

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 cohort

**AMANDA
MRAZ**



**PhD Clinical
Psychology,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr.
Christopher Kearney**



My research focuses on the effects of dissociative symptoms in maltreated youth. These symptoms can negatively affect the way children perceive the world and therefore the way they develop. By participating in this class, I hope to get a jumpstart in the writing process for my thesis. I also hope to learn new ways of being efficient and effective in my present and future academic writings.

**ANA PAULA
LOURES-ELIAS**



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Educational
Psychology and Higher
Education**

**Advisor: Steven
McCafferty, Ph.D.**



My research is on Educational Psychology.
It is about bilingual children's use of
private and inner forms of speech and
gesture, and how it affects bilingual
children's affective, cognitive, and
language development in a kindergarten
classroom in an international school in
Brazil.

I want to be in this program to develop my
writing skills and to better meet the
requirements of getting published in the
English language. It will help me to publish
articles, finish my dissertation, and apply
for tenure-track positions in Fall 2022.

ARIFUL HASNAT

**Ph.D. student,
Department of Civil &
Environmental
Engineering &
Construction**

**Advisor: Nader
Ghafoori**



My Ph.D. dissertation work deals with the development of new railway ties made with ultra-high-performance concrete for low- and high-speed rail systems. Current concrete ties have experienced premature failure. As such, the railway industry is searching for a new concrete product to replace the existing concrete ties, which is stronger, more flexible, and highly durable. I have presented research findings in different conferences and currently preparing manuscripts for journal publications. I am conducting the final phase of my research laboratory activities. Working closely with experts from different fields in the Graduate College Rebel Writing Boot Camp will improve my technical writing and development skills.

**BIANCA S.
ISLAS**

**Ph.D Student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Stephen D. Benning**



My advisor's career has deepened the understanding of psychopathology through the creation of diagnostic measures, psychophysiology, and over twenty years of research in forensic and undergraduate communities. My research hopes to focus on trauma and provide a deeper understanding of those who have suffered from PTSD and TBI. Currently, my research aims to utilize the Sensory Gating Inventory (SGI) as a valid and reliable measure of the symptom of hypervigilance. I hope to achieve this by performing psychophysiological studies and administration of self-report measures to gain a deeper cognitive understanding of hypervigilance. It is my hypothesis that through a deeper understanding we may treat attentional abnormalities and thereby reduce relapse, or reoccurrence, of PTSD symptomatology. Together, we aim to understand how trauma and traits of psychopathology interact and become maladaptive personality constructs.

CATHERINE BACOS



**Ph.D. Candidate,
Department of
Teaching & Learning**

**Advisors: Drs. Michael
McCreery and Randall
Boone**



My research interests include examining social interactions in virtual environments and designing learning systems for children with autism. I am currently researching the use of eye-tracking technology, eye-movement modeling, and simulated dyadic social interactions to assess and enhance social attention behavior and social motivation.

The UNLV Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will be an opportunity to focus on current writing projects, including my dissertation and journal manuscripts for studies I have completed recently. Through the program, I hope to gain feedback and support from the writing group and to stay motivated to achieve my writing goals.

CATHERINE PRATT

**M.F.A. student,
Department of Theatre
Arts**

**Advisor:
Brackley Frayer**



Catherine Pratt is a second-year M.F.A. student whose research focus on lighting design for theatrical productions along with color psychology and emotional response to color. She aims to discover what emotions are brought out with color choices to better inform her design work. This will allow for themes and emotions to be highlighted from the production so all can focus on them in relation to the action onstage.

Her passion for education lies both inside the classroom and in hands-on experience in the theatre. Catherine's goals through this program are to strengthen her skills to provide students with the best mixture of learning concepts and theories in the classroom while gaining hands-on experience in labs and production work highlighting the concepts covered. She also wants to learn how to create a welcoming, collaborative environment where all feel welcome and able to share creative ideas.

