

Madison Akles

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EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY

B.S. Applied Psychology, 2023

GPA: 3.91, **Honors Thesis:** “Loving Their Sons and Raising Their Daughters: A Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Investigation of Black Families’ Gender Socialization Transmission”

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

M.S. Data Science and Applied Statistics, *Expected Dec 2026*

GPA: 4.0

PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Robertson, C. E., **Akles, M.**, & Van Bavel, J. J. (2024). Preregistered Replication and Extension of "Moral Hypocrisy: Social Groups and the Flexibility of Virtue". *Psychological Science*, 35(7), 798–813.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976241246552>

Cox, B., Hughes, D. L., Das, S., Brown, J., **Akles, M.**, Blood, T., Keryc, C., Martinez, A. M., & Way, N. (2022). White families' communications about and around race: Conversations between white adolescents and their mothers. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 32(3), 896–918.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12774>

“Digital Pathways to Prevention: Integrating Mobile Tools to Support Youth and Family Behavioral Health ” (Castaneda & **Akles**, Presentation for (STAR) UCLA Department of Behavioral Health, 1/21/2026)

“Exploring Recovery Processes Among Youth in Recovery from Substance Use Disorders who participated in a Technology-based Recovery Support Project” (**Akles**, Castaneda, & Ang, 2025, Presentation at INEBRIA).

“Enhancing Youth Behavioral Health Services through Academic-Community Collaboration: A Focus on SBIRT Integration using a Mental Health Trainee Practicum Model” (Okolo, **Akles**, & Durant, 2025, Presentation at INEBRIA).

“Demonstration of an Integrated SBIRT Model for Early Intervention, Emotional Wellbeing, and Family Support” (Saunders, Huynh, & **Akles**, 2025, Presentation at INEBRIA).

“Loving Their Sons and Raising Their Daughters: A Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Investigation of Black Families’ Gender Socialization Transmission” (**Akles**, 2023, Honors Thesis Presentation at NYU Applied Psychology Conference)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate II, Psychology Department, Azusa Pacific University February 2025 - present

- Lead Coordinator for Project TREE, a federally funded SAMHSA grant (\$2,725,000) addressing substance use through technology-based (mHealth) and 1:1 early interventions for at-risk youth
- Directly supervises graduate interns and undergraduate research assistants
- Creates training curriculum for L.A. Department of Mental Health (DMH), Substance Abuse Prevention & Control (SAPC), and LAUSD
- Provides continuing education for mental health providers
- Collaborates with the project team on implementing data analysis and protocols for data-related tasks (e.g. conducting basic descriptive statistics, T-tests, ANOVA, Chi-Square, Non-parametric analyses, correlation, transforming data, recoding, checking for missing data)
- Plans community workshops and trainings for adults, adolescents, and mental health providers

Research Assistant, Center for Conflict and Cooperation, NYU September 2021 - July 2024

- Drafted and published work in moral hypocrisy and intergroup bias
- Designed experimental paradigms in Qualtrics, Matlab, Python, and R
- Proofread and wrote manuscripts, literature reviews, and grant requests
- Coordinated Institutional Review Board submissions
- Managed and scheduled data collection for over 2000 participants

Research Assistant, Learning Race Lab, NYU September 2019 - May 2023

- Prepared presentation and conference materials
- Coded 400+ qualitative parent-child interviews for Racial Socialization in NVivo and Dedoose
- Collaborated with research team to develop codebook for qualitative interviews

AWARDS, HONORS & CERTIFICATIONS

New York University, Dean's List, August 2020 - May 2023

Applied Psychology Honors, August 2019 - 2023

Humane Studies Fellowship from the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) \$5,000, October 2023

Cross-Cutting Initiative on Inequality Award for Research Interviewing Award, May 2023

Peer Support Specialist Certification, September 2025

- Provided 1,500+ hours of non-clinical counseling for justice-involved and substance-involved individuals; these longitudinal observations of social discounting and relapse directly informed my current research interest in using digital nudges to compete with substance-based rewards.

NYU Steinhardt Merit Scholarship, \$36,960, August 2019-2023

Covina Women's Club Scholarship, \$5,000, May 2019

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science

Prosocial Design Network

International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol & Other Drugs

Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology