PRESENTERS and UCR-ACE STAFF

Roxie Alcaraz, M.A.
Project Manager/Staff Research Associate III
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Roxie’s academic background is in experimental psychology. Prior to her work at the Presley Center, she worked at California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) coordinating research projects related to minors’ access to tobacco and the relationship between gender and ethnicity and health risk behaviors and the effects of such behaviors on mental health. She has a number of publications as a result of her research work at CSUSB. As Project Manager of the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (UCR-ACE), she coordinates and/or monitors all activities of the project. She was a member of the City of Riverside Red Team on Youth Violence Prevention and is currently the chair of Riverside's Youth Violence Prevention Policy Board. She is also a member of the Arlanza Neighborhood Collaborative, the Alvord Unified School District's Alvord Collaborative, and the Perris Red Team. Roxie is also a part-time instructor at Riverside Community College where she teaches Introduction to Psychology and Developmental Psychology.

Sandra Graham, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychological Studies in Education
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Sandra Graham is a professor of Psychological Studies in Education and chair of the Department of Education at University of California, Los Angeles. She also received her degree in Education at UCLA. Dr. Graham's teaching interests include achievement motivation, attribution theory, motivation in minority groups, social development, adolescent development, risk and resiliency. Her research interests are in the areas of cognitive approaches to motivation, the development of attributional processes, motivation in African Americans, peer-directed aggression and victimization. She is extensively published in these areas of expertise. Dr. Graham is currently the Principal Investigator on grants from the National Science Foundation, and the W. T. Grant Foundation. She also is the recipient of an Independent Scientist Award, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. She is a former recipient of the Early Contribution Award from Division 15 (Educational Psychology) of the American Psychological Association and a former Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California. Among her professional activities, Dr. Graham is an Associate Editor of Developmental Psychology, a member of the National Research Council Panel on Adolescent Health, and a member of the MacArthur Foundation Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice. As a member of the UCR-ACE core faculty, one of Dr. Graham's contributions has been a study on risk factors for adolescents transitioning from middle school to high school.
Nancy Guerra, Ed.D.
Professor of Psychology
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Nancy Guerra is a professor of psychology at University of California Riverside. She received her doctorate from Harvard University. Dr. Guerra's professional research interests and practice experience have focused on youth development and violence prevention. She is widely published and is well known nationally and internationally for her violence prevention and intervention research. She has served on a number of national expert panels and study groups, such as the President's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office of Education's National Standards Project, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's study group on serious and violent juvenile offenders. Recently, she was the principal investigator on an 8-year large-scale preventive intervention study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. This study evaluated the impact of a comprehensive and long-term intervention involving children, teachers, and families on the prevention of aggression and violence in inner city and urban communities. In addition, Dr. Guerra was the principal investigator on the evaluation of a school-wide wellness promotion and violence prevention project funded by a grant from SAMSHA to the Riverside Unified School District. She is also the principal investigator on the grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which funds the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention. The Center's efforts involve a multidisciplinary collaboration of faculty from six southern California universities with a focus on bridging the gaps between research and practice.

Joan Serra Hoffmann, Ph.D.
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Joan Serra Hoffman, Ph.D. joined the Injury Center's Division of Violence Prevention as a senior public health analyst in 2002, where she coordinates efforts in youth violence prevention and oversees the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence. With her PhD in Health and Social Policy, she has most recently served as a co-director of the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence. Before then, Dr. Hoffman was a senior scientist and project director of Global Violence Prevention Development at the Education Development Center. Her other experience includes directing the National Network of Violence Prevention Practitioners and serving as special scientist with the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals and program evaluator of the municipal Boston Violence Prevention Program. She has worked as a consultant to multi-lateral organizations and national governments assisting in the development of citizen security initiatives. Dr. Hoffman is a Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership fellow, working on a regional project on micro-finance and social entrepreneurship as a tool for violence prevention.

Cynthia Hudley, Ph.D.
Professor of Education
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Cynthia Hudley received a doctorate in educational psychology at UCLA. She is a professor of education at University of California, Santa Barbara and acting Associate Dean in the Graduate Division. Her research interests and expertise are in school-based youth violence
prevention, academic engagement and motivation among children at risk for delinquency, and prevention programs for youth. Dr. Hudley’s experience with youth both as an educator and a researcher is impressive. She is credentialed in California as a teacher; a reading specialist; a learning handicapped specialist; a resource specialist; a community college instructor; and a school administrator. In addition, she has conducted numerous workshops and professional presentations on issues pertaining to youth violence prevention and intervention. As a core faculty member of the UCR-ACE, Dr. Hudley coordinated all intervention activities for the first three years of the project. Her research with the Center has focused on implementation and evaluation of the BrainPower Program, a violence reduction curriculum that she developed.

