Natalie B. Quintero

Email: nbq2@txstate.edu

EDUCATION

August 2026 **Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology**
The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas
Dissertation Title: Explanations, Environment, and Expertise: Investigating Parental Influences on Children's Scientific Thinking
Advisor: Dr. Candice Mills

2023 **Master of Science in Psychology**
The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas

2021 **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Magna Cum Laude
Honors Thesis: Can Magic Make it Possible? An Examination of Age Differences in Children's Use of Magic as an Explanatory Tool for Impossible and Improbable Outcomes
Minors: Biology, Diversity Studies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Present

Texas State University, Lecturer
Courses: Introduction to Statistics (PSY 2301)
Lifespan Development (PSY 3300; online)

2026

Summer
Course: Experimental Projects in Psychology (PSY 3393)
Co-instructors of record: Natalie B. Quintero and Patricia M. Sanchez

Spring
Course: Child Development (CDLP/PSY 3310)
Instructor: Lisa Timmons, Ph.D.
Guest lectures: Cognitive Development in Early Childhood; Emotional and Social Development in Early Childhood

Course: Student Program for Applied Research with Kids (SPARK) Fellowship
Instructor: Jackie Nelson, Ph.D.
Guest lectures: Applying to Grad School: Looking for programs and creating a LinkedIn profile; Applying to Grad School, Personal statements and current grad student perspectives

2025

Fall
Course: Cognitive Development (CDLP/PSY 3362)
Instructor: Candice Mills, Ph.D.

2023

Summer
Course: Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
Instructor: Shayla Holub, Ph.D.
Guest lectures: Mapping Out the Grad School Application; A Tale of Two CVs; Putting Yourself on Paper: Personal and Research Statements; Putting Yourself on Paper: Diversity Statements

Spring
Course: Language and Literacy Development (CDLP/SPAU 3305)
Instructor: Emily Touchstone, Ph.D.
Guest lecture: Sociocultural Issues in Language and Literacy Development

2021 – 2022

Full academic year
Course: Center for Children and Families Research Experience for Undergraduates
Co-instructors: Mandy Maguire, Ph.D. and Margaret Owen, Ph.D.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

2023 – Present **Letters to a Pre-Scientist (LPS) Mentor**
Mentored two middle school students through a year-long handwritten letter exchange to promote STEM awareness and encourage interest in STEM careers by discussing topics like science interests and overcoming barriers in higher education. Currently mentoring a 3rd mentee for the 2025-2026 school year.

2023 – 2024 **NextGen Psych Scholars Program Mentor**
Guided one post-baccalaureate student in their graduate school application process. Met bi-weekly to discuss and revise application materials, as well as conduct mock interviews. They received interviews at 5 universities for clinical psychology PhD programs.

2022 – 2023 **Psychin' Out Program Mentor**
Mentored one post-baccalaureate student in the graduate school application process by meeting with them monthly to assist with revising their application materials. They received 2 offers from PhD programs in Education.

2022 – 2023 **Undergraduate Success Scholars Program Mentor**
Mentored one undergraduate student through the graduate application process by meeting bi-weekly to discuss how to format a curriculum vitae, tips for networking, and how to apply for lab manager/research-related positions. They received and accepted a position as a clinic coordinator in Dallas, TX.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant

Think Lab at The University of Texas at Dallas

Across 4 research studies, I have had the following responsibilities:

- **Research ethics & transparency:** Managed IRB protocols to ensure ethical research and administered study preregistrations on the Open Science Framework (OSF) to report our research plans.
- **Data collection:** Collected data from adults and children (ages 3 to 10) using the following online platforms and tools: Prolific, Children Helping Science, Qualtrics, Phonic, REDCap, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams.
- **Budgeting & finance:** Oversaw project budgets, financial records, and compensation using ClinCard Greenphire payment system in coordination with the Office of Budget and Finance at UT Dallas.
- **Statistical analysis:** Performed statistical analyses such as multilevel modeling, data management, and data cleaning using R and/or SPSS statistical software.

Project title: ***Children's Reasoning about Biology***

Summary: Collected data from 148 parent-child dyads to investigate the role of parental expertise and pet ownership on children's biology knowledge and attitudes toward animals in 3 to 8-year-olds. This was 1 of the 16 study modules in the project on Growing and Advancing Research in Development and EducatioN (GARDEN), a collaboration across 7 institutions funded by the National Science Foundation (award #2024289).

