# KIMIA LAVASANI

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Klavasan@asu.edu**


## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy in Law and Psychology (Expected Spring 2028)**
**+Social Science Research and Statistical Methods (Certificate)**
Arizona State University
Current GPA: 4.0
Committee: Dr. Stacia Stolzenberg (Chair), Dr. Karey O'Hara, and Dr. Melanie Fessinger

**Master of Science in Forensic Psychology (2025)**
California State University, Los Angeles
Summa Cum Laude
Mentor: Dr. Alma Olaguez

**Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (2023)**
California State University, Los Angeles
Summa Cum Laude

**Associate in Arts in Psychology (2021)**
Saddleback Community College, Mission Viejo, CA
Magna Cum Laude

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Doctoral Research Assistant (Fall 2025 – Spring 2028)**
Children in the Law Lab | Directed by Dr. Stacia Stolzenberg
Arizona State University

Leading multiple projects and a team of research assistants, working directly with children, families, mock jurors, attorneys, and child investigators (local, state, and federal), by conducting 1-on-1 interviews, surveys, and online sessions.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Stolzenberg, S. (2025, October 15). *Polysemous Implicatures: Children's Understanding and Adult's Assessments of Indirect Questioning.* Retrieved from https://osf.io/49q5t/overview

**Study 1: Adults' Assessments of Children During Courtroom Interactions**
**Study 2: Eliciting Accurate Information from Children**

**Research Collaborator (2025 – Present)**
EVOCAVI LLC | Founded & Directed by Detective Matt Jones (ret.)

Assisting with the design, recruitment, analyses, and writeup of a multi-stage project aimed at (1) examining evidence disclosure practices with youth across local, state, and federal investigators, (2) collaborating with community partners to discover how to standardize practices and create consistent protocols, and (3) offer training on research-informed best practices for evidence disclosure.

**Lavasani, K.**, Sullivan, C., & Stolzenberg, S. (2026, May 12). *Evidence Disclosure in Child Interviews*. Retrieved from osf.io/6mqty

**Graduate Research Assistant (Summer 2024 – Present)**

Adolescent and Childhood Experience Lab | Directed by Dr. Jodi Quas
University of California, Irvine

**Project**: Coded and analyzed the content of child sex trafficking and child sex abuse victims' question and answer turns from court transcripts.

**Project**: Developed a modified coding scheme to assess types of evidence presented by prosecuting and defense attorneys in closing arguments of California appellate court cases involving youth victims of sex abuse.

**Project**: Designed a modification study to further examine types of evidence in a wider variety of cases (convictions, acquittals, mistrials) while accounting for the penal codes charged.

**Project**: Developed a modified coding scheme to evaluate victim disclosure and history characterization in attorney's narrative framing strategies during closing arguments. Trained two undergraduate research assistants for reliability coding, and currently serving as the graduate mentor on a poster for this project.

**Research Fellow (January 2026 – Present)**
Storying Just Futures | Directed by Dr. Joni Adamson
Arizona State University

Contributing to the development of a culture-integrated futures scenario workshop for UNESCO Global South countries, by supporting IRB protocol development, synthesizing project materials into research procedures, co-creating and refining workshop design and evaluation language, and helping translate the project's care-centered, community-based framework into implementation-ready materials. I am additionally leading the Iran site interviews with individuals who have experience with similar workshops after the war in Iran about 50 years ago, to provide positive impact rationale for our current workshop proposal.

**Summer Research Fellow (June – August 2025)**
Child Narratives Lab | Directed by Dr. Zoe Klemfuss
University of California, Irvine

Contributing to the development of a comprehensive recruitment list of law firms and organizations, and designing study materials to examine attorneys' perceptions of effective versus ineffective questions, including perceived impacts on child witness reports and overall case outcomes, for attorneys with experience questioning children in court.

