Omayra Y. Ortega

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Educational Background

1996   Diploma, Milton Academy, Milton, MA
2001   B.A. in Pure Mathematics, Pomona College, Claremont, CA
2001   B.A. in Music, Pomona College, Claremont, CA
2005   M.S. in Applied Mathematics, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
2005   Masters of Public Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
2008   Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences, University of Iowa, IA
           Title: Models of Rotavirus with Coinfection and Vaccination.
           Thesis Advisor: Dr. Herbert Hethcote and Dr. Tong Li

Other training

Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) Critical Issues in Mathematics Education: Mathematical Modeling in K-16 Education Community and Cultural Contexts, Berkeley, CA March 2019

MSRI workshop, Current Issues in Mathematics Education: Access to Mathematics by Opening Doors for Students Currently Excluded From Mathematics, Berkeley, CA February 2018.

The Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) workshop, "Mathematics in Data Science," Providence, RI July 2015.

National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) Tutorial, "Computing in the Cloud," Knoxville, TN April 2014

Mathematical Association of America Short Course, "Conceptual Climate Models," San Diego, CA January 2013.

Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute Interdisciplinary (SAMSI) Workshop for Undergraduates and Faculty in Mathematical Biology, Research Triangle Park, NC May 2011

The Legacy of R.L. Moore Project, Inquiry-Based Learning Workshop, Austin, TX June 2010

American Institute for Mathematics' (AIM) workshop, Research Experiences in the Mathematical Sciences for Undergraduate Faculty, Palo Alto, CA July 2009

First Buea International Workshop in Math Biology, University of Buea, Cameroon May 2009

Mathematical Sciences Research Institute's (MSRI) National Forum, Promoting Diversity at the Graduate Level in Mathematics October 2008

MSRI summer graduate workshop on Climate Change July 2008

Center for Discrete Mathematics and Computer Sciences (DIMACS) workshop on "Climate and Disease" April 2008

Professional Experience

2018 – present Assistant Professor, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. Dr. Ortega teaches various courses in mathematics and statistics while advising undergraduates and serving on departmental and university-wide committees.

2017 – 2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Pomona College. Dr. Ortega teaches a variety of courses in mathematics while supervising undergraduate student theses and organizing various STEM outreach activities in the community.

Sum 2017 – present Visiting Faculty, Rocky Mountain Sustainability & Science Network (RMSSN), Colorado State University. Dr. Ortega served as research advisor to students working on various projects in ecology, sustainability, and natural resource management.

2015 – 2017 Healthcare Analyst, Data Science & Advanced Analytics Team, Health Services Advisory Group. Dr. Ortega conducted accurate and verified descriptive and statistical analysis of patterns of care and outcomes, validated results from other analysts, and prepared reports for dissemination and presentations. She conducted literature searches/reviews, designed statistical analysis plans, and defined case selection criteria and variable parameters using methods from data science.

2015 Fulbright-Hays Fellow – Dr. Ortega facilitated educator workshops and exchanges at various schools throughout the country of Ghana with a group of 13 other educators from the state of Arizona. Created new coursework, lesson plans, and professional development sessions for Arizona K-12 schoolteachers based on the experience in Ghana to cultivate international exchange and global awareness in Ghanaian and Arizonan classrooms.

2014 – 2015 Super Mentor, BUILDing Scholars Grant. The "Super Mentors" program pairs 4 faculty from Research Partner Institutions with demonstrated success in extramural funding and mentoring undergraduate students in research with 4 UTEP faculty or post-docs and Pipeline Partner faculty. Applicants receive one-on-one mentoring from a Super Mentor over the course of one year on their research productivity and student mentoring skills.

2014 – 2015 Data Analyst – Statistica Medica. Dr. Ortega combined data sources and personal from several organizations under the umbrella of the Irish Department of Health as well as private organizations to calculate niche prevalences for children of alcohol and drug abusers in Ireland for the National Advisory Commission on Drugs and Alcohol (NACDA- Ireland).

Summer 2014 Summer Director – Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute (MTBI). Dr. Ortega managed the hiring of faculty, organization of lectures, and scheduling of summer faculty for one of the premier 8-week summer residential Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) held at Arizona State University's Tempe campus. Served as one of the Principal Investigators for the National Science Foundation grant that supports this program.

