



# SPRING 2023 GRAD STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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# *Important Dates & Deadlines*

## **February 3rd**

- Deadline to Apply for the Chancellor's Doctorial Incentive Program

## **February 13th**

- Last day to submit a petition to audit a course
- Deadline to submit an Advancement to Candidacy form for Spring 2023, Summer 2023, or Fall 2023

## **February 28th**

- Deadline to enter into the Grad Slam Competition

## **March 1st**

- Deadline to update your name for commencement

## **March 13th**

- Last day to switch classes to a credit/no credit option

## **March 24th**

- Fall class schedule becomes available online

## **March 30th**

- Last day to withdraw from spring semester with permission or a serious/compelling reason

## **April 3rd**

- Last day to withdraw with a 'W' & permission or serious/compelling reason

## **April 10th**

- Early registration for Fall 2023 starts

## **April 24th**

- Deadline for project/thesis format review by 5:00PM PST

## **May 8th**

- Last day to submit a final master project or thesis for graduation by 5:00PM PST

## **May 17th**

- Last day to change your Spring 2023 graduation date without paying a fee
- Grades are due for Spring 2023





# Cal Poly Humboldt's Grad Slam Competition

Get ready for the first Cal Poly Humboldt and third CSU Grad Slam competition! Cal Poly Humboldt's Grad Slam celebrates the exciting research conducted by graduate students. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes (or less), in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. For some, it helps to develop an "elevator speech" for their research. Participation in Grad Slam showcases communication abilities – an essential skill.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**GRAD SLAM**  
THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION



Students have **3 minutes** and **one PowerPoint slide** to present their thesis, project, or other creative work to a non-specialist audience.

3 winners (one from each college) will be selected as winners and get a **cash prize**. Winners will also have the chance to compete in the CSU-wide competition.

### Ready to Get Started?

Applications are open now until - February 28

[\*\*Apply Now!\*\*](#)

### Application workshops

2/1 - 3-4 on Zoom

2/8 - 2-3 on Zoom

### Application deadline

2/28 - 5pm

### Humboldt Competition

3/30 - 2-5pm - Goodwin Forum

### CSU Competition

5/5 - TBA

**Save the Date**





# Announcements

## Save the Date!

Mental Health Skills Shop - 2/23  
Humboldt Grad Slam - 3/30  
Peer Review Work-shop - 4/19  
Spring Preview - 4/22  
CSU Research Competition - 4/28-29  
End-of-year Celebration - 5/4  
CSU Grad Slam - 5/5  
IdeaFest - 5/5

## Spring Preview

The Spring Preview is being held on Saturday April 22nd and is an amazing opportunity for new and prospective graduate students to talk with faculty and current Cal Poly Humboldt graduate students. Students have the opportunity to financial aid sessions, housing sessions, presentations from cultural leaders, meet with department chairs, and see what Cal Poly Humboldt has to offer.

## Mental Health Skillshop

Our first-ever mental health skill shop is on February 23rd from 4-5 in the library Fishbowl!

Aisha Candrian Morton will be doing a presentation about stress management, CAPS, mental health, and self-care techniques that are available to grad students.

## End of the Year Celebration

The end-of-the-year celebration is on May 4th from 4-6 in Founders Hall Courtyard! Join us for food, and activities and hear from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

## CSU Research Competition

The CSU Student Research Competition is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. 10 students from each campus can participate. Once students are selected they will have the opportunity to go to San Diego State and present their research on Friday, April 28th or Saturday, April 29th, 2023. Each student has 10 minutes to present and 5 minutes to respond to a juror and answer any questions from the audience. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2023.

## Peer Review Workshop

The peer review workshop is being held on 4/19 at 10am in the Library Fishbowl. This is an opportunity for students to bring their thesis or any other academic work to the library for feedback from their peers. There will be presentations from faculty members and food will be provided. Register [here](#).

