

VIKTORYIA A. KALESNIKAVA

University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Research Center for Group Dynamics
University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology
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Academic Appointments

- Research Investigator, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Research Center for Group Dynamics, 2023-present
- Research Area Specialist Lead, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, “Aging, Transitions over the Lifespan, and Suicide Study,” 2022-present

Education and Training

University of Michigan School of Public Health, Epidemiology - [Doctor of Philosophy, Epidemiologic Sciences, 2022]

- Dissertation Chronic Psychosocial Stress and Cardiometabolic Health: Variations in Measurement and Structural Determinants
- Advisor: Briana Mezuk Ratliff, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University – Master of Public Health, Epidemiology, 2017

- Thesis: Mixed-methods Approach to Late-life Suicide: National Death Reporting System
- Advisor: Briana Mezuk Ratliff, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University – Master of Social Work, Clinical Track, 2017

University of Virginia, Master of Arts, Anthropology, 2010

- Thesis: Coming of Age in SOS Children’s Village: Governmentality, Audit, and Orphan Care in Contemporary Russia
- Advisor: Geroge Mentore, PhD

Cabrini University, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude, 2006

- Thesis: : Reading Karl Marx through the Prism of Humanity-Concept
- Advisor: Sharon Schwarze, PhD

European Humanities University, Minsk, Belarus, Undergraduate Training in Philosophy and Cultural Studies, 2001-2004

- Thesis: Dialogue Between Michael Bakhtin and Fyodor Dostoevsky: The Men from the Underground

- Advisor: Irina M. Kletskova, PhD

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Jiao Yu, Weidi Qin, Theresa Osypuk, **Kalesnikava, V.A.** Under Review. Racial Differences in the Longitudinal Association Between Perceived Neighborhood Disorder and Allostatic Load. *The Gerontologist*.

Kalesnikava, V.A., Dent, Kallisse; Dang, Linh; Bondarenko, Irina; Lane, Annalise; Elliott, Michael; Sneed, Rodlescia; Mezuk, Briana; Vangeloff, Kristen. Under Review. Navigating Late-Life Parental Care Transitions: Implications for Adult Children's Psychosocial Well-Being. *The Gerontologist*.

Kalesnikava, V.A., Kahsay, E., Zhong, C., Spring, E., Bagge, C., Burgard, S., Mezuk, B & Clarke, P. 2025. Area Socioeconomic Inequality and Suicide Mortality: Contrasting Common Measures using National Violent Death Reporting System and Linked Administrative Data. *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Ananthasubramaniam A, Thulin EJ, **Kalesnikava VA**, Falde S, Kertawidjaja J, Johns L, Rodríguez-Putnam A, Spring E, Zivin K, Mezuk B. 2025.Characterizing Online Activities Contributing to Suicide Mortality among Youth. arXiv preprint arXiv:2507.16185.

Khosrovaneh, K., **Kalesnikava, V.A.**, Mezuk, B. 2025. Diabetes Beliefs, Perceived Risk, and Engagement in Preventive Behaviors among Adults at Elevated Risk of Diabetes. *BMJ Open*.

Mezuk, B, **Kalesnikava, V.A.**, Ananthasubramaniam, A., Lane, A., Rodríguez-Putnam, A., Johns, L. J., Bagge, C., Burgard, S. & Zivin, K. 2024. Psychosocial and Pandemic-Related Circumstances of Suicide Deaths in 2020: Evidence from the National Violent Death Reporting System. *PloS One*.

Zivin, K., Zhong, C., Rodríguez-Putnam, A., Spring, E., Cai, Q., Miller, A., Johns, L. J., **Kalesnikava, V.A.**, Courant, A. & Mezuk, B. 2024. Suicide Mortality during the Perinatal Period. *The JAMA Network Open*.

Redding, A., **Kalesnikava V.A.**, Bergmans, R.S., Redding, S., Dent, K., Mezuk B. 2024. Medically Unexplained Pain and Suicidal Ideation among U.S. Adults. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

Qin, W., **Kalesnikava, V.A.**, Dang, L., Sneed, R., Messina, R., Rucci, P., & Mezuk, B. 2024. Coordinated Care Experiences Among Middle-Aged and Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions: Characteristics, Correlates, and Consequences for Health and Healthcare Utilization. *The Gerontologist*.

Kalesnikava, V.A., Clarke, P.J., Mukherjee, B., Sen, S. & Mezuk, B. 2022. Psychosocial Stress and Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis Stress Reactivity: Variations by Race and Socioeconomic Status Among Adults at Risk of Diabetes. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 84(7), pp.813-821.

