

Seoyoun Kim Ph.D.

Research Associate Professor | ICPSR | Institute for Social Research | 'She' series
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EMPLOYMENT

2025-present	Research Associate Professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2024-2025	Research Adjunct Professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2022-2023	Visiting Scholar, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2021-2025	Associate Professor of Sociology, Texas State University
2015-2021	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Texas State University

EDUCATION

May 2015	Dual-Title Ph.D in Sociology and Gerontology Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana <i>Dissertation Title:</i> The Receiving End of Giving: Do Productive Activities Reduce Chronic Inflammation in Older Adults? <i>Committee:</i> Ferraro, K.F. (Chair), Friedman, E.M. Mustillo, S.A., and Thomas, P.A.
2011	M.S. in Sociology and Gerontology Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
2009	B.A. in Sociology, <i>Summa cum laude</i> Michigan State University, East Lansing

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Aging and the life course; Prosocial engagement; Cardiovascular biomarkers; Multi-omics, Longitudinal data analyses; Quantitative methods

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024	College of Liberal Arts excellence in sponsored research award, Texas State University
2023	Research Enhancement Grant (REP), Texas State University
2022-2023	Developmental Leave Fellowship, Texas State University
2020	College of Liberal Arts research achievement award, Texas State University
2020	Innovative Aging Research – Silver Award, Mather Institute, Chicago IL. <u>Project title:</u> “Direct and Indirect Pathways from Social Support to Health?”
2014-2015	Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, Purdue University
2014	Funding awarded to attend the RAND summer institute, RAND corporation
2010	Ross Fellowship, Purdue University

GRANTS

- 2023-2027 **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)** Volunteering, polygenic risk, and cardiovascular biomarkers in multiple ancestry groups.
R01HL171806-01. Role- PI. \$977,894
- 2024-2026 **Research Accelerator Grant, Texas State University.** Role- PI. \$25,000
- 2018-2019 **Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant, Texas State University.**
Storytelling, generativity, and well-being among persons with dementia.
Role- Co-PI. \$17,991
- 2017-2018 **Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant, Texas State University.**
Childhood trauma and mental health among college students: Identifying neurological, physiological, and behavioral pathways. Role – Co-PI. \$19,946

PUBLICATIONS

* denotes student authors

1. **Kim, S.**, & Pan, X. (2025). The interplay between biological aging and volunteering engagement in predicting cognitive performance: Evidence from the Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol study. *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*. 80(7), glaf097. doi: 1093/gerona/glaf097
2. **Kim, S.**, Shiba, K., Halvorsen, C. (2025). Reducing hypertension through volunteering: Investigating the causal link between volunteering frequency and blood pressure by gender, race, and cohort. *Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine*. 87(5), 322–331. doi:10.1097/PSY.0000000000001392
3. **Kim, S.**, Halvorsen, C., Potter, C., & Faul, J. (2025). Does volunteering reduce epigenetic age acceleration among retired and working older adults? Results from the Health and Retirement Study. *Social Science & Medicine*, 364, 117501. doi: doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117501
* **Featured in *The Guardian* ([link](#)) and others**
4. Amano, T., Halvorsen, C. J., **Kim, S.**, Reynolds, A., Scher, C.*, & Jia, Y. (2024). An outcome-wide analysis of the effects of diagnostic labeling of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias on social relationships. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, 20(3), 1614-1626. doi:10.1002/alz.13574
5. Chee, K. H., Gerhart, O., & **Kim, S.** (2024). Lived experiences of personal growth among the oldest old: Narrative evidence. *Educational Gerontology*, 50(1), 37-48. doi:10.1080/03601277.2023.2217554
6. **Kim, S.**, Yoon, H., & Jang, Y. (2023). Access to primary healthcare and discussion of memory loss with a healthcare provider in adults with subjective cognitive decline: Does race/ethnicity matter? *Behavioral Sciences*, 13(11), 955. doi:10.3390/bs13110955
7. **Kim, S.**, Halvorsen, C. J., & Han, S. (2023). Volunteering and changes in cardiovascular biomarkers: Longitudinal evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. *Innovation in Aging*, 7, 1-10. doi:10.1093/geroni/igad048
* **Featured in *Brain and Life* magazine ([link](#))**
* **Cited in Surgeon General's *My Last Prescription for America* ([link](#))**
8. Clement, M., Dede-Bamfo, N.*, DeWaard, J., & **Kim, S.** (2023). The interdependent forces of local growth: A county-level study, 2001-2011. *Sociological Quarterly*. 64(4), 564-586. doi:10.1080/00380253.2023.2191657
9. Yoon, H., **Kim, S.**, Rhee, M.-K., Jang, Y., & Lee, S. (2023). The use of preventive healthcare in Asian Americans: The cross-level interactions between individual and neighborhood factors in the United States. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 34(2), 598–612. doi:10.1353/hpu.2023.0052
10. Yoon, H., **Kim, S.**, Naseh, M., Huang, Y. C., & Jang, Y. (2022). Chronic conditions and psychological

