

## EDUCATION

- 2023 - Present      University of Southern California  
PhD in Population, Health, and Place
- 2017 - 2021      University of California, Los Angeles  
BS in Mathematics of Computation, minor Environmental Systems

## FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023      University of Michigan, Transformative Food Systems Fellowship (\$85,000, declined)
- 2022 - 2023      Congressional Hunger Center, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship (\$55,000)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2023      Ford Foundation, Predoctoral Fellowship - Honorable mention
- 2022      United States Department of State, Fulbright Study Grant to Argentina - Semi-finalist

## TRAINING AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2026 - 2025      USC, Professional Development Grants (Totaling \$1650)
- 2024      NIH R25 Modelers and Storytellers: Transdisciplinary Training to Advance  
Community Health Intervention Research, Practicum Attendee Grant (\$500)
- 2021      University of California, Los Angeles, The Green Initiative Fund Project Grant (\$500)

## GRANT SUPPORT

- 2024 - 2025      NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities  
Early Life Social, Environmental, and Nutritional Determinants of Disease (ELSEND)  
P50MD017344-01  
PI: Goran  
Role: Graduate Research Assistant
- 2021 - 2024      National Science Foundation, Directorate of Social and Economic Sciences  
Smart and Connected Community Food Systems  
PI: de la Haye  
Role: Project Specialist/Doctoral student
- 2022 - 2023      National Science Foundation, Directorate of Environmental Biology  
Interactive Dynamics of Reef Fisheries and Human Health  
PI: Golden  
Role: Research Assistant

## TRAININGS

2025	Write to Change the World, The OpEd Project
2025	Systems Science for Social Impact Summer Training Institute: Agent-Based Modeling, Washington University in St. Louis
2024	NIH R25 Modelers and Storytellers: Transdisciplinary Training to Advance Community Health Intervention Research, University of Los Angeles, California

## PUBLICATIONS

\*Indicates authors contributed equally

### Under review

1. Wasim N, de la Haye K, Heneghan J, **Zhang AW**, Scott J, Martinez MF. Using Systems Thinking Tools with Multi-Sector Food Leaders to Understand Disparities in Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Los Angeles. *Revise and Resubmit.*

### Peer-reviewed

2. Baker K, Ruth A, Corona G, **Zhang AW**, de la Haye K, Bruine de Bruin W (2026). Perceptions of red and processed meat reduction among a sample of low-income Los Angeles County residents: A qualitative study. *Frontiers in Public Health*. doi:[10.3389/fpubh.2026.1741901](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2026.1741901)
3. **Zhang AW\***, Marnfeldt K\*, Xie L\* (2025). Tackling Wicked Problems: The Power of Community Among the Unhoused. *American Journal of Public Health*. doi:[10.2105/AJPH.2025.308007](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2025.308007)
4. **Zhang A**, Wharton C, Cloonan S, Boronowsky R, et al (2024). Changing the default meal option at university events to reduce harmful environmental impacts: Six randomized controlled trials. *Appetite*. doi:[10.1016/j.appet.2024.107572](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2024.107572)
5. Zamborain-Mason J, Viana D, Nicholas K, Jackson E, et al, **including Zhang AW** (2023). A Decision Framework for Selecting Critically Important Nutrients from Aquatic Foods. *Current Environmental Health Reports*. doi:[10.1007/s40572-023-00397-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-023-00397-5)
6. **Zhang AW\***, Boronowsky R\*, Stecher C, Presley K, et al (2022). Plant-based default nudges effectively increase the sustainability of catered meals on college campuses: Three randomized controlled trials. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*. doi:[10.3389/fsufs.2022.1001157](https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.1001157)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(P) - Poster, (PP) - Paper, (O) - Oral Presentation

1. (P) **Zhang AW**, Xie L, de la Haye K (2026). Acculturation and Diet in Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrants: A Scoping Review. *AHA Epidemiology, Prevention, Lifestyle & Cardiometabolic Health 2026 Scientific Sessions*.
2. (O) **Zhang AW**, Peterchak E, Macdonald B, Wilson J, Espinoza J, Xu M, Goran M (2025). A Comparison of Advanced Food Environment Measures. *2025 SDOH & Place Symposium*.
3. (P) Baker K, Ruth A, Corona G, **Zhang A**, de la Haye K, Bruine de Bruin W (2025). Perceptions of reduced meat and sustainable eating patterns among a sample of low-income Los Angeles County residents: A

qualitative study. *APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo*.

4. (P) Woody M, Angelo N, Doocy LE, Freeman AF, et al. **including Zhang A** (2025). Addressing Food Insecurity Through Food Recovery and Distribution Using a Systems Science Approach. *American Academy of Health Behavior Scientific Meeting*.
5. (P) Wasim N, de la Haye K, Heneghan J, **Zhang AW**, Martinez MF (2024). Using Systems Thinking Tools with Multi-Sector Food Leaders to Understand Disparities in Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Los Angeles. *Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting*.
6. (P) Livings M, Bruine de Bruin W, Wilson J et al, **including Zhang AW** (2022). A comparison of past-week and past-year measures of food insecurity. *APHA 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo*. [[link to abstract](#)]
7. (P) **Zhang AW**, Boronowsky R, Braverman I et al (2022). Using the Default Nudge to Increase Plant-based Meal Consumption on College Campuses. *Nutrition Live Online*.

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

8. **Zhang A**, Woody M, Angelo N, Doocy LE, Freeman AF, et al (2025). Addressing Food Insecurity Through Food Recovery and Distribution: A Participatory Systems Science Approach. *USC Food Day Student Poster Session*.
9. Rodriguez CC, **Zhang A**, Duan J (2025). Heat & Crime: Analyzing the Relationship Between Temperature and Crime in Los Angeles. *2025 Los Angeles Geospatial Summit*.

## REPORTS FOR THE PUBLIC

1. de la Haye K, Wasim N, **Zhang AW**, Bruine de Bruin W, Flood M, Fanning J. (2025). Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Los Angeles County, October 2025. USC Dornsife Public Exchange. <https://public-exchange.org/usc/project/feeding-la/october-2025-food-nutrition-insecurity-in-los-angeles-county/>
2. de la Haye K, Wasim N, **Zhang AW**, Bruine de Bruin W, Wilson J, Fanning J. (2024). *Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Los Angeles County, October 2024*. USC Dornsife Public Exchange. <https://public-exchange.org/usc/project/feeding-la/oct-2024-food-brief/>  
\* Covered by *L.A. Times*
3. **Zhang AW** (2023). *A Seat at the Table: Engaging Communities in Defining Racially-Equitable Food Access Solutions*. Congressional Hunger Center. [https://justharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-Report\\_A-seat-at-the-table.pdf](https://justharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-Report_A-seat-at-the-table.pdf)

## INVITED TALKS

### For the public, community members, and policymakers

1. *Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Los Angeles County: October 2025*, Nutrition Access LA, Los Angeles, CA, Jan 15 2026.
2. *A Seat at the Table: Engaging Communities in Defining Food Access Solutions*, Congressional Hunger Center Briefing: The State of U.S. Hunger, Washington, D.C., Feb 15 2023.

### For students

3. *Alumni Career Panel*, UCLA Creative Labs, Los Angeles, CA, Nov 18 2024.

4. *Graduate Student Panel*, UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenges Undergraduate Research Program, Los Angeles, CA, Feb 21 2024.
5. *Our Food & Our Planet*, Rowland High School EnviroSci Club Meeting, Rowland Heights, CA, Feb 15 2024.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 8/2023 - Present      USC Institute of Food Systems Equity, *Research Assistant*
- Conducting research on nutrition security, food environment, and acculturation
  - Contributing to quarterly reports on food and nutrition security in Los Angeles County
- 8/2024 - Present      USC / CHLA Southern California Center for Latino Health, *Research Assistant*
- 6/2022 - 8/2023      Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Research Assistant*
- Conducted research on nutrients relevant to human health in aquatic foods
  - Cleaned and visualized over 200k entries in the Aquatic Foods Composition Database
- 11/2021 - 9/2022      USC Keck School of Medicine, *Project Specialist/Research Assistant*
- Worked on NSF-funded project aiming to co-develop an approach to monitoring the food system with the LA County Food Equity Roundtable
  - Developed workshops for key stakeholders (government, non-profit, community members) to map out the factors influencing nutrition security in LA County
- 6/2021 - 4/2022      UCLA Civil and Environmental Engineering, *Research Assistant*
- Tested the effectiveness of a plant-based default nudge on meal selection at campus events and quantifying its potential environmental impacts
  - Coordinated RCT experiments with campus operators and managed the IRB for Human Subjects Research
  - Performed statistical analysis and visualized experiment data using Excel and R

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2/2023 - 7/2023      The Brookings Institution, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow  
Washington, D.C.
- 9/2022 - 2/2023      Just Harvest (non-profit), Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 6/2020-9/2020      Adobe Inc, Software Developer Intern  
San Jose, CA

## MENTORSHIP

- 2025      Alex Ochoa, *Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship Alumni Mentor Program*
- 2024-2025      Ella Peterchak, *USC, Southern California Center for Latino Health*

2022 Kira Presley, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*  
 2020-2021 Bella Alvarado, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*  
 Jiseon Kim, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*  
 Maya Desai, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*  
 Anvita Chandra, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*  
 Aysia Bondurant, *UCLA, Undergraduate Research Program*

**SERVICE**

3/2025 - Present LA Food Policy Council, Good Food Economy Work Group Member

1/2024 - Present LA Community Action Network, Volunteer Researcher

- Supporting development of the Women’s Needs Assessment for unhoused women in Skid Row
- Co-authored AJPH Think Tank Editorial piece on community-engaged research with unhoused populations
- Designing interview guides, moderating focus groups, conducting qualitative analysis, and supporting grant development

1/2024 - 1/2025 City of Pittsburgh, Food Justice Fund, Volunteer Researcher

- Developed food accessibility maps that will support the grantmaking process for Pittsburgh’s 3 million dollar Food Justice Fund

6/2022 - 8/2022 FEAST Food, Education, Access, Support, Together, Data Analyst

- Conducted data analysis and cleaning using R for pre- and post-intervention surveys

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

1/2025 - Present Population, Health, and Place Doctoral Student Association, Student Representative

- Creating and implementing first student experience survey for the Population, Health and Place program
- Planned monthly socials for PhD students

1/2024 - 1/2025 USC Trojan Food Pantry, Volunteer

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Ad-hoc Reviewer**

2025 - Present Appetite, Peer review  
 2025 - Present American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM) Peer review  
 2025 American Journal of Public Health (AJPH), Abstract review  
 2025 Bill Emerson Congressional Hunger Fellowship, Applicant review

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2024 - Present Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA)  
 2023 - Present American Public Health Association (APHA)  
 2023 - Present American Society for Nutrition (ASN)

## **SKILLS**

Skills: Software & Web Development, Project Management, Graphic Design

Research Methods: Regression, Data visualization, Interviews, Survey design, Literature reviews

Programming languages: R, STATA, SQL, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Python, C++

Technologies: Git/Github, Excel, Figma, ArcGIS Pro, PostgreSQL, Adobe Indesign, Adobe Photoshop

Certifications: CITI Group 1: Human Subjects Research

Languages: Spanish (Limited working proficiency), Mandarin (Limited working proficiency)