
Nick Walker-Craig

PhD Student

University of Southern California Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

M.S.W., School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, 2016

B.A., Sociology (Highest Distinction), University of Michigan, 2013

2025 – Present **PhD Student**

University of Southern California Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

2023 – 2025 **Senior Associate**

Social Policy Research Associates

2022 – 2023 **Senior Research Analyst**

2020 – 2022 **Research Associate II**

Institute for Social Research, Sacramento State University

2019 – 2020 **Project Lead**

2017 – 2019 **Research Associate II**

2016 – 2017 **Research Associate I**

LPC Consulting Associates, Inc.

2015 – 2016 **Graduate Research Assistant**

Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General:
Office of Evaluation and Inspections

2015 – 2016 **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Chicago Consortium of Social Research

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- Designing needs assessments and process, outcome, and impact evaluations
- Survey design and cognitive pretesting
- Inferential statistics (SPSS, STATA)
- Qualitative data collection and design (semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and site observations)
- Qualitative data analysis (Nvivo and Dedoose)
- Data Visualization
- ADA/508 Compliance
- Meeting facilitation and grantee technical assistance

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Interest Technology

Evaluation of the MacArthur Foundation’s Technology in the Public Interest (TPI) Portfolio (2023-Present). The evaluation of TPI utilizes a developmental evaluation approach and seeks to answer questions that capture any shifts in landscape, feedback received, and as findings on progress toward outcomes emerge. The evaluation also seeks to understand the contribution of the TPI strategy’s work and progress towards achieving desired outcomes. The evaluation is also designed to provide current, up-to-date feedback to support learning about the TPI strategy. The evaluation also incorporates strategic learning as an embedded part of the evaluation. This strategic learning will be an opportunity for the evaluation team and the TPI team to review and reflect on key deliverables to maximize utilization of findings and identify implications and potential pivots in the TPI approach. While the TPI strategy is ultimately focused on ecosystem development, it utilizes constructs found in field building literature. Specifically, the strategy’s outcomes are organized around key “strong field” dimensions that are being applied to fit an ecosystem frame. An ecosystem frame encapsulates the breadth and complexity of the universe of actors that actively work to address public interest technology issues or are connected in some way to this work. What follows are five dimensions of a strong field/ecosystem that the TPI program hopes to influence through its grantmaking and related activities: 1) Composition, or the array of actors that participate in a field and work towards advancing common goals; 2) Connectivity, or the relationships and patterns of interaction between field actors; 3) Knowledge Base, or the community of actors focused on studying and advancing knowledge and practice, as well as the vehicles to collect, analyze, and disseminate knowledge; 4) Adaptive Capacity, or shared political analyses and the ability to respond to threats and opportunities as they arise; 5) Infrastructure, or diverse and organized funding streams and sources of support to ensure the field’s health and ability to make progress in the four preceding dimensions.

Project Manager & Qualitative Lead: Responsible for design, data collection development, associated deliverables, and oversight of timelines for all qualitative tasks, including 50 interviews with TPI grantees and stakeholders.

Evaluation of the Social Science Research Council’s (SSRC) Just Tech Fellowship (2024-Present). This evaluation includes a mixed-methods evaluation of the Just Tech Fellowship, which supports and mobilizes diverse and cross-sector cohorts of practitioners to imagine and create more just, equitable, and representative technological futures. The evaluation includes surveys and interviews with former and current fellows, advisory board members, and external reviewers; grants analysis, and; fellowship artifact review. The findings from this work will be used to refine selection processes and improve understanding of the strengths and challenges of the Just Tech Fellowship.

Project Manager & Qualitative Lead: Point of contact for client, lead on budgeting and contract compliance, and lead for all qualitative data collection and analysis.

