

ANA L. PONCIANO, LMSW

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EDUCATION

PhD	The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), School of Social Work	Expected January 2028
MSW	UTA, Social Work Concentration: Mental Health & Substance Abuse	May 2018
BA	UTA, Social Work Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Minors: French	August 2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

Salesmanship Club Scholarship	January 2012-2016
Maverick Transfer Scholarship	August 2014
Ph. D. Dean's Fellowship in Social Work	August 2024-Present
Graduate Dean's Research Fellowship	May-August 2025
Crossing Latinidades Mellon Predoctoral Research Fellowship Summer Institution 2026	April 2026- July 2026

FUNDED RESEARCH

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Policies for Actions: Policy and Law Research to Build a Culture of Health, Assessing the impact of Florida's immigration policy on immigrant families (\$121,475), Role: Graduate Research Assistant

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UTA, School of Social Work Research Assistant, Dr. Rafieifar	January 2025 to Present
• Scoping Review of the Medical Support in Florida for Mixed-Status Families • Reviewing Mixed Status with Siblings Using QIMS • Coding and analyzing 54 semi-structured interviews	
UTA, School of Social Work Research Assistant, Dr. Childress	August 2024 to December 2024
• Coded 87 Articles/Scoping Review/ How does migration impact children in Central Asia	
UTA, School of Social Work Research Assistant, Dr. Vazquez	August 2024 to December 2024
• Analyzing Data/ "Spanish Language Older Adult eHealth Learning"	

PUBLICATIONS

- Rafieifar, M., Marcial, M., Naseh, M., & Ponciano, A. Sibling relationships in mixed-status immigrant families: A qualitative interpretive meta-synthesis. Submitted to *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF-2025-10515-MSR).
- Rafieifar, M., Kirsch, J., Adeleke, C., Haran, H., Ponciano, A., Held, M. L., & Ramirez, G. (Under review). A systematic review and network meta-analysis of the efficacy of psychological interventions for reducing posttraumatic stress, anxiety, or depression among forcibly displaced children. *Psychological Bulletin*, Manuscript (BUL-2025-2105)
- Rafieifar, M., Beaulaurier, R. L., Ponciano, A., & Jacob, M. M. (In press) Family dynamics and conflict in the context of deportation risk. In A. Corchado & M. Blanco (Eds.), *Beyond the law: Comprehensive approaches to family conflict resolution*. REUS.
- Xu, A., Rubalcava Hernandez, E. J., Wasim, A., Griffin, D., Ponciano, A., Cook Heffron, L., & Kattari, S. K. (In Progress). Resisting erasure through epistemic justice: Examples from social work scholar activists. *Diversity and Inclusion Research*. (Under review)
- Rubilar Donoso, G., LaBrenz, C. A., Ponciano, A. L. 'Dehumanizing Social Work' or A 'Tool to Bridge the Divide'? Perceptions of the Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Future of Social Work. (Under Review)
- Ponciano, A., Silva-Brave, S., Mwibanda, T., Pelletier, T., Henry, A. Measuring Decolonization in Therapy: A Scoping Review of the Decolonization & Cultural Adaptation Rating Scale (DCARS Scale) Framework. (Under Review).
- Ponciano, A. L., Sesay, B., Henry, A. R. Association of Insurance and Language with Self-Care Confidence in The Hispanic/ Latino Population. (In progress)
- Ponciano, A. L. The Morning He Never Came Home: Racialized Immigration Enforcement, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, and the Structural Erosion of Hispanic/ Latin Family Well-Being. (Under Review)

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Ponciano, A. (2026, May 6). *Decolonizing Therapy: Centering Indigenous and Ancestral Healing in Mental Practices* [Conference poster presentation]. Presentation presented at the International Social Work Research Conference in Belize.

Ponciano, A. (2026, April 15). *Bio Psychosocial* [Guest lecture]. Lecture presented at SOCW 3309: Social Work Practice II, The University of Texas at Arlington.

Ponciano, A. (2026, January 17). *Parent-Child and Role Negotiation in Mixed-Status Families* [Conference flash talk presentation]. Presentation presented at the Society for Social Work and Research.

Ponciano, A. (2026, January 16). *Is Decolonizing Social Work a Lost Cause? Asking the Questions No One Wants to Answer* [Conference panel presentation]. Presentation presented at the Society for Social Work and Research.

Ponciano, A. (2026, January 15). *Decolonizing Therapy: Centering Indigenous and Ancestral Healing in Mental Practices* [Conference oral presentation]. Presentation presented at the Society for Social Work and Research.

Ponciano, A. (2025, September 19). *Culturally Responsive Clinical Approaches to Supporting Latin/Hispanic Fathers' Mental Health* [Conference presentation]. Presentation presented at the Hispanic/Latin Mental Health Conference, Canneta.

Ponciano, A. (2025, April 2). *Decolonizing therapy* [Guest lecture]. Lecture presented at SOCW 3300: Social Work Professionalism & Student Success, The University of Texas at Arlington.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Hispanic Mental Health Conference

Dallas College, Mountain View, Dallas, September 13-14, 2024

Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW), ASWB, April 25, 2024

Currently under the supervision of Nury Marquez, LCSW, I am working on obtaining my LCSW.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Trained, EMDRIA, August 15, 2024

EMDR Therapy Protocol for Early Intervention & Ongoing Traumatic Stress, EMDRIA, August 5, 2025

Research Institute for Social Work Education (RISE) Program, Research Institute for Social Work Education (RISE) Program, January 2026

Treating Couples with EMDR, EMDRIA, March 3, 2026

Autism Symposium, PESI, June 19, 2026

Currently under the supervision of Viviana Trian, LCSW, I am working on becoming fully certified in EMDR.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UTA Instructor of Record, SOCW 3303, *Social Work Policy & Service*, January 2026-May 2026

UTA, Research Assistant, August 2024-Present

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE CLINICIAN AND COMMUNITY

Community Does It, Mental Health Therapist, Present

Love Roots Therapy, Mental Health Therapist, August 2023- August 2024

Cristo Rey Dallas College Preparatory, Director of Admissions, October 2018- March 2023

Nexus Recovery Center, Intern Counselor, August 2017- May 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

SSWR Doctoral Student Committee, May 2025-Present

Serve as an active member of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Doctoral Student Committee, which represents and supports the interests of doctoral students in social work. Contribute to initiatives that promote professional development, networking, mentorship, and research dissemination for doctoral students at the national level.

SSWR Doctoral Member, October 2025-Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

The University of Texas at Arlington: BSW & MSW Mentor, The School of Social Work, November 2024-August 2025

Hispanic Mental Health Conference: Conference Proposal Committee Review, May 2025

Interprofessional Education Facilitator (IPE): A Day in the Life of Stimulation, The University of Texas at Arlington, April 2025

COMMUNITY SERVICE

El Poder Es Tuyo, Founder/ CEO, November 2023-Present

In 2024, St. Rita Catholic Church conducted a series of 10 classes with 35 couples, focusing on effective communication strategies for partners. Building on this initiative, I will launch a similar series in Community Does in January 2025, designed to help 14 couples enhance their communication skills.