

I study family communication across the lifespan, with a focus on parent-child relationships, family conflict, disclosure processes, and the impact of childhood trauma. My research involves qualitative and quantitative methods aimed at bridging the gap between research and practice, informed by 15 years of direct work with children and families.

## Education

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**Ph.D. Candidate** – The University of Texas at Austin | Communication Studies | *Advisor: Dr. Anita Vangelisti*

**M.A.** – The University of Texas at Austin | Communication Studies | 2023, *Summa cum laude*

**B.A.** – University of California at Berkeley | Media Studies | 2020, *Summa cum laude*

**A.A.** – Santa Barbara City College | Communication Studies | 2018, *Magna cum laude*

## Teaching Appointments

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**Basic Course Coordinator** | Moody College of Communication | Communication Studies | Fall 2025-Present

- CMS 306M Professional Communication Skills

**Assistant Instructor** | Moody College of Communication | Communication Studies | Fall 2025-Present

- CMS 306M Professional Communication Skills

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** | Moody College of Communication | Communication Studies | Fall 2021-Fall 2024

- CMS 315M Interpersonal Communication Theory with Dr. John Daly
- CMS 330 Interpersonal Health Communication with Dr. Erin Donovan
- CMS 354 Conflict Resolution with Dr. Katie Bradford
- CMS 338 Leadership Stories with Dr. Joe Cutbirth
- CMS 386N Quantitative Research Methods with Dr. Anita Vangelisti

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** | Bridging Disciplines Program | Fall 2023

- BDP 101 Narrative Leadership with Dr. Joe Cutbirth

**Graduate Assistant** | College of Natural Sciences | Human Development and Family Studies | Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory | Fall 2022-Spring 2023

- two- to three-year-old development group
- NAEYC accredited facility

## Research Experience

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**Research Assistant** | Dr. Colton Krawietz, San Houston State University

- Qualitative coding on topic-avoidant tactics in parent-child and romantic relationships. Two projects from this data set are currently under review.

**Research Assistant** | Dr. Imogen Hart, University of California at Berkeley

- Contributed to:

Hart, I. (2023). May Morris, Dorothy Walker, and the Legacies of the Arts and Crafts Interior. *Journal of Interior Design*, 48(4), 259-271. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10717641231194007>

## Awards and Scholarships

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2025	<b>Excellence in Nonverbal Pedagogy Award</b>   National Communication Association
2021-2027	<b>Graduate School Fellowship</b>   University of Texas at Austin
2023-2027	<b>Provost Fellowship</b>   Moody College of Communication
2023-2024	<b>Student Caucus Travel Grant</b>   National Communication Association
2023-2024	<b>Conference Travel Grant</b>   Department of Communication Studies
2023, 2025	<b>Research Grant</b>   Communication Studies Graduate Community
2024	<b>Top Paper in Division of Communication and Social Cognition</b>   National Communication Association
2023	<b>Roderick P. Hart Student Achievement Award</b>
2023	<b>Top Communicator</b>   International Association of Relationship Research   Mini-Conference

## Professional Memberships & Service

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**Communication Studies Graduate Community** | Member since 2021

- Chair (AY 2025-2026)
- Vice Chair & MA representative (AY 2022-2023)
- First year representative (AY 2021-2022)
- Social Events Committee (AY 2023-2024)

**National Communication Association** | Member since 2022

- Social Media Manager | Family Communication Division | 2026
- Excellence in Nonverbal Pedagogy Award Committee | Nonverbal Communication Division | 2026
- Submission Reviewer | Interpersonal Communication, Family Communication, Latino/Latina Communication

**International Communication Association** | Member since 2022

- Submission Reviewer | Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, Children, Adolescents, and the Media

**National Association for the Education of Young Children** | Member since 2022

- Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Affiliate | Chapter Member, Austin, TX

**International Association for Relationship Research** | Member since 2023

- Submission Reviewer | Parenthood, Children, Families, Relationship Maintenance, Relationship Repair

## Guest Lectures and Presentations

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2025	<b>Graduate School Office of Career and Life Design</b>   Guest Presenter
2024	<b>CMS 330 Interpersonal Health Communication</b>   Guest Lecturer

#### Lectures:

- *Uncertainty and the Patient Experience*
- *End-of-Life Communication*

#### 2024 CMS 386N Quantitative Research Methods

- Lecture: *Introduction to R/R-Studio*

#### 2023 BDP 101 Narrative Leadership | Guest Lecturer

- Lecture: *Redemption Narratives*

#### 2023 NCA Activism and Social Justice Division | Approaching the PhD Application Process | Guest Presenter

#### 2022 CMS 354 Conflict Resolution

- Lecture: *Difficult Conversations*

#### 2024 Graduate Orientation Panel | Guest Presenter

### Publications Under Review

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Hernandez, K. (2026). "I didn't tell them everything, but...": Privacy management in parental disclosures of cumulative adverse childhood experiences."

