

JESSANY MALDONADO, PHD

Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Qualitative Researcher, Gender Studies

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
University of South Florida
CMC 202K
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620

Email: jessanym@usf.edu

[Faculty Biography](#) | [Graduate Biography](#)

EDUCATION

- | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| PhD | Indiana University – Bloomington, Gender Studies
Minor in Anthropology
Dissertation: “Black Women-Loving Women’s Socio-Sexual Narratives”
Committee: Drs. Colin R. Johnson (chair), Sara Friedman, Amrita Myers, Marvin Sterling, and William Yarber | July 2023 |
| MA | University of Northern Iowa, Women’s & Gender Studies
Thesis: “Afro Culture & Performance Within the Bar Space”
Committee: Drs. Charles Kyle Rudick (chair), Catherine Palczewski, and Danielle McGeough | July 2017 |
| BS | Purdue University, Psychological Sciences
Minor in LGBTQ+ Studies | May 2015 |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Black Women and Black Feminist Theory
Queer Sexualities and Sexuality Studies
Sexual Health and Sex Education

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Graduate Assistantship
Teaching Appointment, College of Arts & Sciences
Indiana University – Bloomington | Fall 2017 – Spring 2023 |
| Gene Branigin Fellowship
Research Award, College of Arts & Sciences
Indiana University – Bloomington | Summer 2021 |

Graduate Scholars Fellowship Five-Year Education Award Indiana University – Bloomington	Fall 2017 – Spring 2022
Graduate Assistantship Teaching Appointment, Women’s & Gender Studies University of Northern Iowa	Fall 2015 – Spring 2017
Graduate Tuition Assistance Scholarship Two-Year Tuition Award University of Northern Iowa	Fall 2015 – Spring 2017
Lavender Graduate LGBTQ+ Graduation Awardee Purdue University	Spring 2015
Black Caucus Award Magna Cum Laude Grade Point Average Awardee Purdue University	Spring 2015
Black Caucus Award Magna Cum Laude Grade Point Average Awardee Purdue University	Spring 2014
Roger Blalock Tuition Scholarship Tuition Award (Declined) Purdue University	Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
Big Brothers & Big Sisters Scholarship Four-Year Education Award Purdue University	Fall 2011 – Spring 2015
Purdue Promise Scholarship Four-Year Education Award Purdue University	Fall 2011 – Spring 2015
Purdue Promise 21st Century Scholars Scholarship Four-Year Tuition Award Purdue University	Fall 2011 – Spring 2015

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Instruction Department of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies University of South Florida, Tampa, FL	August 2023 – Present
---	-----------------------

- Instruct WST 3015, *Introduction to Women's Studies*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 100 students per semester and covers the following topics: the social constructions of gender, sex, sexuality, the body; feminism, and institutional equity and equality.
- Instruct WST 3380, *Sexualities Studies*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 25 students per semester and covers the following topics: sexuality across lifespan, culture, region, space, and politics.
- Instruct WST 4002, *Feminist Research Methods*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 25 students per semester and offers preparation to conduct human-subjects based research, IRB certification, and training in interdisciplinary methodologies through a feminist lens.
- Instruct WST 4930, *Black Sexualities*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 25 students per semester and covers the following topics: African Diasporic sexualities across lifespan, culture, region, space, and politics.
- Instruct WST 4935, *Senior Capstone*, which is a graduate course averaging 10 students per semester which offers preparation for professional degree programs, internships, and employment opportunities post-graduation.
- Lead, develop, and evaluate discussion seminars homework, quizzes, and exam questions across all courses to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Provide mentorship and supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.
- Supervise and mentor two graduate student teaching assistants for each semester of WST 3015.

Graduate Students Advised

Lindsay Rodriguez, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2024

Mojisola Adewumi, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2024

Charles Suor, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2025

Undergraduate Students Advised

Rachael Ermacora, Prospective Graduation Date: Fall 2023

Edina Szentes, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2025

Matthew Lewicki, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2025

Nina Weiss, Prospective Graduation Date: Spring 2026

Associate Instructor

August 2022 – May 2023

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Instructed two hybrid sections of G101, *Introduction to Gender Studies*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: the social constructions of gender, sex, sexuality, the body; feminism, and institutional equity and equality.
- Led discussion seminars and develop homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Coordinated grading and critical discussion points with a team of four other associate instructors and the lead professor, Dr. Stephanie Sanders.

