

Nelson Travis Saldaña

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+EDUCATION

MPH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Urbanism and the Built Environment

September 2006-October 2008

Cumulative GPA: 3.73

Thesis: Taking Back the Streets—Taking Back Health: Implications of Broken Windows on Psychological Distress in Urban Communities

BS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics

Minor in English

September 2001-December 2005

+EMPLOYMENT CHRONOLOGY

+Project Director

Black LIFE (Linking Inequality, Feelings and Environment) Study

Department of Human Ecology

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

September 2010-present

Department of Sociomedical Sciences

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

November 2009-August 2010

+Senior Research Associate

California Health Interview Survey

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Los Angeles, CA

October 2008-October 2009

+Research Assistant

Department of Sociomedical Sciences

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

New York, NY

May 2008-September 2008

+Health Promotion Specialist

Alice! Health Promotion Program

Columbia University, New York, NY

May 2007-May 2008

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+RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Black LIFE (Linking Inequality, Feelings, and Environment) Study

Systematic Social Observation (SSO)

- +Conducted SSO using HD cameras mounted to bicycles to film over 1000 blockfaces
- +Created protocols to collect data on: 1) infrastructural neighborhood indicators representative of institutional racism, 2) Advertisements in NYC subway cars and platforms, 3) Advertisement saliency street polls
- +Wrote coding manual and photographic key for collecting data on physical disorder
- +Trained research team to conduct neighborhood assessment using GPS-enabled mobile computers

Questionnaire Development

- +Compiled measures for assessment of racism
- +Piloted instrument for use in 200-400 individual sample
- +Developed list of biomarkers relevant to African American health (i.e. HPA axis)

Data Analysis

- +Querying and cleaning data from sources such as Dun and Bradstreet, Property Shark, NYC Department of Planning
- +Ran descriptive statistics and logistic regression using statistical software
- +Managed geographic database including transforming GPS-data into shapefiles for use in ArcGIS

Administration

- +Successfully transitioned project from Columbia University to Rutgers University
- +IRB protocol submission and compliance
- +Supervised five research assistants, facilitated weekly meetings and journal clubs
- +Coordinated efforts of consultants and other study collaborators including Temple University Institute for Survey Research and Quest Diagnostics Laboratories

California Health Interview Survey

- +Developed content for nation's largest state health survey
- +Queried data using SAS for center projects, donors, and reports
- +Checked skip logic and patterns for CATI
- +Monitored interviewers at call centers
- +Created database to track information from five cycles of the California Health Interview Survey

Food Environment in New York City

- +Conducted qualitative field work in fast food restaurants to determine extent of child advertising and compliance with menu labeling policy
- +Created geodatabase to assess proximity of fast food restaurants to schools
- +Investigated neighborhood-level predictors of fast food usage

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National College Health Assessment

- +Independently managed, recoded data, and conducted statistical analyses to inform health promotion programs at Columbia University
- +Identified health disparities and prioritized areas of need within student population to reduce adverse impacts on academic performance
- +Produced student health summary reports for deans of Columbia University's 12 schools

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WRITING

- +Wrote annual reports and synthesized research proposals for funding committee of renowned cancer scientists and clinicians
- +Translated technical biomedical writing into feature articles for dissemination to lay audiences, including prospective donors

HEALTH ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

- +Developed wiki pages for topics such as health and place and obesity
- +Curated traveling photography exhibit and created promotional materials for social marketing campaign to increase physical activity in parks through walking
- +Created plan to garner buy in for local businesses located around urban hiking trail

SKILLS

- +Health Impact Assessment
- +Geographic Information Systems
- +Literature reviews
- +Community organizing
- +Psychosocial counseling
- +Computer: MS Office, Adobe Creative Suite, SPSS, SAS, Endnote, Sakai
- +GPS Field Devices and Software: Trimble Juno SB, TerraSync, GPS Pathfinder Office

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- +Alcohol Advertising in Subway Cars of the NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Paper)
- +Systematic Social Observation Using Bicycles Methodology (Paper)
- +Neighborhood Retail Reputation and Market Potential Indexes (Paper)

PRESENTATIONS

- +Investigating School Food Environments: Point-of-sale Marketing to Youth at Fast Food Restaurants
Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting
Seattle, WA
April 2010
- +Predictors of Fast Food Restaurant Sales in New York City
Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting
San Diego, CA
March 2008

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- +Society of Behavioral Medicine
- +American Public Health Association

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- +Best Practices and New Directions in Neighborhood Research
Columbia Population Research Center
October 2010
- +Health Impact Assessment Practitioners Summer Training Course
San Francisco Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section
Program on Health Equity and Sustainability
June 2009
- +Introduction to ArcGIS (ESRI certificate)
Center for International Earth Science Information Network
Earth Institute, Columbia University
February 2008

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- +Gulf Coast Recovers, Mailman School of Public Health, 2006-2008
- +Undergraduate Students Association Council, UCLA, 2003-2004, Position Held: General Representative
- +Orientation Counselor, UCLA, 2003-2004
- +Samahang Pilipino Board, UCLA, 2002-2003, Position Held: Activities Coordinator
- +Student Health Advocate, Office of Residential Life, UCLA, 2002-2003