

# Tatjana Damnjanovic, Ph.D.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

Forensic Evaluator / Licensed Psychologist  
Forensic Assessments WA, PLLC

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## EDUCATION

**Post-Doctoral Fellow** (July 2021) in Forensic Psychology at *Office of Forensic Mental Health Services and University of Washington*.

**Doctor of Philosophy** (August 2020) in Clinical Psychology at *Sam Houston State University*.  
Dissertation: “Factors Informing Clinicians’ Decisions Regarding Risk for Violence and Discharge Recommendations for Insanity Acquittees in Texas.” Chair: Jorge Varela, Ph.D.

**Master of Arts** (May 2016) in Clinical Psychology at *Sam Houston State University*.  
Thesis: “Does an Eye for an Eye Leave the Jury Blind? Vengefulness and Jurors’ Perceptions of Intent and Mitigating and Aggravating Factors.” Chair: Rowland Miller, Ph.D.

**Bachelor with Honors** (June 2013) in Psychology, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, *University of Belgrade*, Serbia.

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Licensed Psychologist, Forensic Assessments WA, PLLC** - Independent Forensic Practice  
Tacoma, Washington, June 2022 – present  
Providing evidence-based psycho-legal evaluations and consultation, generally, but not exclusively, in civilian courts in cases alleging psychological damages stemming from sexual abuse, physical injury, torture, and wrongful death.

**Psychologist 4, Western State Hospital/ Gage Center of Forensic Excellence**  
Lakewood, Washington, July 2022 – present  
Providing clinical psychological consultation to the members of multi-disciplinary treatment teams on two inpatient forensic wards housing Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) acquittees. Providing supervision to individual therapists including Psychology Associates and Social Workers.  
Population: Inpatient adult NGRI population  
Supervisor: Jordan Charboneau, Ph.D.

**Forensic Evaluator, Office of Forensic Mental Health Services,**  
Lakewood, Washington, June 2021 – July 2022

Responsibilities included: conducting pre-trial forensic evaluations including competency to stand trial, mental state at the time of the offense, diminished capacity, and forensic risk assessments.

Population: Inpatient adult SMI forensic population

Supervisor: Richard Yocum, Ph.D.

*Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow, Office of Forensic Mental Health Services, Lakewood, Washington, August 2020 – July 2021*

Fellowship Rotation 1: Mental State Evaluations, August 2020 – December 2020

Responsibilities included: conducting court-ordered outpatient mental state evaluations (i.e., insanity and diminished capacity), writing mental state evaluation reports for use by the judicial system, co-facilitating assessment seminar for the WSH psychology internship program, co-facilitating weekly group supervision with WSH psychology interns.

Supervisors: Jacqueline Means, Psy.D., Marilyn Ronnei, Ph.D.

Fellowship Rotation 2: Outpatient Forensic Evaluations, January 2021 – April 2021

Responsibilities included: conducting pre-trial competency to stand trial forensic evaluations; worked primarily with individuals housed in county and city jails, writing competency evaluation reports for use by the judicial system.

Supervisors: Thomas LeCompte, Psy.D., ABPP., Jacqueline Means, Psy.D.

Fellowship Rotation 3: Civil Forensic Evaluations, April 2021 – July 2021

Responsibilities included: participating in a range of civil forensic evaluations including personal injury and wrongful death cases for both the defense and plaintiff, assisting in writing evaluation reports for legal audiences, observing depositions and trial testimonies, conducting early-referral preliminary interviews with defendants receiving competency restoration services at WSH .

Supervisors: Sarah Heavin, Ph.D., Jacqueline Means, Psy.D.

*Pre-Doctoral Psychology Intern, Western State Hospital Pre-Doctoral Internship Program Lakewood, Washington, August 2019 – July 2020*

Rotation 1: Inpatient Forensic Evaluation Service (August 2019 – December 2019)

Responsibilities included: conducting pre-trial forensic evaluations including competency to stand trial, mental state at the time of the offense, and diminished capacity; conducting, scoring, and interpreting comprehensive psychodiagnostic evaluations; participating in the civil commitment evaluations; observing expert testimonies.