Hernandez, K. (2026). "The dynamics of family conflict: A critical review and foundation for future research."

Hernandez, K. (2026). "Parents, privacy, parentification: Exploring parental disclosures of family secrets, parentification, privacy management, and relationship satisfaction."

Palomares, N., Smith, B., Murray, C., Pang, Y., Kim, M.S., Hernandez, K. (2026). "Misinformation, trust in machines, and goal understanding: Algorithmic fact-checkers are influential even on news claims with unambiguous veracity."

Social Support in Families | Co-Author | The Routledge Handbook of Supportive Communication edited by Meara H. Faw, Joshua R. Pederson, Amanda J. Holmstrom, and Andrew C. High | Expected: Spring 2026

### Conference Presentations

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**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2025). "Family Conflict: A Critical Review Exploring the Conceptualization and Breadth of Family Conflict Literature." *111<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*. Denver, Colorado.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2025). "Communicating Childhood Abuse and Uncertainty: A Reddit Study." *111<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*. Denver, Colorado.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2025). "Parental Discourse on Concern of Children's Emotions: A Relational Dialectics Theory Approach." *111<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*. Denver, Colorado.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K., (2024). "To Share or Not to Share: A Communication Privacy Management Approach to Coping with Experiences of Childhood Trauma." *110<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K., Vangelisti, A., Kim, M.S., Alley, E. (2024). "Parental Disclosures of Health-Related Secrets: Exploring Parentification and Privacy Management Among Adult-Children." *110<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

**Co-Author** | Palomares, N., King-Smith, B., Yinglang Pang, L., Kim, M.S., Murray, C., Hernandez, K. (2024). "Misinformation and Trust in Machines: Algorithmic Fact-Checkers are Influential Even on Claims with Established

Veracity.” *Top Paper in Communication and Social Cognition. 110th Annual National Communication Association Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2024). “Parents, Privacy, Parentification: Exploring Parental Disclosures of Family Secrets from a Communication Privacy Management Perspective.” *110th Annual National Communication Association Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

**Co-Author** | Alley, E., & Hernandez, K. (2024). “Uncertainty, Cognition, Emotion, and Communication in ADHD Relationships: A Relational Turbulence Theory Approach.” *110th Annual National Communication Association Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2023). “Traumatized as a Child, Satisfied as a Parent: Experiences of Childhood Trauma and Parental Role Satisfaction from a Family Communication Patterns Perspective.” *109th Annual National Communication Association Conference*. National Harbor, M.D.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2023). “Conformity, Conversation, Closeness? Exploring Family Communication Patterns, Shame, and Relational Closeness within the Parent-Child Dyad.” *109th Annual National Communication Association Conference*. National Harbor, M.D.

**Presenter** | Hernandez, K. (2023). “Is Shame Satisfying? A Family Communication Patterns Approach to Shame and Relationship Satisfaction.” *International Association for Relationship Research Mini-Conference*. Tuscaloosa, AL.

## **Non-Academic Employment**

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**Childcare Provider** | California, Texas, USA; Madrid, Spain | 2016-present

**Editing Services** | W.W. Norton & Company | The Norton Field Guide to Speaking | 2025

**Language & Culture Assistant** | Madrid, Spain | 2020-2021

**Writing Tutor** | Student Learning Center | University of California, Berkeley | 2018-2020

**Santa Barbara Family YMCA** | Childcare Provider | 2017-2018

**Camp Counselor** | City of Vista, CA | 2016-2018

## **Skills & Trainings**

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**Teaching Preparation Series Certification** | Center for Teaching and Learning

**Quantitative Methods** | R/R Studio, Prolific, Qualtrics

**Qualitative Methods** | 40+ virtual interviews, Atlas.ti/NVivo/Taguette

**Languages** | English (Fluent), Spanish (Proficient)