

CURRICULUM VITAE

Luisa María Rivera

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Education

- 2016 - 2022 Ph.D. Biological Anthropology (September 2022), Emory University, Atlanta GA
Committee Chair: Dr. Carol Worthman
- 2012 - 2015 MPH Maternal Child Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN
Advisor: Dr. Zobeida Bonilla
- 2003 - 2009 BA Special Concentration (Romance Studies) Harvard University, Cambridge MA

Areas of Specialization

Critical biocultural approaches to intergenerational trauma, biological embedding of stress, intersectional biosocial research, structural violence and health inequality in Black and Latinx communities, social epigenetics and society

Research Grants

- 2020 – 2021 Robert Wood Johnson COVID-19 and Racism Grant (\$10,000, team award)
- 2020 – 2021 Social Science Research Council COVID-19 Just Tech (\$5,000 team award)
- 2020 – 2021 University of Chicago Provost's Global Faculty Award (\$3,000 team award)
- 2019 – 2021 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$18,000)
- 2019 – 2021 Wenner Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$19,000)
- 2017 – 2021 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholars Fellowship (\$120,000, multi-year award)
- 2018 Fulbright Independent Research Award (Alternate)

Honors & Awards

- 2021 George Armelagos Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2021 NSF IDEAS Scholar (Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences)
- 2019 International Society of Evolutionary Medicine and Public Health Student Award
- 2019 Human Biology Association Student Award
- 2016 - 2021 Laney Graduate School Diversity Fellowship, Emory University
- 2012 - 2014 HRSA Maternal Child Health Training Grant, University of Minnesota
- 2012 - 2014 Heidi Pfrommer Benson Scholarship, University of Minnesota

Professional Experience

- 2022 - present Neukom Scholars Postdoctoral Fellow, Dartmouth University, Hanover NH
- 2016 - 2022 Ph.D. Student Researcher, Emory University, Atlanta GA
- 2013 - 2016 Clinical Research Coordinator, UCSF Child Trauma Research Project, San Francisco CA
- 2010 - 2012 Medical Interpreter, PeaceHealth Medical System, Eugene OR
- 2010 - 2012 Midwifery Assistant, Sacred Waters Birthing Center and Homebirth Care, Eugene OR
- 2010 - 2011 Family Planning Counselor, Planned Parenthood, Eugene OR
- 2008 - 2009 Litigation Assistant/Prisoner Advocate, Prison Law Office, Berkeley CA

Publications

Ahmad, S. I., Shih, E. W., LeWinn, K. Z., **Rivera, L.**, Graff, C., Mason, W. A., Karr, C. J., Sathyanarayana, S., Tylavsky, F. A., & Bush, N.R. (2022). Intergenerational transmission of effects of women's stressors during pregnancy: Child psychopathology and the protective role of parenting. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.838535>

Rivera, L. M.¹, Cerdena, J.C.¹, & Spak, J. M. (2021). Intergenerational trauma in Latinxs: A scoping review. *Social Science & Medicine*, 270, 113662. ¹ shared first author

Aschbacher, K., Hagan, M., Steine, I., **Rivera, L. M.**, Cole, S., Epel, E., Bacarella, A., Lieberman, A., Bush, N. (in press) Adversity in Early Life and Pregnancy are Uniquely Associated with Inflammatory Phenotype Biomarkers: Support for Sensitive Periods of Innate Immune System Development. *Translational Psychiatry*.

Aschbacher, K., Cole, S., Hagan, M., **Rivera, L. M.**, Bacarella, A., Wolkowitz, O., Hendren, R., Lieberman, A., Bush, N. (in press). An Immunogenomic Phenotype Predicting Behavioral Treatment Response: Toward Precision Psychiatry for Trauma Exposure. *Brain Behavior and Immunity*.

Rivera, L. (2020). Immunological Ghosts: Epigenetic Racialization in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *The Thinking Republic*. <https://www.thethinkingrepublic.com/being-counted/immunological-ghosts-epigenetic-racialization-in-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Hagan, M., Coccia, M., **Rivera, L.M.**, Epel, E., Ashbacher, K., Bush, N. (in press). Longitudinal Hair Cortisol in Intervention and Comparison Samples of Low-income Young Children: A Useful Biomarker of Behavioral Symptom Change? *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

Bush, N., Lieberman, A.F., Coccia, M., **Rivera, L. M.**, Hagan, M., Jones-Mason, K., Lin, J., Epel, E. (under review). Propensity score-matched cohort analysis suggests "Child-Parent Psychotherapy" is associated with slower rate of children's telomere attrition over one year (under review) *EBioMedicine*.