- distress in older Asian Americans: The mediating role of subjective health perception. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 65(6), 604-617. doi:10.1080/01634372.2021.2005213
11. **Kim, S.**, Yoon, H., Morton, P., & Jang, Y. (2022). Longitudinal links between behavioral activation coping strategies and depressive symptoms of U.S. adults living alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. *PloS One*, 17(5), e0267948. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0267948
 12. Jung, S. E., Bishop, A., **Kim, S.**, & Hermann, J. (2021). Remaining socially connected at 100 and beyond reduces impact of loneliness on nutritional status. *Journal of Nutrition in Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 11(1), 1-12. doi:10.1080/21551197.2021.1988029
 13. **Kim, S.**, & Halvorsen, C. J. (2021). Volunteering as an equalizer: A quasi-experimental study using propensity score analysis. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 61(5), 628–635. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2021.05.004
* **Featured in *Huffington Post*, *MSN*, *Yahoo Finance*** ([link](#))
 14. Jung, S. E., Shin, Y. H., **Kim, S.**, Hermann, J., & Dougherty, H. (2021). Habit is the bridge between intention and behavior: A look at fruit and vegetable consumption among low-income older adults. *Journal of Nutrition in Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 40(4), 215–231. doi:10.1080/21551197.2021.1944423
 15. Watt, T., Hartfield*, K., **Kim, S.**, & Ceballos, N. (2021). Adverse childhood experiences contribute to race/ethnic differences in post-secondary academic performance among college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 9(1), 1-9. doi:10.1080/07448481.2021.1947838
* **Featured in the *Conversation*** ([link](#))
 16. Thomas, P., & **Kim, S.** (2020). Lost touch? Implications of physical touch for physical health. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 76(3), e111-e115. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbaa134
* **Highlighted on *Business Insider* and the *Medium*** ([link](#))
 17. Watt, T., Ceballos, N., **Kim, S.**, & Norton, C. (2020). People who need people: The relationship between adverse childhood experiences and mental health among college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 23(1), 1-9. doi:10.1080/07448481.2020.1791882
 18. **Kim, S.**, & Yoon, H. (2020). Volunteering, subjective sleep quality, and chronic inflammation: A 5-year follow-up of the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project. *Research on Aging*, 42(9-10), 291-299. doi:10.1177/0164027520922624
 19. **Kim, S.**, Chee, K. H., & Gerhart, O. (2020). Generativity in collective storytelling: Evidence from a memory care community. *Innovation in Aging*, 4(2), igaa002. doi:10.1093/geroni/igaa002
 20. Yoon, H., Jang, Y., **Kim, S.**, Speasmaker, A., & Nam, I. (2020). Trends in internet use among older adults in the United States, 2011-2016. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 40(5), 466-470. doi:10.1177/0733464820908427
 21. Watt, T., **Kim, S.**, Ceballos, N., Pan, X., & Sharma, S. (2019). The unique nature of depression and anxiety among college students with adverse childhood experiences. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 13(2), 163-172. doi:10.1007/s40653-019-00270-4
 22. **Kim, S.**, Watt, T., Ceballos, N., & Sharma, S. (2019). Adverse childhood experience and neuro-inflammatory biomarkers – A role of sex? *Stress & Health*, 35(4), 432-440. doi:10.1002/smi.2871
 23. Watt, T., & **Kim, S.** (2019). Race/ethnicity and foster youth outcomes: An examination of disproportionality using the National Youth in Transition Database. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 102, 251-258.
 24. **Kim, S.**, & Thomas, P. A. (2019). Direct and indirect pathways from social support to health. *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 74(6), 1072-1080. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbx084
 25. **Kim, S.** (2018). Human, social, and cultural predictors of productive activities in later life. *Ageing & Society*, 40(2), 328-347. doi:10.1017/S0144686X18000922

