

Sakaria Laisene Auelua-Toomey

Assistant Professor

Department of Psychology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Sakamaki Hall, 2530 Dole St C 400, Honolulu, HI 96822

sakaria4@hawaii.edu | <https://psychology.manoa.hawaii.edu/sakaria-laisene-aelua-toomey/>

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of Psychology

August 2024 – Present

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Psychology, 2024

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

B.A. with Honors, Psychology and Communicology, 2016

Honolulu Community College

A.A. with Honors, Liberal Arts and Psychology, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Auelua-Toomey, S. L. (in review). Hawai‘i as a multicultural paradise: The impact of multicultural paradise narratives on perceptions of inequality in Hawai‘i. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*

Ngā Ngaru a Kiwa¹ (in review) Reflexively Uncovering Impacts and Applications (RUIA) of Indigenous Anchoring Research Across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. *AlterNative*

Park M. N., Sumibcay J. R., Keaulana-Scott S., **Auelua-Toomey S. L.**, Rehuher D., Garcia J., McComas C., Taitague-Laforga M., Nacnac M., Antonio M. C. K. (in review). Nā Leo O Nā ‘Ōpio: Elevating Indigenous Youth Voices to Inform Systems Change for Unaccompanied Youth in Hawai‘i. *American Journal of Public Health*

Auelua-Toomey, S. L., Reinhart E. C., Louis K. (2026). The subjectivity of objectivity: The effects of positionality statements on objectivity perceptions of psychological research. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*

Johnson F. N., Winter T., Forsberg E., Penman Z., Fox R., Karl J., **Auelua-Toomey S. L.**, Aranga-Doyle H., Thompson V., Antonio M., O’Keefe (2026). Kia mau i te WeHI - The design, development, and validation of the Wellbeing Hononga Index (WeHI) – a new self-report measure of Māori wellbeing. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*

¹ * Published as a collective under Ngā Ngaru a Kiwa. Authors in alphabetical order: Aranga-Doyle H., **Auelua-Toomey S. L.**, Berghan J., Fox R., Johnson F. N., & Kawano K.

Auelua-Toomey, S. L., Mortenson, E., & Roberts, S. O. (2024). Reducing racial bias in scientific communication: journal policies and their influence on reporting racial demographics. *American Psychologist*.

Chappelle, M.C., **Auelua-Toomey, S. L.,** & Roberts, S. O. (2024). Sankofa: Using topic models to review the history of the Journal of Black Psychology. *The Journal of Black Psychology*.

Auelua-Toomey, S. L. & Roberts, S. O. (2023). Romantic racism: How racial preferences (and beliefs about racial preferences) reinforce hierarchy in US interracial relationships. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

Auelua-Toomey, S. L. & Roberts, S. O. (2022). The effects of editorial board diversity on race scholars and their scholarship: A field experiment. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.

Auelua-Toomey, S. L. (2016). Autism spectrum disorder: Testing perceptions of reality using the Monty Hall problem. *Manoa Horizons*.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

Stony Brook University (Department of Psychology) 2026
Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Race Scholars and Their Scholarship.

Dartmouth University (Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences) 2025
Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Race Scholars and Their Scholarship.

Texas A&M University (Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences) 2024
Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Race Scholars and Their Scholarship.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Pili I Ke Kanaka Talk Series, CSS) 2024
Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Race Scholars and Their Scholarship.

Google Inc., United States (Research+, People Analytics) 2023
Identifying and dismantling racism by leveraging the perspective of racially marginalized groups.

University of Georgia, United States (Department of Psychology) 2023
The importance of diversity for increasing race-related scholarship in psychological science.

University of Otago, New Zealand (Department of Psychology) 2022
Emphasizing the perspective of marginalized groups to identify and dismantle racism.

Cognitive Development Society Biennial Conference 2022
The importance of diversity for increasing race-related scholarship in psychological science.

Stanford University (Department of Sociology) 2020
Romantic racism: A system of romantic advantage based on race.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention Whose paradise? The impact of paradisaal discourse on perceptions on inequality in Hawai'i	2026
Society for Experimental Social Psychology Whose paradise? The impact of paradisaal discourse on perceptions on inequality in Hawai'i	2025
Society for Psychology Study of Social Issues Annual Conference Reducing racial bias in scientific communication	2024
Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention Romantic Racism: How racial preferences reinforce hierarchy in US interracial relationships.	2024
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Emphasizing the perspective of the perceived: Interracial relationships	2023
Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention The effects of editorial board diversity on race scholars and their scholarship: A field experiment.	2023
Psychology Colloquium Lightning Talks, Stanford University The importance of diversity for increasing race-related scholarship in psychological science.	2022
Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention Loving's legacy: How interracial couples disrupt and maintain social hierarchies.	2022
Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention The role of meta-beliefs in interracial relationships.	2021
Social Psychology Area, Stanford University Romantic racism: A system of romantic advantage based on race.	2020
Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Annual Convention Romantic racism: A system of romantic advantage based on race.	2020

HONORS AND AWARDS (PI unless stated otherwise)

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee	2025
College of Social Sciences Research Support Award (\$35,000)	2025
Provost's Strategic Investment Initiative (\$33, 475)	2025
Gartley Award for Research Excellence (\$500)	2015
Associated Students of University of Hawai'i Research Grant (\$1,500)	2015
Colleges of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association Award (\$1,500)	2015
Department of Communicology Award (\$250)	2015
Joseph F. Smith Memorial Award (\$1,600)	2014

External Agencies

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evidence for Action Grant (CO-I \$191,667)	2025
American Psychological Association Enhancing Epistemic Diversity Grant (\$30,000)	2024
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (\$28,000)	2023

Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Grant (\$10,000)	2023
NYU Faculty First Look Scholar (\$3,000)	2023
NYU Stern Diverse Pathways in Academia Fellow (\$3,000)	2023
Henry Luce Foundation Fellow (\$50,000)	2017
Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship (\$1,000)	2017
Northwestern University Sneak Peak Program Invitation (\$1,500)	2016
Interactive Autism Network Research Grant (\$1,200)	2015

Stanford University

Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Grant (\$2,000)	2023
Stanford Laboratory of the Study of American Values Grant (\$5,000)	2023
Stanford Institute for Research in Social Sciences Fellow (\$11,000)	2022
Stanford Social Collaborative Research Fellow (\$4,000)	2022
The Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Fellow (\$133,000)	2021
Norman H. Anderson Research Fund (\$4,000)	2019
Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Doctoral Fellow (\$19,000)	2018

MEDIA INTERVIEWS & SPOTLIGHTS

2025. Featured in popular science website *PsyPost*, August 17.

<https://www.psypost.org/beliefs-about-desirability-shape-racial-preferences-in-dating-according-to-new-psychology-research/>

2023. Interviewed on podcast *Pre-Occupied*, July 13.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Ngā Ngaru a Kiwa	2025
Resist, Identify, and Dismantle (RID) Lab	2024
Google People Analytics Equity and Inclusion Lab	2023
National University of Singapore Summer Institute of Computational Social Sciences	2023
Stanford SPARQ Lab	2023
Stanford Laboratory of the Study of American Values	2023
Stanford Social Concepts Lab	2018
Stanford Center for Study of Language and Information Internship Program	2016
University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Intergroup Social Perceptions Lab	2014
University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Minority Health International Research Program	2014

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of Psychology

Assistant Professor

Social Psychology (PSY 250)

- Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026

Survey of Research Methods (PSY 212)

- Spring 2025, Fall 2025

Graduate Seminar in Social Psychology: Psychology of Colonization (PSY 751)

- Fall 2025

Undergraduate Seminar in Social Psychology: Psychology of Colonization (PSY 459)

- Spring 2026, Fall 2026

Stanford University, Department of Psychology

Teaching Assistant

Self and Society: Introduction to Social Psychology (PSYCH 70)

- Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2024

Introduction to Statistical Methods: Precalculus (PSYCH 10)

- Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Winter 2023

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Department:

2025 – Present Chair, SONA Systems Committee

2024 – Present Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee

2024 – Present Member, Prolific Committee

2024 – Present Member, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Committee

College:

2024 – Present Member, Hui ‘Āina Pilipili

2025 – Present Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

University:

2025 – Present Member, Pacific Engagement Council

Community:

2024 – Mālama I Nā Ahupua‘a Service Learning Program

2021 – Present Member, Honua Scholars Program

Past service:

Stanford Department of Psychology Graduate Community Committee 2023

Stanford Diversifying Academia, Research Excellence Community College Outreach 2022

Stanford Department of Psychology Diversity Committee 2021

Stanford Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor 2021

Stanford Native American Cultural Center FROSH Fellows Mentor 2020

Stanford Enhancing Diversity Graduate Education Student Mentor 2020