Schmidt, M. R., Narayan, A. J., Atzl, V. M., **Rivera, L. M.**, & Lieberman, A. F. (2018). Childhood Maltreatment on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Scale versus the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) in a Perinatal Sample. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 1-19.

Narayan, A. J., **Rivera, L. M.**, Bernstein, R. E., Harris, W. W., & Lieberman, A. F. (2017). Positive childhood experiences predict less psychopathology and stress in pregnant women with childhood adversity: a pilot study of the benevolent childhood experiences (BCEs) scale. *Child abuse & neglect*, 78, 19-30.

Narayan, A. J., Thomas, M., Nau, M., **Rivera, L. M.**, Harris, W. W., Bernstein, R. E., & Gantt, T. (2017). Between Pregnancy and Motherhood: Identifying Unmet Mental Health Needs in Pregnant Women with Lifetime Adversity. *Zero to Three*, 37(4), 14-23.

Narayan, A. J., Bucio, G. O., **Rivera, L. M.**, & Lieberman, A. F. (2016). Making Sense of the Past Creates Space for the Baby: Perinatal Child-Parent Psychotherapy for Pregnant Women with Childhood Trauma. *Zero to Three*, 36(5), 22-28.

Narayan, A. J., Hagan, M. J., Cohodes, E., **Rivera, L. M.**, & Lieberman, A. F. (2016). Early Childhood Victimization and Physical Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 088626051663926. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516639261>

Waters, S. F., Hagan, M. J., **Rivera, L.M.**, & Lieberman, A. F. (2015). Improvements in the Child-Rearing Attitudes of Latina Mothers Exposed to Interpersonal Trauma Predict Greater Maternal Sensitivity Toward Their 6-Month-Old Infants.

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- Rivera, L.M.** (2022, Dec) Stress physiology in the workplace. Invited speaker for the Dartmouth Office of Alumni Relations.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2021, Apr) Increasing Diversity in Biological Anthropology. Invited panelist. Department of Anthropology, University of California Los Angeles.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2021, Mar) Microaggressions and Structural Racism in the Lab. Invited workshop for the Integrative Biology Division, University of Chicago, virtual.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2021, Jan) Dissertation Research in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Podcast. *Sausage of Science*. Human Biology Association.
- Rivera, L. M.** (2020, Nov) Three Anthropological Perspectives on Intergenerational Trauma. Guest lecture for INTEGBI139, University of California, Berkeley CA.
- Rivera, L. M.** (2020, Jul) Assessing Validity of Social Science Research. Guest lecture for LGS SOAR program, Atlanta, GA.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2019, Oct) Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma and Resilience in Postwar Guatemala. Invited talk for the Senckenberg Institute, Frankfurt, Germany.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2019, Feb). Cultural Neuroscience and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Guest lecture series for Cross-cultural Issues in Mental Health, Emory University, Atlanta GA.
- Rivera, L.M. & Bondy, M.** (2018, Feb). Introduction to Social Epigenetics. Guest lecture for Introduction to Anthropological Genetics, Emory University, Atlanta GA.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2018, April). Human Birth in Evolutionary Perspective. Guest lecture for Disease and Human Behavior, Emory University, Atlanta GA.
- Narayan, A. J., **Rivera, L. M.**, Bernstein, R., & Lieberman, A. F. (2016, May). The BE SAFE Pregnancy Study (Benevolent Experiences and Severe Adversity in Family Environments during Pregnancy): Preliminary findings and key issues for pregnancy women delivering at ZSFG. Invited talk at the SFGH Adult Psychiatry Grand Rounds, San Francisco, CA
- L.M. Rivera** (2014, Feb) Reading the Body in Birth: Competing Perspectives on Risk in the Natural Birth Community. Invited talk for ANT115: Introduction to Medical Anthropology. University of California, Berkeley.

