

SARAH PACE

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RESEARCH PROGRAM

My research interest focuses on the autonomy of older adults as they age-in-place. My main goal is to understand factors that promote the autonomy and well-being of adults who reside in the community. The use of technology is one factor that helps older adults age-in-place, for example, by allowing them to be able to stay in contact with others and remain connected to their social network. However, accessible technology is often not an option for some older adults, especially those in rural areas who have a low socioeconomic status. Some examples of research questions that are of interest include, How does technology play a role in the ability to age in place for older adults who live in rural communities; or what role does technology play in the ability to age in place for older adults who have a low socioeconomic status; and how can low-cost technology promote aging-in-place and improve the quality of life for older adults?

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC College of Social Work Dissertation Title: <i>Aging-in-Place for Older Adults in the Rural South: The Role of Low-Cost Technology</i> Dissertation Committee: Shaun Owens, Ph.D., (chair), Sue Levkoff, Ph.D., Yanfeng Xu, Ph.D., [name, degree]	Expected May 2023
MSW	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC	2015
Certificate	Graduate Certificate in Drug and Addiction Studies	2015
BA	Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina Minors in Gerontology and Spanish	2009

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

2021

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

Study: *Examining Black-White disparities and identifying empowerment solutions among custodial grandparent-headed families during COVID-19 in South Carolina: A mixed-methods community-based study*. PI: Yanfeng Xu, Ph.D.

- Assisted with preparing surveys for distribution and analysis to detect bots
- Conducted systematic review
- Wrote methods section of manuscript

Research Assistant

2018-2019

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

Study: *Barriers and Facilitators to Collecting Vital Records in the Foster Care System*. PI: Kristen Seay, Ph.D.

- Conducted focus groups of foster care professionals, wrote literature review
- Developed themes with the rest of the research team, performed data analysis of interviews

Research Practicum

2019

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

Study: *Barriers and Facilitators to Collecting Vital Records in the Foster Care System*, Supervisor: Kristen Seay, Ph.D.]

- Create codebook, perform line-by-line coding using NVivo Software, conduct data analysis, create a database, train research team members (master's level social work students) on conducting the literature review, submitting abstract to conference.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

- SOWK 360: Refugee and Refugees (Spring 2022)
- SOWK 322: Social Policy Analysis (Spring 2021)
- SOWK 309: Grief and Loss (Spring 2019)

Teaching Assistant, College of Psychology, University of South Carolina

- PSYC 228: Laboratory in Psychology (Spring 2022) 2 sections
- PSYC 455: Intro to Neuroscience (Spring 2022) 2 sections
- PSYC 220: Psychological Statistics (Fall 2021) 1 section
- PSYC 410: Behavioral & Mental Disorders (Fall 2021)
- PSYC 450: Sense and Perception (Spring 2021)
- PSYC 226: Research Methods (Spring 2021)

Guest Lecturer, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

- SOWK 304: Social Welfare Services for Older Adults and Their Families (Fall 2020)

Teaching Practicum, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

- SOWK 777: Child Development (Summer 2017)
- Write case study, assist with course revision, prepare for and teach two class sessions, collect written feedback from students to evaluate performance, facilitate a learning activity, provide written feedback to students on drafts, grade student papers with faculty supervision, manage BlackBoard discussion boards, and participate in weekly meetings with instructor for instruction, feedback, debriefing, planning, evaluating, and training.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Volunteer

Lutheran Services Carolinas, Refugee resettlement agency, Columbia, SC 2022-Present

Regional Coordinator

2014-2016

SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian Ad Litem Program, Columbia, SC

- Served as guardian ad litem in court for over 50 vulnerable adults in state custody.
- Recruited and trained new volunteer guardians ad litem in the Pee Dee and Midlands areas.

Quality Assurance Specialist for Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI) Waiver

2013-2014

Center for Disability Resources, Columbia, SC

- Reviewed all Levels of Care service renewal applications for adults in all 46 counties in South Carolina receiving the HASCI waiver.
- Interpreted for Spanish speakers seeking community resources and waivers.

