

Erika M. Arias

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Department of Sociology

Population Studies Center

School of Information

ariaseri@umich.edu<https://www.linkedin.com/in/erika-arias-01675378/>**CURRICULUM VITAE****EDUCATION**

Master of Science in Information University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Area of Specialization: Big Data Analytics and UX Research and Design	March 2022 –
Ph.D. Program in Sociology University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Area of Specialization: Social Demography	August 2021 –
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology California State University, Fullerton (CSUF)	January 2016
Orange Coast College (OCC)	May 2012

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Online dating markets and relationship formation; social media for marginalized users; user experience research and design; FemTech; reproductive decision making and voluntary childlessness; intimate partner violence and sexual assault prevention

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant at the University of Michigan (U-M) November 2021 –
School of Nursing and Injury Prevention Center
Project Titles: Binding Research to Advance Transmasculine Health (BREATHE); Adapting an Evidence-Based Sexual Assault Prevention Program Online
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Peitzmeier, Health Behavior and Biological Sciences Department, U-M

- Reviewed BREATHE interview transcripts, and compiled a list of quotes and themes that will be visually represented in a health education comic book on transmasculine binding experiences
- Reviewed interview transcripts from first-year undergraduate students on their perceptions of online-based sexual assault prevention programs, and used the findings to design and adapt the Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, and Act (EAAA) sexual assault resistance education program to be completed online

Ph.D. Student at U-M

August 2021–

Sociology department and Michigan's Population Studies Center at
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Faculty Advisors: Dr. William Axinn and Dr. Sarah Burgard, Sociology Department, U-M

- Predoctoral trainee in social demography at the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center

Research Assistant for Laura Carroll, Nonfiction Author

April 2020 – Oct. 2020

- Analyzed qualitative data using NVivo software for a longitudinal study on childfree women

**Research Assistant at the University of Michigan (U-M)
Society, Population, and Environment (SPE) program**

October 2019 – Sept 2021

Project Title: Chitwan Valley Family Study (CVFS)

Faculty Advisor: Dr. William Axinn, Sociology Department, U-M

The CVFS studies family change and has collected full life histories of more than 10,000 individuals for over 20 years. This is a comprehensive family panel study of individuals, households, and communities in the Chitwan Valley of Nepal.

- Assists SPE program faculty and staff on research projects covering a broad range of topics, including population studies, family change, mental health, and reproductive health
- Reviews and summarizes research papers available on the CVFS website
- Assists with the preparation of research papers and proposals on projects that study populations from diverse regions of the world
- Shares updates with staff and faculty through weekly lab meetings

Research Assistant at CSUF

October 2018 – January 2020

Social Psychology Q-Laboratory

Project Title: Cultural Consensus of Love Experiences

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Jessica Tessler and Dr. Kristin Beals, Psychology Department, CSUF

The purpose of the current research is to examine the cultural consensus of felt love among men and women in the United States. The data collected from this survey will include measures of sexual attraction and identity, love languages, relationship styles, & Big Five Personality traits.

- Assisted with survey design & scale selection
- Collaborated with lab members to finalize Institutional Review Board (IRB) application
- Attends weekly research meetings to discuss current and future projects

Research Assistant at CSUF

August 2015 – April 2016

Social Psychology Q-Laboratory

Project Title: Consensual Non-Monogamy Pilot Study

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Jessica Tessler and Dr. Kristin Beals, Psychology Department, CSUF

This research aimed to describe the unique and shared experiences of consensually non-monogamous (CNM) couples living in Southern California. Participants were asked to create a historical timeline using color-coded caption cards to pair significant events with associated emotions experienced throughout the course of their primary relationship. This study offered a supplement to the growing body of research on how CNM relationships operate, and why individuals elect CNM relationships over monogamous relationships.

- Recruited and interviewed couples about the benefits and challenges of committing to an alternative relationship style
- Analyzed qualitative data via interview transcription
- Collaborated with lab members to create a poster for the 2016 Western Psychological Association (WPA) conference

Independent Researcher at CSUF

August 2015 – December 2015

Project Title: Social Media as a Relationship Outlet: Can Extra-Dyadic Interactions Preserve Social Monogamy?

Principle Investigators: Erika M. Arias and Dr. Kristin Beals, Psychology Department, CSUF

This study sought to investigate how extra-dyadic behavior serves socially monogamous relationships. It was hypothesized that there would be a positive relationship between relationship longevity and the manifestation of extra-dyadic interactions (EDI's) using social media. It was further predicted that individuals in monogamous relationships who reported EDI's using social media would also report overall less self-expansion within their current primary relationship. Third, it was predicted that individuals would report less relationship commitment if they reported low self-expansion.