26. Jung, S. E., **Kim, S.**, Bishop, A., & Hermann, J. (2018). Examining the interconnection between self-care capacity, food insecurity, and depression. *Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 119(10), 1687-1694. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2018.04.009
27. Watt, T., **Kim, S.**, & Garrison*, K. (2018). The relationship between state supports and post-secondary enrollment among youth aging out of foster care: An analysis of the National Youth in Transition Database. *Child Welfare*, 96(3), 1-20.
28. **Kim, S.**, Chee, K. H., & Gerhart, O. (2017). Redefining generativity: Through life course and pragmatist lenses. *Sociology Compass*, 11(11), e12533. doi:10.1111/soc4.12533
29. Ferraro, K. F., & **Kim, S.** (2014). Health benefits of religion among black and white older adults: Race, religiosity, and c-reactive protein. *Social Science and Medicine*, 120, 92-99. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.08.030
30. **Kim, S.** & Ferraro, K.F. (2014). Do productive activities reduce inflammation in later life? Multiple roles, frequency of activities, and c-reactive protein. *The Gerontologist*, 54(5), 830-839. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnt090
 * **Highlighted on Purdue Exponent, Indiana Journal and Courier, and other news outlet**
 * **Editor's Choice The Gerontologist**
31. Gilligan, M., Suitor, J., **Kim, S.**, & Pillemer, K. (2013) "Differential effects of perceptions of mothers' and fathers' favoritism on sibling tension in adulthood." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 68,(4), 593-598. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbt039
 * **Highlighted on Psychology Today, The New York Times, and Huffington Post**

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

1. Chee, K., Gerhart, O., Kim, S. (Revise and Resubmit, *The Gerontologist*). How to age: The perspective of classical American pragmatism.
2. Kim, S., Nemeth, S., Halvorsen, C., Patel, I. (Under Review). Comparing volunteering frequency categories in predicting multiple health outcomes: An outcome-wide approach using the Health and Retirement Study.
3. Kim et al. (Under Review). Formal and informal prosocial engagement and biological aging: Examining epigenetic clocks across U.S. and Northern Irish populations.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Kim, S.** (2021). Social Roles. In: Gu, D., Dupre, M.E. (eds) Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-22009-9_791
2. **Kim, S.** (2019). Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Studies. In: Gu, D., Dupre, M. (eds) Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69892-2_576-1

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Kim, S.** Nemeth, S., & Halvorsen, C. A Comprehensive longitudinal analysis exploring the health benefits of formal volunteering and informal helping. Annual meeting of Population Association of America, Washington, D.C., 2025.
2. **Kim, S.**, Halvorsen, C., & Potter, C. Formal and informal volunteering on epigenetic aging: Longitudinal evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. 15th meeting of Integrating Genetics and Social Science Conference, Stanford, CA, 2024.
3. **Kim, S.**, Halvorsen, C., & Han, S. H. Volunteering and changes in cardiovascular biomarkers: Longitudinal evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America,

Tampa, FL, 2023.