EMILY STRICKLER

**MPH Student ,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Jennifer
Pharr**



Emily is a second year MPH student. Her area of interest is how the built environment contributes to community health. Emily's research for her thesis focuses on how neighborhood watch apps contribute to levels perceived safety and social cohesion in communities in Las Vegas.

She's excited to be a part of Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp. Emily hopes to gain clarity about an overall thesis timeline as well as build consistent writing habits to make the process easier in the long term.

HUIYING (SOPHIE) ZHANG

**Ph. D. Student
Hospitality
Administration**

Advisor: Dr. Billy Bai



This study attempts to examine the responses of countries, cities, and industries in the time of COVID-19, especially in the context of tourism and hospitality. The research findings serve as a guidance to destinations in their phased recovery from the unprecedented pandemic.

Together with my research team, we have collected all necessary data and conducted rounds of interviews in this summer. It is the time to draft the final report. I hope that I could take advantage of this writing bootcamp to finalize the report and improve my academic writing skills along this process.

JAMES LARSEN

**Ph. D.
Student
Hospitality Admin.**

**Advisor: Dr. Amanda
Belarmino**



My research is focused on emotional engagement between casino hosts and their guests. We live in the greatest city in the world for this line of inquiry—there's a literal living laboratory blocks away from UNLV, and it's where I've spent the past six years of my hospitality career. The potential for continuous improvement and constant hypothesis-testing is limitless. I look forward to further entrenching myself within the UNLV community and nurturing the symbiotic relationship between a world-class university and a world-class casino-hotel industry.

To be a world-class researcher, it's imperative that I be able to communicate complex ideas clearly and succinctly. What better way to ensure that my writing is clear and succinct than to share it with fellow researchers from disparate fields?

**JESSICA
HABASHY**

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr. Noelle
Lefforge**




Under the direction of my faculty mentor, Dr. Lefforge, we are looking at the predictors of premature termination from psychotherapy (i.e., individual and group). Premature termination is a serious concern in mental health treatment that can lead to deleterious effects like continued suffering of the individual who terminates as well as imposes a societal and economic burden. We hope to better understand these predictors so we can contribute to the growing literature by illuminating these concerns and provide suggestions for intervention strategies that mental health professionals could take into consideration while in practice. I am interested in this program because I would like the opportunity to learn techniques on how to write more efficiently, have a solid writing schedule, and make substantial progress on my thesis.

**KAYLEIGH
MEIGHAN**




**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Anthropology**

**Advisor: Alyssa
Crittenden**



I am a medical anthropologist interested in studying pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care. Specifically, my interests include perinatal care and obstetric violence, attachment parenting and cross-cultural infant care patterns, and maternal and infant health disparities in the US. My current research analyzes predictors of co-sleeping practices after midwife-led births in the US.



My goal during the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp is to develop skills that will make my writing process more efficient. I'm excited to learn more about managing research projects from literature review to publication and to meet new students from other departments with similar goals.



KELLIANN BEAVERS



**PhD Student, Public
Affairs**

**Advisor: Dr. Robert
Lang**



I am currently researching regional development of rail fixed guideway systems in the Mountain West and Pacific West United States. I am beginning the initial research for my dissertation, preparing a history of rail development in each of five case study regions. This fall, I will start interviewing experts in the fields of urban planning and transit within each of the case study regions. I am also focused on the metropolitan suburbs that grew in relationship to light rail or other fixed guideway systems.

**KRISTIN
VIERRA**

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor: Rachael
Robnett**



My research addresses the manner in which socialization, stereotypes and critical consciousness skills influence peoples beliefs and behaviors. In more detail, I research topics such as how children interpret gender-roles and gender egalitarianism, the relationship between males endorsement of masculine gender-roles and their views of close friendships, and intervention strategies indented to foster the development of critical consciousness. I have enrolled in this writing bootcamp because I am currently writing my qualifying project. Having just finished writing my thesis, I hope to find new methods to stay motivated, incorporate time-management skills, and overall, improve my writing skills in preparation for writing my dissertation.

