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University of Central Florida, Department of Sociology
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RESEARCH AREAS

Social/Environmental/Regional Inequalities
Health Disparities
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Spatial Statistics

EDUCATION

2007-2012	Ph.D., Geography, University of Utah
2003-2006	M.A., Geography, University of Cincinnati
1995-1999	B.A., Chinese Language and Literature, Shandong University, China

ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2019-Present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida
2015-2019	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida
2012-2015	Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences, Auburn University
1999-2004	Member/Manager of Information, the Henan Branch of China Telecom

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

2022-present	Editorial board of <i>Applied Geography</i>
2015-present	Core member of Undergraduate and Graduate GIS Certificate Programs, University of Central Florida
2022-2024	Reviewer editor of <i>Frontiers in Sustainable Cities</i>
2023	Fellow of George H.W. Bush Foundation
2016-2022	Editorial board of <i>Journal of Forensic and Crime Studies</i>
2019-2021	Chair & Vice Chair, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers

2016-2017 Coordinator, Business Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (since receiving tenure in 2019)

Research Incentive Award (RIA). University of Central Florida, 2026.

Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Creative Works, and Research (OSCaR).
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida. 2026.

First Day® Faculty Recognition. Affordable Instructional Materials (Aim) Initiative.
University of Central Florida. 2024 & 2025 & 2026.

Selective Research Sabbatical Award. College of Sciences, University of Central Florida.
(Type IB; Fall 2023 & Spring 2024).

Inaugural Pedagogical Innovation Award. Department of Sociology, University of
Central Florida. 2023.

Distinguished Scholar Award (mid-career). Regional Development Planning Specialty
Group, Association of American Geographers. 2023.

Fellow, George H.W. Bush Foundation. 2023.

Distinguished Service Award. Regional Development Planning Specialty Group,
Association of American Geographers. 2022.

Research Intensive Course-Level Designation. Office of Undergraduate Research.
University of Central Florida. 2022.

- SYA 4354: GIS Applications

Quality Online Course Designation. Center for Distributed Learning. University of
Central Florida. 2022.

- SYA 4354: GIS Applications

Quality Online Course Designation. Center for Distributed Learning. University of
Central Florida. 2021.

- SYA 3352: Spatial Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

* Indicates student/former student co-author; First author indicates greatest contribution.

Author Impact: Google Scholar Citations: 1,567, per Google Scholar 5/7/2026

Refereed Research Monograph

Li, Yingru. 2025. *Health Disparities in the US and China: Social, Spatial, and Environmental Dimensions*. Geographies of Health Series. Routledge. ISBN 9781003384755. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003384755>

Refereed Journal Articles

2025

- 39) Kim, D., L. Thiamwong, **Y. Li**, J. R. M. Suarez*, R. Xie, Y. Wang, and V. Loerzel. Modified Fall Risk Appraisal Matrix and Mental Health in Community-Dwelling Older Adults. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07317115.2025.2606696>
(Impact factor: 2.4)
- 38) Nguyen, T.*, D. Kim, **Y. Li**, C. Emrich, J. Crook, L. Thiamwong, and R. Xie. Effect of elevated temperature on physical activity and falls in low-income older adults using Zero-Inflated Poisson and Graphical Model. *Information* 16(6), 442. <https://doi.org/10.3390/info16060442>
(Impact factor: 2.9)
- 37) Gamage, M., D. Li, W. Shao, K. Curtain, S. Cohen, J. Liu, J. Cao, and **Y. Li**. A staged wildfire evacuation model for wildland-urban interface communities with transient populations in the United States. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 126, 105625 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2025.105625>
(Impact factor: 4.5)
- 36) Li, D., M. Gamage, J. Cao, Y. Jiang, **Y. Li**, L. Zhang, Q. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, and L.K. Siebeneck. Mapping the completeness and positional accuracy of OpenStreetMap road data at the county level in the contiguous U.S. *Transactions in GIS* 29(4), e70077. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tgis.70077>
(Impact factor: 2.3)
- 35) Tice, A.*, R. Xie, W. Zhang, N. Conner, **Y. Li**, C. Emrich, Q. Huo, and L. Thiamwong. Associations of frailty, fear of falling, and fall risk in community-dwelling older adults in Orlando, Florida. *Journal of Frailty Sarcopenia and Falls* 10(8), 18-27. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40035084/>
(Impact factor: Not indicated)

2024

- 34) Durr, C.* and **Y. Li**. Food insecurity among university students and the barriers to utilizing food assistance programs during and after Hurricane Ian and Nicole. *Journal of Poverty* (published online first). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2024.2379768>
(Impact factor: 1.0)
- 33) Andre, E.*, **Y. Li**, D. Li, A. Donley, J.S. Carter, and B.P. Ng. Food insecurity among university students and the role of food assistance programs amid the global pandemic.

Social Sciences, 13(1), 38. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13010038>
(Impact factor: 1.7)

2023

- 32) **Li, Y.**, S. Zhang, L. Wang, G. Lu, R. Pfeiffer, and Z. Zhou*. The association of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation and food insufficiency among households with children in the United States during COVID-19. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 153 (10), 3110-3121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2023.08.020>
(Impact factor: 4.2)
- 31) Ng, B.P., B.C. Peach, D. Keith*, C. Park, and **Y. Li**. Factors associated with mental well-being of Medicare beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 46 (5), 779-788.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07317115.2022.2151962>
(Impact factor: 2.8)
- 30) Wang, S., L. Wang, Y. Zhao, G. Cao, and **Y. Li**. Empirical likelihood ratio tests for varying coefficient geo models, *Statistica Sinica*, 33, 1-22. [doi:10.5705/ss.202021.0233](https://doi.org/10.5705/ss.202021.0233)
(Impact factor: 1.261)

2022

- 29) **Li, Y.**, D. Li, and C. King. Food insufficiency among job-loss households during the pandemic: The role of food assistance programs. *Sustainability*, 14(22), 14533.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su142215433>
(Impact factor: 3.889)
- 28) Du, T.* and **Y. Li**. Effects of social networks in promoting adults' physical activity among different sociodemographic groups. *Behavioral Sciences*, 12(9), 345.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/bs12090345>
(Impact factor: 2.286)
- 27) Ketchpaw, A.R., D. Li, S.N. Khan, Y. Jiang, **Y. Li**, and L. Zhang. Using structure location data to map the wildland-urban inter-face in Montana, USA. *Fire*, 5(5), 129.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/fire5050129>
(Impact factor: 2.726)
- 26) Smith, A.*, **Y. Li.**, and T. Du. * Unhealthy after school snacks: Socioeconomic disparities of food environments around public and private schools in the United States. *Papers in Applied Geography*, 8, 50-60.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23754931.2021.1943499>
(Impact factor: 0.96)

2021

- 25) **Li, Y.**, S. Wang, G. Cao, D. Li, and B.P. Ng. Disentangling racial/ethnic and income disparities of food retail environments: Impacts on adult obesity prevalence. *Applied Geography*, 137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102607>
(Impact factor: 4.732)

