

MARIA CAROLINA GONZÁLEZ-PRATS, Ph.D.

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KEY RELEVANT SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

- ❖ Ten years of experience researching military health, well-being and resilience topics such as military/veteran suicide, military sexual trauma (MST), homelessness, and workforce transitioning challenges, especially the unique obstacles that women servicemembers and veterans face when accessing resources and services such as VA healthcare, mental health treatment and a VA service-connected disability rating.
- ❖ Eight years of experience researching the incidence and prevalence rates of sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military (MST), including a recent study of twenty-one MST survivors, detailing their perspective on the quality of the military's prevention and response efforts to MST, and their recommendations for improvement.
- ❖ Five years of leadership experience with the military justice system as well as the military's prevention and response efforts to MST while working for the Department of Defense.
- ❖ Twelve years of applying quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis best practices to large, complex organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors.
- ❖ Ten years of project management development, coordination, teaming, and leadership resulting in delivery of a wide variety of deliverables within scope, schedule and budget.
- ❖ Fourteen years of experience successfully developing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with external stakeholders and clients from the public and private sectors.
- ❖ Over 20 years of experience of preparing, disseminating internal and external communications, and presenting reports, briefs, and executive summaries for a variety of audiences ranging from senior leaders to top policymakers to undergraduate and graduate students.
- ❖ Bilingual in Spanish and English. Excellent oral, written and facilitation skills.

EXPERIENCE

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work and Social Research

2013 –

2020

Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Conducted eight years of extensive research on MST, resulting in a co-authored book about women veterans (*Women Veterans: Lifting the Veil of Invisibility*) a peer-reviewed article (*Accountability, Complacency or Obfuscation?*), and a qualitative dissertation study focusing on the quality of the military's prevention and response efforts to MST and recommendations for improvement from the survivor's viewpoint (*Examining the Narratives of MST Survivors*).
- ❖ Hired, trained, and mentored a secondary coder to review, code and reconcile the findings from a twenty-one-participant research study, to strengthen the integrity of the thematic analysis.
- ❖ Served as a Co-Principal Investigator (PI) on a mixed methods research study (including use of SPSS) assessing and evaluating the quality of a graduate school level research methods education curriculum, resulting in a presentation at the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).
- ❖ Crafted high-impact surveys eliciting richer and higher quality data through distinguishing between productive and non-productive answers from the standpoint of the survey taker.

OSLER TL-1 Fellowship and Human Investigation Program

2017-

2020

Oregon Health Sciences University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Developed big picture systems thinking within the fields of medicine and public health through additional coursework in research methods, statistics, epidemiology, proposal development, project management and community-based research, resulting in the completion of a graduate level certificate in Human Investigations Program from OHSU's School of Medicine.

Project Manager, Pathways Transition Training Partnership

2015-

2016

Regional Research Institute, Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Designed webinars, selected resources for dissemination of knowledge efforts, and evaluated online training modules in support of two co-principal research investigators (PIs).
- ❖ Built Knowledge Translation partnerships, designed studies, collected and input data, conducted data analysis, and evaluated progress of the project.
- ❖ Prepared the monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports for PI review and input; presented progress of the project at weekly staff meetings.

Board of Trustees

2014 – 2016

Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Served as a trustee on a fifteen-member board responsible for the governance of the University in areas including, but not limited to, tuition and fee rates, campus public safety, and strategic planning.
- ❖ Appointed by former Governor John Kitzhaber and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate.

Research Assistant, Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Demonstration Lab

Summer 2014

Veteran's Administration Hospital (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Transcribed interviews of veterans receiving medical care from the V.A. Hospital and local clinics to gauge the effectiveness of the PACT model of health care delivery
- ❖ Collaborated with a five-person research team coding and conducting a thematic analysis of patient interviews using ATLAS.ti software.

Graduate Assistant, Veterans Resource Center

2013

–2014

Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Designed and conducted an effective needs survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the university's programs and resources for student veterans and their families; analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, presented results and recommendations to the Veteran Resource Center Program Director and various members of the university administration.
- ❖ Counseled student veterans and their families in the areas of academic counseling and veteran benefits.
- ❖ Served as a liaison between student veterans, and other members of the Portland State University Faculty/Staff, resulting in increased understanding of military-civilian transitioning, and military culture.

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Co-Instructor

Winter 2014 & 2018/ Summer 2014 & Spring

2013

Portland State University (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Taught basic statistics and research methods at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- ❖ Developed and refined virtual, in-person, and digital communications skills by supporting instructors in carrying out classroom assignments and teaching diverse students in ways that promoted their success.

Field Consultant/District Manager

2009 –

2012

7-Eleven Inc. (Reno, Nevada)

- ❖ Consulted with and coached retail leaders at eight 7-Eleven stores with \$5 to \$7 million in revenues.
- ❖ Directly improved the infrastructure and increased operational efficiency of a franchised store 40% in a six-month period, resulting in the Franchisee earning a regional top 3 "Most Improved" award as well as earning corporate approval to become a multiple store owner.

Master of Arts of Psychology in Organization Development

2006–

2008

Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park, California)

- ❖ Designed, deployed, and analyzed individual and group interviews in order to create and execute change management and process improvement services for a private company as part of a three-person consulting team.
- ❖ Conducted a qualitative research study to investigate the Army's transitioning program for outgoing and retiring soldiers and officers, interviewing Army veterans about their experience transitioning from the military and into the civilian workforce.

Director of Branch Operations

2004 – 2006

One Legal Inc. (Novato, California)

- ❖ Supervised four regional level and two corporate level managers responsible for the concurrent day-to-day operations of 17 branch offices and more than 50 third-party vendors throughout California.
- ❖ Created, collaborated on, and executed a multifaceted recruitment and succession strategy resulting in a savings of over \$350,000 and formalized an unprecedented career track for Branch Operations of a statewide, multi-site corporation.
- ❖ Planned and led an intra-department initiative to increase training and certification standards for over 60 branch operations personnel in the areas of customer service, operational efficiency, supervisory skills and updated applications in technology and court procedure.

Supply and Logistics Officer

2001 – 2004

United States Army (Republic of Korea; Iraq; Kuwait; Ft. Stewart, Georgia)

- ❖ Served as the Executive Officer (XO) of a 155 - person company responsible for the fuel, water and supply needs of over 13,000 personnel deployed in the Republic of Korea. Carried out Congressionally-mandated programs and internal program evaluation in compliance with Department of Defense regulations and federal law.
- ❖ Established and led 24-hour warehouse operations in three concurrent locations in Kuwait and Iraq, supporting over 10,000 Soldiers with mission-critical supplies for combat operations during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

- ❖ Coordinated, revised and evaluated training initiatives to measure current and forecasted Division Support Command (DISCOM) and XVIII Airborne Corps requirements for both service providers and customers. In collaboration with Division Material Management Center (DMMC), and the General Supply Office (GSO), monitored and reported on the status, progress, timeliness, quantity, and quality of six different classes of mission critical supplies, providing technical support to the Battalion Commander and his staff on potential problems and necessary actions.
- ❖ Designed, developed and co-facilitated with Company Equal Opportunity (EO) Advisor a Hispanic Heritage Ethnic Observance for over 400 soldiers sharing culture, dancing, food, and history with two companies.

Youth and Family Advocate

1998 - 2000

Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Managed a caseload of more than 100 high-risk Latino students in an urban high school, located in one of the most distressed neighborhoods in Oregon. Facilitated communication with students, teachers, administrators and families with a focus on collaborative efforts to support and increase student retention, resulting in over ninety percent retention of students on caseload.
- ❖ Increased family involvement and created awareness of school policies, local programs and services while providing continuous bilingual/bicultural support to school administration, students and their families, and community leadership to direct them to community resources.
- ❖ Developed, assessed and modified project milestones to measure current and forecasted outcomes for service providers, students, and their families and meet multi-year grant requirements.

Civil Affairs Specialist, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade

1998-2000

United States Army Reserve (Portland, Oregon)

- ❖ Researched, analyzed, compiled and reported on international community data focusing on area of Southeast Asia and its cultural customs to better prepare military liaisons to interact and communicate with the Host Nation and/or local civilian population in conformance with United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command guidelines and standards.

Hispanic Mentor Coordinator, Oregon State University Extension/4-H
(Portland, Oregon)

1998

- ❖ Designed and implemented a pilot mentor program to match junior high school students with high school mentors, and high school students with community leaders; developing, coordinating and revising project milestones to measure current and forecasted grant-level requirements for both service providers, students, and their families.
- ❖ Created and disseminated marketing materials in both Spanish and English in order to ensure target populations are informed of services and activities, maximizing community outreach and support at the local elementary schools, middle school and high schools, as well as neighboring housing communities to include but not limited to, preparing and conducting presentations at the local Chamber of Commerce and collaborative community events, developing press releases, and the successful solicitation of a pro-bono donation for a twenty second spot on local Portland morning TV show announcing need for adult mentors in the community.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

