

MADELENA S. RIZZO

madelenarizzo@gmail.com

EDUCATION

DREXEL UNIVERSITY College of Arts and Sciences Philadelphia, PA

Doctor of Philosophy, Clinical Psychology, Forensic Concentration, expected June 2023

GPA: 4.00

DREXEL UNIVERSITY Thomas R. Kline School of Law Philadelphia, PA

Candidate for *Juris Doctor*, expected May 2021

Drexel Law Review, Co-Articles Editor

Class Rank: 15/111 GPA: 3.54

BOWDOIN COLLEGE Brunswick, ME

Degree: Bachelor of Arts, May 2014

Major: Psychology; Minor: Education Studies

Overall GPA: 3.98; Psychology GPA: 4.00

CLINICAL & WORK EXPERIENCE

Drexel Psychological Services Center

Therapist on Mood and Anxiety Team

Supervisor: Pam Geller, PhD

Philadelphia, PA

July 2018 – present

- Conduct intake assessments for clients with a variety of psychological disorders
- Administer weekly evidence-based therapy such as cognitive behavioral therapy and acceptance and commitment therapy, tailored to individual patients

Drexel Psychological Services Center

Therapist on Drexel Reentry Project

Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD

Philadelphia, PA

July 2018 – present

- Administer forensic measures to federal reentry court participants
- Deliver manualized cognitive behavioral therapy specific to individuals coming out of prison

United States District Court, EDPA

Legal Intern with Magistrate Judge

Philadelphia, PA

June 2017 – August 2017

- Drafted a Report and Recommendation for a Social Security disabilities case
- Observed preliminary hearings, criminal and civil trials, and settlement conferences
- Attended lectures at the U.S. Attorney's Office and Federal Community Defender Office

Reentry Court, EDPA

Legal Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

June 2017 – June 2018

- Attended reentry court sessions and pre-meetings with parole officers, prosecutors, defenders, and judges
- Performed intakes of new participants and assisted in court proceedings
- Reviewed and filtered data on Reentry Court participants for annual report

Stress and Trauma in Policing

Philadelphia, PA

Project Coordinator

July 2015 – March 2016

- Collaborated with mental health professionals at Pennsylvania Hospital and Drexel University to design a seminar for police officers about stress and trauma
- Conducted extensive research on trauma and its manifestations in community members and police officers
- Organized and attended meetings between police officers and mental health team
- Co-wrote curriculum and compiled information packets for six-hour seminar

theVillage (formerly PCV)

Bryn Mawr, PA

Emergency Reserve Residential Treatment Counselor

June 2014 – August 2014

- Responsible for the safety and daily schedule of girls in the Child Welfare Residential (CWR) program
- Counseled residents struggling with anger and frustration using the Sanctuary Model for Trauma-Informed Care (Sandra Bloom, MD)
- Documented critical incidents and communicated effectively with other staff
- Gained knowledge about the mental health system, specific diagnoses, and the significant consequences of childhood trauma

Long Creek Youth Development Center

South Portland, ME

Preston Public Interest Funded-Intern and Mentor

June 2013 – May 2014

- Interned five days a week for nine weeks in various departments including residential, therapeutic, and administrative
- Organized empowering recreational activities for residents such as running and improvisational theater
- Attended confidential treatment plan meetings with staff members and therapists

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Psychology, Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA

Graduate Assistant

August 2016 – present

Supervisors: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, and Naomi Goldstein, PhD

- Research existing frameworks for translating psychological research into policy and propose improved framework
- Prepare presentations and papers for the American Psychology-Law Society Conference

Department of Psychology, Temple University

Philadelphia, PA

Research Assistant (Interviewer)

January 2015 – January 2016

Supervisor: Laurence Steinberg, PhD, “Crossroads: Formal versus Informal Processing in the Juvenile Justice System”

