

Maddie O. Kerr (they/them)

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EDUCATION

University of California - Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Ph.D. in Sociology | Aug. 2025 - Current

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

B.A. in Sociology with Honors | Sept. 2020 - June 2025

- *Concentration*: Sociology of Health, Medicine, and Science; *Minor*: Psychology
- *Honors Thesis*: "Evidence, Expertise, and Exploration: Politics of Knowledge in Gender Therapy" (Advisor: Prof. Steven Epstein).
- GPA: 3.99/4.00

PUBLICATIONS

Kerr, M. and Rebecca Ewert. (2025). Constructing the autistic-transgender intersection: A critical discourse analysis. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 47, e70063.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.70063>.

Kerr, M., Davoudpour, S., Phillips, G. II, Beach, L. B., & Felt, D. (2024). Mental health of gender minority older adults in the United States: A systematic review. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000708>

Kerr, M. Invisibilization under the microscope: Experiences of PhD students with chronic illness. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000643>

Rich, A.J., McGorray, E.L., Felt, D., **Kerr, M.**, Baldwin-SoRelle, C., Beach, L., Phillips II, G., & Poteat, T. Sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity measurement in health research: A systematic review and narrative synthesis. *LGBT Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2024.0105>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Budzynski, E. & **Kerr, M.** (2025, June 25). *From curiosity to connection: Supporting the spiritual development of Northwestern Students* [Presentation]. Northwestern University 2025 Student Affairs Assessment Conference, Evanston, IL.

Kerr, M. (2025, May 23). *Evidence, expertise, and exploration: Politics of knowledge in gender therapy* [Poster]. Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Expo, Evanston, IL.
<https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-d7ad-d825>

Kerr, M. (2024, August 9-13). *Constructing the autistic-transgender intersection: A critical discourse analysis* [Roundtable session]. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec.

Budzynski, E. & **Kerr, M.** (2024, June 26). *Spiritual yearning: Understanding the spiritual but not religious student community at Northwestern University* [Presentation]. Northwestern University 2024 Student Affairs Assessment Conference, Evanston, IL.

Kerr, M. (2024, May 23). *Constructing the autistic-transgender intersection: A critical discourse analysis* [Paper session]. Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Expo, Evanston, IL.
<https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-n681-tz28>

Kerr, M. (2024, April 11-14). *“Not built for people like us”: Experiences of PhD students with chronic illness* [Paper session]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

Kerr, M. (2023, May 17-18). *‘That’s me on the iPad!’: Online individual music instruction for students with disabilities in a community music program.* [Poster]. Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Expo, Evanston, IL. <https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-jy43-2950>

Kerr, M., Davoudpour, S., Phillips, G., Beach, L., & Felt, D. (2022, July 28-30). *The mental health of older gender minorities: A systematic review of the literature* [Poster presentation]. National LGBTQ Health Conference 2022, Chicago, IL.

PUBLIC WRITING

Kerr, M. (2024, September 30). Climate matters for the autistic community. Policy Impact Project. A.J. Drexel Autism Institute. [Blog]. <https://policyimpactproject.org/climate-matters-for-autistic-community/>

Kerr, M. (2024, July 31). Busting myths about the intersection of autism and transgender identity. Policy Impact Project. A.J. Drexel Autism Institute. [Blog].
<https://policyimpactproject.org/busting-myths-about-the-intersection-of-autism-and-trans-identity/>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kerr, M. Evidence, expertise, and exploration: Politics of knowledge in gender therapy. [manuscript under preparation].

Davoudpour, S., **Kerr, M.,** & Phillips, G. Alcohol and HIV risk behaviors in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2005-2021: A systematic review. [manuscript submitted to *Journal of Research on Adolescence*].

