

# Erick Scherf, MSW, LSW

The University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa

 [Google Scholar profile](#) |  <https://www.linkedin.com/in/erickscherf/> |  [edaluzscherf@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:edaluzscherf@crimson.ua.edu)  
 <https://www.erickscherf.com>

## Education

Aug. 2023 – May 2028

### Ph.D. in Social Work

The University of Alabama, School of Social Work  
Dissertation: Listening to the voices at the front lines: a case study of advocacy with and for Latine immigrant workers in the U.S. Southeast

Aug. 2021 – Aug. 2023

### Master of Social Work (MSW), Families and Children specialization

The University of Stavanger, Norway  
(*Equivalency recognized by CSWE in December 2024*)

Feb. 2016 – Dec. 2019

### Bachelor of International Relations

The University of Vale do Itajaí, Brazil

---

## Certifications

Issued Feb. 2024

### Excellence in Online Teaching (4 hrs.)

The University of Alabama, Faculty Development Program

Jan. 2020 – Sep. 2020

### Graduate Cert. in Applied International Law

EBRADI - Brazilian School of Law (400 hrs.)

## Licenses

Issued April 2026

### Licensed Social Worker (LSW) - Masters

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation  
License no. 150.129223 (through 11/30/2027)

---

## Academic Affiliations

Sep. 2023 – Present

### Graduate Student Affiliate, Rest and Resilience Research Group

(<https://sites.ua.edu/she-research/>) University of Alabama  
Principal Investigator: Luciana Giorgio, PhD

Sep. 2023 – Dec. 2024

### Graduate Student Affiliate, The Forced Migration Initiative

(<https://forcedmigration.wustl.edu/>) Brown School at Washington  
University in St. Louis. Director: Mitra Naseh, PhD

Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2023

### Affiliated Researcher, ERC Human Rights Nudge

(<https://www.humanrightsnudge.com/>) University of Copenhagen, Faculty  
of Law. Director: Dr. Veronika Fikfak

---

## Research Interests

Biopsychosocial implications of migration; Migration and integration policies; Community organizing and advocacy; Social and political determinants of health; Human rights and global social problems; Qualitative and Mixed Methods.

---

## Summary of Scholarly Achievements

Google Scholar citations: **112** (H-index: **6**); Peer-reviewed journal articles: **35**; Conference presentations: **24**; Peer review contributions: **21**

---

## Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships

April 2026

### The University of Alabama School of Social Work

Leslie J. Shellhase Endowed Scholarship for Doctoral Students  
Amount: 2,000 USD

2025/2026

### Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Doctoral Student Policy Fellowship (DSPF)  
Amount: 4,000 USD

Summer 2025

### The University of Alabama School of Social Work

The Ben Avis Orcutt Summer Research Fellowship

|              |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2023  | Amount: 1,500 USD<br><b>The University of Alabama Graduate School</b><br>Capstone Graduate Council Fellowship<br>5 years of guaranteed Ph.D. funding                |
| August 2021  | Amount: \$58,492 (2023/2024 alone), estimated total at \$150,000<br><b>European Commission / European Union</b><br>Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree Scholarship |
| January 2016 | Amount: 49,000 EUR<br><b>The Brazilian Ministry of Education</b><br>University for All Scholarship Program (ProUni)<br>Amount: Approx. 71,000 BRL                   |

## Awards & Honors

|               |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2026    | <b>The University of Alabama School of Social Work</b><br>2026 Honors Day Convocation<br>Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship by a<br>PhD Student |
| December 2025 | <b>SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research</b><br>SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award (\$500)                                                                |
| November 2025 | <b>3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition – University of Alabama</b><br>Semifinalist and selected representative for the School of Social Work                      |
| April 2025    | <b>Phi Alpha Social Work Honors Society</b><br>Inducted for being in the top 35% of Ph.D. class (4.0 GPA)                                                       |
| December 2024 | <b>SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research</b><br>SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award (\$500)                                                                |

## Research Funding

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2028 | <b>The University of Alabama Graduate School &amp; School of Social Work</b><br>Project: Listening to the voices at the front lines: a case study of advocacy with and for Latine immigrant workers in the U.S. Southeast (Dissertation).<br>Role: Student Principal Investigator (PI)<br>Amount: 600 USD |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

