Kylie Janette May

1022 East Third Street – Office 740A, 47405 Bloomington, IN
kyjmay@iu.edu

Sociological Interests of Inquiry

- Education, Inequality, Social Class, and Mental Health
    - Media, Criminal Justice, Resource Accessibility, Race, and Gender.

Education

Indiana University Bloomington *August 2023 – Present*

- Ph.D track – Sociology *(Ongoing)*
    - Master of Arts – Spring 2025
    - Social Science Research Methods Minor – Spring 2026

Indiana University Bloomington *May 2023*

- B.A in Sociology & Criminal Justice Minor
    - Sociology Departmental Honors
    - High Distinction for Cumulative GPA

Occupational Teaching Experience

Indiana University Bloomington – *Associate Instructor* *August 2025 – Ongoing*

- Educating students in an Introduction to Sociology course of my own design. Responsibilities include teaching, grading, proctoring, mentoring, and assisting undergraduates understand sociology. Utilizing Canvas & Office 365.
    - Courses: Introduction to Sociology (S100) FA 2025 – FA 2026

Indiana University Bloomington – *Graduate Assistant* *August 2023 – Spring 2025*

- Worked as a graduate assistant/student academic appointee at IU. Responsibilities included grading, proctoring, and assisting professors in educating students. Utilized Office 365, and Canvas.
    - GA: Introduction to Sociology (S100) for Dr. Kody Steffy FA 2023
    - GA: Introduction to Sociology (S100) for Dr. Jacob Miller SP 2024 – SP 2025
    - GA: Sociology of Emotions (S431) for Dr. Jacob Miller FA 2024
        - Split assignment with Introduction to Sociology

Occupational Research Experience

Indiana University Bloomington – *Graduate Student* *August 2023 – Ongoing*

- Currently employed as a graduate student at IU. Responsibilities include grading, proctoring, research, scholarship, and assisting professors in educating students. Utilizing Office 365, Canvas, & data analysis software such as NVivo, R, & Stata.

Indiana University Bloomington – *Research Coder* *May 2024 – July 2024*

- Coded qualitative entry responses from the "College and Beyond" study led by Dr. Andrew Halpern-Manners & Dr. Jane McLeod. Attended weekly meetings over Zoom where code reconciliation and codebook updating occurred. Utilized Office 365, and Teams. Referenced NSSE, CIP, and created codebooks.

Indiana University Bloomington - *Research Technician* *May 2024 – June 2024*

- Coded qualitative news and media articles in the 'Sociological Research Practicum' led by Dr. Tim Hallett & Dr. Orla Stapleton for the "Public Ideas" project. Interfaced over email and worked 15 hours/week in-person. Reconciled coding decision with interchanging partners, and updated codebooks accordingly. Utilized Sitehost (a customized coding interface), Outlook, Teams, and Excel.

Indiana University Bloomington - *Research Technician* *May 2023 – May 2024*

- De-identified, cleaned, and coded qualitative data & codebooks for the 'Social Worlds and Youth Well-Being Study' led by Dr. Anna Mueller. Interfaced over Teams, email, and in-person. Utilized OneDrive, SharePoint, Word, Excel, and NVivo.

Indiana University Bloomington – *Undergrad. Research Assistant* *April 2022 – April 2023*

- Worked for Dr. Jennifer Barber to clean data, update a codebook, code a qualitative dataset, interface over Zoom and in-person, and analyze qualitative data observations. Utilized Excel and NVivo.

Recent Research Projects

Forthcoming: ***Commodification of the Self: How Students Across Social Class Navigate College Classroom Policies*** *Fall 2024 & Spring 2026*

- There is a broad literature about students navigating classroom policies, but this literature lacks qualitative analysis of how students of varying social classes navigate college classrooms while keeping in mind presentation of the self. To examine this, I interviewed

29 students about their experiences. Freshmen and sophomores at a large, midwestern university were sampled after midterms to ensure time and familiarity were not the reason for ease or difficulty within navigation.

