

Kayla M. Anderson

Department of Human & Organizational Development
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

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EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D. Vanderbilt University– Community Research and Action
2020 M.Ed. Vanderbilt University– Community Development and Action
2013 B.A. Whitworth University– Sociology, Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental justice; Community organizing; Community power and empowerment processes; Geospatial analysis; Action research; Participatory action research; Youth participatory action research; Community engaged research

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., McCormick, M. L., Gibson, M., Clark, M., Harper, A., & Christens, B. D. (2024). Youth participatory action research for equitable urban design. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*. <https://doi.org/10.35844/001c.120406>
- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., McCormick, M. L., Robbins, N. N., Curry-Johnson, S. E., & Christens, B. D. (2024). Participatory mapping of holistic youth well-being: A mixed methods study. *Sustainability*, 16, 1559. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16041559>
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, & Christens, B. D. (2022). Pathways to community building: Examining generational continuity and discontinuity in community leadership development. *Applied Developmental Science*, 28(2), 107-124. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10888691.2022.2154211>
- Temkin, A. M., Uche, U. I., Evans, S., **Anderson, K. M.**, Perrone-Grey, S., Campbell, C., & Naidenko, O. V. (2022). Racial and social disparities in Ventura County, California related to agricultural pesticide applications and toxicity. *Science of the Total Environment*, 853. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.158399>
- Paxton, C., **Anderson, K. M.**, & McDonald, Y. J. (2022). The water sector industry workforce: A quantitative case study, Tennessee, USA. *Utilities Policy*, 76. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jup.2022.101356>
- McDonald, Y. J., **Anderson, K. M.**, Caballero, M. D., Ding, K. J., Fisher, D., Morkel, C., & Hill, E. (2022). Where are the community water systems? A systematic review of geospatial representation of United States community water system service areas. *AWWA Water Science*, 4(1), e1266. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aws2.1266>

Book Chapters

Anderson, K. M., & Christens, B. D. (2024). Neighborhood associations and community change. In B. D. Christens (Ed.), *The Cambridge handbook of community empowerment* (pp. 360-388). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009153720>

Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Christens, B. D., Shaltaf, L., & KaiKai, J. (2024). “Real change takes time:” Building multi-dimensional youth community power in a participatory design collective. In J. O. Conner (Ed.), *The handbook of youth activism* (pp. 320-336). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803923222>

Technical Reports

Anderson, K. M., McCormick, M. L., & Gibson, M. (2024, May). *Dream City: A youth vision for Nashville’s spaces and places*. Imagine Nashville.

Christens, B. D., Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, & Kobbervig, K. A. (2019, November). *Weaving communities: Influences and learning among lifelong community builders*. Aspen Institute.

Articles in Review

Macey, G., Farrell, C., **Anderson, K. M.**, Garcia, A., Martinez, Y., Sellen, J., Temkin, A., & Weller, M. (2024). Pesticide use and civil rights in central California: Slow violence and the state. *Environment*.

Anderson, K. M., & Christens, B. D. (2024). Navigating inherent challenges of action research in graduate education: Engaged research on the impacts of short-term rentals in Nashville, TN, USA. *Educational Action Research*.

Articles in Preparation

Anderson, K. M., Morgan, K. Y., McCormick, M. L., & Christens, B. D. (2024). Youth imagining their ideal neighborhoods: How do lived realities compare to ideals across different types of neighborhoods? Target Journal: *Youth*.

Anderson, K. M., Caballero, M. D., Alvarez-Carrascal, M. A. V., Podraza, A., Robbins, N. N., Curry-Johnson, S. E., & McDonald, Y. J. (2024). A community-level analysis of drinking water justice in the United States. Target Journal: *Nature Water*.

McDonald, Y. J., & **Anderson, K. M.** (2024). Building connections with operators: Navigating drinking water supply challenges. Target Journal: *Water*.

Anderson, K. M., & McDonald, Y. J. (2024). Water operators know best: Utilizing community-based participatory research to assess technical, financial, and managerial challenges in community water systems in Tennessee, USA. Target Journal: *AWWA Water Science*.

Christens, B. D., **Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., Happanen K., & Byrd, K. (2025). Contextualist methods in community psychology. Target Journal: *American Journal of Community Psychology*.

