



Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

Congratulations to our January 2019 cohort



MICHELLE ARROYO



**Ph.D. Student,
College of Education,
Department of
Teaching and
Learning**

Advisor: Katrina Liu



A current challenge in public education and the teaching profession is retaining teachers in hard to staff schools. Teacher attrition has a large impact on schools, society, and most importantly, students. On average, newly licensed teachers last less than five years in a classroom. However, many teachers remain in the profession. Instead of focusing on all the reasons why teachers leave the classroom, I want to study why teachers stay and factors that can inform about retention. School culture, institutional expectations, and teacher perseverance in hard to staff schools for teachers warrant exploration. There is limited research evidence pertaining to the dynamics of teacher identity development in teachers with longevity. I'm hoping this program will help me to prepare for my qualifying exam and prepare me for writing my literature review and theoretical framework as these are two areas that are crucial to completing my research.

KALEAB AYALEW



**M.S. student,
Mechanical
Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Jaeyun
Moon**

The prevalent rapid world population growth and industrialization are posing a severe environmental and energy crisis. Natural resources such as clean water are becoming increasingly scarce while demand only continues to grow. To solve this problem, I am working on designing and synthesizing Photocatalytic semiconductors Nanomaterials for removal of pollutants from water. Photocatalysts are promising for the solution of both energy and environmental challenges because these materials can directly convert the abundant solar energy into usable energy resources and also they can produce a hydroxyl group radicals which proceeds to decompose pollutants or deactivate certain microbes in a given medium.

Right now I am finalizing my research, and I am about to write a thesis on the findings, but writing is among those skills I found myself floundering. As such I believe my participation in the program will help me to craft the best thesis work I can produce.

CLAUDIA CHIANG-LÓPEZ



**M.A. student,
Communication
Studies
Dr. Guthrie**



● Claudia Chiang-Lopez is a first-generation immigrant and second year student with the Communication Studies department.

● She has presented her research at national and regional conferences. Her current research interests include community and meaning making around fear of victimization, media representation of invisible illnesses, and narratives around love and violence.

● Her thesis focuses on latinx immigrant women's experiences of interpersonal violence. She is excited to devote a week to work on it in a supportive environment.

CHRISTA CLAYTON



**M.S. student, Couple
& Family Therapy**

**Advisor: Dr.
Katherine Hertlein**



Recent Projects:

+How to collaborate with community mental health agencies to sample their clients and conduct process research: what elements of the process of therapy (EX. therapist behavior; client expectations) are associated with client retention and progress?

+Systematic synthesis and critique of common factors literature in marriage & family therapy research (What non-model specific elements of therapy are associated with change? EX. client characteristics, therapeutic alliance, hope/expectancy)

Goals:

+Tackle perfectionism as it relates to the writing process & procrastination

+Learn to set realistic writing productivity goals & create an effective writing schedule

ANDREA FINK-ARMOLD



**Ph.D. student,
Experimental
Psychology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Murray Millar**



● Andrea's research examines how social psychological threats such as social identity threat, stereotype threat, and role conflict affect self-concept and identity development. Her research aims to inform program and policy recommendations to promote educational and occupational equity.

● During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, Andrea will be finalizing her thesis manuscript. This research examined how prescriptive sex role stereotypes and expectations of conflict between work and family roles affect the occupational and familial aspirations of emerging adults. She is looking forward to being in a focused and supportive environment where she can complete her manuscript and gain valuable skills to increase her writing productivity and publication rate.

ARIANA GARCIA



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Educational
Psychology & Higher
Education**

**Advisor: Dr. Blanca
Rincón**



While my research is in its preliminary stage, my topic focuses on the undergraduate to graduate student transition of ethnically minoritized students. Specifically, how ethnically minoritized students experience and adjust to the culture of graduate school.

I will be working on the literature review for my dissertation proposal. I hope to gain from the Writing Boot Camp, skills that will help my writing improve as I progress through my doctoral program. Academic writing has always been an area I struggle with, and I am a firm believer in seeking help and taking advantage of your resources to improve. I hope to gain writing and research skills through this process.

ANDREW GERTHOFFER



**M.A. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr.
Christopher Kearney**



My research is focused on learning more about the various presentations of selective mutism, a rare childhood psychological disorder. I hope to use the results of this research to improve psychologists' ability to accurately assess and diagnose this disorder.

During the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp, I plan to work on the literature review section of my thesis. I'm looking forward to working in a collaborative writing environment with other graduate students and receiving feedback and guidance about my academic research and writing skills.