Master's Thesis: ***Race-Consciousness vs. Colorblindness: The Case of Ambivalence, Merit, & Diversity Regarding the Affirmative Action Repeal*** *Fall 2024 – Spring 2024*

- Affirmative action was recently repealed due to the contest between colorblind, meritocratic policies over diversity related race-conscious ones. To observe whether these perspectives are present, I interviewed 30 students about their perspectives on the repeal and experiences with personal essays. Students are sampled from freshmen (the first cohort to apply after the repeal) and sophomores (the last cohort to apply before the repeal) at a large, midwestern university given their recent experience with admissions and to showcase personal essay content after the repeal. Results indicate that students, regardless of background demographics, cite colorblind, race-conscious, or ambivalent perspectives about the affirmative action repeal. Regardless of the perspective, most students cited similar, if not the same, motivations relating to diversity, merit, systemic inequality, and white privilege. As for essay content, most attribute not being affected by the repeal due to not knowing it happened, their white identity, or no reason at all. Only one Japanese American student reported changing their essay to discuss race and ethnicity in response to the repeal to "circumvent" its effects.

Honors Thesis: ***A Culture of Care and Capital: How Undergraduates Relate Social Class, Mental Health, & Academic Success*** *Fall 2022 – Spring 2023*

- Based on a mixed-methods Qualtrics survey aimed at IU undergraduates concerning topics of social class, mental health, and academic success. Utilized Qualtrics, Stata, NVivo, & Excel to analyze data. My hypothesis was that academic success and mental health will be impacted more negatively for those of lower-class backgrounds due to lack of resources and more strain. That said, I anticipated that a lot of people would relate mental health and academic success to be negatively tied more so than their relations to social class despite admitting that money is a driving factor of their stress. Results indicated minor patterns supporting the hypotheses, but mainly social class was not a predictor for academic success or mental health as much as expected although results showed mental health is poor overall.

Conferences, Panels, & Professional Development

ASA Chicago Conference *August 10, 2025*

- Presented a draft of *Race-Consciousness vs. Colorblindness: The Case of Ambivalence, Merit, & Diversity Regarding the Affirmative Action Repeal.*

Chicago Ethnography Conference *April 26, 2025*

- Presented a draft of *Meritocracy & The Commodification of pain and Self-Image in College Application Essays and Classroom Policies.*

Community Engagement

Graduate Student Association – Sociology Department *August 2023 – Ongoing*

- Member (2023 – Ongoing)
  - Aided in formal statements on behalf of Sociology GSA (2024)
- Social Committee Member (2024 – 2026): planned and organized social and educational events for the department
- IGWC Representative (2026 – Ongoing)

Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition *August 2023 – Ongoing*

- Union Member: Attended events and participated in organizing efforts (2023 – Ongoing)
- Union Department Organizer (2025 – Present)

Honors & Awards

- **Honorary Mention Ulysses Grant Weatherly Award for Best Undergraduate Paper** *Spring 2023*
  - $250
  - Selected out of a group of submissions by a review panel at IU.
- **Founders Scholar IU** *Spring 2022 – Spring 2023*
  - Cumulative GPA of 3.8+
- **Executive Dean's List IU** *Fall 2019 – Spring 2023*
  - Minimum GPA of 3.7 & enrolled in at least 12 credit hours
- **21st Century Scholarship + Covenant** *Fall 2019 – Spring 2023*
  - Full scholarship 9-year program for achieving low-income college students.
  - Tuition + Living Expenses ($40,000+)
- **Daniel & Emma Avery Scholarship Trust** *May 2019*
  - $2000

Technical & Applied Skills

- Office 365, Canvas, & Kaltura
- Stata, R, & Qualtrics
- Nvivo & MaxQDA
- Mixed-Methods
- English & Spanish fluency

References & Recommenders

Dr. Brian Powell – *James H. Rudy Professor – Sociology IU*

- powell@iu.edu
- 812-360-0474

Professor Jennifer Barber – *Senior Scientist, Kinsey Institute – Sociology Professor IU*

- jenbarb@iu.edu
- 734-358-8783

Dr. Anna Mueller – *Luther Dana Waterman Professor – Sociology IU*

- mueller1@iu.edu
- 812-856-1370

Daniel Bachmeier – *PFF Fellow – Sociology Associate Instructor IU*

- dabach@iu.edu
- 320-219-2584