Rowell Huesmann, Ph.D.
Professor of Communications Studies and Psychology
Senior Research Scientist, Research Center for Group Dynamics
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A professor of communications and psychology at the University of Michigan, Dr. Huesmann’s research interests include the causes of violent behavior, social cognition and computer simulations of behavior. He is an expert in youth violence prevention and intervention research design and data analysis. In addition, Dr. Huesmann is an internationally recognized authority on the role of violence in the media in stimulating aggressive behavior. He has been interviewed frequently on television and radio programs regarding his research findings and has testified before Congress about the effects of violence in the media. He has authored three books and numerous articles on violence in the media and its effect on people’s own aggressive behavior. He is the past president of the International Society of Research on Aggression and is a member of the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR). Dr. Huesmann received his doctoral degree at Carnegie Mellon University.

Tia Kim, M.A.
Doctoral Student, Developmental Psychology
Graduate Research Assistant, Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies
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Tia recently completed her fourth year as a doctoral student in developmental psychology at University of California, Riverside. She assisted on numerous research projects as an undergraduate, has presented research at conferences, and has three professional publications. Tia’s research interests are in the area of youth violence, gangs, and cultural and ethnic issues. As a graduate research assistant at the Presley Center, Tia works on the UCR-ACE project. She has authored papers and fact sheets for the Center’s website as well as represented the Center at national conferences. In addition, she co-authored a chapter on ethnic identity, social group membership, and youth violence in Nancy Guerra’s soon to be published book, Preventing Youth Violence in a Multicultural Society (APA Books).
Lyndee Knox, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine
Keck School of Medicine
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Lyndee Knox is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine. Her expertise is in psychological resilience in high-risk minority adolescents, development of sustainable prevention programs for high-risk inner-city youth, and training health professionals. As a co-PI of the UCR-ACE, Dr. Knox is the coordinator of the Center's training and outreach activities. Her main accomplishment through the UCR-ACE has been development of core curriculum for medical students and training physicians and other health care providers in the area of youth violence prevention. In cooperation with the American Medical Association, Dr. Knox authored *Connecting the Dots to Prevent Youth Violence: A Training and Outreach Guide for Physicians and Other Health Professionals* (AMA Publications).

Cheryl Maxson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society
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Cheryl Maxson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California’s Irvine campus. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from USC. Dr. Maxson is co-author of *Street Gang Patterns and Policies* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming) and *Responding to Troubled Youth* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and co-editor of *The Eurogang Paradox: Gangs and Youth Groups in the U.S. and Europe* (Kluwer/Plenum, 2001) and *The Modern Gang Reader* (Roxbury Publishing, 1st ed., 1995; 2nd ed., 2001; 3rd ed., forthcoming). Her articles, chapters, and policy reports concern street gangs, status offenders, youth violence, juvenile justice legislation, drug sales, community policing and community treatment of juvenile offenders. She has served as President of the Western Society of Criminology, where she is honored as a Fellow, and as Executive Counselor of the American Society of Criminology and associate editor of its journal, *Criminology*.

Robert Nash Parker, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology and Criminology
Director, Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies
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Robert Nash Parker is a professor of sociology and Director of the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies at University of California, Riverside. He is currently a co-PI of the UCR-ACE and was a co-PI of "Health People, Healthy Places", a SAMHSA funded project to reduce the risk of school violence in the Riverside Unified School District. Prior to his arrival at UC Riverside, Dr. Parker taught in sociology departments at the University of Akron, Rutgers University, and the University of Iowa; held an appointment as an NIAAA Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley; and was a Senior Research Scientist and Study Director at the Prevention Research Center, Berkeley, CA, a non profit National Center funded by NIAAA and devoted to the study and prevention of alcohol related social problems. In addition, he has published widely in sociology and criminology on the causes of violence in general and homicide
in particular, including a 1995 book published by State University of New York Press, *Alcohol and Homicide: A Deadly Combination of Two American Traditions*. Overall, Dr. Parker’s research interests include criminal justice policy analysis and evaluation; the relationship between alcohol and violence, both offending and victimization, the relationship between alcohol policy and crime prevention; and the development and application of geospatial statistical models to the study of violence, alcohol, and other social problems.

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**Pedro Payne, Ph.D.**
Executive Director, Human Relations Commission
Riverside, California
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Pedro Payne recently received his doctoral degree in sociology from University of California, Riverside. As a doctoral student, he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Presley Center on Dr. Nancy Guerra's school wellness center project. Prior to his current position with the city of Riverside, Dr. Payne was hired by the city as project coordinator for the Arlanza Initiative, a grant funded youth violence prevention pilot program. As coordinator of this project, he was instrumental in the development, building, and opening of the Eric M. Solander Arlanza Youth and Family Resource Center, a resource center that provides a number of social services for children and their families in a high-risk area of the city. Now the Executive Director of the Riverside Human Relations Commission, Dr. Payne is also a member of the Youth Violence Prevention Policy Board that oversees and guides the activities of the resource center as well as other youth violence prevention efforts in the city.