Eastman M, **Kalesnikava, V.A.,** Mezuk B. 2022. Experiences of care coordination among older adults in the United States: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. *Patient Education & Counseling*, 105(7), pp.2429-2435.

Mezuk, B., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Spears, E., Kirk, K., Rafferty, J. & del Toro, J., C. 2022. Self-regulatory coping behaviors and stress reactivity: Exploring the Environmental Affordances Model of Health Disparities. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 34(3), pp.307-319.

Ko, M. T., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Jurgens, D., & Mezuk, B. 2021. A data science approach to estimating the frequency of driving cessation associated suicide in the U.S.: Evidence from the National Violent Death Reporting System. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 16 (9), 689967.

Mezuk, B., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Smirnova, J., Ko, T., M., & Collins, C. 2021. Not discussed: Inequalities in narrative text data for suicide deaths in the National Violent Death Reporting System. *PloS One*, 16(7), e0254417.

Jain, B., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Ibrahim, J. E., & Mezuk, B. 2021. Places of living and places of dying: the case for preventing suicide in residential long-term care. *Ageing & Society*, 41(9), pp.1945-1960.

Mezuk, B., Lexima, E., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Fleming, J., Montgomery, J., Tuktur, W., Winston, J., Perrin, P. B., Green, T., & Wheeler, D.C. 2020. Stress reactivity as a contributor to racial and socioeconomic disparities: rationale and baseline results from the Richmond Stress and Sugar Study. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 82(6), pp.658-668.

Mezuk, B., Ko, T., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** and Jurgens, D. 2019. "Suicide among older adults living in or transitioning to residential long-term care: 2003 - 2015." *The JAMA Network Open*, 2(6), e195627.

Dong, L., **Kalesnikava, V. A.,** Gonzalez, R., and Mezuk, B. 2019. "Beyond depression: Estimating suicidal ideation in mid- and late-life in the Health and Retirement Study." *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 27(12), pp.1399-1410.

Kalesnikava, V. A., Ekey, G. P., Ko, T., Shackelford, D.T., and Mezuk, B. 2019. "Grit, growth mindset and participation in competitive policy debate." *The Educational Research and Review*, 14(10), pp.358-37.

Kalesnikava, V. A., 2017. “Capacity-building as transgression: a case of SOS Children’s Villages and State Supportive Housing. In “Hope and Insufficiency: Capacity Building in Ethnographic Comparison.” *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, 35(1), pp.99-113.

Research Grants

Active or Pending

- NIH/NIA LRP, 08/25 – 08/27. “Exploring Contextual Factors of Suicide Risk in Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers: A Study of Suicide Decedents and Living Cohorts with a Focus on Diverse Populations.”
Status: Awarded

The U-M Firearm Injury Prevention Pilot, 01/25 – 12/26. “Understanding contextual factors of suicide among the Middle Eastern and North African communities in the United States.”
Role: Principal Investigator

Status: Awarded
- NIH/NCATS. The MICHR Clinical & Translational Science Pilot. 03/25 – 03/26. “Building Capacity for the Unexpected: Addressing Psychosocial Adverse Events in Clinical and Behavioral Research.”
Role: Principal Investigator
Status: Awarded
- R01AG087121 NIH/NIA. 02/25 – 01/30. “ADRD Risk and Resilience among Black Americans: A 20 Year Longitudinal Study.”
MPI: Mezuk, B & Antonucci, T.
Role: Co-Investigator
Status: Awarded
- R01AG082856 NIH/NIA. 08/23 – 07/29. “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Care and Challenges in Insurance Plan Choices among Older People with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia: A Mixed Methods Study of Medicare Options”
PI: Elham Mahmoudi
Role: Co-Investigator
Status: Awarded
- R01MH128198 NIH/NIMH. 02/22 – 11/26. “Aging, Major Life Transitions, and Suicide Risk (ATLAS)”
MPI: Mezuk, B & Zivin, K
Role: Research Scientist/Project Lead
Status: Awarded

Past

- P30AG059300 NIH/NIA. Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer’s Disease. 07/24 – 06/25. “Examining the impact of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias on mental health and suicide risk of older adults and their families.”
Role: Principal Investigator/ RCMAR Research Scientist

