

CURRICULUM VITAE

Valentín Quiroz de la Sierra, PhD, MSW

PROFESSIONAL DATA

Business Address:

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Center for Indigenous Health
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Baltimore, MD 21231
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2024 PhD University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare, Berkeley, CA.
Social Welfare, Dissertation: *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. David Harding
- 2020 MSW University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare, Berkeley, CA.
Social Welfare, Concentration: Strengthening Organizations and Communities
- 2018 BA University of California, Davis, Davis, CA.
Native American Studies with *highest honors*, Honors Thesis: *Serving Decolonial Realness: Queer Visual Sovereignty, Memory, and Identity*

Other Research Training

- 2026 – 2027 Certificate in Global Digital Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 2024 – 2026 Native Children's Research Exchange Fellowship (NIDA R25DA061492,
PI: Sarche & Ivanich)
University of Colorado, Anschutz
Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health
- 2022 – 2024 Graduate Fellows Program
University of California, Berkeley
Institute for the Study of Societal Issues
- 2021 – 2023 Computational Social Sciences Predoctoral Training Fellowship (OBSSR
5T32HD101364, PIs: Harding, Ahern, & Bradshaw)
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley Institute for Data Science

Other Clinical Training

- 2020 – 2023 Associate Clinical Social Worker
California Board of Behavioral Sciences
License #: ASW98814

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Appointments

2024 – Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Department of International Health
Center for Indigenous Health

Clinical Social Work Practice Experience

2021 – 2023 Foster Care Social Worker & Child Therapist
American Indian Child Resource Center

Social Work Practice Experience

2019 – 2020 Health Worker Program Manager
Berkeley Student Cooperative

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

2018 – 2019 Evaluation Assistant
Sacramento Native American Health Center

2017 – 2018 Youth Peer Support Specialist
Sacramento Native American Health Center

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Society Membership

2024 – Society for Prevention Research

2019 – Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

2018 – Society for Social Work Research

2018 – National Association of Social Workers

2017 – National Indian Child Welfare Association

2020 – 2024 Indigenous Sound Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley

2019 – 2024 Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues, UC Berkeley

2019 – 2024 Berkeley Center for Social Medicine, UC Berkeley

2018 – 2020 Indigenous Americas Working Group, UC Berkeley

Participation on Advisory Boards

2024 – US Department of Veterans Affairs and Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration
Taskforce to Promote Suicide Prevention Among American Indian and Alaska
Native Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

2024 Johns Hopkins University
Nexus Convening on AI-Powered Strategies to Address Inequities in Deaths of
Despair

2018 – 2024 Sacramento Native American Health Center
Evaluation Advisory Board

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fellowships

- 2026 Adobe Inc.
Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering CLOUDS Fellowship
- 2023 – 2024 Berkeley Connect Fellowship
University of California, Berkeley
- 2023 – 2024 Data Science Fellowship (Declined)
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 (OBSSR 5T32HD101364; PIs:
Harding, Ahern, & Bradshaw)
University of California, Berkeley - Berkeley Institute for Data Science
- 2020 Graduate Remote Instruction Fellowship (Declined)
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 (Declined)
University of California, San Diego
- 2017 Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship (Declined)
University of California, Irvine
- 2017 Chancellor's Fellowship (Declined)
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

- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. O’Keefe, V. M., Goklish, N., Siquah, F. L., Grubin, F., Haroz, E. E., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Cwik, M., Cosen, E., Velasquez-Brawley, V., Garcia, M., Rock, H., Pablo, E., Cosen, R., Whitesell, N., Gallo, J. J., Keshen, R., and Barlow, A. (Revise and Resubmit). The Elders’ Resilience Curriculum: Co-developing a Theoretical Model of an Indigenous Culturally Grounded Preventive Intervention. *SSM - Mental Health*.
2. Walker, G. D., Keshen, R., **de la Sierra, V. Q.**, Coser, A., and O’Keefe, V. M. (2026). *Ḥṣṣṣṣṣṣ Ḥṣṣṣṣṣṣ*: Co-Creating a Governance Process as Indigenous Self-Determination in Community-Based Mental Health Research. *SSM - Mental Health*, 10, 100693. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmmh.2026.100693>
3. Chan, P., Makram, A., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Alvarez Madrazo, S., Assareh, N., Jayanth, N., & Cwik, M. (2026). Prevalence of Anxiety and Depression Among American Indian and Alaskan Native Adolescents in the United States: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research*, 33(1), 14–40. <https://doi.org/10.5820/aian.3301.2026.14>
4. Bear Don’t Walk, O. J., McLester-Davis, L. W., Pete, D., Peter, D., Hernandez-Hernandez, K., Calac, A. J., **de la Sierra, V. Q.**, Dhein, K., Henare, K., & Tsosie, K. S. (2026). Reclaiming Data, Restoring Health: The Indigenous Biomedical Data Science Renaissance. *Annual Review of Biomedical Data Science*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-biodatasci-092524-121351>
5. Goklish, N., Haroz, E. E., Dayal, R. R., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Adams, R., Larzelere, F., Rebman, P., & Taylor, J. L. (2026). Combining Machine Learning Models and Screening to Enhance Suicide Risk Identification. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 28, e82669–e82669. <https://doi.org/10.2196/82669>
6. **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (2026). A Guide to Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Prevention Research. *Prevention Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-026-01911-5>
7. **Sierra, V. Q.** (2026). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. *Archives of Suicide Research*. 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13811118.2025.2490154>

8. Figueroa, 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>

Book Chapters

1. 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.

Study Registrations & Preprints

1. **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (2026). A Systematic Mapping Review of Repeated Within-Person Measurement of Cultural Constructs in American Indian and Alaska Native Samples in the United States. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/C2WYB>
2. **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (2026). Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project 2.5: Understanding Cannabis Use Escalation Among Urban Native American High Schoolers In California. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/KM2PB>
3. **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (2026). Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project 2: Understanding Suicidal Ideation among Urban Native American High Schoolers in California. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/RKY9J>
4. **de la Sierra, V. Q.**, Dayal, R. R., Rebman, P., Goklish, N., Metwally, H., Yang, P., Mitchell, K., Werwie, T. R., Begay, R., Adams, R., & Haroz, E. E. (2026). *Patient Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Suicide Risk Assessment Models: Insights from Three Tribal Communities* (76mrh_v3). SocArXiv. https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/76mrh_v3/
5. **Sierra, V. Q.** (2025). The HOPES Study: Helping Our People End Suicide Study. Retrieved from <https://osf.io/ux2v8/>
6. **Sierra, V. Q.** (2023). Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project: Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. Retrieved from <https://osf.io/4dpwt/>
7. **Sierra, V. Q.** (2023). Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California. UC Berkeley: Institute for the Study of Societal Issues. Published online: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5z1751rw>

Opinion Editorials & Other Media

1. **Sierra, V. Q.**, & O'Keefe, V. (2025). *A cultural safety-centric approach*. CLOSLER, Johns Hopkins Medicine. <https://closler.org/connecting-with-patients/a-cultural-safety-centric-approach>
2. Cesspooch, A., Kewenvoyouma, A., Sanchez, P., & **Sierra, V.** (2020). 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/>

