

CATALINA VALDEZ

Curriculum Vitae

University of Wisconsin-Madison
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EDUCATION

- 2023–Present University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Joint Doctor of Philosophy, Departments of Sociology and Civil Society & Community Studies
- 2022–2023 Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
Master of Science, Department of Sociology
GPA: 3.95/4.00
Thesis: “Helpful or Harmful? The Effect of Heritage Language Use on Perceived Maternal Closeness in United States Immigrant Families” (2023). Theses and Dissertations. 10115.
<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/10115> [[Replication package](#)]
- 2018–2022 Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
Bachelor of Science, Department of Sociology
GPA: 3.91/4.00

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- n.d. Beneke, Abigail J., Samantha Viano, **Catalina Valdez**, Benjamin W. Fisher, and Alyssa Barone. “School Stakeholders' Acceptance of School Security Technologies.” *Forthcoming in Surveillance & Society*
- 2025 Wang, Alice Nuo-Yi, Niwako Yamawaki, Jane Green, Yuki Nohagi, Rachel Umphress, and **Catalina Valdez**. “Economic Abuse, Compared to Emotional Abuse and Physical Abuse, is Minimized More, Victims are Blamed More, and Victims are Provided With Less Legal Advice.” *Psychology*, 16, 1372-1396. <https://doi.org/10.4236/psych.2025.1611079>
- 2025 **Valdez, Catalina**, Benjamin W. Fisher, and Abigail J. Beneke. “Decriminalizing or Reassembling Schools? Implications of Removing Police from Schools for Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice System Contact.” *Social Problems* (00):1-20.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaf066> [[Replication package](#)]
- 2024 **Valdez, Catalina**, John P. Hoffmann, and Melissa S. Jones. “Shared Households in the U.S.: A New Perspective on Family Structure and Adolescent Substance Use.” *Crime & Delinquency* 0(0):1-31. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287241295659> [[Replication package](#)]
- 2021 López, Jane Lilly, Genevra Munoa, **Catalina Valdez**, and Nadia Terron Ayala. “Shades of Belonging: The Intersection of Race and Religion in Utah Immigrants’ Social Integration.” *Social Sciences* 10(7):246-254. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10070246>

Other Scholarly Publications

- 2025 Viano, Samantha, Abigail J. Beneke, **Catalina Valdez**, Alyssa Barone, and Benjamin W. Fisher. Working Paper. "School Bathrooms: Perspectives on Safety, Surveillance, and Privacy in the Restroom." EdWorkingPaper No. 25-1307. <https://doi.org/10.26300/10np-mj65>
- 2024 Fisher, Benjamin W., **Catalina Valdez**, and Abigail J. Beneke. Report for the National Institute for Justice. "Breaking the School-To-Prison Pipeline: Implications of Removing Police from Schools for Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System." Award Number: 15PNIJ-22-AG-01572-RESS. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/309393.pdf>
- 2023 **Valdez, Catalina**. Book Review. "Farming Inside Invisible Worlds: Modernist Agriculture and its Consequences," by Hugh Campbell. *Rural Sociology* 88(2):606-607. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12494>

Works in Progress

- n.d. Beneke, Abigail J, **Catalina Valdez**, Sarah Volk, Erika Gonzalez, Mark White, Savion Castro, Gabrielle Hernandez, Benjamin W. Fisher, F. Chris Curran, and Samantha Viano. "Local Stakeholders' Conceptions of School Safety." *Revised and resubmitted to American Journal of Education*
- n.d. **Valdez, Catalina**. "The Role of Reciprocity: Heritage Language Use and Perceived Maternal Closeness in U.S. Immigrant Families." *Under review in Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* [[Replication package](#)]
- n.d. Viano, Samantha, Abigail J. Beneke, **Catalina Valdez**, Alyssa Barone, and Benjamin W. Fisher. "School Bathrooms: Perspectives on Safety, Surveillance, and Privacy in the Restroom." *Under review in American Journal of Education*
- n.d. Fisher, Benjamin W., Abigail J. Beneke, and **Catalina Valdez**. "Unraveling the School-Prison Nexus: Implications of Removing Police from Schools for Reporting Crimes to the Police." *In preparation*

Research Experience

- 2023–Present Graduate Project Assistantship
 Advisor: Benjamin W. Fisher, PhD
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Madison, WI
 Conducting one-on-one interviews with school administrators and leading focus groups with teachers and students to understand how school security measures shape academics, behavior and discipline, and social life
 Quantitative analysis of effect of removing school resource officers on rates of student arrest and referrals to police in U.S. elementary and high schools
 Writing policy reports for the National Institute of Justice, writing and submitting academic manuscripts for publication
- 2023–2025 Against Criminalization in Education (ACE) Lab
 Advisor: Benjamin W. Fisher, PhD
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Madison, WI

