

# Mercedes Ann Lucia Zapata

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## **EDUCATION**

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- 2019      **Ph.D. Education (School Psychology)**  
University of California, Berkeley  
Graduate School of Education (GSE)  
Advisor: Frank C. Worrell, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: *Personal disability identity measurement: Self-worth and personal meaning*  
(Committee members: Susan Schweik, Ph.D., & Karen Draney, Ph.D.)
- 2016      **M.A. Education (School Psychology)**  
University of California, Berkeley  
Graduate School of Education (GSE)  
Advisor: Frank C. Worrell, Ph.D.  
Theses: *Personal disability identity in retinitis pigmentosa; Racial socialization self-efficacy of mothers who adopt transracially*
- 2013      **M.A. Urban Education (Administration and Policy)**  
Loyola Marymount University (LMU) School of Education  
Thesis: *An exploration of the need for adequate time and supervision for kindergartners served through the federal school meals program*  
Advisors: Yvette Lapayese, Ph.D., & Edmundo Litton, Ed.D.
- 2011      **B.A. Psychology**  
Stanford University  
Minor: Creative Writing

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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- 2021      Licensed Psychologist (CA PSY32687)  
2020      Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)  
2019      California School Psychology Credential  
2018      California Pupil Personnel Services Credential  
2015      California Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, K-6

## **CURRENT APPOINTMENTS**

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### **Lecturer**

School Psychology Program  
Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley  
08/2020 to present

- Courses of instruction: *Theoretical and Empirical Bases for School Psychology Practice, Part II: Adolescence; Developmental Psychopathology; Consultation Lab for Consultation Practicum Students; Consultation Lab for Advanced Practicum in Mental Health Intervention*

## **School Psychologist**

Alameda City Unified School District (03/2022 to present)

San Francisco Unified School District (08/2019 to present)

## **Visiting Scholar & Guest Lecturer**

School Psychology Program

Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley

Advisor & Principal Investigator: Frank C. Worrell

08/2020 to present

- Coordinate and conduct research projects through [Disability Identity Laboratories](#)
- Provide training on disability competence in clinical practice as member of the [Berkeley Psychology Internship Consortium Program](#) (B-PIC)
- Courses of guest instruction: *Adolescent Development; School-Based Consultation; Inquiry in Educational Psychology; Social Bases of Behavior*

## **GRANTS, HONORS, & SCHOLARSHIPS**

2021	Schwab Center for Dyslexia and Cognitive Diversity Innovation Fund (Project: <i>Disability Identity in Adult U.S. Residents with Specific Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</i> )
2021	Division 16 Anti-racism Action Grant (Study Title: <i>How to Better Serve Black Families through Special Education in San Francisco Unified School District</i> )
2019	Professor Nadine Lambert Memorial Award
2019	Association for Psychological Science RiSE Award
2018	Foundation for Rehabilitation Psychology Dissertation Award
2018–2019	U.C. Berkeley Doctoral Completion Fellowship
2018	National Federation of the Blind of California Scholarship
2017	Albert Newman Fellowship
2016	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship
2015–2018	Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship
2015	National Federation of the Blind Convention Grant
2015	The Lighthouse Guild Scholarship
2012	AmeriCorps Education Award
2011	Stanford's Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts, Creative Writing
2010	Stanford's Haas Community Service Project Fellowship

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

National Association of School Psychologists

Association for Psychological Science

American Psychological Association, Division 16 (School Psychology)

American Psychological Association, Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology)

