Karly Rakhim

PhD Student

Higher Education Program

Department: Educational Leadership and Policy

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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Research Interests

Higher education leadership and policy; international doctoral student experiences; the role of artificial intelligence in shaping academic and personal lives in higher education, gender and equity in higher education and cross-cultural perspectives.

Summary

Karly Rakhim (she/her) is an international doctoral mother student from Central Asia pursuing her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University at Buffalo, where she is a recipient of the Graduate Presidential Fellowship. Her research centers on the intersection of technology, equity, and identity in higher education. She is currently investigating how international doctoral students use generative AI tools to navigate their academic and personal lives. Through her work, Karly seeks to illuminate how emerging technologies shape learning, belonging, and agency across cultures in an increasingly digital academic landscape.

Peer Review Experience

- Graduate-Level Peer Review & Research Feedback (2023–Present): Provided
 detailed feedback on doctoral research papers and proposals focusing on globalization,
 gender, and qualitative inquiry.
- Conference Proposal & Presentation Review (2023–Present): Reviewed submissions for conferences such as NAFSA (2023) and the UB Research Symposium (2025).
- Collaborative Academic Review (2024–Present): Contributed to manuscript development on higher education policy research with faculty collaborators.
- **Reviewer:** Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education (2025)
- Peer Reviewer: AERA 2026 Annual Meeting (2025)

Other Relevant Experience

- **Graduate Assistant, University at Buffalo (2024–Present):** Conducts qualitative policy research on federal acts affecting student-parents and supports scholarly publications under Dr. Margaret Sallee.
- Project Coordinator, Multilingual Learning Research Center (MLRC), UW– Madison (2023): Led stakeholder communications and qualitative analyses on multilingual education policies.
- Teaching Assistant, Wisconsin School of Business (2023–2024): Facilitated the Personal and Professional Foundations in Business course for 100+ undergraduate students.
- Volunteer, Journey's End Refugee Center, Buffalo (2024–Present): Supports community engagement through event organization and participation in various cultural and educational activities assisting newly arrived immigrant families.
- Member, International Student Advisory Council (ISAC), University at Buffalo
 (2024–Present): Contributes to identifying and communicating the needs and challenges of UB's international student community.

Awards and Fellowships

- Graduate Presidential Fellowship, University at Buffalo, 2024–2028
- "Bolashak" International Scholarship, Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022–2024
- NAFSA Region V Travel Award, 2023
- Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Scholarship, UW–Madison, 2023