

# Alex Ycaza Herrera, Ph.D.

## BEHAVIORAL & COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENTIST

818.633.0918 | [alexycaza@gmail.com](mailto:alexycaza@gmail.com) | [Website](#) | [Google Scholar Profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

### ABOUT ME

- **Senior scientist** leading the design, execution, and management of complex hypothesis-driven experimental research initiatives aimed at advancing women's health research.
- **Scientific communicator** that oversees the development of research reports and presentation decks summarizing research methods, findings, and implications: 10+ publications, 15+ conference presentations, and 10+ non-conference scientific talks.
- **Manage cross-functional and multidisciplinary teams** of trainees, data analysts, PhDs, and MDs on end-to-end research initiatives to achieve advances in women's health across the lifespan.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

#### Research:

- research development
- experimental design
- pilot testing
- survey design & Qualtrics
- participant recruitment
- project management
- mentoring & leadership

#### Statistics & Data:

- t-test
- ANOVA
- regression
- mediation
- SPSS
- RStudio
- Excel & Google Sheets

#### Communication:

- scientific writing
- public speaking
- editing
- Word & Google Docs
- PowerPoint & Google Slides
- Canva

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA**

**Current**

**Research Assistant Professor** | School of Gerontology

**2019 – now**

Identify gaps in existing research, conduct research to address gaps, and mobilize field to increase relevant research efforts.

- Develop 6 research proposals worth a combined total of over \$5M.
- Guide the creation of research plans and study materials such as questionnaires, protocol testing, and quality control plans.
- Hire and manage research personnel to carry out research plans.
- Identify, develop, and maintain relationships with vendors inside and outside of the organization to carry out research goals efficiently and accurately.
- Manage and mentor 10 junior scientists (postdoctoral researchers, doctoral students, and undergraduates) on the full research life cycle and professional development.

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** | Emotion & Cognition Laboratory

**2014 – 2019**

Developed research program novel to the field and within organization focused on the impact of hormonal contraceptives on stress physiology and cognition.

- Recruited over 200 participants and led end-to-end research initiatives for 5 long-term research projects.
- Interpret study results to identify patterns and solutions; convert complex findings into understandable reports resulting in 4 high-impact publications.
- Managed and mentored individual teams of 3-5 junior scientists per project.
- Generated & managed \$435,000 in research funding.

**Graduate Researcher** | Department of Psychology

**2010 – 2014**

Developed new research questions and designed experiments to uncover the role of sex hormones in the stress response and effects of stress on cognition.

- Developed end-to-end research protocols to understand how hormone profile impacts the stress response and cognition with age.
- Design, execute, and manage 2 long-term research studies, resulting in 3 high-impact publications and 3 conference presentations.

## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. Psychology** | Cognitive Neuroscience | University of Southern California

**M.A. Psychology** | Behavioral Neuroscience | University of Southern California

**B.A. Psychology** | Biological Emphasis | University of Southern California