

Nicole R. Rivera, Ed.D.

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EDUCATION

Northern Illinois University, 8/99- 8/11

Advanced Certificate in Qualitative Research in Education (2011)
Doctorate in Educational Psychology; Cognate in Educational Administration (2010)
General Administrative Certificate, Type 75;
Master of Science in Education; Educational Psychology (2001)
2009 Graduate Assistant Teaching Award Recipient

Illinois State University 8/87-5/91

Bachelor of Music; Music Therapy
Board Certified Music Therapist
2012 Outstanding Alumni Award, Illinois State University School of Music

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

North Central College 2008-present

Associate Professor of Psychology

Duties include teaching, internship supervision, supervision of undergraduate research, academic advising, and service to the college. Chair of the NCC Institutional Review Board.

Informal Learning Research Group—lab focused on research and evaluation with partner organizations such as the DuPage Children’s Museum and The Morton Arboretum.

Facilitate annual course to introduce undergraduate students to audience research.

Adjunct Teaching Experiences

Taught courses in Psychology, Special Education, and Music Education

Northern Illinois University, DePaul University, Aurora University, and College of DuPage

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Giant Steps Illinois, Inc. 1998-2006

- Executive Director (2004-2006)
- Music Therapist/ Internship Director (1998-2004)
- School for children with autism spectrum disorder

Music Therapy Contract/ Private Practice 1991-2008

- Agency and home-based services
- Served individuals with autism spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities, mental health issues, and older adults

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICE

DuPage Children's Museum, Academic Research and Evaluation Partner; Education Committee
Association of Children's Museum, Children's Museum Research Network Member
Chicago Cultural Organizations Research Network, Co-Director
The New American Colleges & Universities (NAC&U), North Central College Faculty Ambassador
The Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA), Psychology Division Co-Chair
Morton Arboretum, Education Committee
Visitor Studies Association, Member
American Psychological Association, Division 2 (Teaching of Psychology)
Midwestern Psychological Association, Member

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Completed over 100 presentations including invited talks, peer reviewed conference presentations, workshops and two international papers on the following topics:

- Music in Early Childhood
- Clinical Practices in Music Therapy
- Autism, Sensory Integration and Music Therapy
- Family-based Music Therapy
- Siblings of individuals with Autism
- Cultural Context and Development
- First Year College Experiences
- Psychology of Teaching
- Museums and Family Learning

2013-2019 Presentations

Rivera, N. *Collaboration: Many Notes, One Tune*. Northern Illinois University, Music Education Convocation. DeKalb, IL, February, 2013.

Rivera, N. *Culture: A Framework for Social and Community Practices*. (Half day workshop) Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI, March, 2013.

Rivera, N., Almburg, A., & Preissner, K *Conducting community-based ethnography and course-based action research [Symposium]; Transformative learning and the expansion of professional practices: Lessons from conducting community-based research [Paper]*. American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA, April, 2013.

Rivera, N. *Exploring Identity and a Sense of Place with First Year College Students*. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, April, 2013.

Rivera, N., Azarbad, L, & Kelley, K. *Integrating and Managing Psychology Internships in the Undergraduate Curriculum*. Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL, May 2013

Rivera, N. *Children's Museums as a Place of Student Learning*. Chicago Cultural Organization Research Network Meeting, Naperville, IL May, 2013.

