

# Valeria Jacqueline Alonso Blanco

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## EDUCATION

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### University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Ph.D. in Psychology

Expected June 2025

M.S in Psychology

Dec 2021

### UCSC

June 2018

B.A. in Psychology – Highest Honors

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Fostering belonging and higher education access among community college students; Participatory Action Research; Cultural values and family assets among minoritized students

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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Dean's Travel Grant (\$425)	2022-2023
UndocuCareer Development Fund (\$2,000)	2023
Department of Psychology Travel Grants (\$1,200)	2022-2023
Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (\$2,000)	2022
Office of Research Seed Funding for Early-Stage Initiatives Grant – Co PI (\$40,000)	2022
Institute for Social Transformation Sprout Grant – Co PI (\$9,000)	2022
Small-Scale Events Advancing SPSSI (SEAS) Grant (\$1,000)	2021
Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (\$4,000)	2021
Research Center for the Americans Graduate Student Grant (\$950)	2020
Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Scholarship (\$1,000)	2020
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship - Alternate (\$81,000)	2020
Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship (\$140,000)	2019
Harvard Diversity Recruitment Program (DRP) Travel Fellowship	2018
Outstanding Teaching in the Department of Psychology Senior Award	2018
UC President's Award for Outstanding Leadership	2018
Department of Psychology Research Funding Award	2018
Indiana University GU2IU Spring Recruit	2018
UCSC Koret Undergraduate Research Scholar	2017
University of Michigan Diversity Weekend Recruit	2017
UC Santa Barbara Academic Research Consortium (ARC) Scholar	2017
Department of Psychology Research Funding Award	2017
University of Minnesota Diversity Weekend Recruit	2016
UCSC Pathways to Research Scholar	2015-2017

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed Articles

Casanova, S., **Alonso Blanco, V.**, Takimoto, A., Vazquez, A., Covarrubias, R., London, R., Azmitia, M., Lewis C. (2021). Learning in the counterspaces of not school. *Educational Studies*, 57:5, 459-475, doi: 10.1080/00131946.2021.1969936

Vaccarino-Ruiz, S.S., Quinteros, K., **Alonso Blanco, V.**, Rodriguez Ramirez, D., Langhout, R.D., Copulsky, D., & Lopezzi, M. (2021). “Yes, they were suffering, but we brought the music:” Social toxicity and possibility during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic for people who are undocumented or unhoused in Santa Cruz County. *Journal of Community Psychology in Global Perspective*, 7(1), 106-126.

Langhout, R.D., Rodriguez Ramirez, D., Vaccarino-Ruiz, S. S, **Alonso Blanco, V.**, Quinteros, K., Copulsky, D., & Lopezzi, M. (2021). Teaching and learning during a pandemic: How one graduate community psychology class quickly incorporated healing justice into our practices. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. doi: 10.1002/ajcp.12524

### Book Review

Casanova, S. & **Alonso Blanco, V.** (2021). [Review of the book Power to the Transfer Critical Race Theory and a Transfer Receptive Culture Perspectives on Access, Equity, and Diversifying Pathways in P-20 Education, by D. Jain, S.N. Bernal Melendez & A.R. Herrera]. Teachers College Record. <https://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=23872>

### Under Review

**Alonso Blanco, V.** & Casanova, S. (co-first authors; under advanced review). "Transfers tend to be an afterthought": The Role of Institutional Support for Staff in Creating a Receptive Culture for Transfer Students of Color.

Casanova, S., **Alonso Blanco, V.**, Radoff, S., Cruz Silva, F. (under review). Cultivating the Transfer Landscape: Using a CRT framework to examine transfer receptivity at a Hispanic Serving Research Institution.

## UNIVERSITY BRIEFS & DATA REPORTS

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Casanova, S. & **Alonso Blanco, V.** (2023, March). *Cultivating A Transfer Receptive Culture: Highlighting the Experiences of Transfer Students of Color (TSOC)*. Infographic report prepared for the Cultivamos Excelencia HSI Initiatives Project at the University of California, Santa Cruz. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/151e-0DA\\_MsJokBD2JutqvPqpn4PmRXeB/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/151e-0DA_MsJokBD2JutqvPqpn4PmRXeB/view?usp=share_link)

Casanova, S. & **Alonso Blanco, V.** (2021). *Student of Color Transfer Receptivity Ratings Disaggregated by Race & Ethnicity*. Developed for UCSC STARS. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrIH WXV45HaHiT0tJ3xeX18ebG4ZnSqR/view?usp=sharing>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed presentations

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Casanova, S., Radoff, S. Silvia Cruz, F. (2023, June). Supporting Transfer Students of Color: Family, Peers, and Student Services. Talk accepted to the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Conference*. Denver, Colorado.

Agarwal, K.\*, Casanova, S., **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Roaf, A. (2023, June). Importance of Relationships: STEM and Non-STEM Transfer Students of Color. Talk accepted to the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Conference*. Denver, Colorado.

Casanova, S. **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Radoff, S., Silvia Cruz, F. (2023, May). Creating a Transfer Champion Workgroup for Racial Equity. Presentation accepted to the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana

Casanova, S. **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Radoff, S., Silvia Cruz, F. (2023, April). Developing a Strengths-based Transfer Receptive Culture for Latinx Transfer Students at a Hispanic Serving Institution. Paper accepted for symposium to the *American Educational Research Association Annual Conference*. Chicago, Illinois.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Casanova, S. (2023, April). Exploring Latinx Middle School Students' and their Mothers' Familial and Cultural Strengths. Paper accepted for symposium to the *American Educational Research Association Annual Conference*. Chicago, Illinois.

Casanova, S., **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Abu-Samaha, A. (2023, March). Fostering belonging for Latinx adolescents in a Youth Participatory Action Research class. Poster accepted to *Society for Research in Child Development* Biennial meeting.

Casanova, S., **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Abu-Samaha, A., Moreto, J., Al-saegh, S., Garcia, D. (2022, October). Conexiones Culturales: Creating intergenerational knowledge and cultivating community through a Youth Participatory Action Research Partnership. Talk presented at the *All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice Conference*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Casanova, S., Radoff, S. Rodas Lara, A. (2022, June). Academic empowerment and self-efficacy of STEM transfer students of color. Poster presented at the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Conference*. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Rodas Lara, A., **Alonso Blanco, V.,** Casanova, S. (2022, April). Sense of belonging and self-efficacy in STEM transfer students of color. Poster presented at *Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference*. San Jose State University.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Casanova, S., Radoff, S. (2021, August). Examining institutional practices and attitudes towards transfer students of color to develop a transfer receptive research institution. Talk presented at the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Virtual Conference*.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Ramirez Manriquez, E. (2021, March). Developing a transfer pipeline to a research university for Latinx students using transfer receptive culture. Paper presented at the 2021 *American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) National Virtual Conference*.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Valle, I., Covarrubias, R. & Casanova, S. (2020, April). The role of family and motivation on the academic achievement of Latinx first-generation college students. Roundtable Session. *AERA Annual Conference*. San Francisco, CA. <http://tinyurl.com/wfb335h> (Conference Canceled).

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Alfaro, O., Boults, M., Camacho, A., Ren, J. (2018, June). The first-generation experience: Exploring challenges and coping strategies amongst first-generation students. Poster presented at *Psi Chi Conference*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Sanchez, A., Morgan-Consoli, M. (2017, August). Exploring types of familismo and their role in how Mexican American college students overcome adversity. Poster presented at *Summer Undergraduate and Graduate Research Colloquium*. University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Byrd, C. (2017, April). The effects of perceived microaggressions on the stress levels of college students of color. Poster presented at *Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference*. San Jose State University.

#### Invited Presentations

Casanova, S., **Alonso-Blanco, V.,** Radoff, S., Cruz Silva, F. Cultivamos Excelencia: Transfer Receptivity at UC Santa Cruz: Evaluating and cultivating a receptive culture for community college transfer students of color. (2023). Presentation Briefing for *Associate Vice-Chancellor of Student Success and Equity Meeting; Humanities Division Undergraduate Directors & Advisers Meeting; Admissions Directors & Associate Directors Meeting; Interim Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Meeting*. UCSC

Loera, D., Mejia, Y., Guerra, N., **Alonso Blanco, V.** (2022, January). Cultura, Crecimiento y Conexión: Reframing Personal and Professional Development in HSI Student Leadership. *Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE)*. Virtual event.

**Alonso Blanco, V.** (2021, April). Incorporating family strengths to build an inclusive campus climate for undocumented community college students. Talk presented at *Alumni Week – Community Supported Learning During the Pandemic and Beyond*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.** (2020, May). Incorporating family strengths to build an inclusive campus climate for undocumented community college students. Talk presented at *New Generation Learning Graduate Student Flash Talks*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Valle, I., Covarrubias, R. (2018, June). The role of family and motivation on the academic achievement of Latinx first-generation college students. Poster presented at *Koret Foundation Symposium*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Sanchez, A., Morgan-Consoli, M. (2017, December). Exploring types of familismo and their role in how Mexican American college students overcome adversity. Poster presented at *Symposium for Undergraduate Research at UCSC, Humanities and Social Sciences*. UCSC

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Sanchez, A., Morgan-Consoli, M. (2017, August). Exploring types of familismo and their role in how Mexican American college students overcome adversity. Talk presented at *ARC/UC Lead Summer Research Symposium*. University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Byrd, C. (2017, May). Immigration status and microaggressions: How stress levels of immigrant college students of color are affected by microaggressions. Talk presented at *Pathways to Research Symposium*. UCSC.

**Alonso Blanco, V.,** Gonzalez, E. (2016, June). The role of family on the academic success of undocumented students. Poster presented at *Pathways to Research Symposium*. UCSC.

\*Undergraduate student

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**GSR,** Institutional Research, Assessment & Policy Studies, UCSC, Jun. 2023 - Present

- Conduct quantitative and qualitative data analyses, including producing customized tables and charts, interpreting research findings, and writing analytical summaries, with a focus on equity in learning outcomes in social sciences and STEM undergraduate programs
- Utilize statistical software such as SPSS to perform data analysis and handling and interpreting results

**Transfer Coherence Analyst,** Cultivamos Excelencia, HSI Grant, UCSC, Jun. 2023 - Present

- Gather data on transfer coherence, transfer student success, and practitioners' transfer student knowledge and practices for the purpose of streamlining transfer pathways
- Analyze project data and compare it with university data, with a focus on data-driven decision making and continuous improvement of the program

**Graduate Student Researcher (GSR),** CE, HSI Initiative, UCSC, Jul. 2020 - Jun. 2023

- Produced formative and summative evaluation reports highlighting key findings of program activities
- Analyzed focus groups data, interviews, and survey responses from transfer students of color to inform four-year institutions how to improve campus climate and increase graduation rates

**Lead Graduate Researcher,** Dr. Saskias Casanova, Psychology, UCSC, Aug. 2019 - Present

Project title: *Youth Participatory Action Research, Cultural Knowledge, & Resilience*

- Collect and analyze interviews, surveys, and observations for immigrant students and their families
- Supervise two undergraduate research assistants in developing family surveys and interview protocols

**GSR,** New Generation Learning, Dr. Su-hua Wang, UCSC, Jan. 2019 - Jun. 2022

- Research strengths that minoritized students bring to learning environments and their learning practices
- Compile a progress report that summarizes completed and planned research activities

**Researcher,** Dr. Rebecca Covarrubias, Psychology, UCSC, Aug. 2017 - Jun. 2018

Senior thesis title: *The role of family and motivation on the academic achievement of first-generation Latinx college students*

- Conducted survey analyses on the link between family support and grades for Latinx students
- Reviewed literature on the educational experiences of children from migrant farmworker families

**Researcher,** Dr. Melissa Morgan-Consoli, Counseling Psychology, UCSB, Jun. 2017 - Aug. 2017

Project title: *Exploring types of familismo and their role in how Mexican American college students overcome adversity*

- Coded 102 college student interviews using Constructivist Grounded Theory
- Initiated an extensive literature review on familismo and resilience among Latinx college students

**Lead Research Assistant**, Dr. Christy Byrd, Psychology, UCSC, Sept. 2016 - Jun. 2018

Project Title: *The effects of perceived microaggressions on the stress levels of college students of color*

- Examined immigration status as a moderator for the link between stress and microaggressions
- Supervised six research assistants and assisted with data analysis

**Researcher**, Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez, Psychology, UCSC, Jan. 2016 - Jun. 2016

- Developed and proposed a mixed method project focused on family support and academic success for undocumented college students

**Research Assistant**, Dr. Christy Byrd, Psychology, UCSC, Dec. 2015 - Jun. 2016

- Administered surveys and managed participant compensation
- Screened and coded over 2,000 articles about microaggressions and school racial climate

**Research Assistant**, Dr. Barbara Rogoff, Psychology, UCSC, Dec. 2014 - Jun. 2015

- Examined cultural differences in Mexican American and European American children's learning
- Gathered and organized video data and assisted in the development of a coding manual

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Arts Academy Teacher**, Santa Cruz, Feb. 2022 - Present

- Taught an after-school research and college focused course to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Latix middle school students
- Created weekly lesson plans and mentored undergraduate research assistants to work with students

**Writing Coach**, PSYC 159R Achievement Disparities, UCSC, Sept. 2022 - Dec. 2022

- Responsible for providing individual and group tutorial sessions to students
- Focused on helping students understand course concepts, develop writing strategies, and improve writing and critical thinking skills through reviewing and discussing student work

**Writing Coach**, PSYC 159: Psychology & Social Activism, UCSC, Sept. 2021 - Dec. 2021

- Developed writing and critical thinking skills through reviewing and discussing student work
- Assisting students to build and strengthen study strategies and methods for independent work

**Teaching Assistant**, PSYC 147: Psychology & Law, UCSC, Jan. 2020 - Mar. 2020

- Taught and developed lesson plans for two discussion sections for 66 undergraduate students
- Held office hours and tracked student participation, and graded midterm papers

**Instructional Assistant**, PSYC 1: Introduction to Psychology, UCSC, Apr. 2018 - Jun. 2018

- Taught and developed lesson plans for a discussion section for 20 undergraduate students
- Held office hours and tracked student participation, attendance, and performance

**Tutor**, Center for Farmworker Families, Watsonville, May 2016 - Jan. 2017

- Tutored Math and English in the homes of elementary students from farm worker families
- Informed parents about educational and community resources available for student success



## PROFESSIONAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

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**Infographics Producer**, Academic Affairs, UCSC, Apr. 2023 – Jun. 2023

- Represented data visually and supported communication of accessible and engaging materials
- Collaborated with unit leadership to collect and analyze data and produce infographics

**Diversity Programs Lead Intern**, Chancellor's Office, UCSC, Jul. 2020 - Oct. 2021

- Creating and implementing educational modules for undergraduate interns and professional staff
- Providing feedback and support for student research projects and presentations of research findings

**Graduate Mentor Coordinator**, CE, HSI Initiative, UCSC, Jul. 2019 - Jul. 2020

- Developed, planned, and oversaw culturally sustainable trainings and events for 15 Ph.D. students
- Coordinated orientation events for 15 graduate Ph.D. students and 30 community college students

**Academic Advisor**, Retention Department, National University, Nov. 2018 - Aug. 2019

- Cultivated student development persistence through individualized engagement and course planning
- Assessed student needs and provided holistic advising leveraging multiple support resources

**Senior Academic Coach**, Educational Partnership Center, GEAR UP, UCSC, Jun. 2018 - Oct. 2018

- Provided holistic advising to 350 underrepresented high school graduates and their parents
- Developed and coordinated academic, financial, and professional development workshops for students

**Assistant Coordinator**, CE, HSI Initiative, UCSC, Sept. 2017 - Jun. 2018

- Co-developed and co-coordinated culturally relevant trainings for graduate student mentors
- Evaluated program events through surveys and developed reports of findings for campus partners

**Academic Intern**, Educational Partnership Center, GEAR UP, UCSC, Sept. 2016 - Jun. 2018

- Provided academic and professional counseling to 300 minoritized high school students
- Assisted first-generation high school students with college applications and financial aid applications

**Graduate Information Assistant**, Educational Opportunity Program, UCSC, Sept. 2016 - Apr. 2017

- Advised underserved students on career development and graduate school applications
- Facilitated individual information sessions and created graduate school workshops for students

## SERVICE

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**Steering Committee**, Coalition of Undocumented Scholars, and Professionals in Psychology (CUSPP)

**Reviewer**, Educational Studies Journal, 2022

**Panelist**, UCSC Life After College Conference, May 2022

**Juror**, Annual California State University Systemwide Student Research Competition, April 2022

**Mentor**, UCSC Building Belonging Program, September 2019-2021

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Psychological Association (APA)

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE)

American Evaluation Association (AEA)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Coalition of Undocumented Scholars and Professionals in Psychology (CUSPP)