

## Korinthia D. Nicolai

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Oliver Hall, Room 4082  
1015 W. Main St.  
Richmond, VA 23284-2020

email: [nicolaik@vcu.edu](mailto:nicolaik@vcu.edu)

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### Education

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- 2019-Current **Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**, Richmond, VA  
Ph.D.(expected) in Education, Educational Psychology  
GPA: 4.0
- 2018 **James Madison University**, Harrisonburg, VA  
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Summa Cum Laude  
GPA: 3.96
- 2016 **Northern Virginia Community College**, Manassas, VA  
Associates of Science in Psychology, Summa Cum Laude  
GPA: 3.94

### Certification

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- 2019 **Mental health first aid certified** through The National Council for Behavioral Health.

### Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

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- 2021 **APA Division 15 Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award Finalist**
- 2021 **AERA Division C Seed Grant Competition Shark Tank Finalist**
- 2021 **AERA Division E Seed Grant Finalist**
- 2021 **AERA Division C Equity Grant** (Team member; Principal Investigator: Dr. Alison C. Koenka; \$3,850). *Math tracking and motivation in Black students: Exploring feedback experiences and racial diversity as mechanisms for more equitable experiences and outcomes.*
- 2020 **William T. Grant Foundation Officers' Research Grant** (Team member; Principal Investigator: Dr. Alison C. Koenka; \$49,625) *Math tracking and motivation in Black students: Feedback experiences and racial diversity as levers of change.*
- 2020 **Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Program** (\$20,000 x 3)

- 2020 **Division E Graduate Student Pre-Conference Seminar at AERA 2020**  
(conference cancelled; \$200)
- 2020 **Spring 2020 Foundations of Education Travel Grant**
- 2020 **Spring 2020 School of Education Travel Grant**
- 2019 **Early Career Research Grant, American Psychological Association, Division 15.** (Team member [joined 2020]; Principal Investigator: Dr. Alison Koenka; \$6,000) *Longitudinal relations between high school motivation, performance, and postsecondary pursuit of science in a nationally representative sample: Understanding the interactive experiences of gender and racial identities.*  
Personally received a \$1,200 stipend for work on the project.
- 2018 **2018 Senior Award for Outstanding Academics**
- 2018 **Psychology Travel Grant for Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship (\$300)**
- 2016-2018 **Madison Excellence Award (\$4,000 x 4)**

## Research and Scholarship

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**My research centers on motivation and belonging for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. More specifically, I examine how motivation and belonging impact the persistence and achievement of students from underrepresented groups in STEM. In doing so, I aim to attenuate the underrepresentation of these students in STEM majors and careers.**

## Invited Publications

Koenka, A. C., \*Chen, X. -Y., \*Nicolai, K. D., & \*White-Levatich, A. (in press). Conducting equity-focused research from an achievement goal theory framework: Looking back and moving forward. In P. Murphy & H. Bembenuity. *SSRL Times Magazine*. \*signifies equal contributions

## Manuscripts in the Review Process

Agger, C. A., Roby, R. S., Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., Miles, M. L. (revise and resubmit). Taking a critical look at adolescent research on Black girls and women: A systematic review.

## Research in Progress

Koenka, A. C., Nicolai, K. D., & Garries, R. (accepted and in preparation). Lessons learned from racial injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence-based practices for teaching human development to preservice educators.

Marrs, S., Quesada, C., Nicolai, K. D., & Severson, E. (manuscript in progress). Measuring perceived research competence of junior researchers.

Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., & Braxton, D. (manuscript in progress). Differential feedback, its motivational consequences, and evidence-based strategies.

Zumbrunn, S., Broda, M., Malmburg, L. E., Furman, J., & **Nicolai, K. D.** (manuscript in progress). Exploring the longitudinal development of elementary and middle school writing self-efficacy.

Koenka, A. C., **Nicolai, K.D.**, Zumbrunn, S. K., & Barnes, N. (in progress-data collection). Perceptions of feedback: A systematic review.

