

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Alexandra Venegas, M.A.**

Department of Psychology  
University of California, Los Angeles  
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**EDUCATION**

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- Expected 2023      **University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**  
*Doctor of Philosophy, Clinical Psychology*  
*Minor in Quantitative Psychology*  
Committee Chair: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2017 – 2018      **University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**  
*Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology*  
Master's Thesis: Comparing alcohol cue-reactivity in treatment-seekers versus non-treatment-seekers with alcohol use disorder.  
Primary Advisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.  
Secondary Advisor: Christine E. Grella, Ph.D.
- 2010 – 2014      **Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA**  
*Bachelor of Science, Psychology*  
*Minor in Biomedical Engineering*

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- 2019      **Student Merit Award, Research Society on Alcoholism**
- 2019      **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division**
- 2018      **Student Merit Award, Research Society on Alcoholism**
- 2018      **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division**
- 2017      **UCLA *Competitive Edge* Graduate Summer Research Program, UCLA Graduate Division**
- 2012 – 2014      Dietrich School of Humanities and Social Sciences **Dean's List** and **Dean's List with High Honors, Carnegie Mellon University**

**GRANT FUNDING**

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Current Research Support

3R01AA026190-02S1      Ray, L. A. (PI)      05/2019 – present  
Funding Agency: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)  
Role: Predoctoral Trainee

Completed Research Support

T32 DA007272-25      Grella, C. (PI)      08/2017 – 08/2018  
Funding Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)  
UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)  
Role: Predoctoral Research Fellow

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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1. **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Green, R., Cooper, Z. D. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Sex-dependent effects of alcohol administration on the urge to use cannabis. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.
2. Lim, A. C., Green, R., Grodin, E. N., **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Donato, S., Burnette, E. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Alcohol cue-induced ventral striatum activity predicts subsequent alcohol self-administration. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.
3. **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Cooper, Z., Towns, B. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Inclusion of cannabis users in alcohol research samples: Screening in, screening out, and implications. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*.
4. Lim, A. C., Grodin, E. N., Green, R., **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Courtney, K. E., Sayegh, P., London, E. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Executive function moderates effects of naltrexone on methamphetamine-induced craving and subjective responses. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.
5. Glasner, S., Garneau, H. C., Ang, A., Ray, L. A., **Venegas, A.**, Rawson, R. A. & Kalichman, S. (2020). Preliminary efficacy of a cognitive behavioral therapy text messaging intervention targeting alcohol use and antiretroviral therapy adherence. *PLOS Medicine*.
6. Grodin, E., Bujarski, S., **Venegas, A.**, Baskerville, W., Nieto, S., Jentsch, J. D., Ray, L. A. (2019). Reward, relief, and habit drinking: Initial validation of a brief assessment tool. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*.
7. **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (2019). Comparing alcohol cue-reactivity in treatment-seekers versus non-treatment-seekers with alcohol use disorder. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.
8. Green, R., Grodin, E., Lim, A. C., **Venegas, A.**, Bujarski, S., Krull, J. L. & Ray, L. A. (2019). The interplay between subjective response to alcohol, craving, and alcohol self-administration in the human laboratory. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.
9. Green, R., Bujarski, S., Lim, A. C., **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (2019). Naltrexone and alcohol effects on craving for cigarettes in heavy drinking smokers. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.
10. Glasner, S., Kay-Lambkin, F., Budney, A., Gitlin, M., Kagan, B., Garneau, H. C. & **Venegas, A.** (2018). Preliminary outcomes of a computerized CBT/MET intervention for depressed cannabis users in psychiatric care. *Cannabis*.
11. Ray, L. A., Bujarski, S., Grodin, E., Hartwell, E., Green, R., **Venegas, A.**, Lim, A. C., Gillis, A. & Miotto, K. (2018). State-of-the-art behavioral and pharmacological treatments for alcohol use disorder. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.
12. Garneau, H. C., **Venegas, A.**, Rawson, R. A., Ray, L. A. & Glasner, S. (2017). Barriers to initiation of extended-release naltrexone among HIV-infected adults with alcohol use disorders. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.
13. Glasner-Edwards, S., Patrick, K., Ybarra, M. L., Reback, C. J., Rawson, R. A., Garneau, H. C., Chavez, K. & **Venegas, A.** (2016). A cognitive behavioral therapy-based text messaging intervention versus medical management for HIV-infected substance users: Study protocol for a pilot randomized trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 5(2).

