

MICHELLE BLAYA-BURGO, MA

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CA, US

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Experienced and passionate researcher and evaluator with a focus on advancing social impact through data-informed strategies for healthier individuals, safer communities, and conflict prevention.

Behavioral Science | Social Psychology Research | Applied Research & Evaluation | Radicalization, Polarization, Prevention & Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Claremont Graduate University (CA, US), Applied Social Psychology **August 2021 – Present**
Advisor: Dr. Michael A. Hogg
Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology
- MA** Claremont Graduate University (CA, US), Applied Social Psychology **May 2024**
Thesis: *Identity complexity, uncertainty, and belongingness: Understanding the appeal of extremist groups*
Advisor: Dr. Michael A. Hogg
- MA** University of Córdoba (Córdoba, Spain), Health Psychology **March 2020**
Thesis: *Spanish version of the Self-sacrifice Scale*
Advisor: Dr. Manuel Moyano Pacheco
- BA** Miguel Hernández University (Elche, Spain), Psychology **June 2018**
Thesis: *Intervention Proposal: Interpersonal Conflict Resolution Program for Women Inmates*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RESEARCHER, PH.D. STUDENT **August 2021 – Present**

Social Identity Lab at Claremont Graduate University, California (US)

Research lab directed by Dr. Michael Hogg.

- Applied social and behavioral science expertise to conduct primary and secondary research, mastering methodology (survey design, experiment design) and data analysis (quantitative and qualitative).
- Conducted research activities leading to the development of my M.A. thesis and Ph.D. dissertation, resulting in multiple conference presentations.
- Actively tracked relevant conferences, maintained an updated shared sheet, and provided monthly updates.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**July 2022 – Present****Conflict and Human Security (C&HS) research group**, remote (international)

Research lab directed by Dr. Manuel Moyano.

- Managed social media presence for the research group @CONHSR, including content creation, scheduling, and engagement strategies.
- Managed multiple end-to-end projects simultaneously, resulting in multiple peer-reviewed journal publications.
- Translated and adapted materials and executed data collection and cleaning activities.
- Communicated scientific findings through various formats to technical and non-technical audiences.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams on international projects, fostering diverse and inclusive environments.

Other Projects, remote (international):**RESEARCH ASSISTANT (BILINGUAL)****The Global Social Media Experiment**, Mexico Team**2024 – Present****International Collaboration to Understand Climate Action**, Spain Team**2022 –****2024**

- Translation, data collection and cleaning tasks.

Embracing Love Across Cultures**February 2025 – May 2025**

- Reviewed and edited Spanish transcripts from interviews and focus groups, and edited English translations, ensuring precise meaning transfer, contextual accuracy, and clarity.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT**August 2019 – July 2022****Manuel Moyano's Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Córdoba, Córdoba (Spain)****SPEY: Sport for Prevention of Extremism in Youth**. International project with the aim of preventing violent radicalization in youth at risk of social exclusion through sports.

- Assisted in the planning and creation of program activities based on up-to-date scientific literature.
- Conducted program outcome assessments to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of implemented activities, providing insights for future improvements.
- Published a research paper based on the results obtained and created an informative oral presentation for a congress, effectively communicating the research findings and their implications to a diverse audience.

Coexistence, Social Cohesion, and Extremism: From Activism to Violent Radicalization. Project involving different actions related to the prevention of radicalization and criminal behavior in youth.

- Utilized research and analytical skills to gather, analyze, and interpret data.
- Conducted out literature searches.
- Developed materials and ran a 3-session workshop at a high school in an at-risk community in southern Spain.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT**November 2016 – July 2018****Addictive Behaviors Unit, Miguel Hernández University, Department of Psychology, Elche (Spain)**

- Provided support administering questionnaires, collecting, and analyzing data on SPSS for different health projects.
- Created and presented various scientific posters.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT**February – April 2016****AITANA research group, Miguel Hernández University, Department of Psychology, Elche (Spain)**

- Provided support administering questionnaires, collecting, and analyzing data on SPSS for a study about personality in children and adolescents.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Bélanger, J. J., Wolfowicz, M., Mohammad, H., Lobato, R. M., **Blaya Burgo, M.**, Rico-Bustamante, L., Martín-Criado, J. M., & Moyano, M. (2025). Beyond radicalization: the 3N model and its application to criminal attitudes in high-risk contexts. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 16, 1498936.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2025.1498936>