SWAPNIL GODAE



**M.S. student,
Mechanical
Engineering,
Department of
Engineering**

**Advisor:
Dr. Brendan O'Toole**



Currently I'm working on different types on suspension systems on automobiles. Specifically Off-Road automobiles. I'll be synthesizing the geometry of the suspension and then developing a hypothesis to optimize it for maximum performance in a smaller package. My reason for joining the Rebel Writing Boot Camp is to get started with the writing of my thesis and get as far along as possible in the 4 days.

I aim to finish with my Introduction and Literature Survey at least by the time I graduate from the Boot Camp.

MUSTAFA GUNOZU



**Ph.D. student,
Educational
Psychology and
Higher Education**

**Advisor: Dr. Gwen
Marchand**



Mustafa is a doctoral student in the Educational Psychology program. His research interest is on students' interest, self-efficacy, and metacognitive processes as they relate to learning math, science, and technology. His goal is to further increase expertise in the domains of education and research and to use evidence-based practices at his work. In specific, he would like to improve a model of interest development based on the existing theory. He believes a structured week of preparation will certainly help him with his research objectives and he hopes to make measurable progress in a reasonable period of time.

GENEVIEVE KIDMAN



**M.S. student,
Department of
Geoscience**

**Advisor: Dr. Pamela
Burnley**



The goal of my research is to map stress and strain in natural rocks under an elastic stress to understand how stress leads to strain patterning in rocks. Rocks consisting of multiple crystals, polycrystals, react to stress differently depending on their orientation to their neighboring crystals and to applied force. By mapping patterns of stress built up in a natural rock, a better understanding of how that rock will break, deform, and flow can be developed. This will lead to a better framework for comprehending strain patterning in rocks, plastic deformation flow patterns, and mantle convection processes.

I am excited to be a part of this program so that I might gain a better ability to communicate exciting scientific thoughts and problems to scientists in the field of geology and the general public.

MINJI KIM


**Ph.D. student,
HOSPITALITY
ADMINISTRATION**



● My research is about customer no-show behavior in the restaurant business. Due to its high rate, the restaurants face significant loss in profit. However, few research covered customer no-show and most of existing studies focused on financial impact of customer no-show; the underlying causes of customer no-show are still mysterious. Therefore, the research goal is two-fold: (1) investigate potential factors that leads customers to no-shows and (2) examine causality between identified factors and customers' intention to no-shows.

● I would like to develop my research to have strong practical and academical contributions. To do so, I felt that I need to improve my writing skills. Therefore, my goal in the program is write a well-written literature review for my research.

SUNGEUN KIM



**Ph.D. student,
Hospitality
Management**

**Advisor:
Dr. Hyelin (lina) Kim**



Recent years have seen rapid growth in the number of independent travelers. Not surprisingly, therefore, a variety of destination marketing organizations (DMOs) and tourism organizations are paying more attention to these independent travelers. However, the statistics of international tourist arrivals, including independent travelers, show that there have been rare changes in the ranking of top tourism destinations over the past decade at the national level as well as at the regional level. This study aims to analyze factors of travel constraints of independent travelers in their destination-choice process, which finally influences behavioral (conative) image. This research is actively under way.

I hope I can develop this study by participating the Boot Camp.