Summer 2012	Mathematical Analysis Workshop Facilitator – Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program for Women. Dr. Ortega facilitated the lectures, labs, and problem sets for a summer course on mathematical analysis meant to prepare young women who recently graduated from an undergraduate institution for the rigors of graduate school in mathematics. This summer program was held at Pomona College in Claremont, CA in 2012.
2009 – present	Director, Mathematical Epidemiology Research Group. Work with undergraduate students to investigate questions in mathematical epidemiology using tools from mathematics, statistics, stochastic processes, public health, and epidemiology. Students are also provided with mentoring on best practices for a successful undergraduate career, applying to graduate school, and career options. First began in 2009 at Arizona State University and continues to this day at Sonoma State University.
2008 – 2015	Assistant Professor, Arizona State University, West Campus, Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Ortega taught PreCalculus, Brief Calculus, Mathematical Structures, and Intro & Intermediate Probability. Continued research on several aspects of rotavirus infection as well as statistical projects in students' pursuance of STEM degrees. Served on the Articulation Task Force, the New College Faculty Advisory Board, the Online Learning and Education Group, the Cultural Affairs Committee, and mentored the Black Student Union, Hispanic Honors Society, Axe Capoeira at ASU, Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA).
Summer '10-13	Instructor, Barrett Honors College, Summer Scholars Program. Dr. Ortega taught a week-long course to gifted 7th & 8th graders on the contributions of many different cultures to mathematics.
Summer 2007	Research Fellow, Arizona State University, Tempe Campus, Tempe, Arizona. Ms. Ortega continued work on rotavirus modeling and initiated projects on the dynamics driving HIV and malaria co-infection in sub-Saharan Africa.
2006 - 2008	Instructor, Arizona State University, West Campus, Phoenix, Arizona. Ms. Ortega taught two sections of Brief Calculus in the Fall, and added one section of Intro to Probability in the Spring, continued research on rotavirus modeling, and served on the committee to create a Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics.
2001 - 2006	Tutor, University of Iowa. Ms. Ortega taught math courses ranging from High School Algebra to Differential Equations.
Spring 2005	Research Analyst, Naval Medical Research Unit #3 (NAMRU-3), Cairo, Egypt. Ms. Ortega conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the addition of a rotavirus vaccine to the current immunization schedule in Egypt. Assisted research staff with similar public health studies and publications.
Summer 2002	Public Health Intern, The Republic of the Gambia Ministry of Health. Ms. Ortega conducted research on Water treatment and conservation, malaria transmission and prevention, and Female Genital Circumcision practices in West Africa.

Courses Taught

Early Start Mathematics
Pre-Calculus
Brief Calculus
Online Brief Calculus
Calculus w/ Analytical Geometry
Mathematical Structures (Intro to Proofs)
Differential Equations
SAS Programming
S Statistical Consulting and Communication
Statistical Consulting, Communication, and Project Management
Introductory Statistics for Social Justice (w/Labs in R)
Elementary Applied Statistics
Linear Algebra
Introduction to Probability
Intermediate Probability
Probability
Mathematical Biology Seminar
Mathematical Analysis Seminar
Art, History, & Culture in Mathematics

Presentations

Resources for Latinx K-16 students interested in STEM
2020   Barrio Logan College Institute, Invited Presentation, Virtual Conference

Exceptional Statistics: From J. Earnest Wilkins to Coronavirus Epidemiology
2020   National Association of Mathematicians Undergraduate MATHFest, J. Earnest Wilkins Lecturer
       (Invited Keynote Lecture), Virtual Conference

Identifying and Managing Microaggressions
2020   Joint Mathematics Meetings, Workshop Facilitator, Denver, CO
2019   Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Workshop
Facilitator, Honolulu, HI

Equitable Examples of Math Modeling for Your Classroom
2019   Wine Country Math Teacher's Circle, Invited Lecture, Sonoma County Office of Education,
       Santa Rosa, CA

The Statistics Behind, "Driving While Black"
2020   Pi Mu Epsilon Ceremony, Invited Lecture, Salem State University, Salem, MA
2020   Inspiring Talks Series, Invited Lecture, Lehman College, Bronx, NY
2020   M*A*T*H Colloquium Series, Invited Lecture, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA
2019   Africana Distinguished Lecture Series, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA

47 Ways Teaching Social Justice Will Make You Rich
2019   California Mathematics Council Community Colleges 47th Annual Meeting, Invited Keynote Address, Monterey, CA

Better Social Justice through Statistics
2019   Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Invited Lecture, Honolulu, HI

Mathematical Modeling of Infectious Disease Dynamics
2019   Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Invited Lecture, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA

Stochastic Model of Rotavirus Infection
2019   Distinguished Women in Math Lecture Series, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

An Age-Based Stochastic Model of HPV
2016   Conference for the Exchange of Mathematical Ideas, Invited Lecture, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ
2014   Joint Mathematics Meetings, Oral Presentation, Baltimore, MD
2014   American Institute of Mathematics Conference on Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations, and Applications, Invited Lecture, Madrid, Spain
2013   Pacific Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) REU program, Invited lecture, Hilo, HI

