

Alena Kuhlemeier, PhD

1 University of New Mexico
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Academic Appointments

2023-
Present **Assistant Professor**
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
College of Population Health

Education

2021 **University of New Mexico**
Ph.D., Sociology (with distinction)
Dissertation: *An Intersectional Mixed-Method Examination of Multi-Level Determinants of Adolescent Sexual Minority Mental Health and Substance Use*
Exams: Sociology of Health and Illness, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity

2015 **University of New Mexico**
M.A., Sociology
Thesis: *Relationally Constructing Sexual Identity: The Effect of Friendship Networks on Same-Sex Sexuality Development*

2011 **Pomona College**
B.A., Sociology (*magna cum laude*)

Research Support

2026 **UNM Health Sciences Center Pilot Grant**
Title: Assessing Feasibility of Implementing Inclusive Practices in Middle School for LGBTQ+ Youth
Role: Principal Investigator

2025-2026 **NIH-NIMH R01 Research Project Grant**
Title: Multilevel Community-Based Mental Health Intervention to Address Health Disparities (R01MH127733)
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Jessica R. Goodkind)

2024-2025 **PCORI Science of Engagement Award**
Title: Engage for Equity PLUS: Testing of Deliberative Engagement Strategies to Promote Trustworthy Research Infrastructures and Strengthened Patient/Community Engagement
Role: Co-Investigator (co-PIs: Nina Wallerstein and Shannon Sanchez-Youngman)

2023-2025 **NIH-NINR U24 Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS) Coordinating Center**

Title: Advancing Health Equity Through Innovative Community Capacity Building, Data Science & Delivering Community-Centered Structural Interventions & Outcomes (U24NR021014)
Role: Co-Investigator; UNM Research Capacity Building Core (subaward PI: Shannon Sanchez-Youngman)

- 2023-2028 **NIH-NIAAA R01 Research Project Grant**
Title: Predicting Individual Responses to Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder (R01AA030264)
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: M. Lee Van Horn)
- 2023 **Mayo Clinic**
Title: Evaluation of Community-Engaged Research at Mayo Clinic
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Prajakta Adsul)
- 2021-2023 **NIAAA T32 Ruth L. Kirschstein Institutional National Research Service Award (NRSA)**
Title: Alcohol Research Training: Methods and Mechanisms of Change (T32AA018108)
Role: Postdoctoral trainee (PI: Dr. Katie Witkiewitz)
- 2020-2021 **University of New Mexico Grand Challenges**
Title: Substance Use Disorder Grand Challenge
Role: Graduate Student Scholar
Amount Awarded: \$5,000
- 2019-2021 **NIMHD F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual NRSA**
Title: An Intersectional Mixed-Method Examination of Multi-Level Determinants of Adolescent Sexual Minority Health and Substance Use (F31MD014044)
Role: Principal Investigator
Amount Awarded: \$71,457