- Provided mentorship and supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Students Advised

Eva Richards, Prospective Graduation Date: 2026

Elanor Konow, Prospective Graduation Date: 2025

India Tate, Prospective Graduation Date: 2024

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN January 2020 – May 2020
Associate Instructor, Gender Studies Department

- Taught two hybrid sections of G101, *Introduction to Gender Studies*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: history as it pertains to gender, sex, sexuality, the body, and feminism.
- Led discussion seminars and developed homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students’ cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Collaborated with a team of four other associate instructors and the lead associate professor, Dr. Colin Johnson, to coordinate grading, critical discussion points, and lesson planning for undergraduate students.
- Provided mentorship and supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Associate Instructor August 2019 – December 2019
 Department of Gender Studies
 Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Taught two in-person sections of G101, *Introduction to Gender Studies*, which is an undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: the social constructions of gender, sex, sexuality, the body; feminism, and institutional equity and equality.
- Led discussion seminars and developed homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students’ cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Coordinated grading and critical discussion points with a team of four other associate instructors and a lead associate professor, Dr. Stephanie Sanders.
- Provided mentorship and supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Students Advised

Aliya Carroll, Date Graduated: 2021

Julia Harrison, Date Graduated: 2021

Kyle McClung, Date Graduated: 2022

Daisy Trujillo, Date Graduated 2021

Summer Voorhies, Date Graduated 2022

COURSE ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor January 2021 – May 2021
 Department of Gender Studies
 Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Assisted Dr. Colin Johnson for G350, *Queer Theory*, which is an online undergraduate course averaging 25 students per semester, covering the following topics: gender, sex, and sexuality throughout American history.
- Developed homework and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Collaborated with the lead associate professor to coordinate grading, critical discussion points, and lesson planning for undergraduate students.
- Provided supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Associate Instructor

August 2020 – December 2020

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Assisted Dr. Amrita Myers for G302, *Wenches, Witches, and Welfare Queens*, which was an online-modality undergraduate course averaging 25 students per semester, covering the following topics: gender, sex, sexuality, stereotypes, history, and the Black female body.
- Developed course presentations, homework, and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Collaborated with the lead associate professor to coordinate grading, critical discussion points, and lesson planning for undergraduate students.
- Provided supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Associate Instructor

January 2019 – May 2019

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Assisted Dr. Laura Foster for G105, *Gender, Sex, and Society*, which was an in-person undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: gender, sex, sexuality, and the body.
- Led discussion seminars and developed homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Collaborated with a team of one other associated instructor and the lead professor to coordinate grading and critical discussion points for undergraduate students.
- Provided mentorship and supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Student Advised

Nicole Ramirez, Date Graduated: 2020

Associate Instructor

August 2018 – December 2018

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

- Assisted Dr. Joshua Vasquez for G225, *Gender and Pop Culture*, which was an in-person undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: gender, sex, sexuality, and the body within pop culture.
- Developed homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.

- Coordinated grading and critical discussion points with a team of two other associate instructors and the lead adjunct professor.
- Provided supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

Teaching Assistant

August 2015 – December 2015

Department of Women's & Gender Studies
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

- Assisted Dr. Harry Brod for SOC SCI 1020, *Gender and Society*, which was an undergraduate course averaging 50 students per semester, covering the following topics: gender, sex, sexuality, the body, and society.
- Led seminar discussions and developed homework, quizzes, and exam questions to assess students' cumulative knowledge of course material.
- Coordinated grading and critical discussion points with the lead associate professor.
- Provided supplemental instruction for undergraduate students.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“Black Women-Loving Women’s Socio-Sexual Narratives” April 2021 – May 2023

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Advisor: Dr. Colin R. Johnson

- Recruited, screened, consented, and scheduled 142 research participants who completed a two-year independent research study that examines how Black women establish romantic and sexual relationships with other Black women.
- Composed a committee-reviewed manuscript of the subsequent research results that found that Black women-loving women wield transformative power over their intimate lives by identifying as women-loving/kweer long after having heterosexual relationships and kweer childhood experiences; transforming generic place into age-mediated Black kweer space in Atlanta, Georgia; and heteronormalizing same-gender sexual behavior in their autoerotic and dyadic intimacies.
- Corroborated findings with five research scientists to confirm the accuracy, validity, and logic of the project's overall empirical analysis.

“Afro Culture & Performance Within the Bar Space” August 2016 – December 2017

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Advisor: Dr. Charles K. Rudick

- Conducted a five-month ethnographical research study that examined how Black bar patrons established communal ties within a network of adult leisure spaces in Waterloo, IA.
- Composed a committee-reviewed manuscript of the subsequent research findings that found that Black bar patrons founded and maintained both familial and fictive kin networks while circulating organized network of bar spaces in Waterloo, IA.
- Corroborated findings with three research scientists to confirm the accuracy, validity, and logic of the project's overall empirical analysis.

