



Issue 9
October, 2021

Early Childhood Studies



Dear ECS Students,

Happy Fall!

I am Lorena Ramos and I have been teaching ECS 462 since last semester, one of the most challenging times for all! But we made it through, and I am excited to be teaching this semester in person, getting to know you and having personal interaction has been rewarding. As a former CSUCI ECS graduate it has been an honor to teach and share experiences with you.

I have been in the ECE field for over 25 years in different capacities; licensed family childcare provider, teacher, coach, trainer, assessor, and more recently Director. I consider myself a lifelong learner and enjoy sharing my experience, knowledge, and information. Like most of my colleagues I believe this field brings joy, excitement, and wonderment – how about those conversation with preschoolers! Engaging with young children especially those in need of more support has been my forte and where my passion lies. In addition, getting to know the families and learning about their cultures, values, and traditions contributes to embracing differences in the world. When we meet, we can talk about New Zealand, child assessments, high quality initiatives, and bilingual education- there is so much to ponder!

I am passionate about all things ECE, from learning stories, multilingualism, and everything in between. But on a personal note- I enjoy spending time with my 3 beautiful daughters and 3 precious grandkids. You can find me on the beach or in the woods – I love being in nature and do so any chance I get.

If I may give some advice-remember every experience you have is a steppingstone to the next opportunity – keep pushing, keep dreaming, before you know it you will be where you want to be. Congrats to you all for persevering and here's to the halfway point of Fall semester 2021!

Go Dolphins!

My best,
Lorena

**Minaret by Leila
Aboulela**

Reflection

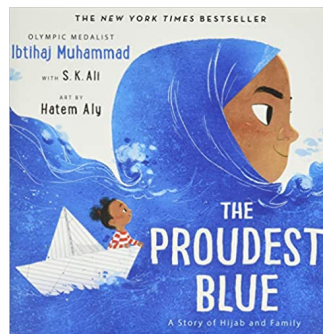
*In Queensway, in High Street Kensington, we would watch the English, the Gulf Arabs, the Spanish, Japanese, Malaysians, Americans and wonder how it would feel to have, like them, a stable country. A place where we could make future plans and it wouldn't matter who the government was - they wouldn't mess up our day-to-day life. A country that was a familiar, reassuring background, a static landscape on which to paint dreams. A country we could leave at any time, return to at any time and it would be there for us, solid, waiting" (p. 165). **Quote shared by Dr. Assadullah Sadiq***



Photo Source: UNICEF Afghan Children and Women https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/unicef-ground-afghanistan-protecting-children-and-women/38877?utm_content=afghanistan_F2001&ms=cpc_dig_2020_Emergencies_20210820_google_afghanistan_delve_F2001&initialms=cpc_dig_2020_Emergencies_20210820_google_afghanistan_delve_F2001&qclid=CjwKCAjwmdCKBhAkEiwAgSDKOUg38Fpw5EsrAI9sbhlyh7NcWF06No8BYbIVJbwOWlvwvL8T9fgWxoCxpQAvD_BwE

**El Rinconcito de
los Libros/The
Book Corner
By Dr. Aura Perez**

“Proudest Blue” by Ibtihaj Muhammad sheds light on the experiences of a young girl named Asiya as she wears her hijab for the first time at school. The story is told from Asiyas’s sister perspective - Faizah - who poetically compares the color of the hijab to the deepest Ocean blue and begins to elucidate to the readers how momentous of a moment it is to wear your hijab for the first day in school. The book highlights some of the common misconceptions about what a hijab is and can help educators de-center single stories about people who are Muslim.



**JOB
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CDR is hiring!

**Contact: Claudia Garibay
Human Resources Coordinator
Child Development Resources
221 E. Ventura Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93036
P: (805) 485-7878 x 313
F: (805) 278-0154
www.cdrv.org**

Oxnard College has a position for tutor in Early Childhood Studies:
-Writing assistance for early childhood studies introductory courses.
-Bilingual Spanish tutor to support early childhood students at Oxnard College
Contact: *Kari Tudman* ktudman@vcccd.edu
Oxnard College

Sunrise Montessori School
ASSISTANT TEACHER POSITION/S _Support Staff and OUTDOOR COORDINATOR
2021 - 2022 School Year (September 2021 to July 22, 2022)
Send Resume and Reference List to Felicia Danon North at:
sunrisemontessorisb@gmail.com

.....