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2025). A bibliometric analysis of social identity theory in radicalization research. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 31(1), 98–113. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pac0000779>

Doell, K.C., Todorova, B., Vlasceanu, M. *et al.* (including **Blaya-Burgo, M.**) (2024). The International Climate Psychology Collaboration: Climate change-related data collected from 63 countries. *Scientific data*, 11(1), 1066. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-024-03865-1>

Vlasceanu *et al.* (including **Blaya-Burgo, M.**) (2024). Addressing climate change with behavioral science: A global intervention tournament in 63 countries. *Science Advances*, 10(6), eadj5778. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adj577>

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. <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. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220933954>

Other Publications

Blaya Burgo, M. (2024). *Identity complexity, uncertainty, and belongingness: Understanding the appeal of extremist groups*. CGU Theses & Dissertations, 859. https://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_etd/859

Blaya-Burgo, M., Moyano, M., Lobato, R. M., Arnal, N., Mateu, D., de Murga, M., Cuadrado, E., Ramírez, A., & Trujillo, H. M. (2024). Preventing Violent Extremism in Youth Through Sports: The SPEY Project. In D. Suljić & E. Allen (Eds.), *Exploring trends and research in countering and preventing extremism &*

violent extremism. Edited Volume 2022 (pp. 120-126). Hedayah.
<https://hedayah.com/resources/exploring-trends-and-research-in-counterering-and-preventing-extremism-violent-extremism/>

Arnal, N., Marcle, N., **Blaya, M.**, Lobato R. M., Mateu, D., de Murga, M., & Moyano, M. (2022). *SPEY (Sport for Prevention of Extremism in Youth) Trainers Manual & Toolkit*. UFEC: Unió de Federacions Esportives de Catalunya. <https://ufec.cat/spey/documentation/>

Moyano, M., Lobato, R. M., Bélanger, J. J., & Trujillo, H. M. (including **Blaya-Burgo, M**) (2021). *Preventing and countering violent radicalization. A Guide for Frontline Professionals*. UCOPress: Córdoba, Spain.
https://www.uco.es/servicios/sad/images/documentos/sad-publicaciones/Guide_RAD_english.pdf

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations:

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2025, March). *The Appeal of Extremist Groups: Exploring Identity Complexity, Uncertainty, and Belongingness*. The Asian Conference on Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences (ACP2025), Tokyo (Japan)

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2025, February). *Giving It All—to Heal or Harm: A Deeper Look into Self-Sacrifice*. Big Pitch 2025 (3-minute thesis presentation) CGU, Claremont (CA, US) - Online

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2024, November). *Bibliometric Analysis of Social Identity Theory and Radicalization*. INTERRAD seminar “Analysis of Terrorism: Experiences and Impacts of Prevention”, Córdoba (Spain) - Online

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2022, November). *Hope 101: How can Offer belonging Prevent Extremist violence?* Big Pitch 2022 (3-minute thesis presentation) CGU, Claremont (CA, US)

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2021, June). *Spanish version of the Self-Sacrifice Scale* [Symposium talk]. X International Congress of Psychology and Education, Córdoba (Spain)

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2021, April). *SPEY: Sport Against Radicalization*. XVIII National Congress of Psychology Students of the Miguel Hernández University of Elche, Elche (Spain)

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2019, May). *Spanish version of the Self-Sacrifice Scale: a preliminary*. II International Congress of Research and Intervention in Psychology and Education for Development: Diversity, Coexistence, and SDGs, Córdoba (Spain)

Blaya-Burgo, M., Arafat, M., Awadallah, F. H. & Moyano, M. (2019, May). *3N model of radicalization: implications for intervention and conflict management in critical contexts*. II International Congress of Research and Intervention in Psychology and Education for Development: Diversity, Coexistence, and SDGs, Córdoba (Spain)

Poster Presentations:

Blaya-Burgo, M. (2024, April). *A Bibliometric Analysis of Social Identity Theory in Radicalization Research*. 2024 Western Psychological Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, US.