- 24) **Li, Y.**, L. Liu, J. Chen, and J. Zhang. Medical tourism of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases inpatients in central China. *Applied Geography* 127, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102391>
(Impact factor: 4.732)
- 2020
- 23) Ng, B.P., T. Ladda, Q. He*, S.D. Towne Jr., and **Y. Li**. Characteristics and discrepancies between physiological and perceived fall risk in community-dwelling Medicare beneficiaries aged 65 years and older. *Clinical Gerontologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07317115.2020.1833267>
(Impact factor: 2.619)
- 22) Li, D., **Y. Li**, Q. Nguyen, and L.K. Siebeneck. A study on the GIS Professional (GISP) certification program in the U.S. *International Journal of Geoinformation* 9(9), 523. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijgi9090523>
(Impact factor: 3.099)
- 2019
- 21) **Li, Y.**, T. Du*, L. Huff-Corzine, B. Noyongoyo*, and K. Johnson*. Where's the fruit? Multidimensional inequalities in food retail environments around public elementary schools. *Child: Care, Health, and Development*, 45(4), 500-508. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30995343>
(Impact factor: 2.943)
- 20) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. Do self- or parental perceptions of weight influence children and adolescents' dieting and family eating patterns? *Journal of Nutrition and Dietetic Practice* 3(1). <http://www.sciaeon.org/articles/Do-Self-or-Parental-Perceptions-of-Weight-Influence-Children-and-Adolescents-Dieting-and-Family-Eating-Patterns.pdf>
(Impact factor: Not indicated)
- 2018
- 19) Liu, Y., T. Zhang, J. Peng, Q. Liu, **Y. Li** and, Y. Hu. Linking GRNN and a neighborhood selection algorithm to assess land development suitability in low-slope hilly areas. *Ecological Indicators*, 93, 581-590. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X1830342X>
(Impact factor: 6.263)
- 18) **Li, Y.**, T. Du*, and J. Peng. Understanding out-of-home food environment, family restaurant choices, and childhood obesity with an agent-based Huff model. *Sustainability*, 10 (5), 1575-1589. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10051575>
(Impact factor: 3.889)
- 17) Peng, J., J. Ma, Q. Liu, Y. Liu, Y. Hu, **Y. Li**, and Y. Yue. Spatial-temporal change of land surface temperature across 285 cities in China: An urban-rural contrast perspective. *Science of the Total Environment*, 635, 487-497.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29677674>

(Impact factor: 10.753)

- 16) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. Assessing the impact of retail location on hotel development: Analysis of Manhattan hotels, 1822-2012. *Papers in Applied Geography*, 4, 21-33.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23754931.2017.1366356>

(Impact factor: 0.96)

2017

- 15) Li, X., X. Shi, A. Wang, and **Y. Li**. Heavy metals contamination and assessment in gas station dust of Xi'an, a mega-city of China. *Environmental Earth Sciences* 76, 288-297.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12665-017-6582-0>

(Impact factor: 3.119)

2016

- 14) **Li, Y.**, W.M. Carter*, and L.E. Robinson. Social environmental disparities on children's psychosocial stress, physical activity and weight status in Eastern Alabama counties. *Applied Geography* 76, 106-114.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2016.09.011>

(Impact factor: 4.732)

- 13) **Li, Y.**, H. Li*, Z. Liu, and C.H. Miao. Spatial assessment of cancer incidences and the risks of industrial wastewater emission in China. *Sustainability* 8, 480-498.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su8050480>

(Impact factor: 3.889)

- 12) ArchMiller, A. *, L. Samuelson, and **Y. Li**. Diurnal and spatial variability of growing season soil respiration in a 64-year-old longleaf pine forest. *Plant and Soil* 403, 419-435.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11104-016-2817-1>

(Impact factor: 3.299)

- 11) Li, H. *, C. Wang, Y. Jiang, A. Hug, * and **Y. Li**. Spatial assessment of sewage discharge with urbanization in 2004–2014, Beijing, China. *AIMS Environmental Science* 3 (4), 842-857.

<https://doi.org/10.3934/environsci.2016.4.842>

(Impact factor: Not indicated)

2015

- 10) Li, H. *, **Y. Li**, M.K. Lee, Z. Liu, and C.H. Miao. Spatial-temporal analysis of heavy metal water pollution in transitional China. *Sustainability* 7, 9067-9087.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su7079067>

(Impact factor: 3.889)

- 9) **Li, Y.**, L.H. Robinson, M.W. Carter*, and R. Gupta. Childhood obesity and community food environment in Alabama's Black Belt region. *Child: Care, Health, and Development* 41(5), 668-676.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25324035>

(Impact factor: 2.508)

2014

- 8) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. Multidimensional health care inequality in provincial China: A case study of Henan Province. *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie* 105 (1), 91-106. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12049>
(Impact factor: 2.152)
- 7) Chen, X., X. Ye, M. Carroll, and **Y. Li**. Online flood information system: REST-based web service. *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* 5 (2), 1-10. <https://www.igi-global.com/article/online-flood-information-system/111097>
(Impact factor: Not indicated)

2013

- 6) Wu, T.* and **Y. Li**. Spatial interpolation of temperature in the United States using residual Kriging. *Applied Geography* 44, 112-120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2013.07.012>
(Impact factor: 4.723)

2012

- 5) **Li, Y.** China's regional inequality in human development. *Regional Science Policy & Practice* 4, 263-278. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1757-7802.2012.01072.x>
(Impact factor: Not indicated)
- 4) **Li, Y.** and L. Liu. Assessing the impact of retail location store performance: A comparison study of Wal-Mart and Kmart stores in Cincinnati. *Applied Geography* 32, 591-600. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2011.07.006>
(Impact factor: 4.723)

2010

- 3) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. A spatial-temporal analysis of health care and mortality inequalities in transitional China. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 51, 767-787. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2747/1539-7216.51.6.767?journalCode=rege20>
(Impact factor: 2.088)
- 2) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. The spatial-temporal hierarchy of regional inequality of China. *Applied Geography* 30, 303-316. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622809000745>
(Impact factor: 4.723)

2009

- 1) Liu, Z., **Y. Li**, and Z. Li. Surface water quality and land use in Wisconsin, USA - a GIS approach. *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences* 6, 69-89. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15693430802696442>
(Impact factor: 1.216)

Refereed Journal Articles Under Review (*Denotes student/former student co-author)

- 6) **Li, Y.**, E. Andre, * A. Agnew, * D. Kim, R. Xie, D. Li, B.P. Ng, L. Thiamwong. Fall risk

and physical activity among low-income older adults in Orlando Florida: The role of community environment. *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (revise & resubmit).

- 5) Toohy, K. * R., J. C. McCutcheon, **Y. Li**, L. Huff-Corzine, and J. Corzine, J. A spatial analysis of aggravated battery as a subtype of violent crime in Orlando, Florida. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* (revise & resubmit).
- 4) Crook, J., Y. Zhong, D. Kim, R. Xie, C. Emrich, **Y. Li**, & L. Thiamwong. Extreme heat and food insecurity shape activity, coping behaviors, and community resource use among low-income older adults. *Public Health Reports*.
- 3) Kim, D., L. Thiamwong, **Y. Li**, and R. Xie. Self-assessed fall risks and fear of falling of older adults: The moderating impact of health literacy. *Health Communication*.
- 2) Ng, B.P., N. Thiamwong, J. LaManna, G.T. Hawkins, **Y. Li**, and C. Park. Differences in out-of-pocket spending among Medicare beneficiaries by demographics. *American Journal of Managed Care*.
- 1) Gamage, M., D. Li, W. Shao, K.M. Curtin, J. Liu, and **Y. Li**. An egress assignment algorithm for staged wildfire evacuation in wildland-urban interface communities with transient populations. *Natural Hazards*.

Refereed Conference Papers and Scientific Report

- 4) Hug, A.*, C. Mitra, **Y. Li**, and L.J. Marzen. 2013. Relationship between land cover and temperature in the Auburn—Opelika, Alabama urban Area. *Papers in Applied Geography* 36, 311-322. ISBN:099119750X, 9780991197507
<http://applied.geog.kent.edu/AGCPapers/2013/P316-322/index.html>
- 3) Rahman, M.*, C. Mitra, L.J. Marzen, and **Y. Li**. 2013. Urban expansion and environmental parameters - A case study of Huntsville, Alabama. *Papers in Applied Geography* 36, 458-466. ISBN:099119750X, 9780991197507
<http://applied.geog.kent.edu/AGCPapers/2013/P458-466/index.html>
- 2) Xie, Z., Z. Liu, and **Y. Li**. 2013. Validation of the Everglades Depth Estimation Network (EDEN) Water-surface Model. *Papers in Applied Geography* 36, 98-106. ISBN:099119750X, 9780991197507
<http://applied.geog.kent.edu/AGCPapers/2013/P098-106/index.html>
- 1) Telis, P.A., Z. Xie, Z. Liu, **Y. Li**, and P.A. Conrads. 2015. The Everglades Depth Estimation Network (EDEN) surface-water model, Version 2. U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2014-5209. 42 p.
<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20145209>

Non-Refereed Technical Report

- 1) Xie, Z., Z. Liu, and **Y. Li**. 2010. EDEN water-surface model: revision, validation,

interpolation by subregion. EDEN report, USGS. Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. 50 p.

GRANTS

Awarded

Vasu, S. (PI), **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, J. Urso (Co-PI). REACH OUT: Research on the effects of AAM on the community and habitat OUTreach. NASA (80NSSC25M0050). Funding period: 2025-2028. Total: \$750,000. My Credit: \$65,801.

Li, Y. (PI). Physical activity and fall risk amid global warming: The role of multilevel environments. Seed Grant Program. UCF Department of Sociology. Budget: \$4,890. Funding period: 2025.

Carter, S. (PI), R. Hinojosa, **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, and H. Torres. Barriers to success: Understanding the lived experiences of Hispanics attending a Hispanic Serving Institution through interviews and focus groups. UCF Department of Sociology. Budget: \$1500. Funding period: 2018.

Wei, Y.H.D. (PI), W. Xu, Y. Ning, X. Ye, **Y. Li**, J. Shen, and C. Miao. Space-time analysis of intra-provincial inequality in China: Economic transition, industrial restructuring and spatial agglomeration. National Natural Science Foundation of China (41329001). Budget: 2,000,000 Chinese Yuan (about \$326,797). Funding period: 2013-2017. Role: Senior Personnel.

Li, Y. (PI). Social environmental disparities, psychological stress, and childhood obesity. The Auburn University Intramural Grants Program (101503-137060-2052). Budget: \$10,000. Funding period: Apr. 2015 – Jul. 2015.

Li, Y. (PI). Socioeconomic inequality of childhood obesity in the Black Belt Region of Alabama. The Auburn University Intramural Grants Program (101503-137060-2052). Budget: \$5,896. Funding period: Mar. 2014 – Mar. 2015.

Under Review

Thiawmong, L. (PI), J. Cooker (Co-I), C., Emrich (Co-I), **Y. Li (Co-I)**, R. Xie (Co-I), and Y. Zhong (Co-I). Extreme heat, physical activity, and falls in low-income older adults: Community-based research. National Institute of Health. Total: \$3,817,404. My Credit: \$97,839.

Not Funded (Since 2021)

Li. D. (PI), S. Bao (Co-PI), and **Y. Li (Co-PI)**. Dynamic integration of hurricane storm surge predictions with GIS-based coastal evacuation planning systems. National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration-University of Alabama. Budget: \$700,000. (6.72% contribution; submitted on Feb. 25, 2025)

Thiamwong, L. (PI), R. Xie (Co-I), C. Emrich (Co-I), **Y. Li (Co-I)**, Y. Zhong (Co-I), and J. Crook (Co-I). Climate-creative communities to promote physical activity and health equity. Nation Institute of Health. Budget: \$3,799,988. (2.46% contribution; submitted on Nov. 5, 2024)

Ng, B.P. (PI), **Y. Li (Co-I)**, D. Li (Co-I), and K.Y. Bao (Consultant). Assessing and addressing socio-environmental disparities in accessibility to the National Diabetes Prevention Program from a community perspective. Nation Institute of Health. Budget: \$419,628 (17.63% contribution; submitted on Jun. 13, 2024).

Li, D. (PI), J. Gong (Co-PI), J. Liu (Co-PI), **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, R. Womack (Co-PI), and W. Shao (Consultant). CIVIC-PG Track A: Revealing the invisible in wildfire evacuation decision-making through community-engaged research and a cloud-based wildfire evacuation simulation toolkit. National Science Foundation. Budget: \$75,000. (6.67% contribution; submitted on May 1, 2024).

Fu, X. (PI), A. Huang (Co-PI), S. Hou (Co-PI), and **Y. Li (Co-PI)**. Promoting AI knowledge and usage among senior citizens. National Endowment for the Humanities. Budget: \$494,111 (20% contribution; submitted on Feb. 14, 2024).

Wang, L. (PI), S. Zhang, (Co-I), **Y. Li (Co-I)**, and G. Lu (Co-I). A Genome-informed, Behavior-incorporated, AI-Assisted (GBA) System for Improved Pandemic Prediction and Surveillance. Nation Institute of Health. Budget: \$400,000 (20% contribution; submitted on Oct. 16, 2023).

Vasu, S. (PI), A. Terracciano (Co-PI), and **Y. Li (Co-PI)**. Waste methane to energy reclamation with porous media combustors for improved health outcomes of socioeconomically disparaged communities. Department of Energy. Budget: \$750,000 (13.33% contribution; submitted on Aug. 25, 2022).

Zhang, S. (PI), Wang, L. (Co-PI), **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, and G. Lu (Co-PI). An AI-powered, agent-based, hierarchical multivariant epidemiological modeling system. National Science Foundation. Budget: \$1,000,000 (20% contribution; letter of intent submitted on Apr. 1, 2022).

Wang, L. (PI), S. Zhang (Co-PI), **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, and G. Lu (Co-PI). PIPP Phase I: AI-GEM: An AI-powered, genome-guided, and epidemiology-informed modeling system for pandemic prediction, prevention and control. National Science Foundation. Budget: \$800,000 (20% contribution; full proposal submitted on Oct. 1, 2021).

Li, D. (PI), **Y. Li (Co-PI)**, and X. Zhou (Co-PI). NSF-SCC-PG: Improving wildfire public safety through community engagement and a scalable simulation-based evacuation

planning support system. National Science Foundation. Budget: \$150,000 (13.33% contribution; submitted on Feb. 24, 2021).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

*Indicates graduate student co-author; #Indicates undergraduate student co-author

Contributed Conference Presentations

2026

- 57) **Li, Y.** E. Andre, * A. Angew, # L. Thiamwong. Fall risk and physical activity in low-income older adults: Insights from Orlando's community environment. The Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society. Jacksonville, FL. Apr. 10.
- 56) Angew, A. #, L. Thiamwong, **Y. Li.**, and E. Andre*. Aging in unequal environments: How neighborhood-level disadvantage shapes physical activity and fall risk in low-income older adults. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco, CA, Mar. 18.