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN REVISION**

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1. Grodin, E. N., Burnette, E., Towns, B., **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (under review). Effect of tobacco and cannabis co-use on gray matter volume in heavy drinkers. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.
2. Ray, L. A., Green, R., Leventhal, A. M., Grodin, E., Enders, C., Li, G., Lim, A., Hartwell, E., **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L., Nieto, S., Shoptaw, S. & Miotto, K. (revise and resubmit). Efficacy of combining varenicline and naltrexone for smoking cessation and drinking reduction: A randomized clinical trial. *American Journal of Psychiatry*.
3. Glasner, S., Patrick, K., Ybarra, M., Reback, C. J., Ang, A., Kalichman, S., Bachrach, K., Garneau, H. C., **Venegas, A.** & Rawson, R. A. (under review). Promising outcomes from a cognitive behavioral therapy text-messaging intervention targeting drug use, antiretroviral therapy adherence, and HIV risk behaviors among drug users living with HIV. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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1. **Venegas, A.**, Donato, S., Meredith, L. R. & Ray, L. A. (in preparation). Treatment seeking for alcohol use disorder: A review of the literature.
2. Nieto, S. J., **Venegas, A.**, Burnette, E. M., MacKillop, J. & Ray, L. A. (in preparation). The effects of alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis co-use on delay discounting in a sample of heavy drinkers.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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1. Ray, L. A., Hartwell, E., Green, R. & **Venegas, A.** (2018). State-of-the-art treatment of alcohol use disorder. In: I. Danovich & L. Mooney (Eds.). *The Assessment and Treatment of Addiction: Best Practices and New Frontiers*. Elsevier – Health Science.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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1. \*Towns, B., Baskerville, W., Ho, D., Jenkins, J., **Venegas, A.**, Cooper, Z. D. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Clinical Correlates of Comorbid Alcohol and Cannabis Use Disorders. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
2. **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Green, R., Cooper, Z. D. & Ray, L. A. (2020). Sex-Dependent Effects of Alcohol Administration on the Urge to Use Cannabis. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, New Orleans, LA. *Presenting Author*
3. **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (2019). Comparing Alcohol Cue-Reactivity in Treatment-Seekers Versus Non-Treatment-Seekers with Alcohol Use Disorder. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN. *Presenting Author*
4. \*Ho, D., **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (2019). Evaluating Treatment-Seeking Behaviors in Individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
5. \*Hijaz, D., **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (2019). Clinical Correlates of Past-Year Quit Attempts Among Heavy Drinking Smokers. Poster presented at the 2019 Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
6. Green, R., Grodin, E., Lim, A. C., **Venegas, A.**, Bujarski, S., Krull, J. L. & Ray, L. A. (2019). The Interplay Between Subjective Response to Alcohol, Craving, and Alcohol Self-Administration in the Human Laboratory. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
7. Lim, A. C., Towns, B., Grodin, E. N., **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L., Green, R. & Ray, L. A. (2019). Executive Function Factor Predicts Effects of Naltrexone on Subjective Response to Methamphetamine Infusion. Poster presented at the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
8. **Venegas, A.**, Bujarski, S., Lim, A. C., Roche, D. J. O. & Ray, L. A. (2018). Examining Subjective Response to and Craving for Alcohol Among Cannabis and Non-Cannabis Users in Human Laboratory Paradigms. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, San Diego, CA. *Presenting Author*
9. **Venegas, A.**, Glasner, S., Kay-Lambkin, F., Budney, A. J., Garneau, H. C. & Lee, A. B. (2017). The Association of Changes in Cannabis Use with Functional Outcomes Among Cannabis Users with Major Depression. Poster presented at the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs Center for Advancing Longitudinal Drug Abuse Research (CALDAR) Summer Institute and International Conference on Global Health annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA. *Presenting Author*
10. Glasner, S., **Venegas, A.**, Garneau, H. C., Ray, L. A. & Rawson, R. A. (2017). Development of a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Based Text Messaging Intervention for HIV-Infected Alcohol Users. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, Denver, CO. *Presenting Author*