#### I. International migration, immigrant well-being, and policy:

20. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Naseh, M., and Lee, J. (2026). Immigration Policies as Social Determinants of Health Among International Students in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, Online First. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-026-01948-2>
19. Lee, J., Naseh, M., Sarvenaz, T., Badiezadeh, S., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2026). Health Impacts of Migration and Policy on the Iranian Diaspora. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, Online First. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-025-01844-1>
18. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Badiezadeh, S. (2025). Immigration Policy as a Social Determinant of Health among Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: A Narrative Review. *Health Care Analysis*, 33(1), 76–96. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10728-024-00499-7>
17. Zanatta, M.L.A.L., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2019). The Role of Rights-Based Social Work in Contemporary Latin American Diasporas: The Case of Venezuelan Migrant Children. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*, 4(4), 238-247. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41134-019-00104-1>\*

(\*Cited in *Research on Social Work Practice*, and *The British Journal of Social Work*)

#### II. Public health, health equity, and health-related topics:

16. Bride, B. E., Hatcher, S., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Accepted Nov. 2025). Personal Trauma History and Secondary Traumatic Stress Symptoms: The Mediating Role of Trauma Impact. Forthcoming in *Social Work* (NASW Press).

15. Lee, H. Y., Malele-Kubanga, K., Won, C.R., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Park, G. Y. (2025). Empowering Rural Alabama: The Critical Role and Challenges of Community Health Providers in Healthcare Delivery During the COVID-19 pandemic. *Social Welfare Policy and Practice*, 11(2), 49-90. <http://dx.doi.org/10.37342/swpp.2025.11.2.49>

14. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024). Addressing Discrimination and Healthcare Disparities for Sexual and Gender Minorities in South Africa: A Human Rights-Based Perspective. *Journal of Health Management*, Ahead-of-Print. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09720634231216025>

(Cited in the high-impact journal *Nurse Education Today*, and in *Sexuality & Culture*, among others)

13. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Viana da Silva, M. V. (2023). Brazil's Yanomami Health Disaster: Addressing the public health emergency requires advancing criminal accountability. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 11, 01–05. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1166167>\*

(\*Cited in high-impact journals such as *Nature Communications*, *The Lancet Regional Health*, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, and in a Policy Report of the European Commission/European Union)

12. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Alves Lima Zanatta, M. de, Viana da Silva, M. V., & da Silva, J. E. (2022). Health Care Access by Transgender Persons in South Africa: Gender-based Discrimination, Human Rights Violations, and the Role of the African Human Rights System. *Journal Health and Technology*, 1(4), 01–22. <https://doi.org/10.47820/jht.v1i4.25> \*

(\*Cited in the prestigious, high-impact *International Journal of Transgender Health*, as well as in *BMC Global and Public Health*, and *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, among others)

11. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Viana da Silva, M., & S. Fachini, J. (2021). The management (or lack thereof) of COVID-19 in Brazil: implications for human rights and public health. *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, 14(2), 158-174. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ijhrh-09-2020-0085> \*

(\*Cited in multiple high-impact journals such as *Urban Studies*, *Organization*, and the *International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services*, among many others)

### **III. Social work education, practice, and research:**

10. Giorgio Cosenzo, L. A., Scales, J., Hossain, M.D. S., Nwatu, U., Taer, H., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Bell, A. (Accepted May 2026). Harvesting Hope: A case example of experiential, community-engaged learning implemented in collaboration with a community garden, BSW, and PhD students. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

9. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024). Anti-Racist Values in Portuguese Baccalaureate Social Work Education: A Content Analysis Study. *International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 21(2), 86-114. <https://doi.org/10.55521/10-021-208>

8. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2023). Latin American perspectives on Indigenous Social Work: In search of mind, body, and soul. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 19(1), 155–165. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801221140460>

7. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2021). Challenges in making school social work a reality in Brazilian schools. *International Social Work*, 66(2), 590–596. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00208728211031965> \*

(\*Cited in the *Journal of Social Work*)

### **IV. Human rights and global social problems:**

6. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Viana da Silva, M. V. (2023). Oil giant, climate savior, or somewhere in between? Human rights and the Norwegian climate paradox. *International Journal of Public Law and Policy*, 10(3), 227-243. <https://www.inderscienceonline.com/doi/abs/10.1504/IJPLAP.2024.139509>

5. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Alves Lima Zanatta, M. de L., & Tumenas Mello, E. (2020). Gender-Awareness amongst Brazilian Children Enrolled in Primary Education: Implications for Women's Rights & Equality. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies*, 9(1), 25–50. <https://doi.org/10.17583/generos.2020.4865>

4. Viana da Silva, M.V., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & da Silva, J.E. (2020). The Right to Data Protection Versus “Security”: Contradictions of the Rights-Discourse in the Brazilian General Personal Data Protection Act (LGPD). *Revista Direitos Culturais/Cultural Rights Review*, 15(36), 209-232. <https://doi.org/10.20912/rdc.v15i36.18>

3. Viana da Silva, M.V., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020). Dream the impossible dream? An ecosocialist account of the human right to a healthy environment. *Direito Ambiental & Sociedade [Environmental Law & Society]*, 10(2), 35-60. <https://doi.org/10.18226/22370021.v10.n2.02>

2. da Silva, J.E., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Viana da Silva, M.V. (2019). In Tech We Trust? Some General Remarks on Law in the Technological Era from a Third World Perspective. *Journal Juridical Opinion*, 17(25), 107-123. <https://doi.org/10.12662/2447-6641oj.v17i25.p107-123.2019>
1. Souza, I.F., Leme, L.R., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2018). Creating bridges between international relations theory and international human rights law: constructivism and the role of Brazil in the Inter-American system of human rights. *Brazilian Journal of International Law*, 15(3), 179-197. <https://doi.org/10.5102/rdi.v15i3.5653>

#### **Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2022). Critical perspectives on social work and social policy practice with vulnerable migrants in an era of emergencies. In A. Jolly, R. Cefalo, & M. Pomati (Eds.), *Social Policy Review* 34 (1st ed., pp. 134–157). Bristol University Press. <https://doi.org/10.46692/9781447365815.008>
2. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Viana da Silva, M.V., & da Silva, J.E. (2021). Indigenous Rights, Necropolitics and the 'Daily Genocides' of Brazil's Native and Traditional Peoples. In T. Ribeiro Teles (Ed.), *Língua(gens), Literaturas, Culturas, Identidades e Direitos Indígenas no Brasil* [Languages, Literature, Culture, Identity, and Indigenous Rights in Brazil] (1st ed., pp. 172-180). BAGAI. <http://dx.doi.org/10.37008/978-65-89499-57-2.23.04.21>
1. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2018). Manaus' massacre as a result of the crisis in the Brazilian penitentiary system: an analysis in the light of international human rights law. In A. Jobim do Amaral et al (Eds.), *Anais do 8º Congresso Internacional de Ciências Criminais – PUCRS* [Proceedings of the 8th International Congress on Criminal Sciences – Global Criminology Section], Vol. 3 (1st ed., pp. 121-140). Tirant Lo Blanch.

#### **Peer-Reviewed Book Reviews**

- da Luz Scherf, E.** (2025). Review of the book Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America by D. B. Matthew. *Families, Systems, & Health*, 43(1), 162–164. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fsh0000942>
- da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020). Mary Mee-Yin Yuen, Solidarity and Reciprocity with Migrants in Asia: Catholic and Confucian Ethics in Dialogue. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 29(4), 553-555. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0117196820983983>

#### **Conference Proceedings**

- Giorgio Cosenzo, L., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Ruggiano, N. (2024). Unveiling the association between social isolation and sleep disturbances among Latinx older women and men. *Innovation in Aging*, 8(Suppl.\_1), 1174–1174. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igae098.3762>

#### **Policy Briefs (non-refereed)**

- da Luz Scherf, E.** (2026, May). *Protecting Immigrant Farmworkers and Securing America's Agricultural Workforce: A Policy Brief* (Policy Brief). Council on Social Work Education's Doctoral Student Policy Fellowship. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.11059.39206>

#### **Review Protocols (non-refereed)**

- Gill, S. J., Alfonso, A., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2025). *Hispanic/Latinx Patients' Experiences of Prejudice in Outpatient Healthcare Settings: A Scoping Review Protocol*. OSF Registries. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/2T6NP>

#### **Under Review**

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Submitted July 2026). Anti-immigration policies are a threat to global health and democracy: a reflection and call to action. Submitted to *Migration & Society: Advances in Research*.
2. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Submitted June 2026). Protecting Immigrant Farmworkers' Health and Well-Being and Securing the U.S. Agricultural Workforce: A Policy Brief. Submitted to the *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*.
1. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Re-submitted July 2026). Anti-Racism and Diversity in the Undergraduate Social Work Curriculum in Portugal: Insights from a Qualitative Pilot Study. Submitted to *Race, Ethnicity & Education*.

#### **Under Preparation**

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Hernandez, R., & Mehrara, L. Exploring Health-Related Behaviors Among Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: A Structured Narrative Review and Synthesis. Target journal: *Health Education & Behavior*.

2. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Giorgio, L.C., & Cheatham, L. P. Moving up or going down? Examining the association between occupational mobility and self-esteem among Latinx migrant workers in the United States. Target journal: *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*.
  1. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Prodhon, M., & Okine, J. Searching for the Missing Piece of Social Work Doctoral Education: Centering the Experiences of International Students and Early-Career Scholars. Target Journal: *Journal of Social Work Education (JSWE)* special issue.
- 

## International Peer-Reviewed Publications (titles translated from Portuguese)

### Journal Articles

#### I. Migration studies:

15. Viana da Silva, M.V., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020). Advances and Challenges in Implementing Public Policies for the Protection of the Social Rights of Older Migrants in Brazil. *Revista Eletrônica da Faculdade de Direito de Franca*, 15(1), 215-228. <https://doi.org/10.21207/1983.4225.951>
14. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Viana da Silva, M.V. (2020). "The Canadian Citizenship is a Privilege, Not a Right": Migration and Securitization in the Promised Land. *Brazilian Review of Canadian Studies*, 20, 1-36. <https://doi.org/10.15210/interfaces.v20i0.19069>
13. Viana da Silva, M.V., da Silva, J.E., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020). The Role of the Canadian Supreme Court in Defending the Rights of Migrant Persons: Subverting the State of Exception by the Routes of Judicial Activism. *Journal of Contemporary Public Law*, 1(2), 85-110. <http://www.rdp.com.br/index.php/rdpc/article/view/124>
12. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Viana da Silva, M.V. (2020). Child Migration and International Relations: Theoretical Neglect versus Child Protagonism. *Revista Relações Internacionais no Mundo Atual*, 28(3), 269-297. <http://revista.unicuritiba.edu.br/index.php/RIMA/article/view/4138>
11. Zanatta, M.L.A.L., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2019). Child Migration and the United Nations Regime for the Protection of Human Rights. *Caderno de Relações Internacionais*, 9(17), 105-134. <https://doi.org/10.22293/2179-1376.v9i17.989>
10. de Oliveira, A.C.D.C., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2019). Rights-Based Social Work as a Tool for Realizing the Human Rights of Venezuelan Migrant Children in Latin American Countries. *Revista TOMO*, 34, 241-286. <https://doi.org/10.21669/tomo.v0i34.9933>
9. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Milindre Gonzalez, R. (2018). Forced migration and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar: Rohingya – no territory, nation, or rights. *Revista de Iniciação Científica em Relações Internacionais*, 5(10), 37-73. <https://doi.org/10.22478/ufpb.2318-9452.2018v5n10.37368>

#### II. Human rights issues:

8. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Viana da Silva, M.V., & da Silva, J.E. (2021). A Few Considerations on Human Rights in the Biotechnological Era: Normativity Versus Dignity. *Revista Direito e Justiça: Reflexões Sociojurídicas*, 21(41), 195-210. <https://doi.org/10.31512/rdj.v21i41.636>
7. Viana da Silva, M.V., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020). The Justiciability of the Right to Education in the Inter-American System of Human Rights: A Possible Way Out for the Dismantling of the Brazilian Public Education System? *Revista Humanidades & Inovação*, 7(7), 350-367. <https://revista.unitins.br/index.php/humanidadeseinovacao/article/view/2574>
6. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2019). Fundamental freedoms and the role of struggles for rights in the movie Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. *Revista Avant*, 3(1), 26-30. <https://ojs.sites.ufsc.br/index.php/avant/article/view/7005>
5. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Zanatta, M.L.A.L. (2019). Human rights and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the context of international commerce: the Barrick Gold miner and sexual violence against women in Papua New Guinea between 2006 and 2010. *Revista Vertentes do Direito*, 6(1), 161-181. <https://doi.org/10.20873/uft.2359-0106.2019.v6n1.p161-181>
4. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2019). The principle of minimum criminal intervention and the incarceration of minors in Brazil: From violations to the role of the Inter-American Human Rights System. *Revista Jus Navigandi*, 24(5790), 1-8. <https://jus.com.br/artigos/67916>

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Milindre Gonzalez, R. (2018). Civil society and the fight for the recognition of fundamental liberties during peace negotiation processes: lessons from the civil war in Sierra Leone and the Lomé Peace Accord. *Conjuntura Global*, 7(2), 170-188. <https://doi.org/10.5380/cg.v7i2.59393>
2. de Souza, M.C.S.A., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2017). Business Management Towards Sustainable Development: The Dialogue Between Climate Change and Human Rights. *Revista Jurídica da Escola Superior do MP-SP*, 12(2), 68-86. [https://es.mpsp.mp.br/revista\\_esmp/index.php/RJESMPSP/article/view/337](https://es.mpsp.mp.br/revista_esmp/index.php/RJESMPSP/article/view/337)
1. Hall, C.C., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2017). The Failure of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights: The Case Cosme Rosa Genoveva, Evandro de Oliveira and Others v. Brazil. *(Re)Pensando Direito*, 7(14), 55-70.

