

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Melanie J. Nicholls  
School of Social Work  
San Diego State University  
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## EDUCATION

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2022 Ph.D.	University of California, San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Research on Substance Use
2016 MSW	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Social Work, concentration in Mental Health
2015 BA	Augustana College, Rock Island, IL Major Concentrations: Psychology, Sociology (Social Welfare) Minor Concentration: Women and Gender Studies

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Spring 2021 San Diego State University SW 381-Social Work Practice Skills: Micro	Instructor of Record School of Social Work, College of Health & Human Services
Fall 2020 San Diego State University SW 758: Motivational Interviewing	Teaching Assistant School of Social Work, College of Health & Human Services

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## COUNSELING POSITIONS

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2022-2023 LCSW	Mental Health Therapist Lifestance San Diego, CA
2021-2022 LCSW	Mental Health Therapist Family Health Centers of San Diego La Mesa, CA
2019-2020	Residential Staff BrightQuest Treatment Centers La Mesa, CA
2016-2018 LSW	Addiction Counselor Rosecrance Harrison Campus Rockford, IL

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## LICENSURE

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2021	California Licensure, Clinical Social Work License Number LCSW104819
2018	Illinois Licensure, Clinical Social Work

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## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

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## REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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1. Urada LA, **Nicholls MJ**, Faille SR. Homelessness at the San Diego Central Library: Assessing the potential role of social workers. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* **2022**, 19, 8449. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19148449>
2. **Nicholls MJ**, Urada LA. Homelessness and polysubstance use: A qualitative study on recovery and treatment access solutions around an urban library in Southern California, USA. *Health & Social Care in the Community*. **2021** May. DOI: 10.1111/hsc.13424
3. Gonzalez, C, Brouwer, KC, Reed E, **Nicholls MJ**, Kim J, Gonzalez-Zuniga PE, Gaeta-Rivera A, Urada LA. Women Trading Sex in a U.S.-Mexico Border City: A Qualitative Study of the Barriers and Facilitators to Finding Community and Voice. *Sexes* **2020**, 1, 1-18.

#### Manuscripts in Development

1. **Nicholls MJ**, Mittal ML. Perceptions of barriers and facilitators to implementing MOUD: A qualitative study guided by the EPIS Framework.
2. **Nicholls MJ**, Urada LA, Smith, LR. The research to practice gap: Exploring substance use providers' attitudes toward evidence-based practice.
3. **Nicholls MJ**, Urada LA, Smith, LR. California substance use treatment facility characteristics associated with offering medically assisted treatment for alcohol and opioid use disorders

#### **REFEREED PROCEEDINGS**

1. **Nicholls, MJ**. The Research to Practice Gap: Exploring the Attitudes Toward Evidence-Based Practice in Substance Use Providers. California State University Grad Slam Competition 2022. Hosted by California State University Bakersfield. May 6, 2022. Virtual Presentation. [Made it to the final round]
2. **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. The Research to Practice Gap: Exploring the Attitudes Toward Evidence-Based Practice in Substance Use Providers. [Oral presentation]. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual California State University Student Research Competition; April 29 & 30, 2022; San Francisco, CA. Virtual Presentation. [182 projects were presented state wide]
3. **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. The Research to Practice Gap: Exploring the Attitudes Toward Evidence-Based Practice in Substance Use Providers. [Oral presentation]. 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium at San Diego State University; March 4 and 5, 2022; San Diego, CA.
4. **Nicholls, MJ.** & Urada, L. The Research to Practice Gap: A Quantitative Exploration of Health Inequity in Substance Use Treatment Centers in California. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference. January 12-16, 2022. Washington, DC.
5. Urada, L. & **Nicholls, MJ**. Homelessness and Human Trafficking in Public Spaces: A 2019 Assessment at the San Diego Central Library. [Oral Presentation and Panel]. Human Trafficking-RADAR Research Conference 2021; October 15, 2021; Virtual Conference.
6. Urada, L. & **Nicholls, MJ**. Homelessness in public spaces: An assessment at a large public library in San Diego. [Oral Poster]. SSWR 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference-Social Work Science for Social Change; January 22, 2021; Virtual Conference.
7. **Nicholls, MJ.** & Urada, L. Substance use type and its association with perceived benefits to mobilizing among women in the sex trade. [Poster Presentation]. 12th International Women's and Children's Health and Gender (InWomen's) Group Conference; June 19, 2020; Hollywood, FL.
8. **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. Homelessness and Polysubstance Use: A Qualitative Study on Treatment Access Solutions. [Oral presentation]. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California State University Student Research Competition; April 24 & 25, 2020; East Bay, CA.
9. **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. "'Two people overdose a day here': A qualitative study exploring solutions for opioid overdoses at a public library" [Oral Presentation]. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM); April 1-4, 2020; San Francisco, CA.
10. **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. Homelessness and Polysubstance Use: A Qualitative Study on Treatment Access Solutions. [Oral presentation]. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium at San Diego State University; February 29, 2020; San Diego, CA.

#### **SCHOLARLY AWARDS**

1. President's Award, \$500, qualified for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Competition for CSUs for **Nicholls, MJ**. The Research to Practice Gap: Exploring the Attitudes Toward Evidence-Based Practice in Substance Use Providers
2. 2022 College of Human and Health Services Student Travel Award-\$500

3. 2022 Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Doctoral Student Travel Award for \$500.
4. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting- Meritorious Abstract & Citation Awards, 2020 for **Nicholls, MJ.**, & Urada, L. "Two people overdose a day here": A qualitative study exploring solutions for opioid overdoses at a public library"
5. InWomen's Conference Travel Award- \$700
6. Winter 2020 GSA Travel Grant from University of California San Diego-\$300
7. Student Success Fee Travel Grant from San Diego State University (SDSU)-\$1,000
8. President's Award, \$550, qualified for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Competition for CSUs

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

1. Betty Ford Center Medical Education Family Program Training, January 14-16, 2019
2. The Grants Research and Enterprise Writing (GREW) Workshop, September 2021-October 2021

### FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

1. \$431,650, NIDA (R21DA056805), "Bupe by the book: Developing and testing a tele-buprenorphine intervention in public libraries with unstably housed persons with opioid use disorder." 7/15/22-6/30/24  
PI: Lianne Urada, PhD  
**Co-I: Melanie Nicholls**
2. \$10,000 (approx.), "Homelessness in public spaces: An assessment at a large public library in San Diego," SDSU Social and Economic Vulnerabilities Initiative Research Fellowship, 1/1/19-6/1/19.  
PI: Lianne Urada, PhD  
**Co-I: Melanie Nicholls**

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

1. Psi Chi National Honor Society
2. Order of Omega National Honor Society
3. Mortar Board
4. Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
5. Alpha Kappa Delta (International Honor Society of Sociology)
6. Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
7. Alpha Delta Mu (National Social Work Honor Society)

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### RESEARCH POSITIONS

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Post-Doctoral Researcher<br>Bupe By the Book NIDA (R21DA056805)<br>Supervisor: Dr. Lianne Urada  | Starting January 2023     |
| 2. Research Assistant<br>HPTN 094 Implementation Science Team,<br>Supervisor: Dr. Laramie Smith   | October 2020-January 2022 |
| 3. Research Assistant<br>Supervisor: Dr. Lianne Urada<br>School of Social Work, San Diego State University  | August 2018-Present       |
| 4. Research Assistant<br>Supervisor: Dr. Salvador Espinosa<br>School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University  | August 2018-December 2020 |
| 5. Research Assistant<br>Supervisor: Ph.D. Candidate Julia Kim<br>Department of Food Sciences and Human Nutrition<br>University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign | July 2015- May 2016       |

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### SERVICE

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#### Service for the Department, College, and University

- 2020-2021      Big Ideas Selection Committee at San Diego State University  
2020            Judge for the Fall 2020 Interprofessional Education Workshop, Saturday November 16, 2019

2020 Reviewer for Master's Thesis, San Diego State University, School of Social Work  
2019-2022 JDP IRSU Student Council Member, San Diego State University/UC San Diego  
2019-2022 Aztecs for Recovery, San Diego State University

**Service for the Profession**

2023 Reviewer, Drug and Alcohol Review