Our Redeemer Preschool in Oxnard Hiring Substitute Teachers
Michael Durazo | Office Manager
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool
[721 Doris Ave. Oxnard, CA 93030](http://721DorisAve.Oxnard.CA.93030)

CSUCI Corps Program
***Get involved * Act locally, Think globally ***

The Center for Community Engagement is expanding our community service program, **CSUCI Corps**, to include education, STEM, and trail restoration. And, we have several job openings for interested students to gain valuable experience! Apply today!
Contact Dr. Pilar Pacheco at pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu.

ECS News

ADVISING

Reach out to your ECS advisor Karla Aguirre karla.aguirre@csuci.edu to make sure you are taking the correct courses. Read your CARR!

STUDENT TEACHING

Student teaching occurs in the last two semesters of your senior year. Pre-requisites for student teaching include ECS 320, ECS 325, and SPED or PSY 345. First semester is ECS 460 & 461 (Infant/Toddlers), second semester is ECS 468, 470 & 471 (Preschool/Primary). If you have any questions or want to learn about the process of student teaching, please email Dr. Riojas-Cortez at mari.riojas-cortez@csuci.edu.

Spring 2022 Registration

Fall schedule will be visible October 31st.

Continuing registration begins November 9.

Congratulations to Dr. Adria Taha-Resnick!!!

Elected to be President of the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC)

ECS Student Spotlight



My Story by Paola Rubino-Zapatka

When I think about my identity, my mind jumps from many places, from race to culture inherited, to the ancestral background. Then, I think about things I like to do or places where I live in the past and present. Thus, the roles I play in the community nowadays or how I saw myself before. It might be complicated to describe myself to just one way. I am certain that I am unique because I am a mix of many things. I am who I am because of my past and present resolutions shapes me everyday. I am the result from all those experiences and conditions. Occasionally, I would respond to the question of Identity with where I am from, “Argentina”, but even then I know that is much more to say than just Argentina, or that I speak Spanish, or I am a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, I am a mom of two, and teacher. Wow, I should not forget I am an ESL Student, Immigrant, and first-generation graduate from college. So, I realize I do not solely identify myself with my race or culture. Trying to categorize all those identities that defined here are some of the them that would shaper me as educator. First, I identify as a daughter, this is very important because my parents are everything to me. I would not be who I am without them. I have a wonderful childhood, my brother and I used to fight all the time but I can not see my life without him. My family is my nest and they are my sense of security. My family is still in Tucumán, Arg. My dad is my biggest inspiration. He taught me the importance of hard work, while my mother, the noblest woman I have met, taught me the importance of kindness. My brother and I are the first generation of college students in our family. I know, we both want to make them proud. My mother the most kind person I know she always finds the good on everyone. Before I became a mom, I became an aunt. My brother's children are like an extension of me. There is nothing I would not do for them. I learned from the youngest one the power of identity when she expressed she didn't feel like a woman instead identify as a man.

