

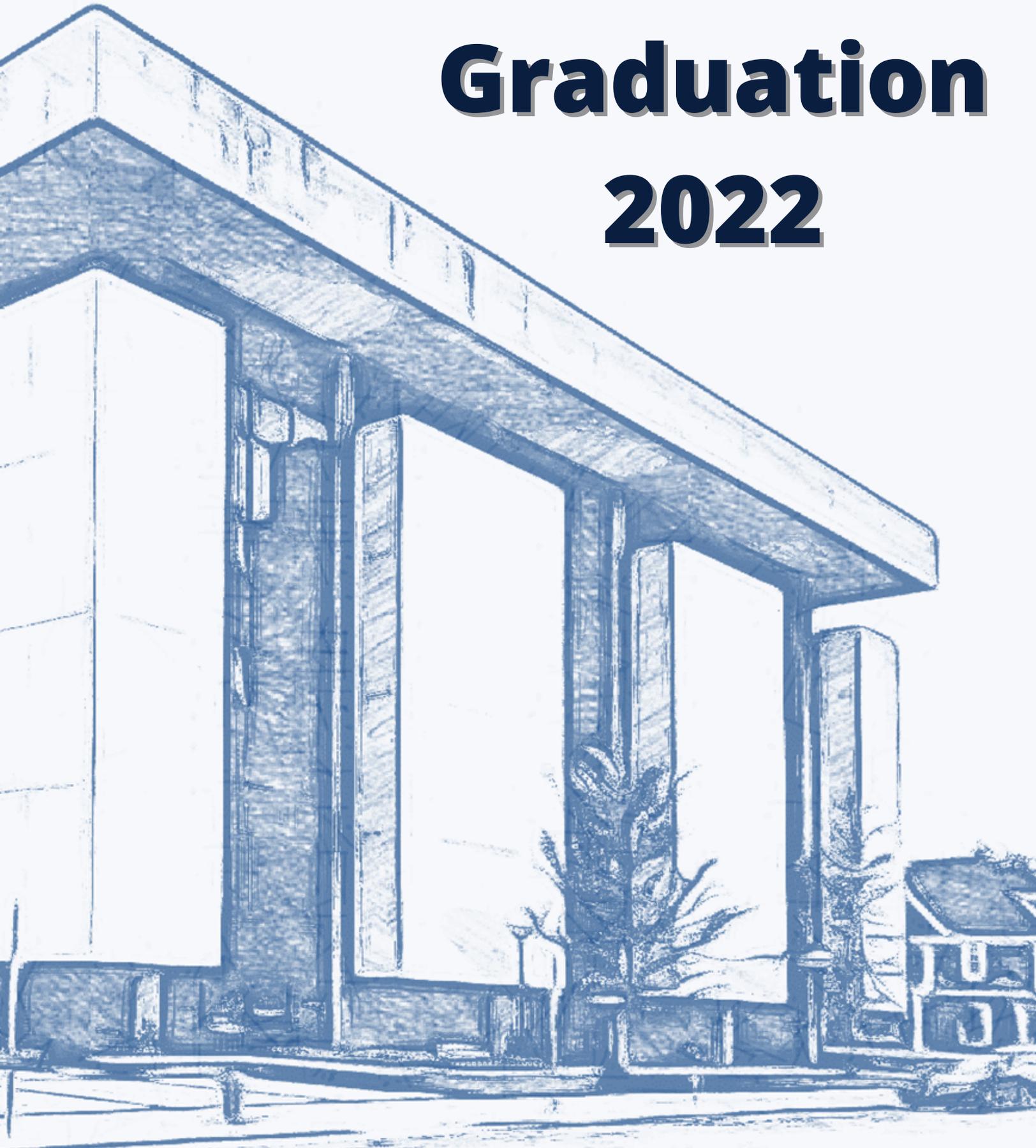


INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

PROGRAM IN SURVEY AND DATA SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# Graduation 2022





# **Adam Kaderabek M.S.**

Mr. Kaderabek enrolled in the Michigan Program for Survey and Data Science (MPSDS) in 2020, prior to which he worked for RTI International where he managed mail mode and field support research operations as well as the survey incentive program. His research interests include the role of incentivization on survey participation, measuring behavioral intentions and hypothetical questions, and operational methods related to data collection and data capture procedures. While enrolled in the MPSDS, Mr. Kaderabek also served as an ORISE fellow with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) and as a Student Representative for the American Statistical Association's Survey Research Methods Section (ASA-SRMS). Additionally he served as a graduate research assistant under an MPSDS cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture - Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS) where he conducted research into the use of point-of-sale receipts for validating data quality in food expenditure research.

I will be returning to RTI following graduation as a Survey Researcher. Beyond that I am looking forward to attending AAPOR 2022 as an attendee and a session moderator. I am also very excited to get to spend my summer in Ann Arbor before I plan to return to North Carolina in the fall. I also have a manuscript submission under review with the journal Survey Practice and hope to receive notice of its acceptance over the summer and I will be submitting a separate paper to the fall 2022 special addition of Survey Methods: Insights from the Field.