2025

- 55) Kim, D., T. Luong*, J. Lopez, A. Malatyali, L. Thiamwong, **Y. Li**, R. Xie, and A. Tice*. Self-perception of aging and life satisfaction of Hispanic older adults: The role of family relationship. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Boston, MA. Nov. 12-15.
- 54) Bell J.,* S. Carter, **Y. Li**. 2025. Sexual and reproductive autonomy post-Dobbs: A geovisualization analysis. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago. Aug. 10.
- 53) **Li, Y.**, E. Andre*, and C. Durr*. 2025. Food insecurity among university students and the barriers to accessing food assistance programs during unexpected crises. The 32nd International Conference on Geoinformatics, Jiaozuo, China. Apr. 17.
- 52) Andre, E.*, Y. Li, L. Thiamwong, D. Kim, and R. Xie. 2025. Gender-specific differences in fall risk and physical activity and the role of the neighborhood environment. The Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society. Charlett, NC, Apr. 11.
- 51) Kim, D., L. Thiamwong, C. Emrich, **Y. Li**, R. Xie, Y. Zhong, J. Crook & N. R. Lighthall. 2025. Roles of fall risk appraisal matrix: Multidimensional approaches to prevent falls. 2025 Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 33rd Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL, Apr. 1.

2024

- 50) **Li, Y.**, L. Thiamwong, D. Kim, C. Emrich, R. Xie, J. Crook, and Y. Zhong. 2024. GIS analysis of physical activity and fall risk amid global warming: Roles of community environments. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Seattle, WA. Nov. 15. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11692448/>

- 49) Tice, A.*, N. Conner, W. Zhang, Q. Huo, **Y. Li**, C. Emrich, R. Xie, and L. Thiamwong. 2024. Frailty, fall risk, and fear of falling positively associated in community-dwelling older adults. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Seattle, WA. Nov. 15. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11692952/>
- 48) Kim, D., L. Thiamwong, C. Emrich, **Y. Li**, and R. Xie. 2024. Fall risk and fear of falling of low-income older adults: The mediating and moderating impact of health literacy. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Seattle, WA, Nov. 15. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11693315/>
- 47) Ng, B.P., G.T. Hawkins, J. LaManna, **Y. Li**, and C. Park. 2024. Out-of-pocket health care spending among Medicare Beneficiaries by sex, age, and race/ethnicity. Annual Conference of International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Atlanta, GA, May 5.
- 46) **Li. Y.**, E. Andre*, C. Durr*, and A. McClarty*. 2024. Association of food assistance program participation and food insecurity during unexpected crises. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Honolulu, HI, Apr. 19.

2023

- 45) **Li, Y.** 2023. Food insecurity among households with children: The role of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during the global pandemic. The Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society. Myrtle Beach, SC, Mar. 31.
- 44) **Li. Y.** 2023. Food insecurity and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation among households with children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (virtual). Mar. 27.
- 43) Veerapandian, J.[#] and **Y. Li.** 2023. Spatial accessibility to charitable food assistance programs: Considering community social vulnerability. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Mar. 25.
- 42) Ali, R.* , **Y. Li**, and S. Jang.[#] 2023. Spatial disparity of charitable food assistance programs and social vulnerability in the southeastern United States. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (virtual). Mar. 24.

2022

- 41) **Li, Y.** 2022. The role of food assistance programs in alleviating food insufficiency among job-loss households during the pandemic. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Feb. 27.
- 40) Duron, K.[#] and **Y. Li.** 2022. Assessing food retail environments around Head Start programs and daycares in Greater Orlando. Applied Geography Conference. Oct. 22.

- 39) Andre, E.* and **Y. Li**. 2022. Food insecurity among university students and the effectiveness of food assistance programs amid the global pandemic. Applied Geography Conference. Oct. 20.

2021

- 38) **Li, Y.** 2021. Food insufficiency among job-loss families and the role of food assistance programs during the pandemic. Applied Geography Conference (Virtual), Oct. 14.
- 37) **Li, Y.**, S. Wang, G. Cao, D. Li, and B.P. Ng. 2021. Disentangling racial/ethnic and income disparities of food retail environments and obesity prevalence. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Seattle, Apr. 9.

2020

- 38) Li, D., **Y. Li**, Q.C. Nguyen, and L.K. Siebeneck. 2020. Mapping the certified GIS Professionals (GISPs) in the U.S. Applied Geography Conference (Virtual), Oct. 19.
- 35) Ng, B.P., K. Kiyong, J. Lamanna, **Y. Li**, and G. Tiu. 2020. Food insecurity, participation of diabetes self-management education and support, and physical activity among Medicare beneficiaries with type 2 diabetes. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Conference (virtual), May 18-20.
- 34) **Li, Y.**, L. Liu, and J. Chen. 2020. Domestic medical tourism of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases inpatients in central China. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Denver, Apr. 6-10 (conference cancelled).
- 33) **Li, Y.**, S. Wang, and G. Cao. 2020. Disentangling racial/ethnic and income disparities of food retail environments and obesity prevalence. The 83rd Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society. Jacksonville, Apr. 2. (Conference canceled)
- 34) Du, T.* and **Y. Li**. 2020. Social network and physical activity in unequal physical and social environments. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Denver, Apr. 6-10 (conference cancelled).

2019

- 32) Toohy, K. *, L. Huff-Corzine, J. Corzine, and Y. Li. 2019. Of space, time and crime: Spatial and temporal patterning of violent crimes. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, Nov. 15.
- 31) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. 2019. Do self- or parental perceptions of weight influence children and adolescents' dieting and family eating patterns? Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. D.C., April 4.

2018

- 30) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. 2018. Out-of-home eating and the impact on childhood obesity. The 26st Geoinformatics Conference. Kunming, China. June 29.

- 29) **Li, Y.**, T. Du*, and B. Noyongoyo*. 2018. Exploring the role of community gardens in enhancing food security. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. New Orleans, LA. April 10.
- 28) Du, T. * and **Y. Li**, 2018. Examining the effects of social network on physical activities through Latent Class Analysis and spatial analysis. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. New Orleans, LA. April 11.

2017

- 27) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. 2017. Examining social network and children's eating behaviors with Latent Class Model. Applied Geography Conference. Bahamas, November 14.
- 26) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. 2017. Simulating restaurant choices with agent-based model. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA. April 7.
- 25) Johnson, K. # and **Y. Li**, 2017. Assessing food environment around public elementary schools in the U.S. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA. April 7.
- 24) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*. 2017. Simulating restaurant choices with Agent-based model. THATCamp. Orlando, FL. February 25.
- 23) Johnson, K.* and **Y. Li**, 2017. Assessing food environment around public elementary schools in the U.S. THATCamp. Orlando, FL. February 25.

