

ELISA CRUZ-TORRES, ED.D., BCBA-D

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EDUCATION

- **Ed.D., Exceptional Student Education**, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, May 2015
DISSERTATION: *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad*
- **Applied Behavior Analysis Program**, online, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL, Fall 2010
- **M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction**, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, August 2009
- **B.A., Psychology**, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, May 1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Florida Atlantic University: Boca Raton, FL

Visiting Instructor – Department of Exceptional Student Education

2015 – Present

- Responsible for instruction and assessment of graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in applied behavior analysis, autism spectrum disorders, and special education courses
- Designated liaison between University and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® for monitoring and communicating changes related to program requirements
- Coordinate the re-design of the Department's ABA certification program
- Conduct research on ASD/ABA-related topics, such as parent training in delivering evidence-based interventions to their children with autism and assess effectiveness of tracking equipment of missing persons with special needs
- Share results of research at conference presentations

BACB Verified Course Sequence® Coordinator

2016 – Present

- Responsible for advising and guiding prospective graduate students interested in pursuing Board Certification of Behavior Analysis, as well as other university parties, of expectations and requirements of certification process
- Correspond in a timely manner to BACB requests, application deadlines, and other related tasks
- Inform faculty and students of pertinent VCS information, including changes to standards or requirements
- Disseminate off-campus employment and supervision opportunities to interested students by maintaining a relationship with local behavior therapy providers and agencies
- Notify BACB of changes to non-certified instructors or course content

ABA Advisor – Department of Exceptional Student Education

2013 – 2015

- Responsible for advising students and other university parties in accordance with current certification eligibility standards and degree requirements
- Orient and inform all incoming certificate-seeking students of expectations and requirements
- Developed stand-alone Ethics course to meet BACB coursework requirements
- Spearheaded task force that resulted in the revision of ABA coursework to meet 4th Edition Task List requirements

Consultant and Research Coordinator – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

2016 – 2018

- Consult with administrative staff to support data management and clinical procedures as needed
- Support research projects, including Missing Persons project funded by Florida Department of Education
- Consult with clinical staff to enhance service delivery and materials for culturally and linguistically diverse families

Assistant Director – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

2014 – 2016

- Responsible for the supervision of two student assistants and 10 clinical staff, each of which provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to over 3,700 families and constituents across the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast regions
- Consulted with and facilitated training for registered families and professionals in the community
- Assisted Director in developing and writing grant deliverables, budgets, and narratives for 90% of total agency funding
- Coordinated fundraising efforts and organize and execute special events with Director and Coordinator of Marketing and Information Publications
- Managed database software and ran quarterly reports required by Florida Department of Education to meet and maintain grant requirements
- Support program development of grant funded and special interest agency initiatives (iRISE² Mentoring Program, Autism Friendly Business, Little Owls Parent Training Program)

Clinical Support Specialist – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

2010 –2014

- Provided therapeutic and intervention support to individuals with autism and its related disabilities and their families
- Collaborated and consulted with professionals in the field of special education
- Developed trainings and workshops for parents, professionals and other persons interested in or involved with the field of autism and its related disabilities
- Conducted developmental screening for low-income populations
- Designed and created monthly e-blasts and seasonal newsletters and distributed to registered families and professionals

Palm Beach County School District: Royal Palm Beach, FL

December 2002 – August 2010

Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities teacher

- Created lesson plans and provided daily instruction for students with special needs, modified assignments, and implemented learning strategies
- Maintained a modified and diversified curriculum with behavioral modifications and appropriate classroom management
- Developed IEPs and differentiated instruction to meet IEP and FBA needs
- *Team Leader (August 2004 – August 2010)*
- *Environmental Science Club sponsor (August 2007 – August 2010)*
- *Student Council sponsor (August 2007 – August 2010)*
- *ESE Department Chair (August 2005 – June 2007)*
- *Learning Strategist (December 2002 – June 2003)*

Northampton County MH/MR: Bethlehem, PA

February 2000 – November 2002

Intensive Case Manager for Children and Adolescents

- Counseled clients and members of their families and helped them utilize available community resources
- Provided protective and supportive service for clients undergoing treatment, hospitalizations, and/or suffering from internal and/or external conflicts
- Applied problem-solving techniques, monitored clients' behavior, developed service plans and goals, and coordinated with related service providers

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, Spring 2015
College of Education, Department of Exceptional Student Education
- John E. Miklos Exceptional Scholarship Endowment, Spring 2014
Awarded to students in the area of Exceptional Student Education or Developmental Disabilities
- Cathy Lee Buchanan Behavior Change Success Award, Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, September 2013
Recognizes committed, caring behavior analysts who use behavior analytic procedures to improve the lives of others
- Julie Jackson Scholarship, Spring 2012
Awarded to students in the area of Exceptional Student Education or Developmental Disabilities
- William T. Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education for Palm Beach County School District nominee, 2007 – 2008
Nominated by colleagues for outstanding work in the special education field throughout the school year

- Sid Rifkind Excellence in Education - Teacher of the Year, 2007 – 2008
Teacher of the Year as nominated by colleagues

GRANTS

January, 2013 – Autism Speaks \$5,000 Community Service Grant for Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs providing income eligible families with iPads and a communication app. Project focused on coaching parents in navigating, customizing, and using the iPad and app to promote effective communication skills in their children with ASD and included in-home follow-up support to maximize procedural fidelity.

