Priya Sharma, MCP, CCC, MT-BC

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Adjunct professor and licensed counsellor with 58 graduate credit hours in counselling psychology and an undergraduate foundation in psychology and behavioral science. Currently teaching undergraduate psychology courses at Arkansas State University Querétaro campus and Texas State University Querétaro campus through Elisia Education Hub. Academic background includes formal training in statistics, research methods, cognitive psychology, psychological assessment, and biopsychosocial health supported by extensive applied clinical experience across counselling, music therapy, and interdisciplinary healthcare settings.

EDUCATION

2025
Vancouver, BC

Master of Counselling Psychology
Adler University, Vancouver Campus
CGPA*:* 4.173
U.S. Equivalency: Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (GPA: 3.98) — evaluated by IEE, NACES-accredited member.
Relevant Coursework: Research Methods in Counselling Psychology, Appraisal and Assessment for Counselors in Practice, Biopsychosocial Bases of Health and Dysfunction, Trauma Theory and Intervention, Theories of Psychotherapy, Multicultural Counselling for Diverse Populations, Group Psychotherapy, Couples and Family Therapy, Structural & Sociocultural Bases of Health and Dysfunction, Intro to Addictive Disorders
Research Proposal: "The Influence of Personality on Counselling Student's Theoretical Orientations in Canadian Universities" - designed a full research proposal including sampling strategy, measurement tools, and proposed statistical analyses, under the supervision of Dr. Somayyeh Mohammadi.

2022
Coral Gables, FL

Bachelor of Music, Music Therapy
University of Miami
Major: Music Therapy (Neurological Music Therapy Focus)
Minor: Psychology
CGPA: 3.588
Relevant Coursework (Psychology): Intro to Behavioral Statistics (A+), Cognitive Psychology, Child & Adolescent Development, Abnormal Psychology, Psychobiology, Genetic and Developmental Disorders
Relevant Coursework (Music Therapy): Research Methods in Music Therapy, Music Therapy Practicum (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B), Music in Psychotherapy, Music in Rehabilitation, Psychology of Music, Music and Development.
Research Proposal: "The Effect of Music Listening on Burnout Symptoms in Doctors and Nurses" - designed a quantitative research proposal including hypothesis formation, variable operationalization, and statistical analysis plan, under the supervision of Dr. Shannon de l'Etoile.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Queretaro, QRO — **Elisia Education Hub (Arkansas State University Queretaro & Texas State University Mexico)**

Jan'26 – Present — *Part-Time Adjunct Professor*

Arkansas State University Querétaro

- PSY 2013 Introduction to Psychology: Delivers foundational instruction in psychological science, research methods, and human behavior to undergraduate psychology minor students.
- PSYC 2133 Developmental Psychology: Teaches psychological development across the lifespan with a focus on theory, research, and applied human development.

Texas State University Querétaro

- PSY 3300 Lifespan Development (combined course — Texas State University majors & Arkansas State University Querétaro minors): Teaches developmental psychology across the lifespan, adapting content and assessment structures to meet dual institutional requirements.
- Designs lectures, assessments, and in-class activities for multicultural, bilingual classroom environments across two institutional frameworks based on need.

PRESENTATIONS

Vancouver, BC — **Poster Presentation**

May 24, 2024 — Adler University, Vancouver, BC

- "Empowering Sustainability: Advocating for a Plastic-Free Future". Presented at a campus-wide poster symposium, sharing findings and reflections from a community engagement practicum with Mind Your Plastic, a Canadian charity focused on eliminating plastic pollution through municipal policy change. Engaged with faculty and students across disciplines on themes of social justice, community outreach, and volunteer training.

Miami, FL — **Senior Practicum Presentation**

April 23, 2021 — University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

- "Maintaining Attention in the Virtual Therapy Environment". Presented to music therapy students and faculty, examining strategies for sustaining therapeutic engagement in telehealth settings, informed by direct experience delivering virtual music therapy during COVID-19.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Vancouver, BC — **Touchstone Family Association**

Sep'24 – Apr'25 — *Clinical Counselling Intern*

- Counselled voluntary and court-mandated clients (individuals, couples, and families) referred by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- Applied eclectic, strengths-based approaches to concerns including trauma, anxiety, ADHD, depression, identity exploration, LGBTQ2IA+ issues, and life transitions.

- Conducted psychological assessments with every client using WHODAS, NCAFAS, and CAFAS to inform treatment planning and measure progress.
- Tracked client outcomes using ORS and SRS; collaborated with probation officers, lawyers, and social workers; maintained comprehensive clinical documentation.

Vancouver, BC **Adler University**
Sep'23 – Jul'24 *Student Counsellor – Counselling Skills, Pre-Practicum & Group Counselling Classes*

- Conducted individual and group counselling sessions with university students across 4 semesters (35 direct clinical hours).
- Tracked client outcomes using standardized measures, requiring ongoing collection, interpretation, and application of clinical data.

