

Brittany Wheeler

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Communication 2026

University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Dissertation: *Timing, Context, and Space: An Agent-Based Model of Anti-Bullying Policy Effectiveness in Academic Departments*

Doctoral advisor: Dr. Rene Weber

Master of Science, Psychology 2022

Arizona State University, Glendale, AZ

Thesis: *MCSHEA-V: Developing and Validating a New Measure of Cyber-sexual Harassment*

Thesis advisor: Dr. Deborah Hall

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, *summa cum laude* 2017

California State University of Fullerton, Fullerton, CA

Psychology Summer Internship Program 2017

Boston University, Boston, MA

Research Experience

Communication Health and Emerging Media Laboratory (CHARM Lab),

University of California, Santa Barbara 2025 – 2026

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Jiaying Liu

- Prepared IRB protocols for the development and testing of an AI powered chatbot that is designed to engage users in future thinking to reduce vaping intentions.
- Conducted prompt engineering and survey development for chatbot testing.

Media Neuroscience Lab, University of California, Santa Barbara 2023 – 2026

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Rene Weber

- Prepared IRB protocols for fMRI research and performed statistical analyses for several research projects, including an investigation of moral foundations and hate speech acceptance.
- Assisted with the preparation of multiple conference presentations as lead or co-author.
- Maintained the lab website and social media presence during key communication conferences.

Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University 2021 – 2022

Statistical Consultant, Dr. Mansour Javidan and Dr. Kannan Ramaswamy

- Hired as statistical consultant for large-scale investigation of remote working preferences before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Performed factor analysis and reliability analyses on pilot data and provided guidance to PIs on ways to modify the study materials for subsequent phases of the project.

Identity & Social Relations Lab, Arizona State University 2019 – 2022

Lab Manager & Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Deborah Hall

- Provided mentorship, hands-on research training, and critical feedback to graduate and undergraduate students in the lab.
- Prepared IRB protocols, developed online (Qualtrics) surveys, and performed statistical analyses for several research projects, including an investigation of COVID-19's impact on first-generation college students and a multi-study investigation of consumer decision-making.
- Conducted path analysis and assisted with the preparation of a manuscript examining well-being among LGBTQ adults during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BullyBlocker Project, Arizona State University

2019 – 2022

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Deborah Hall, and Dr. Yasin Silva

- Served as vital member of interdisciplinary research team for NSF-funded project investigating cyberbullying on social networking sites (NSF Awards # 1719722, 2036127).
- Collaborated on the development of empirically based anti-cyberbullying technology (e.g., mobile apps) and evaluated factors predicting anti-bullying app use among parents.
- Played lead role in large-scale study of anti-Asian prejudice on Twitter spanning 15 months of social media data.
- Assisted with the preparation of multiple manuscripts and conference presentations (symposium talks and research posters) as lead or co-author.

Neurolex Labs, Boston, MA

2017

Research Internship, Jim Schwoebel

- Compiled relevant literature to develop a research proposal for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease through voice analysis.
- Contributed to a multi-disciplinary project designed to detect early onset schizophrenia using voice analysis through the detailed transcription of voice files.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of California Santa Barbara

2025

- Summer Research Academies - Inside Scoop: Mapping Organizational Structures and Networks Through Data Science (Summer 2025)
 - Evaluated student applications to select participants for the program.
 - Designed a comprehensive course syllabus and developed lecture materials to introduce high school students to business and organizational communication research.
 - Facilitated learning on data-driven approaches to mapping organizational structures and networks.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California Santa Barbara

2022 – 2026

- Communication Research Methods (Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Summer 2024; undergraduate-level ground course)
 - Evaluated and graded assignments to assess student comprehension of social science research design.

