

Sophia Spence

Former name: Sophia Hoffacker

University of Michigan • Urban and Regional Planning Program
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EDUCATION

2023 -

present:

Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning. University of Michigan.

Areas of Specialization: (1) Housing, (2) Planning for Health Equity

Dissertation title: Aging in Community: LGBTQ-Affirming Affordable Senior Housing across the US

Committee: Lan Deng, Kristi Gamarel, Kimberley Kinder (chair), Roshanak Mehdipanah

2021 - 2023: *M.A., Community Planning. University of Washington Tacoma.*

2013 - 2016: *B.A., Environmental Studies. University of Vermont.*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Kinder, K., & Spence, S. (2025). Planning for Gender Health Equity: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 0(0).

Research Reports (authors listed alphabetically)

- Cancio, K., Davis, G., Greenwich, H., Hoffacker, S., Horn, E., Jackson, K., Juaner, A., Pasciuto, G., Teferi, Y., and Yussuf, A. (2021). Disaster Gentrification in King County and How to Stop It from Happening Again. Puget Sound Sage. <https://pugetsoundsage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Community-Policy-Brief-v.5.0.pdf>
- Banerjee, D., Greenwich, H., Hoffacker, S., Matthews, Y., and Peterson, K. (2020). Powering the Transition: Community Priorities for a Renewable and Equitable Future. Puget Sound Sage. https://pugetsoundsage.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PugetSoundSage_PoweringTransition_June2020-1.pdf

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program – Graduate Student Research Assistant

- 2024 • Topic: Planning for Gender Health Equity • Supervisor: Kimberley Kinder

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program – Graduate Student Instructor

- 2025 • *URP 510: Fiscal Planning and Management* • Principal Instructor: Lan Deng
- 2024 • *URP 502: US Planning Law and Institutions* • Principal Instructor: Richard Norton

University of Michigan – Invited Lectures

- 2025 • “Urban Planning, Gender Health Equity, and LGBTQ Health” • *HBHEQ 645: Urban Health* • November 13
- 2025 • “How Does Urban Planning Influence Gender Violence?: A Conceptual Framework and Pathway Forward” (with Kimberley Kinder and Brianne Brennehan) • *Lunch UP Lecture Series, Urban and Regional Planning Program* • October 2
- 2024 • “Indigenous Land and US Planning Law” • *URP 502: US Planning Law and Institutions* • March 5

University of Vermont Environmental Studies Program – Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

- 2016 • *ENVS 002: International Environmental Studies* • Principal Instructor: Ingrid Nelson

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2026:** *Public Scholarship Grant* (\$10,000). University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.
Elder Housing Initiative Research Grant (\$3,000). SAGE: Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ Elders.
- 2025:** *Candidate Graduate Student Research Grant* (\$3,000). University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.
- 2025:** *Honorable Mention, Saarinen Swanson Essay Competition* (\$2,000). University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2025:** *Queer & Trans Interest Group Student Travel Award* (\$300). Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP).
- 2025:** *Student Travel Award* (\$1,500). University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2025:** *Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant* (\$1,100). University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.
- 2024:** *Pre-candidate Graduate Student Research Grant* (\$1,500). University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.
- 2024:** *Student Travel Award* (\$500). University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2024:** *Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant* (\$900). University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School.
- 2023:** *Student Travel Award* (\$500). University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2023:** *Community Planning Merit Scholar* (\$2,340). University of Washington Tacoma School of Urban Studies.
- 2016:** *Outstanding Graduating Senior, Environmental Studies*. University of Vermont College of Arts & Sciences.
- 2015:** *Udall Undergraduate Scholar, Environment* (\$5,000). Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.
- 2015:** *Outstanding Social Justice Activist Award*. University of Vermont Women’s Center.
- 2015:** *Jeffrey Brace Award* (\$500). United Academics (University of Vermont Faculty Union).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025:** Kinder, K., Brenneman, B., and **Hoffacker, S.** *Planning for Health Equity: Enhancing Urban Environments to Support Women's Safety and Independence*. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), October 24, Minneapolis.
Kinder, K. and **Hoffacker, S.** *Planning for Gender Health Justice: A Scoping Review and Research Agenda*. AESOP Annual Congress. July 7, Istanbul.
Hoffacker, S. *Cultivating Safe Havens for LGBTQ Older Adults*. Association of American Geographers (AAG), March 27, Detroit.
- 2024:** Kinder, K. and **Hoffacker, S.** *Planning for Gender Health Equity: A Critical Scoping Review*. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), November 8, Seattle.

ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2025 – 2026:** *Board member (student representative), Queer & Trans Interest Group Board*. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP).
- 2025 – 2026:** *Student representative, PhD Advisory Committee*. University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2025:** *Future Planning Scholars Program Coordinator*. University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2024 – 2025:** *Planning + Architecture Resource Group Coordinator*. University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.
- 2024:** *Planning Committee Member*. “Urban Planning Ph.D. Careers Beyond Academia: From Local Government to the UNHCR” (March 29), University of Michigan Urban and Regional Planning Program.
- 2021 – 2022:** *Board member (various roles – co-founder, Vice President of Organizing, President)*. Workers for a Just Transition (Puget Sound Sage staff union).

WORK EXPERIENCE (NON-ACADEMIC)

- 2022 – 2024:** *Special Project Associate*. [Metro Parks Tacoma](#): Tacoma, WA.
- 2019– 2022:** *Political Program Manager*. [Puget Sound Sage](#) (501c3) & [Sage Leaders](#) (501c4): Seattle, WA.
- 2018:** *Regional Field Director*. [Yes On I-1631](#) (statewide ballot initiative campaign): Seattle, WA.
- 2017:** *Field Organizer*. [The Washington Bus](#): Seattle, WA.