Manuscripts Under Review

1. Mercurief, A., Richardson, R., and **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (Revise and Resubmit). Indigenous Theories and Frameworks of Human Development: A Scoping Review and Integrative Synthesis. *Child Development*.
2. O’Keefe, V. M., Maudrie, T., Gonzalez, M., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Johnson, F. N., Keshen, R., and Walls, M. (Revise and Resubmit). Relational Methods for Relational Tools: Co-Developing a Preliminary Indigenous Intergenerational Connectedness Measure through Community Based Participatory Mixed Methods Research. *AlterNative*.
3. Dayal, R. R., Goklish, N., Adams, R., Rebman, P., Suttle, R., Mega, J., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Haroz, E. E. (Under Review). Considerations for Implementing a Machine Learning Model for Suicide Risk in the Health Systems that Serve Native American Communities. *BMC Psychiatry*.
4. **de la Sierra, V. Q.**, and Dayal, R. R. (Under Review). The Raffle-Incentivized noteCard Exchange Method for Generating Youth-Authored mHealth Content in Native American Communities. *Pilot and Feasibility Studies*.
5. **de la Sierra, V. Q.** (Under Review). A Framework for Measuring Cultural Connectedness in Everyday Life Among Urban Native American Youth Using Ecological Momentary Assessment. *NAIS: Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*.
6. **Sierra, V. Q.**, Dayal, R. R., Rebman, P., Goklish, N., Metwally, H., Yang, P., Mitchell, K., Werwie, T., Begay, R., Adams, R., and Haroz, E. E. (Under Review). Patient Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Suicide Risk Assessment Models: Insights from Three Tribal Communities. *SSM-Mental Health*.

Manuscripts in Progress

1. **Sierra, V. Q.** & Wimsatt, M. (In Progress). Centering Native American Youth Voices in Suicide Prevention Research Using Participatory Natural Language Processing to Develop a Culture-Based Risk Assessment Tool. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.
2. **Sierra, V.Q.**, Aguilera, A., Nelson, P., & Wimsatt, M. (In Progress). A Transformative Convergent Mixed Methods Approach to Developing an Indigenous Suicide Risk Screener: Methodological Lessons from the HOPES Study. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.
3. Dayal, R. R., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Goklish, N., Begay, R., Mitchell, K., Yang, P., Metwally, H., Werwie, T., Rebman, P., and Haroz, E. E. (In Progress). Identifying Barriers and Facilitators of a Machine-Learning Suicide Risk Model and Enhanced Care System among Indian Health Service Providers and Community-based Case Managers. Center for Indigenous Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
4. O’Keefe, V. M., Goklish, N., Grubin, F., Haroz, E. E., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Cwik, M., Walls, M., Whitesell, N., Gallo, J. J., Keshen, R., and Barlow, A. (In Progress). The Elders’ Resilience Curriculum: Pilot Evaluation of a Culturally-Grounded, Upstream American Indian Youth Suicide Preventive Intervention. Center for Indigenous Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
5. **Sierra, V. Q.**, Keshen, R., Maudrie, T., and O’Keefe, V. M. (In Progress). “We’re in this relational matrix of connection and impact”: Understanding Intergenerational

- Connectedness and its Impact on Indigenous Health and Well-Being. Center for Indigenous Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
6. **Sierra, V. Q.** (In Progress). Disidentificatory Inference and Disruption: A Critical Quantitative Framework for Measuring Identity Navigation in Public Health Research. Center for Indigenous Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
 7. White, L., Richardson, M., Kemp, C., Earl, A., and **Sierra, V. Q.** (In Progress). Applying Indigenous Data Science to Shape Implementation Science for American Indian and Alaska Native Suicide Prevention Efforts. School of Social Work, University of Washington, School of Social Work.

PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Practice-Related Reports

Sierra, V. Q. (2025). *Intergenerational Connectedness Measure Aim 3 Pilot Study Report*. Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health. Available upon request.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024). *The Chinle Project Aware: Year 1 Report*. Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health. Available upon request.

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

Wright, S., Cuevas-Romero, V., Barrios, D., Gaines, J., Molina-Aguilar, S., Norton, T., Solis, B., **Sierra, V.**, Valle, M., & Ferry, K. (2019). *Native American Youth Mental Wellness Report: Sacramento Community Needs and Strengths Report* [Community Needs Assessment Report]. Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. Available upon request.