Blaya-Burgo, M., Rodríguez, S., Coloma-Carmona, A., Carballo, J.L. Van-der-Hofstadt, C. & Rodríguez-Marín, J. (2018, May). *Relationship between anxiety-depressive symptomatology and frequent use of*

opioid drugs in patients with chronic pain. II Conference on Clinical Psychology at Alicante's General Hospital, Alicante (Spain)

Blaya-Burgo, M., Martínez García, A., Sancho Domingo, C., Soler Tomás, A. Coloma-Carmona, A., Carballo, J.L., & Rodríguez-Marín, J. (2017, May). *Self-medication practices with antibiotics and prescribed drugs in the Spanish population*. I Conference on Clinical Psychology at Alicante's General Hospital, Alicante (Spain)

Alazorza, C. Angulo, L., Antón, P., **Blaya-Burgo, M.**, Martínez, A., Soler, A. & Yankov, V. (2017, April). *Factors that influence the over-the-counter consumption of antibiotics and psychotropic drugs in the university population*. XIV National Congress of Psychology Students of the Miguel Hernández University, Elche (Spain)

Alazorza, C. Angulo, L., Antón, P., **Blaya-Burgo, M.**, Martínez, A., Soler, A. & Yankov, V. (2017, April). *Factors that influence the over-the-counter consumption of antibiotics and psychotropic drugs in the Spanish population*. XIV National Congress of Psychology Students of the Miguel Hernández University, Elche (Spain)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Expense Support Award 2025

Award received to offset the costs associated with research.

Crossing Boundaries Research Honorable Mention Award 2024/25

Award recognizing Claremont Graduate University students using cross-disciplinary and applied research methodologies and perspectives in their scholarship

Finalist Claremont Graduate University Big Pitch 2022 (3-minute thesis presentation) 2022

Awarded a monetary prize as a finalist in the competition

Collaboration Research Scholarship 2020

Scholarship to conduct research at the University of Córdoba (Spain)

International Internship Travel Fellowship 2019

University of Córdoba's fellowship to help with travel expenses during my internship at Albizu University (Miami, FL, USA)

Collaboration Research Scholarship 2018

Scholarship to conduct research at the Miguel Hernández University (Spain)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Group processes and intergroup relations, self and identity, uncertainty and identity, intragroup structure, processes of conformity and attitude change, intergroup communication, radicalization and extremism, intergroup conflict, political violence and polarization, prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), human security, peacebuilding.

TEACHING & RELATED EXPERIENCE

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY), multiple locations (US)

ASSISTANT ACADEMIC DEAN, Speyer School (NY)

Expected dates: June – August 2025

- Led essential academic operations and collaborated with the Dean on program management.
- Designed and conducted orientation and training for instructional assistants.
- Oversaw student evaluations to guide academic improvements.
- Managed scheduling, resource allocation, and event planning.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (Flex TA), University of California, Santa Cruz (CA). **June – August 2023**

Supported the courses *Cognitive Psychology* and *Great Cases: American Legal History* and others as needed.

TEACHING ASSISTANT, Roger Williams University campus (RI)

June – July 2022

Supported *Foundations of Psychology*, a summer-school intensive psychology course with 20 participants.

- Reviewed daily class contents to ensure a deep and clear delivery of the material.
- Delivered oral presentations, effectively communicating complex concepts and facilitating student comprehension.
- Provided support to the students with assignments, offering guidance, feedback, and clarification.
- Actively participated in out-of-class social activities, fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment, and building meaningful relationships with students.
- Contributed to implementing and evaluating assessments, including exams, quizzes, and projects, to evaluate student progress, comprehension, and performance.

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont (CA, US)

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

– TNDY 336: Analysis of Social Networks

August – December 2024

– EVAL 310A: Evaluation Principles I

August – October 2024

– PSYCH 342 Science of Human Flourishing

January – May 2023

- Supported instructors in delivering 2-4-unit graduate-level courses, including management of the Learning Management System (Canvas) and Zoom platforms for hybrid and online classes.
- Maintained consistent and effective communication with 15-30 course participants, addressing inquiries, providing support, and tracking assistance to ensure engagement and understanding.
- Assisted with grading assignments and providing constructive feedback to support students' learning outcomes.

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont Evaluation Center, Claremont (CA, US)

August 2023

COURSE ASSISTANT

- Assisted two CEC Summer 2023 Professional Development Workshops: *Culturally Responsive, Equity-Focused Evaluation and Applied Research Methods* and *Social Network Analysis*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Claremont Graduate University, Transdisciplinary Studies Program (TNDY), Remote (CA, US)

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

January 2025 – Present

- Designed a logic model, theory of change, and evaluation framework for internal program monitoring and reporting.
- Created and implemented evaluation tools (surveys, focus groups) using mixed methods and a participatory approach to assess program satisfaction, measure success, and inform data-guided recommendations.
- Developed dashboard trackers for real-time data updates and reporting across three distinct focus initiatives.