Although there are many aspects of my time in the program that some might say were diminished due to the pandemic, I felt like it never impacted the quality of insight, or diversity of perspective I received from those around me. I remember attending my "prospective student" meeting in 2019 and I asked the students what was something that surprised them unexpectedly. RJ Batas said, "What was surprising to me, well I guess it shouldn't really be a surprise, but I was surprised by just how smart everyone was." That resonated with me throughout my coursework. Getting accepted to the program is no small feat (and I know because it took me two tries), but the diversity of my peers and their own experiences was so incredible it was mind boggling at times. If there was any limitation due to the pandemic it is only that I didn't have more time to get to know everyone better. I do miss being able to attend class from my hammock though.

## Projects

Interned with NCSES

Research Assistant for MPSDS/USDA-ERS FoodAPS Cooperative Agreement (under Brady)

Volunteered as ASA-SRMS Student Representative (April 2021-April 2022)

Volunteered as AAPOR 2022 Conference Committee Volunteer (August 2021 - February 2022)

MPSDS Student/Faculty Representative for 2020 Cohort



# **Jacy Li M.S.**

Growing up in Harbin, China, Ms. Li received her Bachelor of Arts at Bryn Mawr College in Cultural Anthropology. Jacy is an aspiring student studying behavioral research. Her interests situate at the interaction of public affair and primary data collection, with an emphasis on multinational survey designs

Jacy plans to gain more working experience and expand expertise on either sampling design or statistical analysis through work in the next few years.

Jacy has been working as a Graduate Research Associate to support the work for the international research division at SRC-ISR. She also interned at RTI International last summer, where her focused mainly on cognitive interviewing of participants from more than 10 countries and languages for a private sector client.

Jacy is grateful to get to know everyone in the program. The professors, staff, students and also the alumni, all are super supportive and wanted her to succeed. She thanks everyone for the help, support, and advice over the past two years.



# **Robert Schultz M.S.**

Mr. Schultz holds a M.A. in Economics from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) and completed his Bachelors at Adrian College (Adrian, MI). Robert works as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with SoundRocket in Ann Arbor. Previously to his time at SoundRocket he worked under the supervision of Dr. James Wagner. Prior to coming to Michigan, previous research experience includes working with The Detroit University Economic Partnership, StockX and Rocket Companies. Robert pursued his Masters in Survey Methodology with an emphasis in Social Science

Robert will be joining the research team at SoFI focusing on quantitative methodology and data science after graduation. Previously Robert spent a summer with SoFI focusing on survey design and analysis focusing on economic and financial topics. Looking forward to continuing some outside research projects while also consulting for some other companies.

## Projects

Worked on survey non-response and blog posts with Soundrocket and some experimentation. Worked with Dr. Wagner and Dr. West on a project with the NSF. Was an inaugural MAPOR Student Fellow working with Dr. Paul Lavarkas on Google Trends and polling data. Outside research included working with professors at other schools focusing on using NSF Survey Data to research the socio-economic diversity of Economic PhD recipients. This work was presented at the Federal Reserve and the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

## Memories

Enjoyed working with various professors in other fields using survey data to answer social questions. Presenting at MAPOR and the Fed was a great experience. Working with a company that sent me to NYC and San Francisco was also a highlight and showed that merging tech, methodology and economics is a very viable path.



# **Chendi Zhao M.S.**

Ms. Zhao received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Beijing Normal University in China. As a Master student, Chendi studies the social science emphasis of the program. Chendi will graduate in April 2022 and will continue her studies in the MPSDS doctoral program

I will be pursuing a Ph.D. degree in MPSDS and I want to be an applied researcher in the field. I hope I never stop learning new things and challenging myself. I want to become a more supportive and generous person.

For now, I just want COVID to disappear so that everyone can go back to a normal and healthy life.

I am really grateful to be part of this program and meet so many good teachers and classmates (both Michigan and Maryland). I've learned so much from you and wish everyone all the best for the future!

## **Projects**

I did my internship in Beijing. I worked in an NGO established by an alumnus. I have always been very interested in environmental issues and I have done lots of voluntary work since high school. So, it feels good to apply what I have learned in Survey Methodology to this interest. It has been a wonderful summer.

## **Memories**

The meaning of my name in Chinese is the peaceful music of the flute in the early morning that wakes up the world. It seems like my parents wanted me to be an early bird but I always stay up very late every day. With this "special skill", it was not very hard for me to study remotely in Beijing during my first year in the program. And it was the only time that I could stay up late without having my mom criticizing me, so that was great.



# **Fernanda Alvarado-Leiton Ph.D.**

Fernanda Alvarado-Leiton completed the Doctoral Program in Survey and Data Science in August 2021 at the University of Michigan and earned her Master's degree in Statistics from the Universidad de Costa Rica in San Jose, Costa Rica. She recently joined the Statistics department at the Universidad de Costa Rica as a faculty member. Fernanda's research interests focus on the sources of measurement errors in cross-cultural research. In particular, she is interested in response styles and how these impact the survey measurement process across different cultural groups.



# **Ali Rafei Ph.D.**

Ali Rafei recently graduated with his PhD degree in Survey and Data Science from the University of Michigan. Ali came to the Michigan Program in Survey and Data Science (MPSDS) with not only his Bachelor's degree in Statistics at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, but also graduated with a Master of Biostatistics from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Ali moved to Bay Area, California, after graduation, and currently, works as a Research Scientist at Meta. His research interests mainly concern methods for finite population inference based on non-probability samples with more emphasis on Big Data.