

Jennifer M. Gómez, Ph.D.

Professional development seminar “Writing for *The Conversation*.” This year’s seminar will be held on **Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 12-1:30 pm (virtual only)**

**Faculty and Academic Staff Professional Development Panelist Bio Template
(No more than 1 page)**

1. What is your educational history? (e.g., What was your undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate, major? Any educational experience that stood out or made an impression?)

As an undergraduate, I attended San Diego Mesa College while being funded on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program. This Program places promising underrepresented community college students into paid RA positions at university labs, with the goal that they will go on to get their Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. I earned a B.A. in psychology from San Diego State University (2011), M.S. (2012), and Ph.D. (2017) in (clinical) psychology from University of Oregon.

2. What is your career history at Wayne State and what do you do in your current role?

I was a postdoctoral scholar in the WSU Postdoctoral to Faculty Transition Program (2017-2019), with my appointment in the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development (MSPI). I am currently an Assistant Professor, with a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and MPSI.

3. What do you enjoy most about your current work?

I am most excited to have a greater capacity as faculty to contribute to WSU through my research, mentorship, teaching, curricula development, and service, including continuously working towards greater equity and inclusion for all members of our community.

4. Who has made a positive impact on your professional trajectory? Who are you grateful for and why?

I have phenomenal mentors, supporters, and collaborators, who believe in me and share their expertise with me, while respecting my intellect and autonomy. These include: my undergraduate advisors at San Diego State University, Audrey Hokoda and Emilio Ulloa; my graduate advisor at University of Oregon, Jennifer Freyd; my solid support system of former WSU colleagues, Annmarie Caño and Steve Ondersma; and my colleagues of Ford Fellows, Koritha Mitchell, Rashawn Ray, Victor Ray, and Aly Sewell.

5. Anything else you’d like to share about yourself?

I moved to New York City when I was 17 to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH). I was a professional ballet dancer with DTH for 5 years (2002-2007).

Arash Javanbakht, M.D., is a psychiatrist and serves as the director of the Stress, Trauma, and Anxiety Research Clinic (STARC). His work is focused on anxiety, trauma, and PTSD. He often helps civilians, refugees, and first responders with PTSD.

Several research studies at the STARC examine the impact of exposure to war trauma in adults and children Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and biological and psychological factors of risk and resilience. This research examines genetic and inflammation correlates of trauma as well. This work is funded by an NICHD R01 award. Also, use of art, dance and movement, and yoga and mindfulness in helping refugee families overcome stress.



STARC also works neurobiology of psychotherapy, and on utilization of augmented reality and telemedicine to develop a method of providing in vivo treatment for anxiety disorders and PTSD.

Dr Javanbakht's work has been featured on the CNN, National Geographic, Aljazeera, NPR, Washington Post, Smithsonian, PBS, American Psychiatric Association Press Briefing, Anxiety and Depression Association of America, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and tens of other media outlets.