### Book Chapter

- da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Rocha Leme, L. (2019). A theory of international justice for whom? Failures in the restrictive concept of human rights in Rawls' The Law of Peoples. In M. Leal & A. Custódio (Eds.), *Fundamentos Constitucionais das Políticas Públicas* [Constitutional Foundations of Public Policy], Vol. 1 (1st ed., pp. 186-198). EDUNISC. <http://hdl.handle.net/11624/2723>
- 

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

24. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Forthcoming 2026, November). *Voices from the Frontlines: Designing a Qualitative Case Study of Immigrant Advocacy in the U.S. Southeast* [Poster presentation]. 48<sup>th</sup> Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Annual Research Conference. Boston, MA, USA.
23. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Giorgio, L. (2026, January). *Moving Up or Going Down? Examining the Association between Occupational Mobility and Self-Esteem Among Latinx Migrant Workers in the United States* [Oral presentation]. SSWR 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice. Washington, D.C., USA.
22. Lee, J., Naseh, M., Badiezadeh, S., Taridashti, S., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2026, January). *Health Impacts of Migration and Policy on the Iranian Diaspora* [Oral presentation]. SSWR 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice. Washington, D.C., USA.
21. Giorgio, L., Bell, A., Hossain, M.D. S., Nwatu, U., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Others (2026, January). *Harvesting Hope: A Qualitative Case Study of a Community Garden's Impact on Food Insecurity and Wellbeing in Alabama* [Poster presentation]. SSWR 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice. Washington, D.C., USA.
20. Lee, J., Naseh, M., Badiezadeh, S., Taridashti, S., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2025, November). *Health Impacts of Migration and Policy on the Iranian Diaspora* [Oral presentation]. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference. Seattle, WA, USA. [Presented by co-author]
19. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Naseh, M., Okine, J., Prodhon, M., & Lee, S. (2025, October). *Global Scholars, Local Struggles: Navigating the Social Work Doctoral Journey as International Students* [Panel discussion]. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)'s 71st Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO, USA.
18. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, and Mehrara, L. (2025, October). *Mapping the Health Profile of Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: A Scoping Review* [Poster session]. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)'s 71st Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO, USA.
17. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Lee, J., and Naseh, M. (2025, January). *Migration Policies as Social Determinants of Health among International Graduate Students in the United States* [Poster session]. SSWR 29th Annual Conference: Strengthening Social Impact through Collaborative Research. Seattle, WA, USA.
16. Cosenzo, L. G., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Ruggiano, N. (2024, November). *Unveiling the Association between Social Isolation and Sleep Disturbances among Latinx Older Women and Men* [Poster session]. Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting 2024. Seattle, WA, USA. [Presented by co-author]
15. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024, October). *Immigration Policy as a Social Determinant of Health among Brazilian Immigrants in the United States* [Oral presentation]. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)'s 70th Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO, USA.
14. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024, April). *Understanding the Health and Social Needs of Older Brazilian Adults in the United States: A Needs Assessment Pilot Study* [Poster session]. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Universities Graduate Research Symposium. Tuscaloosa, AL, USA.

13. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024, April). *International and Comparative Social Work Research in Latin America: Tapping into the Untapped Potentials* [Poster session]. SWSD 2024 – Joint Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development. Panama City, Panama.
12. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2024, March). *Investigating the (non-)place of race and ethnicity in undergraduate social work education in Portugal* [Oral presentation]. Infusing Resilience, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Big Easy: BPD 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA, USA.
11. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2023, May). *Challenging the colorblind curriculum: addressing race, ethnicity, and diversity in Social Work education in Portugal* [Oral presentation]. European Social Work Conference 2023: Against all odds, a social Europe is possible where no one is left behind! Prague, Czech Republic. [Online]
10. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2023, March). *Climate Change and Green Social Work: An Ecosocialist Critique* [Oral presentation]. Injustice in a World of Uncertainty: Finland World Convention 2023. Stream 1: Climate Change, Insecurity, and Danger. Mikkeli, Finland. [Online]
9. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2022, June). *Climate Litigation, Human Rights, and the Norwegian Oil Industry: An Early Assessment of Greenpeace Nordic and Others against Norway* [Oral presentation]. Conference on the Intersection between Human Rights and Sustainability as an Evolving and Justiciable Concept. Oslo, Norway.
8. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2022, April). *Critical perspectives on social work and social policy practice with vulnerable migrants: exploring anticolonial human rights narratives* [Oral presentation]. CCNY's 2<sup>nd</sup> Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference. New York, NY, USA.
7. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2021, September). *Unwanted and overlooked: barriers to transgender persons' access to health care in South Africa and the role of the African human rights system* [Oral presentation]. Conference on the Responsiveness of the African human rights system to sexual and gender-based violence. Stellenbosch, South Africa. [Online]
6. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020, November). *Judicialization of the Right to Mental Health: A Pathway to Mental Health Care in Brazil?* [Oral presentation]. Global Mental Health: Today and Tomorrow. Michigan, USA. [Online]
5. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2020, October). *Impunity and Human Rights Violations Amid and After the Covid-19 Pandemic: Questioning the Future of State Responsibility under International Human Rights Law* [Oral presentation]. Pandemic & International Responsibility Conference. Porto, Portugal. [Online]
4. da Silva, M.V.V., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & da Silva, J.E. (2019, October). *The unconventionality of the dismantling of public education policies in Brazil and the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights System* [Poster session]. II Congresso Internacional de Políticas Públicas para a América Latina [II International Conference on Public Policies for Latin America]. Itajaí, Santa Catarina, Brazil.
3. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Morales, P.A. (2018). *Human rights, corporate social responsibility, and international business: looking for coherence through the experience of Papua New Guinea* [Oral presentation]. XIII Congresso Direito UFSC [XIII Law Conference at the Federal University of Santa Catarina]. Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.
2. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2017). *Manaus' massacre as a result of the crisis in the Brazilian penitentiary system: an analysis in the light of international human rights law* [Oral presentation]. 8th International Conference on Criminal Sciences – Global Criminology Section. Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.
1. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Morales, P.A. (2016). *Reform of the judiciary and the democratization of access to justice: an analysis on the influence of the judicial reform secretariat and its contributions to the realization of fundamental rights* [Oral presentation]. XIII Seminário Internacional Demandas Sociais e Políticas Públicas na Sociedade Contemporânea [XIII International Seminar on Social Demands and Public Policies in Contemporary Society]. Santa Cruz do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

## Research Experience

Fall 2026

### Graduate Research Assistant

The University of Alabama, School of Social Work  
Principal Investigators (PI): Luciana Giorgio, PhD (0.25 FTE),  
and Sheila McMahon, PhD (0.25 FTE)  
Funders: University of Alabama

Summer 2025

### Graduate Research Assistant

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
PI: Dr. Luciana C. Giorgio (0.50 FTE)  
Funders: University of Alabama

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

**Graduate Research Assistant**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
PIs: Dr. Brian Bride and Dr. Luciana C. Giorgio (0.50 FTE)  
Funders: University of Alabama

Summer 2024

**Graduate Research Assistant**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
PIs: Dr. Hee Yun Lee (0.25 FTE) and  
Dr. Nicole Ruggiano (0.25 FTE)  
Funders: UA, NSF, and NIH, among others

Oct. 2023 – Dec. 2024

**Student Co-Principal Investigator**

Project title: Experiences of Racism and Discrimination  
Among Latinx Patients in Primary Healthcare Settings  
PI: Dr. Shane Gill, at Thomas Jefferson University

Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2019

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

The University of Vale do Itajai (Brazil), School of Social Sciences  
Human Rights and Citizenship Research Group  
PI: Malu Zanatta, PhD

**Teaching Experience**

Summer 2026

**Instructor of Record**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Course: SW 200 History of Social Welfare in the U.S.  
Mode of instruction: Online.  
Credit hours: 3.

Spring 2026 &  
Fall 2025

**Instructor of Record**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Course: SW 101 Orientation to Social Work  
Mode of instruction: In-person.  
Credit hours: 3.

Fall 2024

**Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Course: SW 410 Human Behavior and Social Environment  
Instructor of record: Hyunjune Lee, PhD  
Mode of instruction: In-person.

November 2024

**Guest Lecturer**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Course: SW 410 Human Behavior and Social Environment  
Topic: Immigration and the Life Course  
Instructor of record: Hyunjune Lee, PhD  
Mode of delivery: In-person.

October 2024

**Guest Lecturer**

The University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Course: SW 212 Death, Dying, Bereavement  
Topic: Cultural Manifestations of Grief in Latin America  
Instructor of record: Haelim Jeong, LMSW  
Mode of delivery: In-person.

September 2024

**Guest Lecturer**

Middle Tennessee State University  
Course: SW 4690 Integrative Seminar in Social Work  
Topic: Human Rights and Social Work Practice in Brazil  
Instructor of record: Andrea Bell, LCSW  
Mode of delivery: Online.

April 2024

**Guest Lecturer**

The University of Vale do Itajai (Brazil)  
Course: Human Rights (International Program)



Topic: Global Migration and Human Rights  
 Instructor of record: Ricardo Boff, MSc.  
 Mode of delivery: Online.

### Invited Talks and Speaking Engagements

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 2026    | <b>University of Alabama Career Center</b><br>Title: Grad School 01: Exploring Non-Traditional Pathways<br>Role: Panelist                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| May 2025      | <b>Synergy Education System</b> (Navegantes-SC, Brazil)<br>Title: The Promise of Human Rights in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: Between Idealism and Reality (Keynote Address)<br>Event: Synergy's Academic Week                                                                                                                                        |
| March 2024    | <b>Monmouth University School of Social Work, United States</b><br>Speaking Engagement with Social Work Students In<br>Celebration of Social Work Month<br>Title: Leading a Career in Academia as a Macro<br>Social Work Researcher<br><a href="https://youtu.be/64hJmIfJQhM?si=1v6BEFrnxMZTdI9-">https://youtu.be/64hJmIfJQhM?si=1v6BEFrnxMZTdI9-</a> |
| November 2023 | <b>University of Minho, Portugal</b><br>Center for International Relations Area Studies<br>Event: Beyond Borders: The Challenges of Refugees and Migrants Around the World<br>Title: Immigration Policy as a Social Determinant of Health                                                                                                              |
| August 2023   | <b>University of Vale do Itajai, Brazil</b><br>School of Legal and Social Sciences<br>Event: Alumni Week<br>Title: Pathways to an International Research Career                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| November 2022 | <b>University of Gothenburg, Sweden</b><br>Department of Social Work<br>Event: Alumni Session on Ph.D. Opportunities for Erasmus Mundus Graduates in Social Work                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### Direct Practice Experience

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2024 – Aug. 2024  | <b>University Medical Center (UMC)</b><br><a href="https://umc.ua.edu/">(https://umc.ua.edu/)</a><br>Department of Social Services<br>The University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL<br>Role: <i>Healthcare social work intern, post-MSW level.</i><br>Part-time (0.50 FTE). |
| Sep. 2022 – Oct. 2022 | <b>Internationella Engelska Skolan</b><br><a href="https://engelska.se/">(https://engelska.se/)</a><br>[International English School]<br>Gothenburg, Sweden<br>Role: <i>Social work intern, MSW-level.</i> Part-time (0.25 FTE).                                         |
| Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2021 | <b>Field Placement at Different Organizations</b><br>(Lisbon, Portugal)<br>Role: <i>Social work intern, MSW-level.</i> Part-time (0.5 FTE)<br>Non-profits visited: Child Protection Institute, Portuguese League Against AIDS, and Salvador Association.                 |
| Mar. 2018 – Dec. 2019 | <b>Intergenerational Law Community Project</b><br>The University of Vale do Itajai, School of Legal and Social Sciences (Itajai, Brazil)<br>Role: <i>Community Outreach Intern, Undergrad/BA-level.</i><br>Part-time (0.5 FTE).                                          |

---

**Grant Writing Experience**

February 2026

**Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) Dissertation Research Grant**

Proposal title: *Listening to the voices at the front lines: a study of community advocacy with and for Latine immigrant workers in the U.S. Southeast*

Amount: USD 15,000

Status: Not selected

---

**Policy Training Experience**

Spring 2026

**Council on Social Work Education**

Washington, D.C. (Virtual)

- Completed virtual policy placement with Lewis-Burke Associates, a national organization engaged in the federal legislative process. Produced a legislative policy brief integrating research, stakeholder input, and legislative analysis.

March 07, 2024

**The University of Alabama and NASW-AL**

State House, Montgomery, AL (In person).

- Social Work Advocacy Day: We spent the day engaging with different stakeholders and advocating for Criminal Justice Reform, Social Work Reinvestment, and Medicaid Expansion.
- 

**Miscellaneous Funding**

Fall 2026

**The University of Alabama Graduate School**

Professional Development Fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$1000

Spring 2026

**The University of Alabama School of Social Work**

Professional development fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$700

Fall 2025

**The University of Alabama Graduate School**

Professional Development Fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$1000

Spring 2025

**The University of Alabama School of Social Work**

Professional development fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$700

Fall 2024

**The University of Alabama Graduate School**

Professional development fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$1000

Fall 2024

**The University of Alabama, School of Social Work**

Professional development fund for CSWE International Degree Review and Accreditation

Amount: \$645

Spring 2024

**The University of Alabama School of Social Work**

Professional development fund to present at a National Conference

Amount: \$700

Spring 2024

**The University of Alabama Graduate School**

Professional development fund to present at an International Conference

Amount: \$1600

June 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

**Norwegian Agency for Education and Research**

Open Access journal publication fee awarded

Amounts: \$410 and \$2,500 awarded twice

## Service

### Editorial Roles

March 2026 – Present

#### The International Journal of Qualitative Methods

Publisher: Sage Publishing

Role: Editorial Review Board Member

April 2024 – Present

#### Frontiers in Political Science

International Studies section.