Chow, J., Koenka, A. C., Zhao, H., & **Nicolai, K. D.** (in progress-data collection). Educational psychology meta-analysis guidelines.

Koenka, A. C., Broda, M., Agger, C. A., Anderman, E. M., **Nicolai, K. D.**, & Lester, A. M. (data analysis). Longitudinal relations between high school science motivation and performance.

### **Refereed Presentations**

(2022, April 21-26), Discussing Race, Ethnicity, and Culture While Teaching Educational Psychology (K. D. Nicolai & X. -Y. Chen, chairs). Symposium to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Diego, CA, United States.

Lee, L.,\* **Nicolai, K. D.**,\* Omeish, I.,\* & Shahbazi, O.\* (2021, October). *Cav Congress: High school students in equity work*. [Session to be presented]. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Conference, Richmond, VA, United States. \*signifies equal contribution

Braxton, D., Koenka, A. C., Waller, L., & **Nicolai, K. D.** (2021, October). *Bridging the gap between theory and practice: Developing university-school partnerships with a dual identity*. [Session to be presented]. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Conference, Richmond, VA, United States.

**Nicolai, K. D.**, Koenka, A. C., & Garries, R. (2021, October). *Lessons learned from racial injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic while teaching human development to preservice educators: Evidence-based practices*. [Session to be presented]. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Conference, Richmond, VA, United States.

**Nicolai, K. D.**, Koenka, A. C., & Wallace, M. K. (2021, August). *Do predominant measures encompass Black and Latina students' task values?* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, online.

Koenka, A. C., Broda, M., Agger, C. A., Anderman, E. M., **Nicolai, K. D.**, Sjogren, A. L., & Zumbrunn, S. (2021, August). *Science motivation among Black high school students: An intersectional approach*. [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2021, February). *Black and Latinx women's subject task values toward their educational psychology doctoral degrees*. [Poster presentation]. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting, online.

Zumbrunn, S., Broda, M., Malmberg, L. E., Furman, J., & **Nicolai, K. D.** (2021, April). *Exploring the longitudinal development of elementary and middle school writing self-efficacy*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.

Marrs, S., Quesada, C., **Nicolai, K. D.**, & Severson, E. (2021, April). *Measuring perceived research competence of doctoral students*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.

Yingling, T., Lyn, R., Bennett, E., Lambert, A., Hanley, E., **Nicolai, K. D.**, Wallace, M. K., & Venning, C. (2020, October 16). *Anti-racist transdisciplinary coalition in higher education*. [Session presentation]. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Conference, Richmond, VA, United States.

**Nicolai, K. D.**, Koenka, A. C., & Braxton, D. (2020, October 16). *Differential and adaptive feedback: Defined and explained* [Session presentation]. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) Conference, Richmond, VA, United States.

Koenka, A. C., Broda, M., Agger, C. A., Anderman, E. M., **Nicolai, K. D.**, & Lester, A. M. (2020, August). *Longitudinal relations between high school science motivation and performance*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

**Nicolai, K. D.** & Koenka, A. C. (2020, March) *Culturally responsive teaching and Motivation in Higher Education*. [Poster presentation]. School of Education Research Colloquium, Richmond, VA.

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2020, February). *Culturally responsive teaching: A motivational perspective*. [Poster presentation]. Holmes Scholars Preconference at Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Atlanta, GA.

Nastos, C. & **Nicolai, K. D.** (2018, April). *Meta-cognitive awareness: Does instructional method matter?* [Poster presentation]. Virginia Association for Psychological Sciences, Roanoke, VA.

### **Invited Presentations**

Bennett, E., & **Nicolai, K.D.**\*(2021, April). Holmes Scholar Program. [Upcoming Session]. School of Education New Student Welcome Event at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

\*authors in alphabetical order and all contributions were equal

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2021, February). Being a Graduate Student: Experiences, Equity, and Research. [Guest Speaker]. Cav Congress at W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA.

