. & Hough, S. (*in press*). *Cultural competency guidelines for neuropsychology trainees and professionals: Working with ethnically diverse individuals*. In R. Ferraro (Ed.), *Minority and Cross Cultural Aspects of Neuropsychological Assessment* (2nd ed.)

Díaz-Santos, M., Cao, B., Yazdanbakhsh, A., Norton, D.J., Nearing, S., & Cronin-Golomb, A. (2015). Perceptual, cognitive, and personality rigidity in Parkinson's disease. *Neuropsychologia*, 69, 183-193.

Díaz-Santos, M., Cao, B., Mauro, S.A., Yazdanbakhsh, A., Nearing, S., & Cronin-Golomb, A. (2015). The effect of visual cues on the resolution of perceptual ambiguity in Parkinson's disease. *Journal of International Neuropsychological Society*, 21, 146-155.

Díaz-Santos, M., Cumba-Aviles, E., Bernal, G. & Rivera, C. (2011). Psychometric properties and factor structure of the *Escala de Autoeficacia para la Depresion en Adolescentes (EADA)*. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 33, 447-468.

Bogdanova, Y., **Díaz-Santos, M.**, Cronin-Golomb, A. (2010). Neurocognitive correlates of alexithymia in asymptomatic individuals with HIV. *Neuropsychologia*, 48, 1295-1304.

Díaz-Santos, M., Cumba-Aviles, E., Bernal, G. & Rivera, C. (2008). Development and psychometric properties of the *Escala de Autoeficacia para la Depresion en Adolescentes (EADA)*. *International Journal of Psychology*, 42, 218-227.