Role: Community Reviewer

### Committee Work

April 2024 – Present

#### **Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)**

Doctoral Student Committee (DSC)

Mentoring Sub-Committee

Role: Committee Member

### Peer-review (Ad hoc)

2026: **Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine** (Springer); **Journal of Loss and Trauma** (Routledge). 2025: **Journal of Homosexuality** (Taylor & Francis); **Archives of Public Health** (BMC, Springer); **Frontiers in Public Health**, section Public Health Policy; **Frontiers in Sociology**. 2024: **Discover Social Science and Health** (Springer Nature); **Frontiers in Political Science**; **BMC Global and Public Health** (Springer Nature); **Biodemography and Social Biology** (Taylor & Francis); **Discover Global Society** (Springer Nature); **Council on Social Work Education** Conference proposals reviewer. 2023: **Social Work in Public Health** (Taylor & Francis); **Advances in Social Work** (Indiana University); **Critical and Radical Social Work** (Bristol University Press); **European Social Work Research** (Bristol University Press); **International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare** (Emerald Group Publishing). 2022: **Springer Book Series in International Social Work** (Book proposal reviewer); **International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy** (Emerald Group Publishing); **Globalizations** (Taylor & Francis). 2020: **Asian Journal of Education and Social Sciences** (SCIENCEDOMAIN International).

### Mentoring

August 2023 – April 2024

#### **Graduate School at The University of Alabama**

Tide Together Graduate Mentor Program

Role: Mentee.

Fall 2023

#### **Brazilian Student Association (BRASA)**

Role: Mentor/Graduate School Admissions Consultant (Volunteer).

---

## Volunteering and Civic Engagement

January 2025

#### **SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research**

SSWR 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Seattle, WA.

Role: Student Volunteer.

Jul. 2021 – Aug. 2021

#### **Aurora Institute for Human Rights Education**

Curitiba, Brazil (Remote).

Role: Writing contributor.

I helped the Institute strengthen its mission by providing short articles for its online blog platform.

May 2021 – July 2021

#### **Eshet Children and Youth Development**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Remote).

Role: Project proposal and grant writing volunteer.

I was responsible for identifying potential donor organizations and for revising funding proposals.

---

## Media Coverage & Interviews

- Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity in Social Work (Video Interview). 2024. *SAGE Research Methods Series: An Introduction to Diversifying and Decolonizing Research*. <https://methods.sagepub.com/video/race-ethnicity-and-diversity-in-social-work>

- Meet Erick da Luz Scherf (Written Interview). *Bold Journey Magazine*. August 8, 2024. <https://boldjourney.com/meet-erick-da-luz-scherf/>
- 

**Languages Spoken**

**English** – Advanced/Fluent, **Portuguese** – Native Speaker, **Spanish** – Upper-Intermediate, **French** – Basic/Beginner

---

**Research Skills**

**Qualitative Skills**

One-on-one and group interviewing. Focus groups. Interpersonal and people skills; Very familiar with coding qual. data and performing thematic and content analyses; Experienced with community-engaged methodologies (e.g., photovoice and other CBPR approaches).

**Quantitative Skills**

Secondary data analysis (SDA) of large cross-sectional surveys; Experienced with analyzing data from complex samples and survey designs (e.g., stratified samples); Experienced with data cleaning, transformation, and regression analyses.

**Software**

Covidence, Microsoft Office applications, Dedoose, NVivo, SPSS, R (Basic knowledge), and Claude AI.

---

**Academic and Professional Memberships**

|                |                                                                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 – Present | Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Doc Student Member |
| 2024 – Present | The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Doc Student Member             |
| 2024 – Present | Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), Graduate Student Member                |
| 2022 - 2025    | Social Policy Association (SPA, UK), International Early Career Scholar         |

---

**References**

1. Luciana Giorgio, PhD  
Assistant Professor and Dissertation Committee Chair  
University of Alabama, School of Social Work  
[luciana.giorgio@ua.edu](mailto:luciana.giorgio@ua.edu)

2. Hyunjin (Gina) Noh, PhD  
PhD Program Director, Professor  
University of Alabama, School of Social Work  
[hnoh1@sw.ua.edu](mailto:hnoh1@sw.ua.edu)

3. Leah P. Cheatham  
Associate Professor  
University of Alabama, School of Social Work  
[lpcheatham@ua.edu](mailto:lpcheatham@ua.edu)

4. Mitra Naseh, PhD  
Assistant Professor and Forced Migration Initiative (FMI) Director  
WashU Brown School  
[naseh@wustl.edu](mailto:naseh@wustl.edu)

---