Population: Inpatient adult SMI forensic population

Supervisors: Richard Yocum, Ph.D., Marilyn Ronnei, Ph.D.

Rotation 2 – Center for Forensic Services Treatment and Evaluation Rotation (December 2019 – July 2020)

Responsibilities included: conducting violence risk assessments of patients committed to Western State Hospital as Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI), writing violence risk assessment reports and communicate results to treatment teams, hospital administration, and the judicial system, conducting group and individual therapy for NGRI patients, consulting with treatment teams to develop and implement aspects of treatment plans for therapy patients

Population: Inpatient adult SMI forensic population

Supervisors: Emily Mackelprang, Ph.D., Candice Caro, Ph.D., Jaqueline Means, Psy.D., Marilyn Ronnei, Ph.D., and Richard Yocum, Ph.D.

*Student Evaluator and Therapist, Psychological Services Center, Sam Houston State University*  
September 2014 – June 2019.

Responsibilities included: conducting individual therapy, conducting psychological and psychoeducational assessments with children and adults.

*Student Forensic Evaluator, Psychological Services Center, Sam Houston State University.*  
September 2015 – June 2019.

Responsibilities included: conducting court-ordered, pre-trial evaluations under the direct supervision of a board-certified forensic examiner; conducting court-ordered or probation-referred psychodiagnostic evaluations of justice-involved youth and adults referred from mental health court; conducting comprehensive clinical interviews; administering/scoring/interpreting measures of intellectual and achievement abilities, behavior, and personality.

*Practicum student clinician, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, May 2017 – June 2018.*

Responsibilities included: Conducting psychological assessments and forensic assessments with justice system involved youth, conducting individual psychological therapy with detained youth, participating in didactic training.

*Practicum student clinician, Montgomery County Adult Probation Department, January 2017 – May 2017.*

Responsibilities included: Conducting individual and group therapy sessions with individuals on probation, conducting clinical intake interviews, conducting psychological assessments for the Mental Health Treatment Court, conducting substance use evaluations.

*Practicum student clinician, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, August 2016 – January 2017.*

Responsibilities included: Conducting psychological assessments and forensic assessments with justice system involved youth, participating in didactic training.

*Practicum student clinician, Rusk State Hospital, August 2015 – August 2016.*

Responsibilities included: Conducting individual and group therapy sessions with severely mentally ill patient population, conducting psychological assessments, conducting clinical intake interviews, participating in competency to stand trial evaluations

*Undergraduate intern, Forensic Hospital, Belgrade, May 2012 – July 2012.*

Responsibilities included: conducting clinical assessment, clinical interviews, violence risk assessment interviews, semi-structured psychiatric interviews, and writing case studies.

*Project manager and author; Psychoeducational workshop group leader, **Psychoeducational Project, Psychiatric Hospital “Dr Laza Lazarevic” Belgrade** - U.S. Embassy Belgrade: Democracy Outreach/ Alumni Program, October 2011 – April 2012.*

Responsibilities included: organizing and conducting group psychoeducational workshops with inpatient and outpatient psychotic patients with the goal of helping them understand and accept their illness; writing the workshop syllabus and the manual for workshop participants; financial management; project evaluation

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Instructor of Record, **Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301), Sam Houston State University**, Huntsville, Texas, August 2015 –May 2016*

Responsibilities included: lecturing on various topics spanning an introduction to the field of psychology, including, but not limited to, social psychology, developmental psychology, psychopathology, sensation and perception, memory, biological mechanisms of the brain and nervous system, and therapeutic modalities; creating multimedia presentations and in-class demonstrations; preparing and grading students’ exams and tracking student grades.