- Reviewed and compiled literature on social expansion theory, the effects of social media on relationship commitment, and efforts to maintain monogamy
- Composed a research proposal & recruited participants from social media sites
- Submitted IRB application and received approval

- Designed an online survey that measured extra-dyadic interaction, relationship commitment, & social expansion

**Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) Scholar
at U-M**

May 2015 – August 2015

Stigmatized Sexualities Laboratory

Project Titles: Casual Sex Study; Great Lover Study; Not All Men Study; Orgasm Goal Orientation Study

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Terri Conley, Psychology Department, U-M

- Conducted content analyses of academic journals including *The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* and *Personal Relationships*
- Built scales and coded data for studies that examined physical and instrumental reasons for why men and women engage in casual sex
- Presented on casual sex differences between men and women at the final SROP poster symposium

Research Assistant at CSUF

January 2015 – December 2015

Reproductive Ecology Lab

Project Title: Mate Preference Shifts and Women's Ovulation Cycles

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Pillsworth, Anthropology Department, CSUF

This research supported an original UCLA study directed by Dr. Elizabeth Pillsworth & Dr. Martie Haselton (2006) that examined women's ovulation shifts, extra-pair attraction, and mate retention behavior.

- Prescreened participants for eligibility, collected participant consent forms, & proctored in-person survey data collection

HONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Dean's List CSUF

December 2014 & May 2015

Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) at U-M

May 2015 – August 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Arias, E. (2022, April 15). Voluntary childlessness: An upstream choice in the anthropocene. D. Thornley (Ed.), *Childfree across the disciplines: Academic and activist perspectives on not choosing children*. Rutgers University Press.

ON-LINE PIECES

Arias, E. (2020, August 22). *Should abortion be a part of the sustainability challenge?* Earth Overshoot Day. <https://www.overshootday.org/erika-m-arias -population/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Arias, E., Barajas, A., & West, A. (April 2019). *Consensual non-monogamy: Destigmatizing atypical relationships*. Presented at the 2019 Western Psychological Association Conference, Pasadena, CA.

Tessler, J., **Arias, E.**, Feese, K., Beals, C., & Beals, K. (April 2016). *Exploration of a variety of styles of consensual non-monogamous relationships*. Presented at the 2016 Western Psychological Association Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Baker, M. J., **Arias, E.**, (April 2016). *Touch in sport: A video coding methodology*. Presented at the 2016 Western Psychological Association Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Arias, E., & Conley, T. (August 2015). *Gender differences in sexuality*. Presented at the 2015 Summer Research Opportunity Program Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer, Best Practices in Sustainability January 2020
Urban Studies and Planning, CSU, Northridge

- Prepared a presentation and conducted a focus group on sustainable development and the population-environment connection

PODCASTS

You Had Me at Childfree July 2020 – May 2021

Title: Podcast Producer and Host

Selected Episodes: *Marriage and Parenthood: Perspectives from Around the Globe on What it Means to be Childfree; Shavonne and Andy: A Parent's Perspective on Choosing Childfree; Life in the Single Lane: What is it Like for the Childfree; Alice and Oliver: Our Relationship is a Priority*

Website: www.youmechildfree.org

- Researched and interviewed couples about opting out of parenthood, and efforts towards reducing internalized oppression of voluntarily childfree men and women

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Planned Parenthood Orange County
Advocacy Ambassador

October 2014 – July 2021

- Attended monthly advocacy volunteer meetings, advocacy events, and builds relationships with those interested in community outreach

Waymakers
Certified Sexual Assault Victim Services Advocate

February 2018 – November 2019

- Attended a 48-hour comprehensive training on sexual assault intervention and volunteered between 20-24 hours per month as a primary hotline advocate

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Survey tools: Qualtrics, Survey Monkey
- Qualitative data analysis software: NVivo
- Statistical software: Microsoft Excel, SPSS, Stata, Python
- Editing software: Adobe Audition, Audacity

LANGUAGES

- English: Fluent
- Spanish: Conversational

REFERENCES

William Axinn, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734-763-8649
baxinn@umich.edu

Yasamin Kusunoki, Ph.D., MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Systems, Populations and Leadership
University of Michigan School of Nursing
400 North Ingalls Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5482
734-764-3847
kusunoki@umich.edu

Sarah Burgard, Ph.D., MPH
Professor of Epidemiology and Sociology
Departments of Sociology and Epidemiology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734-615-9538
burgards@umich.edu

Barbara Anderson, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
barba@umich.edu

Kristin Beals, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Department of Psychology
California State University, Fullerton
800 N. State College Boulevard
Fullerton, CA 92834
657-278-2602
kbeals@fullerton.edu