Reading and discussing critical theory related to equity in education
 Reviewing and providing feedback on lab members' work related to educational inequalities
 Qualitative data analysis of interviews with school stakeholders to understand differing perceptions of school safety

2022–2023

Graduate Research Assistantship
 Advisor: Jane Lilly López, PhD
 Brigham Young University
 Provo, UT

Qualitative analysis of incident reports pertaining to suicidal thoughts or behavior among unaccompanied minors in detention facilities at U.S.-Mexico border
 Wrote Institutional Review Board application for research exploring factors facilitating and/or impeding sense of belonging among Utah residents

2021–2022

Yamawaki Lab
 Advisor: Niwako Yamawaki, PhD
 Brigham Young University
 Provo, UT

Contributed to research projects pertaining to:

- Anti-Asian hate crimes amidst COVID-19
- Differences in perceptions of economic abuse based on perpetrator's gender and across cultures (i.e., U.S. and Japan)

Constructed and edited Institutional Review Board applications
 Assembled digital survey instruments
 Utilization of Qualtrics for survey design and distribution
 Contributed to other areas of research studies pertaining to:

- Sexual assault
- Physical abuse

2021

Cope Lab
 Advisor: Michael Cope, PhD
 Brigham Young University
 Provo, UT

Conducted extensive research on sociological literature related to:

- COVID-19
- Long-term vs. newcomer residential perceptions
- Immigration and COVID-19

2020–2021

Family, Home, and Social Sciences Research Academy
 Advisor: Jane Lilly López, PhD
 Brigham Young University
 Provo, UT

Conducted and transcribed interviews with U.S. immigrants in Utah about belonging and exclusion
 Coding interviews for themes related to racism, religion, gender, politics, family and relationships
 Summarized findings in visual poster presentation

Conference Presentations & Participation

- 2025 “Decriminalizing or Reassembling Schools? Implications of Removing Police from Schools for Racial and Ethnic Disparities in School-Based Referrals to Law Enforcement” (with Benjamin W. Fisher, PhD and Abigail J. Beneke, PhD). Paper presentation. Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL
- 2025 “Helpful or Harmful? The Effect of Heritage Language Use on Perceived Maternal Closeness in U.S. Immigrant Families.” Poster presentation. School of Human Ecology Visit Day Poster Session. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI
- 2025 “Breaking the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice System Contact by Removing Police in Schools” (with Benjamin W. Fisher, PhD and Abigail J. Beneke, PhD). Paper presentation. Sociology of Education Association Annual Meeting. Monterey, CA
- 2024 “Filipino-American Identity Building and Linked Fate Among Filipino College Students in Madison, Wisconsin.” 3-Minute Thesis presentation. BIPOC in Academia Conference. Provo, UT
- 2024 “Helpful or Harmful? The Effect of Heritage Language Use on Perceived Maternal Closeness in U.S. Immigrant Families.” Paper presentation. Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes Student Conference. Madison, WI
- 2024 “Unaccompanied Minors’ Trajectories Navigating Immigration Law.” Paper session discussant. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO
- 2023 “Family Structure and Adolescent Substance Use: Does the Gender of the Youth and Parent Matter?” (with John P. Hoffmann, PhD and Melissa S. Jones, PhD). American Society for Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA (non-presenter)
- 2023 “Removing Police from Schools and the Implications for Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice System Contact” (with Benjamin W. Fisher, PhD). American Society for Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA (non-presenter)
- 2023 “An Analysis of Recorded Reports of Suicidal Ideation by Unaccompanied Minors in ORR Care: Detained Children’s Suicidal Ideation Pre-Migration, During Migration, and in US Custody” (with Jane Lilly López, PhD). Paper presentation. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting. San Juan, PR
- 2023 “Fleeing/Following Family: The Transnational Family Dynamics Shaping the Migration and Mental Health of Unaccompanied Migrant Minors” (with Jane Lilly López, PhD). Paper presentation. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 “Shared Households: A New Perspective on Family Structure and Adolescent Substance Use.” Poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT
- 2022 “Linguistic Bonding: Heritage Language Use and Parent-Child Closeness in Immigrant Families.” Poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT
- 2022 “The Influence of Gender and Type of Abuse on Blaming Victims, Minimizing Abuse, and Offering Legal Advice” (with Alice Nuo-Yi Wang, Jane Green, Rachel Umphress, Yuki