Early Learning, Education Equity, and Youth Development

Equity Audit of the California Department of Social Services’ Early Learning and Care Grants (2023). This evaluation consists of a grant review of the California Department of Social Services’ (CDSS) Early Learning and Care Grants (ELC) CDSS’s ELC grants, with the goal of having a better understanding of their activities, outputs, and outcomes. The project also consists of reviewing best practices documents and stakeholder interviews to highlight best practices for ELC grant administration. The overarching goal is to have a sense of which programs or populations (if any) are underrepresented or excluded from ELC programs, and to lift up opportunities for CDSS to strengthen grantmaking and deepen their ELC strategy.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Oversee the development of data collection tools and supervise data collection. Prepare evaluation timeline memo, client deliverables, and the annual evaluation report.

Families Lead California, Heising-Simons Foundation (2023-Present). SPR is facilitating the co-design and early implementation of an evaluation framework for assessing the collective impact of the Foundation's new Families Lead California initiative that is focused on supporting CBOs to increase parent voice, power, and leadership in the ECE advocacy space. The framework will lift up these CBOs' goals and needs. As part of this work, SPR will also be supporting the FLC facilitation team with convening evaluation summaries as they provide coaching and co-create learning spaces with and for the community partner organizations.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Oversee the development of data collection tools and development. Prepare summary memos, client deliverables, and the final summary report.

Practitioners' Voice California, Tides Foundation (2023). The Heising-Simons Foundation seeded a new collective action fund at Tides Foundation, called the Practitioners' Voice California Fund (PVCA). Tipping Point Community, the Blue Shield Foundation of California, and the California Community Foundation joined the PVCA. This group of funding partners is embarking on a new initiative to resource early learning and care (ELC) practitioners in California as they organize and engage in policy reforms at the local, regional, and statewide levels, with a focus on practitioners' wages, benefits, and job quality. SPR is supporting PVCA to facilitate and support the development of a Theory of Change, which will reflect the core lines of inquiry explored in an accompanying Measurement Plan and Guiding Questions to support learning and continuous improvement for the PVCA Funder Collective and future practitioner partners, as well as to assess progress toward shared goals.

Project Manager: Serve as client liaison and support facilitation of client meetings. Leads qualitative data collection. Supports writing for key client deliverables.

The Expanded Sustainable Interdisciplinary Research to Inspire Undergraduate Success Project (SIRIUS II), Sacramento State University (2020 – 2023). The National Science Foundation awarded Sacramento State University's College of Natural Science & Mathematics a grant to expand on the SIRIUS project, a five-year project which aims to provide interdisciplinary authentic learning experiences (ALEs) to STEM students across 67 courses at five institutions in the Sacramento Region. The SIRIUS II project supports faculty in designing and implementing ALEs in STEM courses, with the ultimate aim to improve STEM outcomes for transfer students, underrepresented minorities, and women. The external evaluator of the SIRIUS II Project, the ISR, provides evaluation services for the SIRIUS II project. The evaluation of the SIRIUS II program includes process and outcome measures throughout the five-year period, including quantitative and qualitative data from students, faculty, and campus administrators. The evaluation also includes a social network analysis to measure the extent to which the SIRIUS II program fosters faculty collaboration across institutions and disciplines throughout the five-year grant.

Co-Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Submit monthly progress report memos, evaluation plan memo, and annual reports to provide implementation progress and early outcome measurements.

Robla School District Physical Education Needs Assessment, Health Education Council (2019 – 2020). The evaluation firm LPC Consulting Associates, Inc. (LPC) partnered with the Health Education Council

(HEC) to conduct an evaluation examining physical education (PE) at the Robla School District (Robla). At Robla, in addition to the PE provided by PE teachers, grade level teachers are responsible for providing approximately 60 minutes of PE to students each week to help fulfill California's PE requirement. To examine both barriers and enablers for grade level teachers providing 60 minutes of PE each week, this evaluation included interviews from grade level teachers, PE teachers, and administrators at Robla, as well as a literature review of PE best practices and benefits associated with PE.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create qualitative data collection tools and submit needs assessment final report.

Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program Evaluation and Technical Assistance, Twin Rivers Unified School District (2016 – 2020). The Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) grant allocates funds to school districts to provide programs to mitigate and prevent youth tobacco use and other harmful substances such as alcohol, drugs, and prescription medication. Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) offers eight TUPE programs and services to create a safe learning environment around substance use prevention and intervention, including in-school curricula, counseling interventions, student risk assessments, and after-school programs. LPC Consulting Associates provided evaluation and technical assistance services to the TRUSD TUPE grant. Evaluation services included measuring school climate and substance use trends from California Health Kids Survey data, creating and maintaining databases to track participant involvement of TRUSD TUPE programs, and assessing key performance indicators across all TUPE programs.

Project Manager: Serve as client liaison, facilitate client meetings, create and maintain databases. Provide annual implementation progress reports and end-of-grant outcome assessment of TUPE programs.

Public Health

Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women in California, California Department of Public Health (2020 – 2022). The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) utilizes an upstream approach to violence prevention, which aims to address root causes to prevent violence from happening in the first place. In partnership with CDPH, ISR conducted an environmental scan to better understand strategies and barriers pertaining to economic supports and leadership opportunities for girls and women as an upstream violence prevention approach. ISR continued this partnership with CDPH by following up one of the environmental scan's recommendations – to more effectively convey economic supports as a strategy to prevent gender-based violence. This work included developing a consumer-tested communications toolkit that highlights the connection between economic supports and violence prevention work and a resource guide for meaningful engagement with marginalized communities with a history of underinvestment.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create quantitative and qualitative data collection tools.

Evaluation of Smoke-Free Community College Campus Initiatives in Sacramento County, Breathe California Sacramento Region (2016 – 2020). Breathe California Sacramento Region (BCSR) received funding from the California Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program to implement smoke-free college campuses in Sacramento County. To support BCSR's policy adoption and implementation initiatives, LPC Consulting provided evaluation assistance with over 20 evaluation activities, including campus opinion polls, media activity records, campus administrator interviews, and campus observations.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. Submit bi-annual progress reports and the final evaluation report.

Evaluation Support for Vidas Importantes Vecindarios Elevados and Voices Inspiring Valley Action, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (2018-2020). LPC Consulting served as the external evaluator for two projects with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN): the Vidas Importantes Vecindarios Elevados (VIVE) project and Voices Inspiring Valley Action (VIVA). Although both projects focused on cancer prevention by adopting and implementing tobacco control policies (including smoke-free multi-unit housing, tobacco-free college and medical campuses, and reducing the number of tobacco outlets), VIVE focused on Hispanic/Latino residents in the Inland Empire region and VIVA worked with rural municipalities in the Central Valley. To support ACS CAN, LPC Consulting provide evaluation expertise in public opinion polling, campus observations, stakeholder interviews, and media activity records.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. Submit bi-annual progress reports.

Housing and Community Development

Mirasol Village Redevelopment Project Process Evaluation, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (2020 – 2023). The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) received a Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Mirasol Village Housing Redevelopment Project. Mirasol Village, located in the River District-Railyards area of Sacramento, aims to create environmentally sustainable housing and connect its residents to the City of Sacramento – physically, economically, and socially. SHRA partnered with the ISR to conduct an evaluation to better understand residents’ experiences at Mirasol Village and to refine programs and practices. The evaluation examines if the Mirasol Village is serving its residents as intended and includes resident interviews, focus groups, and surveys. The final evaluation report informs SHRA’s programmatic approach for providing amenities and services to the residents of Mirasol Village.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create quantitative and qualitative data collection tools.

Evaluation of the Sacramento Integrated Multimodal Place-Based (SIMPL) Project, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (2020 – 2023). The SIMPL project, a California Climate Investments program, promote key strategies of equitable housing and neighborhood development, transit access and mobility, decarbonized energy, urban greening and green infrastructure, , and from the includes \$23 million from the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) Program and \$68.4 million of leveraged projects that promote the key strategies of equitable housing and neighborhood development, transit access and mobility, decarbonized energy, urban greening and green infrastructure, health and wellbeing.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Create quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. Submit annual progress reports.

