

Alison Wishard Guerra

Associate Professor at UC San Diego

San Diego, CA, US

Wishard Guerra's research focuses on culture and development in early childhood.

Biography

Wishard Guerra graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Psychology and Latin American and Latino Studies, and received an M.A. and Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Applied Developmental Psychology from the UCLA School of Education and Information Sciences. Wishard Guerra's research focuses on culture and development in early childhood, with particular focus on social and language development among Latino children from low-income families. Her research looks specifically at how social relationships and interactions may serve as protective factors for later cognitive development among at-risk children. She studies within group variations related to immigration and acculturation experiences and their associations to children's developmental outcomes. Wishard Guerra is a member of the National Early Head Start Research Consortium where she continues an active line of research investigating longitudinal social and cognitive developmental outcomes. Wishard Guerra was a member of the expanded research consortia that developed the California Preschool Learning Foundations on English-Language Development, and has served as an expert reviewer of English Language Development and Cultural Diversity in the development of Volumes 2 (Physical Development, Health, and Visual and Performing Arts) and 3 (Science, and History/Social Sciences) of the California Preschool Learning Foundations and the California Preschool Curriculum Framework, published by the California Department of Education. Her current research at UC San Diego investigates the role of social pretend play in the development of oral language and school readiness among Mexican heritage children. In the Education Studies department she teaches courses on early childhood education, cognitive development, culture and developmental theory, quantitative research methodology, dissertation writing seminar, and research on curriculum design. Wishard Guerra is a 2009-2010 Hellman Foundation Fellow and the recipient of a 2009-2011 and 2011-2013 UC Links grants.

Areas of Expertise

Early Childhood Education , K-12 Education During Pandemics, Coronavirus, COVID-19, Applied Developmental Psychology

Affiliations

Member: Society for Research in Child Development, Member: American Educational Research Association

Education

UCLA
Ph.D. Education

University of California, Santa Cruz
B.A. Psychology, Latin American Studies

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