

# Nicolas Daniel Silva, LMSW, M.S.

915-539-3384 • ndsilva@miners.utep.edu

## EDUCATION

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### The University of Texas at El Paso

July 2025

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences with focus in Neuroscience, Writing, Technology, Health, Society, & Commercialization

Dissertation Title: **Music as a Neurotechnology for Latino Adults Living with Depression**

*Global Arts in Medicine Fellow, Cohort Six, Research and Education Track*

*New York University (NYU) Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development Faculty First-Look Scholar 2024 (1 of 25)*

*Doctoral Excellence Fellow in Biosciences and Interdisciplinary Health Sciences and Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Trainee*

*Society for Neuroscience Neuroscience Scholar Program (NSP) Associate and Graduate Student Member*

### The University of Texas at El Paso

December 2023

M.S. in Biology, Women, and Gender Studies with focus in Entrepreneurship, Ecology, Grant Management, and Health Equity

### The University of Texas at El Paso

May 2019

Master of Social Work with focus in Clinical, Macro, Research Social Work, Disability Justice, and Expressive Arts Therapy

MSW Clinical Internships: Center for Accommodations and Support Services and El Paso Child Guidance Center

Service Learning and Policy Projects: Borderland Rainbow Center and El Paso Museum of Art

*Health Services and Resources Administration Full Scholarship*

### The University of Texas at El Paso

December 2015

Bachelor of Science in Microbiology with focus in Neuroscience, Arts, Bio and Neuroethics, and NIH-funded Biomedical Research

*Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Scholar and Rainbow Miner Initiative Research Scholarship Recipient*

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

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### Women in Fine Art- Teaching Assistant in Women's and Gender Studies

Variable Jan 2024 – May 2024

University of Texas at El Paso, *Hybrid*

- Evaluated, mentored, and co-created innovative practice-based course with Visiting Artist, Professor Laurie Marshall.

### Invited Lecture-Performances

Variable May 2019 – Present

University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College, *Hybrid*

- Invited vocalist and performance studies scholar for Dr. Phillip Hill's graduate Vocal Pedagogy course.
- Disappearing Acts (1997) Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's "Dirty War."
- Trauma Studies and Art.
- Disability in Theatre and Performance (Studies).
- Bioart, Biopolitics, and Trauma.
- Women, Disabled, and LGBTQ practitioners in STEAM.
- Contemporary Art, Music, Performance, and Technology.

### Performance Researcher and Interprofessional Education Committee Member

Variable 2018- Present

Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

- Devised and performed medical theatre to promote empathy, critical thinking, creativity, health equity and cultural sensitivity, most especially for patients living on the US-Mexico border, minoritized patients and those at end of life.

### Peer Leader for UNIV 1301 Course "Visual Culture"

19 hours/week Fall 2008

University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

- Proctored exams, collaborated with other University employees to ensure student success, mentored approximately thirty incoming freshmen, and instructed students in topics related to science, technology, cultural, media, and performance studies.

## PRESENTATION

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**Student Presentation:** *Angioarchitecture of the Adult Rat Neuroendocrine Hypothalamus* (College Office of Undergraduate Research

Initiatives Conference, April 2012), *LGBT Obesity on the Border* (UTEP Queer Leadership Conference, Fall 2011),

*LGBTQ+ and Women in Science*, Panel Moderator and Lecturer (UTEP Women's History Month Conference, Spring 2011)

**Professional Presentation:** *Proscopix Artificial Intelligence (AI) Enabled Prosthetic Technology*, University of Texas Medical

Branch/Blackstone Launchpad Life Science Innovation Hackathon -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2022), BIO2022/National Science Foundation I-

Corps™ *Glioblastoma Market Findings* (2022), Research2Innovation/National Science Foundation/*ecosVC* Presentation of *Community Health Worker Social Enterprise Models for Sexual and Reproductive Health* (Fall 2018)

**Accepted Presentation:** Poster: *Musical Theatre Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (MT-EMDR) for Promoting Neuroplasticity, Mental Health Recovery, and Well-Being* (The Neurosciences and Music – VIII - Wiring, re-wiring, and well-being Helsinki, 13-16 June 2024)

