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# **Joie D. Acosta, Ph.D.**

## ***Managing Associate***

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### **SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

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Joie Acosta, *Managing Associate*, provides research and technical support on the implementation of immigrant integration, violence prevention, community development, and systems change projects at the Association for the Study and Development of Community. She has nine years experience developing and conducting community-based research working with a variety of groups, including national and local organization, community partnerships and coalitions, state and federal agencies and academic institutions. She has experience utilizing and developing qualitative and quantitative methodology for culturally diverse populations. Her extensive research experience with culturally diverse populations is in the areas of community capacity building, substance abuse, and violence prevention. Dr. Acosta has four years working with capacity-building evaluation and fiscal grant management and experienced in information dissemination and report writing for academic, practitioner, and public distribution.

### **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

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- 5/04 Ph.D. in Community and Cultural Psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI.  
Dissertation topic: Chronic Community Violence and Adolescent Peer Group Activity Settings in Rio de Janeiro and Baltimore
- 5/01 Master's in Community and Cultural Psychology received from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI  
Thesis topic: The Effects of Cultural Differences on Adolescent Peer Group Relationships
- 11/01 Certificate in Disaster Management, Humanitarian Assistance and International Peacekeeping, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI.
- 5/99 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA.

### **WORK HISTORY**

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June 2005-present

#### **Managing Associate**

*Association for the Study and Development of Community, Gaithersburg, MD*

*Duties:* provides research and technical support on the implementation of immigrant integration, violence prevention, community development, and systems change projects; utilize capacity building evaluation efforts to develop community capacity and increase the effectiveness and sustainability of community level prevention/intervention efforts.

August 2004-June 2005

**Assistant Professor of Psychology**

*Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD*

*Duties:* Introduce students to select concepts and theories of the general body of psychology; inspire students to critically examine logic of research designs and acquaint them with quantitative and qualitative methodologies; demonstrate the practical aspects of psychology by discussing application to their personal lives and to major world events; prepare course syllabus and lesson plans; create a holistic environment that supports student learning; assess student learning and success in the classroom; participate in community and college service activities; actively pursue professional development opportunities.

August 2002-June 2004

**Research Assistant for the Department of Psychology**

*University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI*

*Duties:* Coordinate a State Incentive Grant to evaluate adolescent substance abuse prevention and intervention programs; develop culturally appropriate measures for Native Hawaiian and Southeast Asian communities to assess adult, adolescent, and child attitudes toward substance use; collect data throughout rural areas of Oahu; conduct database management and multivariate data analyses; support multiple state and federal grants on measure development, database management and data analysis for interview and survey data; collaborate with and support Coalition for a Drug Free Hawai'i; oversee fiscal grant management; write reports for grantee and federal and state funding agencies.

August 2001-June 2004

**Survey of Psychology Instructor**

*University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI*

*Duties:* Introduced students to select concepts and theories of the general body of psychology; inspired students to critically examine logic of research designs and acquaint them with quantitative and qualitative methodologies; demonstrated the practical aspects of psychology by discussing application to their personal lives and to major world events; prepared course syllabus and lesson plans; conducted class instruction and evaluation; recruited pertinent guest speakers; ensured a quality and challenging introduction of psychology for university level students.

August 2000-August 2001

**Graduate Assistantship at the Center on Disability Studies Research Rehabilitation and Training Center**

*University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI*

*Duties:* Researched study design and implementation on attitudes of students with disabilities toward postsecondary education and work/careers for people with disabilities; developed culturally appropriate measures for Native Hawaiian and Southeast Asian communities in a variety of accessible formats; oversaw database management and analysis; participated in a consumer participatory action planning committee to oversee and evaluate grant research efforts; participated in grant writing; presented research findings at conferences; prepared materials for dissemination to consumer agencies; prepared articles for publication.

August 1999-May 2000

**Teaching Assistant for the Psychology Department**

*University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI*

*Duties:* Graduate affairs – sent out graduate school applications on request, processed graduate applications, sent out acceptance and rejection information; undergraduate advisor – aided students in planning their course schedule, processing course completion and requirement fulfillment, aided in pre-registration activities.

January 1998-May 1999

**Research Specialist**

*Department of Criminal Justice Services, Richmond, VA*

*Duties:* Performed data entry and data collection on juvenile murderers, intentional injury, and injury patterns of drug and non-drug related homicides, formatted and organized juvenile crime statistics; provided consultation on data design, web authoring, distribution of federal monies using regression analysis, and forecasting of prison population.

August 1997-January 1998

**Rehabilitation Coordinator**

*Alliance Inc., Bel Air, MD*

*Duties:* Facilitated activities at non-profit psychiatric day program with residential facilities and assisted living programs; developed individualized treatment plans; kept progress reports; administered daily living, anger management, and employment curriculum; supervised allotment of medicines; provided residential care; and conducted off-site visits.

August 1996-July 1997

**Technology Fellow for the Psychology Department**

*University of Richmond, Richmond, VA*

*Duties:* Oversaw care and feeding of departmental equipment, hardware and software updates and installations; aided students, faculty and staff with computer problems and/or questions and departmental web design.

September 1996-January 1997

**Therapy using the Lovaas method with a 3 year-old boy with autism**

*Private residence, Richmond, VA*

*Duties:* One-hour intensive training sessions, and weekly progress meetings. Training was provided by the Center for Autism Related Disorders.

September 1994-June 1995

**Special Education Instructional Assistant**

*Bel Air High School, Bel Air, MD*

*Duties:* Assisted Special Education instructor in remedial Algebra I high school class; responsibilities in class included instructional support and encouragement of disabled children who comprised the class using token economy to augment verbal encouragement.