## **SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE**

*Peer Group Supervisor, Western State Hospital Clinical Psychology Internship Program, Lakewood, WA, August 2020-December 2020.*

Responsibilities included: Co-leading group supervision sessions for interns with a licensed supervisor.

*Therapy Peer Supervisor, **Psychological Services Center**, Huntsville, Texas*

Responsibilities included: Co-leading supervision sessions with a licensed supervisor; reviewing therapy videos; editing documentation as needed; providing feedback and assisting with progress evaluations.

*Assessment Peer Supervisor, **Psychological Services Center**, Huntsville, Texas*

Responsibilities included: Co-leading supervision sessions with a licensed supervisor, editing documentation as needed; providing written and verbal constructive feedback; verifying testing protocols.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*Principal Investigator, **Macro-Level Predictors of Competency Evaluation Referrals in Washington, Program Evaluation Project**, Western State Hospital, September 2020-July 2021*  
Co-PI: David Detullio, Psy.D. & Raquel Morson, Ph.D.,

Supervisors: Jacqueline Means, Psy.D., Rheanna Rimmel, Ph.D.

Responsibilities included: Designing a study using archival data from patient records from Western State Hospital to examine the predictive validity and potential biasing factors of The Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) instrument for patients found Not

Guilty by Reason of Insanity; coding data from patients' records, analyzing research data, preparing paper presentation.

*Principal Investigator, **Macro-Level Predictors of Competency Evaluation Referrals in Washington, Program Evaluation Project***, Western State Hospital, January 2020-July 2020  
Co-PI: Holly Buckman, M.S., Supervisors: Jacqueline Means, Psy.D., Rheanna Remmel, Ph.D. Richard Yocum, Ph.D., Marilyn Ronnei, Ph.D.

Responsibilities included: Analyzing peer-reviewed articles and relevant literature, analyzing, and interpreting publicly available data regarding population, crime rates, and competency to stand trial evaluations in Washington State, preparing manuscript and presentation.

*Principal Investigator (Dissertation Project), **Factors Informing Clinicians' Decisions Regarding Risk for Violence and Discharge Recommendations for Insanity Acquittees in Texas***, Chair: Jorge G. Varela, Ph.D., January 2017-July 2020

Responsibilities included: designing a study using archival data from patient records from Rusk State Hospital exploring factors informing clinicians' decisions regarding risk for violence and discharge recommendations for patients found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity; coding data from patients' records, analyzing research data, preparing paper presentation.

*Research assistant for Dr. Jorge Varela, **Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program***, Sam Houston State University, May 2017- present.

Responsibilities included: running participants in psychological studies, analyzing peer-reviewed articles and relevant literature.

*Research assistant for Dr. Jaime Anderson, **Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program***, Sam Houston State University, August 2016- December 2016.

Responsibilities included: analyzing research data, preparing manuscripts for publishing, analyzing peer-reviewed articles and relevant literature.

*Personal Service Contractor, **Lone Star Project: Study of Offender Trajectories Associations and Re-entry***, PI: David C. Pyrooz, Ph.D., July 2016 - December 2016

Responsibilities included: assisting with funded study that examines the implications of street gang membership and group affiliation for adult offenders housed in state prisons; how prison gang life differs from street gang life; implications of prison gang membership following release from prison; prison gang membership and recidivism; conducting semi-structured interviews with incarcerated offenders; entering data from interviews in the Blaise 4.8 software.

*Principal Investigator (Master's Thesis Project), **Does an Eye for an Eye Leave the Jury Blind? Vengefulness and Jurors' Perceptions of Intent and Mitigating and Aggravating Factors***. Chair: Rowland Miller, Ph.D., January 2014-March 2016

Responsibilities included: designing study to examine the biasing effect of vengefulness on sentencing decisions and perception of mitigating and aggravating factors in a mock capital trial with a mock jury community sample via MTurk.; Collecting data from additional participants

and running additional analyses; examining the effect sentencing goals and death qualification and mock jury decision making; preparing a manuscript to be submitted for publication.

