# Nicolas L. Harder
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Mailing Address
Department of Sociology
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Contact information
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## Education:

PhD Sociology                              University of South Carolina, expected Spring 2025
  "Heuristics and Cultural Competition: How the Status of Cultural Objects are Formed and Status Influences Survival" Committee: Matthew Brashears (chair), Laura Brashears, Diego Leal Castro (University of Arizona), Ronald Breiger (University of Arizona)

M.A. Sociology                              University of South Carolina, Spring 2019
B.A. Sociology                              University of Iowa, Spring 2015
B.A. Political Science                      University of Iowa, Spring 2015

## Research Interests

Social Networks, Simulation, Quantitative Methods, Social Psychology, Culture, Status and Influence, Contagion, Diffusion

## Peer Reviewed Publications

**Harder, Nicolas L.** & Matthew E. Brashears. (Forthcoming). "Structures of Interaction: Social Network Analysis and its application in Social Psychology." in the *Handbook of Social Psychology*, Lisa Slattery Walker and Gretchen Peterson eds.

**Harder, Nicolas L.** & Matthew E. Brashears. (2023). An improved approach for ecological modeling of social phenomena in Blau Space. *PLOS ONE*, 18(8) e0289934.

Leal, Diego F., & **Nicolas L. Harder.** (2023). Network Dynamics and Intensity in Global Migration Flows, 1990-2015. *Journal of Ethic and Migration Studies*, 49(2): 445-464.

Leal, Diego F., & **Nicolas L. Harder.** (2021). "Global Dynamics of International Migration Systems across South-South, North-North, and North-South Flows, 1990-2015". *Applied Network Science*, 6: 1-27.

**Harder, Nicolas L.**, & Matthew E. Brashears. (2020). "Predicting organizational recruitment using a hybrid cellular model: new directions in Blau space analysis". *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*, 26(3): 320-349.

Brashears, Matthew E., Laura A. Brashears & **Nicolas L. Harder** (2020). "Where you are, what you want, and what you can do: The role of master statuses, personality traits, and social cognition in shaping ego network size, structure, and composition". *Network Science*, 8(3): 356-380

**Harder Nicolas L.** & Matthew E. Brashears. (2019) A Hybrid Cellular Model for Predicting Organizational Recruitment in a k-Dimensional Space. In: Thomson R., Bisgin H., Dancy C., Hyder A. (eds) Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Modeling. SBP-BRiMS 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 11549. Springer, Cham.[1]

- Awarded Best student paper at SBP-BRiMs

## Publications Under Review

**Harder, Nicolas L.** & Matthew E. Brashears. "Vibrations through Ties: How Ego Networks Influence Music Preferences and Consumption" – in the *Handbook of Social Psychology: Micro, Meso, and Macro Perspectives*, Jan E. Stets, Karen A. Hegtvedt, and Long Doan eds. – under revision.

## Papers in progress

**Harder, Nicolas L.** Matthew E. Brashears, and Valarie Barron. "Predicting Prosocial Behavior from Culture and Ego Networks" – Working paper – initial analysis complete, draft presented at 2024 Group Processes Conference

**Harder, Nicolas L.** "The Sound of Status: How Status is Composed and How It Influences the Consumption of Culture" – Working paper – analysis complete, draft presented at 2023 Group Processes Conference

**Harder, Nicolas L.** "Cultural Consumption Templates: Preferences, Behavior, and Investment across 4 different types of cultural objects" – Working paper – initial analysis complete, draft presented at ASA 2023

**Harder, Nicolas L.** "Participating Alone: Modeling Civic Participation and Support for Political Violence." Working paper – initial analysis complete, early draft presented at INSNA 2023

## Data Collection Efforts

**Harder, Nicolas L**., Matthew E. Brashears, and Valarie Barron. "Voluntary Organizations and Civic Participation Survey – Wave 2 – Spring 2024" – updated with new variables - funded by Army Research Office (ARO) award, Award #: W911NF-24-1-0002 - over 2,400 responses collected

**Harder, Nicolas L.** and Valarie Barron. "Cultural Objects Surveys – Wave 3 – Spring 2024" – Series of 4 surveys related to Music, Film, Video Games, and Literature, updated with new variables – funded by Army Research Office (ARO) award, Award #: W911NF-24-1-0002 – over 5,300 responses collected

**Harder, Nicolas L.** "Cultural Objects Surveys – Wave 2" – Series of 4 surveys related to Music, Film, Video Games, and Literature – funded by SPARC Graduate Research Grant – over 1,600 responses collected

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[1] This conference is run on a Computer Science model, and in that discipline conference papers receive stringent peer review.

