

Speakers By Name - Cecilia Casanueva, Ph.D. Candidate



Cecilia Casanueva, Ph.D. Candidate

A Ph.D. candidate in Maternal and Child Health, Cecilia Casanueva brings her work as a successful clinical psychologist to research at Carolina. She uses her clinical experience as a backdrop against her main research interest of the mental health of mothers and children, specifically in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, violence against women, violence prevention and the outcome of abuse in women's mental health.

Ms. Casanueva's research involves intimate partner violence before, during, and after pregnancy. As part of her research, Ms. Casanueva is filming mothers and infants during play sessions. She is finding that those infants whose mothers are victims of domestic violence have shown differences in their development, compared to infants with mothers who have not suffered abuse. She is also finding that during these play sessions, the play topics directly relate to domestic violence.

Ms. Casanueva also is working on two other projects: she analyzed the association between intimate partner violence and children use of the emergency room and injuries. In this study exposure of the mother to current severe intimate partner violence was positively associated with children use of the emergency room. This relationship was mediated by maternal depression, associated with more use of the emergency room by children.

In addition, Ms. Casanueva has been working as a research assistant for the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), the first national survey about children investigated by Child Protective Services. As part of her work on this project, she is analyzing information about children who witness or are otherwise exposed to violence in the home; the project gathers information about these children at the time of the exposure, and then again eighteen months later. Findings from Ms. Casanueva's research have been presented at national conferences and accepted for publication in professional journals.

Speech Topics:

- Mother-Infant Interactions Among Abused Women
- Intimate Partner Violence As A Risk Factor For Children's Injuries and Use of Emergency Room and Urgent Care