

Felipa Chavez, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor | School of Psychology at Florida Tech

Melbourne, FL, US

Dr. Chavez pursues a program of research reflecting issues of family dysfunction as seen through parent-child interactions.

About

Dr. Felipa Chavez is an assistant professor of clinical psychology at Florida Tech. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology, with a concentration in working with children and families, from the University at Buffalo (UB). She is a former NIAAA post-doctoral fellow at UB's Research Institute on Addictions, where she trained in research examining early child development and parent-child relationships in heavy drinking alcohol families. Currently, Dr. Chavez is the Director of Building Blocks: PCIT at Florida Tech, which disseminates Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to local families through the Community Psychological Services center, which operates out of the university's Scott Center for Autism. PCIT is an evidenced-based intervention in the treatment of children with behavioral disorders such as ADHD, conduct disorder, oppositional disorder and ASD. Dr. Chavez has trained over 60 clinical psychology graduate students in the dissemination of PCIT treatment services, and she is currently working toward becoming a regional-level trainer. Dr. Chavez also conducts a program of research providing Teacher Child Interaction Therapy (TCIT) services to at-risk underserved community classrooms at schools, daycares and community centers through her Project Play research program, which has been partially funded by a Fight Against Community Violence Target grant. Through her community-based outreach research, Dr. Chavez examines how improvements in disruptive classroom behaviors, through the implementation of TCIT, can improve classroom manageability and student academic performance and reduce teacher stress, with rippling effects for reduced child abuse potential in the home. Dr. Chavez also has over 16 years of experience in teaching a multicultural course curriculum. Additionally, based on her years of experience in the delivery of both PCIT and TCIT services to underserved communities, she has developed a tip sheet offering clinical/training guidelines for the practical applications of PCIT principles in working with Black families in treatment, in support of the Black Lives Matter social movement. It is entitled: "We are Light that Overcomes Darkness as we strive to be our Brother's Keeper: PCIT Applications for supporting Black Families in Treatment." Other noteworthy accomplishments include her appearance on the Academic Minute program and a two-part series on how to address issues of the COVID-19 pandemic with children.

Areas of Expertise

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Comorbid Parental Psychopathology, Family Dysfunction, Psychology, Child Psychopathology, Marital Conflict

Event Appearances

Infants of alcoholic fathers

World Association of Infant Mental Health Conference

An examination of the longitudinal impact of partner support and stress on parental drinking
25th Annual Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting

Racial and gender discrimination in attitudes regarding CPS: A new scale of measurement
APSAC 10th National Colloquium

Education

SUNY@Buffalo
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

SUNY@Buffalo
M.A.

New York University
B.A.

Accomplishments

Junior Investigator Award
2002 - 25th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA)

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