Saury Ramos-Torres
saury.ramostorres@austin.utexas.edu

EDUCATION

2021	Ph.D. in Special Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Advisor: Dr. Stacy Dymond Dissertation: *Preparing Students with Intellectual Disability for Employment.*
2016	M. Ed. in Special Education, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Advisor: Dr. Yolanda González Thesis: *Teacher Training Workshops to Work the Communication Needs of Students with Rett Syndrome.*
2013	B. A. in Elementary and Special Education, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao
2011	Exchange program in Education, Autonomous University of Madrid

TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

LBSI, Department of Education, Illinois
Autism, Department of Education of Puerto Rico
Elementary Education (K-3), Department of Education of Puerto Rico
Special Education (K-12), Department of Education of Puerto Rico

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCES

Adjunct Professor, Illinois State University

2022	SED 457: Facilitating Social, Leisure, and Independent Living Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities

Co-Instructor-of-Record, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2020	SPED 431: Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities Faculty: Dr. Cheryl Light Shriner
2020	SPED 438: Collaborating with Families Faculty: Dr. Micki Ostrosky

Teacher Assistant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2017	SPED 405: General Educator's Role in Special Education Instructor: Quentin M. Wherfel
2017	SPED 460: Communication and Physical Disabilities Faculty: Dr. Cheryl Light Shriner
2017	SPED 322: Introduction to Intellectual Disability Faculty: Dr. Cheryl Light Shriner
2016	SPED 432: Multiple Disabilities Faculty: Dr. Stacy Dymond
2016	SPED 322: Introduction to Intellectual Disability Faculty: Dr. Cheryl Light Shriner

Guest Speaker, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2017 SPED 405: General Educator's Role in Special Education
"Differentiation and Use of the Think Aloud Strategy"
Faculty: Dr. Kimberly Wolowiec-Fisher

2017 SPED 117: The Culture of Disability
"Puerto Rico and Disabilities Perceptions"
Faculty: Dr. Johnell Bentz

2016 SPED 177: The Culture of Disability
"Puerto Rico and Disabilities Perceptions"
Faculty: Dr. Johnell Bentz

Supervision Experience, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Supervisor of pre-service teachers

2019-2020 Learning Behavior Specialist Program, I (cross-categorical)
Faculty: Dr. Stacy Dymond and Ms. Laurie Andrew

2016-2018 SPED 199/590 SL: High School Service Learning
Ben's Bells Project
Faculty: Stacy Dymond and Shari Hopkins

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-2023 Bilingual Special Education Teacher
Urbana High School, Champaign, Illinois
- Teacher for high school Spanish students with higher support needs.
- Teacher for high school high school students with high incidence disabilities.

2015-2016 Preschool Special Education Teacher
Pepita Arena School, Caguas, Puerto Rico
- Teacher for preschoolers with autism.

2014-2015 Homebound Special Education Teacher
Avelino Peña School, Humacao, Puerto Rico
- Teacher for students with extensive support needs.

2014 Spanish Teacher
Academia Visión Educativa, Las Piedras, Puerto Rico
- Teacher for elementary and middle students without disabilities.

2014 Summer Camp Teacher
"Campamentis," Caguas, Puerto Rico
- Teacher for elementary students.

2013 Daycare Teacher
Child Care, Humacao, Puerto Rico
- Teacher for toddlers.

2010-2012 Teacher Assistant
Centro Pre-escolar, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao
- Provide help and support to kindergarten students in academic and non-academic tasks.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-2024 Postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Meghan Burke, Vanderbilt University

- Project: Advocating for Supports to Improve Service Transitions (ASSIST).
- Project: Understanding the Experiences of Individuals with Disabilities and Family Caregivers with Access to Section 504
- Project: Supporting Parents to Access and Navigate Services (SPANS).
- Project Civic LeAdS**:** Enhancing **Civic** Engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families and Students with Disabilities: **Le**gislative **Ad**vocacy in **S**pecial Education

2022 Translation service, Dr. Erica Mason, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

- Project: Mathematical Mindsets

2018-2019 Research Assistant, Family laboratory, Dr. Hedda Meadan, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

- Project: Functional Communication Training for Latino Families.

2012 Summer Research Opportunity Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

- Project: How Participation of Able-bodied Females in a Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team Fosters Reverse Inclusion.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Best, M., Lindsay, R., Demissie, S., Burkov, I., **Ramos-Torres, S**. & Burke, M. M. (2024). Leveraging feedback from autistic adults to develop an app to access healthcare services [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Special Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Vanderbilt University.

Best, M., Lindsay, R., Demissie, S., Burkov, I., **Ramos-Torres, S**. & Burke, M. M. (2024). From awareness to action: Facilitators and advocacy in healthcare for autistic adults [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Special Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Vanderbilt University.

Johson, A. N., **Ramos-Torres, S.,** Singh, S., Burke, M. M., Tylor, J. L., & DaWalt, L. (2024). Exploring parent and autistic youth perspectives to inform adaptations for an advocacy

program [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University; Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Ramos-Torres, S., Burke, M. M., & Rossetti, Z. (2024). *Exploring partnerships between parent training and information* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University and Boston University.

Burke, M. M., Mercer, C. A., **Ramos-Torres, S.,** Lindsay, R., Burakov, I., (2024). Frequently asked questions and answers for supporting students with Section 504 plans in school. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University.

