

Natalie R. Rivera
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School of Criminal Justice | Michigan State University
655 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA

EDUCATION

- 2024-2028 **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminal Justice and Chicano/Latino Studies**
Michigan State University, College of Social Science, East Lansing, MI
Graduate Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Vivian Aranda-Hughes
- 2022-2024 **Master of Social Science (M.S) in Criminal Justice, Graduate Certificate in Chicano/Latino Studies**
Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Graduate Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Merry Morash
Thesis Committee: Dr. Merry Morash (Chair), Dr. Karen Holt, Dr. Maria Isabel Ayala
Thesis Title: *Type(s) of Abuse and Help-Seeking: A Comparative Study of Latina Women Differing in Ethnic Identification*
- 2018-2022 **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA
Major: Psychology
Minors: Criminal Justice and US Latino/a Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender-based violence, victimization, corrections, system-involved populations, marginalized communities, Latino/a/x criminology, critical criminology, intersectionality, mixed methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- May 2023-Present **Project Manager, Michigan State University Extension Children and Youth Institute Bringing Mental Health First Aid to STOP School Violence**
Michigan State University Extension, East Lansing, MI
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Brian Johnson, Frank Cox, M.S., Kea Norrell-Aitch, M.S., D'Ann Rohrer, M.E, Janelle Stewart, B.S., Brian Wibby, M.S.S.A., Dr. Ashlee Barnes-Lee
Funding: Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice
- Jan 2025-Present **Co-Coordinator Training and Education Core, Wahwala Iyohlogya (Peaceful Means) Sexual Violence Prevention**
University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI
Principal Investigator: Dr. Katie Edwards
Funding: University of Michigan, US Department of Justice

May 2023-Present **Graduate Research Assistant, National Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.)**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Chris Melde, Dr. Steven Chermak
Funding: National Institute of Justice

Aug 2023-Aug 2024 **Project Manager, Getting It Right, Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Merry Morash & Dr. Deborah Kashy
Funding: Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice

Jan 2023-Aug 2024 **Project Manager, Communication Between Probation and Parole Agents and Their Clients**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Merry Morash, Dr. Amanda Holmstrom, Dr. Deborah Kashy, & Dr. Sandi Smith
Funding: National Science Foundation

Sep 2021-May 2022 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Applied Cognition Laboratory**

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology, Ames, IA
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Christian A. Meissner

Jan 2022-May 2022 **Independent Study**

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of World Languages and Cultures, East Lansing, MI
Principal Investigator(s): Natalie Rivera and Dr. Shannon Harper
Study: *Latinas and Intimate Partner Violence: Rural Areas in Iowa*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aug 2024-Present **Graduate Research Assistant**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Advisor: Dr. Vivian Aranda-Hughes
Duties include assisting on funded grant projects, professional development, mentoring students, etc.

Aug 2022-Aug 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Advisor: Dr. Merry Morash
Duties included assisting on funded grant projects, etc.

Aug 2024-Dec 2024 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
Advisor: Dr. Vivian Aranda-Hughes
CJ 365: Corrections
Duties included attending class, listening to students' needs and questions, and provided mentorship regarding criminal justice and graduate school.

Aug 2021-Dec 2021 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Ames, IA

Advisor: Sabrina Shields-Cook, M.A.

LAS 101: Orientation for Open Option and Pre-professional Students

Duties included leading class centered on first year resources: study abroad, resume workshops, academic advising, clubs, and organizations, etc.

Aug 2021-Dec 2021 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Ames, IA

Advisor: Arnold Woods III, M.Ed

LAS 105: BOLD Orientation Course & LAS 106: BOLD Seminar

Duties included leading class centered on leadership and building community for first year multicultural students: culturally relevant resources, DEI, race, ethnicity, etc.

Aug 2020-May 2021 Teen and Youth Services Intern

Teen and Youth Services- Ames Public Library, Ames, IA

Advisor: Brianne Anderson

Duties included leading the Teen Advisory Group, incorporating multicultural activities, mentoring teens with abilities and diverse backgrounds to strengthen literacy skills and lifelong learning.

PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS

Rivera, N., Sanders, K., & DeJong, C. (accepted). Moving Beyond The Diversity Elective: Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into Graduate Education in Criminal Justice. *In Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Routledge Journals: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Edwards, K., Beck, G., Wheller, L., Prokasky, A., Lim, S., Wilson, T., Miller, G., Ababio, M., Aranda-Hughes, V., Herrington, R., Trujillo, P., Hopfauf, S., Diamond-Welch, B., Saucedo, C., & **Rivera, N.** (under-review). "Use Your Heart": Promise of a Program to Prevent the Use of Sexual Violence and Promote Positive Youth Development among Middle School Boys on a Triable Reservation. *In Journal of Violence and Gender*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Sanders, K., & **Rivera, N.** (accepted). Epistemic Racism: Centering Black and Latina Women as Researchers and in Research in Convict Criminology. *In Intersectionality in Convict Criminology: Voices from Within*. A Taylor & Francis Group edited volume.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Reviewer. Sage Journals: Pedagogy in Health Promotion: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

- 2025 **Diversity Scholar, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**
Diversity Scholarship, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2025 **Hiram E. Fitzgerald Engaged Scholar Fellow**
Fellowship, Michigan State University, The Graduate School, East Lansing, MI
- 2024-2025 **Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship**
Michigan State University, The Graduate School, Chicano Latino Studies, East Lansing, MI
- 2024-2025 **Early Start Program**
Michigan State University, The College of Social Science, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
- 2024-2025 **Graduate Office Travel Fellowship**
Michigan State University, The Graduate School, Chicano Latino Studies, East Lansing, MI
- 2024 **Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan Sponsorship**
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Office of Global Michigan, Detroit, MI
- 2023 **Graduate School Travel Fellowship**
Michigan State University, The Graduate School, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
- Aug 2022-Present **Graduate Research Assistantship**
Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
- Aug 2021-May 2022 **Herta David Minority Student Scholarship**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA
- Aug 2021-May 2022 **Fouad M. T. Alghanim Minority Student Scholarship**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA
- Aug 2021-May 2022 **Excellence in Latino/a Studies Award**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Ames, IA
- Aug 2020-May 2022 **Liberal Arts and Sciences Excellence Scholarship**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA
- Aug 2020-May 2022 **Liberal Arts and Sciences Program of Study Award**
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA
- Aug 2018-May 2022 **Federal Pell Grant**

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Conference Presentations

Barnes-Lee, A., **Rivera, N.**, Yu, K., & Williams, L. 2025. "Combating the School-To-Prison Pipeline with Restorative Justice Practices." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. USA. November 13, 2025.

Rivera, N. "Examining DEI Integration in CCJ Graduate Programs: Perspectives from Black and Latine Doctoral Students." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. USA. November 13, 2025.

Rivera, N. 2025. "Institutional Experiences and Misconduct: Understanding Prison Environments, Inequalities, and Reform." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. USA. November 12, 2025.

Rivera, N. 2025. "Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Education." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Denver, CO USA. March 13, 2025.

Sanders, K. & **Rivera, N.** 2024. "Epistemic Racism: Centering Black and Latina Women as Researchers and in Research." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA USA. November 14, 2024.

Rivera, N. 2024. "Types of Abuse and Help-Seeking: A Comparative Study of Latina Women Differing in Ethnic Identification." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL USA. March 22, 2024.

Auten, A., **Rivera, N.**, & Morash, M. 2024. "An Intersectional Analysis of Agentic Efforts of Individuals Under Community Supervision to Improve Their Lives." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL USA. March 22, 2024.

Rivera, N. 2023. "A Comparative Study of Latina Women Enduring Different Abuse Types and Help Seeking Efforts." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA USA. November 16, 2023.

Rivera, N. & Harper, S. "Latinas and Intimate Partner Violence: Rural Areas in Iowa" Iowa State University World Languages and Cultures Conference. Ames, IA USA. March 10, 2022.

Speaking Engagements

2025 Michigan State University, CLS 201 Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies

- Guest lectured on identity, resistance, and healing in Latino/a communities with the focus of exploring identity-based resilience and how culture supports healing from victimization and systemic oppression.

2023 Michigan State University, CJ 910 Qualitative Research Methods

- Presented a presentation on qualitative coding regarding the National Science Foundation Study of Communication Between Probation and Parole Agents and Their Clients.

2022 Iowa State University, US Latino Studies 211: Introduction to US Latino Studies

- Presented numerous presentations on the US Latino Studies Department and engagement with community partners.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Oct 2023-Present Graduate Women in Science Undergraduate Mentoring Program

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Assist the mentoring committee with event planning and outreach by providing connections to student organizations.

Aug 2023-May 2024 Graduate Student Network, Graduate Student Mentor

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI

As a graduate student mentor, I assist incoming graduate students by providing support, guidance, and resources to uplift personal and professional growth.

Mentees to date: Rachel Orlor, B.A. (2023) and Kayla Howell, B.A. (2023).

