

Kellie S. Wilkerson

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

M.A. Public Sociology, California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, CA

B.A. Applied Sociology, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Understanding the Contributions and Challenges Among Fairfax County Residents 2025-Present

Fairfax County and the Institute for Immigration Research, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

- Conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with Fairfax County residents and staff at immigrant serving organizations to gather qualitative data on community needs and contributions
- Supporting a government sponsored research study aimed at assessing resident's economic impact, educational background, and civic engagement
- Identifying and documenting challenges faced by immigrant populations to inform policy recommendations and community initiatives
- Collaborating with a multidisciplinary research team to ensure culturally sensitive and inclusive data collection practices

Research Associate, Immigrants, Athletes and Civic Engagement 2025-Present

Institute for Immigration Research, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

- Performing textual analysis of social media content (primarily Twitter) related to over 30 professional sports teams across a three-year period
- Analyzing public sentiment to evaluate the impact of contact with immigrant athletes on attitudes toward immigrants off the playing field

Project Manager, Immigration Data on Demand (iDod) Institute for Immigration Research 2023-2025

- Spearheaded a redesign of all training documentation and developed resource guides for deliverable creation (fact sheets)
- Conducted and expanded training opportunities and exercises for over 14 new team members, faculty and multiple research centers
- Responsible for quantitative and geospatial analysis using Census data in SPSS and ArcGIS Pro, fact-checking reports using IPUMS, led data analysis that produced 29 fact sheets, coordinating and maintaining internal and external relationships between clients and research team
- Promoted to Project Manager and led a small team to improve key productivity indicators in less than one year including production speed, increased volume, improved accuracy and factchecking

Lead Research Assistant, Layered Transitions: First Generation College Seniors from Immigrant Families

Social Science Research Lab, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

2021-2024

- Collaboratively initiated research protocol by designing and launching the first phase of a longitudinal qualitative research study
- Exercised leadership as a research mentor to an interdisciplinary team of student researchers
- Facilitated several interviews, trained new social scientists in interview protocol, transcribing, coding, and data analysis for evidenced based insights shared at academic research conferences
- Key personnel on American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Foundation Research Grant responsible for advising student researchers and leading interviews

Research Assistant, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services

2021-2022

Center for Social Science Research, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

- Conducted a scoping review for Fairfax County on protective factors for older adult well-being utilizing Boolean phrases
- Hosted focus groups for practitioners, created transcriptions, collaboratively developed a coding structure and analyzed the qualitative data
- Presented recommendations for community services and other findings to County stakeholders across Phase I and Phase II, and shared solutions to methodological challenges with academic communities through several conference presentations

- Research Assistant, Parallel Pandemic Project** Institute for Immigration Research 2020
- Developed a website summarizing Phase I for a global project on the social impact of COVID-19 across cultures with 8 different themes and video edited 16 lectures for public consumption
Website: parallelpandemicproject.com
- Research Assistant, California Center for Rural Policy's City of Eureka Homeless Services Inventory** 2019
California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, California
- Participated in conducting semi-structured interviews, survey development and transcription
- Data Analyst, Plaza Improvement Task Force** 2019
City of Arcata and California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, California
- Created an SPSS database for a previously distributed qualitative survey with over 800 variables, analyzed results, developed and presented final report for task force meeting
- Research Assistant, Alternative Finance and Domestic Violence** 2019
California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, California
- Input data from existing survey to create an SPSS dataset, ran statistical analyses and created data visualizations for a research presentation

PRESENTATIONS (SELECT)

2025. *Invited Speaker* | "Reimagining Global Education: Shifts in Study Abroad Marketing." Center for Social Science Research Education & Health Hub's Annual Speaker Series. *Upcoming*.
2022. *Invited Workshop* | "[A Practical Guide to Qualitative Coding](#)" with Tharuna Kalaivanan. Center for Social Science Research Education and Health Research Hub's Speaker Series at George Mason University (virtual).
2021. *Invited Panelist* | Keynote Panel: "Interdisciplinary Research: What, How, and Why?" Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (virtual).

PUBLICATIONS (SELECT)

Silver, Blake R. **Kellie S. Wilkerson**, Tharuna Kalaivanan and Dae Young Kim. "College Students from Immigrant Families: Meaning Making about Identity and Intersectional Complexity." *Journal of College Student Development* (Forthcoming 2026).

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCIES

Qualitative skills: developing a research protocol, conducting interviews and focus groups, observations and field notes, coding qualitative data (Dedoose, MAXQDA, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey)

Quantitative skills: database creation, cleaning, and management, variable cleaning and coding, survey design and distribution, descriptive analyses, regression modeling (SPSS by IBM, Excel, Python, ACS Data, GSS Data)

Geospatial skills: acquiring, analyzing, interpreting and presenting spatial analysis (ArcGIS Pro by ESRI, Social Explorer, NHGIS data)

Other: data visualization and project management, collaborating with project stakeholders, CITI Responsible Conduct of Research Certification (Blackboard, Canva, Canvas, Google Suite, IPUMS Data, Microsoft Office, WordPress, Zotero, Zoom)

HONORS, AWARDS & ADDITIONAL SERVICE (SELECT)

- 2025 - Present Assistant Store Manager, Kendra Scott, Reston, Virginia
- 2024 - Present Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women Alumnae Advisory Council, Risk Management Counterpart
- 2022-2023 Ph.D. Program Representative, Graduate and Professional Student Organization, George Mason University
- 2022 Devlin Family Scholarship Award, George Mason University
- 2021-2022 President, Public Sociology Association, George Mason University
- 2021 Mentorship Program Development Committee, George Mason University
- 2018-2020 Teaching Associate & Instructional Student Assistant, Cal Poly Humboldt