Book Chapters in Preparation

McCormick, M. L., Azamian, S., Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Gibson, M., & Christens, B. D. (2025). Sense of place among young people involved in place-based action civics in Nashville, TN. In I. Butterworth (Ed.), *The psychology of place: Opportunities for rebuilding our place in a post-colonial world*. Cambridge University Press.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2024	Student Research Grant (\$500), Society for Community Research and Action
2023–2024	Community Scholars Award (\$6,000), The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core
2023–2024	Imagine Nashville Research Grant (\$60,000), Nashville Youth Design Team, Imagine Nashville & The Dream City Research Project
2022–2023	Emerging Scholar (\$5,000), Healthy Neighborhood Study- Emerging Scholars Program Conservation Law Foundation and Massachusetts Institute for Technology, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
2020–2022	HASTAC Scholar, Vanderbilt University
2020–2025	University Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University
2019	Russell G. Hamilton Student-Faculty Summer Research Grant, Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
2019–2020	Jere Phillips Honors Scholarship, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
2018–2020	Peabody Honors Scholarship, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

HONORS & AWARDS

2024	Excellence in Leadership Award, Graduate Leadership Institute, Vanderbilt University
2023	Best Overall Award, Graduate Leadership Anchor Awards, Vanderbilt University
2022	2 nd Place in the Doctoral Student Poster Competition, Yale’s New Horizons in Conservation Conference
2020	2 nd Place in the Student Paper Competition, Applied Geography Conference
2020	People’s Choice Award, Southeast ECO Conference
2019	SP3 Student Award, Applied Geography Conference
2013	Daniel Burtness Leadership Award, Whitworth University
2011–2013	Sociology Department Scholar, Whitworth University
2013	Alpha Delta Kappa Society, Whitworth University
2012	Phi Alpha Theta Society, Whitworth University
2010–2013	Whitworth Laureate Society, Whitworth University

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., & Christens, B. D. (2024, June 21). Youth action research for equitable urban design. In **K. M. Anderson** and K. Y. Morgan (Chairs), *Perspectives on action research: Transforming communities through diverse approaches* [Symposium]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., Christens, B. D., Silka, L., Grzanka, P. R., Schlehofer, M. M., Pickering, R. M., Trott, C. D., Savaş, Ö., & Ellison, E. (2024, June 21). *Building a SPSSI Action Research Interest Group* [Interactive discussion]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2024, April 18). Community organization & academic collaboration to address environmental and health inequities: The Grundy County Cancer Research Organization-Community Engaged Research Project. In J. Mokos and J. Mapes (Chairs), *Practicing community geography* [Paper presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, virtual.

- Ahn, Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Apilado, D., Crawford, B., Liu, D., & Molla, A. (2024, April 17). *ScienceCore Heuristics for Open science Outcomes in Learning (SCHOOL): Health, air quality, and environmental justice module development* [Panel]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., Christens, B. D., Trott, C. D., & Silka, L. (2023, June 26). *Pedagogical approaches to engaging students in local action research* [Interactive discussion]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Shaltaf, L., & Christens, B. D. (2023, June 22). Building a youth leadership ecosystem in the Nashville Youth Design Team. In E. Thomas (Chair), *Youth organizing and participatory action research: Towards sustainable partnerships and practices* [Symposium]. Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Anderson, K. M.**, & Christens, B. D. (2023, April 28). *Investigating the impacts of short-term rentals in Nashville through a graduate action research class* [Presentation]. Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.**, Morgan, K. Y., & Gibson, M. (2023, March 23). *Youth-driven change: The Nashville Youth Design Team, a youth participatory mapping collective* [Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Morgan, K. Y., & **Anderson, K. M.** (2022, June). *Building youth community power in a participatory design collective* [Presentation]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Christopher, C., Marks, C., Fisher, B., & Stenson, C. (2022, June). *The role of students in research practice partnership: The case for utilizing YPAR to support engagement and dissemination* [Presentation]. Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Anderson, K. M.**, Caballero, M. D., & McDonald, Y. J. (2022, March). *Exploring drinking water (in)justice at the community level: Methodological applications to promote change* [Recorded poster presentation]. New Horizons in Conservation Conference, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Sustainability Initiative, Yale School of the Environment, virtual.
- Caballero, M. D., **Anderson, K. M.**, & McDonald, Y. J. (2022, February). *Crude oil production & regulation of BTEX in drinking water in the United States* [Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual.
- McDonald, Y. J., **Anderson, K. M.**, Caballero, M. D., Ding, K., Fisher, D. H., Morkel, C. P., & Hill, E. (2022, February). *Geospatial representation of United States community water system estimated service area boundaries: A crucial step to assessing water justice at the community level* [Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual.
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Thabit, B., & Shaltaf, L. (2021, June). *Youth voice, community development, and spatial justice: Reflections from a youth-led participatory mapping collective* [Presentation]. Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M.**, Gasteyer, S., Lander, P., Manners, J., & VanDerslice, J. (2021, April). *Utilizing collaboration to address the complexities of drinking water* [Panelist and session organizer]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual.

