

# Gabriel Varela

PHD CANDIDATE, DUKE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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## Education

### Duke University, Department of Sociology

PHD CANDIDATE

Durham, North Carolina

2022 - Present

### Duke University, Department of Sociology

PHD STUDENT

Durham, North Carolina

2019 - 2022

### Bowdoin College

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Brunswick, Maine

2010 - 2015

## Research Interests

Medical Sociology | Network Science | Politics

## Research and Teaching

### RESEARCH

#### Politics & Polarization in Mainline Protestant Congregations

ERIN JOHNSTON, DAVID EAGLE

Duke University

2022-Present

- Overseeing a team of undergraduate students to map out the relationship between pastor well-being, social support networks and political polarization in North Carolina.

#### UP-NSF-Rapid

JAMES MOODY, MANOJ MOHANAN

Duke University

2020-Present

- Exploring the intersections of village network structure and health interventions in 80 villages of Uttar Pradesh, India.

#### IDEANet

JAMES MOODY, PETER MUCHA

Duke University

2021-Present

- Creating a set of archival and compute tools that allow storage and access to network datasets, in addition to an easy-to-use exploration and analysis platform.

#### Building Better Teams

ALEXANDER VOLFOVSKY, JAMES MOODY, RAQUEL ASENCIO

Duke University

2020-2021

- Developed a pipeline to transform video files into useable text data. Participated in writeup of associated paper.

#### UniteDem

CHRISTOPHER BAIL

Duke University

2020

- As a part of the Polarization Lab, adapted an online conversation platform that enables pairs of users to have a conversation about who the best Democrat nominee should be. Research seeks to understand how gender assignments can hinder or improve the ability to convince a peer in a political conversation.

### TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

#### Bass Connections

FINALIST OF THE BASS CONNECTIONS MENTORSHIP AWARD

Duke University

April 2023

#### Bass Connections

POLITICS & POLARIZATION IN MAINLINE PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONS

Duke University

September 2022 - Present

#### Mentor Matching Engine

SEXUALIZATION IN CHILDREN'S TV SHOWS | MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUICIDE AMONG TEENAGERS IN SOUTH KOREA

ISTI

September 2020 - April 2021

#### Médialab

MAPPING CONTROVERSIES

Sciences-Po Paris

October 2015 - April 2016

## Papers

“Pathways from peers to mental health: Adolescent networks, role attainment, and adult depressive symptoms” | **Copeland, Kamis and Varela, 2023, Social Science and Medicine**

“Visualizing COVID Restrictions: Activity Patterns Before, During, and After COVID-19 Lockdowns in Uttar Pradesh, India” | **Varela et al. 2022, Socius**

“Perceived Gender and Political Persuasion: A Field Experiment during the 2020 Democratic National Primary” | **Combs et al., 2023, Scientific Reports**

“IDEANet: Integrating Data Exchange and Analysis for Networks” | **Wolff et al., presented at Sunbelt 2023**

“Undiagnosed: Relational Characteristics of Disability Identification” | **Varela, presented at SSS 2023 and ASA 2023**

“The Experience of Political Polarization Among North Carolina Clergy” | **Varela et al., presented at SSSR 2023**

“Network Determinants of Relationship Influence on PrEP Decision-Making Among People in the Social Networks of Women who have Experienced Incarceration in the US” | **Knittel, Varela et al., in review at AIDS Education and Prevention**

“Sleep Chronotype and Duration Clustering among College Students” | **Robbins and Varela, in progress**

## Conferences and Presentations

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### PRESENTED

#### **Undiagnosed: Relational Characteristics of Disability Identification**

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2023

#### **IDEANet: Integrating Data Exchange and Analysis for Networks**

SUNBELT

Summer 2023

#### **IDEANet: Integrating Data Exchange and Analysis for Networks**

INSTITUTE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Northwestern University

Summer 2023

#### **Undiagnosed: Relational Characteristics of Disability Identification**

SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2023

#### **VaryCSS: Introduction**

SUMMER INSTITUTE IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

Howard University

Summer 2022

#### **Collective Speech Among Addiction Treatment Organizations**

JENSEN SERIES

Duke University

Spring 2021

#### **Collective Speech Among Addiction Treatment Organizations**

TEXTXD: TEXT ANALYSIS ACROSS DOMAINS

University of California - Berkeley

Fall 2021

### ORGANIZED

#### **Social Network & Health**

ORGANIZED BY THE DUKE NETWORK ANALYSIS CENTER

Duke University

Spring 2023

#### **Social Network & Health**

ORGANIZED BY THE DUKE NETWORK ANALYSIS CENTER

Duke University

Spring 2022

#### **Computational Social-Science Speaker Series**

FUNDED BY DUKE'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Duke University

Spring 2021 | Fall 2021

### ATTENDED

#### **American Sociological Association**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Summer 2023

#### **Sunbelt**

Portland, Oregon

Summer 2023

#### **Southern Sociological Society**

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Spring 2023

**Population Association of America Annual Meeting**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Spring 2023*

**Social Networks and Health Workshop**

*Duke University*

*Spring 2022*

**Social Networks and Health Workshop**

*Duke University*

*Spring 2021*

**Summer Institute in Computational Social Science**

*Rutgers University*

*Summer 2020*

## **Grants and Fellowships**

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**Max Planck IMPRS-PHDS Fellow** | Fall 2023 - Fall 2025

**Professional Development Grant** | Spring 2022 - Fall 2022

**Professional Development Grant** | Spring 2022 - Fall 2022

**Professional Development Grant** | Spring 2021 - Fall 2021

**Summer Research Fellowship for First and Second Year Ph.D. Students** | Summer 2021

**Summer Research Fellowship for First and Second Year Ph.D. Students** | Summer 2020

## **Programming skills**

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**R:** Network analysis (igraph, networks) | Text analysis (tidytext) | Mapping and visualization (ggplot2) | GUI tools (Rshiny)

**Python:** Text analysis (SpaCy) | Web scraping (beautifulsoup)