2016

- 22) **Li, Y.** 2016. Social inequalities of food environments and childhood obesity. The Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. Kent, OH. September 23.
- 21) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*, 2016. Social disparities, uneven food environments, and childhood obesity. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 22.
- 20) **Li, Y.** and T. Du*, 2016. Assessment of multi-level food environments and childhood obesity. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco, CA. April 2.
- 19) Du, T.* and **Y. Li**, 2016. What impact the hotel distribution and performance in Manhattan through history? Evidence of GIS-based analysis from 1820-2012. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco, CA. March 30.

2015

- 18) **Li, Y.**, L. Robinson, and M.W. Carter*. 2015. Social environmental disparities and childhood obesity in Alabama's Black Belt region. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, Illinois. April 21.

- 17) Li, H.* and **Y. Li**. 2015. Spatial-temporal analysis of heavy metal water pollution and the impact on public health in China. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, Illinois. April 24.

2014

- 16) **Li, Y.** and L. Robinson. 2014. Socioeconomic inequalities of childhood obesity and food environments. Applied Geography Conference. Atlanta, October 16.
- 15) Carter, M.W.*, **Y. Li**, and L.E. Robinson. 2014. Socioeconomic disparities, physical activity environment, and childhood obesity in Alabama's Black Belt region. Applied Geography Conference. Atlanta, October 17.
- 14) Du, T.* and **Y. Li**. 2014. A spatial-temporal analysis of hotel locations in Manhattan, New York City. Applied Geography Conference. Atlanta, October 16.
- 13) **Li, Y.** and H. Li*. 2014. Spatial analysis of heavy metal water pollution in China. The International Conference of Geo-Simulation and Crime Geography. Guangzhou, China. July 4.
- 12) **Li, Y.** and L. Robinson. 2014. Childhood obesity and food environment in Alabama's Black Belt Region. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Tampa, Florida. April 11.
- 11) Li, H.* and **Y. Li**. 2014. Spatial-temporal analysis of heavy metal water pollution in China. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Tampa, Florida. April 10.

2013

- 10) **Li, Y.** and T. Wu. 2013. Residual kriging for spatial prediction of air temperature in the U.S. The 21st Geoinformatics Conference. Kaifeng, China. June 22.
- 9) **Li, Y.** 2013. Psychosocial inequality and child obesity. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Los Angeles, CA. April 11.

Before 2013

- 8) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. 2012. Multidimensional health care inequality in provincial China: A case study of Henan Province. Annual Meeting of the SEDAAG. Ashville, NC. November 19.
- 7) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. 2012. Health care, mortality, and China's transition. The Maps on the Hills Event of Utah Legislative session. Salt Lake City, UT. Feb. 29.
- 6) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. 2012. Core-periphery inequality in provincial China: A case study of Henan Province. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. New York City, NY. Feb. 27.

- 5) **Li, Y.** and Y.H.D. Wei. 2011. Health care, mortality, and China's transition. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Seattle, WA. April 13.
- 4) **Li, Y.,** Y.H.D. Wei, and X. Ye. 2009. Beyond convergence: Geographies of regional inequality of China. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Las Vegas, NV. March 25.
- 3) Liu, L. and **Y. Li**, 2007. Discerning competing and agglomerative effects on retail store performance: an example of Wal-Mart and Kmart stores in Cincinnati. Second Global Conference on Economic Geography. Beijing, China. June 28.
- 2) **Li, Y.** and L. Liu. 2006. Agglomeration effects on retail performance: A case study of Wal-Mart and Kmart in the Greater Cincinnati area. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, IL. March 11.
- 1) **Li, Y.** and L. Liu. 2005. A GIS based locational analysis on Wal-Mart and Kmart stores in Cincinnati with modified Huff models. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Denver, CO. April 9.

Invited Presentations and Panels

- Sociology Research Showcase Faculty Facilitator. University of Central Florida. Summer 2023, 2025.
- Invited panelist, UCF FIRE Research Mentor Fair. College of Medicine. Oct. 21, 2022.
- Invited panelist, UCF Sociology Virtual Graduate Fair Open House. Oct. 20, 2022.
- Invited panelist. Signature Panel: Urban Planning and Resilience during the Global Pandemic. Regional Development Planning Specialty Group, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Feb. 26, 2022.
- Invited panelist. Panel: Economic Equality. Future of Florida Summit. University of Florida. Feb. 12, 2022.
- Invited panelist, Sociology Qualifying Exam Panel Session. University of Central Florida. Oct. 21, 2021.
- Invited panelist, UCF FIRE Research Mentor Fair. College of Medicine. Oct. 23, 2020.
- Multidimensional Disparities in Food Retail Environments: Impacts on Obesity Prevalence. College of Nursing, University of Central Florida. October 9, 2020.
- Spatial statistics and case studies in environmental health. Henan University, Kaifeng, China. Dec. 19, 2017.

- Social Inequalities of food environments and childhood obesity. The Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. Kent, OH. Sept. 23, 2016.
- Spatial assessment of heavy metal water pollution and the risk on public health in transitional China. East China Normal University. Shanghai, China. May 24, 2016.
- Does psychosocial stress influence social environmental disparities on southern children's physical activity and weight status? Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, LA. Dec. 4, 2015.
- Social environmental disparities and public health: a GIS analysis. The State University of New York at Binghamton. Apr. 4, 2015.
- Social environmental disparities and public health: a GIS analysis. Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Mar. 25, 2015.
- Social environmental disparities and public health: a spatio-temporal analysis. University of Miami. Dec. 1, 2014.
- Socioeconomic disparities, food environment, and childhood obesity. Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. Jul. 3, 2014.
- Air temperature estimation with residual kriging. Peking University, Beijing, China. May 23, 2014.
- Retail location and store performance: A comparison of Wal-Mart and Kmart stores. Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. Jul. 3, 2013.
- Applications for spatial statistics and case study. Henan University, Kaifeng, China. May 27, 2013.

MENTORSHIP

Mentored Student Research Awards

Evansha Andre, Graduate Student Paper Award. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. 2026.

Adeline Agnew, Institute of Artificial Intelligence's 'AI for All' Doctoral Fellowship, 2026 (one of eight awardees out of more than 40 applicants).

Evansha Andre, Graduate McNair Fellowship, University of Central Florida. 2024-2028.

Carvis Durr, College of Sciences Dean's Conference Travel Award. 2024.

Evansha Andre, Graduate Student Paper Award. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. 2023.

Evansha Andre, MA Applied Project Award. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. 2023.

Jayasri Veerapandian, Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award. Regional Development Planning Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers. Denver, CO. 2023.

Kaitlyn Duron, Judges' Choice. Food and health: Assessing food retail environments in Great Orlando. Student Scholar Symposium, University of Central Florida. 2022.

Kenisha Johnson, Undergraduate Paper Competition Award. Regional Development Planning Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers. April 7, 2017. Boston, MA.

Dissertation, Thesis, Applied Project, and Honors in the Major

Ph.D.

Evansha Andre (Ph.D. student, 2024 – present), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Advisor)

Dissertation: TBD.

Sonya Spencer (Ph.D. student, 2023 – present), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Co-advisor)

Dissertation: Offender risk factors: A multistate comparison of pregnancy-associated (PAIPH) and non-pregnancy (NPIH) cases.

Jonzelle Bell (ABD, 2023 – present), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Stitched in silence: Threads of Black women's cesarean birth experiences in the U.S., 1970–1999

Carvis Durr (Ph.D., graduated in Fall 2025). Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee chair)

Dissertation: Food insecurity among university students during and after Hurricane Ian and Nicole.