PHILLIP LUKE LAMOTTE



**Ph.D. student –
Public Affairs**

**Advisor: Jayce
Farmer, Ph.D.
(graduate
coordinator)**



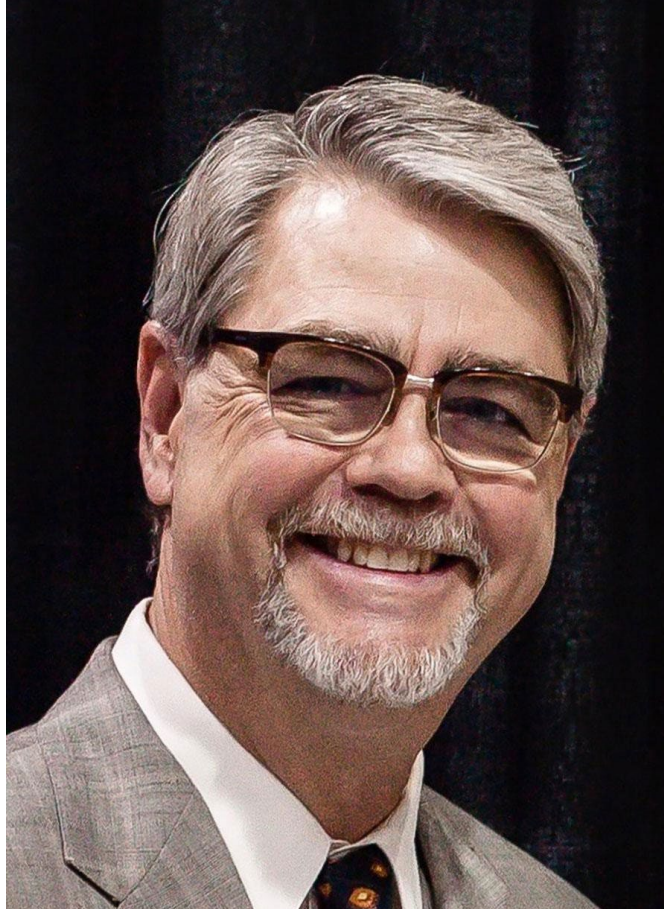
I have a strong interest in researching shared governance in higher education. I am particularly interested in conducting research on the power of the student voice on college campuses.

As a full-time professional, the writing boot camp will allow me the opportunity to focus my time and energy on moving my research forward through development of the first draft of my prospectus.

**Ken
Lange**



**PhD student, Public
Affairs
Advisor: Jessica
Word**



Founders and Nonprofit Failure

Nonprofit organizations are often started by an individual who sees a community need and wants to meet it. These founders may or may not have the necessary competency to start and sustain an organization.

This qualitative case study explores the role of the founder in nonprofit failure. We review nonprofit life cycle literature, explore concepts around Board development and positioning, and examine professionalization of the nonprofit organization. We also look at external factors for nonprofit failure including niche saturation, community resource allocation, organizational scale, and collaborative capacity.

As I work to complete my prospectus, I need to get better organized and focused. I am missing key elements of writing for the dissertation including structure, voice, linking research, and extracting relevant citations from the literature.

KATHERINE LUEBKE



**Ph.D. Candidate,
Radiochemistry
Program,
Department of
Chemistry**

**Advisor: Dr. David
Hatchett**



My research focuses on the dissolution, analysis, and recovery of uranium compounds in ionic liquids. This project has applications for nuclear forensics, a field of study that researches nuclear materials and how best to detect and analyze them.

I'm interested in this program in order to improve both my technical writing skills and to establish practical habits in my writing process. I hope to learn techniques to overcome perfectionism and procrastination.

ZHENXIAN PIAO



**Ph.D. student,
William F. Harrah
College of Hospitality**



My current research is the effects of cause-related marketing on purchase behavior: the role of perceived authenticity, product type, and message appeal. To be specific, when a company promotes a product line related with a social cause, called cause-related marketing, consumers would purchase that product or not, depending on how they evaluate company's motivation.

The reason why I registered this program is to improve academic writing skill. To public top tier journals, concise and proper writing is essential. And I need to develop this aspect of skill.

DANIELLE POLLARO



**Ph.D. student,
English**

**Advisor: Timothy
Erwin**



Participating in this program allows me to dedicate the time to my writing without worrying about teaching and course work. I have a publication due in February and having guidance and support during this process is essential to the success of this project.



ALICIA QIU CHEUNG



**M.S. student,
Department of Civil &
Environmental
Engineering)**

**Advisor:
Dr. Erica Marti**



Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), predominantly chloroform, are a group of organic chemicals that form in drinking water as a result of chlorine treatment for disinfection. Long-term exposure of humans to TTHM at high doses results in adverse effects on the central nervous system, liver, kidneys, and heart. A TTHM removal method is implemented throughout the water distribution system (e.g., storage tanks) with spray aeration units. With greatly improved TTHM volatilization by this technology, proper headspace ventilation becomes a much more important consideration to help TTHM to evacuate out of the tank. The purpose of this research is to investigate the effects of ventilation air flow rates to guide drinking water utilities to help optimize removal efficiency.

The objectives of participating in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp are to 1) improve with my writing skills, 2) enjoy the process of conveying my research, and 3) engage with others to meet common goals.

JENNIFER J. REED



**Ph.D. Candidate,
Department of
Sociology**

Advisor: Barb Brents



I am in the final stages of writing my dissertation about the ecosexual movement as a case study of intersectional activism. By blending climate justice and sexual justice as its starting point, I demonstrate how the ecosexual movement provides a model for activists and social movements seeking intersectional justice.