- Led weekly discussion sections to reinforce key concepts and assist students in applying research methodologies.
- Theories of Communication (Spring 2025; undergraduate-level ground course)
 - Evaluated and graded assignments to assess student comprehension communication theory.
 - Led weekly discussion sections to reinforce understanding of theories and apply them in novel contexts.
- The Legal Community and the Courtroom, Data Science in Communication, Group Communication in Multiple Contexts (Spring 2023, Winter 2024, Fall 2024; undergraduate-level ground course)
 - Held weekly office hours to provide individualized academic support and guidance.
 - Graded assignments and provided constructive feedback to enhance student learning.
 - Delivered guest lectures on specialized topics within course curricula.
- Organizational Communication, Communication and Organizational Membership, Conflict Communication (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Winter 2025; undergraduate-level ground course)
 - Conducted weekly office hours to support student learning and engagement.
 - Assessed and graded assignments to track student progress.
 - Assisted in the development of exam materials to evaluate course comprehension.
- Summer Research Academies - Moral Mining: Using Big Data to Investigate Polarization and Moral Depiction, Decoding Bias: Investigating Media Narratives Through Data Science (Summer 2023, Summer 2024)
 - Led weekly instructional sections to introduce high school students to research methodologies and computational skills.
 - Provided feedback on assignments to enhance students' understanding of academic research processes.

Statistics and Methods (SAM) Lab, Arizona State University

2021 – 2022

Co-Manager

- Served as key communication link between the lab director, faculty in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, and SAM Lab statistics consultants.
- Oversee daily operations (e.g., scheduling, task delegation) of the lab, train new consultants, co-lead weekly lab meetings, maintain lab websites, develop promotional materials.

Statistical Consultant

2020 – 2021

- Provided tutoring and hands-on training in statistics and research methods during individualized one-on-one online help sessions.
- Compiled statistical resources for performing analyses in R and Mplus.
- Developed and hosted statistics workshops and webinars on diverse topics, including Intro to R, Intro to Mplus, to graduate and undergraduate students.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University

2020 – 2021

- Quantitative Analysis I (Summer 2020; graduate-level online course)

- Graded assignments and assisted students with understanding statistical concepts such as ANOVA, correlation, regression.
- Research Methods (Summer 2020; graduate-level online course)
 - Graded assignments and assisted students with understanding psychological research designs.
- Quantitative Analysis II (Spring 2021; graduate-level ground course)
 - Graded assignments and assisted students with understanding statistical concepts such as multiple regression, mediation, and moderation.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, California State University of Fullerton 2017

- Advanced Statistics (Fall 2017; graduate-level ground course)
 - Maintained weekly office hours to provide additional assistance for students and graded assignments.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, California State University of Fullerton 2014

- Abnormal Psychology course (Spring 2014; undergraduate-level ground course)
 - Hosted review sessions for each of the two exams.
 - Maintained weekly office hours to provide additional assistance for students and graded assignments.

Publications *denotes student co-author.

Weber, R., *Malik, M., **Wheeler, B.**, *Oliver, A., *Falcione, K. (Under review). Responsible paths in computational communication research. In M. Haim & E. Domahidi (Eds.), *The Handbook of Computational Communication Research*, Routledge.

*Falcione, K., *Malik, M., **Wheeler, B.**, & Weber, R. (2026). Neural trajectories of gaming disorder accounting for psychopathology: Insights from the longitudinal ABCD study. *NeuroImage*, 122036. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2026.122036>

Hopp, F. R., Youk, S., Amir, O., *Malik, M., *Woodman, K., **Wheeler, B.**, ... & Weber, R. (2026). The moral foundations MRI collection: A multi-center, multi-country functional MRI collection for evaluating moral judgment. *PsychArchives*. <https://doi.org/10.23668/psycharchives.21564>

Wheeler, B., & Weber, R. (2026). Neuroimaging in communication science. In L. Shen, P. Schulz, & P. Cobley (Eds.), *Quantitative research methods in communication science* (pp. 295–318). De Gruyter Mouton. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111203577-013>

Wheeler, B., *Purohit, M., *Furman, P., *Jung, S., Hall, D. L., Barioni, M. C. N., & Silva, Y. N. (2024). Global prevalence patterns of anti-Asian prejudice on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Kaya, M., Alhajj, S., Sailunaz, K., Day, MY. (Eds.), *Social Network Analysis and Mining Applications in Healthcare and Anomaly Detection* (pp. 235-266). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-75204-9_10

Wheeler, B., *Baumel, K., Hall, D. L., & Silva, Y. N. (2023). US parents' intentions to use anti-bullying apps: Insights from a comprehensive model. *Heliyon*, 9(9). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e19630>

Wheeler, B., *Jung, S., Hall, D. L., *Purohit, M., & Silva, Y. (2023). An analysis of temporal trends in anti-Asian hate and counter-hate on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 26(7), 535-545. <https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2022.0206>