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2020, November). Literature search workshop: Database searches. [Workshop]. EDUS 301 at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Greene, M.D., **Nicolai, K. D.**, & Bennett, E. (2020, August). Positioning yourself for a Ph.D. program and student voice. [Panel Discussion]. VCU Holmes Scholars 2020 Research and Mentorship Summit, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Brown, A., Braxton, D., Greene, M. D., Medina-Messner, V., & **Nicolai, K. D.\*** (2020, April). Holmes Scholar Program [Session]. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee New Graduate Student Welcome Event at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.  
\*authors in alphabetical order and all contributions were equal

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2020, April). Literature search workshop. [Workshop]. EDUS 301 at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2019). *Taking a gap year*. [Panel presentation]. James Madison University Psi Chi meeting, Harrisonburg, VA.

Blitzstein, H., Clarke, S., **Nicolai, K. D.**, Prabhu, S., & Shively, E. (2018, April). *Savoring and entitlement*. [Poster presentation]. James Madison University Psychology Symposium, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Teaching Experience

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### Higher Education

2021 **Co-instructor** for EDUS 620: Human Development in Education (graduate) at Virginia Commonwealth University. 3 credit hours.

2020 **Teaching assistant** for EDUS 301: Human Development and Learning at Virginia Commonwealth University. 3 credit hours.

2017-2018 **Teaching assistant** for PSYC 365: Developmental Psychology at James Madison University. 3 credit hours.

2017 **Teaching assistant** for PSYC 200: Teaching Career Development at James Madison University. 1 credit hour.

### Kindergarten - High School

2018-2019 **Substitute teacher** at Fauquier County Public Schools.

## Guest Lectures

**Nicolai, K. D.** (2020, October). Development of intelligence: Funds of knowledge. [Guest lecture]. EDUS 301 at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

## Professional Experience

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- 2019-Current **Graduate assistant** for Dr. Alison Koenka at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.
- conducting a comprehensive and systematic literature review
  - assisting with all aspects of research (e.g., conceptualization, grant writing assistance, data collection, data analysis, manuscript writing)
  - mentoring more junior graduate students
  - work focuses on student motivation, broadening participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with a specific focus on fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion of underrepresented students.
- 2018 **Research assistant** for Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen, Dr. Jaime Kurtz, and Dr. Daniel Holt for the Meta-cognition Research in the department of psychology, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.
- studied the effect of instructional method on the development of meta-cognition in college students
  - analyzed and organized data
  - developed skills interpreting data to find results
  - prepared a poster to clearly present the research method and results.
- 2017-2018 **Research assistant** for Dr. Jaime Kurtz in the Positive Psychology lab at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.
- studied the effect of previous experiences on new experiences
  - created a survey about previous experiences
  - conducted lab trials with participants
  - learned how to create a survey and use behavior traits to measure more abstract concepts
  - developed skills using SPSS.

## Service

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### National Service

- 2021 **Graduate Junior Co-chair**, AERA Motivation Special Interest Group.
- 2021 **American Education Research Association.** Graduate Assistant to Division C Section 2a Program Chair.

- 2021 **AERA Division C Social Hour.** Co-hosted the social hour at the 2021 AERA Annual Meeting.
- 2021 **AERA Motivation in Education Special Interest Graduate Student Social Hour.** Co-hosted the social hour at the 2021 AERA Annual Meeting.
- 2021 **Session Moderator** (2021, April 8-12), Keeping the conversation going: Next steps in theoretical approaches to understanding the academic motivation of racially and ethnically diverse students (A. C. Koenka & A. Wigfield, chairs). Symposium presented at the virtual annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- 2020-Current **Holmes Scholar Professional Development Series.** Organized professional developments for doctoral students belonging to underrepresented racial and ethnic groups across the United States.
- 2020 **American Education Research Association.** Graduate Assistant to Division C Section 2b Program Chair.
- 2020 **Holmes Scholar Summer Summit.** Organized a research and mentorship summer summit for doctoral students belonging to underrepresented racial and ethnic groups across the United States.
- 2020 **Session Moderator** (2020, August), Where do we go from here (2.0)? A Continued conversation on motivation theories and their implications for education policy, practice, and ethnically diverse students (A. C. Koenka & A. Wigfield, chairs). Symposium presented at the virtual annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- 2020 **American Education Research Association Motivation Special Interest Group.** Graduate Student Committee Member.

