

CURRICULUM VITAE

VALENTÍN QUIROZ SIERRA, JR.

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All Pronouns

EDUCATION

- 2024 (*expected*) Ph.D., Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation Title: An Analysis on the Perceptions of Youth Suicide and Risk Assessment Tools in Sacramento's Native American Community
Committee: Dr. Adrian Aguilera (Chair), Dr. Paul Sterzing, Dr. Peter Nelson
- 2020 M.S.W., Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley
Concentration: Strengthening Organizations and Communities
- 2017 B.A., Native American Studies *with highest honors*
University of California, Davis
Honor's Thesis: Serving Decolonial Realness: Queer Visual Sovereignty, Memory, and Identity

RESEARCH AREAS

Critical Suicide Studies; Indigenous Mental Health; Indigenous Research Ethics, Methodologies & Methods; Computational Social Sciences; Digital Solutions to Health Disparities; The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978; Contemporary Yoeme (Yaqui) Language, Literature and Thought

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Sierra, V. Q. (Under Review). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

Figueroa, C. A., Hernandez-Ramos, R., Boone, C. E., Gómez-Pathak, L., Yip, V., Luo, T., **Sierra, V.**, Xu, J., Chakraborty, B., Darrow, S., & Aguilera, A. (2021). A Text Messaging Intervention for Coping with Social Distancing During COVID-19 (StayWell at Home): Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 10(1), e23592.

<https://doi.org/10.2196/23592>

Book Chapters

Mallon, G. P., Karnoski, R., Stabbe, O., Waller, L., & **Sierra, V.** (2021). Social Work Practice with Trans & Gender Expansive Youth in Child Welfare Systems. In J. Shelton & G. P. Mallon (Eds.), *Social Work Practice with Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth* (3rd Edition). Routledge.

Study Registrations & Preprints

Sierra, V. Q. (Under Community Review). The HOPES Study: Helping Our People End Suicide Study. Information available at <https://vqsierra.github.io/HOPES/>

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project: Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. Retrieved from <https://osf.io/4dpwt/>

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. UC Berkeley: Institute for the Study of Societal Issues. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5z1751rw>

Manuscripts In Progress

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). The Helping Our People End Suicide Study: A Protocol Paper.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Computational Research.

Opinion Editorials

Cesspooch, A., Kewenvoyouma, A., Sanchez, P., & **Sierra, V.** (2020, August 25). Native Student Organizations Want to Un-Name Kroeber Hall, are Frustrated with Faculty Pushback. *The Daily Californian*. <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/08/25/native-student-organizations-want-to-un-name-kroeber-hall-are-frustrated-with-faculty-pushback/>

White Papers

Sierra, V. (2020). The Spirit Endures: A Readiness Guide for the Implementation of State Tribal Title IV-E Agreements in California. With the California Department of Social Services – Office of Tribal Affairs. Available upon request.

FELLOWSHIPS

2023 – 2024	Berkeley Connect Fellowship University of California, Berkeley
2023 – 2024	Data Science Fellowship (<i>Declined</i>) University of California, Berkeley Data Lab
2022 – 2024	Graduate Fellows Program University of California, Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues
2021 – 2023	Computational Social Sciences Fellowship (NIH OBSSR T32) University of California, Berkeley - Berkeley Institute for Data Science
2020	Graduate Remote Instruction Fellowship (<i>Declined</i>) University of California, Berkeley
2019	Human Rights Center Fellow University of California, Berkeley School of Law
2018 – 2020	Chancellor’s Fellowship University of California, Berkeley
2017	Tribal Member Initiative Fellowship (<i>Declined</i>) University of California, San Diego
2017	Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship (<i>Declined</i>) University of California, Irvine

2017	Chancellor's Fellowship (<i>Declined</i>) University of California, Davis
2017	Community Fellowship Elton John AIDS Foundation
2016	Beth Altier Fellowship in Native American Studies University of California, Davis
2016	Provost Undergraduate Fellowship University of California, Davis
2013 – 2017	Point Scholar Point Foundation

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Teaching Effectiveness Award University of California, Berkeley
2022	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award University of California, Berkeley
2019	Brandon Harrison Award for Youth Leadership & Youth Organizing The California Endowment
2017	C.N. Gorman Memorial Excellence Award University of California, Davis
2017	Outstanding Senior Award University of California, Davis
2016	David Risling Intertribal Award University of California, Davis
2015	Undergraduate Award Hispanic Scholarship Fund
2013	Genentech eQuality Scholar eQuality Scholarship Collaborative

GRANTS

Research Grants

2022 – 2023	Center for Democracy and Organizing Research Grant University of California, Berkeley Institute for Governmental Studies \$5,000
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Federal Grants

2021 – 2024	Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grant Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior Foster Care Services Department, American Indian Child Resource Center \$160,000
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- 2019 – 2024 Garrett Lee Smith Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center
\$1,500,000
- 2019 – 2024 Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success Grant
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center
\$1,500,000

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Research Presentations

- Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2024). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, D.C.
- Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2024). A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Computational Research. UC Berkeley 2024 Crossing Paths Research Symposium. Berkeley, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2024, May). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. UC Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues Breaking Barriers, Building Community Research Symposium. Berkeley, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2021, November). The Helping Our People End Suicide Study. UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Research Colloquium. Berkeley, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2019, November). The Spirit Endures: California Department of Social Services and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Center Fellowship Symposium. Berkeley, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2017, April). Serving Decolonial Realness: Queer Visual Sovereignty, Memory, and Identity. UC Davis 6th Annual Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium. Davis, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2016, August). Native American Voices in the Fight for Ethnic Studies. 24th Annual McNair Scholars National Symposium. Berkeley, CA.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2016, April). Examining Cultural Competency and Native American Representations in 4th Grade Classrooms. Institute of American Indian Art 2nd Annual Indigenous Interventions Conference. Santa Fe, NM.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2016, March). Patwin Elementary: What’s Wrong with Native American Representations in 4th Grade Classrooms. 44th National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference. Tucson, AZ.