*Research assistant for Dr. Rowland Miller, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, Sam Houston State University, August 2014- August 2015.*

Responsibilities included: running participants in psychological studies, analyzing peer-reviewed articles and relevant literature

*Research assistant for Dr. Jorge Varela, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, Sam Houston State University, August 2013- August 2014.*

Responsibilities included: running participants in psychological studies, analyzing peer-reviewed articles and relevant literature.

*Co-Investigator, PI: Ernie Gonzalez Jr., M.A., and Jorge, G. Varela, Ph.D, Sam Houston State University, April 2014 - November 2014.*

Responsibilities included: assisting in administration of Personality Assessment Inventory's (PAI) to adult offenders on probation at a local probation department; collecting, scoring, and entering data, assisting in preparation of poster presented at American Psychology – Law Society annual conference.

*Co-Investigator, PI: Ernie Gonzalez Jr., M.A., and Jorge, G. Varela, Ph.D. Sam Houston State University, November 2013-February 2014.*

Responsibilities included: assisting with a study space analysis on risk assessment and cultural diversity by coding peer-reviewed articles, assisting with paper presentation.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Boland, J. K., **Damnjanovic, T.**, & Anderson, J. L. (2018). Evaluating the role of functional impairment in personality psychopathology. *Psychiatry Research*. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/10.1016/j.psychres.2018.03.049>

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

Cross, H., **Damnjanovic, T.**, Dewitt, R., Luciano, A., Wetzig, K. (2022). Predicting Future Need for Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Denver, CO.

**Damnjanovic, T.**, Varela, J., Kelley, E. (2020). Factors Informing Decisions Regarding Violence Risk and Discharge Recommendations for NGRI Acquittes. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.

**Damnjanovic, T.**, Miller, R., Ryan, L., Lawrence, J., & Waymire, K. (2018). Can death qualification reduce bias in sentencing decisions? Exploring factors impacting capital sentencing. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Memphis, TN

Boland, J., **Damnjanovic, T.**, Anderson, J. L. (2017). Evaluating the role of functional impairment in personality psychopathology. Paper presented at the meeting of the Texas Psychological Association, Houston, TX

Gonzalez, Jr., E., Varela, J. G., Boccaccini, M. T., **Damnjanovic, T.**, Lawrence, J. (2014). Risk assessment and cultural diversity: A study space analysis. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.

## **POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESIONAL MEETINGS**

Boland, J., **Damnjanovic, T.**, & Anderson, J. (2018). Evaluating the role of functional impairment in personality psychopathology. Poster presented at the Society for Personality Assessment Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.

**Damnjanovic, T.**, Miller, R., Lawrence, J., Waymire, K. (2017). Sentencing Goals, the Death Penalty, and Jury Decision Making. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.

**Damnjanovic, T.**, Miller, R., Lawrence, J., Waymire, K., & Bailey, C. (2016). Does an Eye for an Eye Leave the Jury Blind? Vengefulness and Jurors' Decision-Making. Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

Gonzales Jr., E., Varela, J. G., **Damnjanovic, T.**, McCallum, K., & Bate, B. P. (2015). Suicidality in a community corrections sample: Expanding the interpersonal theory of suicide with violent criminal perpetration and victimization. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, San Diego, CA.

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Travel Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research Proposal, American Psychology-Law Society*, March 2020

*Psychology Doctoral Scholarship – Sam Houston State University*, January 2017 – May 2020

*Travel Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research Proposal, American Psychology-Law Society*, March 2018

*Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Foundation*, August 2013

*FORECAST Exchange Program Scholarship, World Learning, USAID*, August 2009 – May 2010

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

*American Psychology-Law Society*, 2013 – Present

*American Psychological Association*, 2013 – Present

*Graduate Student Psychology Organization, Sam Houston State University*, 2013 – 2020