

Ashley Lucia Torres, Ph.D.

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Santa Ana, CA 92701

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EDUCATION

- Dec 2025 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California—Irvine
Qualifying Exam: Social Network Analysis
Other Concentration: Digital Culture
Dissertation: “Virality and Obfuscation: Memetic Merging, Reduction, and Community Online.”
Chair: David Schaefer
Committee: Carter T. Butts, Francesca Polletta, William Dewan
- Oct 2022 M.A. in Social Science (Demographic and Social Analysis), University of California—Irvine
“Homophily Among News Organizations on Twitter: Following Selection on Believability and Bias” (David Schaefer, Chair)
- May 2018 B.A. in Sociology, University of California—Berkeley
High Distinction, Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta, Departmental Citation Finalist
“Virtual Group Formation: A Case Study of UC Berkeley Memes for Edgy Teens”
Faculty Advisor: Mary Kelsey

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2025 Instructor of Record, University of California—Irvine
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10B), Summer Session I
- 2019 – 2025 Graduate Student Instructor, University of California—Irvine
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10C), Spring 2025, Jonathan Lui
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10B), Winter 2025, Jonathan Lui
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10A), Fall 2024, Jonathan Lui
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10C), Spring 2024, Jonathan Lui
Probability & Statistics (Soc 10B), Winter 2024, David Schaefer
Probability & Statistics (Soc Sci 10A), Fall 2023, Jonathan Lui
Globalization and Transnational Societies (Soc 2), Spring 2023, Maria Bermudez
Probability & Statistics (Soc 10B), Winter 2023, David Schaefer
Computer Based Research in the Social Sciences (Soc Sci 3A), Fall 2022, Paul Shirey
Introduction to Psychology (Psych 7A), Spring 2022, John Hagedorn
Probability & Statistics (Soc 10B), Winter 2022, David Schaefer
Introduction to Sociology (Soc 1), Fall 2021, Chris Zoeller
Social Inequality (Soc 173), Spring 2021, Andrew Penner
Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (Anthro 2), Winter 2021, Tim Douglas
Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (Anthro 2), Fall 2020, Tom Douglas

Introduction to Sociology (Soc 1), Spring 2020, Kathryn Bongar Hoban
Introduction to Sociology (Soc 1), Winter 2020, Kathryn Bongar Hoban
Introduction to Sociology (Soc 1), Fall 2019, Vanessa Kauffman

2016 – 2017 Student Learning Center Tutor, Evaluation of Evidence (Sociology 5),
University of California—Berkeley

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2025 Graduate Research Assistant for Kristin Turney, Department of Sociology,
University of California—Irvine
Jail and Family Life Study

2023 – 2024 Graduate Research Assistant for Kristin Turney & Naomi Sugie, University of
California—Irvine
Jail Data Infrastructure; Texera

2020 – 2021 M.A. Thesis, Department of Sociology, University of California—Irvine
“Homophily Among News Organizations on Twitter: Following Selection on
Believability and Bias”
Chair: David Schaefer; Readers: Carter T. Butts, Andrew Penner

2017 – 2018 Honors Thesis Program, Department of Sociology, University of
California—Berkeley
“Virtual Group Formation: A Case Study of UC Berkeley Memes for Edgy Teens”
Faculty Advisor: Mary Kelsey

2016 – 2017 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of
California—Berkeley
“Investigating the Shift Towards Outside CEO Hires in the United States”
Data collection for Matthew J. Stimpson, Ph.D. Candidate
Faculty Advisor: Daniel J. Schneider

Summer 2016 Research Assistant for Andrew Penner, Department of Sociology, University of
California—Irvine

MANUSCRIPTS

Revise & Resubmit

Turney, Kristin, Steven Schmidt, **Ashley Torres**, Isha Bhallamudi, and Amy Gong Liu.
“Cognitive Labor During Family Member Incarceration.”

Turney, Kristin, Steven Schmidt, Isha Bhallamudi*, **Ashley Torres***, and Amy Gong Liu*
(*equal authorship). “Carceral Brokering: How Families Navigate the Strains of
Incarceration.”

In Progress

Torres, Ashley. “The Right Way to Feel Wrong: Affective Performance, Cultural Competence, and Belonging on Tumblr.”

Torres, Ashley. “Rethinking Meme Categorization: Dynamics, Semantics, and Social Experience.”

Torres, Ashley. “The Structure of Memetic Merging.”

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2024 – 2025 Sociology Graduate Student Association, University of California—Irvine
6th+ Year Cohort Representative
- 2024 American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
“News Organization Associations: Twitter Following Selection on Reliability & Bias,”
presenter
5 August 2024
- American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
“‘One More Thing on My Mental List’: Cognitive Labor During Family Member
Incarceration,” co-author
4 August 2024
- 2023 International Network for Social Network Analysis Annual Meeting, Portland, WA
“News Organization Associations: Twitter Following Selection on Reliability & Bias,”
presenter
1 July 2023
- 2022 American Sociological Association 117th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
“Burdens of Brokering: How Families Navigate the Strains of Incarceration,”
co-author
6 August 2022
- 2020 Guest Lecture, “Gender”, Introduction to Sociology (Soc 1)
Guest Lecture, “Memes and Communication”, Language and Culture (Anthro 2D)
- 2016 – 2018 Committee Member, UC Berkeley Sociological Research Symposium

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Alpha Kappa Delta
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA)
- UCI Center for Networks and Relational Analysis (CNRA)
- UCI Social Network Analysis Research Group (SNRG)
- UCI Graduate Professional Success for STEM (GPS-STEM)
- UCI Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA) Cohort Representative