

Kellie S. Wilkerson

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology, George Mason University 2025
Specialization: Globalization
Comprehensive Exam: High Pass (August 2022)
Dissertation: "Beyond an Adventure: The Transformation of Study Abroad Marketing in the 21st Century"
Committee: Dr. James C. Witte (Chair), Dr. Manjusha Nair (Sociology), Dr. Blake Silver (Sociology)
- M.A. Public Sociology, California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt 2020
Emphases: Practicing Sociology & Teaching Sociology
Thesis: "Skill Development and the Making of the Global Citizen: An Analysis of Student Experiences with Study Abroad at Humboldt State University."
Committee: Dr. Joshua Meisel (Chair), Dr. Christina Martinek (Sociology)
- B.A. Sociology, The University of Tampa 2018
Concentration: Applied Sociology
Minor: History

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research, Geospatial Analysis, Globalization, Sociology of Education, Statistics/Quantitative Methodology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Understanding the Contributions and Challenges Among Fairfax County Residents 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
- Contributing to a federally sponsored research initiative, funded by AmeriCorps, exploring the intersection of sports, immigration, and public opinion
- Synthesizing large-scale data sets to identify trends in online discourse and inform recommendations for community engagement strategies

Project Manager, George Mason University Teach-Ins 2025

Center for Social Science Research and Next System Studies, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

- Planning and coordinating a multi-event teach-in series
- Collaborating with speakers, faculty, and community leaders to develop engaging and informative programming
- Managing event logistics including scheduling, space reservation, marketing, and day of coordination

Project Manager, Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)

2023-2025

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

- Designed all training documentation and developed resource guides for fact sheet creation
- Delivered 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 between clients and research team
- Led a small team to exceed performance goals, doubling output and productivity in less than a fiscal year

Lead Research Assistant, Layered Transitions: First Generation College Seniors from Immigrant Families 2021-2024

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

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

Research Assistant, Immigrant Nobel Laureates

2023

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

- Cleaned and recoded existing database in SPSS with over 1,000 cases, input new data, and conducted quantitative and geospatial analysis
- Co-authored a [published report](#) on immigrant contributions in Nobel fields

Project Manager, Democratizing NOVA

2020-2023

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

- Collected data through community outreach and innovative research strategies to create and maintain an online database
- Coordinated and oversaw all project interns (both graduate and undergraduate, and cross-listed seminar projects)
- Project received the Outstanding Community Partnership Award for excelling in community engaged from George Mason University's Social Action and Integrative Learning
- Successfully organized, arranged and implemented major events such as the [2022 Democratizing NOVA Summit](#) bridging the university and community, and a three-day workshop titled "[The Promise of Next System Studies](#)" with local, national, and international scholars and practitioners.
- Acquired and analyzed participant feedback to assess impact and improve future events
- Led a team of volunteers to support event setup, facilitation, and follow up
- Created educational content and resources to complement live events and extend impact beyond the sessions

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
- 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	2020
Institute for Immigration Research, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a website summarizing Phase I for a global project on the social impact of COVID-19 across cultures with 8 different themes. Video edited 16 lectures for public consumption. Website: parallelpandemicproject.com 	
Research Assistant, Alternative Finance and Domestic Violence	2019
California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, California	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input data from existing survey to create an SPSS dataset, ran statistical analyses and created data visualizations for a research presentation 	
Research Assistant, California Center for Rural Policy's City of Eureka Homeless Services Inventory	2019
California State Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, California	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
Independent Study	2017
The University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed semi-structured interviews about experiences of biculturalism with self-identified ex-pats in Bangkok, Thailand 	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Mason University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next System Fellows, Next System Studies • SOCI 416: Internship in Sociology 	2022-2023 2022-2023
Teaching Associate, Cal Poly Humboldt University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC 282L: Sociological Statistics Lab • SOC 104: Introduction to Sociology 	2020 2019
Teaching Assistantship, Cal Poly Humboldt	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC 382: Introduction to Social Research 	2019
Instructional Student Assistant, Cal Poly Humboldt	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC 282L: Sociological Statistics Lab • SOC 480: Community Action Research • SOC 480: Aging: Inequality & Public Policy • SOC 310: Sociological Theory • SOC 306: Changing Families • SOC 382: Introduction to Social Research • STAT 108: Elementary Statistics 	2018 – 2020 2020 2020 2020 2019 2019 2019
Guest Lectures	
George Mason University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization of Education, <i>Globalization and Social Change</i> (SOCI 320) • Public and Applied Sociology, <i>Introductory Sociology</i> (SOCI 101) • Applying to Graduate School, <i>Contemporary Social Issues</i> (HNRS 131) 	2026 2025 2022

- Introducing the SSRL, *Principles of Research and Inquiry* (HNRS 110) 2022
- An Introduction to Interviews, *Capstone* (SOI 485) 2021

University of Tampa

- Professional Development: Graduate School, *Applied Sociology* (SOC 460) 2021

Cal Poly Humboldt University

- Police Violence, *Inequalities/Criminalization* (CRIM 225S) 2019
- Deviance, Crime, and Social Control, *Introduction to Sociology* (SOC 104) 2019
- Research Topics, *Introduction to Criminology & Justice Studies* (CRIM 125) 2019
- Ethics, *Introduction to Social Research* (SOC 382) 2019
- Experiments, *Introduction to Social Research* (SOC 382) 2019
- Research Design, *Introduction to Social Research* (SOC 382) 2019

SCHOLARSHIP

Papers in Preparation

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).

iDod Fact Sheets

- Published (29)
- Fact checked (10)
- Provided editorial support (20)

Technical Reports

[In Preparation] "Democratizing NOVA Assessment" prepared for Democratizing NOVA Advisory Council and Next System Studies with Sarah Aftab, Dhruv Deepak and Dr. Ben Manski.

