

AJ ALVERO

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POSITIONS

University of Florida 2023 –
 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law [\[Link\]](#)
 Co-Director, Computational Social Science Lab
 University of Florida AI² Center Faculty Affiliate
 University of Florida Informatics Institute Faculty Affiliate
 Faculty Affiliate, Stanford Pathways Network [\[Link\]](#)

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology of Education & Education Data Science 2022
 Stanford University
Dissertation: “Language, Culture, and Systems of Evaluation: Computational Analyses of College Admissions Essays”
 Committee: Mitchell L. Stevens, Benjamin W. Domingue, anthony lising antonio, Francis Pearman, Jeremy Freese (*Chair*)
 Co-founder, Student Narratives Lab
[Coursework in Race, Inequality, & Language in Education](#)

Graduate Certificate in Computational Social Science 2021
[Stanford University Center for Computational Social Science](#)

MS, Statistics 2021
 Stanford University

MS, Foreign Language Education (TESOL) 2016
 Florida International University
Thesis: “Efficacy and Implementation of Automated Essay Scoring Software in Instruction of Literacies to High Level ELLs” [\[Link\]](#)

BA, English Minor in Modern Languages (Spanish & Haitian Creole) 2012
 University of Miami

RESEARCH & WRITING

Papers are either open access, available on my [personal website](#), or available upon request.

* denotes equal authorship

† denotes undergraduate or masters student

◇ denotes doctoral student at time of writing

♣ denotes papers where I played a senior or corresponding authorship role

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Forth. David J.X. Gonzalez, Brooke Staley, (**AJ Alvero** and 13 other co-authors). “Representation and inclusion among members and affiliates of the Society for Epidemiologic Research: Findings from a 2021 survey” (*American Journal of Epidemiology*)

- 2023 **AJ Alvero**, Courtney Peña. “AI Sentience and Socioculture” *Journal of Social Computing* [Paper](#)
- 2022 Sonia Giebel, **AJ Alvero**, Ben Gebre-Medhin, anthony lising antonio. “Signaled or Suppressed? How Gender Informs Women’s Undergraduate Applications in Biology and Engineering” *Socius* [Paper](#)[Code/Data](#)
- 2022 **AJ Alvero**, Jasmine Pal^{*†}, Katelyn M. Moussavian^{*†}. “Linguistic, Cultural, and Narrative Capital: Computational and Human Readings of Transfer Admissions Essays” *Journal of Computational Social Science* [Paper](#)[Code/Data](#)
- 2022 Ben Gebre-Medhin, Sonia Giebel, **AJ Alvero**, anthony lising antonio, Benjamin W. Domingue, Mitchell L. Stevens. “Application essays and the ritual production of merit in US selective admissions.” *Poetics* [Paper](#)
- 2022 Stephanie Tena-Meza[†], Miroslav Suzara, **AJ Alvero**[♣]. “Coding with Purpose: Learning AI in Rural California.” *ACM Transactions on Computing Education* [Paper](#)
- 2021 **AJ Alvero**, Sonia Giebel, Ben Gebre-Medhin, anthony lising antonio, Mitchell L. Stevens, Benjamin W. Domingue. “Essay Content and Style are Strongly Related to Household Income and SAT Scores: Evidence from 60,000 Undergraduate Applications.” *Science Advances* [Paper](#)[Code/Data](#)
- 2020 Noah Arthurs[†], **AJ Alvero**[♣]. “Whose Truth is the “Ground Truth”? College Admissions Essays and Bias in Word Vector Evaluation Methods.” *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Educational Data Mining* [Paper](#)
- 2020 **AJ Alvero**, Noah Arthurs[†], anthony lising antonio, Benjamin W. Domingue, Ben Gebre-Medhin, Sonia Giebel, Mitchell L. Stevens. “AI and Holistic Review: Informing Human Reading in College Admissions.” *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society* [Paper](#)

Book Chapters

- Forth. Sebastian Munoz-Najar Galvez, Jinsook Lee, **AJ Alvero**, Amy Desiderio, Rene Kizilcec, Sheridan Stewart. “Artificial Communication and Media Realism for College Admissions”(Invited submission for edited volume: “*The Digitized Campus: Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Higher Education*”.)
- 2023 **AJ Alvero**. “Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Machine Learning with Textual Data”. Pp. xxx in *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*. ed. Christian Borch and Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra. Oxford University Press. [Paper](#)

