

Anna K. Walther, MSW
(she/her/hers)

awalther2@wisc.edu
(262) 237-9343

EDUCATION

- 2026 (Expected) **Ph.D. in Social Welfare**, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Dissertation: “Essays on the Social Safety Net, Economic Insecurity, and Inequality during the Transition to Parenthood.”
Committee: Alejandra Ros Pilarz (Chair), Katie Fitzpatrick, Jessica Pac, Marci Ybarra
- 2023 **M.S.W.**, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Specialization in Child, Youth and Family Welfare
 - Sub-Focus in Policy and Administration
- 2020 **B.S. in Community and Environmental Sociology**, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Concentration in Analysis and Research
 - Graduated with Highest Distinction

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Poverty, inequality and social policy; program evaluation and policy analysis; economic and reproductive justice; precarious work and economic insecurity; social work macro-practice

PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Pilarz, A. R. & **Walther, A.** (2025). Trends in mothers' work schedules, 1989-2017: Examining differences by education, family structure, and race and ethnicity. *Demography*, 62(3), 971–1001. doi.org/10.1215/00703370-11967231
- Pilarz, A.R., Pac, J., & **Walther, A.** (2024). The effects of state workplace pregnancy accommodation laws on women’s employment and income during pregnancy. *Social Service Review*, 98(4), 664-702. doi.org/10.1086/732780
*Finalist for the Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for the best article published in *SSR* in 2024
- Walther, A.** & Pilarz, A.R. (2024). Associations between parental precarious work schedules and child behavior problems among low-income families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 86(3), 551-573. doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12933

RESEARCH UNDER REVIEW

Pilarz, A. R. & **Walther, A.** Tag-team parenting: Trends in work schedule synchronization among families with young children.

Pilarz, A.R., Cuesta, L., & **Walther, A.** The short-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economic well-being of single mother families.

Pilarz, A. R. & **Walther, A.** Mothers' work schedules and children's early care and education arrangements: The role of publicly funded early care and education programs.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Walther, A. Less Control, more hardship: Work schedule instability and economic hardship among families with young children [draft in progress].

Walther, A. Effects of Medicaid administrative burdens on economic insecurity during the transition to parenthood [draft in progress].

Walther, A., Pilarz, A. R. & Pac, J. The safety net and negative income shocks during the transition to parenthood: Differences by race, ethnicity, and marital status [draft in progress].

Walther, A. & Mersky, J. Family resource centers and young families' resource support needs [draft in progress].

Daniels, J. R., **Walther, A.,** & Koenig, J. Building supportive SNAP Employment and Training Programs: Employment outcomes for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) and the role of work-limiting disability [draft in progress].

RESEARCH AND POLICY REPORTS

Ybarra, M.; Pilarz, A. R.; Cuesta, L.; **Walther, A.** (2024). "Noncustodial parents' child support and custodial parents' income packages: Comparing the Great Recession and COVID-19 recession eras." Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CSRA-2022-2024-T9-Report.pdf>

Student contributor: Pilarz, A. R. & Cuesta, L. (2022). COVID-19, child support, and the income packages of custodial parents. Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2023/08/CSRA-2020-2022-T13B-Revised-08142023.pdf>

Slack, K.S., Hoffmeister, M., Sintim, D., Reilly, A., Abbott, M., **Walther, A.**, Berger, L.M. and Pac, J. (2020). “Results of a workforce survey on in-home services in the state of Wisconsin.” Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Walther, A. (2019) “Declining returns to low-wage work in Wisconsin,” Institute for Research on Poverty, Factsheet Series.
<https://morgridge.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/09/factsheet19-2019-Low-Wage-Work-WI.pdf>

Walther, A. (2018) “Unstable Jobs lead to unstable lives: Low-wage work in the United States,” Institute for Research on Poverty, Factsheet Series. Accessed
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Fact-Sheet-16-2018-UnstableJobs-UnstableLives.pdf>

Dresser, L., Rogers, J., Ubert, E., **Walther, A.** (2018). “The State of Working Wisconsin 2018,” High Road Strategy Center.
<https://highroad.wisc.edu/publications/state-of-working-wisconsin-2018/>

RESEARCH SUPPORT

2025-2026	Institute for Research on Poverty Dissertation Research Fellow , “Essays on the Social Safety Net, Economic Insecurity, and Inequality during the Transition to Parenthood,” 12 months of stipend coverage and tuition remission.
2025	Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant , “Essays on the Social Safety Net, Economic Insecurity, and Inequality during the Transition to Parenthood,” \$15,000.
2021-2025	Graduate Research Fellow , Institute for Research on Poverty, \$725-\$1,000 annual awards for conference travel.
2024	Dan Meyer Family Policy Research and Dissemination Fund , Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, \$1,000
2022	Student Research Grants Competition Award , University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School, \$1,200
2019	Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship , University of Wisconsin-Madison, \$3,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Doctoral Student Research Paper Award for exemplifying high-quality research relevant to social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
------	--

2022	Irving Piliavin Doctoral Student Award for the use of statistical research methods to support solutions to real-world problems
2020	Anne Louise Martino Women's Leadership Award for outstanding contributions to service and leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
2020	Iron Shield Honorary Society Initiate for highest honors in personal excellence and service to the University of Wisconsin-Madison community
2019	Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship for excellence in the study of Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2017-2020	Writing Fellowship to support peer writing support through the Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020-present	Institute for Research on Poverty PI: Alejandra Ros Pilarz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work • Supported several projects funded by a NICHD-funded career development (K01) award "Understanding trends in mothers' work schedules: Implications for child health and development" • Involved in research design and writing conference abstracts, academic manuscripts, and responses to reviewer feedback • Involved with development and presentation of research results at academic conferences and invited speaker events • Constructed clean datasets using the Survey of Income and Program Participation and various sources of early childhood program spending and state policy generosity • Analyzed data using descriptive statistics, multivariate regression models, decomposition methods, and logistic regression models • Created graphical data visualizations in Stata and Excel
2025-present	Institute for Research on Poverty: Child Support Research Agreement Co-PIs: Jessica Pac, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work; Alejandra Ros Pilarz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work • Examine income sources of families in months preceding and following childbirth; examine associations with economic hardship and health-related outcomes • Developing research plan and analytic plan with intent to support written report for state agencies and academic manuscripts • Will clean and analyze data • Will contribute to preparation of presentation materials for academic conferences and to state partners.

2024-2025

Institute for Research on Poverty: Child Support Research Agreement
Co-PIs: Marci Ybarra, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work;
Alejandra Ros Pilarz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work;
Laura Cuesta, Rutgers University Social Work

- Examined how the economic outcomes—including child support, earnings, and public income sources—of separated families differed between the Great Recession and Covid-19 pandemic recessions
- Involved in writing grant applications, conference abstracts, the report for state agencies, and academic manuscript
- Contributed to research design and conducted all analyses
- Contributed to preparation of presentation materials for academic conferences and to state partners. Solo-presented results at two academic conferences
- Constructed a clean dataset using multiple Wisconsin administrative data sources
- Created graphical data visualizations in Stata and Excel
- Analyzed data using descriptive statistics, event-study models, multivariate linear regression models, and logistic regression models with fixed effects

2022-2023

Institute for Research on Poverty: Child Support Research Agreement
Co-PIs: Alejandra Ros Pilarz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work; Laura Cuesta, Rutgers University Social Work

- Examined the short-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on single mothers' income packages and economic wellbeing . Examined heterogeneity by mothers' racial and ethnic identities and labor force attachment.
- Involved in writing conference abstracts, the report for state agencies, and academic manuscripts
- Contributed to manuscript preparation and research design.
- Analyzed linked administrative data using descriptive statistics, cohort-comparison approaches, multivariate linear regression models, and logistic regression models
- Created graphical data visualizations in Stata and Excel
- Led efforts to refine sample identification and improve tax benefit estimation accuracy

2021-2022

Prevention Research Center

Co-PIs: Alejandra Ros Pilarz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work; Jessica Pac, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work

- Examined effects of state pregnancy accommodation laws on pregnant women's employment and economic outcomes during pregnancy
- Involved in writing conference abstracts, an academic manuscript, and responses to reviewer feedback
- Constructed a clean dataset using the nationally-representative Survey of Income and Program Participation
- Analyzed data using descriptive statistics, event-study models,

bootstrap inference, and differences-in-differences approaches with two-way fixed effects and stacked event-study estimators. Created graphical data visualizations in Stata and Excel

