

Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp

August 2019 Session

AMANDA MORGAN



Ph.D. student,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational

Advisor: Dr. Marya
Shegog

My research is an exploratory study examining the sexual health behaviors of people 65 and older living in Southern Nevada. This population has had very little research conducted around this sensitive topic, but at this time no data has been evaluated related to older adult sexual health in Nevada. Issues related to ageism, stigma, and lack of health education affect Nevada's older adult populations. I am looking forward to illuminating some of the protective and risk factors related to older Southern Nevada's sexual health.

Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp will be a wonderful opportunity to support my abilities to finish my final chapters of my dissertation while improving my overall writing skills. It will also be nice to be around other graduate students working together to achieve their academic goals.

ANDRIA COLEMAN



Ph.D. student,
Department of
Educational Psychology
and Higher Education

Advisor: Dr. Vicki Rosser

My research is to discover the lived experiences of first-year and second-year students that are homeless or disadvantaged but are still attending a university. I want to understand what their day-to-day lives are like so the university may find ways to enhance their experience. One of the main reasons for the study is that in order to have a productive society, we must have an educated one.

The main reason that I would like to attend the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp is to receive constructive feedback on my proposal and to expand the different sections of the same proposal.

ANKITA GHOSH



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

Advisor: Dr. Cass Shum



I hope the experience at the writing-camp will help me hone my writing skills. I look forward to engaging in techniques involving goal-setting, time management, and staying motivated.



BENAZIR ROWE



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Mathematical
Sciences**

**Advisor: Dr. Amei
Amei**



I study statistics and my research is in the area of Bayesian methods for genome wide association studies. In particular, we are searching for genetic associations with a disease that can be recorded as binary or categorical variable. For example, our first study was searching for genetic loci associated with schizophrenia.

I'm currently finishing up my dissertation project and hoping bootcamp can boost up both volume and speed of the writing part of it. I also hope that having dedicated time to write can motivate me to produce more results before then, so that I have enough material to write about.

CAITLIN J. SALADINO



**Doctoral Candidate,
School of Public Policy &
Leadership**

**Advisor: Drs.
Magdalena Martinez &
Robert Lang**



Caitlin J. Saladino is a doctoral candidate of public affairs in the School of Public Policy and Leadership at UNLV. She holds a master's degree in communication studies from UNLV, and has been an active member of the Grad Rebel community through her service as a GSPA department representative, and completion of graduate college certificate programs in research, teaching, and communication. Saladino's research centers on education policy issues in Southern Nevada, including best practices for Hispanic Serving Institutions, the college-going culture in the Las Vegas community, education governance, and higher education legislation. She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation focused on higher education policy and legislation and metropolitan dynamics in the desert southwest.

CHENGCHENG LI



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Teaching and
Learning**

**Advisor:
Dr. Shaoan Zhang**

In order to address the dropout issues in high schools and improve student achievement via effective teaching, the current study aims to explore the influence of in-service teachers' self-efficacy on their teaching practice, particularly constructivist teaching practices. Mixed methods will be employed in this study. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) will be used to analyze the quantitative data from Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), and content analysis will be used to analyze the qualitative data collected by classroom observation and interviews.

I hope the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp will help me to prepare for my dissertation proposal and IRB with constructive feedback and suggestions. I am also looking forward to gaining valuable academic writing skills and strategies in a supportive environment.

CURTIS CHAMBLEE



Master's student,
Department of
Communication Studies

Advisor: Dr. Natalie
Pennington

I am a second year Masters student in the Communication Studies department. My research areas are health communication messaging and where people look for social support. I am also interested in popular culture, race and political rhetoric.

My goal for the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp is to learn skills which I can use to help me in the writing process. Skills I am looking to learn are things like how to organize my thoughts and ideas. How to write an effective outline then take that outline and incorporate it into my writing.

This is one of the programs I am looking forward to because I hope it will assist me as I move forward and write my prospectus and professional paper.