Under Review

- AJ Alvero**, Leslie Luqueño, anthony lising antonio, Francis A. Pearman. “Social Influences on Text Production” [Preprint](#)(*Revise & resubmit, Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*)
- AJ Alvero**, Rebecca Pattichis[†]. “Linguistic Strategies: Identification and Analysis of Spanish Language Usage in College Admissions Essays” (*Revise & resubmit, Poetics*)[Preprint](#)
- AJ Alvero**, Alejandra Regla-Vargas, Jinsook Lee[◇], René Kizilcec, Thorsten Joachims, anthony lising antonio. “Large Language Models, Social Demography, and Hegemony: Comparing Authorship in Human and Synthetic Text” (*Invited article, Journal of Big Data*)
- AJ Alvero**, Courtney Peña, Amber R. Moore, Cisco Barron, Latishya Steele, Stevie Eberle, Crystal Botham. “Time to degree, identity, and grant writing: Lessons learned from a mixed-methods longitudinal

case study of biosciences PhD students” (*Revise & resubmit, Sage Open*)[[Preprint](#)]

Alejandra Regla-Vargas, **AJ Alvero**, Grace Kao. “The BTS Effect: How K-Pop Fandoms Reshape Sociopolitical Messaging on Twitter” [[Preprint](#)]

Marissa E. Thompson, Sam Trejo, **AJ Alvero**, Daphne Martschenko. ““They have Black in their blood”: Exploring how genetic ancestry tests affect racial appraisals and classifications” [[Preprint](#)]

Kristen Bell, Jenny Hong, Catalin Voss, Graham Todd, Johan Ugander, **AJ Alvero**, Jake Searcy, Nick McKeown. “Using Machine Learning to Investigate the Role of Attorneys and Inter-Commissioner Variability at Parole-Release Hearings”

AJ Alvero, Sonia Giebel, Francis A. Pearman. “Disparities in College Applications between European and non-European Hispanic Students” [[Preprint](#)]

In Progress

Renzhe Yu, **AJ Alvero**. “Generative AI and Educational Equity” (*Book proposal accepted for series on Generative AI and Education, Cambridge Univiersity Press*)

AJ Alvero, Ruohong Dong[◇], Klint Kanopka, David Nathan Lang. “Algorithmic Tradeoffs, Applied NLP, and the State-of-the-Art Fallacy” [[Link](#)]

Alejandra Regla-Vargas, Hajar Yazdiha, **AJ Alvero**. “A Theory of Movement-Countermovement Racial Framing: Tracing Discursive Dynamics of Anti-Asian Racism and Resistance During COVID-19”

AJ Alvero. Anya Ma[◇]. “The Misreading of Man: Readability Scoring, Language Ideologies, and Stratification”

Opinion

2017 **AJ Alvero**. “Renaming ‘Confederate Corners’ doesn’t cost a thing.” *The Salinas Californian*. [[Article](#)]

TEACHING

University of Florida

Undergraduate

Sociology of Education	Spring 2023, 2024
Race, Technology, and Society	Fall 2023

Graduate

Introduction to Quantitative Methods	Fall 2023
Computational Social Science: Programming and Principles	Spring 2024
Advanced Research (Directed reading)	Spring 2024

Stanford University

Introduction to Statistical Methods With Dan Schwartz	Fall 2021
Introduction to Data Science With Sanne Smith and Dan McFarland	Winter 2019

Equity and Schooling

Summer 2019

With Jonathan Rosa

The Centrality of Literacies

Summer 2017, 2018

With Antero Garcia

Adolescent Development

Fall 2016, 2017

With Linda Darling-Hammond and Shayna Sullivan

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations & Lectures

- 2024 AAAI (Workshop panelist, “AI for Education: Bridging Innovation and Responsibility”), Center on Digital Culture and Society at the University of Pennsylvania, Technology, Media, Privacy, and Law Conference (University of Florida Levin College of Law), Higher Education Workshop (Stanford University), Generative AI and Sociology Workshop (Yale University), Institute in Critical Quantitative and Computational Methodologies (Johns Hopkins University), University of Oregon College of Education, University of Utah College of Education
- 2023 Technology, Media, Privacy, and Law Conference (University of Florida Levin College of Law), Cornell University Presidential Task Force on Undergraduate Admissions, Pens & Pixels: Generative AI in Education (UC Irvine), Center for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights (Florida Atlantic University), Race, Tech, and Justice Salon (NYU School of Law), University of Florida Social Psychology group, US Census Bureau Workshop on Race, Ethnicity and Inequality, University of California, Irvine School of Education (Literacy and Technology), The Ohio State University Department of Sociology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Department of Sociology, Culture Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Sociology
- 2022 Stanford Center for China’s Economy and Institutions (Freeman Spogli Institute), Stanford EAST House, Educational Testing Service (ETS), University of Texas at Austin Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville School of Information Sciences, University of Florida Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico Institute for the Study of “Race” and Social Justice
- 2021 College Board Research and Psychometrics Team, University of California Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), Stanford GSE Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies Seminar, Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (Data, Analytics, and Trends Committee), Wieman Group (Stanford GSE)
- 2018 Stanford University, Center for Population Health Sciences; Stanford University, Students for Education Reform; Stanford University, Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences Group; Stanford University, Higher Education Exchange of Research