Mistakes, Mess-Ups, and Do-Overs: How To Become Your Most Awesome Self
2015   University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire Sonia Kovalevsky Day, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The A, B, C's of Writing an AMAZING Personal Statement
2019   MESA Professional Development Meeting, Invited Lecture, Rohnert Park, CA
2018   SACNAS Student Chapter Meeting, Invited Lecture, Rohnert Park, CA
2014   Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Oral Presentation, Los Angeles, CA

Wayfinding and other Mathematics in Traditional Pacific Islander Culture
2013   Pacific Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) REU program, Invited lecture, Hilo, Hi

Realizing the Dream of Parity in STEM Education
2012   SUnMaRC, MAA and ArizMATYC Joint Conference, Keynote Speaker, Tucson, AZ
2012   Long Island University STEM Seminar, Invited Lecture, Brooklyn, NY

Origami and Mathematics
2012   ThInK Lecture Series, Invited Lecture, Phoenix, AZ
2011   Herberger Young Scholars Academy Lecture Series, Invited Lecture, Phoenix, AZ

A Stochastic Model of Rotavirus with Vaccination
2011   International Conference on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Invited Lecture, BC Canada
2011   Joint Mathematics Meetings, Oral Presentation, New Orleans, LA
2010   SACNAS, Invited Oral Presentation, Anaheim, CA

A Life of Service: Using Mathematics to Serve the Community
2012   ASU-Association for Women in Mathematics, Invited Address, ASU Tempe, Tempe, AZ

2012   STEM-TRiO Invited Address, ASU West, Phoenix, AZ
2010   ASU Cross Talk Communities Connect Dialogues, ASU West, Phoenix AZ

Dynamics of Using Effective Mentoring to Promote Diversity
2010   IMA Special Workshop: Career Options for Underrepresented Groups in Mathematical Sciences,
       Minneapolis MN

Models of Rotavirus with Coinfection and Vaccination
2009   Joint Mathematics Meetings, Oral Presentation, AWM session, Washington D.C.
2009   First Buea International Conference on the Mathematical Sciences, Invited Oral Presentation,
       Buea, Cameroon

Evaluation of a Rotavirus Vaccine Program
2008   Joint Mathematics Meetings, Oral Presentation, San Diego, CA
2008   Blackwell-Tapia Conference, SAMSI, Raleigh, NC
2007   SACNAS, Invited Oral Presentation, Kansas City, MO
2007   Infinite Possibilities Conference, NC State, Raleigh, NC

Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Rotavirus Vaccination Program in Cairo, Egypt.
2007   University of Arizona Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Populations in Biological Systems
       Conference in honor of Jim Cushing, Tucson, AZ
2006   AMS-MAA Joint Mathematics Meetings, San Antonio, TX
2006   SIAM Annual Meeting, Boston MA (Invited Oral Presentation)
2006   DIMACS Workshop on Facing the Challenges of Infectious Disease in Africa (Invited
       Presentation) Johannesburg, South Africa
2006   Blackwell-Tapia Conference, Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), Minneapolis,
       MN
2005   Middle Eastern Conference on Pediatric Enteric Diseases, Cairo, Egypt
2005   The University of Iowa Interdisciplinary Health Research Poster Session, Iowa City, IA

Modeling Polio Transmission: WHO's down with OPV.
2004   Banff International Research Station, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Comparisons of Parametric and Nonparametric Estimations of Invasion Rates
2003   The University of Iowa Conference on Mathematical Biology, poster session, Iowa City, IA

Professional Associations

Association for Women in Mathematics
American Statistical Association
Mathematical Association of America
National Association of Mathematicians
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

Community & Professional Service

Faculty Advisor, SACNAS SeaWolves (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science – Student Chapter). Assist SACNAS Student Chapter in chartering, daily operations, programming, and attending conferences. Sonoma State University 2020

Mentor, Ronald E. McNair Scholars. Supervised two undergraduate McNair scholars at Sonoma State University in research and advised them in their personal and academic career. Sonoma State University 2018-present

Organizer, Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) Research Symposium. Planned and orchestrated poster sessions, scientific symposia, plenary speakers, funding, and a banquet for over 300 attendees. The research symposium showcased research from women across the mathematical sciences working in academia, government and industry, as well as featured the work of women from across the career spectrum. Rice University, Houston, TX. 2019.

