

## SARAH PACE



University of South  
Carolina  
College of Social Work  
Columbia, SC  
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### RESEARCH PROGRAM

My research interest focuses on the quality of life of older adults as they age-in-place. My main goal is to understand factors that reduce loneliness and increase well-being of older adults. I am interested in the role information and communication technology plays in the lives of minority older adults with regard to decreasing loneliness.

### EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC College of Social Work Dissertation Title: <i>African American older adults' perspectives on how communication technology impacts loneliness.</i> Dissertation Committee: Shaun Owens, Ph.D., (chair), Sue Levkoff, Ph.D., Yanfeng Xu, Ph.D., and	[May 2024]
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

#### Conner's Summer Fellowship

May 2022-Aug 2022

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

Study: *The impact of technology use on custodial grandparents' depression.* PI: Yanfeng Xu, Ph.D.

- Prepared survey data for analysis (i.e., dummy coding, recoding)
- Conducted logistic regression
- Wrote manuscript for publication
- Prepared presentations for GSA conference, USC Social Work faculty , and 3M

competition

**Research Assistant**

May 2021-July 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 380: Sport Psychology (Spring 2023)
- PSYC 221: Research Methods: Online (Spring 2023)
- PSYC 220: Psychological Statistics: 2 Sections (Fall 2022)
- PSYC 221: Research Methods: 2 Sections (Fall 2022)
- PSYC 228: Laboratory in Psychology: 2 Sections (Spring 2022)
- PSYC 455: Intro to Neuroscience: 2 Sections (Spring 2022)
- PSYC 220: Psychological Statistics (Fall 2021)
- 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 guidance, feedback, debriefing, planning, evaluating, and training.

## PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

### **Spanish Interpreter, Mentor, and Volunteer**

Refugee Resettlement, Lutheran Services Carolinas, Columbia, SC 2022-Present

- Interpret, mentor, and volunteer to help local refugees through this resettlement agency.
- Help newly arrived refugees navigate the cultural, employment, education, medical, transportation, shopping, and other aspects of resettlement to the US.

### **Regional Coordinator**

2014-2016

SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian Ad Litem Program, Columbia, SC

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### **Quality Assurance Specialist,**

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 Head and Spinal Cord Injury (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.

### **Administrative Associate/Schedule Coordinator**

July 2009-Oct 2010

Prisma Health Hospital, Columbia, South Carolina

- Under direction of the Administrators on Duty, assigned patient care attendants to

care for high risk patients, such as those on suicide watch, in DSS custody, at risk for pulling out tubes, at especially high risk for falls, etc.

- In coordination with all charge nurses hospital-wide, assisted with staffing nurses for units that needed extra support.

### Caregiver

Feb 2009-July 2009

Agape Senior, Lexington, SC

- Assisted 15 residents with advanced 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.

## 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 (SSWR)*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svac023>

### *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*

**Pace, S.**, Xu, Y., & Harrison, T. (2022). The impact of technology use on custodial grandparents' depression (Abstract). *Innovation in Aging*, 6 (Suppl 1), 867-868. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igac059.3100>

Xu, Y., **Pace, S.**, McCarthy, L., Harrison, T., Wang, Y. (2023, January) Interventions to improve outcomes of grandchildren raised by grandparents: A systematic review. Poster presentation, 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

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, California.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Pace, S.**, Xu, Y., and Harrison, T. (2023, March). *The Impact of Technology Use on Custodial Grandparents' Depression*. Abstract accepted for the Virtual Symposium Mini-Series at the Association of Social Workers- South Carolina (NASW-SC) Annual Conference. Columbia, South Carolina.

Xu, Y., **Pace, S.**, Iachini, A., Childs, T., (2023, January). Threats to online surveys: Recognizing, detecting, and preventing survey bots. Roundtable discussion panel at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

**Pace, S.** (2022, November). *The Impact of Technology Use on Custodial Grandparents' Depression*. Conner's Fellowship research presentation at the Research and Teaching Excellence Series. College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

**Pace, S.** (2022, November). Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. *The Impact of Technology Use on Custodial Grandparents' Depression*. University of South Carolina.

**Pace, S.**, Xu, Y., and Harrison, T. (2022, November). *The Impact of Technology Use on Custodial Grandparents' Depression*. Poster presentation at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana. Poster #268.  
<https://www.eventscribe.net/2022/GSA2022/agenda.asp?startdate=11/5/2022&enddate=11/5/2022&BCFO=&pfp=PosterbyDay&mode=&fa=&fb=&fc=&fd=>

**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, Correlation, Logistic Regression, Path Analysis, Latent Class Analysis
- Qualitative approaches: Phenomenological Approach, Grounded Theory, Case Study, Focus Group, Interview
- Statistical Software: SAS, MPlus, SPSS, STATA, R
- Other Skills: Systematic Review, Literature Review, Coding, Developing Codebook, Transcribing, Translating

## SERVICE

Volunteer, Refugee resettlement mentor, Columbia, SC 2022-Present  
Treasurer, Social Work Ph.D. Student Organization 2021-2022

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grand Challenges for Social Work Doctoral Award, *NY Community Trust* January 2023  
Conner's Fellowship, *University of South Carolina* Summer 2022  
SPARC Grant, *University of South Carolina* Spring 2022  
Co-Valedictorian, *Clayton University* Fall 2009  
Outstanding Senior Student with a Minor in Spanish, *Clayton University* Spring 2008  
Abercrombie and Fitch Scholarship, *Clayton University* Fall 2007-Spring 2008  
Most Outstanding Sophomore in Sociology, *Clayton University* Spring 2007  
President's List, *Clayton University* Fall 2006-Spring 2008  
Palmetto Life Scholarship, *Clayton University* Fall 2006-Spring 2008

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Master Social Worker, LMSW