Additional responsibilities:

- Synthesized literature on parent expertise in biology, children's biology knowledge, and attitudes toward animals to justify the selection of measures for parent and child surveys.
- Created a themed virtual environment, incorporating Project GARDEN's animal mascot, Fen the Fox, to encourage children's completion of our online study module.
- Led a team of 2 undergraduate research assistants to help design, develop, and pilot experimental stimuli for parents and children.
- Designed and maintained an online experiment using JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) to be compatible with the testing platform, ChildrenHelpingScience.com.

Project title: ***Laying the Groundwork for a Developmental Science of Intellectual Humility***

Summary: Pilot tested a newly developed self-report measure of intellectual humility on Zoom with 90 out of 750 children ranging from 6 to 10-years-old. This was a collaboration across 7 institutions and is a subaward funded by The John Templeton Foundation (award #62835).

Project title: ***Judging Explanation Estimation and Placement***

Summary: Collected data from approximately 50 parent-child dyads (children aged 6 to 10) to learn about how children think about knowledge and to investigate links between parent and child measures of intellectual humility. This study was in collaboration with University of Louisville Knowledge in Development (KID) Lab and was funded by The John Templeton Foundation.

Additional responsibilities:

- Developed and implemented a coding manual while training a team of 3 research assistants to code 108 transcriptions of parent responses.

Project title: ***Parents' Science Explanations***

Summary: Collected data from 90 parents of children between the ages of 5 and 10 to evaluate individual differences in how parents perceive and respond to children's science questions.

Additional responsibilities:

- Independently led this study from start to finish.
- Developed survey stimuli and administered measures via Qualtrics while using Phonic to record and transcribe verbal responses.
- Designed a coding manual and worked with undergraduate researchers to evaluate characteristics in verbal responses.

2020 – 2021

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Learning in Context (LinC)Lab at Texas State University

Summary: Worked under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Clegg to collaboratively develop a study and write my honors thesis about children's use of magical objects to explain impossible and improbable outcomes.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND HONORS

2024	APA's Editor's Choice for Mills, C. M., Goldstein, T. R., Kanumuru, P., Monroe, A. J., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2024). Debunking the Santa myth: The process and aftermath of becoming skeptical about Santa. *Developmental Psychology*, 60, 1-16.
2021	Outstanding Senior in Psychology nominated by faculty members in the Department of Psychology at Texas State University.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND RESEARCH FUNDING

2023, 2026	**Betty & Gifford Johnson Travel Award** $1,000.00, *Office of Graduate Education*
2022, 2024	**Diversity Travel Award** $750.00, *Cognitive Development Society*
2022 – 2026	**Department of Psychology Travel Award** $1,000.00, *School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences*

2021 **Undergraduate Research Fund**
$1,000.00, *Texas State University*

2017 – 2021 **Terry Foundation Scholarship**
Texas State University
Selected as 1 of 255 state-wide awardees in 2017 for a full-ride scholarship to cover all 4 years of undergraduate education based on demonstrated academic merit, leadership experience, and community service, and financial need.

PUBLICATIONS

Danovitch, J. H., Mills, C. M., Williams-Gant, A. J., Patel, K. S., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2026). "How much do I know?": Children's evaluations of their absolute and relative knowledge. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, *261*, Article 106366. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2025.106366

Mills, C. M., Danovitch, J. H., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2025). Does intellectual humility transmit intergenerationally? Examining relations between parent and child measures. *Experimental Psychology.* https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001782

Mills, C. M., Goldstein, T. R., Kanumuru, P., Monroe, A. J., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2024). Debunking the Santa myth: The process and aftermath of becoming skeptical about Santa. *Developmental Psychology*, *60*(1), 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001662

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Ronfard, S., Blakey, K. H., Cimpian, A., Danovitch, J. H., Jirout, J., Mills, C. M., Rottman, J., Ruggeri, A., Soland, J., Cooper, M., Cottrell, S., Hutchins, N., Lassetter, B., Patel, K. S., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2026). The Lifespan Intellectual Humility Scale: Developed for Children, Valid for Adults. [Under revision, *Child Development*].