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**Emilie Phillips Smith, Ph.D.**
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Emilie Phillips Smith is an associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University where she is faculty in the Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts and affiliate faculty with the Prevention Research Center. She teaches courses on adolescence, family diversity, and risk and resilience. Dr. Smith’s work is in the area of preventing youth violence and aggression and promoting positive child and family development across the home, school, and community contexts. She has been involved in a number of local and national initiatives across multiple sites to reduce violence and aggression using universal school-based and targeted family intervention. Her work with the EARLY ALLIANCE prevention study has been acknowledged by former Secretary of Education, Dick Riley and she was featured in national satellite trainings. Dr. Smith has also served as a Senior Service Fellow in the Prevention Development and Evaluation Branch, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where she was recognized for her contribution to developing the Research Agenda for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. She has authored numerous papers on youth and family development and on the role of racial identity, culture, and ethnicity in child and family development. She is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Research on Adolescence* and regularly reviews articles for several journals including *Child Development*, *the Journal of Family Psychology*, and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*. Dr. Smith received her degree in Psychology from Michigan State University.
Marcelino Serna
Site Manager
Perris Valley Family Resource Center
Email:

Marcelino currently has a degree in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. He has over 18 years experience working in the public sector. He spent 7 years as a Child Welfare & Attendance Investigator with the Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts. In addition, he has worked in the Recreation and Community Services field for the cities of Riverside, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga planning, organizing and managing a variety of recreation and human service programs. Mr. Serna is currently the Site Manager for the Perris Valley Family Resource Center and the interim Supervisor for 4 family resource centers in Riverside County. His work with the resource centers includes developing, coordinating, implementing, and maintaining a variety of social service and public education awareness programs associated with self-sufficiency, empowerment, and the well-being of children and families. Mr. Serna is a former Chairperson of the Riverside Youth Accountability Board for the Casa Blanca area of Riverside and is currently the Chairperson of the Perris Youth Crime Prevention Red Team.

Dean Sidelinger, M.D., M.S., M.S.Ed.
Assistant Professor
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Dean Sidelinger is a faculty pediatrician at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He joined the faculty following a fellowship in Community Pediatrics at UCSD and completion of a Masters of Science in Education from the University of Southern California. He currently oversees the education and training components of several programs including the UCSD Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (UCSD-ACE); the UCSD Comprehensive Center of Excellence in Partnership for Community Outreach, Research on Disparities in Health and Training; and the San Diego Community Pediatrics Training Initiative. Dr. Sidelinger is currently involved in training pediatric residents and medical students in the areas of youth violence prevention, culturally effective care, and health disparities. He serves as a Commissioner and Past Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County.

Louis Tuthill
Doctoral Student, Sociology
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Louis is a fifth year doctoral student in sociology at the University of California, Riverside. He has worked for the Presley Center for the last five years on the ACE grant and several other research projects. He is also the UCR-ACE Web Designer and has compiled several of the statistics available on the website. Louis is interested in the sociology of violence both at the global and local level. His research interests include homicide, domestic violence, terrorism, violent social movements, globalization and urban inequality.
Kirk Williams, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology and Criminology
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Kirk Williams is a professor of sociology and Associate Director of the Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies at the University of California, Riverside. He is also a co-principal investigator of the UCR-ACE. Dr. Williams received his doctoral degree from the University of Arizona and was a post-doctoral Fellow at Yale University. Before coming to UCR in 1998, he served as the founding Associate Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder. There, he directed research and technical assistance efforts on human development and violence prevention, particularly violence involving youth and intimate partners. Dr. Williams has published widely on the causes and prevention of violence, particularly involving youth or adult intimate partners, with the most recent publications addressing the implementation of wellness centers to prevent youth violence, the ecological context of youth development, and domestic violence risk assessment. He has received numerous grants from federal and state funding sources, in addition to private foundations to support his research. He also has worked extensively with community-based groups, schools, and agencies in violence prevention planning, implementation, and evaluation.

MARTHA MATUS
Neighborhood Coordinator
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Martha Matus is the Arlanza Neighborhood Coordinator at the Eric M. Solander Arlanza Youth and Family Resource Center in the City of Riverside. She received her degree at California Baptist University in Behavioral Science and Christian Counseling. Prior to her work in Arlanza, she was the Eastside Neighborhood Coordinator in the Office of Neighborhoods, which focuses on neighborhood organizing and establishing neighborhood associations. In addition, Martha worked in the public school system with the Riverside Unified School District for five years and with the American Cancer Society for 10 years.

Victoria Jackson
Executive Director
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Riverside, California
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Victoria Jackson is the Executive Director of Coalition for Common Ground, an organization that provides and supports programs which encourage dialogue and cooperative action among individuals from different cultures, religious, and ethnic groups. The Coalition formed the Cops & Clergy Network, a groundbreaking initiative reflecting the first time in the city’s history over 80 clergy, from all denominations, connected with law-enforcement to dialogue, and offer services addressing youth development and anti-gang activities. An accountant by profession, Victoria is also a member of the steering committee for Project Bridge, an officer of the Board of Directors for the NAACP, Community Access Center, and African American Health Council. She is the former Board President of the Riverside American Cancer Society. She also belongs to the Mayor’s Multicultural Forum, National Council for Negro Women, Riverside Police Advisory Committee, and the Commission for the Disabled.