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## PUBLICATIONS

**Published Manuscripts:** *Ultraendurance Sports: A Call to Action* in *Sport Social Work Journal*

**Upcoming:** Co-authoring a book chapter in the anthology *Fashioning the Borderlands* published by Palgrave Macmillan and *Queering Musical Theatre Aided EMDR: Depression, Chronic Illness, and Community Health*, accepted by Taylor and Francis' *Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research*

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## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

**Writing:** *Glasstire* (Houston, Texas), *Fusion Magazine*, *The City Magazine: El Paso*, *The Prospector* (Student Newspaper)

**Selected Writings:** "Feeding the Future Social Work and Food Equity Leadership" and "The Gift of Music and Community Health" in *The City Magazine*

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## PERFORMANCE

**Dance Installation, Curating, and Choreography:** *Mapping the Rio* multimedia performance installation (2023)

**Durational and Health Communication:** World Water Week *Water Tasting/Sensory Neuroscience Performance* (2022)

**Theatre:** Dramatists Guild (NYC) sponsored *El Paso Strong Reading Series* at the Philanthropy Theatre (2019)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Ph.D. Research Associate with Dr. Eva Moya, Ph.D., LMSW** Spring 2024

Department of Social Work and Rehabilitation Sciences, Feeding America, *El Paso, Texas* 10 hours/week

- Conducted qualitative focus groups, case studies, and exhaustive literature review.
- Evaluated and conducted audio transcription of study data.
- Leading team to successful data analysis and translation of study findings to evidence-based recommendations.
- Initiated, developed, and executed [pickfoodequity@utep.edu](mailto:pickfoodequity@utep.edu) and @pickfoodequity social media presence on Instagram.

**College of Health Sciences, Dean's Office, Ph.D. Research Associate** 20 hours/week Summer 2023

Dr. Jason Mallonee, DSW, LCSW, *El Paso, Texas*

- Produced systematic and comprehensive review of the literature in sensorineural hearing loss and psychological impacts.
- Assisted in and led development of *Pensamientos y Platicas* research, Social Work 5393 course and manual development.
- Engaged in community engaged mental health and neuroethics research, theory, and practice.

**Small Business Innovation Research Accelerator (SBIR): Arrowhead Center** Summer 2023

Antidisciplinary Agency and Consultancy, LLC, *Las Cruces, New Mexico*

- Continued to develop and learn best practices for SBIR application and business development for my consulting firm.
- Practiced critical skills such as drafting technical reports, technical administration, evaluation of funded grants, and serving as organization representative on various internal and external working groups and committees such as SBIR/STTR administration.

**Clinical Trial Academy Graduate** Spring 2023

Medical Center of the Americas Foundation and Association of Clinical Research Professionals, *El Paso, Texas*

- Engaged and collaborated in learning and discussions around clinical research theory, practice, and the future of El Paso.
- Analyzed the complex biomedical and health technology ecosystem of El Paso with guidance of MCA Innovation Center.

**Fourth Industrial Revolution Economy (FIRE) Venture Capital Fellowship** Spring 2023

Arrowhead Center, *El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico*

- Engaged in complex and deep learning of venture capital theory and practice with subject matter experts.
- Presented research and data analysis of the region's economic impacts and future in healthcare, arts, and technology.
- Mentored by leading Venture Capitalist Dr. "Beto" Pallares Ph.D., MBA.

**Ph.D. Research Associate, Drs. Friedman, Chair Cushing, Roy, and College of Science Dean Kirken** Aug 2021 – Dec 2022

Department of Biology, *El Paso, Texas* 20 hours/week

- Monitored studies on decision making, psychiatric conditions, social neuroscience of the prairie vole, RNA and DNA analysis of mosquitoes, animal tissue, and leukemia samples from El Paso Children's Hospital.

- Collaborated on successful +\$1,100,000 NSF CAREER technical grant for Dr. Alexander Friedman, newly hired Assistant Professor.

**MSW Research Associate Dr. Eva Moya, Ph.D., LMSW**

Fall 2018

Department of Social Work, National Science Foundation, ecosVC *El Paso, Texas* 20 hours/week

- Conducted epidemiology related health research in respect to reproductive and sexual health.
- Evaluated a social entrepreneurship model and grant application.
- Prepared reports of market research results for program leaders and key informants in mental and physical health.
- Identified pain points and made recommendations for program direction and priorities based on research data and analyses.

