

Erick da Luz Scherf, MSW

The University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa



[Google Scholar profile](#)



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/erickscherf/>



edaluzscherf@crimson.ua.edu



<https://www.erickscherf.com>

Education

Aug. 2023 – May 2027

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Social Work

The University of Alabama, School of Social Work

Dissertation: Listening to the voices at the front lines: a study of community 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/granted by CSWE in December 2024)

Feb. 2016 – Dec. 2019

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in 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 International Human Rights Law

EBRADI - Brazilian School of Law (400 hrs.)

Summary of scholarly achievements

Google Scholar citations: 96 (H-index: 6)

Peer-reviewed journal articles: 33

Conference presentations: 23

Peer review contributions: 19

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.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Journal articles

Migration, immigrant well-being, and policy:

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>

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>

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*)

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

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).

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>

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>

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)

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*)

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 others)

Human rights, social justice, and global social problems:

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>

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>

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>

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*: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14680173241258927>)

- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>

Book chapters

- 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>
- 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>
- 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.

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>

Review protocol (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>

Revise and resubmit

da Luz Scherf, E., Naseh, M., and Lee, J. (Re-submitted Feb. 2025). Migration Policies as Social Determinants of Health Among International Students in the United States. Under consideration in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

Under review

da Luz Scherf, E. (Re-submitted Dec. 2025). Anti-immigration policies are a threat to global health and democracy: a commentary and call to action. Awaiting reviewer selection in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

Giorgio, L. C., Scales, J., Hossain, S., Nwatu, U., Taer, H., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Bell, A. (Submitted September 2025). Harvesting Hope: A case example of experiential, community-engaged learning implemented in collaboration with a community garden, BSW, and PhD students. Under review in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

da Luz Scherf, E. (Submitted Nov. 2025). Addressing Anti-Racism and Diversity in the Social Work Undergraduate Curriculum in Portugal: A Qualitative Pilot Study. Under review in the *Journal for Social Work Scholar-Practitioners*.

Under preparation

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*.

Giorgio, L.C., Favero, M., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, and others TBC. The Mediating Effects of Insomnia Symptom Severity on the Relationship between Acculturation Stress and Hypertension among Latinx Adults. Target journal: TBD.

Giorgio, L. C., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Ruggiano, N. Unveiling the Association between Social Isolation and Sleep Disturbances among Latinx Older Women and Men Living in the United States. Target journal: *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Giorgio, L.C., **da Luz Scherf, E.**, Platt, M., and others. Evaluation of Promotora-Led Interventions to Improve Latinx Behavioral Health: A Systematic Review. Target journal: TBD.

Gill, S., Alfonso, A., & **da Luz Scherf, E.** Latinx Patients' Experiences of Prejudice in Outpatient Healthcare Settings: A Scoping Review. Target journal: BMC.

Da Luz Scherf, E., Mehrara, L., & Naseh, M. (TBC). Mapping the Health Profile of Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: A Scoping Review. Target journal: *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

International Peer-Reviewed Publications (in Portuguese)**Journal articles**

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>

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>

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>

- 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>
- 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>
- 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/humanidadesinovacao/article/view/2574>
- 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>
- 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>
- da Luz Scherf, E.**, & Zanatta, M.L.A.L. (2019). Human rights and corporate social responsibility 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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]
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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]
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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]
- 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]
- 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.

- 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.
- 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]
- 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]
- 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]
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
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Competitive Grants and Fellowships

April 2025

The University of Alabama School of Social Work

The Ben Avis Orcutt Summer Research Fellowship

Proposal title: *Moving up or going down? Examining the association between occupational mobility and self-esteem among Latinx migrant workers in the United States.*

Amount: \$1500

March 2025

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Doctoral Student Policy Fellowship (2025/2026)

Amount: \$4000

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

Competitive Scholarships, Awards, and Honors

Scholarships

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 Amount: 71,000 BRL

Awards

December 2025	SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award (\$500)
December 2024	SSWR — Society for Social Work and Research SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award (\$500)

Distinctions

November 2025	3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition – University of Alabama Semifinalist and selected representative for the School of Social Work
April 2025	Phi Alpha Honors Society Inducted for being in the top 35% of Ph.D. class (4.0 GPA)

Miscellaneous funding

Fall 2025	The University of Alabama Graduate School and SSW 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 and SSW 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, School of Social Work and 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

Grant Writing Experience

February 2026

Russell Sage Foundation 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: Under review