Organizer, Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day, Sonoma State University. Coordinated volunteers, wrote grant proposals, and coordinated a day of mathematics and mentoring for 150 high school-age young women at Sonoma State University's campus. 2019

Volunteer, Cat Care Program, Sonoma County Humane Society. Provide intermittent care for cats up for adoption at the Santa Rosa, CA location of the Sonoma County Humane Society. 2018-present.

Organizer, Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day, Pomona College. Coordinated volunteers from Pomona College, Cal State Fullerton, and Cal Poly Pomona; wrote grant proposals; and coordinated a day of mathematics and mentoring for 100 high school-age young women at Pomona College's campus. 2018.

Chair, Publicity and Publications Committee, National Association of Mathematicians (NAM). Sit on the board of NAM. Serve as editor-in-chief of NAM newsletter. Solicit news articles from membership; solicit advertisements; write, edit and format articles; typeset, print, and mail newsletter; update electronic version of newsletter online, and maintain newsletter budget. Oversee the publication of research journal publications and proceedings. Maintain the NAM website. 2018 – present.

Committee Member, Association for Women in Mathematics, Membership Committee 2011-2014. Established programs that will increase AWM's visibility in the scientific community and increase the size of the membership.

Organizer & Moderator, "I Graduated! Now What?" Professional Development session at the 2012 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Annual Conference, Seattle, WA

Consultant & Mentor, PBS SciGirls episode "Bee Haven," Aided production team in formulation of theme and mathematical activities for SciGirls PBS televsion show featuring all-Latina SciGirls cast in Phoenix, AZ. Featured in film where I mentor 4 Latina middle school girls as they used math to display and present data to establish if they could introduce a bee hive at a local farm collective near their high school. 2011- 2012, 2017-2018

Community Advisor, Aid to the Adoption of Special Kids (AASK) Special Friends program. The Special Friends program serves to match youth in foster care with committed adults who can serve as role models, advocates, mentors, and friends. 2010-2017.

Organizer and Moderator, Project NExT "Organizing REUs/summer programs and finding $$" session at 2010 MAA MathFest, Pittsburg, PA. Panelist include: Patrick Bahls - University of North Carolina Asheville, Neil Calkin - Clemson University, Laura Taalman - James Madison University.

Organizing Committee, Infinite Possibilities Conference. Established theme, coordinated registration and publicity for the 2010 & 2015 Infinite Possibilities Conference for women of color in the mathematical and statistical sciences. UCLA and the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) 2010, Oregon State University 2015.

Organizer, National Association of Math Circles Conference, Tempe, AZ. Helped to organize all aspects of the 2010 NAMC conference on the Tempe campus with major support from the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI).

Committee Member, Association for Women in Mathematics, Mentor Match Committee. Organize the website and marketing materials to advertise the AWM Mentor Match program. Select appropriate Mentor/Mentee matches on a rolling basis as the applications to mentor and requests for mentor are received throughout the year. 2009-2016, 2018-present.

Organizer, Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day, Arizona State University. Coordinated volunteers, wrote grant proposals, and coordinated a day of mathematics and mentoring for 150 high school-age young women at the Arizona State University's West campus. 2008 – 2015.

Organizer and Moderator, Project NExT "Maintaining Your Research Agenda" session at 2010 Joint Mathematics Meetings, San Francisco, CA. Colin Adams - Williams College, Victor Moll – Tulane University, and Bonita A. Lawrence – Marshall University

Organizer, Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day, University of Iowa. Coordinated volunteers, wrote grant proposals, and coordinated a day of mathematics and mentoring for 200 high school-age young women at the University of Iowa, 2006.

Research Interests

Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Public Health
Mathematical and Computational Biology
Differential Equations
Stochastic Processes
Biostatistics
Data Science
Ethnomathematics
The Participation of Women and Minorities in the Sciences

Computer Languages/Software

Microsoft Office Suite, Mathematica, Maple, Matlab, SAS, R, Camtasia, LaTex.

Creative Products

Agusto, F., Erovenko, I.V., Fulk, A., Abu-Saymeh, Q., Romero-Alvarez D., Ponce, J., Sindi, S., Ortega, O., Saint Onge, J.M.,Townsend Peterson, A. "To isolate or not to isolate: The impact of changing behavior on COVID-19 transmission" Submitted to BMC Public Health Journal. *Preprint* https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.30.20184804

Ramirez, F and Ortega, O. "Using Mathematical Modeling to Predict the Spread of Measles." Sonoma State McNair Scholars Research Journal. Rohnert Park, CA: Sonoma State University.