DeWelt, C., Shelly, R., Karlen, K., Rivera, N., Schacht, P., & Mark-Hummel, C. *The Living Laboratory*. Association of Midwest Museums, Madison, WI, July 2013

Rivera, N., Pleas, D., Martinez, M, & Rivera, A. *Exploring the Impact of a Summer Bridge Program on the*

- Development of Competence and Emotional Coping for Diverse Learners*. Diversity & Inclusivity Teaching & Research Symposium, New Albany, IN, October, 2013.
- Kern, P., Rivera, N., Chandler, A., & Humpal, M. *Giving Practitioners a Voice: Outcomes of the National Survey Study on ASD*. American Music Therapy Association Conference, Jacksonville, FL, November 2013.
- Humpal, M., Rivera, N., & Powers, M. *Music Therapy for Individuals with ASD: Music Therapists' Responses to a National Survey & An Exploration of Services for Adolescents and Adults*. Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association Conference, Rosemont, IL, March, 2014.
- Rivera, N. *Informal Learning Spaces as a Community Laboratory*, Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Society of Teaching Psychology Poster Presentation, May, 2014
- Rivera, N., Pleas, D., Martinez, M. & Rivera, A. *Exploring the Impact of a Summer Bridge Program on the Development of Competence and Emotional Coping for Diverse Learners*, Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, May 2014.
- Moldonado, L., Kubarek, Sandor, J., & Rivera, N. *Growing Up Isn't Easy: Developing Systems to Grow Institutional Capacity*. Visitors Studies Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, July 2014.
- Rivera, N. & Powers, M. *Exploring Music Therapy Services for Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. American Music Therapy Association, Louisville, KY, November 2014.
- Moldonado, L. & Rivera, N. *Bridging Formal and Informal Learning: Supporting Science Learning for Early Learners*, Opening Minds Early Childhood Conference, Chicago, IL, January 2015.
- Rivera, N. *Exploring Music Therapy Services for Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Great Lakes Region*. Poster Presentation. American Music Therapy Association, Kansas City, MO, November 2015.
- Rivera, N., Jones, J., & Schwartzberg, T. *Meeting a Growing Need: Music Therapy for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*. American Music Therapy Association, Kansas City, MO, November 2015.
- Moldonado, L., Price, A., Mast, F. & Rivera, N. *Museums as Socially Facilitated Learning Environments for Children*: Session Moderator. Jean Piaget Society, Chicago, IL June 2016
- Rivera, N., & Boden, C. *Exploring Long Term Memories of Museum Visits: Connections Between Informal and Formal Learning*. Mid-Western Educational Research Association. Evanston, IL, October, 2016.
- Rivera, N. & Tonsgard, A. *Exploring the value of playful learning: Children's museums, School and home*. Opening Minds Conference: Chicago, IL, January, 2017.
- Rivera, N., Villalobos, C. & Wermeling, R. *Analyzing Memories of Museum Visits Through an Autobiographical Memory Framework*. Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL. April, 2017.
- Foutz, S., Rivera, N., Tonsgard, A., & McCallum, C. *Creating a Learning Framework: How to Get Started*. Association of Children's Museum's InterActivity 2017, Pasadena, CA., May, 2017
- Crabbe, P., Moll, H., Mark-Hummel, C. & Rivera, N. *Where No Researcher Has Gone Before*. Association of Children's Museum's InterActivity 2017, Pasadena, CA., May, 2017
- May, S., Rivera, N., Nelson, K., & Foutz, S. *Children's Museum Research Network: A Case Study in Collaborative Research*. Visitor Studies Association. Columbus, OH, July, 2017.
- Rivera, N. & Maldonado, L. *Examining Cultural Assumptions: Implications for Equity in Museums*. Visitor Studies Association. Columbus, OH, July, 2017.
- Rivera, N. & Tonsgard, A. *Exploring the value of playful learning: Children's museums, School and home*. Concordia Early Childhood Conference, River Forest, IL, August, 2017.
- Rivera, N. & Mahamane, I. *Challenging the Traditional Narrative: The Role of Museums and Cultural*

