Patricia A Politano, PhD, CCC-SLP/L, ATP

Department of Disability and Human Development
University of Illinois at Chicago
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EDUCATION:

PhD, 2007, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL (Major: Disability Studies, Thesis: *Understanding factors contributing to interactions of people who use augmentative communication methods).*

M.A., 1998, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (Communication Sciences and Disorders).

B.A., 1981, College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota, (Majors: Music Therapy and Psychology).

APPOINTMENTS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2016-present.

Assistive Technology Consultant, (LEND) Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disorders (federally funded interdisciplinary training program) 2011 - present http://illinoislend.org/contacts/faculty/

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2008-2016.

Complimentary Faculty, Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, Rush University, Chicago, IL, 1998-present.

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Northwestern University, Evanston IL, 2004-2016.

Clinical Instructor, Department of Disability and Human Development, College of Health and Human Development Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 1998-2008.

Project Coordinator for Augmentative Communication Services and Training, Assistive Technology Unit, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 1991-present.

Speech-Language Pathologist, DuPage Easter Seals, Villa Park, IL, 1989-1991.

LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), effective 10/01/1990 to present

ATP RESNA Certified Assistive Technology Professional, Professional Standards Board, effective 10/22/1997 to present.

IL Speech-Language Pathologist License, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, 05/08/1991 to present.

Early Intervention Specialist in Speech/Language Pathology, Credentialed by the IL Department of Human Services, Part C Early Intervention Credential, 07/12/2013 – 06/30/2016.

HONORS

Fulbright Specialist 2018-2021. Grant Awarded for 5-week placement/collaboration with University of Zagreb, Croatia, November 2019, “Upgrade Augmentative Communication”.

GRANTS

“Assistive Technology Leaders in Special Education (ATLiS)”. Five year grant to support graduate studies of 52 special educations in the development of skills and knowledge in assistive technology. US Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator 2017-2022

“ATX2”. Investigation of the use of mobile technology for social networking and safety for individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities”, Funded by Coleman Foundation, Co Principal Investigator, October, 2013-2014.

“ATX” Investigation of the use of Mobile technology for vocational training, work and community integration individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, Funded by Coleman Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator, July, 2012 -2013.

“Civic Engagement and Disability: using advocacy and technology to advance the political participation of people with disabilities”, Co-Principal Investigator, January – June, 2011.

"Feasibility study for CARC Tech Center: a computer lab designed to promote academic and vocational skills and a vocational program designed to train skills in technology-related jobs for adults and transition-age students served by CARC”, Co-Principal Investigator, January – September, 2004.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

Grossman, B., Martinez, A., McNamara, E, Politano, P., Acharya, A. & Meza, R. (2018) Access to Assistive Technology (AT) Information in Spanish on State and Territory Program Websites: United States. Disability and Health Journal (in Review)

Meaghan M. Fitzgerald; Brenda Sposato; Patricia Politano; John Hetling; William O'Neill. (2009). Comparison of three head-controlled mouse emulators in three light conditions. AAC: Augmentative and Alternative Communication. 25(1): 32-41

Encyclopedia Entry

Politano, P. & Athamanah, L. (2017). "Augmentative Communication". In Tamar Heller, Sarah Parker Harris, Carol J. Gill, and Robert Gould. (2018). *Disability in American Life: An Encyclopedia of Concepts, Policies, and Controversies.* Volume 1, pp.19-23. Retrieved from http://publisher.abc-clio.com/9781440834233

Politano, P. (2005). "Augmentative Communication". In Gary L. Albrecht (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Disability*. Sage Publications. pp143-144.

Politano, P. (2005). "Dysarthria". In Gary L. Albrecht (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Disability. Sage Publications*. pp143-144.

Booklet

Hedman, G., Hooyenga, K., Politano, P. & Sposato, B. (1997). Assistive technology and you: A guide for families and persons with disabilities, Chicago, IL: RETC on Aging with Developmental Disabilities.

Doster, S. & Politano, P. (1996). "Augmentative Communication". Self-Study Guide in Assistive Technology. American Occupational Therapy Association.

Article
Politano, P. & Peterson, R. (Feb/March 2006). “Fun with AAC”. Closing the Gap: 2006 Resource Directory . pp. 9-11

Web-Based Course
Hooyenga, K & Politano, P. (1999). "Technology for Functional Communication, Web-based Instructional Course", American Occupational Therapy Association.