## IdeaFest

The 10th annual IdeaFest is being held on May 5th this spring the last day to register for IdeaFest is April 24th to register. To register for ideafest click [here](#).





Save the date! Spring 2023 Commencement  
will be on Saturday, May 13th, 2023



Graduate Students who submitted their  
Advancement to Candidacy forms before **February  
13th**, graduated in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 are  
eligible to participate in Spring 2023  
Commencement. Registration will be open March  
1st and will close on April 5th contact  
[grad@humboldt.edu](mailto:grad@humboldt.edu) with questions about  
commencement.

[REGISTER](#)

[REGALIA](#)





*Amber Gaffney*  
She/Her/Hers  
Associate Professor Department of  
Psychology

## Faculty Spotlight

### *Why did you choose Cal Poly Humboldt?*

Humboldt is home for me - I got my BA in Psychology here and coming back as faculty was literally my dream job (so I have my dream job!). I am grateful to give back to this community. I grew up in Denny which is very remote and rural. This university was my first experience with higher education when the university did outreach to Burnt Ranch School. I was thrilled to come here for my BA. Dedicated faculty believed in my abilities and encouraged me to apply to grad school. As a result, I wanted to come back to do the same.

### *Tell us a bit about your role on campus*

I am the coordinator of the Academic Research MA program in Psychology. I am also the PI for the Cal Poly Social Identity Lab (check out our website: [www.humboldtsilab.org](http://www.humboldtsilab.org)). I supervise 13 graduate student theses, work on a variety of research projects that center on building the social identity perspective, and studying intergroup and intragroup phenomena such as extremism, populism, leadership, and minority influence. I am also Cal Poly Humboldt's Faculty Athletic Representative and a member of the IRB.

### *What is your educational background?*

BA Humboldt, MA and PhD Claremont Graduate University, Post-Doc Claremont Graduate University

### *Fun fact about yourself?*

The only person for whom this is fun is me (my poor students): I like to insert Bob Dylan lyrics (obscure or obvious) into lectures, talks, and publications.

### *How did you choose your area of research*

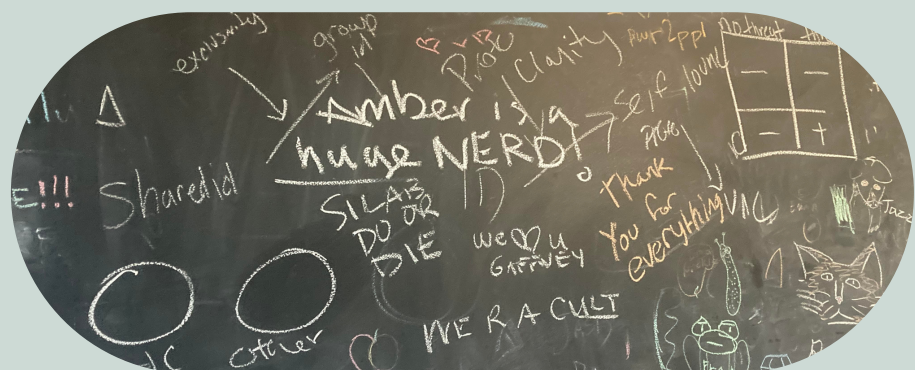
My PhD supervisor, Professor Michael Hogg helped to shape my research interests. When I realized that I could integrate the social identity perspective with research on minority influence, I was hooked. It is safe to say that I chose the research selfishly, because it is what interests me the most.

### *What is your research focused on?*

First and foremost, my research seeks to develop and expand the social identity perspective by examining social identity and self-categorization processes in a variety settings (e.g., political extremism, mass protest, social change). How do people's group memberships and their identities influence their willingness to move on behalf of a collective? This work examines both motives for social identification (e.g., uncertainty reduction, self-enhancement, optimal distinctiveness) and the self-categorization processes that underlie intra and intergroup phenomena. The focus is specifically on minority movements, political identities, and extremism in all of its forms - from positive to negative social change.

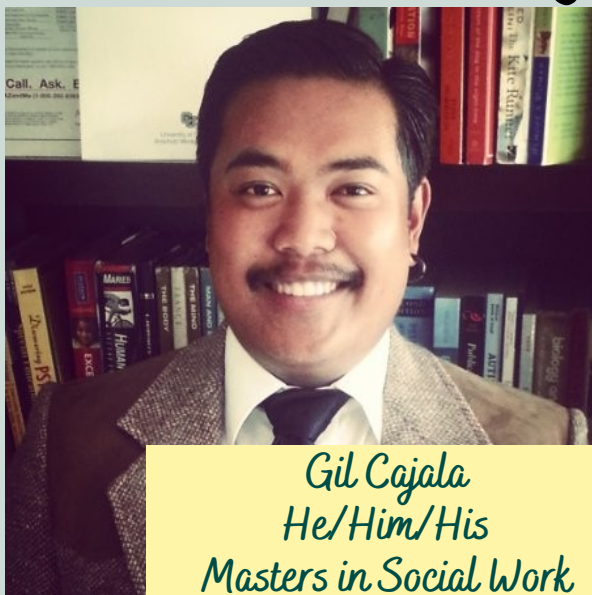
### *Any tips for grad students?*

Try to acknowledge in this moment that graduate school is fun and has the ability to be some of the best times of your life. You can explore new research questions, contribute to science, and build relationships with people who are like-minded in your pursuit of creative problem solving. Those other students around you and the faculty with whom you are working actually know what you are going through! Finally, try to allow yourself to leave the lab. Go outside. Being physically active is important, but also getting other hobbies and having identities outside of the academic identity is important.





# Student Spotlight



*Gil Cajala*  
*He/Him/His*  
*Masters in Social Work*

## *Tell us a bit about your program*

Cal Poly Humboldt's Masters in Social Work Program is not only fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the foundation of this education considers the indigenous perspective in relation to facilitating one's profession as a social worker. Historically, Social Workers were complicit in colonizing indigenous groups through family separations. Earning your MSW through Humboldt is not simply a measure to right a wrong, it's about developing a professional demeanor that is equitable and humane.

## *Fun fact about Gil*

I'm a father of three, married to a wonderful and extremely insightful spouse who motivates me everyday! I'm a 1st generation Filipino-American local to the Oxnard area, I've lived here my entire life and very proud to be from this part of the 805.

## *Why did you choose Cal Poly Humboldt?*

I chose the MSW program from Humboldt because of its connection with the Klamath river tribes and promoting indigenous knowledge within the coursework.

## *How did you choose your area of study?*

I chose Social Work because I've been in the helping profession for the past 15 years

## *What is your research focused on?*

My research is focused on community economic development in relation to updating cycling infrastructure. Commonly associated with the negative effects of gentrification, community lead infrastructure development can be equitable if derived from a popular, locally-facilitated social movement. Living on the central coast, underrepresented populations such as the migrant farm workers who are of an indigenous background, historically working-class neighborhoods of color, active-duty military who are lower in rank, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly populations are confined to zones that lack equitable access to basic needs. With the development of electronic pedal assist, bicycles have proven to become a cost effective mode of transportation, which can be easily adapted to those on the periphery of being able-bodied. Much of what I reference is based on Dutch and Scandinavian research, communities that are several decades ahead of the curve in terms of developing bicycle infrastructure. This civil engineering mindset which currently guides urban development in Northern Europe sits atop a historical foundation which was community led by activist groups such as the Anarchist movement called Provo in Amsterdam. It's from this basis, which places people before cars.

## *What advice would you give a new graduate student or someone considering graduate school?*

Communication is key, developing consistent dialogue with HSU staff, with your instructors, with your cohort and volunteer alumni will aid in developing the vision you need to succeed. Be proactive not reactive!





*Sara Moriarty-Graves*  
*She/Her/Hers*  
*Natural Resources, Wildlife*

## Student Spotlight

### *Why did you choose Cal Poly Humboldt?*

Having completed my undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation at Cal Poly Humboldt, I knew that I wanted to return to further advance my education. The community, my mentors, and researchers in wildlife and other fields have been pivotal in helping me reach my goals. The natural setting of the ocean and redwood curtain is also one of a kind to live within.

### *How did you choose your area of study?*

Work and volunteer experience keyed me into the direction I wanted to go with wildlife research.

### *What is your research focused on?*

My research is focused on how predator and prey mammalian species occupy the Klamath Mountain region in northern California. With the use of game cameras, I am looking at how burned areas and other environmental factors influence their co-occurrence.

### *Fun fact about yourself?*

I've had the opportunity to hike and backpack hundreds of miles through the Klamath Mountains with my favorite canine, Kava, to collect data for my thesis.

### *Tell us a bit about your program*

The Wildlife concentration in the Natural Resources program required a thesis component and 30 units of coursework. Through coursework, I've learned analytical skills that can and have been applied to the thesis component. Uniquely, we have a Wildlife Graduate Student Society (WiGSS) for all graduate students in the program.

### *What advice would you give a new graduate student or someone considering graduate school?*

Find something you are deeply interested in to study, because you will be immersed in it for some time. Don't worry if you're not an expert in something you're interested in - that's the reason for graduate school!





# Student Spotlight



**Jacob Crocker**  
He/Him  
Academic Research in Psychology

## What advice would you give a new graduate student or someone considering graduate school?

Find your people as quickly as possible. Your cohort is going to be one of the biggest and most important resources during your time as a graduate student. You will all understand the others experience and most likely be in a lot of the same classes, so study groups tend to be a great place to solidify these relationships.

## Tell us a bit about your program?

The Masters in Academic Research in Psychology at Cal Poly Humboldt is a multidisciplinary program focused on the training of individuals to consume, produce, and disseminate contributions to their theoretical fields of study.

## Fun fact about Jacob

I was a Junior Olympian in swimming.

## Why did you choose Cal Poly Humboldt?

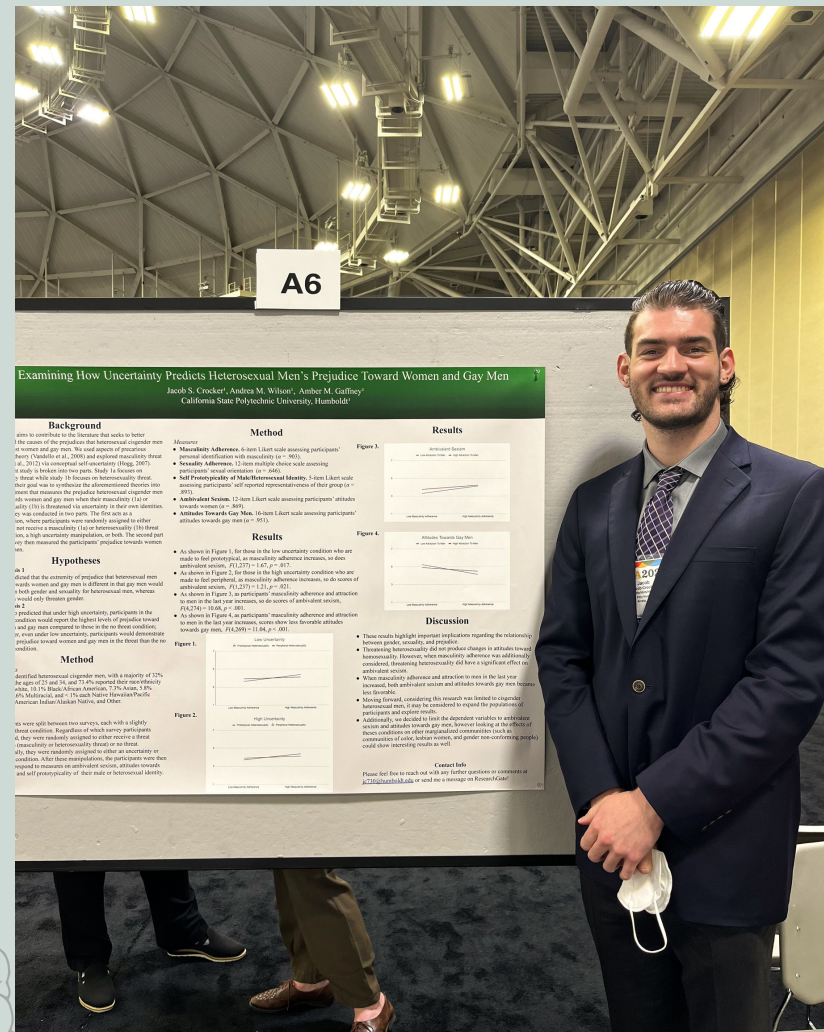
I transferred to Humboldt to be in one of the best environments in the world. It was a pretty easy decision when I considered the beach and the trees. It helps that the people are pretty great too.

