

Amarachi Ugwu

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology

University of California, Santa Barbara | Expected June 2031

Bachelors of Arts in Sociology, *summa cum laude*

Minor in French

University of California, Davis | June 2024

University of California Education Abroad Program, French in Paris

Accent Global Learning, Paris | August 2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Areas of research specialization include urban sociology, culture, ethnography, conversation analysis and ethnomethodology.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate M.A. Thesis Researcher

Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara | September 2025 - Present

- Designed an ethnographic research project examining the different social factors that influence how people evaluate and construct meanings of everyday architecture
- Reviewed literature on everyday architecture, aesthetic evaluation, and ethnographic and ethnomethodological approaches to space and place
- Conducted participant observations at field sites, open houses, and carried out semi-structured interviews with real estate agents and prospective homebuyers

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Researcher

Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis | September 2023 - June 2024

- Investigated the ways student-led protests are informed by their surrounding university architecture and design
- Reviewed and synthesized existing literatures on space and place, the history and evolution of university architecture, and social theories on collective actions and activism
- Collected and organized data from city and school newspaper publications and archives about the 2022 UAW academic workers strike
- Visually cataloged qualitative data into tables, flow charts, and coding trees
- Conducted a reflexive thematic analysis of data using an inductive approach and semantic and latent codes

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis | June 2022 - August 2024

- Assistant to UC Davis Ph.D. candidate Christopher Lawrence, conducting primary and secondary source research on the relationship between Black and White adults' offline and online communities in Sacramento
- Designed informative, eye-catching flyers used for interviewee recruitment
- Helped formulate an interview guide used to conduct semi-structured interviews with research participants

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara | April 2026 - Present

- Course: Social Inequalities (Spring 2026)
 - Graded and delivered personalized feedback on written assignments for an upper-division undergraduate class of 94 students
 - Hosted weekly office hours throughout the quarter
 - Designed and presented a guest lecture on housing inequality

Research Mentor

Research Mentorship Program, University of California, Santa Barbara | June 2026 - July 2026

- Designed a curriculum and syllabus to introduce my mentee to my ongoing open house ethnographic research project
- Advised mentee on how to complete qualitative research by collaboratively developing an interview guide, conducting participant observations at 12 open houses, interviewing real estate agents, recording fieldnotes and analytic memos, transcribing interviews, and performing open and axial coding of interview data
- Provided detailed feedback and guidance on mentee's final research paper, conference poster, and conference presentation

Student Success Coach

City Year Sacramento, AmeriCorps | August 2024 - June 2025

- Provided academic and social-emotional learning support to a 5th-grade classroom of 28 students
- Designed and facilitated small group activities targeting foundational math skills, phonetics, and artistic creativity ensuring that students perform at or above grade level
- Collaborated with coworkers and school staff to coordinate and execute schoolwide events, including spirit weeks and heritage month celebrations
- Tracked student progress data while maintaining confidentiality in compliance with school and AmeriCorps standards

Undergraduate French Peer Advisor

Department of French, University of California, Davis | September 2023 - June 2024

- Provided guidance on French major and minor curriculum requirements, helping students with course selection, scheduling, and academic planning
- Advised prospective study abroad applicants on the application process, program requirements, travel necessities, and offered advice for life abroad
- Led one-on-one and group tutoring sessions and conversation groups for students of varying language proficiencies to develop their French language skills
- Represented the French department at events for freshmen and transfer students to promote language studies

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

“The Space and Place of Dissent: How Students Leverage University Architecture During Protests,” Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference, Davis, CA. April 26, 2024.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- UC Davis University Honors Program | 2021 - 2024
- Phi Beta Kappa | 2024
- Department Citation in Sociology | 2024
- French Peer Advising Certificate of Recognition | 2024
- Sailer Undergraduate Education Scholarship | 2023
- UC Davis Dean's Honors List | Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023

SKILLS

Social Sciences: Stata, Transcription, Qualtrics, Zotero

Languages: English, French, Igbo

Other: Google Suite, Microsoft Suite, Adobe, Canva, First Aid, AED

REFERENCES

Andrew Deener, Professor of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Waverly Duck, Professor of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Tom Beamish, Professor of Sociology

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