Awards & Honors

- **Rackham Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award, 2021**
Assists graduate students with interest payments on unsubsidized educational loans; award is based on financial need and academic merit.
- **Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2017-2022**
Provides full tuition, healthcare & stipend to graduate students from underserved backgrounds with outstanding academic qualifications
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- **Charles C. Clayton Award, 2017**
Recognizes outstanding rising 2nd year or beyond graduate students in School of Medicine advanced degree programs
School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- **Jessie Hibbs/Marion Waller Scholarship, 2017**
Awarded to graduate students in recognition of outstanding academic achievement
School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- **Jessie Hibbs/Marion Waller Scholarship, 2016**
Awarded to graduate students in recognition of outstanding academic achievement
School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- **Phi Kappa Phi Award, 2015**
Recognizes Outstanding Scholarly Achievements
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- **Clay Graduate Fellow of the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, 2013-2014**
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- **Award for Best Graduate Paper, 2011**
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- **University Honor's Scholar, 2006**
Cabrini University, Radnor, PA
- **Phi Sigma Tau Honor Philosophy Society, 2005**
Cabrini University, Radnor, PA
- **The Council of Independent Colleges Tuition Exchange Program, 2004-2006**
Full tuition to international undergraduate students
Cabrini University, Radnor, PA
- **President's Merit Scholarship, 2002-2004**
Full tuition & stipend to students with outstanding academic qualifications

Professional Experience and Training

- NIH K99/R00 Self-paced Boot Camp, 2025
- MICHR NIH Grant Mock Study Section, K Grant Reviewer, 2024
- MICHR K Writing Workshop, 2024
 - 3-part workshop
 - Summer Writing Group
- ICPSR-MIDAS Social Data Science Summer Academy, 5-day workshop & training, 2024
- Summer Session in Epidemiology, Causal Mediation (Linda Valeri); Causal Methods & Sensitivity Analysis (Onyebuchi Arah), 2018-2019
- ICPSR Summer Program, 2018
 - Empirical Modeling of Social Science Theory; Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences (I-II)
 - Responsive Survey Design: 5-course workshop (Instructors: Wagner, West, Peytchev, Schouten, Shlomo, Guyer, Murphy, Kruger-Ndiay)
- Research Assistant, Virginia Commonwealth University, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, Group for Research on the Epidemiology of Mobility, Aging and Psychiatry (GREMAP), 2015-2017
 - The Richmond Stress and Sugar Study (RSASS), 2016-2017
 - Assisting with development and refinement of study protocol
 - Training interns on study protocol
 - Interviewing participants using a 60-minute structured personal interview
 - Conducting clinical examination including collection of blood samples in the field
 - Mood and Immune Regulation in Twins Study (MIRT), 2016
 - Assisting with participants' correspondence
 - Interviewing participants using a 120-minute structured personal interview
 - YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program and Community Engagement, 2016-2017
 - Assisting with conducting focus groups
 - Assisting with qualitative analysis and generating stakeholder reports
 - Conducting structured interviews
- Research Assistant, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA, 2012-2014
 - Virginia African American Historic Sites Database
 - Assisting with researching, and cataloguing digital archive of African American Historic Sites

- Anti-Obeah Laws of the Anglophone Caribbean
 - Assisting with researching, and cataloguing newspaper articles and legal resources
- Production Editor, American Anthropological Association, *Anthropology and Humanism*, the journal of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology (SHA), 2011-2015
 - Overseeing and managing the submission and double-blind peer-review process
 - Providing review summaries, feedback, and recommendations for authors
 - Coordinating and planning production of journal issues

Selected Conference Presentations and Talks

“When I do feel confident and secure, I feel more like my old self”: Patient Perspectives and Priorities in Diabetes Management.” *The PsychoSocial Aspects of Diabetes (PSAD) Annual Meeting*. (Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania). 2025

“Suicide Risk and Mortality Among Persons with Dementia (PWD) and Their Relatives: Evidence from Population Mortality Registry.” *Researchers In Aging: Support and Enrichment RCMAR Virtual Meeting*. 2025

“Late-Life Care Transitions: Mental Health Impacts on Adult Children and Suicide Risk in Families”. Invited Talk. *The University of Michigan Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine*. 2025

“Parental Transition to Long-Term Care: Implications for Psychological Well-Being of Adult Children.” *The Gerontological Society of America* (Tampa, FL) 2023

“Area-level Income Polarization and Cumulative Incidence of Suicide and Deaths from Undetermined Intent.” *The National Violent Death Reporting System Conference* (Milwaukee, WI) 2023

