

## Valerie Polad, M.A.

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## Education

### Ph.D., Quantitative Psychology

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*August 2021 – Present*

- Advisor: Dr. Dan Bauer
- Master's: Mediation Analysis using Saturated and Restricted Models

### B.A., Psychology, Cognitive Science Minor

University of California, Los Angeles

*September 2016 – June 2020*

- Specialization in Computing

## Research

### Graduate Researcher

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*August 2021 – Present*

- Focusing on measurement, factorial invariance, and statistical mediation and moderation
- Masters focusing on biases in saturated mediation models in structural equation modeling frameworks that may lead to false conclusions and failure to replicate findings

### Data Analyst

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*January 2023 – June 2024*

- Dr. Abigail Panter
- Performing data cleaning, analyses and visualizations in R for data pertaining to UNC Undergraduate Education

### Research Assistant, Quantitative Research Collaboratory (QRClab)

University of California, Los Angeles

*March 2019 – April 2021*

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Amanda Kay Montoya

### Psychology Research Opportunity Program (PROPS)

University of California, Los Angeles

*January 2020 – June 2020*

- Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amanda Kay Montoya,

- Graduate Student Mentor: Dr. Chelsea Romney
- Program Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jaana Juvonen
- Individual research project investigating reducing carryover effects in within-subjects designs using Item Response Theory. Presentations of project available online (hyperlinked) at:
  - [UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference \(PURC\)](#)
  - [UCLA Undergraduate Research Showcase](#)
  - [Electronic Undergraduate Statistics Research Conference \(eUSR\)](#)

## Teaching

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### Instructional Aide – ICPSR Summer Session

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

*Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Summer 2025*

- Drs. Mark Manning (Intro to MLM) and John Poe (Advanced MLM)
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
- Multilevel modeling, Advanced methods multilevel modeling
- Provided statistical consulting, graded, and held office hours
- Created Shiny R .html tutorials for conducting multilevel and latent growth curve models in R

### Teaching Assistant – Psychology 831

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025*

- Drs. Dan Bauer (2023, 2025) and Patrick Curran (2024)
- Graduate regression course

### Teaching Assistant – Psychology 830

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024*

- Dr. Patrick Harrison
- Graduate ANOVA course

### Instructional Assistant – Psychology 210

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Summer 2023*

- Drs. Patrick Harrison and Natasha Parikh
- Undergraduate psychological statistics course

### Graduate Research Consultant – Psychology 532H

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Spring 2022*

- Dr. Patrick Curran
- Undergraduate honors quantitative psychology course

## **Graduate Research Consultant – Psychology 528**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fall 2022

- Dr. Desiree Griffin
- Undergraduate clinical research course
- Statistical consultant for undergraduates working on group research projects
- Held presentations to teach linear and logistic regression

## **Teaching Assistant – Data Matters: Data Science Short Course Series**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

August 2022, August 2023, August 2024

- Data science short courses
- Machine Learning in R, Introduction to R, Data Visualizations in R
- Sponsored by the Odum Institute at UNC, the National Consortium on Data Science, and RENC

## **Course Assistant – Psychology 100A**

University of California, Los Angeles

Spring 2020

- Dr. Craig Enders
- Undergraduate psychological statistics course

## **Publications**

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Buchanan, L., Hogan, K., Hussong, A., Panter, A. T., **Polad, V.**, Sathy, V., Siedentop, N., & Wise, E. (2023) An inclusive approach to transitioning to a research university: A college thriving course. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/stl0000394>

Janovsky T, Rock AJ, Thorsteinsson EB, Clark GI, **Polad V**, Cosh S (2023) Assessing the relationship between early maladaptive schemas and interpersonal problems using interpersonal scenarios depicting rejection. *PLoS ONE* 18(10): e0288543. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0288543>

## **Talks**

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### **SEMantics: Mediation using Restricted and Unrestricted Models**

King's College, London, UK - Virtual

April 2024

### **Psych 210 Guest Lecture: ANOVA**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

November 2022

### **PROPS Alumni Meeting**

University of California, Los Angeles - Virtual

May 2021

## Relevant Graduate Coursework

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PSYC 830 – ANOVA

PSYC 831 – Regression

PSYC 834 – Machine Learning

PSYC 838 – Regression with Categorical Dependent Variables

PSYC 842 – Test Theory

PSYC 843 – Factor Analysis

PSYC 844 – Structural Equation Modeling

PSYC 845 – Longitudinal Structural Equation Modeling

PSYC 848 – Missing Data Analysis Seminar

PSYC 846 – Multilevel Models

PSYC 859 – Mediation Analysis

Psych 256A – Multilevel Models (UCLA)

## Service

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### Quant Forum Coordinator

UNC Quantitative Psychology

*August 2023– May 2024*

- Scheduled weekly colloquia series for quantitative program

### Bruin Advisor

University of California, Los Angeles

*October 2017 – May 2020*

- UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program servicing underserved Pasadena (PUSD) high schools
- Independent site visits and event coordination with high school counselors and administration
- Mentoring 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for college readiness, steering them towards even greater academic success

### Student Volunteer

Project Literacy at UCLA

*September 2016 – October 2017*

- One-on-one tutoring with children and adults in underserved communities across LA County (Vernon, Watts, East LA)