Panels

- Sierra, V. Q. (2023, June). Alumni Pride Month Panel. Nation Native American Law Association. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, April). Indigenous Relations and Unexpectedness. 2nd Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, March). Indigenous College and Career Panel. Panel presentation for the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, April). Indigenous Politics and Resistance in Sound. 1st Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, March). Sovereign Bodies: Fighting Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Indigenous People. UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Center Lecture Series. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, March). Two-Spirit Talking Circles in Native American Cultures. UC Davis School of Medicine Diversity and Inclusion Dialogue Series. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, November). Native Student Voices on Standing Rock. Davis Standing Rock Teach-In. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, March). Red Medicine: Community Pláticas con Patrisia Gonzales on Indigenous Healing and Traditional Medicine Ways. Indigenous Knowledges Series for the UC Davis Mellon Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

WORKSHOPS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Workshops

Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2023). Culture is Prevention: Shawl Making. Indian Health Service Sacred Oaks Healing Center. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, April). Shawl Making. Culture is Prevention Series at the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, March). Talking Circle. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, October). Talking Circle. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, April). Digital Talking Circle. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2020, March). Digital Talking Circle. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, July). Yaqui Wood Block Printing. Culture is Prevention Series at the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q., Housman, E., Galvin, L. (2017, April). Indigenous Voices Beyond the Border. 48th Annual Native American Culture Days at UC Davis. Davis, CA.

Zepeda, S., **Sierra, V. Q.** (2016, February). Indigenous Knowledges: Pedagogies, Spirit Work, and Storytelling. Indigenous Knowledges Series - UC Davis Mellon Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

Invited Classroom Presentations

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, February). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Spring 2023*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, September). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2022*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, February). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Spring 2022*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, December). Case Termination: Endings and Transitions. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, October). Therapy with, by, and for Native American Clients. In *MFT223: Marriage and Family Therapy with Diverse Populations: Fall 2021*. Alliant International University, Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, September). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, July). The Spirit Endures: Indian Child Welfare Past, Present, and Future. In *SOCWEL105: Child Welfare Policy: Summer 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 – Current	<i>Lead Academic Researcher</i> Community Health Department Sacramento Native American Health Center
2019 – Current	<i>Lab Member/Graduate Student Researcher</i> Digital Health Equity Access Lab UC Berkeley
2019 – 2019	<i>Research Assistant</i> Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Database Sovereign Bodies Institute
2015 – 2017	<i>McNair Scholar & Researcher</i> Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program UC Davis

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor – Fall 2023
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice

Graduate Student Instructor – Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice with Associate Instructor Brenda Mathias

Teaching Assistant – Winter 2017
University of California, Davis Department of Native American Studies
NAS005 – Native American Studio Art with Professor Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

2021 – Current *Associate Clinical Social Worker*
California Board of Behavioral Sciences
License #: ASW98814

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2023 *Foster Care Social Worker & Therapist*
American Indian Child Resource Center

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2019 – 2020 *Health Program Manager*
Berkeley Student Cooperative

2019 – 2020 *Graduate Student Assistant*
California Department of Social Services – Office of Tribal Affairs

2018 – 2019 *Evaluation Assistant*
Sacramento Native American Health Center

2017 – 2018 *Youth Peer Support Specialist*
Sacramento Native American Health Center

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

University

2023 *Graduate Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Associate Director
UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office

2023 *Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Open-Rank Professor in Native American Community
Health
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

2021 – Current *Student Representative*
Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce
UC Berkeley Counseling and Psychological Services

2019 *Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Open-Rank Professor in Supporting Healthy Aging
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

- 2019 *Student Representative*
Indigenous Campus Building Renaming Project
UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor
- 2019 *Graduate Student Representative*
Equity and Inclusion Committee
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare
- 2019 *Graduate Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Director
UC Berkeley American Indian Graduate Program
- 2018 *Member*
Student Disability Justice Committee
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare
- 2016 *Student Representative*
Recruitment Advisory Committee for Licensed Therapist (Native American Specialist)
UC Davis Counseling and Psychology Student Services
- 2015 – 2017 *Student Representative*
UC Davis Native American Retention Initiative
- 2015 *Student Representative*
Recruitment Advisory Committee for the Director of Strategic Native American Retention Initiatives
UC Davis
- Community**
- 2019 *Student Representative*
UC Berkeley American Indian Commencement Planning Committee
- 2019 *Co-President*
UC Berkeley American Indian Graduate Student Association
- 2019 *Volunteer*
UC Berkeley Annual Campus Powwow
- 2018 – 2019 *Member*
Sacramento Native American Health Center Evaluation Advisory Committee
- 2014 – 2017 *Member*
UC Davis Annual Campus Powwow & Native American Culture Days Planning Committee

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking
Yoem Noki (Yaqui Language) – Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2020 – Current Indigenous Sound Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley
2019 – Current Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
2019 – Current Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues, UC Berkeley

2019 – Current Berkeley Center for Social Medicine, UC Berkeley
2018 – Current Society for Social Work and Research
2018 – Current National Association of Social Workers
2018 – 2020 Indigenous Americas Working Group, UC Berkeley
2017 – Current National Indian Child Welfare Association

REFERENCES

Adrian Aguilera, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley • aguila@berkeley.edu

Paul Sterzing, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley • sterzing@berkeley.edu

Susan Stone, Ph.D.
Professor, Catherine Mary and Eileen Clare Hutto Chair for Social Services in Public Education
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, School of Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley • sistone@berkeley.edu