- ❖ **Ph.D.**, *Social Work and Social Research*, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon (2020)
- ❖ **Graduate Certificate**, *Human Investigations Program*, School of Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon (2020)
- ❖ **M.A.**, *Psychology, Organizational Development*, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California (2008)
- ❖ **B.A.**, *Sociology and Public Justice*, Oswego State University, Oswego, New York (1997)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- ❖ Harris, G.L.A., Sumner, R.F., **González-Prats, M.C.** (2018). *Women Veterans: Lifting the Veil of Invisibility*. Taylor and Francis Group/Routledge Press, New York, NY. ISBN: 9781498727600
- ❖ Meine, M., Asencio, H.D., Byrne, T., Dunn, T.P., **González-Prats, M.C.**, Koven, S.G., Mujkic, E., (2017, October). Online Symposium Edition of Public Integrity: Ethical Questions Regarding PTSD, Unwanted Sexual Behavior, Gender Issues and Ethical Leadership in the Military. American Society for Public Administration.
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.** (2017). Accountability, Complacency, or Obfuscation? Analyzing the U.S. Military's Response to MST. *Journal of Public Integrity*. DOI: 10.1080/10999922.2017.1278668
- ❖ Tuepker, A., Nicolaidis, C., Reyes, M.E., **González-Prats, M.C.**, Skaperdas, E., Kansagara, D. (2017). Veteran Patient Perceptions of the Implementation of a Patient Centered Medical Home Model. *Patient Education and Counseling*. DOI: 10.1177/2374373517731602
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.**, Looney, J. (July 2014). Student Veteran Program Assessment (Effectiveness of Programs and Services), Veterans Resource Center. Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.**, Looney, J. (May 2013). Student Veterans Needs Assessment, The Learning Center. Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- ❖ Facundo, R., Wise, V., **González-Prats, M.C.** (May 2014) *Student Veteran Program Assessment (Effectiveness of Programs and Services)*, Veterans Resource Center, Portland State University, Portland Oregon.
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.**, Lee, J., Donlan, W.T. *Can we do better in teaching research among MSW program students?* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting. October 15-18, 2015.

- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.**, Danielson, E. (2014, May). *Continuing the Conversation: Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Converting Awareness into Action*. Student Research Symposium. Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.** (2014, April). *The Absence of the Warrior Identity Within Military Sexual Trauma Discourse*. Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Research Colloquium, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- ❖ **González-Prats, M.C.** (2013, May). *The Transition of the Military Leader into the Civilian Workforce*. Student Research Symposium, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT:

- ❖ **Guest Speaker**, “Voices for Veteran Women: A Conversation about Military Inequity Issues Regarding Women, Race and Ethnicity”. Sponsored by the Portland State University Veteran Resource Center. **(March 2021)**
- ❖ **Volunteer Veteran Participant**, “Veterans’ Experience Testimonials: An Inside Look at Veterans Filing MST-Related Claims”. VBA Virtual Military Sexual Trauma (MST) National Training Symposium. Sponsored by the Office of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, Veterans Administration. **(November 2020)**
- ❖ **Volunteer Veteran Participant**, “I AM NOT INVISIBLE” campaign. Sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs and the PSU Veterans Resource Center. Portland, Oregon. <http://www.iani.oregondva.com> **(January-February 2017)**
- ❖ **Co-Coordinator**: “A Conversation about Student Veterans: Succeeding and in Transition”, Hatfield School of Government, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon **(May 2014)**

- ❖ **Co-Coordinator**, “Continuing the Conversation: Military Sexual Trauma and Converting Awareness into Action”, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (S.A.A.M) Women’s Veteran Outreach Action Team, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon (**May 2014**)
- ❖ **Volunteer**, “Stand Down for (Veteran) Homelessness”, American Red Cross/Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon (**September 2014**)
- ❖ **District Fundraising Liaison/Coordinator**, Shamrock Campaign, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), Sierra Nevada District, 7-Eleven Inc. Reno, Nevada (**March 2012**)
- ❖ **District Liaison/Corporate Donation Coordinator**, *Stand Down for Homelessness*, V.A. Homeless Veteran Program, Sierra Nevada District, 7-Eleven Inc., Reno, Nevada (**November 2011**)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION/MEMBERSHIPS:

- ❖ **2019-Present** *Member*, Minority Veterans of America (MVA)
- ❖ **2016-Present** *Member*, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- ❖ **2015-Present** *Member*, Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).
- ❖ **2014-2016** *Governor’s Appointment to the Board of Trustees*,
Portland State University, State of Oregon.
- ❖ **2009-Present** *Member*, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
- ❖ **2008-Present** *Member*, Organization Development Network
- ❖ **2006-Present** *Captain*, United States Army, Honorably Discharged
- ❖ **2004-Present** *Member*, Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- ❖ **(2017-2020)** *TL1 Fellowship Award* (funded by NIH/NCATS)
Oregon Clinical Translational Research Institute/Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, Oregon

- ❖ **(2017)** *Laurel's Graduate Award*: Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

- ❖ **(2014)** *President's University Service Award*: Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

- ❖ **(1998-2001)** *Military Awards*: Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal (4th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge