

MARIA AHMED

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Western University (2021-2026)

London, ON

Specialization: Population Health & Health Inequalities (4.0 GPA), Department of Sociology

Dissertation: Health Inequalities in Maternal & Child Health: Impact of COVID-19 Hospital Policies on Marginalized Populations (Supervisor: Dr. Kim Shuey)

Certification: Western Certificate in University Teaching and Learning (2023-2026)

Grants/Fellowships:

- Awarded \$60,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Research Fellowship (2023-2026)
- Awarded \$5000 from the Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making (CAnd3) Research Fellowship (2023-2024)
- Awarded \$15,000 from an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) (2022-2023).

Conferences:

- Presented poster for paper, “Disparities in Risk of C-Section among Marginalized Populations” at the Canadian Population Society (June 2023)
- Presented poster on C-Section Risk among Marginalized Populations at the CAnd3 Annual Conference at McGill University (June 2023)
- Presented paper, “Context of Disadvantage in Caregiving Families in Canada” at the Canadian Sociological Association (June 2023)
- Judged poster presentations at the Western Student Research Conference (April 2022)
- Presented preliminary research at the Western Sociology Graduate Student Conference (March 2022).

Publication Pipeline:

- “Analysis: Total Population” section in Statistics Canada’s *Annual Demographic Estimates: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2022* (Catalogue no. [91-215-X](#)) (Published, Co-author)
- “What’s the Difference? Disparities in Risk of C-Section among Marginalized Populations” (Submission Stage, Author)
- “Context of Disadvantage in Caregiving Families in Canada” (Drafting Stage, Co-author)
- “The Pandemic Effect: Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality among Marginalized Populations – A Regression Discontinuity Analysis” (Data Analysis Stage, Author).

Honours/Awards:

- Presented session on “Graduate Academic Writing & Time Management” at a Sociology Graduate Professionalization Seminar at Western University (November 2023)
- Profiled by CAnd3 through a [Fellows Feature](#) (September 2023)
- Featured by Western University in the [Inspiring Minds Showcase](#) (July 2023)
- Received the Environics Student Grant by the Canadian Population Society (June 2023).

Specialization: Leadership & Policy (4.0 GPA), Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education

Thesis: To Conform or Innovate: Life Cycle of Private Religious Schools in the Greater Toronto Area (Supervisor: Dr. Scott Davies)

Conferences:

- Presented thesis research findings at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Conference at the Toronto Metropolitan University (May 2017)
- Presented thesis research findings at the Graduate Student Research Conference at the University of Toronto (April 2017)
- Invited as a guest speaker at Dr. Jane Gaskall's PhD-level class on Urban School Reform to present a seminar on "School Choice Movement in Canada and the US" (March 2017)
- Presented preliminary findings on a panel at the CSSE Conference in Calgary (May 2016).

Publications:

- To Conform or Innovate: Life Cycle of Private Religious Schools in the GTA, University of Toronto (2017) [Master's Thesis]. (*Published, Author*)
- Funding Independent Schools in Ontario, National Post (2017) [Op-Ed] (*Published, Co-author*).

Grants:

- Awarded \$15,000 in funding through an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) (2016-2017)
- Received \$1000 in funding to present research findings at CSSE Conference in Calgary (2016).

Specialization: Organizational Behaviour (3.7 GPA)

Awards: Received \$50,000 in awards including: David R. McDougall Memorial Scholarship; D.I. McLeod Dean's List with Distinction Scholarship (Top 10% of the Program); D.I. McLeod Dean's List Scholarship (Honour Roll); Millennium Scholarship; Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship; Principal's Scholarship; Sutton Award in Queen's School of Business.

Certificates: Queen's Option in French; Certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Western University

(Jan 2023 – Current)

- Examining intergenerational transmission of socioeconomic resources, health and well-being within families and the role of caregiving as a mechanism of disadvantage with Dr. Kim Shuey
- Using data from the 2018 Canadian General Social Survey (GSS) on Caregiving and Care Receiving to examine the extent to which caregiving intersects with disadvantages associated with social class, visible minority status, and health
- Preparing an article with Dr. Shuey for submission to the Canadian Journal on Aging.

Student Analyst, Statistics Canada, Social, Health & Labour Statistics

(May 2022 – Dec 2022)

- Analyzed historical trends in fertility patterns in Canada from July 1971 to the 2022 for the Centre for Demography preliminary population estimates reports
- Collaborated with data productions teams to assume SAS and R projects estimating fertility and birth patterns during and after the COVID-19 pandemic
- Summarized and presented the methodology used by the Demographic Estimates Program in English and French to provincial and territorial statistics divisions.

Graduate Student Researcher, Western University

(Sept 2021 – Current)

- Conducting a mixed-method study on health and birth outcomes of disadvantaged populations during the COVID-19 pandemic policy changes in Ontario hospitals
- Estimating multinomial logistic regression models predicting outcomes of maternal and infant health stemming from structural and systemic inequalities
- Performing content analysis of maternity ward policy changes in Ontario and conducting interviews with mothers that gave birth during the pandemic and their support persons.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Western University

(Sept 2021 – Current)

- Supported following courses to date: Sociology of Healthcare; Thinking Sociologically; Gender and Society; Statistics for Sociology; and Qualitative Research Methods
- Developed rubrics for grading assignments; created exam questions based on higher-order thinking; marked end-of-term assignments; proctored exams; and conducted meetings with professor supervisor regularly to ensure objectives are met
- Provided mentorship and guidance to students to help them achieve their grade objectives in the course (with one student seeing a 15% increase from midterm to final exam).

Founder, Alisha Jilani Foundation

(June 2020 – Current)

- Launched a foundation in memory of my daughter to help support families that are going through the difficulties of pediatric cancer treatment in Ontario
- Raised over \$25,000 within the first year of the campaign and worked with organizations, such as Ronald McDonald House (RMH) and Childcan, to pursue the mission of helping families lessen the financial burden of housing and living expenses during their children's cancer treatment
- Partnered with charities, such as SMILE, to create a Hospital Support Program (HSP) that provides financial and mental health supports to families at SickKids Hospital, Holland Bloorview, and Hamilton Children's Hospital (expansion to London Children's Hospital this year)
- Annually conduct a toy drive and distribute gifts for hospitalized children and their siblings at RMH and the Children's Hospital in London (raised over \$10,000 annually for the HSP).

EXTRACURRICULAR/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- **Vice-President**, School Council with Clara Brenton Public School (2018-2020; 2023-Current)
- **Councillor**, Sociology Graduate Student Association representative on the Society of Graduate Students, Western University (2022-2023).

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Languages:** Strong working proficiency in French (intermediate reading and writing skills; conversational verbal communication skills)
- **Software:** Proficient with STATA, R, and NVivo; basic understanding of SAS. Designed my own web-based document streamlining program to automate processes
- **Statistical Skills:** Advanced understanding of multivariate and multinomial logistic regression analysis. Basic understanding of event history analysis, fixed-effects models, and panel data
- **Interests:** Playing video games and building unique Lego sets with my daughters.