HANANEH DERAKHSHAN



Ph.D. student,
Department of Health
Care Administration
and Policy

Advisor:
Dr. Chris Cochran



The research study that I have been working on for my dissertation intends to improve hospitality in different elements of healthcare and improve the patient's overall experience. Thus improving their satisfaction and quality of care.

I intend to improve my writing skills and work in a group to reach my goals towards my dissertation prospectus.

HOWARD HAMILTON



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

**Advisor:
Dr. Vivek Sah**



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in 2018, the residential and commercial sectors accounted for about 40% of total U.S. energy consumption. This share is equal to about 40 quadrillion British thermal units. It is thus clear that if governments are serious about tackling the problem of global warming and limiting their citizens overall carbon footprint, then finding more sustainable and renewable sources of energy to use in homes is an important part of this effort. In the residential sector, one of the most effective ways to accomplish this is by encouraging the use of solar panels as a source of energy. In this respect, my research examines the effects of possessing a solar panel on the value of single-family homes. And so far, the initial analysis is quite promising. Solar panels do indeed add value to home prices. It is clear that academic writing can be an art and to be able to become a successful writer, one must master certain habits. I believe that in addition to expanding my academic network, the Grad Writing Boot Camp will help me create these habits, as well as a sound process to follow during my academic career.

JANNA BERNSTEIN



**Ph.D. student,
Department of Teaching
and Learning**

**Advisor:
Dr. Christine Clark**

Born and raised in the suburbs of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, Janna received her B.A. and M.Ed. from the University of Southern California. Janna is a 5th year doctoral student focusing this academic year on completing her dissertation. Her research utilizes critical race theory and intersectional analysis to investigate the leadership roles of women in higher education administration.

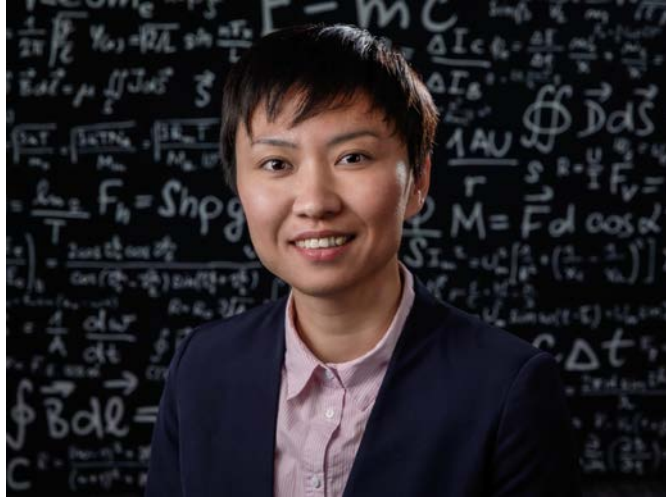
Learning from colleagues that have experienced the program, Janna believes that the Writing Boot Camp is exactly what she needs! Being in a room with fellow scholars and experts in the field will provide her with a wonderful and supportive environment. Goal setting and writing for this intensive period comes at the perfect time too as the month of August is Janna's comprehensive exams.

JIONG SI



Ph.D. student,
Department of Electrical
and Computer
Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Sarah Harris



My research is about the implementation and acceleration of machine learning algorithms in hardware, to get faster and power efficient solutions. I am also exploring new hardware friendly algorithms and architectures. Currently, machine learning algorithms are typically running on CPUs or GPUs, but these platforms have shortcomings, the most notable of which are fixed calculation resources and high power consumption.

My research focuses on:

1. Accelerate machine learning algorithms on FPGA with parallel computation, which can achieve high speed and low power consumption.
2. Explore new hardware friendly machine learning algorithms and architectures, to achieve small area, high speed and low power consumption solutions, which can be used on portable devices.