Assessment Tool
Politano, P. Inventory of Functional Communication for Adults with Severe Communication Impairments, (1999), Rev. 2002.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272417253_Inventory_of_Functional_Communication

Conference Proceedings
Politano, P & Bay, S. (2016). "Self-Reports of Adults with Developmental Disability Using Mobile Technology for Independence and Community Living". Conference Proceedings: 17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Politano, P & Biondi, L. (2008). "Beyond Unicorns: Strategies for Social and Strategic Competence". Conference Proceedings: 13th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Politano, P. (1999). “Engineering Adult Residences for Communication Opportunities and Communication Training” Proceedings of the RESNA Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Hooyenga, K. & Politano, P. (1999) “The Glider: An Assist To Direct Select For Augmented Communication ” Proceedings of the RESNA Conference, Long Beach, California, Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology

Politano, P.A. & Scharre, J.E.(1994) "Functional Vision Skills for AAC Systems". Published in the Conference Proceedings: 5th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Netherlands: Drukkerskollekeif Geulle

Sposato, BA, Hedman, GE, Politano, PA (1992) "AAC Device Mounting System for Supine Stander, "Proceedings of the RESNA Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology.

Film
Politano, P., writer/producer & Hinko M., director of “Switches in Therapy for children with severe and profound disabilities”, instructional videotape. (1987).

Archived Webcasts
Politano, P. (December 1, 2015) “Tips and Tricks from Competent Communicators Who use AAC”. Infinitec.

Politano, P. (March, 2015). “Introduction to Communication Supports”, Webinar. Illinois Department of Human Services DHS Provider Training. Weblink

Politano, P. (April, 2015). “Supports, Services and Resources Communication Training”, Webinar. Illinois Department of Human Services DHS Provider Training. Weblink:
https://vimeo.com/125503662

Websites
Politano, P. (April, 2015) “Supporting Communication Needs” companion website for developed for webcasts sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services
https://sites.google.com/site/uicpolitano/course-materials

Politano, P & Post, K. (2012) Companion website created for "Augmentative Communication: Three Part training series" sponsored by Illinois State Board of Education.
http://allaboutaac.wikispaces.com/Resources

SERVICE

FIELD-RELATED VOLUNTEER CLINICAL SERVICE

AAC Consultant. AAC Clinic in Zagreb, Croatia. October 15 & 16, 2018

AAC Consultant. AAC Clinics, Fulbright Professional Fellowship Program. September, 2015

AAC Consultant. AAC Clinic for Children and Adults affected by Hurricane Katrina, sponsored by RESNA, June 22, 2009, New Orleans, LA.

AAC Consultant. Assistive Technology Centre, Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD), April 2005, Singapore, Singapore.

AAC Consultant. Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Spastic Society of Eastern India, three-week project included clinical evaluations, development of communication aids and training of school staff, April 1998, Calcutta, India

DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROJECTS

Silent Auction Coordinator. Silent Auction to support people who use AAC to attend ISAAC International Conferences, ISAAC 2018, Gold Coast, Australia.

Silent Auction Coordinator, Silent Auction to support service providers from Emerging AAC Nations to attend ISAAC International Conferences, ISAAC 2016, Toronto, Canada.

Silent Auction Co-Coordinator. Silent Auction to support service providers from Emerging AAC Nations to attend ISAAC International Conferences, ISAAC 2014, Lisbon, Portugal.

Silent Auction Coordinator, Silent Auction to support service providers from Emerging AAC Nations to attend ISAAC International Conferences, ISAAC 2012, Philadelphia, PA

Silent Auction Coordinator. Silent Auction to support service providers from Emerging AAC Nations to attend ISAAC International Conferences, ISAAC 2010, Barcelona, Spain

Coordinated Grant Activity. "AAC and All That Jazz" Conference, to enable children and adults with AAC needs affected by Hurricane Katrina to gain access to assistive technology tools. Solicited $40,000 in donated assistive technology, reviewed requests for AAC equipment, distributed approved equipment to 36 agencies/service providers. New Orleans, LA, 2008.

ATAAC Conference Committee, https://ataac.eu/ 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Politano, P. "Augmentative communication for individuals with cerebral palsy". Technology and Communication Conference on the advanced technology for people with disabilities, Belgrade, Serbia, October 23, 2018.

Magusic, R. and Politano, P. "Encouraging language development in supported communication users". Technology and Communication Conference on the advanced technology for people with disabilities. Zagreb, Croatia. October 18, 2018.

