

Hilary P. Wu

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EDUCATION

In Progress	Ph.D. Special Education <i>University of California, Los Angeles California State University, Los Angeles</i> Interests: Autism, ADHD, Mental Health, Camouflaging/Masking Advisors: Jeffrey Wood & Robin Dodds
2021	M.A., Autism Spectrum Disorders <i>California State University, Los Angeles</i>
2013	B.A., Psychology <i>California State Polytechnic University, Pomona</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher	June 2025 - Current
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University of California, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Emily Hotez

- Investigating the health challenges disproportionately experienced by autistic women.
- Identifying the moderating roles of social determinants of health indicators in contributing to health outcomes.

Long-Term Graduate Trainee	September 2024 - June 2025
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Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

University of California, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Emily Hotez

- Investigated gender differences in autism and mental health diagnoses, as well as demographic influences (e.g., race, socioeconomic status) on mental health outcomes in autistic women.
- Analyzed healthcare bias and its impact on mental health diagnoses and self-harm tendencies among autistic individuals.
- Conducted statistical analyses (Chi-square, ANOVA, T-tests) using SPSS.
- Assisted in participant recruitment.

Graduate Student Researcher	June 2023 - March 2025
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College of Education, California State University, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Robin Dodds

- Researched variables associated with the underutilization of regional center services.
- Held focus groups with parents and caregivers of individuals with disabilities.
- Analyzed qualitative results using Dedoose.

PUBLICATIONS

Dodds, R., **Wu, H.**, Topanta, C. (*Under Review*). Turning Authorizations into Services: Parent Perspectives on Regional Center Utilization for School-Aged Children in California. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.

Dodds, R. L., Roy, S., **Wu, H.**, Belden, A., Hafer, C., & Toapanta, C. (2025). Improving Uptake in Regional Center Services: Using Program Data to Identify Predictors of Under-Utilization and Non-Utilization. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 130(4), 309-322.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor

September 2024 - Current

DIS 195CE: Internship Course in Disability Studies

University of California, Los Angeles

- Instruct/mentor junior and senior undergraduate students during a two-quarter disability studies internship.
- Grade assignments and maintain the course website on the learning management system (Canvas).

Teaching Associate

September 2023 - June 2025

EDUC 123: The Teaching Profession

University of California, Los Angeles

- A course reviewing theoretical frameworks to question schooling and learning.
- Provided instructional support during class lectures.
- Graded assignments and maintained the course website on the learning management system (Canvas).

Teaching Assistant

March 2024 - June 2024

EDUC 104A: Introduction to Exceptional Learners

University of California, Los Angeles

- A course on the legal and social foundations of special education.
- Led a discussion section of 30 undergraduate students.
- Graded assignments and maintained the course website on the learning management system (Canvas).

Graduate Assistant

August 2022 - June 2023

California State University, Los Angeles, CA

EDSP 4000: Foundations of Special Education; EDSP 5000: Disabilities in School and Society; COUN 2010: Foundations of Lifespan and Human Development

- Graded assignments and maintained course website on learning management system (Canvas).
- Provided instructional support during lectures.
- Scheduled appointments and held office hours to assist students with coursework or advisement for classes with 100+ students.

Education Specialist

August 2019 - June 2023

East Whittier City School District, Whittier, CA

- Created Individualized Education Plans for 30+ students (grades K-5) with mild to moderate disabilities via SEIS system.
- Utilized explicit and sequential reading instruction.
- Collaborated with general education teachers to provide teaching strategies, differentiated instruction, and classroom accommodations/modifications.
- Communicated with families to update them on classroom instruction and student progress.
- Supervised and trained paraprofessionals in behavior management, reading, and math instruction

CERTIFICATIONS

2025

PEERS for Young Adults

- *Certified to administer the PEERS® for Young Adults program in educational, clinical, or telehealth settings*

2020

Clear Education Specialist Credential

- *Authorization: Mild to Moderate Disabilities*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Therapist

April 2025 - Current

- Conduct online peer groups and private coaching sessions utilizing the PEERS curriculum to focus on social skills development and coping strategies for social anxiety for teenagers and adults.
- Provide administrative support, including conducting initial consultations, conducting intake appointments, responding to emails, and answering phone calls as needed.