YING (JOANN) ZHAO



**M.S. student,
Department of
Management,
Entrepreneurship, &
Technology**

**Advisor:
Dr. Greg Moody**

Joann Zhao works on her second graduate program in Data Analytics & Applied Economics. She earned dual masters of MBA & MS of Hotel Administration from UNLV back to 2010. She is planning to apply PhD program with a research interest in technology and data field of hospitality industry.

As an industry practitioner previously and a graduate student working on her academic goal currently, Joann does believe that communication is one of the most important personal skills for success in today's world full of competition.

She desires to participate in writing camp to get herself familiarized with the writing style of journal papers and in dissertation format.

JOHANNA ANDREWS



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Melva
Thompson-Robinson**

Johanna Andrews is a Ph.D. student in Public Health with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Health, advised by Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson. Her research focuses on stress and coping in food-insecure African Americans in Southern Nevada. With her research, Ms. Andrews would like to evaluate processes of coping with food insecurity and determine its impact on emotional well-being for African Americans. This population has a unique experience with food insecurity and an examination of their coping processes with this phenomenon will offer profound insight for a culturally relevant and tailored intervention.

Ms. Andrews would like to be in the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp because this program will provide her with the necessary skills and knowledge to become a more efficient and successful writer. She believes that her growth as a writer is crucial for her development as an independent researcher.

KAVITA BATRA



**Ph.D. student,
Department of
Environmental and
Occupational Health**

**Advisor:
Dr. Patricia Cruz**

My research focus is directed towards improving the quality of life of high risk infants. I am particularly interested in determining the health care utilization of preterm neonates (babies born prior to 37 weeks of gestation) and drug exposed neonates with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, NAS. The latter presents as a group of health conditions in babies experiencing withdrawal from certain drugs such as opioids used during pregnancy. In the initial phase of the project, a systematic literature review, estimating the global burden of the aforementioned public health issues, will be conducted. The findings of this review will be disseminated through an informational poster and/or a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. This project will help us obtain a comprehensive picture of NAS for performing meaningful comparisons across different populations.

I am excited to a part of writing boot camp. I am looking forward to work with a group of talented writers/peers who will critique my dissertation proposal and make helpful comments.

LEI PING



**Doctoral student,
Department of Teaching
and learning**

Advisor: Dr. Katrina Liu



- ❑ My research interest is about exploring the core skills that preservice teachers are supposed to acquire in their teacher education.
- ❑ On one hand, their media literacy level influences their students' understanding of media literacy. On the other hand, preservice teachers need to learn media literacy to promote their effective integration of technology into instruction.
- ❑ However, the training for preservice teachers about media literacy stays in the technique level and what is supposed to master beyond the technology knowledge is not clear. Based on the above description, this research is to explore the core skills the preservice teachers are supposed to acquire in their media literacy course.

LINA CHATO

**PhD. student,
Department of
Electrical and
Computer Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Shahram
Latifi**



Misdiagnosis is a high risk factor that affects peoples' lives, and unfortunately it still happens widely! Moreover, the diagnosis process is costly and time consuming that makes patients carry an additional burden to their health suffering. Therefore, I am interested in developing an automatic prediction models for healthcare field. In my dissertation research, I am developing prediction models to predict the overall survival time for brain tumor patients, and to segment the glioma brain tumor using MRI data. These models can be used as an automatic inexpensive tool for brain tumor detection and localization. Also, it can provide us a better understanding about Glioma brain tumor behavior and development. My goal for the Writing Boot Camp program is to improve my writing skill, to have a prestigious dissertation as well as papers. Definitely, experts' experiences of this program will be the key to satisfy my goal.

MICHELLE STRONG



Ph.D. student,
Department of
Psychology

Advisor: Dr. Bradley
Donohue



To contribute to this area of literature, this study aims to, (1) Examine potential differences between student athletes' (SA) and non-athletes' (CS) perceptions of rude or offensive remarks regarding their choice culture from a list of cultural options, as well as their perceptions of importance regarding their choice culture, and (2) determine if their perceptions of offensive remarks predict their self-reported mental health symptomology while considering importance of their choice culture in a meditational analysis.

I want to participate in this program as it is an amazing opportunity for me to finish a draft of my thesis proposal prior to the start of the semester, and learn helpful tools to do so.

MONICA SINHA



**Master's Student,
School of Public Health**

**Advisor: Dr. Neeraj
Bhandari**

Monica Sinha is a licensed Dentist from India. While practicing dentistry in India she realizes a huge barrier towards preventive aspects of the health. This inspired her to enroll in MPH program.

She is interested to start a project/research which creates dental awareness and to maintain oral hygiene in the community. Currently, she is working with her professor to encourage elementary school children to follow a safe route to school.

After attending this boot camp she is looking forward to create a good outline to her thesis. She is also interested in learning about how to avoid plagiarism, how to cite ,build the literature review, and more about the available resources.

SARA SHAW



**Ph.D. candidate,
Department of Teaching
& Learning**

**Advisor: Dr. Howard
Gordon**

The purpose of this research study is to explore the lived experiences of female leaders from the perspective of females currently in leadership positions in postsecondary education. This project will investigate the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, age, and socio-economic background pursuant of understanding how these identities may affect leadership attainment and the decision-making processes.

During the duration of the Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp, she will be writing her dissertation and a publication related to her dissertation topic for a fellowship.

SARAH KIM



**D.M.A. student, School
of Music**

Advisor: Dr. Linda Lister



Research

- Introduce and define what Korean Art Song is, mention its history along with the history that occurred in South Korea at that time and how that played a major role in the formation of this art form
- Give examples prominent composers of Korean Art Song, explaining their biographies and contrasts of style in composition
- Analyze examples of the art songs, in which the analysis will consist of the poetry, themes, symbolism, phonetic language, musical language, and how all of these elements combine to create an authentically Korean form of art song.

I would like for the Writing Boot Camp to give me motivation and discipline to be focused consistently in the writing of my Document.

I would like to be accountable for presenting a promising outline and draft.

When I finish the Boot Camp, I will feel accomplished about moving forward with finishing an influential document.

SHELBY PROWS



MSW student, School of
Social Work

Advisor: Dr. Kristen
Culbert



The current study aimed to examine the interactive effects of reward sensitivity and negative urgency on binge eating symptoms in female college students (N = 304). Women with heightened reward sensitivity and elevated negative urgency were expected to report the highest levels of binge eating symptoms. Consistent with hypotheses, reward sensitivity and negative urgency significantly interacted to predict binge eating features such that women with high levels of reward sensitivity and negative urgency reported the highest levels of binge eating symptoms. Women with low levels of negative urgency exhibited low levels of binge eating, irrespective of reward sensitivity levels. Findings suggest that heightened sensitivity to reward, combined with high levels of emotion-based rash action, may significantly increase vulnerability to binge eating.

SINYONG CHOI



Ph.D. student,
Department of Criminal
Justice

Advisor: Dr. Tamara
Herold

The purpose of the research is to examine the differences of legal and illegal online sports betting in U.S. via online gamblers' perspectives. The research is expected to reveal the main factors that make users choose one over the other.

Through the boot camp, I would like to increase the quality of the research as well as hone my writing skills.

YASAMAN SAEDI



**Ph.D. student,
Department of Civil
and Environmental
Engineering**

**Advisor: Dr. Jacimaria
Ramos Batista**



The objective of my research is to investigate the potential biodegradation of inorganic contaminants in soils and groundwater with high total dissolved solids and sulfate concentrations. Another objective of this research is to study the presence of bacteria community in a saline area.

After doing one year of research and obtain valuable data, my concern is to write a technical paper for journals.

In order to improve my knowledge in technical writing, I would like to participate in the Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp. In addition, this program will provide this chance for me to work on my first paper and make it ready for publication.