Teaching/Mentorship Experience

- Fall 2025-Spring 2026 PUBP 502: Policy and Evaluation Lab
Team Lead, Saranam (Albuquerque community-based organization)
Master of Public Policy Program, University of New Mexico
- Fall 2025 PH 536: Introduction to Biostatistics in Public Health
College of Population Health, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- Fall 2024-present PH 310: Public Health Research Methods
College of Population Health, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- Spring 2024 PH 101: Introduction to Public Health
College of Population Health, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- Spring 2023 SOCI 380: Introduction to Sociological Research Methods
Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico
- 2018-2021 Quantitative Methodology Consultant, The Methodology Group @ UNM
College of Education and Human Sciences, University of New Mexico
- 2016-2017 SOC 381: Sociological Data Analysis
Lab Instructor (IOR: Huyser)
Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Kuhlemeier, Alena, David Van Horn, Thomas Jaki, Dawn K. Wilson, Kenneth Resnicow, Elizabeth Y. Jimenez, M. Lee Van Horn. 2025. "Personalized Medicine Predictions to Maximize Weight Loss with a Lifestyle Intervention." *Obesity* 33(5): 861-869.
- Dickson, Elizabeth, Alena Kuhlemeier, Prajakta Adsul, Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, Katie Myers, Tabia Henry Akintobi, Lisa G. Rosas, Jason A. Mendoza, John Oetzel, Paige Castro-Reyes, Christina Alaniz, Belkis Jacquez, Nina Wallerstein. 2025. "Developing the Engage for Equity Institutional Multi-Stakeholder Survey: Assessing Academic Institutional Culture and Climate for Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)." *Journal of Clinical and Translational Sciences* 9(1): e44. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2025.20>.
- Adsul, Prajakta, Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, Elizabeth Dickson, Belkis Jacquez, Alena Kuhlemeier, Michael Muhammad, Kathy J. Briant, Bridgette Hempstead, Jason A Mendoza, Lisa G. Rosas, Anisha Patel, Patricia R. Espinosa, Tabia Henry Akintobi, Paige Castro-Reyes, Lori Carter-Edwards, Nina Wallerstein. 2025. "Assessing the context within academic health institutions towards improving equity-based, community and patient engaged research." *Journal of Clinical and Translational Sciences* 9(1): e6. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2024.675>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Daniel G. Shattuck, Cathleen E. Willging, Mary M. Ramos. 2024. "Comparing Behavioral Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, and Heterosexual Middle School Students." *LGBT Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2023.0477>
- Kuhlemeier, Alena and Cathleen E. Willging. 2024. "A Multigroup Structural Equation Modeling Approach for Analyzing Differences among Sexually Diverse Youth." *Journal of Homosexuality* 72(9): 1726–1750. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2024.2389903>
- Bickel, Warren K., Katie Witkiewitz, Liqa M. Athamneh, Alena Kuhlemeier. 2024. "Recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder: Reinforcer Pathology Theory, measurement, and methods." *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 48(9),): 1626-1636. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.15406>.
- Spotlight in Physician's Weekly*: <https://www.physiciansweekly.com/recovery-from-alcohol-use-disorder-reinforcer-pathology-theory-measurement-and-methods/>
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Thomas Jaki, Katie Witkiewitz, Elizabeth A. Stuart, M. Lee Van Horn. 2024. "Validation of predicted individual treatment effects in out of sample respondents." *Statistics in Medicine* 43(22): 4349-4360. <http://doi.org/10.1002/sim.10187>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. 2024. The Impact of LGBTQ-Inclusive Practices on Student Suicidality in New Mexico High Schools. *Journal of LGBT Youth* 22(3): 412–428. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2024.2335522>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Jalie A. Tucker, and Katie Witkiewitz. 2024. "Role of Relative Reinforcement Value of Alcohol-Free Activities during Recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder in an Adult Clinical Sample." *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* 32(4), 410–417. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pha0000713>.
- Spotlight in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Weekly*: Enos, Gary. 2024. "Engagement in Alcohol-Free Activity Reduces Use, Improves Functioning." *Alcohol and Drug Abuse Weekly*, 36(30): 1-8. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15567591/2024/36/30>.
- Jaki, Thomas, Chi Chang, Alena Kuhlemeier, and M. Lee Van Horn. 2025. "Predicting individual treatment effects: Challenges and opportunities for machine learning and artificial intelligence." *Künstliche Intelligenz [German Journal of Artificial Intelligence]* 39: 27-32. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13218-023-00827-4>.

- Votaw, Victoria R., Ethan S. Van, Alena Kuhlemeier, Felicia R. Tuchman, and Katie Witkiewitz. 2024. "Association Between Religious Salience and Past-Year Substance Use by Sexual Identity and Sex Among Adults in the United States." *LGBT Health*, 11(4):326–33. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2023.0080>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Mary M. Ramos, Daniel Shattuck, and Cathleen E. Willging. 2023. "Associations between Non-Suicidal Self Injury and School-Based Health Promotive Factors for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth and their Peers." *LGBT Health*, 10(8): 617-628. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2021.0404>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. 2023. "Measurement Invariance of Psychological Distress, Substance Use, and Adult Social Support across Race/Ethnicity and Sex among Sexual Minority Youth." *Journal of Sex Research* 60(5): 674-688. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2022.2038059>
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Thomas Jaki, Elizabeth Yakes Jimenez, Alberta S. Kong, Chi Chang, M. Lee Van Horn. 2022. "Individual Differences in the Effects of the ACTION PAC Intervention in the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity." *Journal for Behavioral Medicine* 45(2): 211:226. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-021-00274-2>.
- Huysen, Kimberly, Aggie Yellow Horse, Alena Kuhlemeier, and Michelle Huysen. 2021. "COVID-19 Pandemic Unveils Persistent Indigenous Erasure in Public Health Data." *American Journal of Public Health* 111(S3): S208-S214. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306415>.
- Chang, Chi, Thomas Jaki, Muhammad Saad Sadiq, Alena Kuhlemeier, Daniel Feaster, Natalie Cole, Andrea Lamont, Daniel Oberski, The Pooled Resource Open-Access ALS Clinical Trials Consortium, M. Lee Van Horn. 2021. "A Permutation Test for Assessing the Presence of Individual Differences in Treatment Effects." *Statistical Methods in Medical Research* 30(11): 2369-2381. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09622802211033640>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Jessica Goodkind, and Cathleen Willging. 2021. "Production and Maintenance of the Institutional In/visibility of Sexual and Gender Minority Students in Schools." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 91(4): 558-568. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000556>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Yasin Desai, Alexandra Agenbroad, Katie Witkiewitz, Thomas Jaki, Yu-Yu Hsaio, Chi Chang, and M. Lee Van Horn. 2021. "Applying Methods for Personalized Medicine to the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 89(4), 288–300. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ccp0000634>.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. 2021. "Effects of Friendship among Same-Sex Attracted Youth on Sexual Minority Identity Development in Adulthood." *Journal of Homosexuality*, 69(8): 1372-1397. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2021.1913918>.
- Zagona, Alison, Kirsten Lansey, Jennifer Kurth, and Alena Kuhlemeier. 2020. "Fostering Participation in Inclusive Classrooms for Students with Complex Support Needs: Educators' Strategies and Perspectives." *Journal of Special Education* 55(1): 34-44. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022466920936671>.
- Soller, Brian, Jennifer E. Copp, Dana L. Haynie, and Alena Kuhlemeier. 2020. "Adolescent Dating Violence Victimization and Relationship Dissolution." *Youth and Society* 52(2): 187-208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X17736537>.
- Euler, Renee, Elizabeth Yakes Jimenez, Sarah Sanders, Alena Kuhlemeier, M. Lee Van Horn, Deborah Cohen, Diana Gonzales-Pacheco, and Alberta S. Kong. 2019. "Rural-Urban Differences in Baseline Dietary Intake and Physical Activity Levels of Adolescents." *Preventing Chronic Disease* 16: E01-E09. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd16.180200>.

Sanders, Sarah R., Elizabeth Y. Jimenez, Natalie Cole, Alena Kuhlemeier, M. Lee Van Horn, Betty J. Skipper, Kriti Mishra, Tilly Ngo, Alberta S. Kong. 2019. "Estimated Physical Activity in Adolescents by Wrist-worn GENEActiv Accelerometers." *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* 16(9): 792-798. <https://doi.org/10.1123/jpah.2018-0344>.

Soller, Brian, Dana L. Haynie, and Alena Kuhlemeier. 2017. "Sexual Intercourse, Romantic Relationship Inauthenticity, and Adolescent Mental Health." *Social Science Research* 64: 237-248. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2016.10.002>.

Soller, Brian, and Alena Kuhlemeier. 2017. "Symmetric Versus Directed Intimate Partner Violence in Latino Immigrant Communities." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 35(1): 61-88. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-017-9370-9>.

Other Publications

Boness, Cassandra L., Alena Kuhlemeier, Katie Witkiewitz. 2022. "Nonabstinent Recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder." *Psychiatric Times* 39(5). <https://www.psychiatrytimes.com/view/nonabstinent-recovery-from-alcohol-use-disorder>

Awards & Honors

- 2025 **Faculty Scholar** | Center for Advancing Dissemination and Implementation Science | University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- 2023 **Registration Award** | Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference
- 2022 **Best Dissertation Award** | American Sociological Association, Section on Sociology of Mental Health
- 2022 **Travel Award** | Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference
- 2021 **Grand Prize Recipient, Graduate Student Team Research Concept Competition** | Team Research Symposium, UNM Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative and UNM Grand Challenges.
- 2020 **Dean's Dissertation Fellowship** | Office of Graduate Studies, University of New Mexico
- 2020 **Graduate Student Paper Award** | Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.
- 2018 **Evaluation Fellowship** | New Mexico Evaluation Lab, University of New Mexico
- 2017 **Graduate Student Paper Award** | Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems.
- 2017 **Graduate Student Paper Award** | Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.
- 2016 **Student Research Award** | Graduate and Professional Students Association, University of New Mexico
- 2016 **Professional Development Award** | Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico
- 2011 **Scholarship Award for Graduate Study** | Phi Beta Kappa, Pomona College Chapter

Professional Positions

- 2014-2021 Research Associate II
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation—Southwest
Albuquerque, NM

Additional Training

- 2022 Machine Learning: Theory and Applications
Dr. Doug Steinley, The Center for Statistical for Statistical Training
- 2021 Community-Based Participatory Research Institute
Dr. Nina Wallerstein, UNM Center for Participatory Research
- 2020 Equity and Policy Institute
“Broadband Access and LGBTQ Youth Behavioral Health Equity”
Dr. Lisa Cacari-Stone, UNM Transdisciplinary Research, Equity, and
Engagement (TREE) Center for Advancing Behavioral Health