KRISTINE JAN ESPINOZA

**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Educational Psychology
& Higher Education**

**Advisor: Dra. Blanca
Rincón**



A second-generation Pinay scholar of Pangasinan and Tagalog (im)migrants and a first-generation American college student, Kristine is a second-year doctoral student studying higher education. Her research interests include higher education governance and law and the influence of the federal Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) program on the educational trajectories of minoritized student populations. As postsecondary institutions enrolling significant percentages of undergraduate minority students, MSIs are uniquely positioned to design critically and culturally relevant and responsive structures.

Maya Angelou said, "When you learn, teach. When you get, give." Through participation in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, Kristine aims to further develop her research and writing skills to become a better researcher and, in turn, share these strategies with others. She looks forward to the Boot Camp challenge and the opportunity to push herself further than her family ever dreamed of.

**LATOYA
BURDISS**



**Ph.D. Student,
Department of Higher
Education
Advisor: Blanca Rincón**



Humans were made to connect, and many students are choosing to connect via social media. My research focuses on how social media impacts the mental health and well-being of undergraduate students.

I am hoping the Writing Bootcamp will give me the opportunity to get a jump start on my literature review with the guidance of the workshop facilitators.

MARYAM MOHIEDDIN RAD

Ph.D. Student
Multicultural
Education
Department of
Teaching and Learning

Advisor:
Dr. Christine Clark

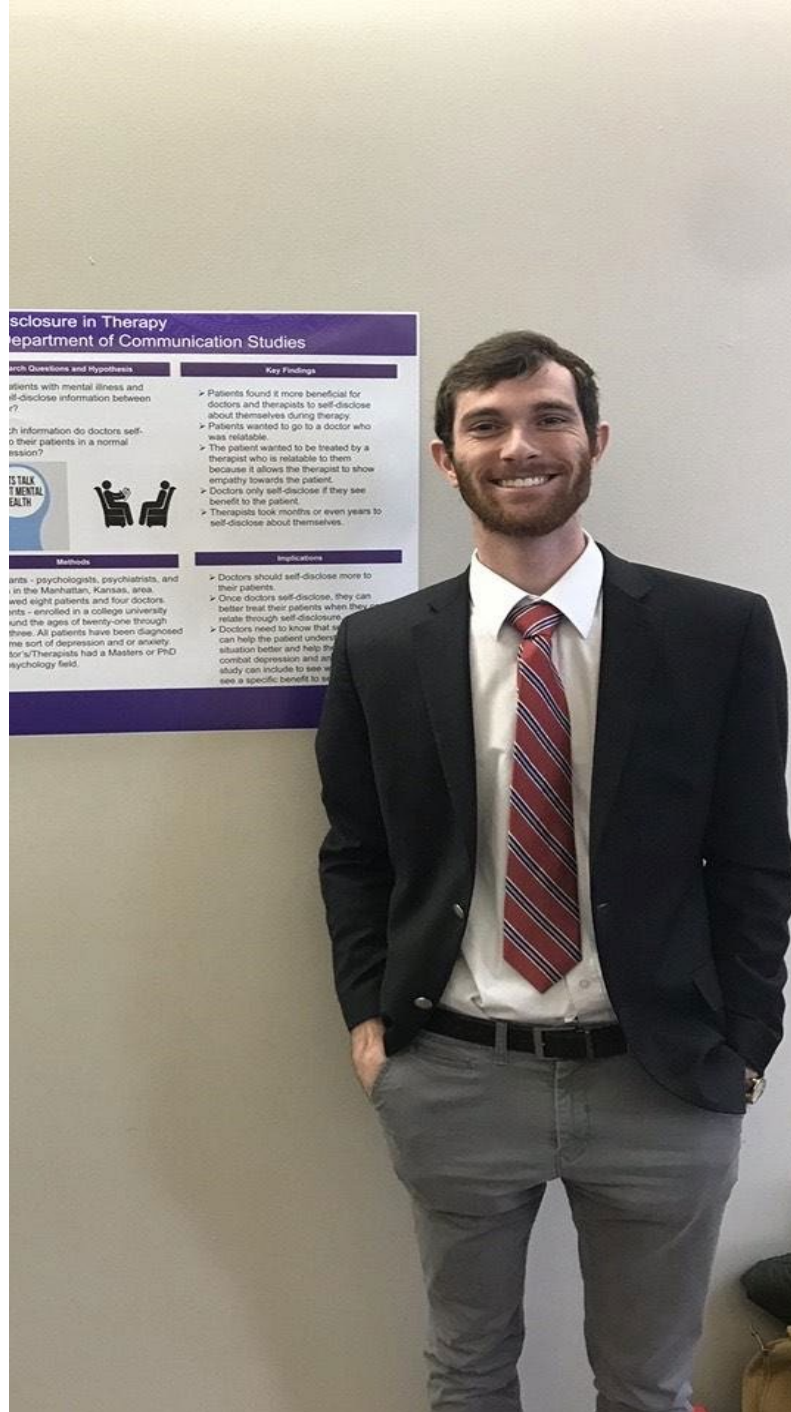


Maryam's research is focused on Muslim Iranian women's challenges in higher education in the United States. She is now collecting preliminary data and performing a literature review for her Ph.D. dissertation research. Being a Muslim woman, she hopes her research can contribute to increasing the quality of education for Muslim women in higher educational institutes of the United States by identifying the existing issues and finding possible solutions to mitigate them.

**MATTHEW
MOHAN**

**M.A. student
Department of
Communication
Studies**

Advisor: Dr. McManus



Hello,

My current research focuses on mental illness and poverty. More specifically, I'm analyzing the current structures and policies that serve those who experience a mental illness and experience poverty. By analyzing those structures, the project aims to better assist those who are impacted by these programs.