## **PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE**

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January 2005-present

### **Community Service Learning Practicum**

*Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD*

Practicum located in Belize, Central America; *Duties:* serve on the Advisory Board for the International Service Learning Project for students at the Community College of Baltimore County; assist students with service learning activities during practicum experience; teach educational courses at a service learning camp for rural Mayan children.

June 2001-August 2001

### **Rural Health Practicum**

*Quentin T. Burdick Rural Health Program, Hana, Maui, HI*

Practicum located in Hana, Hawai'i; Co-sponsored by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the Hana Community Health Center; *Duties:* organized community capacity building exercises, specifically nutrition and health education programs for the elderly, nutrition and exercise programs for community members, peer mentoring program for adolescents in the community, and practical clinical experience in the Hana Community Health Center.

July 2000

### **International Relations Practicum**

*Center of Excellence on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Honolulu, HI*

Practicum located in Bangkok, Thailand; Co-sponsored by the Government of Thailand, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and United States Army Pacific; *Duties:* Provided services for the South East Asia Peacekeeping Operations Symposium including international relations with diplomats from 17 different nations, recording of syndicate discussion sessions, photo taking of events and speakers, compilation of a comprehensive report for UN agencies and the federal and national governments of participating nations.

## **CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**

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October 2004-present

### **Closing the Gap Initiative / Community College of Baltimore County**

*Duties:* Assist in the development and evaluation of an intervention program targeting African American introductory psychology students at risk for academic failure; develop culturally appropriate measures to assess process, outcomes, and study skills of target population; assist in the design of a training program for faculty working with the target population; monitor data collection in psychology classes; write reports for college faculty, administrators, and grantees.

August 2002-October 2004

**State Incentive Grant / Coalition for a Drug Free Hawai'i , Honolulu, HI**

*Duties:* Assisted with independent evaluation of State Incentive Grant to evaluate adolescent substance abuse prevention and intervention programs; developed culturally appropriate process and outcome measures for Native Hawaiian and South East Asian communities to assess adult, adolescent, and child attitudes toward substance use; collect data throughout rural areas of Oahu; conducted database management and multivariate data analyses; collaborated with and support Coalition for a Drug Free Hawai'i; write grantee and state funding agency reports.

August 2003-August 2004

**Very Special Arts, Honolulu, HI**

*Duties:* Coordinated independent evaluation of state grant to promote access to the arts and career opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities; collected data through interviews and survey; conducted database management and analysis of sites from five Hawaiian islands; developed culturally appropriate outcome measures for Native Hawaiian and South East Asian communities to assess supports and barriers to inaccessible formats; participated in action research to assess policy, procedural and/or personal changes needed to overcome system and attitudinal barriers and obstacles for individuals with disabilities in the arts; write reports for participating Hawaiian communities, grantees and federal funding agency.

March 2001

**Hawai'i Smoke Free Kids and Soccer, Honolulu, HI**

*Duties:* Coordinated independent evaluation of smoking prevention program utilizing peer soccer programs as an educational medium to promote smoke-free lifestyle; developed culturally appropriate process and outcome measures for Native Hawaiian and South East Asian communities to assess adolescent, and child attitudes toward smoking; collected data utilizing interviewing and focus group techniques; write reports for grantee and state funding agency.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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- Dowrick, P. W., Anderson, J., Heyer, K., & Acosta, J. (2005). Postsecondary education across the USA: Experiences of adults with disabilities. Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 22(1), 41-47.
- Acosta, J. (2003). The effects of cultural differences on peer group relationships. In C. O'Donnell (Ed.), Culture, Peers, & Delinquency (pp. 13-26). New York, NY: Haworth Press.
- Acosta, J. (2003). The effects of cultural differences on peer group relationships. Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community, 25 (2), 13-26.
- Burgstahler, S., Crawford, L., & Acosta, J. (2001). Transition from two to four year schools for students with disabilities. Disability Studies Quarterly, 21 (1), 25-37.
- Helm, S., Jackson, D., Acosta, J., Graf, J., & Thai, N. (2001). Interdisciplinary training in rural health and community capacity building: Team Hawai'i. Rural Psychology Update, 13 (2), 1-4.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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- Acosta, J. (2005). The differential impact of depression on adults and adolescents. Presented to the employees of the Epoch Counseling Center.
- Acosta, J. (2004). Students with disabilities in the postsecondary environment. Presented to the members of the New Faculty Learning Community at the Community College of Baltimore County.
- Acosta, J. (2003). Community capacity building in rural Hawai'i: Linking community and culture. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Las Vegas, NM.
- Acosta, J. (2003). The effects of cultural differences on peer group relationships. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Las Vegas, NM.
- Acosta, J. (2002). Transition from school to work for individuals with disabilities. Paper presented at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities Studies, Honolulu, HI.
- Acosta, J. (2002). Transition from school to work for individuals with disabilities. Poster presented at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities Studies, Honolulu, HI.
- Acosta, J. (2001). Transition from two-year to four-year institutions for students with disabilities. Paper presented at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disability Studies, Honolulu, HI.
- Acosta, J. (2001). The importance of participatory action research in empowering marginalized populations. Symposium presented at the meeting of the Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Acosta, J. (2001). Students with disabilities in postsecondary education. Paper presented at the meeting of the Association on Higher Education and Disability Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Acosta, J. (1999). The effects of media on perceptions of class and race. Paper presented at the South Eastern Psychological Association Conference, Savannah, GA.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- 5/03 Awarded the Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment graduate student Scholarship Award for dissertation studies
- 2/00 Ford Foundation Minority Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 5/99 Golden Key Honor Society
- 5/99 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- 11/98 National Hispanic Merit Scholar
- 8/98 Awarded \$1,250 for Independent Research, the largest undergraduate award
- 10/97 Psi Chi Honor Society

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Psychological Association  
Society for Community Research and Action