2020

Civil Society & Community Studies

PI: Jennifer Gaddis, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Human Ecology

- Examined school district lunch-shaming policies and Community Eligibility Provision participation in Wisconsin
- Cleaned Qualtrics survey data and merged policy information from school district websites
- Generated descriptive statistics and preliminary regression analyses

2019-2020

Applied Population Lab

PI: Malia Jones, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Community and Environmental Sociology

- Co-managed the *Dear Pandemic* social media platform to facilitate scientific translation during the Covid-19 public health emergency
- Supported the development of public-facing demographic reports for the *WisContext* website
- Conducted literature reviews and cleaned data in Excel

2019-2020

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

PIs: Kristi Slack, Lonnie Berger, University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Work

- Supported research on child welfare and early childhood education workforce professional development and retention
- Assisted with writing state reports, developing presentation materials, and creating resource lists for state partners and research team
- Conducted literature reviews
- Peer-reviewed Stata code

2018

High Road Strategy Center

PI: Laura Dresser, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Supported the development of public-facing research reports examining workforce economic challenges and inequality in Wisconsin
- Generated descriptive statistics and data visualizations in Excel
- Merged and cleaned state economic data provided by the Economic Policy Institute

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025

Guest Lecturer, Social Work 920: Child, Youth, and Family Policies and Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Fall 2025

Topic: Welfare reform and evaluating family policy

- 2025 **Guest Lecturer**, Social Work 205: Introduction to Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Fall 2025 & Spring 2025.
Topic: The emerging social welfare state: Progressive Era to welfare reform
- 2025 **Statistics Tutor**, PhD program, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work. Fall 2025.
Small group and one-on-one tutoring with incoming PhD students
One-on-one tutoring with returning PhD students
- 2025 **Teaching Assistant**, Social Work 205: Introduction to Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Spring 2025.
Evaluation score: 4.7 / 5
Enrollment: 71 undergraduate students
- 2024 **Teaching Assistant**, Social Work 206: Introduction to Social Policy, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Spring 2024.
Evaluation score: 4.3 / 5
Enrollment: 54 undergraduate students
- 2023 **Guest Lecturer**, Social Work 952 Proseminar in Applied Quantitative Data Analysis, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Fall 2023.
Topic: Generating and exporting results from Stata
- 2023 **Reader/Grader**, Social Work 605: The Field of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Fall 2023.
Enrollment: 46 full-time MSW students
- 2022 **Guest Lecturer**, Social Work 840: Advanced Social Work Macro-practice, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Fall 2022.
Topic: Logic models and theory-driven program evaluation
- 2021 **Methods Tutor**, MSW program, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work. Fall 2021.
One-on-one tutoring with part-time MSW student

PRESENTATIONS

First presenter = speaker

*peer-reviewed conference presentation

Ybarra, M., Pilarz, A.R., Cuesta, L., **Walther, A.** (2025, March). *Noncustodial parents' child support and custodial parents' income packages: Comparing the Great Recession and COVID-19 recession eras*. Presentation of findings to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Madison, WI, USA

***Walther, A.** & Pilarz, A. R. (2025, January). *Single mothers' employment, the safety net, and economic well-being: A comparative study of the Great Recession and COVID-19 recession* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Society for Social Work

Research. Seattle, WA, USA

- *Walther, A.** (2025, January). *Work hour instability and families' economic well-being* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, WA, USA
- *Walther, A.,** Pilarz, A. R., Cuesta, L. & Ybarra, M. (2024, November). *Single mothers' employment, the safety net, and economic well-being: A comparative study of the Great Recession and COVID-19 recession* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. National Harbor, MD, USA.
- *Walther, A. & Pilarz, A. R.** (2024, June). *Changes in 'tag-team parenting' in the United States, 1997-2019* [Oral paper presentation]. Biennial meeting of the Work-Family Researchers Network. Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Walther, A.** (2024, April). *Let's Talk about Child Care Spending* [Poster Presentation]. Annual UW-Madison Day at the Capitol Graduate Research Showcase. Madison, WI, USA.
- *Walther, A. & Pilarz, A. R.** (2023, January). *Mothers' work schedules and children's participation in center-based early care and education* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, D.C.
- *Walther, A. & Pilarz, A. R.** (2023, November). *Mothers' work schedules and children's participation in center-based early care and education* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Atlanta, GA, USA.
- *Walther, A.** (2022, November). *Less control, less work, more hardship: Linking work schedule unpredictability, poverty, and involuntary part-time work* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Washington, D.C., USA.
- Pilarz, A. R., Pac, J., & **Walther, A.** (2022, October). *The effects of state pregnancy accommodation laws on work during pregnancy.* Center for Demography and Ecology 60th Anniversary Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.
- *Walther, A. & Pilarz, A. R.** (2022, June). *Precarious work schedules and child well-being: An exploration of families with child care subsidies* [Oral paper presentation]. Biennial meeting of the Work-Family Researchers Network. New York, NY, USA.
- Walther, A.** (2022, April). *Unstable work schedules and child well-being* [Poster presentation]. Annual UW-Madison Day at the Capitol Graduate Research Showcase. Madison, WI, USA.
- *Walther, A. & Pilarz, A. R.** (2022, January). *Mechanisms connecting unstable work to child outcomes among child care subsidy recipients* [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC, USA

