

Camila Fontes Fialho

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EDUCATION

Illinois State University

Major: Psychology

Minor: Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

- 3.76/4.0 GPA
- Dean's List member (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
- University Scholar (\$40,000)
- Laurenti Scholar (\$2,000)
- Spangler Scholar (\$1,500)
- Psychology Diversity Award winner (\$500)
- BirdFEEDER Research Grant recipient (\$500)
- CAS Travel Grant (\$269)
- Stamp SEAL: Portuguese, German
- Queer Studies Concentration Certificate

Class of 2026

Normal, IL

Study Abroad Experience

Relevant Coursework: Cognitive Psychology, Evolution of the Brain, Neuropsychology of Mental Health

January 2025 – May 2025

Leicester, UK

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Illinois State University

HP2 Lab - Research Assistant, Independent Researcher

October 2023 - Present

Normal, IL

- Focused on the psychological and social dimensions of sexual pain and related disorders, including vaginismus, with an emphasis on lived experiences and identity-based disparities
- Designed and distributed surveys exploring women's pain experiences and expectations surrounding first-time sexual encounters
- Investigated anticipatory anxiety and pain-related expectations surrounding first-time sexual experiences, with a focus on psychological predictors and outcomes
- Conducted in-person interviews, ensuring ethical engagement and detailed, accurate data collection
- Analyzed quantitative data using statistical software to identify patterns related to sexual pain, diagnosis reactions, and stigma
- Created poster presentations for academic conferences, translating research findings into accessible and visually engaging formats for scholarly audiences

PRESENTATIONS

- Clemens, K. S., Matkovic, J., & **Fontes, C.** (2024, October). *Psychological factors contributing to pain during vaginal intercourse: The role of response expectancy*. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- Matkovic, J., **Fontes, C.**, Jeronimus, J., & Clemens, K. S. (2024, October). *A need for sexual health education? Queer women experience more pain during sex and expectations for dyspareunia*. Poster presentation given at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- **Fontes, C.**, Jeronimus, J., & Clemens, K. S. (2024, April). *Understanding the role of response expectancy in pelvic pain during sex*. Poster presentation presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychology Association, Chicago, IL.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

PERIOD @ ISU

September 2023 – Present

Camila Fontes Fialho

President | August 2025 - Present

Normal, IL

- Leader of student organization committed to fighting period poverty through education, service, advocacy, and community outreach
- Planned and executed campus-wide initiatives, including a successful period product donation drive benefiting underserved communities
- Delegated responsibilities to the leadership board, ensuring effective event planning, outreach coordination, and organizational development
- Managed social media platforms to promote events, share educational content, and amplify advocacy efforts to a wider student audience
- Reached out to community members and institutions that could assist the organization meet their goals

Event Coordinator | September 2023 – August 2025

- Scheduled and facilitated regular meetings, fostering inclusive discussions and active member engagement across campus
- Supported the organization to foster meaningful connections with the student body through the planning of educational events, outreach initiatives, and advocacy campaign

Independent Service Project

2021 - 2022

Project Manager

Caeté, Minas Gerais, Brazil

- Led an independent service project, coordinating the distribution of menstrual products to low-income families in Brazil, overseeing logistics, outreach, and community partnerships to address period poverty
- Facilitated collaboration among key partners by clearly communicating project needs and coordinating timelines, ensuring smooth execution across all stages of the initiative
- Partnered with local prayer center to expand outreach efforts and increase community engagement

AGAPE Campus Ministry – Illinois State University

August 2024 - Present

Student Leader

Normal, IL

- Member of inclusive campus ministry at Illinois State University focused on building community and promoting service to others
- Assisted with planning and coordination of community events for the student body
- Supported the weekly “Monday Meals” event by helping prepare and serve free home-cooked meals to students, fostering community building through meaningful conversations

WORK EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed

2021 - Present

Babysitter

IL

- Provided attentive and compassionate care to children, supporting their daily routines and emotional well-being in a safe and engaging environment
- Partnered with parents to support Portuguese language development and cultural education, fostering a strong sense of identity and heritage

El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant

2023

Hostess

Frankfort, IL

- Greeted and welcomed guests warmly, managed seating arrangements, and coordinated reservations to ensure smooth and efficient front-of-house operations
- Spoke Spanish when necessary with coworkers and customers, developing multilingual skills in a work environment
- Interacted with different cultures and professionally navigated situations that arose due to those differences

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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Stepping Stones

Bloomington, IL

- Accompanied survivors of sexual assault in first medical visit
- Acted as a support for survivors of sexual assault by providing emotional support, connecting them with legal and medical services, and by advocating when needed
- Supported people in crisis by talking to them through the hotline, making sure they felt safe and heard

National Animal Welfare Society of the US (NAWS)

Frankfort, IL

- Assisted with the care and sheltering of abandoned animals, ensuring their well-being through feeding, cleaning, and socialization
- Aided in the upkeep of the shelter by cleaning the building and tools used, and communicating with employers

Safe Harbor Kitchen – Salvation Army

Bloomington, IL

- Served meals and assisted with kitchen operations to provide food security for individuals and families in need
- Contributed to a welcoming environment by engaging with guests and supporting facility staff

SKILLS/INTERESTS

Languages: English (Fluent), Portuguese (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate), German (Conversational)

Research Interests: Sexual pain disorders and psychosocial predictors, queer sexual health, anticipatory anxiety in relation to sexual encounters

Professional Skills: Academic writing, public speaking and conference presentation, collaborative work with peers, multicultural communication