Palm Beach, FL **Master Musicians**
Jun'22 – Dec'22 *Music Therapist*

- Delivered music therapy services as an independent contractor across hospitals and assisted living facilities, creating tailored interventions and documenting client progress.
- Provided private in-home music lessons to children ages 5–16, covering piano, guitar, ukulele, woodwind instruments, and music theory.
- Coordinated performance classes and contributed to the organization of recitals.

Palm Beach, FL **Wholesome Harmonies & Master Musicians**
Sep'22 – Dec'22 *Music Therapist*

- Provided music therapy and adapted music lessons as an independent contractor to individuals with ADHD, autism, and Down syndrome across community and home settings.
- Designed individualized therapeutic interventions tailored to each client's needs and documented outcomes systematically.

Palm Beach, FL **Trustbridge**
Sep'21 - Apr'22 *Music Therapy Intern*

- Delivered music therapy across home, assisted living, nursing, and inpatient settings; created tailored interventions addressing psychosocial, spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.
- Collaborated within interdisciplinary teams including physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and therapists.
- Documented therapy effectiveness via electronic medical records
- Co-facilitated virtual songwriting-based music therapy group for supportive care staff.
- Volunteered with children's bereavement camps using songwriting and improvisation as therapeutic modalities

Miami, FL **United Community Options**
Spring 2020 *Senior Student Music Therapist*

- Conducted autonomous one-hour music therapy sessions via GoToMeeting (telehealth platform) for a diverse group of adults with varied diagnoses.
- Objectives encompassed enhancing attention and communication skills.

- Implemented a range of interventions, including song discussions, music listening, group singing, music and recreational activities, and songwriting exercises.

Palm Beach, FL — **Creative Arts Therapies of the Palm Beaches**
Fall 2020 — *Student Music Therapist*

- Autonomously facilitated weekly one-hour music therapy sessions through Zoom (telehealth platform) for a group of adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- Objectives centered on enhancing prosocial and emotional skills.
- Implemented a diverse range of interventions, encompassing discussions of songs, active music listening, movement-based activities with music, interactive instrument playing, and engaging songwriting exercises.

Miami, FL — **Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center**
Spring 2020 — *Student Music Therapist*

- Conducted weekly one-hour group therapy sessions in collaboration with a student practicum partner for a group of elderly veterans, many of whom had dementia and related diagnoses.
- Focused on sustaining and enhancing attention and communication skills among the participants.
- Utilized a variety of therapeutic techniques, including group singing, music-based movement exercises, interactive instrument playing, and engaging discussions about songs.

Miami, FL — **Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center**
Fall 2019 — *Student Music Therapist*

- Delivered multiple 20–30-minute individual therapy sessions each week, in collaboration with a student practicum partner, to adult patients with diverse forms of cancer, spanning two inpatient hospital floors.
- Focused on alleviating isolation, fostering effective coping mechanisms, and enhancing relaxation.
- Applied a range of therapeutic techniques, including music listening, interactive instrument playing, thought-provoking song discussions, and creative songwriting exercises.

Miami, FL — **Nicklaus Children's Hospital**
Spring 2019 — *Student Music Therapist*

- Collaboratively conducted weekly one-hour individual therapy sessions with a student practicum partner, catering to children across the Gastroenterology, Respiratory, and Pre-Operation/Post-Operation units, who presented diverse medical diagnoses.
- Prioritized enhancing emotional well-being and creating a safe space for emotional expression.
- Implemented a multifaceted approach, incorporating instrument-based activities, therapeutic music listening, and engaging songwriting exercises to achieve therapeutic goals.

Nairobi, Kenya — **Private Music Teacher**
Summer 2019 — Piano Instructor

- Delivered weekly in-home piano instruction to teenage and adult learners covering piano technique, music reading, music theory, and ear training.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Remote - Canada — **Mind Your Plastic**
Sept '23 – Apr' 24 — *Special Events & Fundraising Volunteer*

- Developed orientation and training presentations to equip community engagement volunteers with skills for representing the organization effectively.
- Created a comprehensive outreach binder including key strategies, resources, and roleplay scenarios for interacting with diverse populations.
- Cultivated partnerships with local businesses and organizations to expand outreach reach.
- Updated donor database (Keela) and wrote 200 personalized postcards as part of the End of Year Fundraising campaign.

Remote – USA — **Crisis Text Line**
Sep '22 – Aug'23 — *Volunteer Crisis Counselor*

- Provided nationwide crisis support via text, guiding individuals through acute distress toward next steps and appropriate resources.
- Managed multiple concurrent conversations; collaborated with fellow counselors on complex cases.

Coral Gables, FL — **Alzheimer's Association**
The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.
2020 — *Volunteer*

- Participated in a letter-writing campaign during COVID-19 to reduce isolation among adults with Alzheimer's disease.

