

# Alena Kuhlemeier

851 University Blvd SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
[aakuhlemeier@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aakuhlemeier@salud.unm.edu)  
(505) 272-3831

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## Academic Appointments

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

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## 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*)

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## Research Support

2023-2028                      **NIH Common Fund 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 (subaward PI: Shannon Sanchez-Youngman)

2023-2028                      **NIAAA R01 Research Project Grant**  
Title: Predicting Individual Responses to Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder (AA030264)  
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  
Role: Principal Investigator (F31MD014044)  
Amount Awarded: \$71,457

**Teaching/Mentorship Experience**

- 2024-2025                    PH 310: Population 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                    Lab Instructor, SOC 381: Sociological Data Analysis (IOR: Huyser)  
Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico
- 2013-2016                    Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Courses Assisted: "From Childhood Misbehavior to Adult Offending;" "Social Networks and Crime;" "Causes of Crime and Delinquency" (IOR: Soller);  
"Sociology of Madness" (IOR: Whooley)  
Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- Kuhlemeier, Alena, Jalie A. Tucker, and Katie Witkiewitz. In press. "Role of Relative Reinforcement Value of Alcohol-Free Activities during Recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder in an Adult Clinical Sample." *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.
- Kuhlemeier, Alena. 2024. "The Impact of LGBTQ-Inclusive Practices on Student Suicidality in New Mexico High Schools." *Journal of LGBT Youth*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2024.2335522>.
- Jaki, Thomas, Chi Chang, Alena Kuhlemeier, and M. Lee Van Horn. 2024. "Predicting individual treatment effects: Challenges and opportunities for machine learning and artificial intelligence." *Künstliche Intelligenz [German Journal of Artificial Intelligence]*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13218-023-00827-4>
- Votaw, Victoria, Ethan Van, Alena Kuhlemeier, Felicia Tuchman, and Katie Witkiewitz. 2023. "Association Between Religious Salience and Past-Year Substance Use by Sexual Identity Among Adults in the United States." *LGBT Health*. <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*. <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/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.psychiatristimes.com/view/nonabstinent-recovery-from-alcohol-use-disorder>

### Awards & Honors

- 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

### Manuscripts under Review

Bickel, Warren, Katie Witkiewitz, Liqa Athamneh, and Alena Kuhlemeier. "Recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder: New Theoretical Perspectives & Novel Approaches to Measurement & Methods." (Revise and Resubmit at *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*)

Kuhlemeier, Alena. "A Structural Equation Modeling Approach to the Influence of Adult Support on Behavioral Health Pathways of Sexual Minority Youth at the Intersection of Sexual Orientation, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity." (under review at *Journal of Homosexuality*)

Kuhlemeier, Alena, Thomas Jaki, Katie Witkiewitz, Elizabeth A. Stuart, and M. Lee Van Horn. "Validation of Individual Predictions of Response to Treatment." (Revise and Resubmit at *Statistics in Medicine*)

Kuhlemeier, Alena, Daniel G. Shattuck, Mary M. Ramos, Cathleen E. Willging. "The Emergent Behavioral Health Crisis among Sexually Diverse Middle School Students." (Revise and Resubmit at *LGBT Health*)

Kuhlemeier, Alena, Dawn Wilson, M. Lee Van Horn. "Development of a Clinical Tool for Predicting Individual Treatment Effects in the Look AHEAD Trial." (under review at the *New England Journal of Medicine*)

### **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**

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.

Huysen, 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.

Huysen, 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.

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## References

**Jessica R. Goodkind, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, Sociology  
University of New Mexico  
[jgoodkin@unm.edu](mailto:jgoodkin@unm.edu)

**M. Lee Van Horn, Ph.D.**

Professor, Individual, Family, and Community  
Education  
University of New Mexico  
[mlvh@unm.edu](mailto:mlvh@unm.edu)

**Cathleen Willging, Ph.D.**  
Center Director, Pacific Institute for Research  
and Evaluation—Southwest

[cwillging@pire.org](mailto:cwillging@pire.org)