Conference Activity

- Rivera, L.M.** (2022, November) Preconception trauma and offspring epigenetics. Paper given at *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2022*.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2021, May) Contact tracing fake news: Social media, misinformation, and health behaviors in a rural community of mixed-ethnicity Guatemalans living in the borderlands. *Latin American Studies Association Biennial Congress*, virtual.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2021, Apr) Ethical Engagement with Communities. Invited panelist for *UCLA Symposium on Diversifying Representations in Biological Anthropology*, virtual.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2020, Dec). Reforming Indigenous Mental Health Services. Workshop co-organized at *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2020*, virtual.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2019, Nov). Cutting, extracting, plotting: biological signatures of intergenerational trauma. Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2019*. Vancouver, Canada.
- Rivera, L.M.,** Ringen E., Narayan, A.N., Lieberman, A.F. (2019, Aug) Correlates of prenatal hair cortisol with early childhood adversity, current adversity, and PTSD symptoms in pregnant women. Podium presentation at *International Society of Evolutionary Medicine and Public Health 2019*. Zurich, Switzerland.
- Aschbacher, K., Cole, S., Hagan, M., Scheichter, S., **Rivera, L.,** Bacarella, A., Wolkowitz, O., Epel, E., Hendren, R., Lieberman, A.F., & Bush, N. (2019 Mar). An Immune Gene Expression Signature of Adversity Exposure during Sensitive Periods. Poster accepted at: *American Psychosomatic Society Annual Meeting 2019*.
- Rivera, L.M.** (2019, Mar). The interaction of prenatal hair cortisol and life stressors predict postnatal PTSD risk. Poster accepted at: *Human Biology Association Annual Meeting 2019*.

Rivera, L.M. (2018, May). Maternal desire at the edges of modernity: biocultural perspectives on embodiment. Paper presented at: *LASA Biennial Congress 2018*.

Rivera, L.M. (2018, Jan). Researching while Latinx. Invited panelist at: *REAL Conference Emory 2016*

Hagan, M.J., **Rivera, L.M.**, Lieberman, A.F., Epel, E., Wolkowitz, O., Hendren, R., Cohodes, E., & Bush, N. (2017, Oct). Associations between emotional availability in the maternal-child relationship and hair cortisol in mothers & young children exposed to interpersonal trauma. Poster presented at: *American Psychosomatic Society Biennial Meeting 2017*

Atzl, V., Narayan, A.J., **Rivera, L.M.**, Ballinger, A., Thomas, M., & Lieberman, A.F. (2017) Identifying Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence during Pregnancy to Deter the Intergenerational Transmission of Maternal and Fetal Risk. Poster presented at: *International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Meeting 2017*

Rivera, L.M., Narayan, A.J., & Lieberman, A.F. (2017, Apr) The Effect of Adverse Childhood Events on Prenatal Reproductive Autonomy: The Role of Maltreatment vs. Family Dysfunction. *Poster presented at: Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting 2017*

Teaching Experience

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| 2020 | Instructor, Anthropology 385: Early Life Origins of Health, Emory University, Atlanta GA |
| 2018 | Teaching Assistant, Anthropology 333: Disease and Human Behavior, Emory University, Atlanta GA |
| 2017 | Teaching Assistant, Anthropology 337: Religion, Health, and Healing, Emory University, Atlanta GA
Teaching Assistant, Anthropology 101: Introduction to Anthropology, Emory University, Atlanta GA |
| 2013 | Teaching Assistant, Public Health 3639: Prevention Theory, Practice, and Application, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN |
| 2012 | Teaching Assistant, Public Health 3601: Global issues in Maternal and Child Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN |

Service to Community and Discipline

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| 2021 – present | Ambassador, Emory Affinity Space Design and Construction Project, Campus Life, Atlanta, GA |
| 2020 – present | Co-chair, Centro Latinx Advisory Board, Atlanta GA |
| 2020 – present | Co-chair, Anti-racism and Decolonization Committee, AGSA, Atlanta GA |
| 2012 – present | Obstetric Emergency Training Coordinator, KGAP, Huehuetenango Guatemala |
| 2019 | Emory Office of RACE Search Committee Student Member, Atlanta GA |
| 2018 – 2019 | Representative, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), Atlanta GA |
| 2017 – 2019 | Atlanta Science Festival volunteer educator, Atlanta GA |
| 2017 – 2019 | Executive Board Member, Laney Latinx Graduate Student Association, Atlanta GA |
| 2016 | Volunteer interpreter for detained immigrants, El Refugio, Atlanta GA |
| 2013 | Prenatal Meditation Group Leader, UCSF MAMAs Study, San Francisco CA |
| 2011 - 2012 | Summer Language Immersion Facilitator/Instructor, Experiment in International Living, France |
| 2010 | Sexual Education Research Intern, Peer Health Exchange, San Francisco CA |
| 2009 - 2010 | Volunteer Medical Interpreter, Homeless Prenatal Program, San Francisco CA |

Skills

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| Language | Spanish/English native proficiency, medical interpretation and translation
French, Italian, fluent |
| Data Analysis | R; SPSS; MaxQDA; ethnographic, qualitative, and mixed-methods research; Novice Python and SQ. |