

VALENTÍN QUIROZ SIERRA, JR.

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All Pronouns

EDUCATION

- 2024 (*expected*) University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D., Social Welfare
Dissertation Title: An Analysis on the Perceptions of Youth Suicide and Risk Assessment Tools in Sacramento's Native American Community
Committee: Dr. Adrian Aguilera (Chair), Dr. Paul Sterzing, Dr. Peter Nelson
- 2020 University of California, Berkeley
M.S.W., Social Welfare
Concentration: Strengthening Organizations and Communities
- 2017 University of California, Davis
B.A., Native American Studies *with highest honors*
Honor's Thesis: Serving Decolonial Realness: Queer Visual Sovereignty, Memory, and Identity

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical Suicide Studies; Indigenous Mental Health; Indigenous Research Ethics, Methodologies & Methods; Computational Social Sciences; Digital Solutions to Health Disparities; The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978; Contemporary Yoeme (Yaqui) Language, Literature and Thought

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 – 2024 Berkeley Connect Fellowship,
University of California, Berkeley
- 2023 – 2024 Data Science Fellowship (*Turned Down*)
University of California, Berkeley Data Lab
- 2022 – 2024 Graduate Fellows Program
University of California, Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues
- 2021 – 2023 Computational Social Sciences Fellowship (NIH OBSSR T32)
University of California, Berkeley - Berkeley Institute for Data Science
- 2020 Graduate Remote Instruction Fellowship (*Turned Down*)
University of California, Berkeley
- 2019 Human Rights Center Fellow
University of California, Berkeley School of Law
- 2018 – 2020 Chancellor's Fellowship
University of California, Berkeley
- 2017 Tribal Member Initiative Fellowship (*Turned Down*)
University of California, San Diego
- 2017 Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship (*Turned Down*)
University of California, Irvine
- 2017 Chancellor's Fellowship (*Turned Down*)
University of California, Davis
- 2017 Community Fellowship
Elton John AIDS Foundation
- 2016 Beth Altier Fellowship in Native American Studies
University of California, Davis

2016	Provost Undergraduate Fellowship University of California, Davis
2013 – 2017	Point Scholar Point Foundation

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Teaching Effectiveness Award University of California, Berkeley
2022	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award University of California, Berkeley
2019	Brandon Harrison Award for Youth Leadership & Youth Organizing The California Endowment
2017	C.N. Gorman Memorial Excellence Award University of California, Davis
2017	Outstanding Senior Award University of California, Davis
2016	David Risling Intertribal Award University of California, Davis
2015	Undergraduate Award Hispanic Scholarship Fund
2013	Genentech eQuality Scholar eQuality Scholarship Collaborative
2010	Eagle Scout Rank Boy Scout Troop 712 - Southern Sierra Council, Bakersfield, CA

GRANT AWARDS

Research Grants

2022 – 2023	Center for Democracy and Organizing Research Grant University of California, Berkeley Institute for Governmental Studies Total: \$5,000.00
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Federal Grants

2021 – 2024	Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grant Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior Foster Care Services Department, American Indian Child Resource Center, Inc. Total: \$160,000.00
2019 – 2024	Garrett Lee Smith Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Dept. of Health and Human Services Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. Total: \$1,500,000.00
2019 – 2024	Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success Grant Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Dept. of Health and Human Services Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. Total: \$1,500,000.00

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Sierra, V. Q. (Under Review). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

Figuerola, C. A., Hernandez-Ramos, R., Boone, C. E., Gómez-Pathak, L., Yip, V., Luo, T., **Sierra, V.**, Xu, J., Chakraborty, B., Darrow, S., & Aguilera, A. (2021). A Text Messaging Intervention for Coping with Social Distancing

During COVID-19 (StayWell at Home): Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 10(1), e23592. <https://doi.org/10.2196/23592>

Study Registrations & Preprints

Sierra, V. Q. (Under Community Review). The HOPES Study: Helping Our People End Suicide Study. Information available at <https://vqsierra.github.io/HOPES/>

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project: Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. Retrieved from <https://osf.io/4dpwt/>

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. UC Berkeley: Institute for the Study of Societal Issues. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5z1751rw>

Manuscripts In Progress

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). The Helping Our People End Suicide Study: A Protocol Paper.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023). A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Computational Research.

Book Chapters

Mallon, G. P., Karnoski, R., Stabbe, O., Waller, L., & **Sierra, V.** (2021). Social Work Practice with Trans & Gender Expansive Youth in Child Welfare Systems. In J. Shelton & G. P. Mallon (Eds.), *Social Work Practice with Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth* (3rd Edition). Routledge.