- Anderson, K. M., & McDonald, Y. J.** (2021, April). Operators know best: Utilizing public water system operators to understand technical, managerial, and financial challenges facing community water systems in Tennessee. In **K. M. Anderson** (Chair), *From theory to practice: Addressing evidence gaps and applications of the Drinking Water Disparities framework* [Paper presentations]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, virtual.
- McDonald, Y. J., & **Anderson, K. M.** (2020, October). *Unmasking differences: How using the correct unit of analysis in geospatial drinking water research has the potential to reveal community-level differences* [Presentation]. Applied Geography Conference, virtual.
- Morgan, K. Y., & **Anderson, K. M.** (2020, October). *Nashville through the eyes of youth: Using participatory mapping as a tool for spatial justice* [Presentation]. Applied Geography Conference, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M., & Morgan, K. Y.** (2020, October). *Critical GIS demo and resource share* [Teach-in]. Southeast ECO Conference, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M., & Morgan, K. Y.** (2020, June). *Motivations, experiences, and learning in community leadership* [Presentation]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference, Denver, CO. (*Cancelled due to Covid-19*)
- Anderson, K. M., & McDonald, Y. J.** (2020, April). *Operators know best: Engaging public water operators to understand technical, financial, and managerial challenges facing community water systems in Tennessee* [Presentation and session organizer]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. (*Cancelled due to Covid-19*)
- McDonald, Y. J., & **Anderson, K. M.** (2019, October). *A community-engaged research approach: Collaborating with key Tennessee drinking water stakeholders to understand public water systems' needs* [Presentation]. Applied Geography Conference, Charlotte, NC.

Invited Presentations

- Anderson, K. M.** (2024, April). *Student perspectives on graduate education and research* [Invited speaker]. Vanderbilt University Graduate Research and Education Advisory Board Meeting, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2024, April). *Community organization & academic collaboration to address environmental and health inequities: The Grundy County Cancer Research Organization-Community Engaged Research Project* [Colloquium presentation]. Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M., Barrett, E., Hanebutt, R. A., & Jurinsky, J.** (2024, February). *Community research and action doctoral program: Student milestones* [Colloquium panel]. Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2024, February). *Environmental justice and community power* [Guest Lecture]. Health Equity and Community Power (HODC 3650-04/05), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Jyoti Gupta, PhD

- Anderson, K. M.** (2024, January). *Using a health equity framework to contextualize social determinants of health: Grundy County, Tennessee case study* [Guest lecture]. Community Inquiry (HODH 3650-03 and HOD 7500-7), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.,** McDonald, Y. J., & Curry-Johnson, S. (2024, January). *Spatial computing* [Guest panel]. Project Special Topics: Projects in Computing for Sustainability (CS 3892), School of Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Douglas Fisher, PhD.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2023, October). *Action research* [Guest Lecture]. Community Inquiry (HOD 6210 and HOD 8210), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Beth Shinn, PhD & Doug Perkins, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.,** & Hanebutt, R. A. (2023, October). *Scoping better: How to save time (& stress) with Covidence!* [Training]. Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2023, September). *Grundy County Cancer Research Organization: Community-engaged research partnership study- Environmental justice in Grundy County, TN* [Guest lecture]. Vanderbilt School of Science and Math, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Menton Deweese, PhD & Angela Eeds, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.** (2023, August). *Short-Term rentals in Nashville, TN* [Guest lecture]. Action Research (HOD-6300 and HOD-8400), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Ashley Carse, PhD & Paul Speer, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.,** & Gibson, M. (2023, July). *Engaging young people in decision making spaces* [Presentation]. Youth Health Working Group- Health in All Policies, Metro Nashville Health Department, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.** (2023, April). *Policy and advocacy around short-term rentals in Nashville* [Guest lecture]. Public Policy and Advocacy (HOD 8130), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Beth Shinn, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.,** & Ranseen, O. (2023, March). *Sustainable city planning workshop* [Workshop facilitator]. Nashville Youth Climate Summit, Nashville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.,** & Christens, B. D. (2022, October). *Action research* [Guest lecture]. Community Inquiry (HOD 8210 and HOD 6210), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Beth Shinn, PhD & Ashmeet Oberoi, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.** (2022, March). *Interviews* [Guest lecture]. Systematic Inquiry (HOD 2500), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Jordan Jurinsky, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.,** & McDonald, Y. J. (2022, March). *Key findings from the Tennessee Public Water Operator Survey* [Presentation]. Annual Tennessee Association of Utility Districts Technology Conference, Knoxville, TN.
- Anderson, K. M.,** & Haapanen, K. (2022, March). *Problems of power: Environmental injustice* [Guest lecture]. Health Equity & Community Power (HOD 3650), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Jyoti Gupta, PhD
- McDonald, Y. J., **Anderson, K. M.,** & Caballero, M. D. (2021, October). *GIS and drinking water justice* [Guest lecture]. Special Topics: Computing and the Environment (CS 3891), School of Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Doug Fisher, PhD.