Politano, P., Shymkewich, L., Gutesha, E. & Malkowski, S. "Supporting Beginning Communicators in the Classroom: Where to Start and Where to Go". Closing the Gap Conference, Prior Lake, MN. September, 2018.

Politano, P. "Honoring the right to communicate when people say "He does not communicate" ISAAC Conference 2018, Gold Coast Australia. July 24, 2018.

Politano, P. "Successful Communicators use Multiple Communication Methods". Technology and Communication Conference on the advanced technology for people with disabilities. Zagreb, Croatia. September 2, 2016.

Politano, P. "Accessing Augmentative Communication Aids". Technology and Communication Conference on the advanced technology for people with disabilities. Zagreb, Croatia. September 1, 2016.

Smith, V, Hooyenga, K. & Politano, P., "I can do it myself: Using mobile technology." 2014 Speak Up and Speak Out Summit, Springfield, IL, November, 2014

Hooyenga, K. & Politano, P., "I can do it myself: Case examples using mobile technology." Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, Speak Up and Speak Out Summit, Springfield, IL October 2013

Politano, P. "Increased Communication, Participation and Organization with Mobile Technology", National Association for Down Syndrome, Chicago, IL, September 2013

Politano, P. "Advances in Augmentative and Alternative Communication." National Rehabilitation Association Conference. Chicago, IL, August 2012

Politano, P., "Applying AAC Feature-based Assessment Tools and Strategies: Part II" ATIA Conference, Orlando, FL. January 2009

Politano, P., "Applying AAC Feature-based Assessment Tools and Strategies: Part I" ATIA Conference, Orlando, FL. January 2009

Politano, P., "Beyond Unicorns: In Search of Social and Strategic Competence". 2008 Clinical AAC Research Conference, Charlottesville, VA, September , 2008.

Politano, P. & Peterson, R. "Fun with AAC", Charting the C's: Assistive Technology in Special Education Conference, Minnesota Department of Education, MN April 2006.

Johnson, P., Politano, P. & Peterson, R. "Fun with AAC", Closing the Gap Conference, Bloomington, MN. October 22, 2005.

Politano, P. "Engineer successful interactions for Young Adults who use AAC". Illinois Speech, Hearing And Language Association. Chicago, IL. February 2005. Invited Speaker.

Politano, P. "AAC Assessment Protocol for Adults with Developmental Disabilities". Illinois Speech, Hearing And Language Association. Chicago, IL. February 2004.

Politano, P. "Factors Affecting the Use of AAC Systems: Results of a Descriptive Study." Illinois Speech, Hearing And Language Association. Chicago, IL. February 2004.

Taege, D. & and Politano, P. "AAC Evaluations for Beginning Communicators: Where to Start with Adults." ATIA 2004 Conference and Exhibition, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, January 14-17, 2004.

Politano, P. & Velozo, C. "Using Rasch and Traditional Analysis to Create AAC Outcome Tools", American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Chicago, November, 2003.

Politano, P. Augmentative and Alternative Communication: A Brief Overview, Chicago Audiology-Speech-Language Meeting, April 4, 2003.

Politano, P. & DiGiovine, C. "Enhancing Quality of Life Through Applications of Assistive Technology", IL ARP, Chicago, IL October 10, 2002.

Velozo, C. & Politano, P. "Using Rasch measurement in the development of a functional communication measure for adults with developmental disabilities". International Conference on Objective Measurement Program, Chicago, October 19-20, 2001.

Politano, P. & Taege, D. "AAC for under $2000" RESNA Conference, Orlando, Florida, June 2000.

Sposato, B., Hooyenga, K & Politano, P. "Overview of Assistive Technology Options", Illinois QMRP Mini Conference. Mattson, Springfield and Centralia, IL Feb-March, 2000.

Politano, P. "How can YOU communicate with people who don't speak", IL DHS Risk Conference, September 2000.

Politano, P. "Assessment of Communication Involving Adults With Severe Communication Impairments", ATIA World Conference, Orlando Florida, November 1999. Invited Speaker.

Politano, P. "Identifying Functional Communication Programs for Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Severe Communication Impairments", Illinois AAMR 1999 Annual Convention, October 1999.

Politano, P., "AAC Assessment Protocol for adults with Developmental Disabilities", ISHA Conference, Chicago, IL February, 1999. Invited Speaker.