Nairobi, Kenya — **Westgate Mall Attack**
Sept 2013 — *Volunteer*

- During the terrorist attack at Westgate Mall, my mother and I assisted in relief work as well as serving food to the Kenyan Defense Force and the media reporters from around the world. Article: https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/the-standard/article/2000094375/brave-teen-who-cheered-up-horrified-policemen

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND AFFILIATIONS

Feb 2025 — ***Canadian Counselling & Psychotherapy Association (CCPA)***
Professional Member

- Membership & Certification Number: 11259994

Jan 2025 — ***Psychwire***
ACT for Beginners

Dec 2024 — ***The Gottman Institute***
Gottman Method Couples Therapy – Level 1

- *Credential ID: zhpsor4ryr*

Nov'24 – Nov'27 — ***Canadian Red Cross***
Emergency First Aid & CPR/AED Level C

- Credential ID: 105516246

Oct 2024 ***The Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing***
Integrative Trauma and Attachment Model (ITAM) Part 1: Foundations of Trauma and Attachment Through A Youth Justice Lens Dysregulation & Phase Based Clinical Applications

Sept 2024 ***Emerging Minds Australia***
Child Aware Practice

Sept 2024 ***BC Ministry of Citizen's Services***
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) Foundations

Feb 2024 ***St. John Ambulance Canada | Ambulance Saint-Jean***
Opioid Poisoning Response Training

Apr'22 – Apr'27 **Certification Board for Music Therapists**
Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC)
- Credential ID: 17342

Associate Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)

May 2018 *Associate of the Royal Schools of Music (ARSM) in Oboe*
- Passed the performance only diploma. This is a 30-minute performance where musical communication skills, interpretation, and technical delivery.

May 2013 *Grade 8 Piano*
- Received a Merit in a performance test that included three pieces of varying styles, scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, and aural tests.

May 2011 *Grade 5 Singing*
- Received a Distinction in a performance test that included three accompanied songs, one unaccompanied traditional song, sight singing and aural tests.

May 2011 *Grade 5 Flute*
- Received a Merit in a performance test that included three accompanied songs, scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, and aural tests.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Palm Beach, FL **Trustbridge**
May 2021 *Internship Stipend*
- Awarded a stipend to use for the duration of my 7-month Music Therapy Clinical Internship

Coral Gables, FL **University of Miami**
2017 – 2022 *Recipient of President's Scholarship*
- Four-year merit based academic scholarship that awards $30,000 per year to outstanding individuals with an excellent academic record.

Fall 2017
Spring 2018 *Provost's Honor Roll*
- Maintained a 3.75 GPA or higher as a full-time student

Fall 2017
Spring 2018
Fall 2019
Spring 2021 *Dean's List Honor Roll*
• Maintained a 3.50 GPA or higher for multiple academic semesters as a full-time student.

2018 – Present *National Society for Collegiate Scholars*

- Inducted as a member of a national honor society that recognizes and elevates high-achieving first- and second- year college students.

2018 – Present *Alpha Lambda Delta*

- Inducted as a member of a national honor society that recognizes outstanding academic achievements of full-time students.

April 2018 *International Representatives – Member of the Year*

- Awarded the Council of International Students and Organizations' International Representatives – Member of the Year award for contributions to the organization from 2017-2018

April 2020 *William Butler Award*

- Awarded the Council of International Students and Organizations William Butler Award for my extraordinary contribution, service, and long-lasting impact on the organization from 2019-2020.

Nairobi, Kenya **Young Musicians Competition**

2016 *Second Place*

- Participated in a performance competition where I was second place in the high school category.

Nairobi, Kenya **Cambridge International Examinations**

September 2016 *Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards*

- Gained the highest mark in Kenya for High Achievement in Cambridge International AS Level Music in the June 2016 Cambridge Examinations.

New York, USA **Lang Lang Foundation**

October 2014 *UN Day Concert 2014: Lang Lang & Friends*

- Invited to play in a highly selective international youth orchestra to represent the country of Kenya alongside 4 other musicians for the UN's 69th birthday celebration that took place in the newly renovated General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York.
- Given the opportunity to play alongside individuals from around the world as well as world-renowned concert pianist and UN Messenger of Peace, Lang Lang, and 16-time Grammy Award-winner, Sting.

Nairobi, Kenya **Braeburn Group of International Schools**

May 2013 Executive Award

- A prestigious award to one outstanding student in the whole school every year who best exemplifies the following characteristics: drive, humility, empathy, integrity, compassion, and service before self.

SKILLS

Statistical & Research: Quantitative Research Design, Statistical Methods, Psychological Assessment, Outcome Measurement, SPSS, Microsoft Excel, Clinical Documentation
Teaching: Undergraduate Instruction, Curriculum Design, Multicultural Education, Public Speaking, Student Support
Clinical: Mental Health Counselling, Music Therapy, Trauma-Informed Practice, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Crisis Intervention, Patient Advocacy
Technology: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Lightroom), Final Cut Pro, Slack
Languages: English (Bilingual), Hindi (Bilingual), French (Basic), Spanish (Basic), Kiswahili (Basic)