

KIMIA LAVASANI
CURRICULUM VITAE

klavasan@asu.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Law and Psychology (Expected 2029)

Arizona State University

Mentor: Dr. Stacia Stolzenberg

Master of Science in Forensic Psychology (Spring 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, Lake Forest

Magna Cum Laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Research Assistant (Fall 2025 – Spring 2029)

Children in the Law Lab | Directed by Dr. Stacia Stolzenberg

Arizona State University

Project (Fall 2025): Investigating how child witnesses interpret complex legal questioning (specifically polysemous implicatures) and how their responses impact adult perceptions of their credibility.

Summer Research Fellow (June – August 2025)

Child Narratives Lab | Directed by Dr. Zoe Klemfuss

University of California, Irvine

Project: 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 questioning, including perceived impacts on child witness reports and overall case outcomes, for attorneys with experience questioning children in court.

Project Manager & Main Group Facilitator (Nov 2024 – April 2025)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) | Funded by Google

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.

Graduate Research Assistant & Lab Manager (Fall 2022 – Present)

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 IRB stage.

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

Project: Designing a study to assess the accuracy and functionality of an AI software (i.e., ATLAS.ti) in detecting patterns in data, creating a coding scheme, and coding entire jury deliberation transcripts.

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.

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.

PUBLICATION

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.*

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- 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.
- 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

- 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

Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (**Under Review**)

Sally Casanova (2024 – 2025) [**\$5,000**]

California Pre-Doctoral Program

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

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 & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecture

California State University, Los Angeles

Autobiographical Memory | PSY 4900: Eyewitness Memory (Fall 2024)

Co-Creator, Coordinator, & Graduate Mentor (2023 – 2024)

Cal State LA's Psi Chi Mentorship Program

Teaching Assistant

California State University, Los Angeles

PSY 4900: Eyewitness Memory (Fall 2023)

PSY 3100: Abnormal Psychology (Spring 2024)

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 – Present)

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Panelist (June 2025)

How to Get Into a PhD Program

Cal State Los Angeles' MORE Programs

Panelist (October 2024)

California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education

Vice President & Co-Creator (Spring 2023 – Spring 2024)

Cal State LA Wrongful Conviction Club | Advisor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

Conference Reviewer (AP-LS 2023 – AP-LS 2025)

American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41)

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

Society for Judgement and Decision Making (2024 – Present)

The International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi) (2022 – Present)

American Psychology-Law Society (APA Division 41) (2022 – Present)

American Psychological Association (2022 – Present)

Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (2023 – 2024)

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2023 – 2024)

LANGUAGES

Farsi (Speaking/Reading/Writing)