

Your full name: Andrew Talone

Cornell University

Title of your LiA project: Research and Advocacy with Yaaj Mexico

The organization or partner with which you are working: Yaaj Mexico

Your key contact/supervisor at the organization. *If you are working with a Cornell faculty member, list that person; if there is an additional local partner, list that person as well.*

Full name: Miguel Angel Fuentes Carreño

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The need or cause you are supporting: What is the specific problem, cause, or opportunity you are exploring?

We are researching topics relating to LGBTQ+ discrimination in Mexican states, working to identify health crises for transgender people in the country, and teaching LGBTQ+ youth in Mexico City advocacy and community organizing skills.

Goal: What is the big-picture idea/vision and desired outcome that your LiA project is trying to achieve in order to address the need or problem above?

We hope to develop a “heat map” for LGBTQ+ discrimination in Mexican states to demonstrate which states are more friendly toward LGBTQ+ people. As for health crises among the transgender population in Mexico, we plan to gather data on the health condition outcomes for the community and publicize the results to raise awareness of the issues and present our findings to Mexican politicians.

Objectives: How will you achieve your goal? Write 3-5 SMART objectives outlining how you will achieve the overall goal.

- In the first week, I will translate Yaaj Mexico's website into English so that it will be more widely accessible to the international community.
- From weeks 1 to 3, I will conduct overviews with members of the LGBTQ+ community in various Mexican states to determine if and how experiences with discrimination vary based on the state in which a person resides. I will cross-reference these experiences with laws regarding discrimination to determine how laws impact the level of discrimination we understand to exist in the state.
- In weeks 4-6, I will determine whether there is a correlation between reported discrimination, laws prohibiting LGBTQ+ discrimination on a local/state level, and will then present these findings before various members of Yaaj México, Mexican government officials, and local politicians to inform the public about the state of LGBTQ+ discrimination in Mexico and what can be done to address the issue.

List any challenges, barriers, or risks to achieving your objectives.

Being the only non-Mexican person working in the organization may present some cultural and language barriers. Additionally, most people who work in the organization are 10+ years older than I am. Therefore, I think it might be difficult to find people my age to work with and relate to while on the trip.

What are some ideas you have to overcome those barriers or challenges?

One idea I have to overcome this challenge is to improve my Spanish, especially my colloquial speaking skills, to more easily communicate with members of the team and the local community. In doing so, I hope to both increase my understanding of Spanish spoken in the area and my interpersonal communication skills. Another way I plan to overcome this challenge is by socializing with coworkers and people enrolled in the LGBTQ+ leadership program that are of a similar age to me to increase my socialization in Mexican culture.

Weekly milestones: What are the significant activities/objectives of the LiA project outlined by week?

Week	Start Date	Milestone	Details
1	06/13/2022	Translate & Begin Interviews	Translate organization's website and begin (on my end) to set up interviews and continue the work of the PI/organization in performing these interviews
2	06/20/2022	Interviews, Youth Training	Perform interviews, summarize findings, begin compiling a report; Assist the youth training branch of the organization by helping facilitate weekly meetings and oversee groups
3	06/27/2022	Interviews, Youth Training	Perform interviews, summarize findings, begin compiling a report; Assist the youth training branch of the organization by helping facilitate weekly meetings and oversee groups
4	07/04/2022	Interviews, Youth Training	Perform interviews, summarize findings, begin compiling a report; Assist the youth training branch of the organization by helping facilitate weekly meetings and oversee groups
5	07/11/2022	Research & Advocacy	Finish summarizes and begin preparing overview of findings and abstracting data from interviews and other research to determine trends, points of interest, etc. Begin scheduling meetings with political figures and government officials to discuss advocacy the Mexican

			government/states can take to prevent discrimination.
6	07/18/2022	Research & Advocacy	Finish contributions to research report and continue meeting with political figures to discuss findings and engage in advocacy for protections against discrimination.