\* Presentations made by mentees

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

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1. Glasner, S., Ramo, D., Kay-Lambkin, F., Budney, A., Garneau, H. C. & **Venegas, A.** (2018). *Development of a Facebook intervention for depressed cannabis users*. Oral presentation given at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
2. **Venegas, A.**, Meredith, L. R., Cooper, Z., Towns, B. & Ray, L. A. (2020). *Inclusion of cannabis users in alcohol research samples: Screening in, screening out, and implications*. Oral presentation invited for the Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction annual meeting, San Diego, CA. (Conference cancelled)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2017 – present      **Graduate Research Assistant, UCLA Addictions Laboratory**  
Duties: Conduct diagnostic interviews using the Structured Clinical Interview for *DSM-5* (SCID-5) assessing for mood disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance use disorders to determine eligibility for participation. Deliver motivational interviewing sessions with research participants for various outpatient studies of individuals with alcohol use disorder in addition to heavy drinking tobacco smokers.  
Principal Investigator: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2017 – 2018      **Project Coordinator and Study Clinician, UCLA Addictions Laboratory**  
Duties: Created and organized study materials. Hired and trained three undergraduate research assistants and located and recruited over 100 prospective research participants to date from the greater Los Angeles community. Screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted study visits. Performed quality assurance on all data collected, monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed. Conducted clinical diagnostic interviews using the SCID-5 assessing for mood disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance use disorders to determine eligibility for participation and acted as the primary clinician for the project, which also included conducting counseling sessions consisting of treatment-planning for those seeking alcohol treatment.  
Principal Investigator: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2014 – 2017      **Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)**  
Duties: Located and recruited prospective research participants from various inpatient and outpatient psychiatry and substance abuse treatment programs at UCLA and from the greater Los Angeles area. Screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and follow-up interviews. Acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited and coordinated with outside agencies to access patient treatment records. Organized and conducted focus groups and assisted in intervention development. Prepared weekly status reports to be delivered to the study's Principal Investigators. Performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry, and monitored data security and integrity. Assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed.  
Principal Investigators: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D. and Mitchell Karno, Ph.D.
- 2013 – 2014      **Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University Relationships Lab**  
Duties: Coded videotaped behavioral interactions between participating couples, and edited psychophysiological data using MindWare, and performed data entry.  
Principal Investigators: Brooke Feeney, Ph.D. and Meredith Van Vleet, Ph.D.
- 2012      **Research Assistant, UCLA Anxiety and Depression Research Center**

Duties: Screened potential research participants over the phone to determine study eligibility. Performed data entry from participant questionnaires and interviews, including transcribing therapy sessions conducted by study therapists. Entered and manipulated data in SPSS to create specific data sets for use by various graduate students and faculty.  
Principal Investigator: Michelle G. Craske, Ph.D.

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2020 – present      **Advanced Neuropsychological Assessor**, UCLA Dementia Screener Clinic  
Duties: Conduct brief dementia screener assessment for adults. Write brief assessment reports and provide feedback and treatment recommendations to clients and families.  
Licensed Supervisor: Philip Sayegh, Ph.D., MPH
- 2020 – present      **Advanced Graduate Student Therapist**, UCLA Psychology Clinic  
Duties: Provide individual psychotherapy to adults with various presenting problems using multiple evidence-based modalities. Co-lead a weekly 90-minute Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills group with adults.  
Modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and DBT  
Licensed Supervisor: Jayson Mystkowski, Ph.D. (individual) and Holly Granato, Ph.D. (group)
- 2019 – 2020      **Psychology Pre-Intern**, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center – VA Long Beach Healthcare System  
Clinical Rotations: General Outpatient Mental Health at the Santa Fe Springs Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC); Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)  
Duties: Conduct intake interviews and provide individual and group evidence-based treatment, psychodiagnostic assessment, and treatment planning sessions to a diverse group of Veterans from the greater Long Beach community.  
Modalities: CBT, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR), and Cognitive Behavioral Analysis System of Psychotherapy (CBASP)  
Licensed Supervisors: Amy A. Potts, Ph.D., Vanessa Hurwitz, Ph.D., and Sara Gonzalez-Rivas, Ph.D.
- 2019      **Assessment Peer Supervisor**, UCLA Psychology Clinic  
Duties: Supervise beginning assessor during practice administrations of the Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) and preparation of a practice comprehensive neuropsychological report.  
Licensed Supervisor: Philip Sayegh, Ph.D., MPH
- 2018 – present      **Graduate Student Therapist**, UCLA Psychology CBT for Alcohol Use Disorder Clinic  
Duties: Conduct intake interviews and deliver a 12-week manualized CBT treatment protocol (i.e., Project MATCH) to a diverse set of patients presenting with alcohol use disorder.  
Modality: CBT  
Licensed Supervisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2017 – present      **Research Interviewer**, UCLA Addictions Research Laboratory  
Duties: Conduct clinical diagnostic interviews using the SCID-5. Act as a study clinician and perform counseling sessions which included providing psychoeducation and utilizing

motivational interviewing, Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), and cognitive behavioral skills to encourage quitting smoking, reducing drinking, and alcohol treatment planning.  
Licensed Supervisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.