- Anderson, K. M., & McDonald, Y. J.** on behalf of the Vanderbilt Drinking Water Justice Lab. (2021, March). *Partnering with Tennessee water professionals: Mapping community water systems and operator survey key findings* [Presentation]. Annual Tennessee Association of Utility Districts Technology Conference, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M., & Morgan, K. Y.** (2021, February). *Student perspectives on action research* [Guest lecture]. Action Research (HOD 6300), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Brian D. Christens, PhD and Sarah Suiter, PhD
- Anderson, K. M., & Morgan, K. Y.** (2020, October). *Incorporating GIS into action research* [Guest lecture]. Action Research (HOD 6300), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Brian D. Christens, PhD and Sarah Suiter, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.** (2020, March). *Conducting research as a graduate student* [Guest lecture]. Human and Organizational Development Capstone (HOD 4953), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.** (2019, March). *The built environment* [Guest lecture]. Health and Human Services Seminar- Environmental Health (HOD 3650), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD
- Anderson, K. M.** (2019, March). *Nashville Civic Design Center and University Connections* [Presentation]. Trimble Action Group, Nashville, TN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

- Lab Instructor** January 2024–May 2024
Course: Small Group Behavior (HOD-1300), Instructor: Jeremy Payne. Course Evaluation: 5.0/5.0
- Lab Instructor** August 2023–December 2023
Course: Applied Human Development (HOD-1250), Instructors: Jeremy Payne & Andy Pinedo. Course Evaluation: 4.85/5.0
- Graduate Student Instructor** January 2023–May 2023
Course: Action Research (HOD-6300/8400). Instructors: Brian D. Christens, & Rong Wang.
- Lab Instructor** January 2023–May 2023
Course: Applied Human Development (HOD-1250), Instructors: Andrew Finch & Meaghan Mundy. Course Evaluation: 4.8/5.0
- Co-Instructor** August 2022–December 2022
Course: Environmental Health: Through the Lens of Water Justice (HOD-3650-01), Instructor: Yolanda J. McDonald. Course Evaluation: 5.0/5.0
- Graduate Student Instructor for GIS Training** January 2022–May 2022
Course: Action Research (HOD-6300), Instructors: Brian D. Christens & Sarah Suiter.
- Teaching Assistant** August 2021–May 2022
Course: Systematic Inquiry (HOD-2500), Instructors: Andrew Van Schaack & Jordan Jurinsky.

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Elise Wagner. (2021). “Comparing the effectiveness of “Design Your Neighborhood” to other forms of civic action curricula” [Co-advisor of honors thesis]. Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Catherine Paxton. (2020). “Retaining an essential workforce: A quantitative analysis of workforce retention factors among water operators in Tennessee” [Co-advisor of honors thesis]. Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

Community Research and Action Student Association September 2021–August 2023
Co-President

Community Research and Action Admissions Committee December 2022–May 2023
Committee Member

Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series March 2022
Colloquium Panel Co-Organizer
Data and Activism for Social and Environmental Justice with David Padgett and Amber J. Bosse

Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series March 2022
Colloquium Panel Co-Organizer
Youth Leadership in Nashville: Voice, Power, and Social Change

Ph.D. program Professional Development Committee September 2021–May 2022
Committee Member

Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Committee September 2020–May 2021
Committee Member

M.Ed. in Community Development & Action, Peer Mentor Program August 2019- May 2020
Peer Career Mentor

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Peer Reviewer for Journals
American Journal of Community Psychology
Social Science and Medicine

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Association of Geographers
- Society for Community Research and Action
- Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- Urban Affairs Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Certificate in College Teaching

November 2023

The Center for Teaching and The Graduate School, Vanderbilt University

Community Engaged Research Training

November 2023

Participant

The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core (CERC)

Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR)

Columbia University Environmental Justice Bootcamp

August 2022

Attendee, Columbia University

METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS

Experience with a range of data management, analysis, and visualization software, including ArcGIS Pro and online, QGIS, R, Stata, SPSS, NVivo, MAXQDA, Microsoft Office Suite, REDCap, Covidence, and Canva