Politano, P, "AAC Update", Chicago Speech-Hearing Association Meeting, October 1998, Invited Speaker.

Politano, P. "AAC Assessment Strategies", SASED Spring Institute, Naperville, IL February, 1998. Invited Speaker.

Politano, P. & Hooyenga, "AAC Assessment Strategies: Let's Play", Closing the Gap, Bloomington, MN. October 1997.

Politano, P.A. & Scharre, J.E. (1994) "Functional Vision Skills for AAC Systems". 6th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Maastricht, The Netherlands, October 1994.

PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS

Politano, P & Potanos, J., "Maximizing Communication Opportunities for Individuals with Severe Disabilities". (Two-day training) Trained 300 direct-service providers in seven Illinois cities, including Rockford, Mount Vernon, Chicago, Schaumburg & Moline. 1992 – 1994.

Politano, P. "Communication Aids for those with Brain Injury and Cerebral Palsy", Multi-Disciplinary Investigations of Abuse and Neglect Training, Illinois Joint Training Initiative, Galena, IL, March 1994.

Sharre, J. & Politano, P. “Functional Vision Skills and Augmentative Communication Systems: Assessment and Implications”, Rosalie Dold Symposium, Villa Park, IL April 1995.

Politano, P. Communication Aids and Strategies for use with Adults who have Developmental Disabilities. IL Department of Human Services (DHS) Provider Training, Chicago, Springfield, Collinsville, 2000.

Hooyenga K. & Politano, P. “Access to Computers and Augmentative Communication” Video Conference (Ireland), March 2000.

Politano, P. “Augmentative Communication”. Family Ties Early Childhood Program, Parent Training. September, 2000.

Politano, P. “Augmentative Communication for Children: On-Going Evaluation and Practice”, Pediatric Place, Arlington Heights IL, Jan 22, 2002

Price, L., Young, S. & Politano, P. “Boardmaker”, Assistive Technology Workshop, Singapore, April 23, 2005

Politano, P. “Augmentative Communication”. Clinical Updates Conference – Illinois Department of Human Services. Springfield, IL May 26, 2005

Politano, P. & Skalitzky, J. “Introduction to assistive technology and AAC”. Teacher Institute Training, Cicero, IL November 16, 2005

Politano, P. & Hooyenga, K. “Assistive technology and strategies for communication and play.” Laribida Children's Hospital. Chicago, IL. February 2006.

Politano, P. “Communication Aids and Strategies for use with Adults who have Developmental Disabilities”, IL cities 2011

Politano, P. “Using iPads for AAC: Making it work” June 2011

Politano, P. & Jordan, R. “iPads Applications for AAC and Visual Strategies: Making it work” October, 2011

Politano, P. & Glenn, D. “iPad Apps for AAC and Visual Strategies”, Chicago, IL 1/16/2012

Politano, P. & Glenn, D. “AAC Assessment & Customizing iPads/iPods for Communication: Hands-On Training with Three AAC Apps”, UIC, Chicago, IL, 1/18/2012

Sposato, B., Politano, P. & Hooyenga, K. “What’s new in Assistive Technology for Vocational Rehab”, IARP, Naperville, IL 8/23/2012

Politano, P. “Assistive Technology, the State of the Art” Naperville, IL 9/20/2012

Politano, P. “Visual Supports for Employment and Job Training” Cicero, IL 9/21/2012

Politano, P. “AAC with iPods/iPads and other tablets: A Basic Overview”, UIC, Chicago, IL 10/09/2012

Politano, P. “AAC Assessment: Considering iPods/iPads and other tablets 12/12/2012”, UIC, Chicago, IL 10/09/2012

Politano, P. “Assessment in AAC: Components of AAC Feature Match”, Illinois State Board of Education, O’Fallon, IL, 11/01/2012

Politano, P. “Next Steps with AAC Integration into the Educational Curriculum”, Illinois State Board of Education, O’Fallon, IL, 12/06/2012

Politano, P. “AAC with iPods/iPads and other tablets: A Basic Overview”, UIC, Chicago, IL 12/12/2012

Politano, P. “AAC Assessment: Considering iPods/iPads and other tablets 12/12/2012”, UIC, Chicago, IL 12/12/2012

Politano, P. AAC with iPods/iPads and other tablets: A Basic Overview, UIC, Chicago, IL 12/13/2012