Preventing Justice Involvement

Youth Reinvestment Grant, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (2020 – 2023). The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) funds 42 grantees through the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) program, which aims to divert youth from initial or subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system using evidence-based, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed practices. To monitor progress, the ISR provides quarterly data dashboards of key performance indicators for YRG grantees. Additionally, ISR provides annual progress reports to assess early and intermediate outcomes of the YRG program. ISR's support includes an emphasis on examining racial disparities and recidivism in the juvenile justice system.

Project Director: Responsible for overall quality of the project including budgeting, client meetings, and final deliverables. Design grantee-level data collection tools and provide quarterly data dashboards of statewide and grantee level metrics. Prepare annual reports that include early and intermediate outcomes of the YRG program.

SELECT REPORTS AND LEARNING PAPERS

"The Sacramento Integrated Multi-Modal Place-Based Living Project: Annual Evaluation Report." Sacramento, CA: The California State University, Sacramento, Institute for Social Research (July 2022). Submitted to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. Available [here](#).

"Preventing Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls: What's Economics Got to Do with It?" Sacramento, CA: The California State University, Sacramento, Institute for Social Research (July 2022). Submitted to the California Department of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. Available [here](#).

"Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women in California: An Environmental Scan of Leadership Opportunities and Economic Supports to Prevent Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and Teen Dating Violence." Sacramento, CA: The California State University, Sacramento, Institute for Social Research (December 2021). Submitted to the California Department of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. Available [here](#).

"Advancing Momentum for Smoke-Free Community College Campuses in Sacramento County, Final Evaluation Report." Sacramento, CA: LPC Consulting Associates, Inc. Submitted to Breathe California Sacramento Region (June 2020).

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

- **Effects of Drug & Alcohol Use on Maternal Awareness.** Secondary analysis of a dataset of 18,500 expectant parents for doctoral statistics course, which examined the effect of drugs, alcohol, and other variables on the number of weeks it took a mother to know she was pregnant. Given the large dataset, the challenge was connecting findings to clinical significance, as it relates to maternal health, given that nearly all variables were statistically significant. (March 2016).
- **New Media, New Movements: Tracing the Construction of #OccupyWallStreet.** Honors thesis examining the relationship between mainstream, alternative, and user-generated

media in the first five weeks of the Occupy movement. I conducted qualitative and quantitative analyses of 967 articles and transcripts, 90,000 YouTube videos, and 850,000 tweets using NVivo and Excel. Awarded Highest Distinction and Best Thesis. (April 2013).

- **Race & Ethnicity Requirement's Effect on Racial Attitudes.** An analysis of 200 university students analyzing the effect of the University of Michigan's race and ethnicity requirement in promoting consciousness of structural racial inequality. (April 2012).

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS FACILITATED

Presentations

- **Youth Alcohol & Drug Prevention in Fresno County.** A presentation for the Fresno County Behavioral Health Board. The presentation included findings from an evaluation that included process, formative, and outcome data from over 6,000 student surveys, key informant interviews, and site observations. (December 2019).
- **Measuring Organizational Supports in Early Education.** A poster session at the American Educational Research Association providing preliminary results from the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research. (April 2016).

Workshops

- **Focus Group Facilitator Workshop for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.** Provided an in-depth workshop of facilitator techniques for conducting focus groups for SHRA staff. (August 2021).
- **Focus Group Facilitator Workshop for Breathe California Sacramento Region.** Overview of focus group facilitation for several focus group facilitators from Breathe California Sacramento Region. (April 2020).
- **Survey Administration and Collection Workshop.** The workshop provided a training for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in the distribution of public opinion polls that were distributed in three different municipalities. Surveys were collected in English and Spanish and collected via pen-to-paper and verbal recorded responses. (August 2019).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Northern California Evaluation Network
- American Evaluation Association
- American Educational Research Association