## How did you choose your area of study?

At my prior institution, I switched my major two times before finding my love for Psychology. Ultimately, it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. After transferring to Humboldt, I was encouraged to apply to the blended fifth year Masters by Dr. Gaffney, so I did.

## What is your research focused on?

My thesis examines how uncertainty and threats to cisgender heterosexual men's identities impact their attitudes toward women and gay men.





# Honorable Alumni

## What are you up to now?

I am currently a Ph.D. Student in Public and Applied Sociology at George Mason University where I am a Graduate Research Assistant with Next System Studies at the Center for Social Science Research; serve as a Lead Research Mentor for the Social Science Research Lab and work as a Research Assistant at the Institute for Immigration Research.

I am the Project Manager & Intern Supervisor for the Democratizing NOVA Project, a community-engaged research project that recently won the Outstanding Community Partnership Award from Social Action and Integrative Learning.

I was the 2021-2022 President of the sociology's graduate student organization, the Public Sociology Association, where I coordinated a student conference, and professional development events solidified graduate student advocacy positions within the department and the university.



*Kellie Wilkerson*  
she/her  
MA in Public Sociology, 2020

## Awards

This spring I was the recipient of the 2022 Devlin Family Scholarship, an award given to sociology students who have demonstrated leadership in the community by promoting social justice activities.

## How has Cal Poly Humboldt made a difference in your education & career?

My research and classroom experiences in the Department of Sociology have expertly prepared me to participate in and organize community-engaged research projects while also furthering my understanding, knowledge, and practice of public sociology. The opportunities I had at Humboldt qualified me to apply sociological thought, theory, and methodologies to my coursework, research and experiences.

## Why did you choose Cal Poly Humboldt?

I was inspired by the Sociology Departments emphasis on Public Sociology, and chose to attend Cal Poly Humboldt for the opportunity to gain experiences practicing sociology outside of the academy.



## What is your research/work focused on?

My research interests include applied sociology and evaluation research, globalization, international higher education, and quantitative methodology.

## What advice would you give a new graduate student or someone considering graduate school?

My biggest advice to current graduate students is to make the most of your opportunities, participate where you can, and get involved with your department and local communities.



# Graduate Student Resources

## **Academic & Career Advising Center**

707-826-3341

*acac@humboldt.edu*

## **The Learning Center**

707-826-5217

*learning@humboldt.edu*

## **Counseling and Psychological Services**

707-826-3236

*humboldtcaps@humboldt.edu*

## **Institutional Review Board**

*irb@humboldt.edu*

## **Office of Graduate Studies**

707-826-5194

*hsugrad@humboldt.edu*

## **Office of the Registrar**

707-826-4101

*records@humboldt.edu*