

Layla Santana
Curriculum vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Aging Studies, 2023- Current

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States of America.

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, 01/2017-12/2018

Educational Development Institute (IDE) College, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

B.S. in Occupational Therapy, 08/2009- 07/2015

Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Undergraduate Exchange Program, 09/2012-12/2013

Non-seeking degree student, Brock University, Psychology Department, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

08/2024 –Current

Graduate Instructional Assistant

Aging Studies Department, University of South Florida, Tampa, United States of America.

Course: The Life Cycle

08/2023 –07/2024

Teacher Assistant

Aging Studies Department, University of South Florida, Tampa, United States of America.

Courses: Psychology of Aging and The Life Cycle

03/2022-07/2023

Member of the technical and organizing team at UFPE

Project: To Love Yourself is Living: Attention to Freshmen students of the Occupational Therapy Program

- Activities: Give lectures about the work of the occupational therapist abroad. In addition to assisting on the academic journey.
- Undergraduate level, Department of Occupational Therapy, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil.

2017-2021

Thesis Defense Committee Member at UFPE

Undergraduate level, Department of Occupational Therapy, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil.

09/2013-12/2013

Gold Volunteer Level/Student Leader

SNAP (Supporting Neurodiversity through Adaptive Programming), Kinesiology Department, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

- Objective: Develop and improve performance and movement competency through play and sport while providing a developmentally appropriate environment that encourages achievement and nurtures dignity.

05/2013

Job Shadowing with an Occupational Therapist

Niagara Children's Center, St.Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

02/2012 – 06/2012

Teacher Assistant

Course: Public Health, Social Medicine School Department, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil.

02/2013 – 06/2015

Occupational Therapy intern

- Place: Occupational Therapy Outpatient Clinic at Clinical Hospital, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.
- Psychosocial Care Center for Alcohol and Other Drugs, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.
- Hotel Dieu Shaver/Health and Rehabilitation Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

01/2019- 07/2023

Occupational Therapist (Gerontologist)

Home Care Service of Bank of Brazil employee health care assistance, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

04/2014-12/2021

English Instructor

Wizard by Pearson Language School, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

01/2016- 02/2019

Occupational Therapist and Gerontologist

Recimed, Home Care Service, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

07/2015-03/2016

Occupational Therapist

Caine Rehabilitation and Integration for Children with Disabilities, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

01/2025-07/2025

Graduate Research Assistant

Preparing Staff in Assisted Living to Provide Palliative Care to Persons with Dementia: PCEAL-DCP (PI: Dr. Debra Dobbs)

Activities: Graduate Assistant

Advisor/PI: Dr. Debra Dobbs

Funded project by: NIA (R01)

07/2024-Current

Graduate Research Assistant

Reading to Connect: A Social Reading Intervention

Activities: Graduate Assistant

Advisor/PI: P.I: Fan Yang, PhD;

Co-P.I. : Hongdao Meng, MD, MPH, PhD; Janelle Applequist, PhD; and William Monaco, OD, PhD

06/2018-12/2018

Music with older adults

Main Researcher

Objective: Understanding the influence of music as an Occupational therapy intervention in the elderly with memory loss.

Advisor/PI: Dr. Fatima Ferrão at IDE College, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Non-funded project

01/2015- 06/2015

School Bullying and Occupational Therapy

Main Researcher

Objective: Analyzing bullying in the playground and the possibilities of intervention in Occupational Therapy in this school atmosphere.

Advisor: Dr. Fatima Ferrão at Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Funded by: CNPq- Science without borders.

05/2013-08/2013

School Bullying

Research Assistant

Activities: Helping, observing students in school, analyzing, studying the topics related to the research, and discussing with the other undergraduates, and the professor's findings.

Advisor/PI: Dr. Lauren McNamara at Brock University, St.Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

Student funded by: CNPq- Science without borders.

03/2012-07/2012

Health Promotion

Research Assistant

Activities: Lectures on the promotion of sexual and reproductive health among students between 14-16 years old at a High School in Recife through the development of educational games. The games were made by the research assistants.

Advisor/PI: Dr. Daniela Gontijo at Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Funded by: CAPES

03/2011-10/2011

Respiratory diseases

Research Assistant

Activities: Cross-sectional study. Proposing to estimate the prevalence of respiratory diseases and their risk factors in children under 5 years of age who lived in areas with and without Health Care coverage.

Advisor/PI: Dr. Sérgio Cunha at Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

Funded by: CNPq

PUBLICATIONS

Santana, L. K. F. F. et al; “Does Social Activity Participation Moderate the Relationship between Age and Cognition? Evidence from a National Cross-Sectional Study of the Health and Retirement Study” (**Manuscript under preparation**)

Santana, L. K. F. F. et al; “Social Activity Participation: Longitudinal Analysis of the Health and Retirement Study” (**Manuscript under preparation**)

Santana, L. K. F. F. et al; “Reading and Cognition: Literature Review” (**Manuscript under preparation**)

Nair S.U.; Babenko,N.; **Santana, L. K. F. F. et al;** Geroscience-based targets to delay aging and its related conditions: A drug approach. (**Manuscript under preparation**)

Babenko,N.; **Santana, L. K. F. F. ; Wofford K. et al;** The Long-Term Impact of the Neighborhood Environment on the Cognitive Abilities of Older Adults: A Scoping Review (**Manuscript under preparation**).