**RISE Scholar and Undergraduate Research Assistant** 19 hours/week

April 2010-March 2013

Drs. Arshad Khan, Chuan Xiao, and Rosa Maldonado Laboratories, *El Paso Texas*

- Conducted exploratory and pioneering biological and biochemical research with teams understanding human disease such as *Trypanosoma cruzi*, Human Circadian Protein biochemistry, and neurochemistry and anatomy of the adult rat brain.
- Presented *Angioarchitecture of the Adult Rat Neuroendocrine Hypothalamus* at College Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives Conference.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Metabolomics Rx, Inc.**

Variable -- August 2023 – Present

Consultant Scientist, Licensed Master Social Worker, Grant Writer, Editor, and Chief Communication Officer, *Remote*

- Led breakthrough rewrites, technical, and practical conceptualizations and reconceptualizations health technology interventions which is resulting in a Small Business Innovation Research grant submission.
- Analyzed data and presented to Medical Center of the Americas Innovation Center network and audience for the hyper-competitive Elevate Health Tech Challenge in competition for startup funds which has led to investor possibilities.

**Olera, Inc.**

Variable -- August 2023 – Present

Consultant Scientist, User Experience Designer, Licensed Master Social Worker, Grant Writer, Editor, and Technical Lead, *Remote*

- Led breakthrough rewrites, technical, and practical conceptualizations and reconceptualizations of artificially intelligent health interventions which culminated in a +\$3,000,000 grant submission and invited advisory position.
- Analyzed data from research studies related to Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (ADRD) and neurological conditions.

**Philosophic Systems Institute**

August 2023 – Present

Consultant, Neuroscientist, and Philosopher, *El Paso, Texas* 1 hour/week

- Developed, reviewed, evaluated, and advised on neuroscience and neuroethics grants and workshops with the Microsoft Innovation Hub with pending support from the Dana Foundation and International Brain Research Organization.
- Founded the Border Neuroscience and Society Initiative.

**Dr. Dev K. Dutta Laboratory Consultant**

July 2021 – Present

Neuroscientist, and Entrepreneurship Researcher, *El Paso, Texas* 1 hour/week

- Developed, reviewed, evaluated, initiated, and advised on entrepreneurship, hard technology grants and workshops with Arrowhead Center with pending Foundation and other large-scale support.
- Developed strategy in conducting research and development of grant awarding to companies and entrepreneur researchers.
- Stakeholder engagement and organizing for upskilling the Paso del Norte community and underserved populations.

**Founder and Consultant**

July 2021 – Present

Antidisciplinary Agency and Consultancy, LLC, *El Paso, Texas* 1-40 hr/week

- Provide grant, research management, fine art, neuroscience, and neurotechnology consulting to local and national nonprofits, institutions, laboratories, startups, companies, organizations, and individuals.
- Coordinate multiple grant opportunities and work cross-collaboratively to ensure appropriateness of grants and execution.

**Licensed Master Social Worker**

October 2020 – March 2021

Kindred Hospice, *El Paso, Texas* 40 hr/week

- Provided trauma and arts informed clinical social work services to patients and their loved ones with terminal illness such as cancer.

**Licensed Master Social Worker** 40 hr/week

July 2020 – August 2020

Rio Vista Behavioral Health, *El Paso, Texas*

- Provided trauma and arts informed clinical social work services to adults, adolescents, and children in an outpatient setting.
- Recruited and hired phenomenal Dual MDiv/LMSW and provided support.

**Licensed Master Social Worker** 40 hr/week  
Del Sol Medical Center, HCA, *El Paso, Texas*

September 2019 – July 2020

- Performed complex case management, biopsychosocialspiritual assessments, advocacy, and ensured quality care.
- Led and collaborated with social work services and case management in Intensive Care, Cardiovascular Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Emergency Department, and COVID-19 units.
- Developed and updated resource guide for patients and support systems pertaining to health and social services in the area.
- Mentored a new LMSW.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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**UTEP Alumni Association** 5 hours/week

May 2019 – Present

Pride Alumni Network/Young Alumni Network/Social Work Alumni Network, *Remote*

- Current Social Media Chair for Pride Alumni Network.
- Led the philanthropic sticker campaign for an Endowed Scholarship “Out in the West Texas Town of El Paso.”
- Presented as an invited panelist on “Alumni in Mental Health” for “Leadership after 5” at the Centennial Museum.