Wheeler, B., *Jung, S., Barioni, M. C. N., *Purohit, M., Hall, D. L., & Silva, Y. N. (2022). #WashTheHate: Understanding the prevalence of anti-Asian prejudice on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic. In *2022 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM)* (pp. 484-491). IEEE. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ASONAM55673.2022.10068578>

Hall, D., Silva, Y., **Wheeler, B.,** *Cheng, L., & *Baumel, K. (2021). Harnessing the power of interdisciplinary research with psychology-informed cyberbullying detection models. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*, 4, 47-54. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42380-021-00107-5>

*Schodt, K. B., *Quiroz, S. I., **Wheeler, B.,** Hall, D., & Silva, Y. N. (2021). Cyberbullying and mental health in adults: The moderating role of social media use and gender. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 12:674298. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.674298>

*Baumel, K., *Hamlett, M., ***Wheeler, B.,** Hall, D., Randall, A., & Mickelson, K. (2021). Living through COVID-19: Social distancing, computer-mediated communication, and well-being in LGBTQ and heterosexual adults. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68, 673-691. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2020.1868190>

Invited Talks and Presentations

Wheeler, B. (2025). *Effective conflict resolution in the workplace*. Presented at the Research Round Table, YouTube Headquarters, San Francisco, CA.

Grants, Fellowships, and Scholarships

ICA Information Systems Poster Award, \$150	2025
Competitive award for best poster in the Information Systems Division.	
Linda Putnam Interdisciplinary Scholar Award, \$500	2025
Competitive award that acknowledges doctoral researchers demonstrating a strong record and commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship.	
ICA Organizational Communication B.E.S.T Presentation, \$100	2024
Competitive award for presenting research in an interesting and innovative way.	
Graduate Student Association Travel Funding, \$500	2024
Competitive funding for presenting and attending the International Communication Association Conference.	
ASU School of Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Grant, \$2,000	2021
Competitive funding for MS Psychology students to perform thesis-related research.	

- Institute of Social Science Graduate Research Poster Contest, \$400 2021
- Honorable mention within the proposed research division.
- Western Regional Graduate Program, \$8,000 2019 – 2021
- Hosted by the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education to provide in-state tuition to students attending specific ASU programs.
- Innovations in Psychological Research Grant \$1,250 2020
- Competitive grant awarded to MS Psychology students performing innovative student research.
- Graduate College Travel Award, \$305 2020
- Competitive funding for presenting and attending the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention and Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference.
- Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Travel Grant, *unfunded* 2020
- Funding to be used towards the Western Psychological Association Conference.
- Interdisciplinary Enrichment Fellowship, \$16,000 2019 – 2020
- Competitive merit-based fellowship for underrepresented graduate students.

Conference & Colloquia Presentations

Plunket, M., Wheeler, B., & Myers, K. (2026). “Lay off the hash browns and hit the gym”: Workplace bullying, food consumption, and professional bodies. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Oliver, A. K., Malik, M., **Wheeler, B.**, Woodman, K., Youk, S., & Weber, R. (2026). *Eyes on morality: Pupillometric signatures of moral foundations*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Cape Town, South Africa.

Liu, J., Li, T., **Wheeler, B.** (2026). *It's not just what bots say, but how: Comparing relational and skills based chatbots for young adult vaping intervention*. Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Conference. San Diego, CA, USA.

Liu, J., **Wheeler, B.**, Li, T., & Sweet., L. H. (2026). *A theory-informed AI chatbot to reduce vaping among young adult vapers via cognitive control enhancement: Insights from a pilot study*. Presented at the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco. Baltimore, MD, USA.

Oliver, A., Malik, M., **Wheeler, B.**, & Weber, R. (2025). A pupillometric evaluation of moral judgments. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Wheeler, B. Weber, R (2025). *Voices from r/Professors: Analyzing academic workplace bullying and support on Reddit*. Oral presentation to be held at the 2025 Organizational Communication Mini-Conference. Champaign, Illinois, USA.

Wheeler, B. & Weber, R. (2025). *Is academic online bullying a widespread phenomenon? A study of scholarly discourse on Twitter/X*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Denver, Colorado, USA.

Malik, M., Zhang, Y., Wang, M., & **Wheeler, B.** (2025). *Exploring the ripple effects of online hate speech: A mixed-methods study*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Denver, Colorado, USA.

