

# Nicolas Daniel Silva, LMSW

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## EDUCATION

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### The University of Texas at El Paso

May 2025

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences with concentration in Neuroscience, Arts, Technology, Health, and Society

Dissertation Title: Neurotechnology and Entrepreneurship Applications for Interdisciplinary Health Outcomes

*Doctoral Excellence Fellow and 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, Innovation, Performance Studies, and Health Equity

### The University of Texas at El Paso

May 2019

Master of Social Work with focus in Clinical and Macro 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

*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, and the Humanities

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Olera, Inc.

August 2023 – Present

Consultant Scientist, User Experience Designer, Licensed Master Social Worker, Grant Writer, Editor, and Policy Worker, *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.

### College of Health Sciences, Dean's Office, Ph.D. Research Associate

Summer 2023

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

- Provided systematic and thorough 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 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.

### 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.

### 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 and 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*

- Collaborated and led 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.
- Developed and collaborated on funded and successful +\$1,000,000 NSF CAREER grant for Dr. Alexander Friedman.

### RISE Scholar and Undergraduate Research Assistant

Fall 2011

Dr. Arshad Khan's Systems Neuroscience Laboratory, *El Paso Texas*

- Conducted exploratory and pioneering immunohistochemical research with a team understanding energy balance.
- Presented "Angioarchitecture of the Adult Rat Neuroendocrine Hypothalamus" at College Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives Conference.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Licensed Master Social Worker** October 2020 – March 2021  
Kindred Hospice, *El Paso, Texas*

- 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** 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 a hospital setting.

**Licensed Master Social Worker** September 2019 – July 2020  
Del Sol Medical Center, HCA, *El Paso, Texas*

- 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.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

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**Invited Lecture-Performances** 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.

**Performance Researcher and Interprofessional Education Committee Member** 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"** 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 freshman, and instructed students in topics related to science, technology, cultural, media, and performance studies.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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**UTEP Alumni Association** 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** October 2022 – Present  
University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

- Performed exhaustive research, presentation, and advocacy for student housing, food, and transportation security issues to the chief academic officers of my alma mater to empower change and prevent hunger, homelessness, and other challenges.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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**El Paso Museum of Art: Grants, Research, and Development** October 2018  
Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, *El Paso, Texas*

- Conducted literature review on arts engagement for patients with dementia and their families.
- Strengthened 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**

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**

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*

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

**AFFILIATIONS****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

**HONORS & AWARDS****\$1000 Scholarship from the College of Health Sciences**

Summer 2023

**Full \$2000 Scholarship for the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine Arts in Health Intensive**

Summer 2023

**Invited Speaker at NYU/Imperial College London Racial Equity in Technology Entrepreneurship**

Summer 2023

**Nature Journal Masterclass in Scientific Writing and Publishing Full Scholarship, New York, New York.**

Fall 2022

**Arts in Health, Medicine, and Society Philanthropic Fund at the El Paso Community Foundation**

2022

**Society for Neuroscience Sun City Chapter Inaugural Tik Tok Brain Awareness Week Challenge Winner**

2021

**Selected for NYU Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics Global Convening, Remote**

Summer 2021

**Invited Speaker with Sabrina Bustillos: Self and Community Care for Policy Advocates**

Summer 2019

**Lifetime Alumni Member and Invited Speaker at Lavender Graduation, University of Texas at El Paso**

May 2019

**Participating Artist in Border2Baghdad Exhibition with Professor Szu Han Ho, University of Texas at El Paso**

October 2013

**SKILLS & INTERESTS****Computer:** R, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite**Languages:** English – Fluent; Spanish – Working Knowledge**Interests:** Ultraendurance Sports, Musical Theatre, Expressive Arts Therapy, Healing Practices, Patient Navigation, Health Equity**WRITING & PERFORMANCE****Writing:** Glasstire, Fusion Magazine, The City Magazine: El Paso, The Prospector (Student Newspaper)**Performance:** *Mapping the Rio* multimedia performance installation (2023), World Water Week *Water Tasting* Performance (2022), Dramatists Guild sponsored, El Paso Strong Reading Series at the Philanthropy Theatre (2019)**Accepted 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**PRESENTATION****Student Presentation:** Poster: “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 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)