Santana, L. K. F. F.; Castelo Branco, M. F. F.“Music: Tool for Occupational Therapeutic Intervention in Cognitive Rehabilitation with Older People with Memory Loss - A Literature Review”, (In Portuguese), Revista FT, 26(114), 2022, available in <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7068944> (**Refereed Journal Article**)

Santana, L. K. F. F.; Castelo Branco, M. F. F. “Prevention of School Bullying in Childhood: Playing in the Playground from the Perspective of Occupational Therapy”, (In Portuguese), Revista Fisio & Terapia, 26(114),2022, available in <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7106189> (**Refereed Journal Article**)

BOOKS

Santana, L. K. F. F.; “100 Exercises for Cognitive Stimulation”, (In Portuguese). Jaboaão dos Guararapes: UICLAP, ISBN: 978-65-00-53035-3, 2022.

Santana, L. K. F. F.; “Exercises for Fine Coordination”, (In Portuguese). Jaboaão dos Guararapes: UICLAP, ISBN: 978-65-00-53077-3, 2022.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Santana, L. K. F. F. et al; “Does Social Activity Participation Moderate the Relationship between Age and Cognition? Evidence from a National Cross-Sectional Study of the Health and Retirement Study”,2024. Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, USA (**Poster**)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Santana, L. K. F. F. et al; “Does Social Activity Participation Moderate the Relationship between Age and

Castelo Branco, M. F. F.; Chaves, L. C. B.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.** “Consumer Control as a Goal for Quality of Life”, (In Portuguese), 2016. International Conference of Physical Education, Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil. **(Talk and Scientific Conference Proceeding)**

Santana, L. K. F. F.; Castelo Branco, M. F. F.; “Preventing School Bullying in Childhood During Recess and the Occupational Therapy perspective”, (In Portuguese), 2015. International Conference of Physical Education, Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil. **(Talk and Scientific Conference Proceeding)**

Oliveira, B.P.A.; Santos, J.C.M.; Silva, E.E.M.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; “Elderly people with Alzheimer's Disease and Occupational Therapy Intervention”, (In Portuguese). 2014. XXII Brain Symposium- “Neurosciences: The Brain from a Multifunctional Perspective”, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. **(Poster)**

Silva, E.E.M.; Melo, J.F.L.M.; Freitas, M.B.F.; Figueiredo, G.B.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; Costa, R.N.A.; Barata, M.F.O.; Santos, N.A.L.M.; “Occupational Therapeutics Guidelines for Families with Children with Cerebral Palsy”, (In Portuguese). 2014. III National Conference of Research in Occupational Therapy, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil. **(Poster)**

Freitas, M.B.F.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; Santos, A.A.; Marcelino, J. F. Q. “A Case report of a Child Assisted in the Occupational Therapy pediatric Outpatient at Clinics Hospital”, (In Portuguese). 2014. III National Conference of Research in Occupational Therapy, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil. **(Poster)**

Vasconcelos, A. C. S. E.; Vasconcelos, V. I. B.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; Monteiro, R. J. S. “The role of Occupational Therapy in Neglected Diseases: Case Report in Hansen’s Disease”, (In Portuguese), 2013. XIII Brazilian Conference of Occupational Therapy, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. **(Talk and Scientific Conference Proceeding)**

Araujo, E. S.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; Santos, K. N. S.; Monteiro, R. J. S.; Vasconcelos, A. C. S.; Gontijo, D. T. “Gender, sexual and Reproductive Health: Reflections of an Occupational Therapy Experience”, (In Portuguese), p.177, 2012. IX North-East Occupational Therapy Conference, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil **(Talk and Scientific Conference Proceeding)**

Oliveira, A. S.; Vasconcelos, A. C. S.; Araujo, E. S.; **Santana, L. K. F. F.**; Rosas, M. A. “The Contribution of Occupational Therapy in the Penitentiary System in Pernambuco” (In Portuguese), p.145-146. 2012. IX North-East Occupational Therapy Conference, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. **(Talk and Scientific Conference Proceeding)**

AWARDS AND COURSES

- Research assistantship at Public Health Department (03/2011-10/2011)
- Teacher assistantship at Public Health Department (02/2012-07/2012)
- Exchange non-degree seeking Program at Brock University, Canada. (09/2012-12/2013)
- Full tuition waived for Bachelor’s Degree in Occupational Therapy (08/2009-07/2015)
- Exchange non-degree seeking Program at Brock University, Canada. (09/2012-12/2013)
- The University Graduate Fellowship Award, University of South Florida, USA (08/2023)
- Wolowec Scholarship from University of South Florida, USA (04/2024)