### **Ad Hoc Reviewing Experience**

- 2020-Current ***Contemporary Educational Psychology*** (Student co-reviewer), ***International Journal of Educational Technology and Applied Linguistics*** (Student co-reviewer), ***Review of Educational Research*** (Student co-reviewer), ***Journal of Educational Psychology*** (Student co-reviewer).

### **University Service**

- 2021 **Co-facilitator.** SOE Student Dialogue, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 2021 **President Elect.** AACTE Holmes Scholar, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 2021 **Committee Member.** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Virginia Commonwealth

University

- 2021 **Co-organized Truth, Transformation, and Transparency: Advocacy Series.**
- 2021 **Co-facilitator.** "How to be an Antiracist" book discussion.
- 2020 **Student Contact** for Virginia Commonwealth University Educational Psychology doctoral student applicants.
- 2020-Current **The Collective.** Outreach coordinator.
- 2019-2020 **Secretary and Treasurer,** AACTE Holmes Scholar, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 2020 **Student tour guide.** Guided newly accepted students into the Educational Psychology track.
- 2019 **Student coordinator.** Helped organize the first Annual Mid-Atlantic Motivation Research Group Meeting: Exploring the Possibilities and Prospects. Created advertisements for the meeting. Greeted and guided visiting scholars.
- 2018 **Search Committee Assistant.** Attended luncheons to pick new faculty. Attended luncheons with fellow students and a job candidate. Answered questions about James Madison University and the psychology department. Provided feedback for the hiring committee about the job candidate.
- 2017 **Psi Chi International Honor Society.** Psi Chi President, James Madison University.
- 2018 **Careers in psychology events organizer.** Coordinated events where speakers presented job opportunities-including the international president of Psi Chi, Dr. Eric Landrum.
- 2017 **Graduate school fair organizer.** Organized a graduate fair for psychology undergraduate students. Hosted seven graduate programs who presented information and answered undergraduate students' questions.

**Community Service**

- 2018 **Blanket making event organizer.** Worked with Psi Chi and other psychology students. Made blankets for a local homeless shelter, Mercy House.
- 2017 **Volunteer teaching assistant** at Waterman Elementary School. Assisted a kindergarten teacher. Provided aid to individual students who were struggling with class material. Facilitated group work.



## **Advanced Methods Training**

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Mixed-methods at Virginia Commonwealth University, Fall 2021 (instructor: Christine Bae)  
Inter-group Dialogue Training, August 9-12, 2021 (trainer: Ratnesh B. Nagda)  
Meta-Analysis Seminar with Stats Camp, June 7-11, 2021 (instructor: Noel Card)  
Advanced Methods Institute: Advancing Culturally Responsive Research and Researchers, June 2-4, 2021 (The Ohio State University)  
Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Center Stat, May 10-12, 2021 (instructors: Patrick Curran and Dan Bauer)  
Multilevel Modeling at Virginia Commonwealth University, Fall 2020 (instructor: Michael Broda)  
RL-4: Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis with AERA, June 4, 2020 (instructors: Terri D. Pigott, Amy L. Dent, Joshua R. Polanin, Joseph Taylor)

## **Professional Affiliations**

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2019-Current **American Education Research Association:** Division C, Division E member, Motivation Special Interest Group, Teaching Educational Psychology Special Interest Group

2019-Current **American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education:** Holmes Scholar.

2019-Current **American Psychological Association:** Division 15.

2017-2018 **Psi Chi International Honor Society.**

*Updated November 18th, 2021*