- Conducted two-hour interviews with juvenile justice-involved adolescent males in Philadelphia, often in their homes
- Gained knowledge about proceedings in the Juvenile Justice System on the national and local levels, including diversionary options
- Followed the progression of participants from the index offense to the 48-month time point due to the cumulative nature of the interviews

Department of Psychology, Bowdoin College

Brunswick, ME

Research Assistant, Independent Study

January 2014 – May 2014

Supervisor: Katherine O’Doherty, PhD, Bowdoin Children’s Learning Lab

- Performed a literature review of research investigating how native- and non-native-speaking children learn words and object functions
- Assisted in the planning, IRB application, and later, the poster presentation of a cross-sectional, between-groups study

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

Rizzo, M., & Heilbrun, K. (2018, March). *SCALE: A Proposed Structure for Using Behavioral Science Research to Address Policy Questions*. Talk presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference, Memphis, Tennessee.

O'Doherty, K., Anwar, M., Dausch-Rivera, F., MacNeil, C., Martin, E., Patterson, E., & **Rizzo, M.** (2014). One-on-one learning from native vs. foreign speakers: Object functions & labels. Poster presented at biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Psychology Philadelphia, PA
Teaching Assistant September 2017 – December 2017

- Compiled bi-weekly quizzes on online platform for 150 students
- Managed educational accommodations for eligible students
- Presented lectures to students and offered individual and group review sessions

Law and Psychology & Forensic Psychology Philadelphia, PA
Teaching Assistant January 2018 – April 2018

- Graded mid-terms, final exams, and student papers
- Led a class session on theories of punishment

Abnormal Psychology Philadelphia, PA
Teaching Assistant April 2018 – June 2018

- Prepared and delivered weekly lectures to students supplemental to course material, including DSM diagnoses and interpretation
- Assigned and graded case reports throughout the term

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Drexel Law Review Philadelphia, PA
Co-Articles Editor, Executive Board June 2018 – present

- Assist in grading Law Review applications and choosing incoming staff editors
- Develop and distribute summer training assignments to prepare new staff for upcoming editing responsibilities
- Compile staff member edits and prepare articles for publication

Philadelphia Restorative Justice Coalition Philadelphia, PA
Administrator October 2014 – August 2016

- Coordinated multifaceted group composed of federal judges, U.S. attorneys, clergy members, and non-profit representatives
- Scheduled meetings, created agendas, and compiled and disseminated research and updates among members
- Supervised planning and execution of Spring 2016 conference

Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center

Philadelphia, PA

Meditation Instructor

January 2015 – March 2016

- Led self-designed weekly mindfulness meditation workshop for detained girls
- Exposed to youth detention center proceedings
- Developed effective strategies for engaging often resistant adolescents

Strawberry Mansion High School

Philadelphia, PA

Assistant to Guidance Counselor

September 2014 – June 2016

- Prepped seniors for the SATs and assisted them with college applications and scholarships
- Experienced the specific challenges associated with guidance counseling in under-resourced academic settings

Brunswick High School

Brunswick, ME

Tutor and Mentor

March 2012 – March 2014

- Guided students who had difficulty in reading and writing and aided them in completing assignments
- Panelist and mentor for Bowdoin College organizations "College Students for College" and "Aspirations in Maine," directed at prospective first generation college students in Maine

HONORS AND AWARDS

JD/PhD Scholarship (2016 – present)

Rising Advocate Scholar (2016 – present)

Summa Cum Laude (2014)

Phi Beta Kappa (2013)

Academic Achievement Award for Women (2013 – 2014)

Preston Public Interest Career Fund (Summer 2013)

Sarah and James Bowdoin Scholar (2011, 2012, 2013)

James Bowdoin Cup Winner (2011 – 2012, 2012 – 2013)

Captain of Women's Varsity Cross Country (2013)

Book Award Winner (2012)

OTHER SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

- Certifications: CPR (July 2014), Sanctuary Model for Trauma-Informed Care (July 2014), Therapeutic Holds (August 2014)
- Proficient in French
- Avid runner (personal best for the half-marathon of 1:30:09)