2023. "[Nobel Laureates in Economics: International Collaboration and Social Impact](#)" prepared for the Institute for Immigration Research's Immigrant Nobel Prize Laureate's annual report with Dr. Sandip K. Sureka.

2019. "Plaza Improvement Task Force Survey Report" prepared for the City of Arcata's Plaza Improvement Task Force with Tracie V. Wynand.

PRESENTATIONS

2025. *Invited Speaker* | "Reimagining Global Education: Shifts in Study Abroad Marketing." Center for Social Science Research's Education & Health Research Hubs Annual Speaker Series. Fairfax, VA.

2025. *Featured Speaker* | "Beyond an Adventure: The Transformative Impact of Study Abroad Marketing in the 21st Century." International Education Week at Cal Poly Humboldt (virtual).

2025. "Beyond an Adventure: Exploring the Transformative Impact of Study Abroad Marketing in the 21st Century" at the Southern Sociological Society in Charlotte, NC.

2025. "Beyond an Adventure: Exploring the Transformative Impact of Study Abroad Marketing in the 21st Century" at the Eastern Sociological Society in Boston, MA.

2024. "A Sociology of Postcolonial Study Abroad" with Margaret Zeddies at the American Sociological Association in Montreal, Canada.

2024. *Invited Presentation* | "Layered Transitions: First-Generation College Seniors from Immigrant Families – Grant Recipient Session" with Tharuna Kalaivanan and Fanni Farago at ACPA in Chicago, IL.

2024. "Centering Equity: Community Interventions to Promote Protective Factors for Older Adult Wellbeing" with Dr. Amy Best and Dr. Elizangela Storelli at the Eastern Sociological Society in Washington D.C.

2024. “First-generation college students and the senior-year transition: Complexities of navigating resources and assets” with Tharuna Kalaivanan and Nicole Tiongson at the Eastern Sociological Society in Washington D.C & Educational and Health Research Hub at George Mason University (virtual).
2023. “Coping with intergenerational trauma: How second-generation immigrant students navigate the transition out of college” with Tharuna Kalaivanan at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Tampa, FL.
2023. “College Seniors from Immigrant Families: New Research and Implications for Practice” with Tharuna Kalaivanan, Fanni Farago and Maia Punksungka at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (virtual).
2023. “Community Interventions to Promote Protective Factors for Older Adult Wellbeing: A Scoping Review” with Dr. Elizangela Storelli and Fanni Farago at the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, MD.
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).
2022. *Invited Presenter* | “Community Assembly and Roll Call.” Democratizing NOVA Summit at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.
2022. “Improving Graduate Student Engagement: A Needs-Assessment of a Student-Run Organization” with Fanni Farago and Tharuna Kalaivanan at the American Evaluation Association in New Orleans, LA.
2022. “Building a Community Engaged Research Project: The Role of the University” at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Louisville, KY.
2021. “Towards a Public Sociology of Human Rights Practice” at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (virtual).
2021. “Democratizing NoVA” with Fanni Farago at the Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (virtual).
2021. *Invited Panelist* | Keynote Panel: “Interdisciplinary Research: What, How, and Why?” Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (virtual).
2021. *Moderator* | “What is Public Sociology?” Public Sociology Conference at George Mason University (virtual).
2019. “Medical Interventions During Childbirth: Program Proposal for a Military Maternity Group Patient Education Program” with Morgan Tamayo at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Portland, OR.
2017. “Which is More Influential on Religiosity: Emotion or Logic?” with Hannifah Griffith, Morgan Tamayo, and Katerina Flemming at The University of Tampa College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education Undergraduate Research Conference in Tampa, FL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (ADDITIONAL)

2025-Present	Assistant Store Manager, Kendra Scott, Reston, Virginia
2019-2020	Graduate Volunteer, Office of Study Abroad and International Programs, Arcata, California
2017	International Intern, Fighting Blindness, Dublin, Ireland
2016-2017	Key Holder/Supervisor, Tervis, Tampa, Florida

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

2025-Present	Treasurer-Elect, Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology
2025	Search Committee Chair, Computational Science Intern, Institute for Immigration Research & Career Services, George Mason University
2025	Search Committee Member, Computational Science Intern, Institute for Immigration Research & Career Services, George Mason University
2024-Present	Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women Alumnae Advisory Council, Risk Management Counterpart

2024-Present	Ex-Officio Member, Democratizing NOVA Advisory Council, Next System Studies
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
2020-2022	Graduate Student Representative, Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology

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)

AWARDS & HONORS

Graduate Research Assistantship, George Mason University (\$23,000)	2023-2025
Graduate Student Travel Fund, American Sociological Association (\$250)	2024
Graduate Student Travel Fund, George Mason University (\$450)	2024
Featured Alumnus, Cal Poly Humboldt	2022
Graduate Student Travel Funding, AACS (\$500)	2022
Graduate Research Assistantship, George Mason University (\$18,000)	2020-2022
Student Assistant Funding, Cal Poly Humboldt (\$1,200)	2020
Graduate Student Travel Support, Cal Poly Humboldt (\$250)	2019
Alistair and Judith McCrone Fellowship, Department Nominee, Cal Poly Humboldt	2018
Out of State Fee Waiver, Cal Poly Humboldt (\$4,000)	2018-2020
Dean's List, University of Tampa	2016-2018
ELITE Leadership Program, University of Tampa	2014
Spartan Academic Scholarship, University of Tampa (\$3,000)	2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology (AKD), American Sociological Association (ASA), Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS), Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Southern Sociological Society (SSS), Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women