

Luisa Perez Lacera

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Education data and evaluation specialist with expertise in assessment analytics, mixed-methods research, and large-scale dataset management across K–12, nonprofit, and public health settings. Experienced in Python-based statistical modeling, Salesforce data modernization, and CDC-compliant data abstraction. Focused on equity-driven research and actionable data storytelling.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Social Data Science

Arizona State University | Expected December 2026

Master of Science, Learning Sciences & Technologies

Worcester Polytechnic Institute | May 2022

Thesis: *A Qualitative Exploration of Student Preconceptions of Computational Thinking*

Committee: Erin Ottmar, Gillian Smith

Bachelor of Science, Psychological Science

Minor: Computer Science

Worcester Polytechnic Institute | May 2020

Senior Thesis: *Evaluating Grit Through the Use of MathSpring in Individualistic and Collectivist Cultures* (Advisor: Ivon Arroyo)

Junior Thesis: *The Motivations of Social Tuning: Perspective Taking and Affiliative Motivation* (Advisor: Jeanine Skorinko)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Data Aide

ASU Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety (CDC NVDRS) | Remote

February 2025 – July 2025

- Abstracted and coded complex law enforcement, medical examiner, and toxicology reports for the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System (AZ-VDRS) in compliance with CDC and federal standards.
- Ensured data integrity through systematic discrepancy identification and correction, strengthening downstream research reliability.
- Synthesized narrative case data into structured variables while adhering to IRB and federal confidentiality requirements.
- Completed NVDRS Data Abtractor Training and applied trauma-informed data handling practices.

Data and Assessment Coordinator

Neighborhood House Charter School District | Dorchester, MA

October 2023 - July 2024

- Coordinated assessment systems and data workflows for 700+ students across three schools.
- Redesigned MCAS, ACCESS, and AP exam processes to improve compliance, accommodations, and operational efficiency.
- Conducted mixed-methods analyses of assessment and survey data to identify achievement gaps and inform curriculum planning.
- Led onboarding, rostering, and data integrity efforts across Clever, ST Math, and Lexia platforms.

Data and Evaluation Associate

The Steppingstone Foundation | Boston, MA

June 2022 - October 2023

- Standardized and integrated 30 years of longitudinal student and program data (400+ variables;

- multi-thousand records), improving analytic reliability and reducing reporting turnaround time.
- Led migration from a legacy database to Salesforce, including data mapping, validation, and staff training.
- Designed dashboards and automated reports for internal teams and external funders.
- Contributed to program evaluation, longitudinal tracking, and equity-focused decision-making processes.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

MAPLE Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute | Worcester, MA

August 2020 - May 2022

- Collaborated on research examining computational thinking, operand positioning, and digital math learning platforms.
- Designed and executed behavioral and UX experiments using tools such as Graspable Math and ASSISTments.
- Cleaned, analyzed, and visualized quantitative and qualitative data using Python, SPSS, and JASP.
- Contributed to peer-reviewed publications, posters, and conference presentations.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

ALT Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute | Worcester, MA

August 2017 - August 2020

- Conducted experimental research on embodied cognition and gesture-supported learning in STEM contexts.
- Developed and tested math content for the intelligent tutoring system MathSpring.
- Analyzed behavioral datasets using SPSS and R; co-authored manuscripts and research posters.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Worcester Polytechnic Institute | Worcester, MA

August 2020 - May 2021

- Supported graduate-level courses in Learning Sciences and Psychology in Education.
- Managed Canvas LMS, graded assignments, and provided technical and academic support.
- Delivered a guest lecture on equity and access in education to 50+ students.

College Math Literacy Worker

Young People's Project | Cambridge, MA

June 2019 – August 2019

- Taught Python programming and math literacy strategies to high school peer leaders.
- Designed culturally responsive lesson plans to improve engagement and confidence in mathematics.

PUBLICATIONS

Arroyo, I., Euredjian, A., **Lacera, L.P.**, Allessio, D., Geremías, W., Woolf, B.P. (2023). *Localizing a Mathematics Tutoring System to Spanish in Latin-America*. ICITS 2023. Springer.

Skorinko JLM, DiGiovanni C, Rondina K, Tavares A, Spinney J, Kobeissi M, **Lacera LP**, Vega D, Beatty P, John M-S, and Doyle A (2023). *The effects of perspective taking primes on social tuning of explicit and implicit views toward gender and race*. Frontiers in Psychology.