- Institutions*. Diversity Research Symposium. Muncie Indiana: Ball State University., September 2017.
- Rivera, N. & Grandinetti, J. *Parent and Caregivers' Perceptions of Play and Learning*. Midwestern Psychological Association. Chicago, IL: April, 2018.
- Rivera, N., Nelson, K., & Hahn, B. *Exploring Parent and Caregivers' Perceptions of Learning in Children's Museums*. Association of Children's Museums Interactivity, May, 2018.
- Mast, F., Matiasek, J., Bennett, N. & Rivera, N. *Engaging Undergraduate Students in Audience Research*. Visitor Studies Association. Chicago, IL: July, 2018.
- Rivera, N. *Developing Grit*. The Center for Success in High-Needs Schools Conference, Naperville, IL: June, 2018.
- Rivera, N., Nelson, K.R., Ngyuen, M. & Brenkhert, S. *Researching with a Field-Wide Perspective*. Visitor Studies Association, Chicago, IL: July, 2018.
- Rivera, N. & Tonsgard, A. *Needs Assessment for Culturally Responsive Programming*. Zero to Three Conference. Denver, CO: October, 2019
- Rivera, N. & Tonsgard, A. *Needs Assessment for Culturally Responsive Programming*. National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, November, 2018.
- Tonsgard, A. & Rivera, N. *Caregivers' Perspectives of Play and Learning*. National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, November, 2018.
- Rivera, N. & Renteria, N. *Talking with children about play*. Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL: April, 2019.
- Rivera, N., Ashton, S. Meisner, R., Nelson, K.R., Foutz, S. & Tonsgard, A. *Findings and Implications of The Children's Museum Research Network*. Association of Children's Museum Interactivity, Denver, CO: May, 2019.
- Letourneau, S., Rivera, N., Shelly, R., & Watson, J. *Listening to Children: Inviting, Documenting and Using Their Input*. Association of Children's Museum Interactivity, Denver, CO: May, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS (Note: Name changed from Allgood to Rivera 4/10 because of marriage)

- Allgood, N. (2003). Music therapy and sensory integration for children with autism spectrum disorders. *Early Childhood Connections*. 9, 21-27.
- Allgood, N. (2005). *Music Therapy: The Use of Music to Address Sensory Issues*. S.I. Focus.
- Allgood, N. (2005). Parents' perceptions of family-based group music therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders. *Music Therapy Perspectives* .23, 92-99.
- Allgood, N. (2006). Collaboration: being a team player. In Humpal, M. (Ed.) *Early childhood and school age educational settings: using music to maximize learning*. Silver Spring, MD: American Music Therapy Association.
- Allgood, N. (2009). Growing up with a sibling with an autism spectrum disorder: a phenomenological investigation of impact of young adult transition. DeKalb, IL: *Thresholds*. Northern Illinois University College of Education.

- Rivera, N. (April/ May, 2011). Individualized Education Program (IEP): Access and understanding. Triad, Ohio Music Educators Association.
- Rivera, N. & Powers, M. (2012). Muzykoterapia a spectrum zaburzen autystycznych: dzialania O charakterze interdyscyplinarnym w Stanach Zjednoczonych (Music therapy and autism spectrum disorders: Interdisciplinary practices in the United States). Stachrya, K. (Ed.) Podstawy Muzykoterapii. Lublin, Poland: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Sklodowskiej
- Rivera, N. (2012). Book Review: Lim, H. Developmental Speech-Language Training Through Music for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Music Therapy Perspectives*. 29 (2).
- Rivera, N. (2012). Book Review: Lim, H. Developmental Speech-Language Training Through Music for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Imagine*. 3 (1), p. 90.
Available at: http://imagine.musictherapy.biz/Imagine/imagine_online_magazine.html
- Rivera, N. & Barlow, D. (2013). Walking a new path with families. *imagine*. 4(1), 22-24.
- Kern, P., Rivera, N., Chandler, A. & Humpal, M. (2013). Music Therapy Services for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Survey of Clinical Practices and Training Needs. *Journal of Music Therapy*. 50(4), 274-303. doi: 10.1093/jmt/50.4.274
- Rivera, N. (2014). Book Review: Kern, P. & Humpal, M., Early childhood music therapy and autism spectrum disorders: Developing potential in young children and their families. *Journal of Music Therapy*. 51(1), 126-129. Doi: 10.1093/hmt/thu004
- Rivera, N. & Barlow, D. (2014). Developing multicultural sensitivity in early childhood music therapy practices. *imagine*, 5(1), 86-89.
- Rivera, N. (2014). Book review: Schumacher, K., Alphabet stew and chocolate too: Songs for developing phonological awareness, literacy and communication skills. *Imagine*, 5(1), 130.
- Rivera, N. & Gallagher, E. (2015). Museum: Community spaces for inclusive learning opportunities. *imagine*, 6(1), 52-55.
- Rivera, N. (2016). Institutional culture: Considering the impact on early childhood music therapy. *imagine*, 7(1), 90-92.
- Rivera, N. & Thoma Emmons, C. (2016). How learning frameworks reflect learning theory in the children's museum field. *Hand to Hand*, 30(1), 4-7.
- Luke, J., Letourneau, S., Rivera, N., Brahm, L., & May, S. (2017). Play and children's museums: A path forward or a point of tension? *Curator*, 60(1), 37-46.
- Rivera, N. (2017). Using technology and interactive media with young children: An interview with Chip Donohue. *imagine*, 8(1), 30-36.