I would like to be in this program because I would like to become a better writer and researcher for my thesis. Additionally, I believe this workshop can help further my academic abilities and help get me into a Ph.D program.

**MICHELLE
PERALES**



**Candidate for Juris
Doctorate, Boyd
School of Law, UNLV**

Frank Durand, Advisor



Written communication is essential to both the study and practice of law. The mastery of written and verbal communication is vital to one's success as a law student and a practicing attorney.

Licensed attorneys engaged in daily legal practice are required to gather, synthesize and communicate large quantities of complex information to a diversity of people with varied lenses.

For these reasons, I believe that refining my written communication skills will supplement my legal education and help me be a more effective attorney in practice.

Through this boot camp, I hope to enhance my writing skills in order to be a greater resource to my clients and improve my professional legal practice.

MONICA SINHA

**Master's Student,
School of Public health**

**Advisor: Dr. Neeraj
Bhandari**



Monica Sinha is a licensed Dentist from India. While practicing dentistry in India she realizes a huge barrier towards preventive aspects of the health. This inspired her to enroll in MPH program.

She is interested to start a project/research which creates dental awareness and to maintain oral hygiene in the community. Currently, she is working with her professor to encourage elementary school children to follow a safe route to school.

After attending this boot camp she is looking forward to create a good outline to her thesis. She is also interested in learning about how to avoid plagiarism, how to cite ,build the literature review, and more about the available resources.

**RUBAIYA
MURSHED**

**Doctoral Student in
the Department of
Mechanical
Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Shubhra
Bansal**



Perovskite solar cells(PSCs) research has been projected over the past decade due to its promising photovoltaic properties, increasing efficiency and low cost. With a need to eliminate toxic lead from prevailing halide perovskite solar cells, Sn(II) is considered as one of the most suitable replacements due to its similar electronic configuration and ionic radius to Pb(II). In my research, I am fabricating perovskite thin films and analyzing the effect of various mediators in the improvement of the efficiency, oxidation and phase instability of the Sn-based Perovskites.

