

Nicholas Boon

Department of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara
nicholasboon@ucsb.edu

EDUCATION

- In progress M.A./ Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara,
- 2025 B.S., Sociology and Social Work, University of South Dakota
Summa Cum Laude
Honors Thesis with High Distinction: "Digital Access, Digital Skills, and Academic Success: Rethinking Digital Capital in Higher Education"
<https://red.library.usd.edu/honors-thesis/353>
Committee: Louisa Roberts, Isaiah Cohen, Gabrielle Strouse
- 2023 A.A., Arts and Sciences with Honors, Western Iowa Tech Community College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Globalization, Cultural diffusion, Digital Sociology, Global South, Sociology of Education, Science, Knowledge, & Technology

PRESENTATIONS

Boon, Nicholas and Michael Cagley. 2025 "Unequal Access, Unequal Skills, Unequal Outcomes: Digital Capital in Higher Education" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL

Cohen, Isaiah and **Nicholas Boon**. 2025 "Exploring the Gap: Gender's Impact on High School and Collegiate Performance" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL

Boon, Nicholas*, Shelsy Santos Segovia*, Brooke Hanneman* and Isaiah Cohen*. 2025. "Blasé Attitude and the Tragedy of Culture in the Age of Social Media" Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society Chicago, IL

Boon, Nicholas. 2024. "Investigating the Role of Digital Capital on Educational Success in Higher Education" Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines, IA, & 8th Annual Eastern South Dakota Research Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD

Boon, Nicholas* and Tori Cropper*. 2024. "Hey Siri, What Affects Voice Assistant Usage?". Poster presented at the 5th Annual Social Science Interdisciplinary Consortium Conference, Vermillion, SD,

*Denotes equal contribution

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-25 Research Assistant to Isaiah Cohen, University of South Dakota

Data cleaning, conducting exploratory data analysis using regression techniques, and applying statistical approaches such as multilevel analysis of individual heterogeneity, and discriminatory accuracy (MAIHDA) to test intersectional effects on educational achievement.

2023-24 Research Assistant to Louisa Roberts, University of South Dakota

Transcribed interviews, compiled participants database of over 800 participants, and assisted in the dissemination of an online survey.

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

2018 Diploma in Adult and Continuing Education, Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore

2013 Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment, Centre for Competency-Based Learning and Development, Singapore

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 Excellence in Field Education Award – Macro, University of South Dakota

2025 Academic Excellence Award, University of South Dakota

2024 UDiscover Summer Scholar Program (\$5500 Stipend for research), University of South Dakota

2024 Nelson Shield Award (awarded to juniors with highest GPAs), University of South Dakota

2023 Scholarship (\$750), Iowa Organization for Student Success

SKILLS

Research Software

Stata, SPSS, NVivo, Qualtrics, Zotero, Canva, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace

Language

Mandarin Chinese (Conversant), Singapore Sign Language (Level 2)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Sections: Communication, IT, and Media Sociology, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Global and Transnational Sociology, Sociology of Culture, Science, Knowledge, and Technology

Midwest Sociological Society