Social Worker, Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC) Program

2013-2014

Center for Disability Resources, Columbia, SC

- Gathered information to improve outcomes for students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult life.
- Conducted focus groups with administrative staff and teachers in high schools in rural South Carolina to improve services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Caregiver

2012

Solace Residential, Logan, UT

- Provided care for women with intellectual disabilities in a home care setting.
- Participated in community activities and taught social and life skills to residents.

Full-time Volunteer

2010-2012

Lima, Peru

- Provided community service for Peruvians of all ages and social classes.

Caregiver

2009

Agape Senior, Lexington, SC

- Assisted 15 residents with dementia with their emotional and social needs, activities, eating, bathing, cleaning, laundry, safety, and hygiene.

Retirement Community Clinic Intern

2007

The Oaks Retirement Center, Orangeburg, SC

- Addressed the social needs of residents through conversation and facilitating group activities.

- Created databases, flyers, and documents for upcoming activities and announcements from the clinic.

PUBLICATIONS

Published Peer-Reviewed Articles

Xu, Y., Pace, S., McCarthy, L., Harrison, T., Wang, Y. (2022) Interventions to improve outcomes of grandchildren raised by grandparents: A systematic review. *Research on Social Work Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221079352>

Xu, Y., Pace, S., Kim, J., Iachini, A., King, L. B., Harrison, T., DeHart, D., Levkoff, S.E., Browne, T., Lewis, A. A., Kunz, G.M., Reitmeier, M., Utter, K., & Simone, M. (2022). Threats to online surveys: Recognizing, detecting, and preventing survey bots. *Social Work Research*.

Under Review

Barriers and Facilitators to Collecting Vital Records in the Foster Care System. (Seay, K.D., Pace, S., McRell, A.S.). In Preparation.

Manuscripts in Progress

None

Research Reports and Other Publications

Seay, K.D., Pace, S., McRell, A. S., Levkoff, S., Schooley, B., Hikmet, N. (2019, January). Barriers and Facilitators to Collecting Vital Records in the Foster Care System. Abstract accepted for poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research 23rd Annual Research Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

PRESENTATIONS

Pace, S., (2014, November). *Overview of SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian ad Litem Program*. National Guardianship Association Conference. Charleston, South Carolina.

Pace, S., (2014, October). *Medical Spanish and Cultural Competency*. South Carolina Nurses Association, Greenville, South Carolina.

Pace, S., (2011, September) *Unique Experience Defines Researcher Role*. Carolina Undergraduate Sociological Symposium, Charleston, South Carolina.

TRAININGS & RESEARCH SKILLS

Research and Teaching Training

- EDHE 738: Principles of College Teaching (2018, Department of Education, University of South Carolina)
- Case Method Workshop (2017, Case Method Teaching Institute, University of

- South Carolina)
- Equity and Inclusion in Teaching Workshop (2018, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina)
- Oktoberbest: A Symposium on Teaching (2016, 2015; Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina)
- GRAD 701: Teaching Assistant Development (2016, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina)

Research Skills

- Statistics: ANOVA, Simple Regression, Multiple Regression, Cluster Analysis, Logistic Regression, Path Analysis, Latent Class Analysis
- Qualitative approaches: Grounded Theory, Case Study, Focus Group, Interview
- Statistical Software: SAS, MPlus
- Other Skills: Systematic Review, Literature Review, Coding, Developing Codebook, Transcribing, Translating

SERVICE

Treasurer, Social Work PhD Student Organization 2021-2022

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Conner’s Fellowship, <i>University of South Carolina</i>	Summer 2022
SPARC Grant, <i>University of South Carolina</i>	Spring 2022
Co-Valedictorian, <i>Claflin University</i>	Fall 2009
Outstanding Senior Student with a Minor in Spanish, <i>Claflin University</i>	Spring 2008
Abercrombie and Fitch Scholarship, <i>Claflin University</i>	Fall 2007-Spring 2008
Most Outstanding Sophomore in Sociology, <i>Claflin University</i>	Spring 2007
President’s List, <i>Claflin University</i>	Fall 2006-Spring 2008
Palmetto Life Scholarship, <i>Claflin University</i>	Fall 2006-Spring 2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Master Social Worker, LMSW