UC-LEND Trainee

University of California, Los Angeles

September 2024 - June 2025

- Graduate and clinician-level training program affiliated with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) network aimed to improve the health of individuals with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. Completed 300+ hours of training in developing skills in leadership, education, policy work, and advocacy.

Fieldwork Supervisor: C. Lamar Meyer Learning Center (Practicum)

California State University, Los Angeles

January 2023 - June 2023

- Co-taught with the CSULA Learning Center faculty team
- Supervised and coached preservice MMSN and ESN credential students in a community K-12 weekend education program; 3-4 classrooms, with 97% EL students and 36% students with various disabilities
- Trained students in lesson planning, collaboration, formal and informal assessment, literacy, and content area instruction

Behavior Interventionist

August 2015 - August 2019

Alhambra Unified School District, Alhambra, CA

- Utilized Applied Behavior Analysis principles to improve behavior outcomes
- Certified in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (CPI) for verbal de-escalation
- Collaborated with the IEP team to assist in developing and implementing behavior support plans
- Collected data under the supervision of BCBA
- Provided differentiated instruction under the supervision of the classroom teacher

Instructional Aide

August 2014 - August 2015

Alhambra Unified School District, Alhambra, CA

- Assisted students individually and in small groups to meet learning objectives in all subject areas
- Led classroom lessons overseen by the classroom teacher
- Prepared lesson plans and projects
- Observed student progress to supply the teacher with feedback regarding potential learning blocks and opportunities for support

Behavior Aide

August 2013 - August 2014

El Monte Unified School District, El Monte, CA

- Provided small group and one-to-one instruction
- Provided behavioral support and intervention for students

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sigar, P., Yue, H., **Wu, H.**, Eisert, S., Kozlova, E., Vajifar, A., Shankar, S., Brandsen, S., Weir, E., & Hotez,

E. “Investigating The Health And Healthcare Experiences Of Autistic Emerging Adults.” [Poster Presentation]. Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, October 6, 2025, (Los Angeles, CA).

Eisert, S., Kozlova, E., Sigar, P., **Wu, H.**, Yue, H., Hotez, E. “Layered Identities: Intersectional Influences on Mental Health in the Autistic Community.” [Poster Presentation]. *Neal Halfon Public Health Trainee Symposium*, June 6, 2025, (Los Angeles, CA).

Sigar, P., **Wu, H.P.**, Yue, H., Eisert, S., Kozlova, E., Hotez, E. “Mental Health Among Emerging Adults With Intellectual And/Or Developmental Disabilities: The Role Of Gender, Demographics, And Healthcare Experiences.” [Poster Presentation]. *Neal Halfon Public Health Trainee Symposium*, June 6, 2025, (Los Angeles, CA).

Dodds, R., **Wu, H.P.**, C., Toapanta, C. “Barriers to Regional Center Service Utilization for School-Aged Clients.” [Poster Presentation]. *TASH; December 6, 2024*, (New Orleans, LA).

Dodds, R., Roy, S., **Wu, H.P.**, Belden, A., Hafer, C., Toapanta, C. “Improving Uptake in Regional Center Services: Using Program Data to Identify Predictors of Under-Utilization.” [Poster Presentation]. *Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD); November 5, 2024*, (Washington, D.C).

Panelist, “Promoting Positive Mental Health in Autism”: Educator Panel; *Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health; March 7, 2024*, (Zoom).

Panelist, “Representation Matters”: How to Support Teacher Candidates with Disabilities; *Teacher Education Division (TED); November 2, 2023*; (Long Beach, CA).

Wu, H.P.. “Examining Parent Knowledge of Specific Learning Disabilities: What Do They Know?” [Poster Presentation]. *Teacher Education Division (TED), November 1, 2023*; (Long Beach, CA).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Graduate Student and Faculty Mentor Recognition Honoree	2024 - 2025
Louise Tyler Scholarship	2023 - 2024
Graduate Student and Faculty Mentor Recognition Honoree	2023 - 2024
Graduate Student and Faculty Mentor Recognition Honoree	2022 - 2023