Erick Scherf, MSW, LSW

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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

Areas of Specialization

Immigrant and minority health; Immigration and integration policies; Social and political determinants of health; Community organizing and advocacy; Human rights and global social problems; Qualitative and Mixed Methods.

Summary of Scholarly Achievements

Google Scholar citations: **127** (H-index: **7**); Peer-reviewed journal articles: **35**; Conference presentations: **26**; Other refereed work (e.g., book chapters): **6**; Reviewer reports: **22.**

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

Amount: 1,500 USD

August 2023 **The University of Alabama Graduate School**
Capstone Graduate Council Fellowship
5 years of guaranteed Ph.D. funding
Amount: $58,492 (2023/2024 alone), estimated total at $150,000

August 2021 **European Commission / European Union**
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree Scholarship
Amount: 49,000 EUR

January 2016 **The Brazilian Ministry of Education**
University for All Scholarship Program (ProUni)
Amount: Approx. 71,000 BRL

Awards & Honors

April 2026 **The University of Alabama School of Social Work**
2026 Honors Day Convocation
Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship by a PhD Student

December 2025 **SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research**
SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award ($500)

November 2025 **3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition – University of Alabama**
Semifinalist and selected representative for the School of Social Work

April 2025 **Phi Alpha Social Work Honors Society**
Inducted for being in the top 35% of Ph.D. class (4.0 GPA)

December 2024 **SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research**
SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award ($500)

Research Funding

September 2026 **The University of Alabama Graduate School & School of Social Work**
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).
Role: Student Principal Investigator (PI)
Amount: 600 USD

Competitive Training and Mentoring Programs

Fall 2026 **Building Healthy Relationships to End Violence (BHREV) Network**
Grand Challenges for Social Work
Selected for the 2026 Doctoral Student Mentoring Cohort of the Foundations Collective

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Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

I. Public health, health equity, and health-related topics:

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

19. 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

18. **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)

17. **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)

16. **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)

15. **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)

II. International migration, immigrant well-being, and policy:

14. **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

13. 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

12. **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

11. 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*)

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. 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 Opinio*n, *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.), Proceedings of the 8th International Congress on Criminal Sciences – Global Criminology Section, Vol. 3 (1st ed., pp. 121-140). Tirant Lo Blanch.

Refereed 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*. Developed as part of the Council on Social Work Education's Doctoral Student Policy Fellowship (DSPF) program. 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

5. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Submitted Oct. 2026). Protecting Immigrant Farmworkers' Health and Well-Being and Securing the U.S. Agricultural Workforce: A Perspective and Call to Action. Submitted to the *Journal of Rural Studies*.

4. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Submitted Oct. 2026). Highly restrictive migration policies in high-income democracies: a challenge to health equity and democratic governance. Submitted to *Critical Social Policy*.

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Okine, J., Prodhan, M., & Chow, C. (Submitted Oct. 2026). The Missing Piece in Social Work Doctoral Education: Centering International Student and Faculty Experiences. Submitted to the *Journal of Social Work Education* (JSWE) special issue on social work doctoral education.

2. Giorgio, L., Bell, A., Hossain, S., Taer, H., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Scales, J. (Submitted Sep. 2026). Community Gardens as Critical Sites of Intervention to Bolster Individual and Community Health: Opportunities for the Social Work profession. Submitted to *Social Work & Public Health*.

1. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Submitted Aug. 2026). Anti-Racism and Diversity in the Undergraduate Social Work Curriculum in Portugal: Insights from a Qualitative Pilot Study. Under review in the *European Journal of Social Work*.

Under Preparation

5. **da Luz Scherf, E**., & others TBC. The impact of degree recognition on socioeconomic and health outcomes among highly skilled refugees in the U.S.: A cross-sectional analysis of the Annual Survey of Refugees, 2023. Target journal: *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*.

4. Giorgio, L., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Hernandez, R. "We Are Valuable, We Have a Mission": Pictures of Resilience of Mid-Life Latina Women. Target journal: *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*.

3. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Hernandez, R., & Mehrara, L. Exploring Health 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.** The History and Ongoing Implications of U.S. Immigration Policy: A Social Constructionist Approach to Policy Analysis and Instruction. Target journal: *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.

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.rdpc.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

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

26. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Forthcoming 2027, January). *Organizations and Immigrant Worker Advocacy in the U.S.: Findings from a Structured Narrative Review*. [Flash talk]. SSWR 31st Annual Conference: Social Work Research at the Service of Democracy: Advancing Rigorous Inquiry for the Common Good. San Francisco, CA, USA.

25. Giorgio, L., Hernandez, R., **da Luz Scherf, E.** (Forthcoming 2027, January). *"We Are Valuable, We Have a Mission": Pictures of Resilience of Mid-Life Latina Women* [Flash talk]. SSWR 31st Annual Conference: Social Work Research at the Service of Democracy: Advancing Rigorous Inquiry for the Common Good. San Francisco, CA, USA.

24. **da Luz Scherf, E.** (2026, November). *Voices from the Frontlines: Designing a Qualitative Case Study of Immigrant Advocacy in the U.S. Southeast* [Poster presentation]. 48th 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 47th Annual Research Conference. Seattle, WA, USA. [Presented by co-author]

19. **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Naseh, M., Okine, J., Prodhan, 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]. 16th 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 41st 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 2nd 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	**SW 200 History of Social Welfare in the U.S.** The University of Alabama, School of Social Work Role: Instructor of Record Mode of instruction: Online. Credit hours: 3.
Spring 2026 & Fall 2025	**SW 101 Orientation to Social Work** The University of Alabama, School of Social Work Role: Instructor of Record Mode of instruction: In-person. Credit hours: 3.

Fall 2024 — **SW 410 Human Behavior and Social Environment**
The University of Alabama, School of Social Work
Role: Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)
Instructor of record: Hyunjune Lee, PhD
Mode of instruction: In-person. Credit hours: 3.

Guest Lectures

November 2026 — **Immigration in the U.S.: Myths, Evidence, and the Role of Social Work**
Troy University, School of Social Work and Human Services
Instructor of record: Tish Warr, PhD
Role: Guest Lecturer. Mode of delivery: Online.

November 2024 — **Immigration and the Life Course**
Course: SW 410 Human Behavior and Social Environment
The University of Alabama, School of Social Work
Instructor of record: Hyunjune Lee, PhD
Role: Guest Lecturer. Mode of delivery: In-person.

October 2024 — **Cultural Manifestations of Grief in Latin America**
The University of Alabama School of Social Work
Course: SW 212 Death, Dying, Bereavement
Instructor of record: Haelim Jeong, LMSW
Role: Guest Lecturer. Mode of delivery: In-person.

September 2024 — **Human Rights and Social Work Practice in Brazil**
Middle Tennessee State University
Course: SW 4690 Integrative Seminar in Social Work
Instructor of record: Andrea Bell, LCSW
Role: Guest Lecturer. Mode of delivery: Online.

April 2024 — **Global Migration and Human Rights**
The University of Vale do Itajaí (Brazil)
Course: Human Rights (International Program)
Instructor of record: Ricardo Boff, MSc.
Role: Guest Lecturer. Mode of delivery: Online.

Invited Presentations & Speaking Engagements

October 2026 — **Council on Social Work Education 72nd Annual Conference**
Title: *Social Work Doctoral Students in the Policy Arena: Applying Research Training to Advocacy on Capitol Hill* (invited e-Poster presentation)
Atlanta, Georgia (in-person)

March 2026 — **University of Alabama Career Center**
Title: *Grad School 01: Exploring Non-Traditional Pathways*
Role: Panelist. Tuscaloosa, AL (in-person)

May 2025 — **Synergy Education System**
Title: *The Promise of Human Rights in the 21st Century: Between Idealism and Reality* (Keynote Address)
Event: Synergy's Academic Week. Navegantes-SC, Brazil (in-person)

March 2024 — **Monmouth University School of Social Work, United States**
Speaking Engagement with Social Work Students In
Celebration of Social Work Month
Title: *Leading a Career in Academia as a Macro Social Work Researcher*
https://youtu.be/64hJmIfJQhM?si=1v6BEFrnxMZTdI9- (virtual)

November 2023 — **University of Minho, Portugal**
Center for International Relations Area Studies
Event: Beyond Borders: The Challenges of Refugees and Migrants Around the World

Title: *Immigration Policy as a Social Determinant of Health* (virtual)

August 2023 — **University of Vale do Itajaí, Brazil**
School of Legal and Social Sciences
Event: Alumni Week, Keynote Address.
Title: Pathways to an International Research Career
Itajaí-SC, Brazil (in-person)

Direct Practice Experience

May 2024 – Aug. 2024 — **University Medical Center (UMC)**
(https://umc.ua.edu/)
Department of Social Services
The University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL
Role: *Healthcare social work intern, post-MSW level*.
Part-time (0.50 FTE).

Sep. 2022 – Oct. 2022 — **Internationella Engelska Skolan**
(https://engelska.se/)
[International English School]
Gothenburg, Sweden
Role: *Social work intern, MSW-level*. Part-time (0.25 FTE).

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2021 — **Field Placement at Different Organizations**
(Lisbon, Portugal)
Role: *Social work intern, MSW-level*. Part-time (0.50 FTE)
Non-profits visited: Child Protection Institute, Portuguese League Against AIDS, and Salvador Association.

Mar. 2018 – Dec. 2019 — **Intergenerational Law Community Project**
The University of Vale do Itajaí, School of Legal and Social Sciences (Brazil)
Role: *Community Outreach Intern, Undergrad/BA-level*.
Part-time (0.50 FTE).

Grant Writing Experience

October 2026 — **Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Grant**
Amount: USD 10,000
Status: Submitted

October 2026 — **GADE Dissertation/Capstone Grant**
Amount: USD 1,500
Status: Submitted

August 2026 — **Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Doctoral Fellows Award**
Dissertation grant. Amount: USD 3,000
Status: Submitted

February 2026 — **Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) Dissertation Research Grant**
Amount: USD 15,000
Status: Not selected

Policy Advocacy Experience

March 2027 (Forthcoming) — **The University of Alabama, School of Social Work**
11th Annual Policy and Advocacy Fly-In in Washington, D.C.
Role: Pod/Group Leader. Trained and mentored a group of undergraduate students on policy advocacy and how to engage with congressional offices and accompanied them in meetings on Capitol Hill.

Spring 2026 — **Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)**
Washington, D.C. (Virtual)

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

March 2024 — **The University of Alabama and NASW-AL**
State House**,** Montgomery, AL (In person).
Social Work Advocacy Day: 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: **Social Work** (NASW Press), **International Journal of Qualitative Methods** (Sage); **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 2027	**SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research** SSWR 31st Annual Conference San Francisco, CA, USA. Role: Student Volunteer.
January 2025	**SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research** SSWR 29th Annual Conference Seattle, WA, USA. 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

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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

Microsoft Office applications, Covidence, Dedoose, NVivo, SPSS, RStudio, 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

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References

1. Luciana Giorgio, PhD
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2. Hyunjin (Gina) Noh, PhD
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4. Mitra Naseh, PhD
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