**Lavasani, K.**, Ashizawa, A., Miller, Q. C., Stolzenberg, S., & Klemfuss, J. Z. (2025, December 22). *Attorneys' Evaluations and Experiences*. Retrieved from osf.io/5gfjy

**Lead Facilitator & Organizer for the U.S. Groups (Nov 2024 – April 2025)**
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) | Funded by Google **[$9,700]**

**Project**: Managed the recruitment, material preparation, allocation of funds, facilitation, and transcription of two groups of children (age range of 10-13) and adolescents (age range of 14-17) to better understand their knowledge of their rights and best interests in online/digital spaces.

Final Project Report

**Lab Manager & Graduate Research Assistant (Fall 2022 – Spring 2025)**
Legal Attitudes Lab | Directed by Dr. Alma Olaguez
California State University, Los Angeles

**Thesis**: Designed and developed a study examining emotions and emotion regulation instructions in civil cases. Conducted in-person and online data collection. Developed a coding scheme to assess qualitative responses.

**Study 1:** OSF Registration: https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/R4Q37

**Study 2:** In the data collection stage (as of May of 2026).

**Project**: Assisted with the development of a novel qualitative coding scheme to examine jurors' qualitative decision justifications in a civil case involving animal injuries.

**Research Assistant (Spring 2024)**
Forensic Psychology Eyewitness Memory Lab | Directed by Dr. Mitchell Eisen
California State University, Los Angeles

**Project**: Assisted with in-person data collection for a field study examining the rule-out procedure in eyewitness identifications.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)**
Legal Attitudes Lab | Directed by Dr. Alma Olaguez
California State University, Los Angeles

**Project**: Coded jurors' qualitative verdict justifications in child sex abuse cases.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (Manuscript in Preparation) *The Impact of Emotions in a Personal Injury Victim Testimony on Liability Verdicts, Compensatory Damages, and Reasoning*. Department of Psychology, California State University, Los Angeles.

Fessinger, M. B., **Lavasani, K.**, & Miller, Q. C. (Manuscript in Preparation) *False Confessions, Recantations, and Wrongful Convictions in Child Sex Abuse Cases*. School of Interdisciplinary Forensics, Arizona State University.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Quas, J. A. (Manuscript in Preparation) *Variations in the Topic Under Discussion, Type of Questioning, and Victims Responsiveness in Commercial Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Criminal Trials*. Department of Psychology, University of California, Irvine.

**Lavasani, K.**, Pignataro, C. L., Stolzenberg, S. N. & Quas, J. A. (Manuscript in Preparation) *Variations in attorneys' evidence presentation in closing arguments of sex abuse and exploitation cases involving youth*. Department of Psychology, University of California, Irvine.

Fulton, L. M., Miller, Q., Olaguez, A. P., **Lavasani, K**, & Klemfuss, J. Z. (Under Revision) *Jury deliberation in child sexual abuse cases: The role of emotion suppression instructions.*

## SYMPOSIUMS

**Understanding Youth Experiences in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking**

**Lavasani, K.**, Dianiska, R. E., Frolova, E., & Quas, J. A. (March, 2026) *Variations in the Topic Under Discussion, Type of Questioning, and Victims Responsiveness in Commercial Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Criminal Trials*. American Psychology-Law Society, Reno, NV.

**Broader Issues in Processing & Prosecuting Cases of Child Maltreatment**

**Lavasani, K.**, Frolova, E., Lyon, T. D., & Quas, J. A. (March, 2025) *Evidence in Closing Arguments of Appellate Court Cases*. Annual Meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (May, 2024) *Jury Emotion Regulation Instructions: Where Are They Most and Least Effective?* Annual CSU-Wide Grad Slam Competition, CSU Long Beach.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (April, 2024) *Unraveling the Impact of Emotions and Instructions on Verdicts, Award Amounts, and Justifications in a Simulated Civil Case*. Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (March, 2024) *Striving for Fairness: Emotions in Civil Litigation Cases*. Annual Cal State LA Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (April, 2023) *Exploring Jurors' Qualitative Verdict Justifications Based on Jury Instructions*. Annual California State University Systemwide Student Research Competition, San Diego State University.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (March, 2023) *Exploring Jurors' Qualitative Verdict Justifications Based on Jury Instructions*. Annual Cal State LA Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

*Graduate Mentor Role

*Pignataro, C. L., **Lavasani, K.**, Kuchera, O., Quas, J. A. (Accepted for March, 2026) *Victim Disclosure and Characterization in Attorneys' Closing Arguments Across Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking Trials*. American Psychology-Law Society, Reno, NV.