The Evaluators' Institute (TEI) at Claremont Graduate University, Remote (CA, US)

COURSE PRODUCER COORDINATOR

December 2024 – Present

- Coordinated a team of 8-10 course producers, delivering training sessions on organizational procedures, Attendee Hub, Zoom, and Workday, and providing ongoing support and monitoring performance.
- Maintained and updated the organization's website to ensure accurate program information and smooth operations for spring, summer, and fall workshops.
- Collaborated with leadership and faculty to support workshop delivery, ensuring TEI and faculty deliverables were met effectively.

COURSE ASSISTANT

Seasonal (2022 – Present)

- Assisted on 9 online professional training courses (as of Fall 2024) with 10-30 participants.
- Revised course materials and managed the Learning Management System (Canvas and AttendeeHub platforms).
- Managed the Zoom platform during the course, ensuring smooth and interactive online sessions for online participants and helping with technical problems as needed.
- Communicated with participants via email (credentials, reminders, certificates of completion) and tracked assistance.

Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Remote (CT, US)

ADVANCEMENT INTERN, Yale University Office Of Alumni Affairs & Development June – July 2024

- Developed a survey and conducted interviews for the Learning & Development and Belonging Initiatives to assess employee satisfaction with the onboarding process.
- Cleaned and analyzed data, uncovering key insights to inform strategic decisions.
- Conducted benchmarking meetings with partner institutions and researched online resources to identify best practices.
- Developed a comprehensive report detailing actionable insights and recommendations that were shared with employees and leadership.

Learning Collaborative Institute at Learning To Impact, Inc, Remote (CA, US)

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR & RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

August 2023 – June 2024

- Led short- and long-term evaluations of social impact programs through survey design and bilingual interviews, generating actionable insights to improve outcomes.
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative data analysis to assess program effectiveness and guide improvement.
- Produced comprehensive, data-driven materials – including reports, factsheets, blogs, and presentations.
- Supported capacity-building with partners and clients by creating user-friendly tools, facilitating data interpretation sessions, and reinforcing evaluation practices to support strategy and decision-making.
- Managed teams of 2–5 across multiple evaluation projects, ensuring timely delivery and team alignment.
- Planned and facilitated 100+ strategic planning meetings, monitoring and achieving multiyear grant milestones.
- Built and maintained relationships with strategic partners and funders, ensuring positive, clear, and consistent communication throughout the project lifecycle.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ASSISTANT

October 2021 – August 2023

- Participated in multiple multiyear program evaluations through survey design, bilingual interviews, and data analysis, driving strategic insights and improved outcomes for different at-risk populations.
- Initiated literature reviews and data analysis for actionable program enhancements.
- Led a team of three, managing simultaneous projects, coordinating tasks, and ensuring timely client communication.

Projects/strategic priorities:

- Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) Domestic Violence Project
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)
- Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) Peer Mentoring
- Junior Youth Empowerment Program

Capacity to Impact, Inc., Remote

EVALUATION ASSISTANT

April 2023 – August 2023

- Attended and facilitated virtual meetings with leadership and stakeholders.
- Developed evaluation questions, a data collection plan and interview protocol.
- Translated documents into Spanish and English.
- Conducted phone interviews.
- Collected, translated, and analyzed data to produce evaluation findings.

Camber Outdoors, remote

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN EVALUATION

October – November 2022 & 2023

- Examined annual cohort and individual organization data on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Camber partner organizations, identifying key trends and presenting findings in detailed reports.
- Developed 100+ brief priority action guides using PowerPoint to assist clients in implementing actionable insights.

i.D.A.Y.Dream - CGU, Claremont (CA, US)

STUDENT EVALUATOR, project required for the class Evaluation Procedures **Sept. 2022 – June 2023**

- Led a team of 4, coordinating and supervising.
- Designed and implemented data collection tools.
- Developed a final evaluation report, utilizing effective data visualization techniques and clear, concise writing to communicate findings and recommendations.
- Assisted the client in applying to two external grants to secure funding.

University of Córdoba, Córdoba (Spain)

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST IN TRAINING, required training to complete MA degree

Albizu University, Miami (FL, US)

September – December 2019

- Assisted as trainee psychologist trainee at: the *Neurobehavioral Institute of Miami* by observing and conducting cognitive assessments for the general population; and the *West Gables Rehabilitation Hospital* by observing and conducting cognitive assessments in a rehabilitation hospital with the elderly population.

