

Melissa I. M. Torres

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-4013

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EDUCATION

PhD	Anticipated Graduation May 2014	Social Work University of Houston
MSW	2009	Social Work University of Houston
B.A. & H.	2003	Theology & Literature Houston Baptist University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

July 2012 – Present School of Public Health, UT Health Science Center, Houston, TX
Research Assistant/Data Collector. Center for Infectious Diseases Study: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, Injection Drug User (IDU3) cycle; data collection, interviews/surveys, data analysis, HIV testing & counseling.
Dr. Paige Padgett, Principal Investigator

September 2009 – Present Center for Drug and Social Policy Research, UH, Houston, TX
Graduate Research Assistant. Study: National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Abuse Research Development Program (5R24DA019798-05); involvement in grant renewal and resubmission processes, interviews, transcriptions, coding, data analysis.
Dr. Patrick Bordnick, Principal Investigator; Dr. Luis R. Torres, Project Director

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2011 – 2012 **Teaching Assistant.** MSW Foundation, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Sampson, M., Duron, J., Crawley, C., & **Torres, M.I.M.** (Under review) *Perceptions of cultural influence in treatment seeking for postpartum depression among low-income African American mothers.*

Flores, D., Torres, L., Ren, Y., **Torres, M.I.M.**, Valverde, I.P., Lopez, T., & Bordnick, P.S. (Under review) *Cultural values and their role in cessation of injection drug use in aging, male, Mexican-American injection heroin users.*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Flores, D., Torres, L., Ren, Y., **Torres, M.I.M.**, Valverde, I.P., Lopez, T., & Bordnick, P.S. (November 2012) *Cultural values and their role in cessation of injection drug use in aging, male, Mexican-American injection heroin users.* [Refereed]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting: Washington, DC.

Sampson, M., Duron, J., Crawley, C., & **Torres, M.I.M.** (November 2012) *A thematic approach to understanding postpartum depression among African-Americans and Latina immigrants.* [Refereed]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting: Washington, DC.

Torres, M.I.M. (August 2012). *Human trafficking and Mexican nationals.* [Invited]. Mexican Consulate's Labor Rights Week, Panel on Mexican Laborers' Risks: Houston, Texas

Torres, M.I.M. (March 2012). *Increased vulnerabilities of women and girls in zones of conflict: Implications for social work.* [Refereed]. Global Social Work Student Conference: New York City, NY.

Torres, M.I.M. (March 2012). *Gender wars: Women and girls' increased vulnerability for human trafficking in pre and post conflict zones.* [Invited]. Columbia University Law School United Nations 56th Commission on the Status of Women, Panel on Human Trafficking: New York City, NY.

Torres, M.I.M. (March 2012). *New realities, new frontiers and the emergence of HIV/AIDS as a source of conflict and its impact on rural women and girls.* [Invited]. Columbia University Law School United Nations 56th Commission on the Status of Women, Panel on HIV/AIDS: New York City, NY.

Torres, M.I.M., Arango, J. (March 2012). *You don't see them in the day time: Perceptions on sex trafficking and sex work among Mexican-American johns in Houston, Texas.* [Refereed]. 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology: Bays, Boundaries, and Borders: Baltimore, MD.

Torres, M.I.M. (April 2010). *What drives the need for international sex trafficking: Supply of and demand for human commodities in a capitalist society.* [Refereed]. South Texas College 4th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking: Selling Bodies and Stealing Lives: McAllen, TX

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Doctoral Fellow in Clinical Training, Council on Social Work Education Minority Research Fellowship Program (2012-Present).
- Delegate, 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, National Council of Women of the United States (2012).
- Delegate, 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (2011).
- Certification of Congressional Recognition, U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

SERVICE

- Editor-in-Chief, Perspectives on Social Work Doctoral Research Journal, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX (2012-2013).
- Board Member, Perspectives on Social Work Doctoral Research Journal, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX (2012-2012).
- Reviewer, Perspectives on Social Work Doctoral Research Journal, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX (2010-2011).

PROFESSIONAL WORK

2011 – 2012	<i>Director of Programmes for Latin America.</i> Eng. Aja Eze Foundation, New York City, NY. Assisted with consultation on pre- and post-conflict issues to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and prosecutors to the International Criminal Court.
2006 – 2007	<i>Risk Reduction Specialist.</i> Montrose Counseling Center, Houston, TX. HIV testing, education, and counseling and street outreach.
2005 – 2006	<i>Case Management & Outreach.</i> Family Services of Greater Houston, Houston, TX. Outreach to newly diagnosed clients in need of case management and services, managing case load of 30 for Harris County HIV assistance.

HONOR SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- ACUNS – Academic Council on the United Nations System, Member
- NLIRH – National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, Alumni Member
- CSWE – Council on Social Work Education, Member
- NHSN – National Hispanic Science Network, Graduate Member
- LWI – Latin Women's Initiative, Member
- AWID – Association for Women's Rights in Development, Member
- AAUW – American Association of University Women, National Member