Opinion Editorials

Cesspooch, A., Kewenvoyouma, A., Sanchez, P., & **Sierra, V.** (2020, August 25). Native Student Organizations Want to Un-Name Kroeber Hall, are Frustrated with Faculty Pushback. *The Daily Californian*.
<https://www.dailycal.org/2020/08/25/native-student-organizations-want-to-un-name-kroeber-hall-are-frustrated-with-faculty-pushback/>

White Papers

Sierra, V. (2020). "The Spirit Endures: A Readiness Guide for the Implementation of State Tribal Title IV-E Agreements in California". With the California Department of Social Services – Office of Tribal Affairs. Available upon request.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Research Presentations

Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2024). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. Oral presentation submitted to the 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2024). A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Computational Research. Oral presentation abstract accepted at the UC Berkeley 2024 Crossing Paths Research Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, May). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. Oral presentation at the UC Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues Breaking Barriers, Building Community Research Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, November). The Helping Our People End Suicide Study. Oral presentation at the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Research Colloquium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, November). The Spirit Endures: California Department of Social Services and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. Oral presentation at the UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Center Fellowship Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2017, April). Serving Decolonial Realness: Queer Visual Sovereignty, Memory, and Identity. Paper presented at the UC Davis 6th Annual Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, August). Native American Voices in the Fight for Ethnic Studies. Paper presented at the 24th Annual McNair Scholars National Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, April). Examining Cultural Competency and Native American Representations in 4th Grade Classrooms. Oral presentation at the Institute of American Indian Art 2nd Annual Indigenous Interventions Conference. Santa Fe, NM.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, March). Patwin Elementary: What's Wrong with Native American Representations in 4th Grade Classrooms. Oral presentation at the 44th National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference. Tucson, AZ.

Panels

Lesansee, E., Maestas, J., O' Grady, C., Petoskey, J., Rice, H., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2023, June). Alumni Pride Month Panel. Panel presentation for the Nation Native American Law Association. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q., Edd, S., & Reyes, E. (2022, April). Indigenous Relations and Unexpectedness. Panel facilitated at the 2nd Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA.

Evans, A., Croteau, A., Ghost, P., Rico, R., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2022, March). Indigenous College and Career Panel. Panel presentation for the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q., Recollet, K., Reed, T., & Robinson, D. (2021, April). Indigenous Politics and Resistance in Sound. Panel facilitated at the 1st Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Virtual.

Lucchesi, A., Montelongo, L., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2019, March). Sovereign Bodies: Fighting Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Indigenous People. Panel presentation for the UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Center Lecture Series. Berkeley, CA.

Cuevas-Romero, V., Colegrove, C., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2019, March). Two-Spirit Talking Circles in Native American Cultures. Panel presentation for the UC Davis School of Medicine Diversity and Inclusion Dialogue Series. Sacramento, CA.

Grande, L., Growing Thunder, J., Romero, N., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2016, November). Native Student Voices on Standing Rock. Panel presentation as part of the UC Davis Standing Rock Teach-In. Davis, CA.

Zepeda, S., Gonzales, P., Hernández-Ávila, I., & **Sierra, V. Q.** (2016, March). Red Medicine: Community Pláticas con Patrisia Gonzales on Indigenous Healing and Traditional Medicine Ways. Panel presentation as part of the Indigenous Knowledges Series for the UC Davis Mellon Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

WORKSHOP AND INVITED TALKS

Workshops

Sierra, V. Q. (Scheduled 2023). Culture is Prevention: Shawl Making. Workshop facilitated at the Indian Health Service Sacred Oaks Healing Center. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, April). Shawl Making. Workshop facilitated as part of the Culture is Prevention Series at the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, March). Talking Circle. Workshop facilitated as part of the Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, October). Talking Circle. Workshop facilitated as part of the Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, April). Digital Talking Circle. Workshop facilitated as part of the Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2020, March). Digital Talking Circle. Workshop facilitated as part of the Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2020, February). The Practice of Accountability. Workshop co-facilitated at the 2020 International Abolition Convergence. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. *Canceled due to COVID-19.*

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, July). Yaqui Wood Block Printing. Workshop facilitated as part of the Culture is Prevention Series at the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2017, April). Indigenous Voices Beyond the Border. Workshop co-facilitated as part of the 48th Annual Native American Culture Days at UC Davis. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, February). Indigenous Knowledges: Pedagogies, Spirit Work, and Storytelling. Workshop facilitated as part of the Indigenous Knowledges Series for the UC Davis Mellon "Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security" Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

