

August 21, 2023

To potential students who hope I will serve as their graduate advisor,

Thank you for the inherent compliment of considering me as your potential graduate advisor. In this letter, I provide some information that I hope will help you assess the fit between your career goals and what I can offer as a graduate advisor.

If your research interests overlap with mine, and your goal is to become a researcher/scholar, I have successfully supported people in your position and am excited to discuss whether my approach to advising and your needs of an advisor align. In this case, this letter will have helped you better outline the overlap between our interests.

On the other hand, If your interests are not neatly aligned with either of the two areas that I outline, AND your vision of your professional future is not as a scholar or researcher, I will not be a good person to advise you. In this case, this letter will have helped you direct your energies toward finding another potential graduate advisor.

As far as my interests, I will continue to work in two key areas:

1. **First: Applied Development of Youth as Community Members.** I will continue to study applied youth development, particularly the development of young persons as members of pluralistic societies and communities. This interest includes developmental assets like social responsibility, community involvement, inclusiveness, critical consciousness, and the interventions and factors that support youth's development of the attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors that reflect these assets. You can find examples of this work in the following papers:
  - a. Acevedo-Polakovich, I.D., Cousineau, J. R., Quirk, K.M., Gerhart, J.I., Bell, K.M. & Adomako, M.S. (2014). Toward an Asset Orientation in the Study of US Latina/o Youth: Biculturalism, Ethnic Identity, and Positive Youth Development. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 42(2), 201-229. doi: 10.1177/0011000013477904
  - b. Acevedo-Polakovich, I.D., Beck, K.L., Hawks, E. & Ogdie, S.E. (2016). Toward a Relevant Psychology of Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination: Linking Science and Practice to Develop Interventions that work in Community Settings. In A. Alvarez, C. Liang., & H. A. Neville (Eds), *The Cost of Racism for People of Color: Contextualizing Experiences of Discrimination* (pp.317-338). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association Press.

I am excited to support developing scholars who have parallel interests.

2. **Second: Mestize ethics.** I anticipate increasingly and incrementally focusing on clarifying the ethics and practical implications of the relation between Latin American mestizes and their indigenous and African heritages, particularly in the contexts of colonialism, anti-colonialism, post-colonialism, indigenous futurism and Afro-futurism. Questions that I hope to offer insights into include:

- a. Who is a mestizo person?
- b. How does a mestizo person ethically relate to their indigenous and/or African heritages in the context of living/resisting indigenous and/or Afrolatine communities?
- c. What do mestizo ethics imply for pluralistic modern Latin American nation states?
- d. What do mestizo ethics imply for Latine persons in the United States?

In 2023, I gave an invited conference to the members of the National Latinx Psychological Association where I addressed some of the foundations that underlie this anticipated work (in the context of how they impact publication). You can watch a recording of this conference here,

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/d5t14Ha7Pb9cphg2iSi3Aqw\\_7DBPAopY5bcJUxWt4O43hSbkj1TQHJ\\_bILP8\\_Q.Z78RwPjitlzgf19b\\_!!HXCxUKc!3-VaK4FUw3tGa1rD3NHq7M1u14XafBOP3ibsNsTJGzNOcanTI-ChmB3mQ9NjPFqTQ8qAGLmdl1EUg53dNlc\\$](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/d5t14Ha7Pb9cphg2iSi3Aqw_7DBPAopY5bcJUxWt4O43hSbkj1TQHJ_bILP8_Q.Z78RwPjitlzgf19b_!!HXCxUKc!3-VaK4FUw3tGa1rD3NHq7M1u14XafBOP3ibsNsTJGzNOcanTI-ChmB3mQ9NjPFqTQ8qAGLmdl1EUg53dNlc$)

I am excited to work with young scholars who find these--and related--questions important and are willing to collaborate with me on answering them.

Although I will continue to collaborate with scholars who address other areas where my expertise on youth, families, service equity, and community engagement is relevant, I will not be a good fit to chair the graduate milestones of graduate students interested in these other areas. I am also unlikely to be the best fit for students who a priori are interested in careers involving public service, organizational leadership, or policy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that it was helpful to you in some way. Please feel welcome and invited to schedule a meeting with me if I can answer any further questions.

Ignacio