4. Amano, T., Halvorsen, C., **Kim, S.**, Reynolds, A., Scher, C., & Jia, Y. Racial and ethnic variations in the effects of knowing about one's diagnostic label of dementia on social support. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL, 2023.
5. Ware, E., Clark, J., Andrasfay, T., Li, M., Xu, W., & **Kim, S.** Social context and biological aging. Discussant at the Annual Meeting of Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, 2023.
6. Chee, K. H., **Kim, S.**, & Gerhart, O. It could be anything you want: Vital involvement of persons with dementia in creative group storytelling. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN, 2022.
7. **Kim, S.**, Yoon, H., & Jang, Y. Healthcare-seeking behaviors among older Americans with subjective cognitive decline. Annual Meeting of GSA, Indianapolis, IN, 2022.
8. **Kim, S.**, Yoon, H., & Jang, Y. Longitudinal effects of coping strategies on mental health of older adults living alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Phoenix, AZ, 2021.
9. **Kim, S.** Neighborhood resources and volunteering: Investigating the changes. Rethinking Diversity, Inclusion and Justice for Older Workers: Who and What Do We Continue to Miss. (Sponsored by Sloan Foundation and Boston College). Preconference round table discussion, Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Online, 2020. (deferred due to the pandemic)
10. **Kim, S.**, & Halvorsen, C. Is Volunteering an equalizer? A quasi-experimental study using propensity score analysis. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Online, 2020.
11. Yoon, H. W., **Kim, S.**, & Jang, Y. Physical health constraints and psychological distress in older Asian Americans: The role of perceived health. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, 2020.
12. Mohan, R., Chee, K. H., **Kim, S.**, & Gerhart, O. Improving social communication with TimeSlips among persons living with dementia: Results from a pilot study. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Online, 2020.
13. Chee, K. H., **Kim, S.**, Gerhart, O., & Caldwell, S. Sociability among persons living with dementia in a creative group storytelling context. Annual Meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, 2019.
14. **Kim, S.**, & Yoon, H. Volunteering, subjective sleep quality, and longitudinal risk of inflammation: Potential pathways? Annual meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2018.
15. Yoon, H., & **Kim, S.** Trends of digital divide among older adults, 2011–2016. Annual meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2018.
16. **Kim, S.** Social antecedents of productive activity: The role of capital? The 21st meeting of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, CA, 2017.
17. Chee, K. H., **Kim, S.**, & Gerhart, O. Searching for generativity: Expanding its conceptual framework throughout the life course. Annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, 2016.
18. **Kim, S.**, & Thomas, P. A. Social support, psychological resources, and chronic inflammation: Potential pathways? Annual meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Washington D.C. 2014.
19. **Kim, S.**, & Ferraro, K. F. Social antecedents of inflammation in later life: Do productive activities reduce C-Reactive Protein? NSHAP Early Wave 2 Conference, Chicago, IL, 2013.
20. **Kim, S.**, & Ferraro, K. F. Do productive activities reduce inflammation in later life? Multiple roles, frequency of activities and C-Reactive Protein. The 20th Meeting of International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Seoul, Korea, 2013.
21. **Kim, S.**, Sutor, J., & Pillemer, K. Adult children's marital distress and psychological well-being: The moderating role of parent-child relationship quality. Annual meeting of Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2011.
22. Sechrist, J., Sutor, J., **Kim, S.**, & Pillemer, K. Effects of in-law relationships quality on mother-adult child relationship." The International Conference on Successful Aging, Seoul, Korea, 2011.

INVITED TALKS

1. **Kim, S.** (October 2022). Volunteering and changes in cardiovascular risk factors: Longitudinal evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan Ann Arbor.
2. **Kim, S.** (September 2022). The link between social engagement and health in later life: Potential pathways? Institute of Aging, Wayne State University.
3. **Kim, S.** (November 2019). Mentoring Luncheon at Forming Science-Industry Research Collaboration, Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.
4. **Kim, S. & Thomas, P.** (September 2016). Social Support and Chronic Inflammation: Potential Pathways? Purdue University Center on Aging and the Life Course Distinguished Alumni Lecture. Lafayette, IN.

