

María Torres Wedding

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2701 Michigan Ave ♦ St. Louis, MO 63118

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 2012
Master of Public Health

Clemson University, Clemson, SC 2010
Bachelor of Science in Spanish and International Health

WORK EXPERIENCE

Consultant 2022- Present
Colibrí Consulting, St. Louis, MO

- Partnering with local non-profits and academic institutions to center impacted communities in research, service delivery, and evaluation. Example projects include:
 - A formative evaluation to assess the feasibility of creating a centralized intake process for immigrants with defensive cases in Missouri.
 - Supporting researchers – community outreach, focus group facilitation, individual interviews, and data analysis.

Co-Creator 2020- Present
Migrantes Unidos, St. Louis, MO

- Leading advocacy efforts in Missouri to centralize immigrant voices in the fight to end the abusive use digital surveillance by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and its private contractors.
- Secured \$954,000 in grant funding to address systems-level change in the St. Louis region by:
 - Engaging asylum seekers in political education, leadership development, and critical thinking exercises to generate ideas for change.
 - Educating the public on this issue through public art, direct actions, and professional development for service providers.

Director of Client Support Services & DOJ Accredited Representative 2017- 2021
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project, St. Louis, MO

- Led agency's interdisciplinary initiatives to create legal-medical partnerships to quantify the severity of past trauma to support asylum cases for over forty survivors of serious violence.
- Procured and managed a federal grant contract from Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) which expanded the Client Support Services Department to improve the agency's ability to meet client needs.
- Hired, trained, and supervised a full-time case manager responsible for delivering case management services to clients.
- Partnered with 100 survivors of violence to write their trauma-narratives, or affidavits, for their immigration legal case.

Lead Federal Navigator

ACCESS Project at St. Louis Effort for AIDS, St. Louis, MO

2015-2017

- Provided health insurance education and enrollment assistance with Medicaid, Marketplace, and employer-based insurance.

Coordinator of Program Evaluation,

LifeWiseSTL (formally Kingdom House), St. Louis, MO

2014-2015

- Managed and tailored Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) software to meet agency needs.
- Generated internal reports, reports for partnering agencies, and the annual United Way report detailing demographics from 2,140 clients and outcome data for seven programs.
- Employed dynamic processes for program evaluation using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Health Literacy Coordinator

Casa de Salud, St. Louis, MO

2011-2013

- Coordinated a patient navigator program in which clinic staff accompanied Latino immigrant patients as they accessed primary and specialty care providers in the St. Louis Safety Net.
- Improved efficiency of services at no cost to the agency by communicating across departments on a weekly basis to discuss cases involving medical complexity.
- Led a two-year qualitative needs and strengths assessment of the Latino community in St. Louis.
- Supervised the recruitment of 43 project participants from 11 different countries.

PUBLICATIONS and CONFERENCES

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Migrantes Unidos, Adriano Udani, Maria Torres Wedding, Ángel Flores Fontanez, Sara John & Allie Seleyman. 2023. Envisioning a world without prisons: group concept mapping as a collective strategy for justice and dignity, Politics, Groups, and Identities, DOI: [10.1080/21565503.2023.2266721](https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2023.2266721)

Udani, Adriano, and Maria Torres Wedding. 2021. "Looking in a mirror: Asylum in the United States as a reflection of white supremacy." Social Science Quarterly 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13088>

Keynote Speaker

"Centering Asylum Seekers as Critical Thinkers." Beyond Welcome: Moving Forward Together, Immigrant Service Provider Network Conference, December 8, 2023. St. Louis, Missouri.

Panel Presentations

"Co-Designing Programs with Community." National Immigrant Inclusion Conference, December 2023. National Harbor, Maryland.

SUMMARY OF SKILLS

Strong analytical and writing skills
Dedication to social justice and immigrant health
Written and spoken fluency in Spanish
Proficient in Microsoft Office, SPSS, NVIVO, ETO

Excellent interpersonal communication
Background in program management
In-depth knowledge of qualitative methods
Expertise in regional issues of access to care