**Lavasani, K.**, Miller, Q. C., & Klemfuss, J. Z. (August, 2025) *Attorney Evaluations of In-Group vs. Out-Group Questioning Strategies for Child Witnesses*. UCI Summer Research Symposium, Irvine, CA.

*Ramirez, A. L., **Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A.P. (May, 2025) *He Should Get Paid for His Injuries: A Qualitative Analysis of Civil Cases*. Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Las Vegas, NV.

**Lavasani, K.**, Olaguez, A. P. (September, 2024) *Emotion Regulation Instructions in a Personal Injury Accident Case with a Child Victim*. Annual MORE Programs Research Retreat, UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, CA.

**Lavasani, K.**, Dianiska, R. E., & Quas, J. A. (August, 2024) *Questioning in Minor Sex Trafficking Versus Sex Abuse Trials*. UCI Summer Research Symposium, Irvine, CA.

*Eworonsky, S., Montes, C., **Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (May, 2024) *Emotion Regulation Instructions in a Motorcycle Accident Case*. UCLA Psi Chi Research Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

*Montes, C., Valadez-Lopez, M., **Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (April, 2024) *Jurors' Reasonings Based on Emotion Regulation Instructions in a Simulated Child Sexual Abuse Case*. Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (February, 2024) *Incorporating Emotion Regulation Instructions to Mitigate Bias in Juror Decision-Making*. Annual Meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

**Lavasani, K.**, & Olaguez, A. P. (September, 2023) *Exploring Jurors' Liability and Award Decisions in Civil Cases*. Annual MORE Programs Research Retreat, UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, CA.

**Lavasani, K.**, Catalan, J. M., Almanza, G. R., & Olaguez, A. P. (April, 2023) *I Believe Her: Exploring Jurors' Qualitative Verdict Justifications*. Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Riverside, CA.

## HONORS & AWARDS

**Fellowships**

Graduate College Peer Mentorship Program (2026 – 2027) **[$2,000]**
Arizona State University
The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (2026 – 2028) **[$13,000]**
CSU System
Storying Just Futures Fellowship (2026 – 2027) **[$200]**
UNESCO Bridges
California Pre-Doctoral Program/Sally Casanova (2024 – 2025) **[$5,000]**
CSU System
Bridge to the Doctorate (2023 – 2025) **[$50,288]**
Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Program
NIH Grant Number: 5T32GM146700-02
NIH Grant Number: 5T32GM146700-03
Graduate Equity Fellowship (2024 – 2025) **[$2,000]**
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2024) **[$4,000]**
University of California, Irvine

**Scholarships & Grants**

American Psychology-Law Society Grants-in-Aid for Graduate Students (2026) **[$2,000]**
Jumpstart Research Grant (2026) **[$750]**
Institute for Social Science Research Seed Grant (2025) **[$4,900]**
Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Program Research & Travel Grant (2025) **[$4,000]**
California Pre-Doctoral Program Summer Research Experience Award (2025) **[$12,250]**
William Hobson and Evelyn Trou Scholarship Award (2024) **[$4,250]**
Conference Travel Grant (2024) **[$400]**
Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Program Research & Travel Grant (2024) **[$4,000]**
AP-LS Student Committee Travel Grant (2024) **[$700]**
Conference Travel Grant (2024) **[$100]**
William Hobson and Evelyn Trou Scholarship Award (2023) **[$3,000]**
Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Grant (2023) **[$250]**

**Presentation Awards**

1st Place in Behavioral, Social Sciences, and Public Administration I (2023) **[$500]**
The Annual CSU Systemwide Student Research Competition

Outstanding Oral Presentation in Behavioral and Social Sciences I (2023)
The Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarships, & Creative Activities

California State University, Los Angeles Delegate (2023)
The Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarships, & Creative Activities

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Lecturer & Instructor of Record**

Arizona State University
PSY 211: The Criminal Mind (Summer 2026)
PSY 468: Psychology and Law (Summer 2026)