Various centers, Córdoba (Spain)

June 2019

- Assisted as trainee psychologist trainee at *Clínica Medilap* by conducting psycho-technical assessments for driving and weapon licenses; and *Centro ALCORE* by observing group meetings at the Association of Rehabilitated Alcoholics of Córdoba.

Association of Relatives and People with Mental Illness of Córdoba (Asaenec): Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Research, Córdoba (Spain)

May – June 2019

- Designed and delivered workshops on different topics (cognitive rehabilitation, emotional intelligence) for users.

Carlos Castilla del Pino Public Health Center, Córdoba (Spain)

March – April 2019

- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary medical team, participated in psychiatric consultations, conducted psychological assessments (WISC IV) with children, and contributed to medical record writing.

Miguel Hernández University, Elche (Spain)

PSYCHOLOGIST IN TRAINING, required training to complete BA degree

Fontcalent Penitentiary Center, Alicante (Spain)

February – April 2018

- Observed first-admission interviews and follow-up interviews with inmates.
- Conducted individual interviews.
- Updated and implemented a brief Pathological Gambling Prevention Program.
- Observed during multidisciplinary team meetings.

Independent employers, Vienna (Austria)

AUPAIR

Seasonal (August 2016 – December 2020)

- Childcare and immersive living.

Miguel Hernández University, Elche (Spain)

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR – DEAN'S ASSISTANT

December 2017

- Organization of files and creation of questionnaires for the update and improvement of the faculty's mobility programs Sicue and ERASMUS.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

College Teaching Certificate - *Transdisciplinary Pedagogy for Ethical Education*

Preparing Future Faculty program at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, December 2022 – 84h

Certificate in Evaluation Practice - *The Evaluators' Institute at Claremont Graduate University*,

Currently pursuing

- Completed 14 courses focusing on Evaluation Foundations, Design & Analysis, and Evaluation Practice & Inquiry; totaling 196 hours of training as of Fall 2024.

Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program, Issued September 2021. No expiration date, Credential ID 44615393

PROFESSIONAL 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

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Peer-Reviewer

- Group Processes & Intergroup Relations (1 review)
- International Journal of Social Psychology (1 review)

Student ambassador and volunteer at Claremont Graduate University:

Claremont Graduate University, Course 22/23

- Participated as a speaker at different events for admitted and prospective students.
- Participated in professional development training.
- Volunteered at multiple Graduate Student Council events.

Participant in the First Online Youth Consultation on Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport, Jan 2021

Youth panel organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

- Contribution through discussion groups to the design of outputs (policy guide and app) for the “Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism”.

National Congress Organizer & Vice-President:

XV National Congress of Psychology Students (XV CNEP), October 2017 - April 2018

Community Volunteering:

- **Catchafire**, remote June 2020 – December 2024
 - Translated English-Spanish and Spanish-English content and provided assessments for projects for 20+ nonprofits in both long- and short-term projects, contributing over \$100k. [Link](#)
- **Priceless Pet Rescue**, Claremont (CA) February – May 2022
 - Animal care
- **Centro Mater**, Miami (FL) November 2019
 - Afterschool childcare
- **APIC (Association of Immigrants of Córdoba)**, Córdoba, (Spain) November – February 2019
 - As an employability coach, helped immigrants develop and improve their resumes while providing advice on job searching
- **PRODEAN Foundation**, Córdoba, (Spain) November 2018
 - Afterschool childcare
- **Buddy Program at Miguel Hernández University**, Elche (Spain) Academic Year 17/18
 - Peer support for exchange students

SKILLS

Languages

- **Spanish:** Fluent, native
- **English:** Fluent
- **German:** Intermediate – Certificated in 2020 from the University of Vienna (Austria)

Technical Skills:

- **Research:** Mixed methods, experiment design, Qualtrics, data analysis (SPSS, R Studio, Excel)
- **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Tools:** Logic models, dashboard creation, survey design, data visualization
- **Communication:** Academic writing, stakeholder reporting, presentations for diverse audiences
- **Project Management:** Data tracking, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary teamwork, team management, training and capacity building, event planning

Soft Skills: adaptability, approachability, multitasking, intercultural communication, team collaboration, attention to detail, organization