Alameda County Psychological Association

National Federation of the Blind, California Division

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & EXPERIENCE**

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2021- present	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin</i>
2021- present	<b>Member</b> , SFUSD School Psychologist Abolitionist Committee
2021- present	<b>Mentor</b> , McNair Scholars Program
2020- present	<b>Member</b> , Internship Consortium Training Committee, School Psychology Program, University of California, Berkeley
2020- present	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research</i>
2018	<b>Graduate Student Researcher</b> , Academic Talent Development Program (ATDP), University of California, Berkeley Supervisor: Frank C. Worrell, PhD
2018- present	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>Rehabilitation Psychology</i>
2018- present	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>Journal of Social Issues</i>
2018- present	<b>Member</b> , Division 22 Disability Identity Committee
2017- present	<b>Member</b> , Haas Business School of Education Club, University of California, Berkeley
2016- 2017	<b>Organizer</b> , 50th Annual School Psychology Conference at U.C. Berkeley
2015- 2016	<b>Board Member</b> , <i>Berkeley Review of Education</i> , University of California, Berkeley
2015- 2016	<b>Editor</b> , <i>The School Psychology Bulletin</i> , University of California, Berkeley

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- McKerracher, A., Zapata, M., & Manchanda, S. (2022). Counseling blind and visually impaired children. In J. Park-Taylor & M. Keitel (Eds.) *An intersectional approach to counseling children and adolescents with health conditions*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Zapata, M. A. (in press). Social support through a blindness organization predicts life satisfaction and positive disability identity. *Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research*.
- Zapata, M. A. (2022). Negative high school experiences predict internalizing symptomatology among employed U.S. adults with LD and ADHD. *Journal of Adult Development*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10804-022-09401-y>
- Zapata, M. A., & Pearlstein, J. G. (2022). Disability self-worth relates to lower anxiety and depression among adults with visual impairment and blindness. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23308>
- Zapata, M. A. (2022). Group identity in blindness groups predicts life satisfaction and lower anxiety and depression. *Rehabilitation Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rep0000432>
- Zapata, M. A. (2021). Mobility tool use relates to disability affirmation among adults with visual impairment and blindness. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 15(5).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0145482X211046684>
- Zapata, M. A. (2021). Disability self-worth and positive personal meaning in disability: Correlates of hope among U.S. residents with physical disabilities. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355221100956>
- Worrell, F. C., Ahrens, I. Bessette, M., Golshirazi, M., Macpherson, K. H., Mejia, F. B., Saldivar, N., Spence, J., & Zapata, M. A. (2020). Macro-identification approaches and systems for students

- from low-income backgrounds. In T. Stambaugh & P. Olszewski-Kubilius (Eds.), *Unlocking potential: Identifying and serving gifted students from low-income households*. Prufrock Press.
- Zapata, M. A. (2020). Disability affirmation predicts employment among adults with visual impairment and blindness. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355220957107>
- Zapata, M. A. (2020). Disability affirmation and acceptance predict hope among adults with physical disabilities. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 65(3), 291–298. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rep0000364>
- Zapata, M. A. (2020). An exploratory study of general self-efficacy and employment in adults with retinitis pigmentosa. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 114, 18–30. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145482X19900715>
- Zapata, M. A. (2019). *Personal disability identity measurement: Self-worth and personal meaning* (Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation). ProQuest ID: Zapata\_berkeley\_0028E\_19275. Merritt ID: ark:/13030/m5t20b0n. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1s79b3gt>
- Zapata, M. A. (2018). Personal disability identity in retinitis pigmentosa. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 63, 512–520. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rep0000238>
- Zapata, M. A. (2018). Invisible, visual. *Breath & Shadow*, 15(4). Retrieved from <https://www.abilitymaine.org/BS2018Fall/%22Invisible%2C-Visual%22>

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Fourth and Fifth Grade Teacher**

Colonial Acres Elementary School, Hayward, CA  
San Lorenzo Unified School District  
08/2013 to 06/2015

### **Sixth Grade Teacher in English Language Development**

Nystrom Elementary School, Richmond, CA  
West Contra Costa Unified School District  
08/2012 to 06/2013

### **Kindergarten Teacher**

Nystrom Elementary School, Richmond, CA  
West Contra Costa Unified School District  
08/2012 to 06/2013

### **Second Grade Teacher**

Dover Elementary School, San Pablo, CA  
West Contra Costa Unified School District  
08/2011 to 06/2012