“Black Women’s Friendships on College Campuses” August 2015 – December 2015

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Advisor: Dr. Marybeth Stalp

- Recruited, screened, consented, and scheduled 15 research participants to complete a five-month independent research study that examined how Black women cultivated long-lasting friendships while enrolled at four-year universities.
- Composed a committee-reviewed manuscript of the subsequent research findings that found that Black women prioritized feelings of trust and familial qualities over sharing similar recreational interests in cultivating long-lasting friendships with other Black women.
- Corroborated findings with a research scientist to confirm the accuracy, validity, and logic of the project's overall empirical analysis.

Laboratory Research Assistant

January 2013 – August 2015

Supervisor: Dr. Sophie Lelievre

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

- Facilitated the ongoing experiments of the lab manager and graduate students' oncological research efforts by overseeing and supervising the daily operations of the laboratory.
- Corroborated with research team to specify and ensure systemized confidential record keeping of manipulated cultured cells in university-specific software and Microsoft Office Suite, integrity of paper-based archival data, and compliance with official research protocols, OSHA safety standards, and university-wide SOPs to maintain safe and compliant investigative practices and procedures.

Research Assistant

August 2013 – December 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Evelyn Blackwood

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

- Expedited the systematic progression of a research anthropologist's social scientific project over the course of four academic semesters by sorting, transcribing, and analyzing the content of approximately 50 audio-recorded interviews to underpin their independent qualitative case history project.
- Collaborated with the PI to coauthor qualitative research expositions for two separate independent and collaborative social science projects, synthesized findings into public presentation formats, and engaged in public speaking when presenting the findings at a campus-wide symposium at Purdue University during the fall of 2014.

Research Assistant

August 2014 – December 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Susan South

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

- Recruited, screened, consented, and scheduled 10 couples to participate in a social cognition research study that examined levels of neuroticism, ostracism, and trust in romantic relationships; subsequent findings were published beyond my graduation date.
- Collaborated weekly with a team of four undergraduate researchers and two faculty research scientists to examine the experiment's results and explore empirical fallacies in previously published research studies.

Research Assistant

August 2012 – December 2012

Supervisor: N/A

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

- Recruited, screened, consented, and scheduled undergraduate research participants to participate in a virtual experiment to examine how implicit cognitive bias influenced decision making in computer-simulated games.
- Collaborated with a team of three undergraduate researchers and two faculty research scientists to find that participants, regardless of ethnic background, relied upon ethnic bias in making lethal judgments about the potential criminality of computer-animated pedestrians.

Project SEED Summer Research Intern

May 2011 – July 2011

Supervisor: Dr. Nalini Kulkarni

Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN

- Collaborated with a team of three research physicists over the course of a three-month internship to examine the trajectory of how lung epithelial cells and bivalves were affected by nicotine in-vivo; found that lung epithelial cells were negatively impacted by nicotine in-vitro and that nicotine destroyed the inner respiratory tissues of the bivalves in vivo.
- Collaborated with the lead biologist to analyze the results of the prototypic clinical trials, coauthored the results of this ongoing project in an empirical research report for pre-publication review, and presented the tentative findings at the Project SEED Research Symposium at IUPUI in Indianapolis, IN.

Project SEED Summer Research Intern

May 2010 – July 2010

Advisor: Dr. Bruce D. Ray

IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN

- Corroborated with a team of two research biologists over the course of a three-month internship to examine whether any one of five growth factors would induce the chondrogenic change of adipose-derived stem cells (ADSCs) into cartilage cells; found that one specific growth factor out of five induced the chondrogenic of ADSCs into cartilage cells.
- Collaborated with the lead biologist to analyze the results of the prototypic clinical trials, coauthored the results of this ongoing project in an empirical research report for pre-publication review, and presented the tentative findings at the Project SEED Research Symposium at IUPUI in Indianapolis, IN.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CAS Holistic Faculty Mentorship Program

August 2023 - Present

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Program that fosters the professional growth and personal well-being of junior faculty members.

Result: Trained in applying best practices for conflict resolution, departmental awards and programs, and professional relationship cultivation.

USF's First Friday Workshop Series: Student Mental Health January 2024
Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop for exploring ways to foster student mental health and equip educators with the tools and insights to foster a positive and resilient academic environment.

Result: Collaborated with other faculty members to offer strategic emotive solutions and campus resources for students, faculty, and staff who express issues that threaten their well-being.

USF's First Friday Workshop Series: Teaching & Learning with AI January 2024
Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop for learning about generative AI and its impacts and implications for learning and teaching in higher education.

Result: Gained invaluable skills in navigating and using ChatGPT, CoPilot, Google Bard, Claude AI, and Adobe Firefly.

Your Teaching Community August 2023
Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop for developing and reinforcing student-centered teaching and student success.

Result: Reorganized and redeveloped my syllabi and class activities for Spring 2024 classes to fulfill student-oriented learning objectives.