Community-Based Participatory Research Dissemination

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, January). *Helping Our People End Suicide: HOPES Study Town Hall*. Sacramento Native American Health Center. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, September). *Amplifying Indigenous Wisdom in Suicide Prevention: Developing a Native American Culture-Based Suicide Risk Assessment Tool through the HOPES Study*. Toiyabe Indian Health Project. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, September). *Amplifying Indigenous Wisdom in Suicide Prevention: Developing a Native American Culture-Based Suicide Risk Assessment Tool through the HOPES Study*. Mono County Department of Public Health. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, May). *Helping Our People End Suicide: The HOPES Study*. Sacramento Native American Health Center Native Community Health Department. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, April). *Helping Our People End Suicide: The HOPES Study*. Sacramento Native American Health Center Native Health Taskforce Community Advisory Board. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, March). *Helping Our People End Suicide: The HOPES Study*. Sacramento Native American Health Center Native Youth Ambassadors Community Advisory Board. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, March). *Helping Our People End Suicide: The HOPES Study*. Sacramento Native American Health Center Native Youth Ambassadors Community Advisory Board. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, March). *Helping Our People End Suicide: The HOPES Study*. Sacramento Native American Health Center Native Community Health Department. Virtual.

Community Workshops

Sierra, V. Q., and Keahna, F. (2025, March) Two-Spirit Sexual Health – National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Native American Lifelines. Baltimore, MD.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, December). Culture is Prevention: Yaqui Block Printing. Indian Health Service Sacred Oaks Healing Center. Davis, CA.

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

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, March). Talking Circle. 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. 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. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2020, March). Digital Talking Circle. Student Health and Wellness Series in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development Office. Virtual.

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

Sierra, V. Q., Housman-Tutubiate, E., Galvin, L. (2017, April). Indigenous Voices Beyond the Border. 48th Annual Native American Culture Days at UC Davis. Davis, CA.

Zepeda, S., **Sierra, V. Q.** (2016, February). Indigenous Knowledges: Pedagogies, Spirit Work, and Storytelling. Indigenous Knowledges Series - UC Davis Mellon Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

Other Research Experience

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2020 – 2024 | Lead Academic Researcher
Community Health Department
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. |
| 2019 – 2024 | Graduate Student Researcher
Digital Health Equity Access Lab
UC Berkeley |
| 2019 – 2019 | Research Assistant
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Database |

Sovereign Bodies Institute

2015 – 2017 McNair Scholar & Researcher
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
UC Davis

PART II

TEACHING

Classroom Instruction

- 2025 BSPH 224.600.01 – Applied Artificial Intelligence for the Social, Behavioral and Mental Health Sciences with Professor Emily Haroz
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Teaching Assistance, Enrollment: 2nd Term '25 – 25 students
- 2023 – 2024 SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
Associate Instructor, Enrollment: Fall '23 – 44 students; Spring '24 – 51 students
- 2023 – 2024 SOCWEL98/198 – Berkeley Connect with Professor Jill Derr Berrick
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
Graduate Student Instructor, Enrollment: Fall '23 – 44 students; Spring '24 – 50 students
- 2021 – 2023 SOCWEL114 – Introduction to Social Work Practice with Associate Instructor Brenda Mathias
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare
Graduate Student Instructor, Enrollment: Fall '21 – 48 students; Spring '22 – 50 students; Fall '22 – 47 students; Spring '23 – 37 students
- 2017 NAS012 – Native American Studio Art Practice with Professor Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie
University of California, Davis Department of Native American Studies
Teaching Assistant, Enrollment: Winter '17 – 15 students

Guest Lectures

Sierra, V. Q. (2026, February). *Suicide Prevention among American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*. In BSPH330.675.81: Suicide Prevention: Problem Solving Seminar: Third Term 2025. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Baltimore, MD.

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, November). *Fourth World Data Science Is for Us and Ours, Yours and Theirs*. Society for Prevention Research Diversity Network Committee Speaker Series: Advances in Prevention Science, Diversity, and Inclusion. Online.

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, August). *A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Prevention Research*. American Indian Higher Education Consortium and AIM-AHEAD Catalyst Event. Washington, DC.

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, April). *Predicting Suicide among Native American High Schoolers in California*, In BSPH 330.674.41: Suicide as a Public Health Problem: Fourth Term 2025. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Baltimore, MD.