Politano, P. “AAC Intervention: Setting up iTechnology and Tablet-Based AAC Systems”, UIC, Chicago, IL 12/13/2012

Politano, P. Augmentative Communication: Case Study Discussion and Lab, Chicago, IL 1/18/2013

Politano, P. “Mobile Technologies for AAC”. Clearbrook, March 2013

Politano, P. & Glenn, D., Using iPads to aid Communication, Visual Supports and Independence, The Autism Program Service Center, Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago – Rockford Region, Rockford, IL, 4/25/2013

Politano, P. “Using iPads to aid Communication” Kreider Services, Inc, Dixon IL Oct. 24, 2013

RESEARCH/ PUBLICATION/ GRANT REVIEW

Logopedia, Croatian

AdHoc Reviewer, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, 1992 - present

AdHoc Reviewer, American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, - present)

AdHoc Reviewer, Journal of Communication Disorders, - present)

Review board member, International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Research Symposium, 2014

CAAC Research Paper Review Committee, 2009

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Review, Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Communication Enhancement, 2008

Chair of Student Scientific Paper Competition, Rehabilitation Engineer and Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference, 2008

PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY

AAC Consultant, Tablet workgroup, Illinois Department of Human Services for Early Intervention, regarding logistics for add funding of iPad and other tablets to list approved assistive technology to meet developmental communication needs. May – December 2012.

AAC Consultant, Focus Group, Illinois Assistive Technology Project, to advise Illinois Department of Human Services Medicaid regarding policies and procedures for funding communication aids. Springfield IL, 1994.

THESIS SUPERVISION

Peculis, Lori (2017). Mechanical lift technology: The parent experience of caring for their adult child with a physical disability. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Cochrane, Daniel (2012). Recontextualizing the student: Analysis of the SETT framework for assistive technology in education. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

O'Malley, Maureen (2010). The impact of aided language stimulation on symbol comprehension and production in early intervention. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Witte, Kristie (2009). Communications partners' behavior towards people who use augmentative and alternative communication. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

OTHER THESIS/DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Bay, Stephanie (2017) Communicating Through Social Media: How Persons with Acquired Complex Communication Needs Use the Internet to Maintain Social Connections, Doctoral Dissertation, University of IL at Chicago.

Lenzo, Sherri (2014). Technology 'Toolbelt' Methodology and Writing Productivity Outcomes in Students with Learning Disabilities. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ramey, Jody John (2013). Assistive technology and performance - dancing in bed and bridging communication gaps. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Hacker, Eileen (2011). A Study in Disabilities: Issues of Voice and Identity. Doctoral Dissertation, Lewis University.

Fitzgerald, Meghan (2008). Comparison of Three Head-Controlled Mouse Emulators in Three Light Conditions. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

DeLashment-Warren, Charnessa (2002) Augmentative and Alternative Communication Performance in the School. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rebecca Anne Nedwick (2006). Evaluation of a Literacy Program on Students with Moderate to Severe Cognitive and Multiple Disabilities. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Hohulin, David Edward (2003) Developing Sample Computer-Based GED Instructional Lessons for Persons with Physical Disabilities. Masters Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago.

AFFILIATIONS

American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, Member, 1989 – present. Health Care Economics Committee, 2009-2011.

International Society for Augmentative And Alternative Communication, Member, 1990-present, Emerging AAC Nations Committee, 2006-present.

United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Member, 1990-Present, IL Representative for USSAC Board of Directors. 2008 Conference Committee.

Illinois Network For Augmentative And Alternative Communication, Steering Committee 1991-2005, President 2003 – 2005, Treasurer 1993-1998.

Rehabilitation Engineer and Assistive Technology Society of North America, Member. Conference Committee 2008, Chair of Student Scientific Paper Competition, 2008. Conference Committee 2010.

TEACHING

GRADUATE COURSES AT UIC, Department of Disability and Human Development

- Augmentative Communication Assessment, instructor
- New Trends in Assistive Technology, co-instructor
- Using Mobile Technology for Augmentative Communication, instructor
- Interdisciplinary Seminar in Disability Studies, instructor
- Seminar for Assistive Technology Leaders in Special Education (ATLiS), instructor
- Computers, Communication and Controls, co-instructor
- Assistive Technology for Infants and Toddlers, co-instructor

GRADUATE COURSES FOR OTHER UNIVERSITIES

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, Rush University, Chicago, IL
- Introduction to Augmentative Communication, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders St Xavier University, Chicago, IL