Research Experience

Sep. 2023 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant

(<https://she-research.ua.edu/>)

Rest and Resilience (R&R) Research Lab

The University of Alabama, School of Social Work

Principal Investigator (PI): Luciana Giorgio, PhD

Funders: UA

Sep. 2023 – Present

Graduate Student Affiliate

(<https://forcedmigration.wustl.edu/>)

The Initiative on Social Work & Forced Migration

Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

PI: Mitra Naseh, PhD

Funders: RSF and WashU, among others

Summer 2025

Graduate Research Assistant (<https://socialwork.ua.edu/>)

The University of Alabama School of Social Work

PI: Dr. Luciana C. Giorgio (0.50 FTE)

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

Graduate Research Assistant (<https://socialwork.ua.edu/>)

The University of Alabama School of Social Work

PIs: Dr. Brian Bride and Dr. Luciana C. Giorgio (0.50 FTE)

Summer 2024

Graduate Research Assistant (<https://socialwork.ua.edu/>)

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

In collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University

PI: Dr. Shane Gill

Funders: Unfunded Research Project

Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2023

Affiliated Researcher

(<https://www.humanrightsnudge.com/>)

ERC Human Rights Nudge

University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Law

PI: Dr. Veronika Fikfak

Funders: ERC, UKRI, and others

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025 & Spring 2026

Instructor of record

The University of Alabama School of Social Work

Course: SW 101 Orientation to Social Work
3 credits, In-person.

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
Teaching Practicum. 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 (via Zoom).

April 2024

Guest Lecturer

The University of Vale do Itajaí (Brazil)
Course: Human Rights (International Program)
Topic: Global Migration and Human Rights
Instructor of Record: Ricardo Boff, MSc.
Mode of delivery: Online (via Teams).

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 (0.5 FTE)
Non-profits visited: Child Protection Institute,

Portuguese League Against AIDS, and Salvador Association.

Mar. 2018 – Dec. 2019

Intergenerational Law & Transversality Community Project

The University of Vale do Itajaí

School of Legal and Social Sciences (Itajai, Brazil)

Role: *Community Outreach Intern, Undergrad/BA-level.*

Part-time (0.5 FTE).

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.

Invited Talks and Speaking Engagements (*non-refereed*)

May 2025

Synergy Education System (Navegantes-SC, Brazil)

Title: The Promise of Human Rights in the 21st Century: Between Idealism and Reality (Keynote Address)

Event: Synergy's Academic Week

2024

SAGE Research Methods Series

SAGE: An Introduction to Diversifying and Decolonizing Research.

Title: Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity in Social Work.

<https://methods.sagepub.com/video/race-ethnicity-and-diversity-in-social-work>

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->

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

August 2023

University of Vale do Itajai, Brazil

School of Legal and Social Sciences

Event: Alumni Week
Title: Pathways to an International Research Career

November 2022

University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Department of Social Work
Event: Alumni Session on Ph.D. Opportunities for Erasmus Mundus
Graduates in Social Work

Service

Editorial roles

May 2025 – Present

Frontiers in Political Science
International Studies section.
Role: Community reviewer

April 2024 – May 2025

Frontiers in Political Science
International Studies section.
Role: Editorial Board Member / Review Editor

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)

2025	Journal of Homosexuality (Taylor & Francis)
2025	Archives of Public Health (BMC, Springer)
2025	Frontiers in Public Health , section Public Health Policy
2025	Frontiers in Sociology
2024	Discover Social Science and Health (Springer Nature)
2024	Frontiers in Political Science
2024	BMC Global and Public Health (Springer Nature),
2024	Biodemography and Social Biology (Taylor & Francis)
2024	Discover Global Society (Springer Nature)
2024	Council on Social Work Education
	Conference proposals reviewer
2023	Social Work in Public Health (Taylor & Francis)
2023	Advances in Social Work (Indiana University)
2023	Critical and Radical Social Work (Bristol University Press)
2023	European Social Work Research (Bristol University Press)
2023	International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare (Emerald Group Publishing)
2022	Springer Book Series in International Social Work
	Book proposal reviewer
2022	International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy (Emerald Group Publishing)
2022	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 29th 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

Meet Erick da Luz Scherf. *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).

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

Luciana Giorgio, PhD
Assistant Professor and Dissertation Committee Chair
University of Alabama, School of Social Work
luciana.giorgio@ua.edu

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

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