Ngo, V., **Perez Lacera, L.**, Closser, A., & Ottmar, E. (December 2022). *The effects of operator position and superfluous brackets on student performance in simple arithmetic*. Journal of Numerical Cognition.

Perez Lacera, L. M. (2019). Evaluating Grit Through the Use of MathSpring in Individualistic and Collectivist Cultures. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/mqp-all/7216>

Vega, D. J., **Perez, L. M.**, & Beatty, P. T. (2019). The Motivations of Social Tuning: Perspective Taking and Affiliative Motivation. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/mqp-all/7112>

PRESENTATIONS

Wells, M., Rushton, N., **Perez, L.**, Smith, H. (October 2024). *Qualitatively Evaluating the Role of Programming Experience in Student Understanding of Computational Thinking*. To be included in the Proceedings of the Northeastern Educational Research Association Conference. Trumbull, CT.

Smith, H., **Perez, L.**, & Closser, A. H. (November 2022). *Exploring successful measurement estimation strategies among novice and advanced learners* [Poster paper]. To be included in Proceedings of the Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education. Nashville, TN.

Rushton, N., Smith, H., **Perez, L.**, Castro, F., Smith, G. (October 2022). *Using Vignettes to Explore Student Perceptions of Computational Thinking*. To be included in the Proceedings of the Northeastern Educational Research Association Conference. Trumbull, CT.

Ngo, V., **Perez, L.**, Closser, A.H., & Ottmar, E. (2021, October). *The effects of operand position and superfluous brackets on student performance in math problem-solving*. In Proceedings of the forty-third annual meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME-NA). Philadelphia, PA.

Smith, H., Castro, F., **Lacera, L.P.**, Arroyo, I. (2021). *The Wearable Learning Cloud Platform*. Workshop presented at the LAK 2021 Conference.

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Support Award (\$300)	2025
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Women in Data Scholarship (Free Membership)	2024
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Harrison, A., Perez, L. , & Ottmar, E. <i>WIN Women's Young Investigators Fellowship: Providing WPI Students and Faculty with Mentorship and Research Conference Opportunities</i> . (\$23,000).	2020 - 2021
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National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates	2018 - 2020
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Clara Higgins Scholarship (\$28,800)	2018 - 2020
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WPI Unity Scholarship (\$61,230)	2016 - 2020
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WPI Scholarship (\$28,080)	2016 - 2018
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Travel Grant Reviewer , Graduate Student Government	2025 - Current
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Disciplinary Member , Graduate Student Government Disciplinary Committee	2020 - 2022
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Volunteer Judge , Undergraduate Project Presentation Day	2021 - 2022
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Co-Lead , Learning Sciences & Technology Colloquium	Fall 2021
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Volunteer Judge , Mass Academy High School STEM Fair	2021
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Public Relations , WPI Social Committee	2018 - 2020
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Machine Learning & Deep Learning Open Lab (6-week series), NVDRS Data Abstractor Certification, Advanced Hypothesis Testing & Survey Design Workshops (2025)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member , American Educational Research Association (AERA)	January 2025 - Present
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Elemental Member , American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	January 2025 - Present
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Updated: February 2026

Member, National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA)

June 2022 - Present

Member, Women in Data (WiD)

August 2024 - August 2025

CERTIFICATIONS

Conflicts of Interest, CITI Program

February 2025 - February 2029

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Data Abstractor Training, CDC Train

February 2025

RCR - Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Researcher Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program

February 2025

RCR – Undergraduate Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program

February 2025

ASU Information Security Fundamentals Training 2024 Completion, ASU

February 2025

IRB – Social and Behavioral Research (Group 2), CITI Program

January 2025 - January 2029

TECHNICAL & RESEARCH SKILLS

Programming & Statistical Modeling: Python (Pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, Matplotlib, Plotly), R, SPSS, JASP, Regression (linear & logistic), ANOVA, Multilevel Modeling (HLM), Hypothesis Testing

Data Systems & Visualization: Salesforce, Tableau, Excel, Qualtrics, Canvas, Google Sheets

Research & Evaluation Methods: Experimental Design, Mixed Methods Research, Survey Design, Thematic Analysis (Nvivo, [ATLAS.ti](#), Dedoose), Program Evaluation

Languages: Spanish (Proficient)

Professional Strengths: Adaptable, Detail-Oriented, Analytical Thinker, Active Listener, Quick Learner