Meadan, H., Adams, N. B., Hacker, R. E., **Ramos-Torres, S**., & Fanta, A. (2019). Supporting Spanish-speaking families with children with disabilities: Evaluating a training and coaching program. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities, 32*(3), 489-507. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10882-019-09704-1

Sands, M. M., Meadan, H., **Ramos-Torres, S.,** & Fanta, A. (2021). The cultural and linguistic adaptation of a caregiver-implemented naturalistic communication intervention. *Early Childhood Education Journal.*

PRESENTATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Ramos-Torres, S. (2024, April 9th). The Sunshine Model: Commitment dimension. Henderson Training. [Professional development session]. The Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators, Special Education Department, Vanderbilt University. Virtual edition.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2024, April 27th). "Qué es la Sección 504". Closing the autism month. Grupo Salto, Chicago, Illinois. Virtual education.

Best, M., Lindsay, R., Demissie, S., Burkov, I., **Ramos-Torres, S**. & Burke, M. M. (2024, June 11th). Exploring the healthcare experiences of autistic adults. [Conference session]. AAIDD conference 2024, Louisville, KY.

Johnston, A., **Ramos-Torres, S**., Singh, S., Burke, M. M., Taylor, J. L., & DaWalt, L. (2024, June 11th). Exploring parent and autistic youth perspectives to inform adaptations for an advocacy program. [Conference session]. AAIDD conference 2024, Louisville, KY.

Ramos-Torres, S., Burke, M., Taylor, J. L., & Dawalt, L. (2024, April 17th). Comparing advocacy, empowerment, knowledge, and services between Latino and White families of transition-aged youth with autism. [Conference session]. Gatlinburg conference 2024, Kansas City, MO.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2023, February 12th). *"Juana and locas by Juana Medina".* [Conference session]. Virtual Latin American Story Time: Spanish. Center for Latin American and

Caribbean Studies (CLACS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States. Virtual edition.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2022, June 18th). *Culturally responsive strategies to work with ESL students!* A professional development workshop for K-12 educators. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2022, February). *Instructional strategies.* [Conference session]. Sofía Quiroz elementary school, Penonomé, Panamá.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2021, December 1-5). *Preparing students with intellectual disability for employment* [Conference session]. TASH conference 2021, virtual edition.

Ramos-Torres, S. & Meléndez Bernardo, Mishel (2020, November 21st). *"Planting stories: The life of librarian and storyteller Pura Belpré/ Sembrando historias: Pura Belpré: bibliotecaria y narradora de cuentos".* [Conference session]. Virtual Latin American Story Time: English. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2019, December 5-7). *Analysis of special education teacher employment competencies* [Poster presentation]. TASH Conference, Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Rooney, M., Snider, J., & **Ramos-Torres, S**. (2018, March). *Meaningful inclusion of students with severe disabilities* [Conference session]. College of Education Graduate Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL, United States.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2018, March). *Paraprofessional's role in community-based instruction* [Conference session]. College of Education Graduate Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL, United States.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2018, March). *Paraprofessionals' roles in supporting inclusive education for students with severe disabilities* [Conference session]. Community of Scholar Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2015, March). *Methods and communication strategies between a student with Rett Syndrome and her teacher* [Poster presentation]. The thirteenth Puerto Rican Congress of Research in Education at University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras.

Ramos-Torres, S. (2012, July). *How participation of able-bodied females in women's wheelchair basketball team fosters reverse inclusion* [Conference session and poster presentation]. Illinois Summer Research Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

AWARDS, HONORS, and SCHOLARSHIPS

2018	Recognition for Exceptional Merit Award from the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras at San Juan. Department of Special Education
2018	William E. Albin and Charlotte C. Young Award
2017	Norman and Blanche Good Award
2013-2014	Legislative scholarship
2011	Banco Santander scholarship
2010	Who's Who Among Students
2008	Scholarship Gonzalo Aponte, Puerto Rico Community Foundation

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Special Education Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2021	Search Committee, Project Manager, Illinois Center for Transition and Work
2020-2021	Search Committee, Training Specialist, Illinois Center for Transition and Work
2017-2018	Doctoral Recruitment Committee

SERVICE

Service to the profession

2024	Guest Reviewer, *British Journal of Special Education*
2023	Guest Reviewer, *Journal on Developmental Disabilities*
2021	Conference proposal reviewer. 2021 TASH Conference.
2021	Guest Reviewer, *Teacher Education and Special Education*
2019	Guest Reviewer, *Remedial and Special Education*
2019	Guest Reviewer, *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*
2018	Guest Reviewer, *Teacher Education and Special Education*
2018	Guest Reviewer, *The Journal of Special Education*

Service to the university

January-May 2021	Collaborator in the development of educational material for the Illinois Center for Transition and Work.
January-May 2018	Mentor, Master student from ACCESS program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.
February 2018	Leading a round table about First-Year Review, Special Education Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.
August 2012-May 2013	President, the Education Association of undergraduate students, Department of Education, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao.

Service to the community

October 2017	Volunteer in the Buddy Walk at Champaign, Illinois.

July 2017	Volunteer, PALS POCONOS CAMP: Scranton, Philadelphia.
June 2017	Volunteer in the Summer Program for students with disabilities at Urbana High School, Illinois.
March 4, 2017	Volunteer, Read Across America in Champaign and Urbana, Illinois.
January 2015- July 2016	Member, Committee for the World Youth Day of the Diocese Fajardo-Humacao. Experience in Poland.
August 2014- July 2016	Coordinator of Youth Ministry Mission level, Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Puerto Rico.
July 2013	Volunteer, Summer Missionary Project, Honduras.
	Catechism Teacher Level I, Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Puerto Rico.
January-May 2008	Volunteer, Fondita Collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul, Patagonia, Humacao, Puerto Rico.
2010	Volunteer, the Special Olympics in the Hiram Bithorn 2010, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
2010	Volunteer, the National Day of the Rights of Children, Puerto Rico.
2006-2010	Youth Ministry Leader, Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Humacao, Puerto Rico.