Nahim Dewan (Ph.D. Candidate, dropped out in 2025), 2023 – 2025. School of Public Affairs, College of Community Innovation and Education, University of Central Florida (Committee member)

Dissertation: Racial and ethnic disparities in dental care utilization and coronary artery disease prevention (CAD).

Jaquelyn Fernandez-Reiss (Ph.D., graduated in Summer 2023), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Dissertation: A community-based research approach to understanding health and health equity in the Central Florida Region.

Kayla Toohy (Ph.D., graduated in Summer 2022), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Homicide patterns in urban places: A geospatial analysis of homicide in Baltimore, MD.

Courtney Wilson (Ph.D., graduated in Summer 2021), Department of Public Affairs, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Using Geographic Information Systems to analyze the effect of residential location on student academic success.

Rebecca DeCesare (Ph.D., graduated in Spring 2021), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Dissertation: It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood: A study of collective efficacy at institutions of higher education and the impact on crime rates.

Wilmer Alvarezirizarry (Ph.D., graduated in Spring 2021), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Assess the impact of healthcare fraud and social disorganization on community health.

Ting Du (Ph.D. graduated in Spring 2020), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida (Lead co-chair).

Dissertation: Understanding the role of social networks in influencing physical activity in unequal physical and social environments with geospatial techniques.

Sarah Sacra (Ph.D. graduated in Spring 2018), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Domestic stalking, violation of protective orders, and homicide in Chicago neighborhoods: the influence of social disorganization and gender inequality.

Auburn University

Althea ArchMiller (Ph.D. graduated in Spring 2015), School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University.

(Committee member)

Dissertation: Temporal and spatial variation in longleaf pine soil respiration and its heterotrophic and autotrophic components.

M.A.

Peiyang Guan (MA student), 2026 – present. Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Alabama.

(Committee member)

Thesis: A new approach to measuring household-level healthy food accessibility.

Breana Lambert (MA student), 2024 – present. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Applied project: Do job Ads in construction have a ‘man-date’? Uncovering gendered language that builds barriers.

Andrea Olmeda (MA student), 2024 – present. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Applied project: Infant mortality and accessibility challenges to healthcare.

Aaron Sean Combs (MA student, graduated in Fall 2025), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Applied project: Internet and technology addiction: effects on hearing and the deaf and hard of hearing community: a need for review and a time for change.

Evansha Andre (MA, graduated in Summer 2022), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida.

(Committee chair)

Applied Project: Food insecurity among university students and the effectiveness of food assistance programs amid the global pandemic.

Tyler Copeland (MA, graduated in Spring 2022), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Thesis: Budgetary unoccupied aerial systems for environmental surveying: A social perspective.

Charles Seaman (MA, graduated in Aug. 2021), Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

(Committee member)

Project: Understanding the effects of “Medically Underserved” designation.

Nicholas Altizer (MA, graduated in May 2021), Department of Sociology, University
(Committee member)

Rhena South (M.A., graduated in May 2017), Department of Sociology, University of
Central Florida.

(Committee member)

Thesis: Understanding arson through community resilience.

Auburn University

William M. Carter (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

(Committee chair)

Thesis: Socioeconomic disparities, community physical environment, and childhood
obesity in Alabama's Black Belt Region.

Huixuan Li (M.S.), (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University

(Committee chair)

Thesis: Spatial-Temporal Analysis of Heavy Metal Water Pollution and the Impact on
Public Health in China.

Ting Du (M.S.), (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University

Thesis: A GIS-based Analysis of the Hotel Locations Choice in Manhattan, New York,
1820-2012.

Chris Smith (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Brian Johnson (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Brian Norris (M.S., graduated in May 2015), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Jeff Caudill (M.S., graduated in May 2014), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Kelly Ervin (M.S., graduated in May 2014), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Andy Hug (M.S., graduated in May 2014), Department of Geosciences, Auburn
University.

Holly Pak (M.S., graduated in May 2014), Department of Geosciences, Auburn University.

Mahjabin Rahman (M.S., graduated in May 2014), Department of Geosciences, Auburn University.

Drew Tunner (M.S., graduated in May 2013), Department of Geosciences, Auburn University.

Honors In the Major

Katherine Alvarez, 2024. Environmental Science. University of Central Florida. (HUT Committee member)
Thesis: Analyzing barriers in mental health care utilization among undocumented Latino immigrant communities.

Rachel Kinder, 2016. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. (HUT Committee member)
Thesis: The association between sexuo-economic relation and homicide: An analysis of yearly gross income and homicide. Honors in the Major Thesis.

Jacqueline Meyer, 2016. Department of Biology, University of Central Florida. (HUT Committee member)
Thesis: A retrospective study: modeling *Dendroctonus frontalis* population based on climate and stand factors. Honors in the Major Thesis.

Directed Research / Independent Studies

Doctoral Students

- Sonya Spence (Spring 2026; Summer 2026)
- Evansha Andre (Summer 2025; Summer 2026)
- Carvis Durr (Spring, Fall 2023; Spring, Summer, Fall 2024; Spring, Summer 2025)
- Ting Du (Spring 2016; Spring 2017; Spring, Summer, Fall 2018; Spring, Summer, Fall 2019; Spring 2020)
- Karina Powell (Fall 2019)
- Kayla Toohy (Fall 2019)
- Rifa Ali (Fall 2021-Spring 2023, Focused Inquiry & Research Experience, College of Medicine)

M.A. Students

- Evansha Andre (Spring, Summer 2022)
- Andrea Smith (Summer 2020)

Undergraduate Students

- Adeline Agnew (Summer 2025; Spring 2026)
- Gray Tateishi (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025)
- Kaitlyn Duron (Fall 2022)
- Jayasri Veerpandian (Spring 2022)
- Yumi Wolfgang (Fall 2020)
- Kenisha Johnson (Spring, Summer, Fall 2016; Spring 2017)
- Joseph Restucci (Spring 2016)
- Maria Scott (Spring 2016)

Research Internships

- Adeline Agnew (Summer 2025; Spring 2026; Summer 2026)
- Evansha Andre (Spring, Summer 2025)
- Kenisha Johnson (Spring, Summer 2016)
- Joseph Restucci (Spring, 2016)
- Maria Scott (Spring, 2016)

Student Scholar Symposium [Formerly the Graduate Research Forum and the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence]

- Andre, E. Associations Between Gender and Living Arrangements with Physical Activity and Fall Risk Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults. UCF Sociology Graduate Research Summit. Apr 3, 2026.
- Duron, K. Food and health: Assessing food retail environments in Greater Orlando. Student Scholar Symposium. Mar. 30, 2022.
- Veerapandian, J. and E. Moncayo. Assessing spatial accessibility to community-based food assistance programs considering social vulnerability index and public transportation in Orlando. Student Scholar Symposium. Mar. 30, 2022.
- Du, T. Examining the impacts of social network on children's eating behaviors with Latent Class Model. Graduate Research Forum. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. Apr. 7, 2018.
- Lambert, J. HIV and spatial dependence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Graduate Research Forum. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. Apr. 7., 2018.
- Morales, S.J. and E. Shuttera. Visualizing crime and emergency stations at UCF with GIS. Showcase of Undergraduate Research. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. Apr. 5, 2018.
- Johnson, K. and M. Scott. Assessing the food environment around elementary schools in the U.S. with GIS analysis. Showcase of Undergraduate Research. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. Apr. 5, 2016.

Faculty Advisor Adjuncts

- George J. Micheletti-for completing ADL5000 and teaching SYA6356 (Summer, Fall 2025)
- Jacquelyn Reiss for teaching SYA3352 (Summer, Fall 2025)

Doctoral Students

- Sara Tehrani (Summer 2024)
- Tracccy Martins (Spring, Summer 2022)
- Kayla Toohy (Spring 2019, 2020, 2021)

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistants

- Nathan LaMathe (Spring 2026)
- Md Mahbub Alam (Summer 2025)
- Evansha Andre (Spring, Summer 2025)
- Carla Cox (Spring 2025)
- Sylvia McMillon (Fall 2024)
- Sara Tehrani (Summer 2024)
- Lisa Rodriguez (Summer 2023 and 2024)
- Halley Spencer (Spring 2023)
- Halley Spencer (Fall 2022)
- Edi Mucka (Summer 2022)
- Carvis Durr (Spring 2022)
- Sarah Da Silva (Fall 2021)
- Alana Innerbichler (Summer 2021)
- Erica Edmonston (Fall 2020, spring 2021)
- Kristina Davis (Summer 2020)
- Andrea Smith (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- Josalie Condon (Fall 2017)
- Ting Du (2015 – 2020)
- Nathan Jagoda (Spring 2018, Summer 2019)
- Kayla Toohy (2018)
- Rina South (2015-2016)

Other Mentoring Activities

- Guest speaker, Advanced Readings in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. Feb. 25, 2026.
- Guest speaker, Proseminar, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. Fall, 2015 – 2022, 2024.

- Rifa Ali, 2021-2023. Focused Inquiry & Research Experience, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida. (Mentor)
Project: The spatial distribution of charitable food assistance programs and the social vulnerability across the U.S. cities.
- Assisted students with GIS and/or statistical analyses for their dissertations or other research projects (Andrea Smith, Kayla Toohy, Julio Montanez, etc.)

TEACHING

Course Taught

University of Central Florida

- Spatial Sociology: Intro GIS (SYA 3352)
- Applied Social Statistics (SYA 3400C)
- GIS Applications (SYA 4352)
- Social Power and Inequality (SYA 3530)
- Special Topic: GIS Applications (SYA 4932)
- GIS in Society (SYA 6536)
- GIS and Public Health in Society (SYA 6539)
- Research Analysis (SYA 6455)
- Advanced Topics in GIS in Society (SYA 6458)

Auburn University

- GIS Applications (GEOG 5850/6850)
- Economic Geography (GEOG 5350/6350)
- Quantitative Analysis and Spatial Analysis (GEOG 5700/6700)
- Seminar in Geography (GEOG 5970/6970)
- Global Geography (GEOG 1010)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- GIS in Public Health (EAB 795)

University of Cincinnati (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

- Introduction to Computer Cartography (GEOG 574)
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GEOG 580)

Courses Developed at UCF

- GIS Applications (SYA 6452)

- GIS Applications (SYA 4354)
- GIS and Health in Society (SYA 6359)
- Advanced Topics in GIS (SYA 4358)
- GIS for Public Health and Society (SYA 4410)

Development of Teaching and Certificate Programs

- Developed the Spatial Sociology minor, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. (2023).
- As a core member, initiated and developed the Undergraduate GIS Certificate Program, University of Central Florida. <https://www.ucf.edu/degree/geographic-information-systems-certificate/>.
- As a core member, initiated and developed the Graduate GIS Certificate Program, University of Central Florida. https://catalog.ucf.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=4&poid=1377&returnto=239.
- As a committee member, initiated and developed the Medical Sociology Program, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida. (2017).

Undergraduate Student Advising

- 20-25 students/semester, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2016-2024)
- 10 students (Department of Geoscience, Auburn University, 2013-2015)

Professional Development

- Attended the Inaugural Florida Advanced Air Mobility Symposium. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University & Florida Department of Transportation. May 11-12, 2026.
- Attended a semester-long training course on National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Resources; for updating the crime data of my GIS courses and mentoring a doctoral advisee whose area of concentration is Crime and Deviance. Spring 2026.
- Attended the training: Teaching with Generative AI: From Principle to Practice. Nov. 2024.
- Attended the training: Video Editing in Adobe Premiere for Beginners. Jul. 2024.
- Attended the event, Dr. Adia Wingfield's talk "Professional Work in a Post-Racial Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy." Sept. 2022.
- Attended the online session, Publishing for Social Science Grad Students. Apr. 2022.

- Attended the online training, Culturally Responsive Mentoring. Aug. 2021.
- Attended the Inclusive Curriculum and Creating More Inclusive Classes workshops, Mar. and May 2021.
- Attended the COS Distinguished Speakers Series: A Well-Dressed Lie and Naked Truth: The Black and Southern Roots of American Sociology. Feb. 12, 2021.
- Virtual webinar: Confronting the Canon: Decolonizing and Diversifying Your Department's Curriculum. American Sociological Association. Oct. 7, 2020.
- Attended the Inclusive Communication workshop organized by ODI, UCF, in Oct. 2020.
- Attended the AKD Teaching & Learning Workshop (virtual): Teaching about race. Nov. 12, 2020.
- The National Science Foundation site visit. University of Central Florida. D.C. Feb. 23-25, 2017.
- Completed IDL 6543. Spring, 2016. University of Central Florida.
- Attended the Summer Faculty Development Conference, May 2016 and May 2018 University of Central Florida.
- Attended the NIH regional workshop, 5/11 – 5/13, 2016, Baltimore, MD.
- Attended the NSF workshop, 3/30 – 3/31, 2016, San Francisco, CA.
- Assistant Professor Development Program. 2015-2016. University of Central Florida.
- NSF IUSE Program Webinar. University of Central Florida. September 21, 2015.
- Attended NFTS (New Faculty Teaching Scholars, 1 year program) organized by Biggio Center, Auburn University. Fall 2012-Spring 2013.
- Selected to attend the Grantsmanship workshop, Auburn University, Apr. 3-4, 2013.
- Evaluation of Teaching by Small Group Instruction Feedback (SGIF) for Economic Geography (GEOG 5350/6350) organized by the Biggio Center, Auburn University (Fall 2012).
- Attended a seminar on 'Building your career portfolio' organized by Biggio Center, Auburn University (Fall 2012).

SERVICE

Department

- Committee chair, CPE (Personnel) Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2024 – 2026.
- Committee chair, Qualifying exam committee (Methods). Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, Spring & Summer 2025; Spring 2026 – present.
- Committee member, Promotion & Tenure Guideline Revision Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, Spring 2026.
- Committee member, Graduate Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2018 – 2020 & Fall 2024 – Summer 2025.
- Search committee member, Assistance Professor in Medical Sociology. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, Fall 2024 – Spring 2025.
- Committee member, Collective Impact Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2024 – present.
- Committee member, Qualifying exam committee (Medical Sociology). Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, Summer and Fall 2024.
- Search committee member, Assistance Professor in Criminology. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2022 – 2023.
- Committee member, Appeal Grading Committee (Social Inequalities). Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, Spring 2023.
- Committee member, Personnel Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2019 – 2023.
- Committee member, Undergraduate Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2016 – 2018 & 2022 – 2023.
- Committee member, Social Media Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2021 – 2023.
- Committee chair, Qualifying Exam Committee (Health, Family, and Community). Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2017 – 2019 & 2021 – 2022.
- Co-chair, Structural Inclusivity Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2020 – 2021.