Jan 2023-Present Supervisor of Undergraduate Research Assistants

Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI

As a project mentor, I supervise undergraduate research assistants and graduate research assistants provide support, guidance, and network opportunities to uplift professional and research experiences. Mentees to date: Rachel Orlor, B.A. (2023), Fahad Tanvir, B.A. (2023), Samantha Hernandez (2023), Tyler Soule, B.A. (2023), Sydney Kaiser (2023), Allyson Marchese, B.A. (2023), Brianna Hankins, B.A. (2023), Ana Klein, B.A. (2023), Vasili Dionyssopoulos, B.A. (2023), Isabel Richmond (2025), Kevin Yu, MSW (2025),

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

April 2025-Present Council of Graduate Students (COGS) Chicano/Latino Studies (CLS)

Graduate Student Representative

Michigan State University, Chicano/Latino Studies, East Lansing, MI

Attend COGS meetings, serve on the COGS Equity and Anti-Discrimination Committee, and represent and bring CLS updates and concerns.

March 2025-Present The Collective for Research Equity & Diversity (CRED)

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Attend CRED meetings, workshops, and events.

Aug 2024-Aug 2025 School of Criminal Justice Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Graduate Student Representative

Michigan State University, The School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI

Attend SCJ and DEI meetings, workshops, and events, collaborate with committee members on DEI initiatives.

Aug 2023-Present Alliance for Graduate Education & the Professoriate (AGEP) Member

Michigan State University, The Graduate School, East Lansing, MI

Attend learning community meetings and workshops.

Aug 2022-Present Indigenous Graduate Student Collective (IGSC) Member

Michigan State University, American Indian and Indigenous Studies, East Lansing, MI

Attend meetings and assist with reactivating MSU Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Chapter.

Aug 2022-Present Chicax/Latinx Association (CHILA) Member

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Attend events and workshops.

Aug 2021-May 2022 US Latino/a Studies (USLS) Ambassador

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Department of World Cultures and Languages, Ames, IA

Mentored USLS students during office hours, created content and promotional materials for social media, and attend outreach events such as Latino Family Visit Day.

Aug 2020-May 2021 Psychology Club – Diversity Officer

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Department of Psychology, Ames, IA

Presented as the committee chair at the Psychology Department's Diversity Committee meetings, created and oversaw events centered on DEI.

Aug 2020-May 2021 Student Government at Iowa State University - Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA

Created initiatives to enhance campus climate, collaborated with student DEI organizations, attended student government hearings to advocate for DEI events, programs, and trainings.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS, COURSES, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, AND SKILLS

Graduate Programs

2025-2024 Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

- Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology II
- Statistics and Data Analysis II
- Introduction to the R Statistical Computing Environment
- Regression Analysis
- Time-Series, Panel, and Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Introduction to the LaTeX Text Processing System

Graduate Courses**2023-2024 Michigan State University, Chicano/Latino Studies**

- 810: Historiography and Social Science Methods in Chicano/Latino Studies (2023)
- 811: Literary and Cultural Theory in Chicano/Latino Studies (2024)
- 893E: Readings in Chicano/Latino Studies (2024)
- 896: Seminar in Chicano/Latino Studies (2023)

Trainings**2022-2023 Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice**

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) (2024)
 - Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research
 - Authorship
 - Plagiarism
 - Research Misconduct
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Students (2023)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certification in National Incident Management and Incident Command Systems (2022)
- Ethics and Regulations in Human Research (2022)
- Overview of Human Research Protection (2022)

2025 University of Michigan, School of Social Work

- Human Research Protections
- Conflict of Interest Training
- Minors in Research Compliance

Workshops:**2025 Dia De La Mujer Conference, Michigan State University, Office of Multicultural Enrichment and Advocacy**

- Gun Violence in the Latinx Community and Preventing Tragedies
- Latinidad: Historical, Cultural, Political, and Community Identity
- My Skin, My Story: A Journey of Self-Discovery and Celebration

2022-2023 Michigan State University, The Graduate School

- Big Data, Computational Methods, and Programming for Absolute Beginners Camp (2024)
- Writing your Diversity Statement: How to Commit to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2023)
- Writing Session: DEI and Research Statement (2023)
- AGEP- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (2022)

2022-2023 Michigan State University, The School of Criminal Justice

- International Research in Criminal Justice (2023)
- ICPSR Secondary Data and Resources (2023)
- Writing Broader Impact Statements for National Science Foundation Grants (2022)

Skills

- Bilingual in Spanish: Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

- Youth Mental Health First Aider.
- Data Coding: Quantitative and Qualitative.
- Experience with Microsoft Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word.
- Experience with SPSS, STATA and R.
- Experience with NVIVO.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
Minorities and Women Section

Member, International Association for Correctional
and Forensic Psychology