Letourneau, S. & Rivera, N. (2017). Research network update: Results form a nationwide survey of play in children's museums. *Hand to Hand*. 31(1), 19-20.

Rivera, N. & Rehkamp, J. (2018). The Range, the value, and the limits of applying research in museums. *Hand to Hand*.

Rivera, N. (2018). Understanding perceptions of play. *imagine*. 9(1), 32-33.

Rivera, N. & Ross Nelson, K. (2018). Caregivers' perceptions of learning in children's museum. *Hand to Hand* 32(1), 19.

Rivera, N. (2018). Social and emotional learning to support adolescent development in high needs schools. *Success in High Needs Schools*, 14(1), 49-59.

Rivera, N. & Tongsgard, A. (2018, November). What's play all about? Children's Museums Weigh In. National Association of the Education of Young Children Blog.

<https://naeyc.org/resources/blog/whats-play-all-about-childrens-museums-weigh>

Tongsgad, A. & Rivera, N. (2019, January). Just play with me: What research tell sus about playing More confidently with our children. National Association of the Education of Young Children Blog. <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playing-confidently-with-our-children>

Johnson, L.R., Stribling, C., Rivera, N., Preissner, K. Hsu, C.P., Jones, A. & May-Schroeder, A. (2019). "Earning the Right": Conducting community based research. *Critical Questions in Education*, 10(3), 161-179.

Accepted

Rivera, N. & Tongsgard, A. Supporting Social and Emotional Development in Children's Museums. *Hand to Hand*.

Luke, J., Tomczuk, E., Foutz, S., Rivera, N., Brahms, L., Nelson, K., ... McKinney, K. (n.d.). What caregivers observe about their children's learning during a visit to the children's museum. *Journal of Museum Education*.

Under Review

Luke, J. J., Rivera, N., Colbert, L. A., & Scharon, C. J. (n.d.). The Problem of Play in Children's Museums.

SELECTED EVALUATION PROJECTS:

DuPage Children's Museum

- Completed evaluations for eight different exhibits including two traveling exhibits
- Current evaluator for the Access Project which provides family-based programming for underserved families
- On-going evaluation of the Artist in Residence program

Morton Arboretum

- 2015 Technology Integration into School Field Trips Evaluation
- 2016 Youth Science Education Outreach Grant Evaluation
- 2017 Woodland Stewardship Program: Year Two Evaluation
- 2018: Youth Volunteer Program, School Program Outcomes, Woodland Stewardship Program—Year Three
- Current: Outcomes of day camp attendance on attitudes towards nature

I Support Community:

- 2017 Program Evaluation