Nohagi, Zoe Macias, Jae Martinez, and Niwako Yamawaki). Virtual poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT

- 2022 “Creating a Better Future: Differing Attitudes of U.S. Immigrant Generations.” Poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT
- 2021 “Shades of Belonging: The Intersection of Race and Religion in Shaping Utah Immigrants’ Integration” (with Nadia Terron, Rachel Weaver, Jane Lilly López, PhD, and Genevra Munoa). Virtual poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT
- 2021 “Gender Moderating the Relationship Between Maternal Employment and Income: Adjusted Predictions from Linear Regression.” Virtual poster presentation. Mary Lou Fulton Conference. Provo, UT

HONORS & AWARDS

Scholarships and Fellowships

- 2024 Peterson Trust Fund Scholarship – Civil Society & Community Studies, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,000)
- 2024 Alford Myers Fund Scholarship – School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$570)
- 2024 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) for Filipino – University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$7,244)
- 2024 Alford Myers Fund Scholarship – School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$650)
- 2024 Roberts Trust Fund Scholarship – School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,290)
- 2023–2024 University Fellowship, Fall 2023 & Spring 2024 (\$23,727) – School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2023 Hilda Dawe Trust Fund First Conference Travel Scholarship – School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$500)
- 2022 Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS) for Filipino – Brigham Young University (\$5,971)
- 2022 The Mesothelioma Center Scholarship Essay Contest (\$2,000)
- 2018–2022 Brigham Young University Academic Merit Scholarship (\$12,129)
- 2018–2022 Daniels Fund Scholarship (\$5,085)
- 2020–2021 Brigham Young University Family, Home, and Social Sciences Student Research Academy Scholarship (\$3,000)

Grants & Awards

2025	Marwell Fund Award – Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$800)
2025	Mora Himel Lincoln Trust Fund Award – Department of Civil Society and Community Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$900)
2022	College of Family, Home, & Social Sciences Graduate School Application Fee Grant (\$250)
2022	Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Student Research Conference Award, Winter 2022 (1st place in Diversity and Inclusion [Group: \$300]), Brigham Young University
2021	Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Student Research Conference Award, Winter 2021 (1st place in Diversity and Inclusion [Group: \$300]; 2nd place in Redd Center [Group: \$200]), Brigham Young University
2021	Experiential Learning Fund Grant, Brigham Young University (\$1,000)
2021	Ballard Scholar for Social Impact, Brigham Young University Ballard Center

INSTRUCTIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

2024	University of Massachusetts-Amherst Amherst, MA Invited Guest Lecture: “Helpful or Harmful? The Effect of Heritage Language Use on Perceived Maternal Closeness in U.S. Immigrant Families” Spanish in the Americas (SPAN382) Dr. Meghan Armstrong-Abrami
2020–2022	Brigham Young University Provo, UT Teaching Assistant Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (SOC 323) Employers: Jacob Rugh, PhD & Ryan Gabriel, PhD • Hybrid teaching (face-to-face and live remote delivery) • Led exam reviews with TA team and independently • Formulated test questions • Graded and provided feedback on student essays • Assisted average of 75 students per semester

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Disciplinary Service

2025	Peer Reviewer <i>Feminist Criminology</i>
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Department & University Service

2024–Present	Social Chair Sociology Graduate Student Association
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University of Wisconsin-Madison

2024–Present Community and Communications Chair
School of Human Ecology Graduate Student Organization
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2024 Student Coordinator
Sociology of Race & Ethnicity Workshop
University of Wisconsin-Madison

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–2023 The Refuge Utah
Orem, UT
Victim's Advocate

- Responded to crisis hotline calls with survivors of sexual assault, counseled survivors at hospital visits, and provided healthcare, financial, and legal resources
- Completed 40 hours of training to become certified rape crisis counselor
- Mediated communication between law enforcement, medical professionals, and survivors

2019 Bookshare & Benetech
Headquarters: Palo Alto, CA
Provo, UT (Remote work)
Intern

- Directed team of 4 interns in creating customer advocacy program aimed at assisting teachers of students with reading disabilities advocate for Bookshare's resources
- Created and distributed surveys measuring consumer perception of Bookshare's strengths and weaknesses
- Quantitative analysis of survey data
- Chaired triweekly team meetings to manage expectations with company partner

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFICIENCIES

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)
Qualitative data analysis (Dedoose, NVivo, MAXQDA)
Quantitative data analysis (Stata - OLS Regression, Logistic Regression, Causal Inference)
Filipino language (rated Advanced Low by ACTFL)
American Sign Language (limited working proficiency)