

MICHELLE BLAYA BURGO, M.A.

michelle.blaya-burgo@cgu.edu | [LinkedIn](#) | [ORCID](#) | California, US

Motivated researcher and evaluator focused on preventing violent extremism and promoting social resilience. PhD candidate with over 7 years of international research experience on radicalization, social identity, and violence prevention, including field projects. Passionate about supporting communities, evaluating program impact, and fostering inclusive, evidence-based strategies.

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MULTIPLE | Multiple locations & Remote (International)

Researcher, PhD Student, Social Identity Lab at Claremont Graduate University 08/2021 – Present

- Designed and analyzed surveys and experiments on radicalization, uncertainty, and belongingness.
- Co-authored peer-reviewed publications and presented at international conferences.
- Collaborated on multi-country projects on polarization, social dynamics, and well-being, including *The Global Social Media Experiment* and the *Global Cooperation Project*.

Research Associate, Conflict and Human Security (C&HS) Research Group 07/2022 – Present

- Co-led research and dissemination efforts.
- Supported the development of outreach materials and social media profiles.
- Collaborated on multi-country projects including the *International Collaboration to Understand Climate Action; SPEY (Sport for Prevention of Extremism in Youth); Coexistence, Social Cohesion, & Extremism: From Activism to Violent Radicalism*.

Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Córdoba (UCO) 01/2019 – 06/2022

- Conducted primary and secondary research, demonstrating proficiency in methodology and data analysis.
- Presented scientific findings in various formats tailored for both technical and non-technical audiences.

CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY | Remote (CA, USA)

Program Assessment Fellow, Transdisciplinary Studies Program (TNDY) 01/2025 – Present

- Created evaluation tools (surveys, focus group scripts) to measure success and report outcomes to leadership.
- Developed a logic model and implementation plan to assess program performance and develop recommendations.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTE AT LEARNING TO IMPACT, INC. | Remote (CA, USA)

Operations Coordinator and Research Associate 08/2023 – 06/2024

Research and Evaluation Assistant 10/2021 – 08/2023

- Conducted short-term and multi-year evaluations of social impact programs through survey design, bilingual interviews, and data analysis, producing strategic insights and enhancing outcomes.
- Organized and led over 100 strategic planning meetings, tracking and meeting grant milestones.
- Produced reports and data visualizations to inform partner decision-making.

EDUCATION

PhD in Applied Social Psychology (focus on social identity and PVE), *Claremont Graduate University* (CA, US), 2026 (expected)

MA in Applied Social Psychology, *Claremont Graduate University* (CA, US), 2024

MA in Health Psychology, *University of Córdoba* (Spain), 2020

BA in Psychology, *Miguel Hernández University* (Spain), 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Blaya-Burgo, M.** (2024). A bibliometric analysis of social identity theory in radicalization research. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 31(1), 98–113. [10.1037/pac0000779](https://doi.org/10.1037/pac0000779)
- Moyano, M., Lobato, R. M., **Blaya-Burgo, M.**, Arnal, A., Cuadrado, E., Mateu, D., Ramírez-García, A., de Murga, M. & Trujillo, H. M. (2022). Preventing violent extremism in youth through sports: An intervention from the 3N model. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 102283. [10.1016/j.psychsport.2022.102283](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychsport.2022.102283)
- Bélanger, J. J., Robbins, B. G., Muhammad, H., Moyano, M., Nisa, C. F., Schumpe, B. M., & **Blaya-Burgo, M.** (2020). Supporting political violence: The role of ideological passion and social network. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 23(8), 1187–1203. [10.1177/1368430220933954](https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220933954)
- Blaya-Burgo, M.** (2025, March). *The Appeal of Extremist Groups: Exploring Identity Complexity, Uncertainty, & Belonging*. [Oral Presentation] The Asian Conference on Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences, Tokyo (Japan)
- Blaya-Burgo, M.** (2025, February). *Giving It All—to Heal or Harm: A Deeper Look into Self-Sacrifice*. Claremont Graduate University Big Pitch 2025, Claremont (CA, US) - Online

AFFILIATIONS

- Member – **EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation, Panel 4 (Polarisation & Resilience)**
- Former Participant – **Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) Youth Working Group**
- Member – **Social Identity Lab at Claremont Graduate University**
- Member – **Conflict and Human Security (C&HS) research group**
- Ambassador – **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**
- Member – **Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology**

SKILLS

- **Languages:** Spanish (bilingual), English (fluent), German (basic)
- **Research & Evaluation:** Mixed methods, survey design, data analysis (SPSS, R Studio, Excel), dashboards
- **Communication:** Academic writing, stakeholder reporting, presentations for diverse audiences
- **Project Management:** Logic models, data tracking, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary teamwork, training and capacity building