**Teaching Assistant**

Arizona State University
PSY 544: Advanced Psychology of Criminal Investigations (Fall 2025–Spring 2026)
PSY 547: Advanced Correctional Psychology (Fall 2025)
PSY 546: Advanced Forensic Psychology (Spring 2026)
California State University, Los Angeles
PSY 4900: Eyewitness Memory (Fall 2023)
PSY 3100: Abnormal Psychology (Spring 2024)

**Guest Lecture**
California State University, Los Angeles
Autobiographical Memory | PSY 4900: Eyewitness Memory (Fall 2023)

**Co-Creator, Coordinator, & Graduate Mentor (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)**
Cal State LA's Psi Chi Mentorship Program

**Tutor (2023 – 2024)**
Frog Tutoring, Remote
Topics: Farsi, Statistics, College Writing (APA Style Only)
Blog: "5 Easy Ways for Your Personal Statement to Stand Out in a University Application"

## MENTORING EXPERIENCE

**Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member**
Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University
How Children Answer: Developmental Patterns in Response Timing, Engagement, and Verbal Expression (2026)

**Graduate College Peer Mentor (Spring 2026)**
School of Interdisciplinary Forensics, Arizona State University

**Guest Lecture**
California State University, Los Angeles
Autobiographical Memory | PSY 4900: Eyewitness Memory (Fall 2023)

**Co-Creator, Coordinator, & Graduate Mentor (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)**
Cal State LA's Psi Chi Mentorship Program

**Tutor (2023 – 2024)**
Frog Tutoring, Remote
Topics: Farsi, Statistics, College Writing (APA Style Only)
Blog: "5 Easy Ways for Your Personal Statement to Stand Out in a University Application"

## PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

**Trial Consultant Intern (Fall 2022 – Spring 2025)**
Decision Analysis Litigation Strategy, Inc. | Mentor: Dr. Emily Shaw

**Eyewitness Expert Testimony Assistant on a Case (October 2023)**
The New England Innocence Project | Advisor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

**Practicum Student (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)**
Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center | Advisor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

## PANELS

**Graduate Student Talk (February 2026)**
ASU's Psychology Engagement Team

**How to Get Into a PhD Program (June 2025)**
Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Programs

**Pursuing Graduate Study (October 2024)**
California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**Summer PhD Prep Workshop Series (Summer 2026)**
Hosting four 1-2 hour long virtual workshops for future PhD applicants, facilitating small groups, and providing live feedback on hands-on activities related to (1) Programs, Mentors, and Fit, (2) CV, (3) Statements, and (4) Networking.

**Graduate Teaching & Mentorship Reviewer (Spring 2026)**
Graduate Student Government, Arizona State University
Conducted in-person classroom evaluations.

**Research and Travel Grant Reviewer (Fall 2025 – Present)**
Graduate Student Government, Arizona State University

**Conference Reviewer (AP-LS 2023 – Present)**
American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41)

**Vice President & Co-Creator (Spring 2023 – Spring 2024)**
Cal State LA Wrongful Conviction Club | Advisor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

**Experimental Liaison (2023 – 2024)**
American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41)
**Student Presentations Reviewer (AP-LS 2024)**

**Campus Ambassador (2023 – 2024)**
American Psychological Association

**President (Fall 2023)**
Psi Chi International Honor Society, Cal State LA Chapter

**Student Advisory Committee Member (September 2023)**
Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Programs Research Retreat

**Student Vice President & Social Media Ambassador (Fall 2023)**
Phi Kappa Phi, Cal State LA Chapter

**Treasurer (Spring 2023)**

Psi Chi International Honor Society, Cal State LA Chapter

**Academic Advisement Subcommittee Member (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)**
Associated Students Incorporated (ASI), Cal State LA

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychology-Law Society (APA Division 41) (2022 – Present)
American Psychological Association (2022 – Present)
The International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi) (2022 – Present)
Society for Judgement and Decision Making (2024 – 2025)
Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (2023 – 2024)
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2023 – 2024)

## LANGUAGES

**English and Farsi** (Speaking/Reading/Writing)