F Agusto, A Goldberg, O Ortega, J Ponce ,S. Zaytseva, S Sindi and S Blower. "How do interventions impact malaria dynamics between neighboring countries? A case study with Botswana and Zimbabwe." In Using Mathematics to Understand Biological Complexity, Springer, 2020. (ISBN: 978-3-030-57128-3)

Editor-in-chief, National Association of Mathematicians Quarterly Newsletter. Solicit articles, compose articles, typeset newsletter, print and mail physical newsletters, update digital edition of newsletters on NAM website, solicit advertisements. 2018 - present https://www.nam-math.org/archives.html

Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of the Golden Anniversary Celebration of the National Association of Mathematicians, recruited and managed authors and reviewers for the proceedings, facilitated all rounds of review, maintained communication with AMS Contemporary Mathematics Series editors, organized editorial board meetings, reviewed all papers, drafted prologue. Projected publication date: December 2020 Contemporary Mathematics Series of the American Mathematical Society, Vol 759.

Connolly, M., Topachevskyi, O., Standaert, B., Ortega, O., Postma, M. "The Impact of Rotavirus Vaccination in Egypt on Long-Term Government Expenditure: A Lifetime Net Tax Assessment" PharmacoEconomics. 2012; 30(8):681-695

Lloyd, B, Ortega, O. "Human Papillomavirus Infection: A Stochastic Approach" Technical Report – Work conducted with student research group 2011.

Ortega, O., Ortiz, J., Johnson, E., "A Stochastic Model of Rotavirus Infection: Paving the Way to Mitigating Epidemics" Technical Report – Work conducted with student research group 2010.

Director, Mathematical Epidemiology Research Group. Recruit and manage approximately 4-8 undergraduate students to conduct research in mathematical epidemiology. Student are taught to conduct literature searches, define a research question, draft and test a hypothesis, write a research paper, create and give oral and poster presentations. 2009-present
Ortega, O,. Riddle, M., Sanders, J. *et al* "Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Rotavirus Immunization Program in Cairo, Egypt" JID 2009; 200:S92-S98.

Ortega, O. "A Lucky Choice: Reflecting on My Time as a Grad Student in Mathematics at the University of Iowa." Infinite Possibilities Conference Website. http://www.ipcmath.org/ortega_iowa.htm

Gaitan, A., Jackson, J., Justynski, O., Williams, D., Dwipayana, I., Messan, K., Ortega, O., Sanchez, F. "The Effects of Rural/Urban Movement on Dengue Transmission Dynamics," Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute Technical Report 2014.

https://mtbi.asu.edu/sites/default/files/the_effects_of_rural_urban_movement_on_dengue_transmission_dynamics.pdf

Ortega, O. "Resistance is Futile, Or is it? The Effects of Fluconazole on candida Albicans in a Single Host." Unpublished bachelor's thesis, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 2001

Anyadike, N., Ortega, O., Greenblatt, A., Engman, M., Wirkus, S. "Evolution of Fluconazole Resistance in Candida albicans," Cornell University Biometrics Unit Technical Report, BU-1528-M, 2000.

Student Awards

Best Poster 2020 Sonoma State University Research Symposium
　　　Fabian Ramirez, *A Mathematical Model of Measles and its Vaccination*

Best Poster 2019 Sonoma State University Mathematics Festival Poster Session
　　　Christina Lynch, *Examining a Deterministic Model for Dengue Infection*

Awards and Honors

MSRI Summer Research in Mathematics (SWiM) Fellow 2020/2021
NSF HSI Grant: TIPS Towards Justice ($2,200,000, 2020-2025)
Association for Women in Mathematics Service Award 2020
STEM-NET Mini-Grant, CSU Chancellor's Office 2019
Koret Scholar, Sonoma State University 2018-2019
Fulbright-Hays Fellows 2015
ASU Centennial Professor Honoree 2012
Faculty Women's Association, Outstanding Mentorship Award 2012
Scholarship, Research and Creative Projects Grant, Arizona State University 2011-2012
Commission on the Status of Women, Outstanding Achievement and Contribution Award 2011
Campus Environment Team, Excellence in Diversity Award 2011
Faculty Women's Association, Outstanding Mentorship nomination 2011
ASU CLAS Teaching Award nomination 2010
ASU New College Service Award nomination 2010
Women & Philanthropy Grant, Arizona State University 2009-2010
Scholarship, Research and Creative Projects Grant, Arizona State University 2009-2010
Project NExT Fellow, Mathematical Association of America, 2009-2010
WAESO Undergraduate Research Project Grants 2008-2012
U Iowa Summer Graduate Fellow, 2006
SLOAN Fellow, University of Iowa, 2005
GAANN Fellow, University of Iowa, 2001

References

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