July, 2016 – CS/SB 230 – Missing Persons with Special Needs Bill approved by the Governor addresses personal safety of persons with special needs who elope (wander) by providing personal safety devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for such persons and \$100,000 funding for each of three pilot study projects.

In collaboration with FAU College of Business and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities tested the effectiveness of search-and-rescue technology, including unmanned aerial systems, when used in combination with personal safety devices to reduce search and rescue recovery time associated with wandering and elopement cases.

SERVICE

2016 – present	Faculty Advisor, IMPACT Autism @ FAU Student Organization
2016 – present	Advisory Board, Project I ² , FAU
2017 – present	Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, Multicultural Special Interest Group
2011 – 2018	Restraint Reduction Committee, Palm Beach County School District
2013 – 2015	Special Needs Committee, Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center
2013 – 2015	Board Member, IMPACT Autism @ FAU Student Organization
2013 – 2015	School Excellence Committee, Renaissance Learning Academy

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Books Chapter:

Cruz-Torres, E. (2019). Working with behavior challenges. In Cunningham, A. (2020). Counseling adults with autism: A comprehensive toolkit (pp. 158-181). Abingdon, UK: Taylor & Francis/Routledge

Journal publications in progress:

Cruz-Torres, E., Duffy, M. L., Brady, M. P., Bennett, K. D., Goldstein, P. (accepted). Promoting daily living skills for adolescents with autism spectrum disorders via parent delivery of video prompting. Manuscript submitted to *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*.

PRESENTATIONS

Cruz-Torres, E., Cadette, J., Page, E., & Jimenez, E. (2019, May). *From Coursework to Practice: Emphasizing Ethics Along the Way*. 45th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Chicago, IL.

Cruz-Torres, E., Scott, J., Balsamo, N., (2018, September). *Workshop: Special Ethical Issues Faced by BCBAs when Providing Services to Persons with ASD*. 38th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Bonita Springs, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E., Baratz-Patin, S., & Korner, J., (2018, July). *RBT: Éticas y Practicas (RBT: Ethics and Practices- Spanish Presentation)*. FABA Multicultural Special Interest Group Inaugural Mini-Spanish Conference: Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Scott, J., Balsamo, N., & **Cruz-Torres, E.** (2018, April). *Special Ethical Issues Faced by BCBAs when Providing Services to Persons with ASD*. Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities: Jupiter, FL.

Axelrod, C., Caldevilla, C., **Cruz-Torres, E.**, & Leibowitz M. D. (2017, October). *Transitioning into adolescence and adulthood. (Spanish Symposium)*. 37th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Daytona Beach, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2017, January). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad*. 24th Annual CARD Conference: Orlando, FL

Scott, J., Honsberger, T., **Cruz-Torres, E.**, (2016, September). *What Should Behavior Analysts Do to Assess Client Safety? Guidance from the Behavioral Literature*. 36th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Fort Lauderdale, FL.

- Cruz-Torres, E.,** Pinter, E., & VanLaarhoven, T.R. (2016, May). *Symposium: Effectiveness of Video-based Instruction to Support Parents, Teachers, and Learners with Disabilities in Applied Settings.* Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Chicago, IL.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2016, January). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad.* Association for Behavior Analysis 10th Annual Autism Conference: Translating Research into Evidence-based Practice: New Orleans, LA.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2015, May). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad.* Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: San Antonio, TX.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2015, April 24). Interview with Elisa Cruz-Torres. *Susan Brender Show.* Podcast retrieved from www.spreaker.com/user/6314317/interview-with-elisa-cruz-torres
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2014, May). *Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs.* Association for Behavior Analysis International 40th Annual Conference: Chicago, Illinois.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2014, March). *Reading and Understanding Research.* Department of Exceptional Student Education, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida.
- Duffy, M. L., Brady, M. P., Randolph, K., McCormick, J., Stamile, J., Carey, G., **Cruz-Torres, E.,** and McLaughlin, E. (2014, February). *A Continuum of Coaching.* Eastern Educational Research Association Conference: Jacksonville, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2014, January). *Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs.* Inaugural Positive Behavior Supports in the Home and Community Conference: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2013, November). *Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs.* Association for Behavior Analysis International Second Annual Education Conference: Chicago, Illinois.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2013, November). Keynote Speaker for District VIII FCCLA Fall Leadership Meeting: West Palm Beach, Florida
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2013, October). *The iPad and ASD: 8 Ways to Make the Connection.* Florida Council for Exceptional Children: St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2013, March). *It's an Apps and Tablet World: How Students with ASD Can Be a Part of It.* American Council on Rural Special Education: Orlando, Florida.
- Brady, M.P., Dukes, C., Cadette, J., and **Cruz-Torres, E.** (2013, February). *Preparing Doctoral Students as Journal Reviewers: FAU's Project Review.* Eastern Educational Research Association Conference: Sarasota, Florida.

- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, December). *iPad Applications for Students with Special Needs*. Special Education Training Series: Phase Seven, Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges: Nassau, Bahamas.
- Johnson, B., Preston, S., and **Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, November). *Issues that Impact Individuals with Disabilities and Community Supports Beyond the Classroom*. Department of Exceptional Student Education, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, October). *Bullying: How to Help our Children with ASD Rise Above It*. Florida Council for Exceptional Children: Jupiter, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, October). *It's an Apps and Tablet World: How Our Students with ASD Can be a Part of It*. Florida Council for Exceptional Children: Jupiter, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, May). *iPad Applications for Students with Special Needs*. Special Education Training Series: Phase Six, Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges. Nassau, Bahamas.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2012, April). *Serving the Next Generation of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Department of Exceptional Student Education, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2011, May). *Behavior Management: Practical Tips and Where to Turn for Help*. Presentation at Palm Beach County School District ESE Advisory Committee Family Forum: Boynton Beach, Florida.
- Cruz-Torres, E.** (2011, August). *What is Autism & Where Can You Turn for Help?* Returning to School NEW: NEW Attitude- NEW Insights-NEW Outlook! Empowerment Panel Cathedral of Hope Ministries: Boynton Beach, FL

TEACHING

- 2012 – 2014 EEX 4763: Special Education Technology (*distance learning*)
- Summer 2015 EEX 5936: Ethics in ABA (*distance learning*)
- Fall 2015 EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (*distance learning*)
- Spring 2016 EEX 5612: Applied Behavior Analysis
EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Summer 2016: EEX 6210: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Decision Making in ASD
EEX 4763: Special Education Technology (*distance learning*)
- Fall 2016: EEX 6747: Ethics in ABA
EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (*distance learning*)
- Spring 2017: EDG 4419: Classroom Behavior Management

Summer 2017: EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
 EEX 6747: Ethics in ABA
 Fall 2017: EEX 6210: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Decision Making in ASD
 EEX 5612: Applied Behavior Analysis
 Spring 2018: EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
 EEX 4937: Gap Course in ABA (*distance learning*)
 EDG 4419: Classroom Behavior Management
 Summer 2018: EEX 4937: Gap Course in ABA (*distance learning*)
 EEX 6747: Ethics in ABA
 Fall 2018: EEX 6210: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Decision Making in ASD
 EEX 4937: Gap Course in ABA (*distance learning*)
 Spring 2019: EEX 5612: Applied Behavior Analysis
 EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
 Summer 2019: EDG 4419: Classroom Behavior Management
 EEX 4616: Classroom Management for Inclusive Elementary Schools
 EEX 6747: Ethics in ABA
 EEX 6210: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Decision Making in ASD

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2011 – present Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)
 2015 – present Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA)
 2015 – present Florida Association for Behavior Analysts (FABA) – Multicultural Special Interest Group (SIG)
 2011 – 2017 Florida Association for Behavior Analysts (FABA) – Gold Coast Chapter
 2011 – 2015 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
 Division on Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
 Division of Behavior Disorders (DBD)
 Technology and Media Division (TAM)- 2012-2013

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

2002 – present Florida Educator’s Certificate (FL DOE # 882562)

- Exceptional Student Education K-12
- Integrated Curriculum 6-9
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Endorsement

 2011 – present Board Certified Behavior Analyst- Doctoral (Cert. # 01-11-9417)

- Supervisor Requirements Met

 2012 – present Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills® (PEERS®)

LANGUAGES & RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Fluency in Spanish language reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Elementary fluency in Portuguese language reading and speaking skills
- Actively supervising pursuants of BCBA certification since 2012
- Support faculty and doctoral students by creating single subject graphs used in the publication of their dissertations and studies
- Proficient in online/hybrid development and delivery of coursework via the following learning management systems:
 - Blackboard
 - Canvas
- Proficient in creating documents, presentations, spreadsheets, charts and graphs via the following software:
 - Microsoft (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
 - Apple (Pages, Keynote, Numbers)
- Proficient in developing and delivering lectures and presentations via the following recording programs:
 - Mediasite
 - Adobe Connect
 - WebEx