

Alex Ycaza Herrera, Ph.D.

BEHAVIORAL & COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENTIST

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ABOUT ME

- **Mixed-methods scientist with 15 years of experience** leading complex hypothesis-driven experimental research advancing the field of hormone-stress interactions as they pertain to women's health.
- **Collaborative leader of 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.
- **Proactive mentor** invested in trainee growth and advancement, with particular emphasis in advancing junior female scientists into the medical and research fields.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Research:

- experimental design
- pilot testing
- survey design
- participant recruitment
- behavioral manipulation and assessment
- physiological and biofluid measurement and assessment
- budget management
- program management

- project management
- mentoring (students and peers)
- eye-tracking (pupillometry)
- coding behavioral data
- Qualtrics
- Bash

Statistics:

- t-test
- ANOVA
- regression
- mediation

- SPSS
- FSL (fMRI analyses)
- R Studio
- Microsoft Excel

Communication:

- scientific writing
- public speaking
- editing
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft PowerPoint

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA

2006 - now

Research Assistant Professor | School of Gerontology

2019 – now

Oversight of end-to-end to research initiatives of experimental research program advancing the understanding of stress effects on women's health.

- Collaborate and strategize with School faculty to increase minority faculty representation (resulting in a 400% increase in 2 years) and oversee year-round DEI-focused events and trainings.
- Advise peers how to incorporate women's health factors into research programs, funding proposals, and data analyses.
- Oversee and mentor 10 junior scientists (Ph.D. students, Ed.D. 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 the Emotion & Cognition Laboratory focused on how hormonal contraceptives impact the physiological response to stress and cognition.

- Obtained \$250,000 in research funding and \$160,000 in administrative funding for the organization.
- Recruited over 200 participants and led end-to-end research initiatives.
- Managed and mentored individual teams of 3-5 junior scientists per project.
- Synthesized and shared research findings and insights with stakeholders in various contexts.

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 across the adult female lifespan.
- Coded animal behavior; compiled and prepared data to perform complex quantitative analyses.
- Synthesized and communicated research findings and insights with stakeholders in various contexts.

Teaching Assistant | Department of Psychology

2006 – 2014

Assisted in directing several higher-level cognition, neuroscience, and statistics courses.

- Wrote and presented lectures for over 1,000 students across 8 courses
- Created test questions; administered and graded exams

EDUCATION

2014	Ph.D. Psychology Cognitive Neuroscience University of Southern California
2009	M.A. Psychology Behavioral Neuroscience University of Southern California
2005	B.A. Psychology Biological Emphasis University of Southern California