Conference Presentations & Activities

- 2024 Southern Sociological Society, Sociolinguistics Symposium, Population Association of America, American Education Research Association
- 2023 Eastern Sociological Society, International Society for Anthrozoology, American Sociological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education, American Education Research Association, Population Association of America, Virtual Workshop on Contemporary Parole Research, International Conference on Computational Social Science, Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStats), Society for the Social Studies of Science
- 2022 New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data, International Conference on Computational Social

Science, American Sociological Association, Latina/o Studies Association, National Council on Measurement in Education, American Education Research Association

- 2021 National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Conference, ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), American Sociological Association, American Education Research Association, West Coast NLP (WeCNLP), Computational Social Science Society of the Americas, Transforming Institutions Conference
- 2020 Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG), Association for the Study of Higher Education, Society for Social Studies of Science (*declined*), American Sociological Association, American Educational Research Association Satellite Conference on Data Science, Comparative & International Education Society, Conference on Language, Interaction, and Culture at UCLA (*cancelled*), Sociology of Education Association
- 2019 TextXD Symposium, International Conference on Machine Learning (Latinx in AI Workshop)
- 2018 TextXD Symposium
- 2017 Race, Inequality, and Language in Education (RILE)
- 2016 Caribbean Studies Association

PROJECTS & GRANTS

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science

SICSS-South Florida (\$26,000)

PIs: Kevin Lanning, Kat Albrecht, AJ Alvero

Race, Genetic Ancestry, and Context: Exploring how the Genetic Ancestry Tests Influence Conceptions of Race

Columbia Population Research Center Seed Grant (\$20,000)

PIs: Marissa Thompson, Sam Trejo, Daphne Martschenko, AJ Alvero

Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences

“Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement” Grant (\$5,000)

Student Narratives Lab

Co-founder, initiated data share with University of California Office of the President

PIs: Mitchell Stevens, anthony antonio, Ben Domingue

Building an Anti-Racist GSE

Syllabus consultant, Education Data Science courses

MEDIA MENTIONS & APPEARANCES

Time Magazine [1], The Atlantic [1, 2], Los Angeles Times [1], New York Times [1, 2, 3], The New Yorker [1], Chalkbeat Colorado [1], University of New Mexico Newsroom [1], Times Higher Education [1], Harper’s Magazine [1], Teen Vogue [1], The Economist [1], Newsweek [1], The Chronicle of Higher Education [1], MIT Admissions [1], Inside Higher Ed [1, 2], The Houston Chronicle [1], Higher Ed Dive [1], Forbes Magazine [1], The Dartmouth [1], Pod Save the People [1], ABC7 News Bay Area (KGO-TV) [1], Mustang News (Cal Poly) [1], Yale News [1], Wall Street Journal [1, 2], School’s In (Podcast with Stanford GSE Dean Dan Schwartz and Denise Pope) [1], The Philadelphia Inquirer [1], The Journal Editorial Report [1], Monterey County Weekly [1], The Smithsonian Magazine [1], Diverse Issues in Higher Education [1], The Salinas Californian [1], Reason.com [1], Brookings Institution [1]

HONORS & AWARDS

Stanford University

VPGE Academic Achievement Award	\$500	06/2022
Stanford GSE: Research and Academic Excellence	<i>Nominated</i>	06/2022
Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) Graduate Fellow	\$2,000	09/2021 – 06/2022
McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society Fellow	\$3,000	09/2020 – 06/2021
Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Fellowship	\$96,200/2 years	09/2019 – 06/2022
Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship		
<i>Naidu Family Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship</i>	\$133,080/3 years	09/2018 – 06/2021
Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellowship	\$12,800/4 years	09/2016 – 06/2020
The Dean's Fellowship	\$30,000	09/2016

