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Member Spotlight: Paola Guerrero-Rosada

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Why did you join SRCD?

I joined the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) because, as a developmental scientist, I wanted to be part of a community dedicated to advancing research in child development and early education. SRCD's focus on rigorous empirical research has allowed me to disseminate my work and obtain feedback that helped improve it, especially as I was starting out and eager to conduct science that could directly impact children's lives. The network of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers within SRCD offers a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary collaboration, which has shaped my approach to child development.

Why have you stayed a member of SRCD over time?

I have continued to be an SRCD member because of the ongoing learning, collaboration, and mentorship opportunities it provides. SRCD is a dynamic community that is constantly evolving to address pressing

issues in child development, and each biennial meeting has brought an opportunity to learn new directions in the field and stay current. Additionally, SRCD offers resources above and beyond its biennial meetings, such as its varied serial publications, webinars, and financial support for students and early career scholars. Importantly, SRCD has become an important venue to learn more about global advances in developmental science and connect with a broader network of scholars.

How does your work align with the mission of SRCD?

My work focuses on understanding the mechanisms that help improve the quality of early education experiences, paying special attention to how the conditions for early development vary across communities. This aligns closely with SRCD's mission to advance interdisciplinary research and support applied work that improves the lives of children. By focusing on how the quality of early education settings supports children's development, I aim to inform policy and improve early childhood education systems. SRCD's emphasis on bridging research, practice, and policy has been an inspiring model for my own work.

What do you get out of SRCD events or meetings?

SRCD events, particularly the biennial meetings, are rich opportunities for learning and connection. They provide a space to share my research, receive constructive feedback, and stay updated on emerging trends in early education. These events also allow me to engage with diverse perspectives and approaches, which has deepened my understanding of the field.

What would you tell your students and colleagues about joining SRCD?

I encourage my students and colleagues to join SRCD because it provides opportunities to disseminate and refine our work, as well as to learn about the latest advancements and how they can impact practice and policy. For early-career researchers, SRCD membership offers mentorship opportunities and fosters a sense of community.