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

August 2022	Genomics for Social Scientists – Epigenetics. Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (NIA funded: R25-AG053227)
August 2021	Social Science Genomics. Russell Sage Foundation
December 2020	Genomics for Social Scientist. Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (NIA funded: R25-AG053227)
July 2019	Longitudinal Research Infrastructure in the United States. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan
June 2019	Social and Population Health Science Approach to Understanding the Human Gut Microbiome. Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, Virtual
September 2018	Forming Science-Industry Research Collaboration. Stanford Longevity Center (NIA funded: R25-AG053252)
July 2014	Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists and Demography, Economics, Psychology, and Epidemiology of Aging Workshop. RAND corporation

MEDIA COVERAGE

1. ‘Keeps me grateful’: how volunteering can help older adults. (*The Guardian*), January, 2025
2. Can you avoid heart disease through volunteering? Texas State study to check for link. (*Austin Statesman*), April, 2024
3. Volunteering can help those with neurologic conditions take charge of their health. (*Brain & Life*), August/September, 2023
4. Health benefits of volunteering. (*Texas Big Ideas Podcast*), May 2, 2022
5. Study improves understanding of how formal volunteering influences health and well-being (*News Medical*), Jul 27, 2021
6. Things you can do if you need a hug but you’re socially isolated (*Medium/Business Insider*), Jan 9, 2021
7. People feel less pain after performing selfless acts (*Yahoo UK*), Jan 6, 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018-2025	Instructor. Quantitative Research Methods (Undergraduate/Graduate)
2017-2022	Instructor & Course Designer. Multidisciplinary Gerontology (Graduate)
2013-2014	Instructor. Introduction to Social Statistics (Undergraduate)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Research Assistant Byeongju Ryu (Doctoral student, 2023-present, Boston College)
 Sam Nemeth (Master’s student, 2023-present, Rutgers University)
 Isha Patel (Undergraduate student, 2023-present, Texas State University)
 Sara Caldwell (Master’s, 2018-2019, Texas State University)
 Kimberly Hartfield (Master’s, 2017-2018, Texas State University)

Theses/Practicum Chair, Selina Sandoval, Master’s thesis (2021-2022)
 Chair, Debra Bilbrey Master’s thesis & practicum (2020-2021)
 Member, Cassandra Rocha, Master’s thesis (2019-2020)

Teaching Assistant Kimberly Hartfield (Fall 2018)
 Jordan Chaffin (Spring 2018)
 Holly Hickman (2017-2018)
 Whitney Harris (2016-2017)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2022-2025 **Member.** Texas Aging Network, University of Texas at Austin
 2016-2024 **Chair.** Research review seminar committee, Texas State University
 2018-2025 **Co-Convener.** Alliance of Researchers in Aging (ARIA), Texas State University
 2021-2022 **Member.** Research enhancement grant review committee, Texas State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic and managing editor for the following journal

PloS ONE

Manuscript reviewer for the following journals

BMC Public Health, American Journal of Preventative Medicine, Ageing and Health, Ageing and Society, Aging and Mental Health, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, American Journal of Preventative Medicine, British Journal of Health Psychology, Journal of Aging and Health, Journal of American College Health, Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journal of Marriage and Family, Plos ONE, Psychology and Aging, Research on Aging, Social Science and Medicine, The Gerontologist

Abstract reviewer for the following professional meetings

Gerontological Society of America, International Associations for Gerontology and Geriatrics, American Sociological Associations

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Gerontological Society of America
 - Section: Behavioral and Social Science
 American Sociological Association
 - section: Section on Aging and the Life Course
 Population Association of America
 Behavioral Genetics Association