Our family have to learn about the term “Transgender” and all that come in between. Besides becoming a support for my nephew I learn the importance of self identity and how society could destroy a human being if it does not have powerful support. Thankfully, the love in my family was bigger enough to accept him as how he feels. It was unquestionable that we accepted him but how we confront society and other beliefs was and is difficult. We had to learn about the matter and how to stand up for him. I would protect him to the end of the earth because I know the soul he is, and it hurts that some people can not see him as the person he identifies now. I have two other nephews that make me so proud too, all of them are unique in their own way. I see myself as the overprotective aunt that they can count on. I identify myself as a wife. Life gifted me a wonderful friend, partner and he became my husband. He is an excellent dad. I believe I am somehow easy going but I like things in my way and by being a wife I learned to not be selfish and respect him as an individual. We were born and raised in a different part of the world so we have different cultures. We share the example from our parents who are married for a long time. Following these examples we see ourself getting old together. Growing up under different cultures make us see things under different lenses. My latin blood used to be very explosive and he is more calm so he always brings me peace. I see myself as the pillar of the house; I need to be strong to support everyone. I am the organizer and coordinator of everyone’s schedule and I feel that if I am in a good mood everyone in the house is too. I feel responsible to keep everyone engaged in interesting activities. I am not the best cook and my husband is extremely helpful with these responsibilities. He supports me going back to school, so he takes on the task to feed everyone when school homework consumes my time. I’m so thankful for him, our children and all our pets.(5 by the way) I don't have favorite cats or dogs, no both. I see myself as a mom, the hardest responsibility I have. My perception of life has changed since I had my first born, Kasia, she is now 11 years old. Then, all got even busier with my second child. My son Maximus is 9 years old. I want to be the best example to them and I wish to be as wonderful as my parents are for me. My daughter and I are both hard heads and many times we burst from small things, I just think we are so much alike. But I love her very much and every day she surprises me with her talents. My son is a sweet boy. They have an amazing relationship. Some days they can play for hours and laugh, that makes me so happy. But sometimes they can fight just like cats and dogs, this reminds me of fighting with my brother. I say to them “I see you can’t live with or without each other” and I laugh. I am a international student. I moved to the United States about 20 years ago, at which time I was an international student learning English. I earned an Associate’s Degree in Theater Arts from Santa Monica College, then an additional Associate’s Degree in Early Child Development from Moorpark College. Now, at age 47, I plan to complete a Bachelor’s Degree at California State University Channel Islands. I moved not knowing any English language, nor the education system. I learn how important it seems to get a higher education. At first when I was an international student I thought I could never go to the University level because of my lack of English and the price. It sounded outrageous, impossible. But I never give up, little by little I am getting there. I have to say that it takes just one good counselor that guides you in the right path. Just one good intent person who can inspire you and give you valuable advice. Studying while you are older under all the other responsibilities in life is not easy. I see myself as an educator; I love to work with young children; they inspire me to believe there is a future, and the world could become a better place. I am fascinated with the power of education. Education at every age is a powerful tool and I enjoy being educated as much as I enjoy educating others. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic I was teaching young children Spanish. This experience fulfilled my expectations. I could merge my mother language and my passion for teaching. Since English is a constant struggle for me, in the contrary teaching in Spanish is a blessing to me. I found it much more enjoyable. It just comes natural and seems easy to me. I learn to make the effort to connect with parents so they value the importance of learning more than one language. I made sure I reached out to them explaining how my extracurricular class benefited their child learning and I sent home the music we were learning. I miss being in the classroom so much. I would like to share that couple weeks ago I was in the park with my son and one of the children in the park was one of my students, he barely recognized me with the mask but as soon he did he run to his mom and said Miss Paola is here the Spanish teacher. His mom commented “we miss you, we have been listening to your CD and singing the songs, he really misses your class” That event made my day and made me think how important is that relationship with families that goes beyond the limits of the school. I haven’t seen him since last year and he still remembers me. I just can't wait to be able to go back, but for now I will continue educating myself to become a better teacher. After reflection in all these identities I realized that

many of my attitudes in life have been shaped from all those experiences in my past. I have on me a little bit of everything and everywhere I have been. I also think that we select identities depending on what stage of life we are. In the past year that we have been dealing with isolation and fear, I think many people found the time to reflect in them-selves. I hope this is something good that we could take from the Pandemic. I was questioned if there was a point where the human race could stop to stereotype people. This pandemic affected every country and race from all socio-economic background. I hope we all have learned from this experience. We all are one world. Each of us have many attributes and there is not only one way to categorize people. From being a daughter I learn the importance of family involvement. My parents are still there for me and my brother. We as a family have come to an understanding of something complete new to us . The transformation of my niece to a nephew was a huge lesson to us, my parents are 72 years old and they thought they have been seen all, but the authentic power of love was proved by this situation. We all supported each other in this transition, we all evolved together. From being a wife and a mother I learned the importance of being the pivot in my own house. I want to teach my children the power of resilience and the importance of respecting cultural differences. As My husband and I come from different backgrounds we learn to listen and respect each other's opinions. Then, as an educator I want to be able to pass on what I have learned in my live and educational experiences. I want to use my knowledge of my multiple identities to connect with people. I think I could relate with many different people because I share many different experiences that shaped my whole identity. I am planning to graduate from California State University Channel Islands with a Bachelor in Early Childhood Studies, maybe after that I would apply for a Master. I can't wait to start to work again. I want to leave an example for my children, and I would like to serve the bilingual community. I think they can see that effort would lead to success. My family sees me working endless hours on homework that is very hard for me in my second language. I hope they can see how much I want to graduate. Hopefully, I hope I could help and inspire people that are second language learners like me.

**Thank you for reading. If you have any questions or concerns, please email:
Professor & Chair: Dr. Mari Riojas-Cortez at mari.riojas-cortez@csuci.edu**