Florida International University

FLAS Summer Fellowship at the Haitian Summer Institute	\$6,680	05/2015
Madeline Kitts Scholarship	\$5,000	05/2015
FIU Graduate Grant	\$5,000	05/2015
Bellsouth Education Scholarship	\$3,000	08/2015
FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center Scholarship	\$500	05/2015

Other

ICQCM Spencer Scholar		06/2021
International Conference on Machine Learning Travel Grant	\$1,500	06/2019
El Centro Chicano y Latino Charlene J. Porras Award	\$1,000	06/2019
El Centro Chicano y Latino Outstanding Graduate Mentor		09/2018 – 06/2019
Hispanic Scholarship Fund (2016 and 2017)	\$6,500	
Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship (<i>declined</i>)		

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member

American Sociological Association
American Educational Research Association
Association for Computing Machinery
The International Society for Computational Social Science
Latinx in AI

Editorial Board

Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (2023–)

Reviewer

Journal: AERA Open, Proceedings of ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), Educational Researcher, Social Currents, Sociology of Education, Journal of Engineering Education, Science Advances, The Journal of Mathematical Sociology, Current Psychology, Social Science Computer Review, Journal of Social Computing, Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, PLOS One, Computers & Education: Artificial Intelligence

Conference: American Educational Research Association, Literacy Research Association, South Florida Education Research Conference, TESOL International, International Conference for Computational Social Science

Other: Book chapter for Contributions to the Sociology of Language series (De Gruyter Mouton)

SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

University of Florida

Code of Conduct Service Committee	08/2023 – 05/2024
Data Science Curriculum Planning Committee	09/2022 –
Seminar Series in AI in Social Science	09/2023 –

Stanford University

Co-President, Sociology and Education Network	09/2020 – 06/2021
El Centro Chicano y Latino Graduate Scholar in Residence	09-2018 – 09/2020
EDGE Mentor	09/2018 – 06/2019
Mentor and Program Organizer, Stanford GSE Mentorship Program	09/2017 – 06/2018
Financial Officer, Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences	09/2017 – 06/2020

Faculty Advising

Dissertation Committee:

Dominique Fairley, Sociology, University of Florida (2023)

Cari Beth Head, Sociology, University of Florida (2024)

Undergraduate Thesis:

Madison Kutil (2024); Eli Golde (2024); Alexandra Crespín (2024)

Advising During Graduate School

Graduate Student Advisor:

Thea Rossman, Capstone Project in Critical Studies in Race and Ethnicity	2020
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Noah Arthurs, Undergraduate Thesis in Computer Science	2017
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Research supervisor, Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences

Research Assistant Internship Program [Link]	06/2020 – 06/2022
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Interns: Joules Hoffmann, Misha Moussavian, Jasmine Pal

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, & OTHER EXPERIENCES

University of Oregon School of Law	11/2022
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Parole Transcript Data Workshop

Eugene, OR

University of Miami:

Institute for Data Science and Computing	08/2022 – 08/2023
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Visiting Fellow

Coral Gables, FL

National Institute on Aging:

Genomics for Social Scientists Workshop	06/2022 – 06/2022
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Trainee and participant

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational, and Mixed Methodologies (ICQCM) Summer Training and Summit

	06/2021 – 03/2022
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Trainee and participant

Virtual and Baltimore, MD

The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science

	2020, 2023
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TA, San Francisco Bay Area site ([BAY-SICSS](#))

Co-Organizer, South Florida site ([SICSS-South Florida](#))

Speaker and Guest Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania site ([SICSS-Penn](#))

Stanford Graduate Summer Institute Student, <i>Ethics and the Academy</i> Virtual	08/2020
Stanford Libraries Presenter, <i>Gear Up for Social Science Data</i> Palo Alto, CA	10/2018
Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis Visiting Scholar Palo Alto, CA	07/2017 – 09/2017
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Student, <i>Machine Learning for the Analysis of Text as Data</i> Chapel Hill, NC	06/2017
Haitian Summer Institute at Florida International University Student and FLAS Fellow, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center Miami, FL & Southern Haiti	06/2015 – 08/2015
Miami-Dade County Public Schools High School Language Arts Teacher, Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction (National Society of High School Scholars) Miami, FL	09/2013 – 06/2016
Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami Student archivist Coral Gables, FL	08/2011 – 02/2012

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Human Languages

Fluent Spanish; Proficient Haitian Creole; Basic Japanese (written and spoken)

Computer Languages & Software

Frequent: R, Python, L^AT_EX, SLURM

Not as frequent: Javascript, Stata, Tableau, C++