Presentations

- Kuhlemeier, Alena and Laura B. Nellums. “Social safety across sexual minority and immigrant status among youth in New Mexico, 2023.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. November 2025.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Prajakta Adsul, Irene Sia, Mark Wieland, and Nina Wallerstein. “Community perspectives on promoting community-engaged research in academic medical institutions.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. October 2024.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Daniel Shattuck, Mary M. Ramos, Cathleen Willging. “Behavioral Health of Sexually Diverse Middle School Students in New Mexico.” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Santa Fe, NM. March 2024.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Jalie A. Tucker, Katie Witkiewitz. “Relative Reinforcement Value of Alcohol-Free Activities on Whole Person Recovery.” Research Society on Alcoholism Conference. Bellevue, WA. June 2023.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Jalie A. Tucker, Katie Witkiewitz. “Relative Reinforcement Value of Alcohol-Free Activities.” Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference. Albuquerque, NM. March 2023.
- Gil-Rivas, V., Jessica R. Goodkind, Alena Kuhlemeier, Michelle Angelo-Rocha. “Understanding the Multilevel Stressors and Opportunities for Forcibly Displaced LGBTQ+ Populations: Intersectional Strengths-Based Perspective.” Coming Together for Action. Baltimore, MD. October 2022.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. “A Structural Equation Modeling Approach to Intersectional Analysis of Substance Use among Sexual Minority Youth.” National LGBTQ Health Conference. Chicago, IL. July 2022.
- Van, Ethan S., Victoria R. Votaw, Alena Kuhlemeier, Katie Witkiewitz. “Association between Religious Beliefs and Alcohol Use Disorder by Sexual Identity among Adults in the United States.” Poster presentation at the Research Society on Alcoholism. Orlando, FL. June 2022.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. “Intersectional and Institutional Determinants of Sexual Minority Youth Behavioral Health.” Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference. Portland, OR. April 2022.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. “Predicting Individual Treatment Effects.” CASAA Data Analysis Club. Albuquerque, NM. November 2021.
- Dugas, Karen, Alena Kuhlemeier, Hendrix Olson, and Daniel Shattuck. “‘Rainbow After the Storm’: Supporting Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Wellbeing in the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Public Health Association: Albuquerque, NM (virtual). May 2021.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Melissa Henry, Alexandra Hernandez-Vallant, Carmela Roybal, and Brigitte Stevens. “Development of a Multidimensional Resilience Scale: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Decolonializing Resilience in Substance Use Research.” Graduate Student Team Research

Concept Competition. Team Research Symposium, sponsored by UNM Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative and UNM Grand Challenges. April 2021. (Grand Prize Recipient: \$2000)

Shattuck, Daniel, Lara Gunderson, and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Supporting At-Home Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Study (SASY): A Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic." Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup Meeting. February 2021. (virtual)

Shattuck, Daniel, Lara Gunderson, and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Supporting At-Home Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Study (SASY): A Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic." OSAP Recipient Meeting. February 2021. (virtual)

Willging, Cathleen, Sonnie Davies, Amy Green, Lara Gunderson, Janie Lee Hall, Patricia Hokanson, Alena Kuhlemeier, Mary M. Ramos, and Daniel Shattuck. "Elucidating Inequities under COVID-19: Real-Time Research into the Well-being of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Rural New Mexico." NIH Rural Health Seminar: Challenges in the Era of COVID-19. December 2020.

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "Testing Invariance of Psychological Distress, Substance Use, and Adult Social Support in a Community Sample of High School Youth." Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice, Coming Together for Action: Charlotte, NC. October 2020.

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "Production and Maintenance of the Institutional In/visibility of Sexual and Gender Minority Students in Schools." Section on Sociology of Sex and Gender Session: Diverse Gender: Lived Experiences and Relations with Institutions. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: San Francisco CA. August 2020.

Coleman, Erin and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Women's Empowerment and Mental Health: How State-Level Gender (In)equality Relates to Individual-Level Depressive Symptomology." Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Refereed Roundtable. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: San Francisco CA. August 2020.

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "RLAS School Environment Survey: Progress at Year 3." Reducing LGBT Adolescent Suicide (RLAS) Community Advisory Board Meeting. Behavioral Health Research Center of the Southwest—Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (BHRCS-PIRE), Albuquerque, NM January 2020.

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "An Intersectional Mixed-Method Examination of Multi-Level Determinants of Adolescent Sexual Minority Health and Substance Use." Reducing LGBT Adolescent Suicide (RLAS) Community Advisory Board Meeting. Behavioral Health Research Center of the Southwest—Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (BHRCS-PIRE), Albuquerque, NM April 2019.

Van Horn, M. Lee, Erin R. Coleman, and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Multi-level Modeling: Assessing Contextual Effects." Three-part series on multi-level modeling for UNM Transdisciplinary Research Equity and Engagement (TREE) Center for Advancing Behavioral Health. Albuquerque, NM 2019.

Huyser, Kimberly R. and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Diabetes in American Indian/Alaska Native Communities: A Content Analysis of Academic Research." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: Montreal, QC 2017.

Huyser, Kimberly R. and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Diabetes in American Indian/Alaska Native Communities: A Content Analysis of Academic Research." University of New Mexico Sociology Colloquium Series: Albuquerque, NM 2017.

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "Relationally Constructing Sexual Identity: The Effect of Friendship Networks on Same-Sex Sexuality Development." Section on Sexualities Refereed Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: Seattle, WA 2016.