As a doctoral student, I must publish peer-reviewed journal articles/papers on the research topics conducted by myself in my thesis and dissertation. I hope to learn all the skills of research article writing from this week-long workshop

SHAIMAA ABDELHALEEM



**PhD Candidate,
Geoscience**

**Advisor: Dr. Wanda J.
Taylor**



My research is focused on studying the earthquake potentiality in the city of Las Vegas and its effect on the 2 million lives that live in it and the much more people who visit it each year. Because the impact of my research project is very high and directly related to human lives, I need to conduct a world-class research that will be competent enough help mitigate the dangers of any potential earthquake disasters, then transfer my findings to public to spread awareness about the earthquake hazard in Las Vegas, NV.

I joined the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp because it provides an inspirational and encouraging environment to focus on academic writing. The workshops and writing consultation sessions are also a very useful and insightful part of the bootcamp that help you write efficiently.

TAMARA WYNNE



**PhD student,
Department of Biology**

Advisor: Dale Devitt



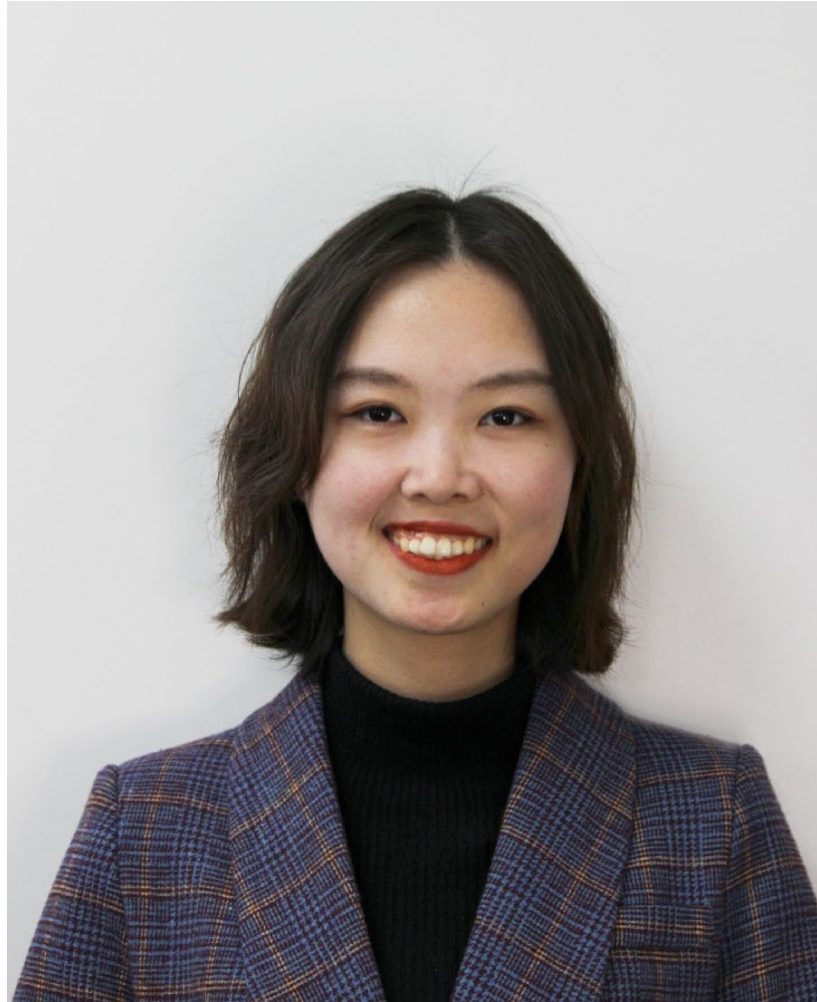
I research native plants and their relation to the soil and water. Currently the research is conducted inside a solar facility where native plants are growing next to the panels. I also research in North Las Vegas with native plants receiving different irrigation regimes.

XINRU (RUBY) CHEN



**M.S. student,
HOSPITALITY
ADMINISTRATION**

**Advisor:
Dr.Mehmet.Erdem**



My research is focused on the impact of technology on hospitality operations. I aim to get started with my thesis in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp.

I hope to improve my writing skills and increase my ability in time management. By participating in the writing boot camp, I hope to establish good writing habits and be ready for future study.