Quintero, N. B. & Mills, C. M. [in preparation]. Individual differences in parents' difficulty ratings of children's science questions and their explanations.

Quintero, N. B. & Mills, C. M. [in preparation]. Investigating how children's biological knowledge and attitudes are shaped by parental expertise and pet ownership.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (presenting author underlined)

Note that I previously used Quintero-Flores, N. B. for posters and presentations
*Indicates undergraduate research assistants that I have mentored

Quintero, N. B., Mitra, R.*, Thomas, C.*, & Mills, C. M. (2026, April). *"Parents adjust their explanations to science questions based on their perceptions of difficulty"* [Poster session]. Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Thomas, C.*, Mitra, R.*, **Quintero, N. B.**, & Mills, C. M. (2026, April). *"Talking about animals: How parent expertise and pet ownership shape children's biology knowledge"*

[Poster session]. Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Thomas, C.*, Mitra, R.*, **Quintero, N. B.**, & Mills, C. M. (2025, May). *"Investigating How Parental Expertise Shapes Children's Understanding of Animals and Pro-Animal Attitudes"* [Poster session]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Quintero, N. B., George, S. A.*, Gangardiwala, Z. A.*, Mitra, R.*, & Mills, C. M. (2024, March). *"Investigating Individual Differences in Parents' Perceptions of Difficulty Answering Scientific Questions"* [Poster session]. Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, United States.

Patel, K. S., Danovitch, J. H., Mills, C. M., Williams, A. J., & **Quintero, N. B.** (2023, March). *"I know a lot, but he knows a lot more": Children's absolute and relative knowledge self-evaluations* [Poster session]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

Quintero, N. B., Patel, K. S., Kumar, J.*, Marks, E. S.*, Danovitch, J. H., & Mills, C. M. (2023, March). *"Let's look it up!": Parents' demonstrations of uncertainty in relation to children's knowledge estimates* [Poster session]. Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

Quintero-Flores, N. B., Jackson, J., Corriveau, K. H., & Clegg, J. M. (2022, April). *"Did she wave her arm or a magic wand? An examination of when children use magic to explain outcomes"* [Poster session]. Presented at the Cognitive Development Society Biennial Conference, Madison, WI, United States.

INVITED TALKS

Quintero, N. B. (2025, February 28). Invited as the Student Keynote Speaker for the Accelerating Latinx Representation in STEM (ALRISE) Education Annual Convening, Arizona State University.

SERVICE

Center for Children and Families (CCF) at UT Dallas:

2024, 2025	Application reviewer and interviewer for SPARK Fellowship program
2023	Panelist for CCF research program graduate school preparation panel
2023	Volunteer at Festival of Lights
2023	Volunteer at First Generation Student Day
2023	Volunteer at First 3 Years' Baby Day
2023	Volunteer for CCF Spring Lecture Series
2022	Volunteer at Dallas Zoo's Jungle Bells Family Night
2022, 2023	Volunteer at Family Celebration Day

School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UT Dallas:

2025 – Present	Chair of the Professional Development Luncheon Committee

2024	Supporting Outstanding Academic Research (SOAR) poster judge
2022 – 2024	Committee member for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA)
2022, 2023	Panelist for IDEA Guide to Graduate School Series

The University of Texas at Dallas:

2024 – 2025	Graduate Student Representative for Accelerating Latinx Representation in STEM Education (ALRISE), a NSF-funded alliance focused on increasing representation of Latine students in STEM through research and experiential learning opportunities
2024	Panelist for Undergraduate Research Week, panel on conducting research
2022 – 2025	Terry Alumni table host at UT Dallas Terry Foundation Fall banquet
2022, 2025	Application reviewer for UT Dallas Terry Foundation Scholarship

Ad-hoc reviewing: Journals

Journal of Child and Family Studies

Ad-hoc reviewing: Conferences

Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting (2022 – Panel: "Social Cognition")

CERTIFICATES

Advanced Graduate Teaching certificate
Graduate Teaching certificate
CITI Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research certificate
CITI Human Subjects Protection – Social & Behavioral certificate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science
Cognitive Development Society
Society for Research in Child Development
The International Honor Society in Psychology