**Food, Housing, and Transportation Equity Committee** 5 hours/week

October 2022 – Present

University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

- Engaged in affordable cooking/nutrition class based on *Sabrosa Vida* principals under the mentorship of Dr. Sarah Ruiz.
- Performed exhaustive research, community organizing, and advocacy for student housing, food, and transportation security issues.
- Prevent hunger, homelessness, and other challenges campus and city wide through data-driven interventions.
- Wrote for City Magazine about the committee, obesity, hunger, and housing to bring city-wide awareness to critical issues.
- Developed comprehensive reports of study results for Chief Academic Officers and Community Organizations in food and housing insecurity.
- Identified issues and provided recommendations for program direction and priorities based on research data and analysis such as all you care to eat lunch “Pick N Shovel” service and other hunger related programs at my alma mater.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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**El Paso Museum of Art: Grants, Research, and Development** 5 hours/week

October 2018

Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, *El Paso, Texas*

- Conducted literature review on arts engagement for patients with dementia and their families.
- Strengthened technical writing, proposals, and deliverables such as donor relations media.
- Led searches for programming, capital improvement and other grant opportunities for the museum.
- Mentored by Claire Serpi, Director of Development.

**Empower Change: Paso del Norte Center for Mental and Emotional Wellbeing** 5 hours/week

October 2017 – October 2018

University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

- Conducted literature review and presented on Patient Navigation in Mental Healthcare.
- Behavioral Health Consortium, Integration Leadership Council of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation.

**Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts** 5 hours/week

May 2015 – Present

University of Texas at El Paso, *Hybrid*

- 10-year Anniversary Party Staff, Social Media, Member Relations, Assistant Preparator, Advocate.

**Roderick Artspace Lofts El Paso – Artist Selection Committee and Affordable Housing Advocate**

April 2013 – Present

Artspace, *Hybrid* 5 hours/week

- Conducted structured interviews with artists and their loved ones to empower and populate the first affordable housing center specifically for artists in Downtown El Paso.

## AFFILIATIONS

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SACNAS, Member and Volunteer

August 2023– Present

Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, LMSW #68358

September 2019 – Present

American College of Lifestyle Medicine, Student Member

June 2021 – May 2022

American College of Healthcare Executives, Member and Volunteer

May 2019 – April 2023

National Association of Social Workers, Member and Volunteer

April 2018 – June 2023

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

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**Microsoft Innovation Hub:** Intro to Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship Foundations

## **LANGUAGES**

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English – Fluent; Spanish – Working Knowledge; Used in medical settings

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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<b>New York University (NYU) Steinhardt Faculty First-Look Scholar 2024 (1 of 25)</b>	Spring 2024
<b>Medical Center of the Americas Innovation Center Elevate Health Technology Challenge</b>	Spring 2024
<b>Global Arts in Medicine Fellowship</b>	Spring 2024
<b>Point Foundation BIPOC Scholarship</b>	Spring 2024
<b>50% Scholarship to University College London Arts in Health Research Intensive</b>	Fall 2023
<b>\$1000 Scholarship from the College of Health Sciences</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Full \$2000 Scholarship for the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine Arts in Health Intensive</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Invited Speaker at NYU/Imperial College London Racial Equity in Technology Entrepreneurship</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Nature Journal Masterclass in Scientific Writing and Publishing Full Scholarship, New York, New York.</b>	Fall 2022
<b>Arts in Health, Medicine, and Society Philanthropic Fund at the El Paso Community Foundation</b>	2022
<b>Society for Neuroscience Sun City Chapter Inaugural Tik Tok Brain Awareness Week Challenge Winner</b>	2021
<b>Selected for NYU Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics Global Convening, Remote</b>	Summer 2021
<b>Invited Speaker with Sabrina Bustillos: Self and Community Care for Policy Advocates</b>	Summer 2019
<b>Lifetime Alumni Member and Invited Speaker at Lavender Graduation, University of Texas at El Paso</b>	May 2019
<b>Participating Artist in Border2Baghdad Exhibition with Professor Szu Han Ho, University of Texas at El Paso</b>	October 2013