

Julio Toro

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I am in my fourth year of graduate studies (doctorate in Nursing and Health Policy.) I am a Puerto Rican male who started his career as a chemist, but got bored. Nursing came as an afterthought: I was planning to become a psychiatrist, but nursing was more practical at the time—less schooling. I worked in a lab as an undergrad, and then I became a researcher at a bioengineering firm. I hated that job, and I am surprised that I find myself in a research pathway. Basic research was just too boring. What I like about nursing is that I never get bored in the job. People are fascinating. I worked in oncology, so people there talk to you with their heart in their hand. Every time I meet a patient I have to solve a puzzle: what to say and what to do to make them feel better. So I find myself here attempting to become a social scientist. I can see myself on the field, and I would probably like that. I cannot see myself sitting behind a desk. I am currently doing an internship at RTI, which I call the “think tank.” People are socially awkward there, everybody is thinking so hard. Every project is like a dissertation, an endless stream of dissertational work. Not sure working at a think tank is in my future. My research interest has been health decision making, more specifically how time perspective (whether you live in the present, live planning for the future, or reminiscing over the past) affects your behavior. I have been in touch with Philip Zimbardo (Stanford) who pioneered work in time perspective. I was initially planning to validate the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory using a sample of Puerto Ricans living in Massachusetts, but I have been encouraged to do secondary data analysis for my dissertation and then continue with time perspective work afterwards. So I am studying barriers to cancer screening using the HINTS database. I wanted to do structural modeling, but have found logistic structural modeling to be too challenging. I will try stepwise logistic regression instead.

Initial personal/professional development (PD) planning (use carbon paper; draw from F/w)

| | skills and weaknesses | interests (related to the course themes..) |
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| ...that I bring to this course | Multicultural (Hispanic) perspective Health systems expertise | Cancer Screening Cancer Risks Health decision making Diet and health Exercise |
|that I would like to leave with at the end | Interpretation of epidemiological studies, sample selection | |

ideas about path to bridge the then and now