Building Your Academic Brand September 2023
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop to access resources to develop a personalized academic brand.

Result: Redeveloped my professional presence online, including my LinkedIn portfolio and official USF faculty webpage.

Early Career Awards September 2023
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop for searching for opportunities to achieve early career recognition.

Result: Located and prepped application portfolios to adhere to prospective award application requirements.

Teaching On Eggshells October 2023
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Description: Workshop to strategize solution-oriented approaches to teach contested courses.

Result: Strategized solution-oriented plans to continue teaching contested courses in the state of Florida; reformulated pedagogical discourses in topics pertinent to gender and sexuality.

CITI Training April 2021
Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Description: Research and social science investigation training.

Result: Equipped with skills to conduct ethical human subjects based research; successfully conducted and completed human subjects based research for the doctoral dissertation.

CITI Training

August 2015

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Description: Research and social science investigation training.

Result: Equipped with skills to conduct ethical human subjects based research; successfully conducted and completed human subjects based research for the master's thesis.

National Coalition for Building Institute

August 2015

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Description: Diversity and leadership training program for community empowerment

Result: Collaborated with faculty with staff to develop, organize, and advertise diversity, equity, and inclusion workshops for two academic conferences on campus.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

August 2015

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Description: Bystander intervention training for gender violence prevention

Result: Planned, facilitated, and participated in workshops to help undergraduate students, faculty, and staff to recognize indications and long-term effects of intimate partner violence.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Graduate Teaching Assistant Supervisor

Fall 2023 – Present

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Result: Supervise and mentor three graduate student teaching assistants for WST 3015 which resulted in two students developing and teaching their first class, supervising and establishing relationships with undergraduate students, and gaining evaluation experience through coursework grading.

Undergraduate Student Mentor

Fall 2023 - Present

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Result: Mentor undergraduate students which inspired 10 senior students to submit Fall 2023 applications for graduate programs in their areas of expertise.

Search Committee Member

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Result: Served on a search committee to hire an assistant professor of instruction in the department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at USF.

Assistant Professor Representative

Fall 2023

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Result: Advertised the WGSS major to visiting high school students at the CAS Fall Open House which generated completed applications to the department's bachelor's program.

Undergraduate Student Mentor

Fall 2019 – Spring 2023

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Result: Provided professional development and mentorship to undergraduate students throughout their undergraduate careers.

Graduate Student Representative

Spring 2019

Department of Gender Studies

Indiana University – Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Result: Served on a search committee to hire a post-doctoral candidate, Dr. Stephanie Allen, who then was hired an assistant professor in the department of Gender Studies two years later.

SYMPOSIA & CONFERENCES

Brown Bag Presenter

January 2024

“Black Women-Loving Women’s Socio-Sexual Narratives”

Spring 2024 Brown Bag

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Colloquy Presenter

February 2023

“[Black Women-Loving Women’s Socio-Sexual Narratives](#)”

Spring 2023 College of Arts and Sciences Colloquy

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Symposia Presenter

November 2014

“Invisibility of African-American Women”

Second Annual LGBTQ Research Symposium, Purdue University

Supervisor: Dr. Evelyn Blackwood

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Symposia Presenter

July 2011

“Chondrogenic Differentiation of Adipose-Derived Stem Cells”

Project SEED Research Symposium, Simon Cancer Research Center

Supervisor: Dr. Nalini Kulkarni

Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN

Symposium Presenter

July 2010

“Metabolic Studies of Cultured Cells by NMR”

Project SEED Research Symposium, Simon Cancer Research Center

Supervisor: Dr. Bruce D. Ray

Indiana University Purdue University – Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Personal & Professional Development Success Coach January 2022 – August 2022
Bloomington, IN

Result: Mentored and provided life and career training to a junior colleague whom I helped secure a 200% increase in their annual salary.

Chicago PRIDE June 2015
Chicago, IL

Result: Organized and participated in the Chicago “Boystown” pride parade to promote presence of underrepresented, marginalized groups.

Purdue University January 2014 – May 2014
West Lafayette, IN

Result: Organized and participated in grassroots organization to correct socio-political imbalances in the community.

INDY PRIDE June 2013
Indianapolis, IN

Result: Organized and participated in the Indianapolis pride parade to promote presence of underrepresented, marginalized groups.

LA PRIDE June 2012
Los Angeles, CA

Result: Organized and participated in the Los Angeles pride parade to promote presence of underrepresented, marginalized groups.

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

French: Novice Listener, Intermediate Speaker, Intermediate Reading and Writing

Spanish: Novice Listener, Novice Speaker, Novice Reading and Writing

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programs: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe, Kaltura, Qualtrics, video conferencing software