

Natalie 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, Latin American populations, 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
- 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

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

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 2022-Present **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 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 aboard,
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.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Rivera, N., Sanders, K., & DeJong, C. (in preparation). 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.

Sanders, K., & **Rivera, N.** (in preparation). 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.

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

- 2024 **Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship**
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
- 2024 **Graduate Office Travel Fellowship**
Michigan State University, The Graduate School, Chicano Latino Studies, East Lansing, 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

Rivera, N. & Sanders, K. “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.

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

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-Present 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 Orler, 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 provide support, guidance, and network opportunities to uplift professional and research experiences. Mentees to date: Rachel Orler, B.A. (2023), Fahad Tanvir, B.A. (2023), Samantha Hernandez (2023), Tyler Soule (2023), Sydney Kaiser (2023), Allyson Marchese (2023), Brianna Hankins (2023), Ana Klein (2023), Vasili Dionyssopoulos (2023).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Aug 2024-Present **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 **Chicanx/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 COURSES, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, AND SKILLS

Graduate Courses

2023 Michigan State University, Chicano/Latino Studies

- 810: Historiography and Social Science Methods in Chicano/Latino Studies
- 896: Seminar in Chicano/Latino Studies

Trainings

2022-2023 Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certification in National Incident Management and Incident Command Systems.
- Ethics and Regulations in Human Research.
- Overview of Human Research Protection.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Students.

Workshops:

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.
- Experience with NVIVO.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
Minorities and Women Section