“Which contextual features predict physiological stress reactivity in midlife to late life?” Oral presentation. *The Gerontological Society of America*. (Virtual). 2021

“Stress once, measure twice: evidence from the Richmond Stress and Sugar Study.” Poster presentation. *Annual Meeting, American Psychosomatic Medicine*. (Long Beach, CA). 2020

“Stress exposure and stress-reactivity in the context of diabetes risk: Baseline results from the Richmond Stress and Sugar Study.” Poster presentation. *Annual Meeting, American Psychosomatic Medicine*. (Vancouver, BC) 2019

“Perceptions of care coordination among older adults: Results from the Health and Retirement Study.” Poster presentation. *The Gerontological Society of America* (Boston, MA) 2018

“Applying Qualitative Methods to “Big Data”: Investigating Late-Life of Suicide.” Poster presentation. *International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) World Congress* (San Francisco, CA) 2017

“Capacity building as transgression: a case of SOS Children’s Villages and State Supportive Housing.” *Wenner-Gren Workshop “Hope and Insufficiency: Capacity Building in Ethnographic Compassion.”* Oral presentation. IT University of Copenhagen (Copenhagen, Denmark, 2015 May 20-22) 2015

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

- Principles of Epidemiology for Public Health, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, Winter 2020

Tutor

- Epidemiologic Methods, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, 2019-2020

Lecturer

- Anthropology of Ethics and Well-Being, University of Virginia, Department of Anthropology. Designed a new summer course, developed the syllabus and lecture materials. Summer 2011

Teaching Assistant and Grader

- Mixed-level Courses: Introduction to Anthropology; Transformations in Everyday Life in America; Language and Culture, Language and Culture in the Middle East; Anthropology of God; Medical Anthropology; Anthropology of Internet. University of Virginia, Department of Anthropology, 2008-2012

Internship and Clinical Experience

Clinical Social Work Intern (21 hours per week), 08/16-05/17

Intensive Care Unit: Surgery, Burn, Trauma and Stepdown Unit

University of Virginia Medical Center

Care coordination and continuum of care; Community and hospital referrals; Psychosocial assessment; Intervention and patient support; Patient advocacy and patient education

Intern Case-Manager (14 hours per week), 08/14-05/15

***Virginia Supportive Housing*, The Crossings, Charlottesville, VA**

Community referrals; Conflict resolution and crisis mitigation; Client education and advocacy; Psychosocial groups and community engagement; Social Security Disability Application (SOAR training)

Student Director & Activity Coordinator, 2011-2012

***Center for Critical Human Survival Issues*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

Plan and organize workshops and conferences; Invite guest speakers and arrange presentation venues; Update and maintain research center website

Intern (40 hours per week), 2010

***Russian Headquarters' Office of SOS Children's Villages (SOSCV)*, Moscow, Russia**

Collect data on the potential corporate donors; Assist in planning and organization of fundraising events, including at the British Embassy in Moscow; Participation in capacity building workshops and conferences; Establish communication between the donors and village families; Assist in producing audit reports to the main Headquarters; Assist in communication between the Russian Ministry of Education and the SOSCV Headquarters

Community Engagement

- Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease Research Community Events (Detroit, MI), 2024-present
- Chronic Stress and Health Disparities: Measurement & Interpretation, Guest Lecturer (Fall-Winter Semesters), 2022-2023
- Research and Career Paths in Public Health, Pioneer High School, Biology AP (Ann Arbor, MI), 2023
- Using the Violent Death Reporting System to identify points of engagement for reducing suicide risk in later, Michigan Department of Health (Lansing, MI), 2018

Professional Membership and Service

Editorial Board Member

Frontiers in Public Health, 2023-present

Contributing or Organizing Member:

Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS), 2022-present

Psychosocial Aspects of Diabetes (PSAD) Working Group, 2021-present

Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) , 2021-present

Methods in Longitudinal Dementia Research (MELODEM) Working Group, 2021-present

American Psychosomatic Society, 2017-present

Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Behavioral and Social Sciences Section, 2017-present

American Anthropological Association, Linguistics and Social Anthropology, 2010-2015

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer, 2017-present

JAMA, American Journal of Epidemiology, Diabetic Medicine, Developmental Psychology, Journals of Gerontology Series B: Social Sciences, Psychological Medicine, PLOS One, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Annual Meeting Abstract Reviewer

Gerontological Society of America; American Public Health Association; Society for Epidemiologic Research, 2018-present