Malik, M., Falcione, K., **Wheeler, B.**, & Weber, R. (2025). *The ecological determinants of morality: A global analysis of news media content*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Denver, Colorado, USA.

Wheeler, B., Malik, M., & Weber, R. (2024). *Exploring bullying and harassment policies in higher education: A grounded theory approach*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Gold Coast, Australia.

Malik, M., **Wheeler, B.**, Youk, S., & Weber, R. (2024). *Channeling inequality: Prevalence, prominence, and portrayal biases in YouTube news coverage*. Paper presented to the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Gold Coast, Australia.

Wheeler, B., Youk, S., Woodman, K., Malik, M., & Weber, R. (2024). *An empirical assessment of moral foundations and hate speech acceptance: The moderating influence of gender*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Gold Coast, Australia.

Wheeler, B., Malik, M., Sungbin, Y., Weber, R. (2024). *In the public eye: A content analysis of US members of Congress' family-centric portrayals on Twitter*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Conference, San Francisco, California, USA.

Woodman, K., Youk, S., **Wheeler, B.**, & Weber, R. (2023). *Video gaming, a protective factor or a gateway for early adolescent alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis use*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Toronto, Canada.

Wheeler, B., Hudson, J., Jung, S., Fogleson, D., Hall, D., & Silva, Y. (2022). *#WashtheHate: Understanding anti-Asian prejudice on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference.

Wheeler, B., & Hall, D. (2021). *MCSHEA-V: Developing and validating a new measure of cyber-sexual harassment*. Poster presented at Arizona State University's Institute of Social Science Graduate Research Poster Contest, Tempe, Arizona, USA.

Hudson, J., Garcia, V., **Wheeler, B.**, Barioni, M. C. N., Silva, Y., & Hall, D. (2021). *Anti-Asian prejudice on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Conference.

Wheeler, B., Baumel, K., Hall, D., & Silva, Y. (2021). *Understanding parents' intentions to use anti-bullying apps: An interdisciplinary approach*. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference.

Baumel, K., **Wheeler, B.**, Hamlett, M., Hall, D., Randall, A., & Mickelson, K. (2021). *Living through COVID-19: How social distancing and computer-mediated communication impact the lives of LGBTQ and heterosexual individuals*. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference.

Baumel, K., **Wheeler, B.**, Hamlett, M., Hall, D., Randall, A., & Mickelson, K. (2020). *LGBQ well-being during COVID-19*. Poster presented at Arizona State University's Institute of Social Science Graduate Research Poster Contest, Tempe, Arizona, USA.

Wheeler, B., Baumel, K., Liu, X., Quiroz, S., Hall, D., & Silva, Y. (2020). *It takes a village: Age and desire for social support predict parents' anti-bullying app use*. Symposium talk presented at the 2020 Western Psychological Association Conference.

Baumel, K., **Wheeler, B.**, Liu, X., Quiroz, S., Hall, D., & Silva, Y. (2020). *Child's bullying history predicts parents' intentions to use anti-bullying apps*. Symposium talk presented at the 2020 Western Psychological Association Conference.

Wheeler, B., Cheng, L., Hall, D., & Silva, Y. (2020). *BullyBlocker: An interdisciplinary approach for the identification and prevention of adolescent cyberbullying*. Poster presented at the Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference.

Service

Graduate Student Member, UCSB Ombudsman Advisory Committee	2023 – 2025
Office Coordinator, Graduate Student Advisory Committee to the Chair	2024 – 2025
Knowledge Base Coordinator, Graduate Student Advisory Committee to the Chair	2023 – 2024
Reviewer, Association of Psychological Science Student Grant Competition	2021
Reviewer, Association of Psychological Science RISE Research Award	2020
Graduate Mentor, ASU MS Psychology Program	2020

Professional Affiliations

International Communication Association	2023 – Present
National Communication Association	2024 – Present
Society for Personality and Social Psychology	2021 – Present
American Statistical Association	2020 – Present
Resilience in Social Environments (RISE) Initiative	2019 – Present
Association for Psychological Science Student Caucus	2019 – Present
Golden Key National Honor Society	2014 – Present

Professional Development

Python Programming for Non-Programming Social Scientists Workshop	2021
Graduate Writing Camp	2020
Introduction to Bayesian Statistical Modeling	2020
Social Network Analysis Workshop	2020
SAS University Programming Workshop	2017