2018 – 2019

**Intake Interviewer**, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Duties: Conduct intake interviews with adults and write corresponding clinical reports including clients' presenting concerns, diagnostic information, cultural factors, and case conceptualization.

Licensed Supervisor: Nikki Rubin, Psy.D.

2018 – 2019

**Graduate Student Therapist**, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Duties: Conduct intake interviews and provide individual psychotherapy to adults and children with various presenting problems using multiple evidence-based modalities.

Modality: CBT

Licensed Supervisors: Lynette Lau, Ph.D. (child), Michelle Feng, Ph.D. (adult), and Lara A. Ray, Ph.D. (adult)

2017 – present

**Neuropsychological Assessor**, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Duties: Conduct comprehensive psychoeducational and neuropsychological assessments for adult and pediatric patients. Compile comprehensive neuropsychological reports including history, assessment results, and clinical recommendations.

Licensed Supervisors: Deborah E. Anderson, Ph.D. (child) and Philip Sayegh, Ph.D., MPH (adult)

2014 – 2017

**Research Assessor**, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

Duties: Administered the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI), Timeline Follow-Back, and the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) with individuals with substance use disorders and other co-occurring psychopathology.

Licensed Supervisors: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D. and Mitchell Karno, Ph.D

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2020

**Teaching Associate**, UCLA Department of Psychology

*PSYCH 162: Psychology of Addiction (Undergraduate)*

Duties: Held weekly office hours to field students' questions and concerns. Provided feedback to students on class participation via the online forum. Graded papers.

Professor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.

2019

**Teaching Associate**, UCLA Department of Psychology

*Clinical Research Laboratory (Graduate)*

Duties: Conducted and reviewed patient diagnostic interviews with graduate students.

Professor: Cindy Yee-Bradbury, Ph.D.

2018

**Guest Lecturer**, UCLA Department of Psychology

*PSYCH 127A: Abnormal Psychology (Undergraduate)*

“Causal Models and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders”

Professor: Denise Chavira, Ph.D.

2018

**Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Department of Psychology

*PSYCH 127A: Abnormal Psychology (Undergraduate)*

Duties: Taught four weekly discussion sections to a total of 100 students. Held office hours to field students' questions and concerns. Proctored exams. Guest lectured to the class of 200 students on the causal models and treatment of substance use disorders.  
Professor: Denise Chavira, Ph.D.

- 2017      **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Department of Psychology  
*PSYCH 110: Introductory Psychology (Undergraduate)*  
Duties: Held office hours to field students' questions and concerns. Monitored and assisted students in the development of their final term projects, which included the design and execution of individual research experiments, followed by a scientific manuscript. Proctored exams and the final exam.  
Professor: Courtney Clark, Ph.D.
- 2014      **Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Psychology  
*85-340: Research Methods in Social Psychology (Undergraduate)*  
Duties: Prepared class material for use by professor. Held office hours to field students' questions and concerns. Graded assignments, quizzes, and exams. Proctored quizzes, exams, and final exam. Monitored and assisted students in the development of their final term projects, which included the design and execution of individual research experiments, followed by a scientific manuscript and poster presentation.  
Professor: Meredith Van Vleet, Ph.D.
- 2013      **Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Psychology  
*85-341: Social Psychology (Undergraduate)*  
Duties: Prepared class material for use by professor. Held office hours and pre-exam review sessions to field students' questions and concerns. Graded assignments, quizzes, and exams. Proctored quizzes, exams, and final exam.  
Professors: Chante Cox-Boyd, Ph.D.

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

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- 2018      Managing and Adapting Practice (MAP) Training  
Training: Four-day training to learn MAP approach to evidence-based treatments with children and adolescents.  
Instructors: Bruce Chorpita, Ph.D. and Kimberly Becker, Ph.D.
- 2018      Foundations in Clinical Psychology: Addiction Diagnosis and Treatment Seminar  
Training: Covered principles and methods of psychological assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatments for substance use disorders.  
Instructor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2017      Structured Clinical Interview for *DSM-5* (SCID-5)  
Training: Administration, scoring, and interpretation of SCID-5.  
Instructor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2012 – present      Collaborative Institute Training Initiative (CITI) – Human Research, Social and Behavioral Researchers and Staff, Biomedical Researchers and Staff, FDA Regulated Research, Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research, Good Clinical Practice

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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2017 – present      Association for Psychological Science, Graduate Student Affiliate

**JOURNAL REVIEW**

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*Addictive Behaviors*, ad hoc reviewer

*Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, ad hoc co-reviewer

*Alcohol Research: Current Reviews*, ad hoc co-reviewer