

**Mark A. Lopez, PhD**  
Phone: 214-548-9036  
Email: mark.a.lopez@tcu.edu

### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

My professional training has provided a strong foundation in human development, particularly socioemotional development and well-being related to parenting and premature infants. Included in my doctoral program was the opportunity to teach courses, complete research, and build a secure knowledge of research, statistics, and measurement. My research interest is in the socioemotional development and well-being of premature infant-mother dyads, focusing on maternal sensitivity.

- Human Development and Family Sciences with theoretical understanding from infancy through adulthood
- Applied statistics in inference testing using General Linear Models (GLM); practical utilization of meta-analyses
- Qualtrics and Mturk-based data collection
- Observational rating of parent-child interaction

### **EDUCATION**

2021      Ph.D., Educational Psychology (*Concentration: Human Development and Family Science*), University of North Texas. Denton, TX.

*Title: The role of maternal health literacy within mother-preterm infant attachment: A meta-analysis of maternal sensitivity interventions*

*Chair: Dr. Wendy Middlemiss*

*Awarded: December, 2021*

2015      B.A. University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
*Area: Psychology*

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022-Present    *Postdoctoral Research Associate*, The Liink Project, Harris College of Nursing & Health sciences. Texas Christian University. Fort Worth, TX.

2019-2020      *Data Analyst*, Texas Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY). Kristin Farmer Autism Center. Denton, TX.

2017-2019      *Research Assistant*, Department of Educational Psychology. University of North Texas. Denton, TX.

2017-2019      *Teaching Fellow*, Department of Educational Psychology. University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

- 2015-2016 *Tutor*, Communities in Schools, Denton, TX.
- 2013-2015 *Instructor*, The Federal TRIO Programs (Upward Bound). University of North Texas. Denton, TX
- 2013-2015 *Pre-doctoral Research Assistant*, McNair Scholars Program. University of North Texas. Denton, TX.

## PUBLICATIONS

### PROFESSIONAL REFEREED MANUSCRIPTS

- Frosch, C. A., Middlemiss, W., Fagan, M. A., Kim, J., & **Lopez, M. A.**, (in press) Mothers' and fathers' reported use of discipline practices with their preschoolers: Associations with parental well-being. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*.
- Frosch, C. A., Fagan, M. A., **Lopez, M. A.**, Middlemiss, W., Chang, M., Hane, A. A., & Welch, M. (2019). Validation study showed that ratings on the Welch Emotional Connection Screen at infant age six months are associated with child behavioural problems at age three years. *Acta Paediatrica*, 108, 889-895. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.14731>

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Lopez, M. L. (in preparation). The role of maternal health literacy within mother-preterm infant attachment: A meta-analysis of maternal sensitivity interventions
- Palka, J. M., Lopez, M. A., Wright B., DeFina, L. F., Leonard, D., & Brown, E. S. (in preparation). Investigation of depressive symptom severity trajectories with a time-varying Omega-3 fatty acid predictor: An application of latent growth mixture modeling.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### Poster Presentations

- Booker, D., Palka, J. M., Middlemiss, W., & **Lopez, M. A.**, (November, 2019). *Advancing home visitors' child welfare service knowledge through a child maltreatment workshop*. Poster presented at National Council for Family Relations, Fort Worth, TX.
- Frosch, C. A., Middlemiss, W., Fagan, M. A., **Lopez, M. A.**, & Kim, J. (November, 2019). *Exploring parents' reported and desired use of discipline practices with their preschoolers: Findings from the all about parenting project*. Poster presented at National Council for Family Relations, Fort Worth, TX.

Fagan, M. A., Frosch, C. A., **Lopez, M. A.**, Hutchinson, J., & Bradetich, A. (March, 2019). *What's in a measure? Emotional connection, mother-infant relationship quality, & 3-year behavioral outcomes*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland.

Fagan, M. A., Frosch, C. A., **Lopez, M. A.**, Musial, C., LaCoursiere, J., Hane, A. A. & Welch, M. G. (March, 2019) *Emotional connection in parent-infant dyads: Mother-father comparisons and behavioral outcomes*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland.

Booker, D., Palka, J. M., **Lopez, M. A.**, & Middlemiss, W. (March, 2019). *Child maltreatment workshop advancing home visitors' knowledge and service to families*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland.

Middlemiss, W., Stevens, H., Ridgway, L., McDonald S., Koussa, M., & **Lopez, M. A.** (May, 2019). *Caregiver perceptions of where infants sleep*. Poster presented at World Association for Infant Mental Health, Rome, Italy.

Frosch, C. A., Fagan, M. A., **Lopez, M. A.**, Middlemiss, W., Chang, M., Hane, A. A., & Welch, M. G. (July, 2018). *Understanding emotional connection in infant-mother dyads*. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies conference, Philadelphia, PA.

**Lopez, M. A.**, Barber, C., & Middlemiss, W (November, 2017). *Balancing routine and infant cues during night-time infant sleep*. Poster Presented at the National Council for Family Relations, Orlando, Florida.

**Lopez, M. A.**, Martinez, K., Southard-Dobbs, S., Cruze, R., Suri, N., Moeller., N., Folorunso, M., & Boals, A., (June, 2015). *The Role of religious commitment and forgiveness in revenge-seeking behavior*. Poster presented at Association for Psychological Science, New York, New York.

## **Symposium**

Middlemiss W., Stevens, H., Ridgway, L., McDonald, S., & **Lopez, M. A.** *Infants and sleep: Looking at maternal sensitivity, depression, anxiety and stress*. (May, 2018). Symposium presented at World Association for Infant Mental Health, Rome, Italy.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2018 Excellence in Professional Service in Human Development and Family Science, University of North Texas, College of Education

## **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Instructor of Record at the University of North Texas:**

HDFS 2033: Parenting in Diverse Families

Fall 2017

Spring 2018  
Spring 2019

**PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL ACTIVITIES**

**Reviewer**

2021-Present      *Family Relations*

**SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**

**DEPARTMENT**

Search Committee Member – Senior Lecturer in Human Development and Family Studies (Spring 2018). Chair: Wendy Middlemiss, PhD

Search Committee Member - Senior Lecturer in Human Development and Family Studies (Fall 2017). Chair: Rebecca Glover, PhD