**Harder, Nicolas L**., Matthew E. Brashears, and Victoria Money. "Voluntary Organizations and Civic Participation Survey – Wave 1 - 2023" – funded by Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) award, Office of Naval Research, Award #: N00014-17-1-2675 – over 5,000 responses collected

**Harder, Nicolas L.** "Cultural Objects Surveys – Wave 1" – Series of 4 surveys related to Music, Film, Video Games, and Literature – funded by Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) award, Office of Naval Research, Award #: N00014-17-1-2675 – over 6,700 responses collected

## Software
**Harder, Nicolas L.**, Gage Piece, & Matthew E. Brashears. "Hybrid Blau Space Model: An Ecological Model for micro interactions between social entities." V.0.3. *Package for the R programming environment.* – Alpha released June 2024. https://github.com/piercegagea/HBSm

## Presentations
"Simulating Competition Between Four Highbrow Music Genres over the course of 30 years" – American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 11th, 2024.

"Predicting Prosocial Behavior from Culture and Ego Networks" (With Matthew E. Brashears and Valarie Barron) – 2024 Group Processes Conference, August 9th, 2024.

"Surveying Civic Behavior, Culture, and Networks: A look at diversity and Prosocial Behavior" (With Matthew E. Brashears and Valarie Barron) – Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, June 29th, 2024.

"Cultural Consumption Templates: Preferences, Behavior, and Investment across 4 different types of cultural objects" American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 20th, 2023.

"The Sound of Status: How Status is Composed and How It Influences the Consumption of Culture" 2023 Group Processes Conference, August 17th, 2023.

"Participating Alone: Modeling Civic Participation and Support for Political Violence" (With Matthew E. Brashears and Victoria L. Money) Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, June 30th, 2023.

"Battle of the Genres: Comparing competition based on individual stated preferences and reported behavioral investment" Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, July 12, 2022.

"Ears Among Peers: Modeling competition between music genres over the course of 30 years" Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, July 7, 2021.

"Understanding and Predicting Legislative Behavior in the Verkhovna Rada through New Methods of Ecological Modeling" (With Matthew Brashears, Tymofii Brik, Kathleen Carley, and Thomas Magelinski) Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, July 16, 2020.

"A Cellular Model for Predicting Organizational Recruitment in a k-Dimensional Space" (With Matthew E. Brashears) 2019 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling & Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation July 10, 2019.

"From Curves to Grids: New Directions in the Simulation and Analysis of Blau Space" (With Matthew E. Brashears) Annual Meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, June 21, 2019.

"Status from Possession: An Extension of Status Value Theory" 2018 Group Processes Conference, August 10, 2018.

## Grants and Fellowships

"Simulating and predicting social behavior from exposure and interaction with similar others: A data collection initiative and model advancement project." (PI: Matthew Brashears), Army Research Office, Award #: N00014-17-1-2675, (Total grant: $184,000), November 2023 – December 2024.

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, $40,000 (full support for tuition and living expenses), August 2022 – May 2023.

"Heuristics and Cultural Competition: How the Status of Cultural Objects are Formed and Status Influences Survival", SPARC grant award, University of South Carolina Office of the Vice President of Research, (Total grant: $5,000), May 2022 – July 2023

Department Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of South Carolina (Total grant: $480), March 2018

## Honors and Awards

Best Student Paper Award, SBP-BRiMs 2017 for "A Hybrid Cellular Model for Predicting Organizational Recruitment in a k-Dimensional Space."

## Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant,                                    Fall 2015 – Present
The Laboratory for Sociological Research,
University of South Carolina

Research Assistant, ARO Project W911NF-24-1-0002        Spring 2024 – Present
PI: Dr. Matthew Brashears, University of South Carolina

Research Assistant, ONR Project N00014-17-1-2675;        Fall 2017 – Summer 2022
Co-PI: Dr. Matthew Brashears, University of South Carolina

Student Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University        Summer 2017

## Teaching Experience

Instructor,                                                    Fall 2023 & 2024
Introduction to Sociology (SOCY 101)

Instructor,                                              Summer 2023 & 2024
Elementary Statistics for Sociology (SOCY 392)

Voluntary Teaching Assistant,                            Fall 2022
Statistical Analysis in Sociology (SOCY 730)

Course Co-Developer,                                     Summer 2022
Online Accelerated version of
Elementary Statistics for Sociologists (SOCY 392)

Voluntary Teaching Assistant,                            Spring 2022
Elementary Statistics for Sociologists (SOCY 392)

Instructor,                                              Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Student Advocacy and Ethical Life (SAEL 200)

## Reviewer
Social Psychology Quarterly (2 articles)
Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory (3 articles)
PLOS One (2 article)
Journal of Computational Social Science (1 article)

## Professional Associations
INSNA (International Network for Social Network Analysis)        2019-present
ASA (American Sociological Association)                          2018-present
Mathematical Sociology Subsection of ASA                        2020-present
Social Psychology Subsection of ASA                             2020-present
Cultural Sociology Subsection of ASA                            2023-present

## Professional Service
ASA Mathematical Sociology Section Webmaster Team               2024-present
ASA Social Psychology Section Council Member – Student          2024-2026

## Department Service
Experimental Social Psychology Student Group        Membership Fall 2015-Present
    Positions: Treasurer (2015-2016), President (2016-2018), Secretary (2018-2019)

Sociology Graduate Student Association              Membership Fall 2015-Present
    Positions: Treasurer (2015-2016), Secretary (2016-2017, 2020-2022), Vice President (2017-2018), President (2019-2020)