I joined the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp again this year because it provides a supportive environment to focus solely on writing for five days. It is the perfect start to set the tone for my final semester before graduation.

HARJIV SINGH



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Kinesiology and
Nutrition Sciences**

**Advisor:
Dr. Gabriele Wulf**



The flexible and adaptive nature of the human motor system has been theorized much in the past. In particular, most research and application has been geared towards practice conditions that may affect processing of task related information. Yet, what remains to be seen is the role of attentional and motivational factors that influence both motor learning and performance.

Currently, I'm investigating how autonomy support, enhanced expectancies, and external focus of attention affect functional movement variability. The Rebel Writing Boot Camp offers a great opportunity for a first year graduate student like myself to learn, grow, make mistakes, and most importantly, develop strategic efficiency and confidence in their writing. I hope to establish a concrete foundation in both writing and comprehension all the while developing strong and meaningful relationships with other attendees of the program.

SARAH ST. JOHN



**Ph.D Candidate,
Department of
Sociology**

**Advisor: Bo J.
Bernhard, PhD**



Using data collected between 2011 and 2018 as part of the Nevada Problem Gambling Study, I investigate the effect of access to resources such as knowledge, money, power, prestige, and beneficial social connections on disparities in recovery from gambling addiction. I hope to elucidate ethnoracial, gender, and/or socioeconomic disparities in recovery from gambling addiction. Secondly, if I find that particular treatment modalities produce increased access to social resources, which in turn result in a greater likelihood of entering recovery, I hope to inform Nevada state policy regarding the program structure of state-funded treatment for gambling addiction. By attending the Writing Boot Camp, I hope to utilize the structured time and space away from distractions to write the final two chapters of my dissertation and complete my degree.

GVIDON STAMBOLTSYAN



**M.A. student,
Hispanic
Studies/Department
of World Languages
and Cultures**

**Advisor:
Dr. Margarita Jara**



● Majoring in Hispanic Studies allows me to profoundly investigate the Spanish language. Due to the great program offered by the Department of World Languages and Cultures, I am able to research hispanic linguistics. The knowledge and skills that I have obtained in the classrooms and during professional collaborations helped me to conduct research on various aspects of the Spanish language; including sounds (phonetics, phonology), words (morphology), sentences (syntax), and meaning (semantics). This research expanded my understanding of the Spanish language structure. Additionally, I enhanced my communicative abilities during this experience. Therefore, I hope to continue investigating and learning about the Spanish language in future.

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P. MERLIN UESBECK



**Ph.D. student,
Computer Science**

**Advisor: Dr. Andreas
Stefik**



I research *polyglot programming*, that is programming using more than one programming language. The main focus of my research is how that practice impacts software developers and the products of their work. For this I focus on running programming experiments with software developers.

I want to be in this program to jump start the last leg of my dissertation writing journey and to make sure that I create a great dissertation that I can be proud of.

NANCY STACHURA WEBB

**Ph.D. student,
Learning and
Technology**

**Advisor: Dr. Lisa
Bendixen**



My research focus is on Self-Regulated Learning, coupled with mobile learning. My dissertation will include an online Self-Regulated Learning questionnaire, and also use Canvas Live Data to identify which tools students use in the Canvas Student app most frequently. This research should help to inform which Canvas Student app tools faculty could encourage their students to use to improve achievement in online courses.

BETH WI

**Master's student in
Hospitality**

**Advisor:
Dr. Mehmet Erdem**



Following my passion for making an impact in the hospitality industry, the focus of my research is examining the influence of patron and employee relationships on acceptance of robotics in the workforce. Industry professionals always try to better meet their customers' needs to achieve a higher level of customer satisfaction and loyalty. By identifying factors that affect customers' attitude towards robots, the outcome of the research will provide theoretical predictions of the behavior of customers and help design the business models utilizing robots to create the better customer experience. Providing effective and accountable research is my role to improve the overall quality of the hospitality industry. The writing boot camp will definitely encourage me to take my work to the next level at every step of the research process.

BREANNE YERKES



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology**

**Advisor: Dr. Joel
Snyder**



I research complex auditory processing in children with and without autism. For example, what processes are involved in perceiving speech in noisy environments or when detecting auditory changes within a given environment? How do these processes differ between children with and without autism?

I want to be a part of this program to rigidly dedicate an entire week to everything writing. I am looking forward to uninterrupted writing sessions, a motivating atmosphere, and learning a variety of new skills to support my writing. With this, I hope to make significant progress on my qualifying research paper.