- Committee member, Training/Speakers Committee. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2020 – 2021.
- Library representative, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2017-2019.
- Committee member, Medical Sociology Minor. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2017 – 2019.
- Search committee member, Assistant Professor in Medical Sociology. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2018.
- Search committee member, Lecturer in Sociology. Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2015 – 2016.
- Co-Chair, Seminar Series Committee, Department of Geosciences, Auburn University, 2012 – 2015.
- Committee member, Department Curriculum Committee, Department of Geosciences, Auburn University, 2013 – 2015.
- Committee member, Geography Curriculum Committee. Department of Geosciences, Auburn University, 2013 – 2015.

College and University

- Committee member, Sabbatical Committee. College of Sciences, University of Central Florida, 2020 – 2021 & 2024 – 2026.
- Ad hoc reviewer, UCF College of Science Red Team Review Program. Reviewed an NSF proposal. Summer, 2025.
- Committee member, Research Committee. College of Sciences, University of Central Florida, 2018 – 2019 & 2022 – 2023.
- Ad hoc reviewer, UCF Research Foundation: Understanding and Advancing Racial Equity on Social Media, 2022.
- Committee member, RIA Committee. College of Sciences, University of Central Florida, 2021– 2022.
- Committee member, Undergraduate GIS certificate Committee. University of Central Florida, 2018 – present.
- Committee member, Graduate GIS certificate Committee. University of Central Florida, 2018 – present.

- Reviewer, UCF Seed Funding Program. University of Central Florida. Oct. 2019.
- Reviewer, UCF Undergraduate Research Journal. University of Central Florida. 2019.
- Faculty Advisor, University of Central Florida Geospatial Information Society. 2016 – present.
- Reviewer, UCF Undergraduate Research Journal. University of Central Florida. 2016.
- Initiated the GIS Speakers Series and invited the first speaker (Dr. Fahui Wang), Apr. 19 –20, 2016.
- Proposing and developing the Graduate and Undergraduate GIS Certificate Programs. 2015 – present.
- Established the GIS lab in Research Park. Aug. 2015.
- Served as a judge of Graduate Research Forum. Apr. 5, 2016, and Apr. 3, 2018.
- Reviewer, Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship, Auburn University, Oct. 2012.

Professional Services

- Editorial board member, *Applied Geography*, 2022 – present.
- External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, University of Toledo, Spring & Summer, 2026.
- Reviewer editor, *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, 2022 – 2024.
- External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, University of New Mexico, 2023 – 2024.
- Editorial board member, *Journal of Forensic and Crime Studies*, 2016 – 2022.
- Editorial board member, *Today Science*, 2012 – 2015.
- Chair, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2020 – 2021.
- Vice chair, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2019 – 2020.
- Organized/chaired a paper session (virtual), Health Equity and Socioeconomic Disparities, at the AAG Annual Conference which was scheduled on Apr. 8, 2021.

- Organized and hosted a signature panel (virtual), Urban Planning and Resilience during the Global Pandemic, at the Annual Meeting of AAG on Apr. 9, 2021.
- Organized and hosted the Regional Development and Planning Signature Fieldtrip (virtual): Seattle's Transforming Downtown at the Annual Meeting of AAG on Apr. 9, 2021.
- Organized the evaluation of scholar and student research awards. Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2020 and 2021.
- Organized a paper session for the AAG Annual Conference which was scheduled on Apr. 8, 2020. Health and healthcare disparities (Conference canceled).
- At large member, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2018 – 2019.
- Director of Developed Countries Program, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2016 – 2018.
- Coordinator, Business Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2016 – 2017.
- Organized a paper session for the AAG Annual Conference held in New Orleans, LA. Apr. 11, 2018. Social disparities, environment, and health.
- Organized a paper session for the AAG Annual Conference held in Boston, MA. Apr. 9, 2017. Socioeconomic inequalities and public health.
- Chaired a paper session for the AAG Annual Conference held in Boston, MA. Apr. 7, 2017.
- Co-organized and chaired a paper session for the Applied Geography Conference held in Atlanta, GA, Oct. 14 – 17, 2014.
- Chaired a paper session for the AAG Annual Conference held in Tampa, FL, Apr. 8 – 12, 2014.
- Co-organized/chaired a paper session for the 21st Geoinformatics Conference held in Kaifeng, China. Jun. 20 – 22, 2013.
- Director of Developing Countries Program, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2012 – 2015.
- Newsletter Editorial Committee, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems, Chinese Professors of GIS 2011.
- Student Representative, Regional Planning and Development Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2011 – 2012.

- CPGIS Newsletter Editorial Committee, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems, 2010 – 2011.
- Secretary for the International Conference on Globalization, Innovation, and Urban-Regional Development, Shanghai, China, 2009.

Journal Referee:

- Annals of Association of American Geographers
- Applied Geography
- American Journal of Preventive Medicine
- Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship
- Annals of Geographic Information Systems
- Climate Research
- Environmental International
- Environment and Planning A
- Frontiers
- GeoJournal
- GeoForum
- Geographical Research
- Growth and Change
- Habitat International
- Health Sociology Review
- Human Ecology Review
- Homicide Studies
- International Journal of Geo-Information
- International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology
- Journal of Applied Geography
- Journal of Forensic and Crime Studies
- Journal of Moravian Geographical Reports
- Land
- Natural Hazards
- Papers in Applied Geography
- PLOS ONE
- Regional Study
- Social Currents
- Social Science & Medicine
- South African Geographical Journal
- Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment
- Sustainable Cities and Society
- Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie
- Today Science
- Universal Journal of Marketing and Business Research

Community Service

- Collaborate with Ocala International Airport and public schools in Marion County, 2025 – present.
- Collaborate with 13 senior centers in Orlando, 2024 – present.
- Collaborate with communities (e.g., Tahoe Conner Community) in City Truckee and City Encinitas, California on a project on wildfire evacuation, 2021 – present.
- Served as a reviewer for the 16th Asian Urbanization Conference, 2024.
- Served as a fellow for George H.W. Bush Foundation. Jan – Dec. 2023.
- Interviewed by New York Times and the article was published on Aug. 17, 2021.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/17/business/kmart-stores-reuse.html>
- Participated in the project of spatial-temporal variations of crime patterns with the Orlando Police Department, Orlando, FL, 2019.
- Participated in the project of Youth Food Insecurity, Orlando, FL, 2016-2017.
- Participating in the project of Age Friendly Communities and provided services for aging people, Winter Park, FL, 2015-2017.
- STEM Day: The Geospatial Avengers: The Power of Geospatial Technologies and Mapping in Society. Nov. 6, 2015
- Judge, Alabama Science and Engineering Fair, Mar. 2015
- Judge, Alabama Science and Engineering Fair, Mar. 2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- AAG Specialty Groups: Health & Medical Geography, GIS, Regional Development and Planning, China, Asian Geography, Business Geography
- International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS)
- Regional Studies Association (RSA)
- Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG)
- Southern Sociological Society (SSS)