- Sierra, V. Q. (2025, February). *Honoring Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Suicide Prevention Research*. Johns Hopkins University Love Data Week. Virtual.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2025, February). *Suicide Prevention among American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*. In BSPH330.675.81: Suicide Prevention: Problem Solving Seminar: Third Term 2025. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Baltimore, MD.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2025, February). *Suicide Stigma and Culture-Based Suicide Prevention: Insights from Mixed-Methods Natural Language Processing Research*. Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health Community-Driven Indigenous Research, Cultural Strengths & Leadership to Advance Equity in Substance Use Outcomes (CIRCLE) P50 Center of Excellence. Virtual.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2025, January). *A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Prevention Research*. Colorado School of Public Health Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health AIM-AHEAD Lecture Series: Showcasing the Innovative Work of Native Leaders in the Fields of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Statistics. Denver, CO.
- Sierra, V. Q. (2024, June). *The Helping Our People End Suicide Study*. UC Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues Center for Ethnographic Research Summer Training Institute. Berkeley, CA.
- 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.

GRANT PARTICIPATON

Research Grants

- 2025 – 2026 The Helping Our People End Suicide 2 SMS Study: A Culturally Grounded pJITAI to Prevent Cannabis Use Escalation and Suicidal Ideation Among Urban AIAN Youth
1K99DA066943
NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse
\$138,201
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2026 IndigiText Project: A Pilot Micro-Randomized Trial of a Personalized Just-in-Time-Adaptative Intervention
Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health Willow Fund
\$60,000
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2025 – 2026 Wayfinder Wisdom: Developing an AI Training Platform to Enhance Home Visitor Crisis Response Skills
1OT2OD032581
NIH AIM-AHEAD Initiative
\$100,000
Role: Co-Investigator
- 2025 – 2026 Is Social Media Accelerating Suicide in Our Indigenous Youth? We Strive to Take Action
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg American Health Initiative: Spark Award
\$60,000
Role: Co-Investigator
- 2023 – 2028 NATIVE RISE-Risk Identification for Suicide and Enhanced Care for Native Americans
5R01MH128518
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2023 – 2028 Kipiyecipsakiciipe "coming home": Establishing Clinical Cultural Neuroscience as a Tool for Understanding the Role of Traditional Cultural Engagement in Mitigating Substance Misuse and Disorder
5DP1DA058986
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2022 – 2023 Center for Democracy and Organizing Research Grant
University of California, Berkeley Institute for Governmental Studies
\$5,000
Role: Principal Investigator

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
\$160,000
- 2019 – 2024 Garrett Lee Smith Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center
\$1,500,000

2019 – 2024 Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success Grant
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
Community Health Department, Sacramento Native American Health Center
\$1,500,000

ACADEMIC SERVICE

School

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

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

2019 Graduate Student Representative
Equity and Inclusion Committee
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

2018 Member
Student Disability Justice Committee
UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

Division

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

2021 – 2024 Student Representative
Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce
UC Berkeley Counseling and Psychological Services

2019 Graduate Student Representative
Hiring Committee for Director
UC Berkeley American Indian Graduate Program

2016 Student Representative
Recruitment Advisory Committee for Licensed Therapist (Native American Specialist)
UC Davis Counseling and Psychology Student Services

2015 Student Representative
Recruitment Advisory Committee for the Director of Strategic Native American Retention Initiatives
UC Davis

University

- 2019 Student Representative
Indigenous Campus Building Renaming Project
UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor
- 2015 – 2017 Student Representative
UC Davis Native American Retention Initiative
UC Davis Office of the Chancellor

PRESENTATIONS

Scientific Meetings

Sierra, V. Q., & Suttle, R. (2025, November). *Patient and Community Perspectives on Native-RISE*. International Academy of Suicide Research 2025 International Summit on Suicide Research Conference, Boston, MA.

Sierra, V. Q., & Tessay, R. (2025, May). *Patient and Community Perspectives on Native-RISE*. Society for Prevention Research 33rd Annual Meeting: Prevention Science for Action: Leveraging Data Science & Technology to Enhance Research, Practice, & Policy, Seattle, WA. ***Abstract of Distinction**

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, May). *A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Prevention Research*. Society for Prevention Research 33rd Annual Meeting: Prevention Science for Action: Leveraging Data Science & Technology to Enhance Research, Practice, & Policy, Seattle, WA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, April). *Analyzing the Perceptions of Youth Suicide and Risk Assessment Tools in Sacramento's Native American Community*. 4th Annual Suicide Research Symposium. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, February). *A Guide for Constructing Indigenous Statistical Spaces for Computational Research*. UC Berkeley 2024 Crossing Paths Research Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, January). *Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California*. 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Sierra, V. Q. (2024, May). *Predicting Suicidal Ideation among Native American High Schoolers in California*. 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*. 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*. 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*. 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*. 24th Annual McNair Scholars National Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, April). *Examining Cultural Competency and Native American Representations in 4th Grade Classrooms*. 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*. 44th National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference. Tucson, AZ.

Panels

Haroz, E. E., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Goklish, N., Dayal, R. R., Rebman, P., & Suttle, R. (2025, November). *Implementing a Health Systems-Level Suicide Prevention Strategy that Incorporates Machine Learning (Native-RISE): Bridging Perspectives from Community and Healthcare*. Symposium for the International Academy of Suicide Research 2025 International Summit on Suicide Research Conference, Boston, MA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, May). *The Use of AI to Improve Health Outcomes in Underserved Groups: Promise and Peril*. Diversity Network Symposia for the Society for Prevention Research 33rd Annual Meeting: Prevention Science for Action: Leveraging Data Science & Technology to Enhance Research, Practice, & Policy, Seattle, WA.

Haroz, E. E., Goklish, N., **Sierra, V. Q.**, Dayal, R. R., Garcia, M., & Tessay, R. (2025, May). *The Native-RISE Project: Leveraging Machine Learning and Participatory Research to Support Suicide Prevention Efforts in Indigenous Communities*. Organized Team Science Panel Presentation for the Society for Prevention Research 33rd Annual Meeting: Prevention Science for Action: Leveraging Data Science & Technology to Enhance Research, Practice, & Policy, Seattle, WA. **Abstract of Distinction**

Sierra, V. Q. (2025, May). *Indigenous Data Science for Prevention*. Organized Paper Symposium for the Society for Prevention Research 33rd Annual Meeting: Prevention Science for Action: Leveraging Data Science & Technology to Enhance Research, Practice, & Policy, Seattle, WA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2023, June). *Alumni Pride Month Panel*. Nation Native American Law Association. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, April). *Indigenous Relations and Unexpectedness*. 2nd Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2022, March). *Indigenous College and Career Panel*. Panel presentation for the Sacramento Native American Health Center. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2021, April). *Indigenous Politics and Resistance in Sound*. 1st Annual Indigenous Sound Studies Symposium at UC Berkeley. Virtual.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, March). *Sovereign Bodies: Fighting Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Indigenous People*. UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Center Lecture Series. Berkeley, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2019, March). *Two-Spirit Talking Circles in Native American Cultures*. UC Davis School of Medicine Diversity and Inclusion Dialogue Series. Sacramento, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, November). Native Student Voices on Standing Rock. Davis Standing Rock Teach-In. Davis, CA.

Sierra, V. Q. (2016, March). *Red Medicine: Community Pláticas con Patrisia Gonzales on Indigenous Healing and Traditional Medicine Ways*. Indigenous Knowledges Series for the UC Davis Mellon Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security Research Initiative. Davis, CA.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Personal Statement

My clinical and research agendas focus on partnering with Tribal communities to leverage Artificial Intelligence to improve mental health outcomes among Native American young people. My work centers on two areas: (1) using machine learning methods to identify youth who may be at heightened risk for co-occurring suicide and cannabis use concerns; and (2) leveraging reinforcement learning approaches to deliver personalized preventive interventions.

Keywords

Indigenous Mental Health; Suicide Prevention; Community-Based Participatory Research; Indigenous Research Methodologies; Artificial Intelligence; Digital Health; Contemporary Yo'eme (Yaqui) Language, Literature & Thought

Languages Spoken

Spanish – Advanced reading, writing, and speaking

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