*Pilarz, A. R. & Walther, A. (2021, May). *Trends in mothers' work schedules, 1988-2016*. [Oral paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Virtual.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2022-2023 | <p>Social Work Intern: Institute for Research on Poverty
Child Support Research Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Supported state efforts to discern evidence-based state policy decisions to support low-income separated families during the recovery from the Covid-19 economic downturn● Conducted literature reviews and wrote memos exploring avenues to align research efforts with core competencies● Supported preparation of public-facing research materials and presentations● Supported alignment of manuscript language and research design with critical and anti-oppressive social work frameworks |
| 2021-2022 | <p>Social Work Intern: City of Madison
Community Development Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Surveyed community agencies and developed a Request for Quotation or city disbursement of 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated towards services for undocumented immigrants in the city of Madison, WI● Evaluated applications for the 2021 Crisis Intervention and Prevention Request for Proposals (RFP)● Supported the implementation of the Madison Forward Fund guaranteed income program: a targeted income assistance program to be administered to economically and socially vulnerable community members<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Entailed in-depth research on anti-poverty benefits and benefits clawback-reduction strategies on behalf of future participants● Created an accessible data library for CDD staff |

SERVICE

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2023-present | Doctoral Student Organization co-founder and student leader , University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work |
| 2022-present | Pay for Placement Committee co-founder and committee member , University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work |

- 2025 **Symposium organizer**, “Bridging the Gap: How Modern Street-Level Bureaucrats shape Administrative Burden and Citizen-State Interactions,” Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual meeting
- 2025 **Symposium organizer**, “Work, Parenthood and Prosperity: Exploring Policy, Work-Family Balance, and Well-Being in the Context of Economic Precarity,” Society for Social Work Research annual meeting
- 2025 **Symposium organizer**, “Effects of Social Policies on Parental Employment and Families' Economic Well-Being,” Society for Social Work Research annual meeting
- 2024 **Volunteer**, YWCA Annual Confronting Racial Injustice Conference, Madison, WI
- 2023 Joint MSW/PhD program **working group member**, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work Doctoral Program
- 2022-2023 **Graduate School elected representative** and Equity and Inclusion committee member, Associated Students of Madison (student governing body of the University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- 2022-2023 Interprofessional Practice **committee member**, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
- 2022 **Symposium organizer**, “Under-Employment, Economic Insecurity and Inequality in the Aftermath of Covid-19. What Needs to be Done?” Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual meeting
- 2022 **Symposium organizer**, “Parental Employment, Work-Family Policy, and Family Well-Being,” Society for Social Work Research annual meeting

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Comprehensive Methods Training Program. Second General Session. July 7th -August 1st, 2025. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Matrix Algebra, Calculus, and Probability
Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology
Empirical Modeling of Social Science Theory

Dissertation Writing Camp. University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center. May 19-May 23, 2025. Madison, WI.

Graduate Assistants Equity Workshop. University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement. February 7, 2024. Madison, WI.

Teaching Assistants training. University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Letters and Sciences. January 22, 2024. Madison, WI.

Racial Justice Summit. YWCA Madison. September 28-September 30, 2021. Madison, WI.

Differences in Differences with Pedro Sant'Anna. Statistical Horizons. August 24-27, 2021. Virtual.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Society for Social Work Research
Work-Family Researchers Network