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Impact Institute (formerly Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Well-being), Northwestern University

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Profs. Gregory Phillips II and Shahin Davoudpour | Jan. 2022 - June 2025

- Systematically examined conceptualizations of risk in youth behavioral health research.
- Designed, conducted, and published a systematic review to investigate mental health disparities among transgender older adults and identify critical new research directions.
- Screened literature, extracted data, and contributed manuscript feedback to support a scoping review of sexual orientation and gender identity measurement in health research.

Office of Religious and Spiritual Life/Health and Wellness Promotion, Northwestern University
Assessment Assistant | Supervisor: Eric Budzynski | Dec. 2023 - June 2025

- Developed interview protocol and surveys, conducted semi-structured interviews, and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data to inform spiritual wellness programming.
- Iteratively developed and co-led programming based on assessment results.

Policy and Analytics Center, AJ Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University

Research Assistant | June 2024 - Sept. 2024

- Reviewed literature to ground study of mental health disparities among LGBTQ+ autistic adults.
- Recruited, enrolled, and interviewed participants and led thematic analysis to identify barriers to community participation among autistic adults.
- Translated scholarly research into accessible materials with implications for policymakers, service providers, and autistic advocates.

Center for the Study of Education and the Musical Experience, Northwestern University

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Sarah Bartolome | June 2022 - Dec. 2023

- Conducted qualitative interviews, administered psychological surveys, and managed data collection technologies to support a study of musical interventions for children's wellbeing.
- Composed field notes and thematically analysed interview and video data to assist an ethnographic study of disability-centered music education.

Emerging Scholars Program, Office of Undergraduate Research, Northwestern University

Research Cohort Participant | Advisor: Prof. Sarah Bartolome | June 2022 - Sept. 2023

- Engaged in a selective research mentorship and professional development program.
- Explored the lived experiences of 16 PhD students with chronic illness through qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews, yielding practical implications for addressing ableism in academia.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Health Advisory Board, Northwestern University

Student Representative/Co-Lead | May. 2024 - June 2025

- Coordinated initiatives between student advocates and campus health service leadership to improve student experiences accessing health services.

Sociology Collective, Northwestern University

Co-Founder/Co-President | April 2024 - June 2025

- Co-founded and co-led a new student organisation that promotes barrier-free engagement with sociology through discussion-based events.

Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

Undergraduate Sociology Ambassador | Jan. 2024 - June 2025

- Organized student-facing department programming as a representative of undergraduates' interests and served as an ambassador for the department at outreach events.

Active Minds, Northwestern University

Wellness Alliance Committee Chair, Sept. 2024 - June 2025 | *President*, Sept. 2022 - June 2024 |

Committee Member, Sept. 2021 - June 2022

- Led collaborations between student groups, administrators, and community partners to promote student mental well-being through community-building and education events.

Associated Student Government, Northwestern University

Health and Wellness Committee | Jan. 2022 - June 2025

- Worked with university administration to improve the accessibility and quality of health-related policies and resources.

GRANTS AND HONORS

2025	Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California - Berkeley.
2020-2025	Dean's List (all quarters), Northwestern University.
2025	Departmental Honors in Sociology, Northwestern University.
2025	Brentano Prize for Best 3rd or 4th Year Philosophy Paper, Northwestern University.
2024	Summer Internship Grant Program, Northwestern University.
2024	Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, Northwestern University.
2024	Best Oral Presentation - Undergraduate Research Expo, Northwestern University.
2024	Fletcher Award for Undergraduate Research Grant Finalist, Northwestern University.
2023-2025	Conference Travel Grants (x3), Northwestern University.
2023	Academic Year Undergraduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
2022-2023	Emerging Scholars Program, Northwestern University.
2022	Fletcher Award for Undergraduate Research Assistants, Northwestern University.
2022	Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, Northwestern University.

MEMBERSHIPS

2023 - Current American Sociological Association
2024 - Current American Psychological Association

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Responsible Conduct of Research Training, *All of Us* Program, National Institutes of Health | June 2024
Conflicts of Interest Certification, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) | June 2024
Human Subjects Research Certification, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) | June 2022