Invited Talks

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, February). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Spring 2023*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, September). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2022*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, February). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Spring 2022*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, December). Case Termination: Endings and Transitions. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, October). Therapy with, by, and for Native American Clients. In *MFT223: Marriage and Family Therapy with Diverse Populations: Fall 2021*. Alliant International University, Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, September). Confronting White Supremacy. In *SOCWEL114: Practice in Social Work: Fall 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, July). The Spirit Endures: Indian Child Welfare Past, Present, and Future. In *SOCWEL105: Child Welfare Policy: Summer 2021*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 – Current	<p><i>Lead Academic Researcher</i> Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate student researcher leading the Helping Our People End Suicide (HOPES) Study. Lead Academic Evaluator quantifying community health measures for the Garrett Lee Smith Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Program.
2019 – Current	<p><i>Lab Member</i> Digital Health Equity Access Lab, UC Berkeley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate student researcher supporting the StayWell at Home Study.
2019 – 2019	<p><i>Research Assistant</i> Sovereign Bodies Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate student researcher supporting the maintenance of the SBI Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women database. Provided technical support documenting biographic and demographic information for input into the database. Assisted with community outreach and system partner networking regarding promotion of the database.
2015 – 2017	<p><i>McNair Scholar & Researcher</i> Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, UC Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research fellow receiving training from Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea and other McNair program staff. Principle Investigator for a multisite, archival research project on Native American student activism.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor – Fall 2023
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice

Graduate Student Instructor – Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice with Associate Instructor Brenda Mathias

Teaching Assistant – Winter 2017
University of California, Davis Department of Native American Studies
NAS005 – Native American Studio Art with Professor Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

2021 – Current *Associate Clinical Social Worker*
California Board of Behavioral Sciences
License #: ASW98814

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2023 *Foster Care Social Worker & Therapist*
American Indian Child Resource Center, Inc.

- Provided culturally relevant therapeutic services to American Indian/Alaska Native children.
- Offered case management services to children to promote successful family reunification.
- Certified resource families to secure placements in compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2019 – 2020 *Health Program Manager*
Berkeley Student Cooperative, Inc.

- Directed health and wellness services for all cooperative members.
- Supervised 19 student health workers to implement health promotion programming.

2019 – 2020 *Graduate Student Assistant*
California Department of Social Services – Office of Tribal Affairs

- Expanded strategic planning for the Indian Child Welfare Act Field Specialist Position Initiative.
- Formulated California's State Tribal Title IV-E Agreement with the Yurok Tribe.
- Conducted empirical legal research on the Indian Child Welfare Act's impact on social work in California.

2018 – 2019 *Evaluation Assistant*
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.

- Evaluated the Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country grant.
- Initiated the Youth-to-Elder Connections suicide preventive intervention project.
- Executed grant writing efforts for the Youth Initiatives programming.

2017 – 2018 *Youth Peer Support Specialist*
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.

- Managed the Native Youth Wellness Initiative grant.
- Delivered culturally relevant health education to American Indian/Alaska Native youth.
- Developed policies to increase HIV and other STI testing for health center patients.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

University

2023 *Graduate Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Associate Director
UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office

2023 *Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Open-Rank Professor in Native American Community Health
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

2021 – Current *Student Representative*
Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce
UC Berkeley Counseling and Psychological Services

2019 *Student Representative*
Hiring Committee for Open-Rank Professor in Supporting Health Aging
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

2019 *Student Representative*
Indigenous Campus Building Renaming Project
UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor

2019 *Graduate Student Representative*
Equity and Inclusion Committee

2019	UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare <i>Graduate Student Representative</i> Hiring Committee for Director UC Berkeley American Indian Graduate Program
2018	<i>Representative</i> Student Disability Justice Committee UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare
2016	<i>Student Representative</i> Recruitment Advisory Committee for Licensed Therapist (Native American Specialist) UC Davis Counseling and Psychology Student Services
2015 – 2017	<i>Student Representative</i> UC Davis Native American Retention Initiative
2015	<i>Student Representative</i> Recruitment Advisory Committee for the Director of Strategic Native American Retention Initiatives UC Davis
Community	
2019	<i>Student Representative</i> UC Berkeley American Indian Commencement Planning Committee
2019	<i>Co-President</i> UC Berkeley American Indian Graduate Student Association
2019	<i>Volunteer</i> UC Berkeley Annual Campus Powwow
2018 – 2019	<i>Member</i> Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. Evaluation Advisory Committee
2014 – 2017	<i>Member,</i> UC Davis Annual Campus Powwow & Native American Culture Days Planning Committee

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking

Yoem Noki (Yaqui Language) – Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Professional

2019 – Current	Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
2018 – Current	Society for Social Work and Research
2018 – Current	National Association of Social Workers
2017 – Current	National Indian Child Welfare Association

Academic

2020 – Current	Indigenous Sound Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley
2019 – Current	Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues, UC Berkeley
2019 – Current	Berkeley Center for Social Medicine, UC Berkeley
2018 – 2020	Indigenous Americas Working Group, UC Berkeley

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Available Upon Request