

Kayla M. Anderson

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

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Community Research and Action

Expected Graduation May 2025

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

Master of Education, Community Development and Action

Graduated May 2020

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

Thesis: *Understanding the impact of technical, managerial, and financial capacity challenges on community water systems and water quality in Tennessee.*

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology

Graduated May 2013

Whitworth University, Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, and Christens, B. D. (2022). Pathways to community building: Examining generational continuity and discontinuity in community leadership development. *Applied Developmental Science*. <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.**, and 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., and 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>

Technical Reports

Christens, B. D., Morgan, K. Y., and **Anderson, K. M.**, and Kobbervig, K. A. (2019, November). *Weaving Communities: Influences and Learning among Lifelong Community Builders*. Aspen Institute.

Articles in Review

Anderson, K. M., Christens, B. D., Carse, A., Suiter, S., and Scarborough, L. (2023). Investigating the impacts of short-term rentals in Nashville through a graduate action research class. Target Journal: *Action Research*.

Articles in Preparation

Anderson, K. M., Caballero, M. D., Caiola, M., Ding, K. J., and McDonald, Y. J. (2023). A community-level analysis of drinking water justice in the United States. Target Journal: *Nature Water*.

Anderson, K. M., Morgan, K. Y., and Christens, B. D. (2023). Building a youth leadership ecosystem. Target Journal: *American Journal of Community Psychology*

McDonald, Y. J., and **Anderson, K. M.** (2023). Building connections with operators: Navigating drinking water supply challenges. Target Journal: *Water*.

Anderson, K. M. and McDonald, Y. J. (2023). Water Operators Know Best: Utilizing community-based participatory research to assess technical, financial, and managerial challenges in community water systems in Tennessee. Target Journal: *AWWA Water Science*.

Book Chapters in Review

Anderson, K. M., and Christens, B. D. (2023). Neighborhood associations and community change. In B. D. Christens (Ed.), *The Cambridge handbook of community empowerment*. Cambridge University Press.

Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.**, Christens, B. D., Shaltaf, L., and KaiKai, J. (2023). "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*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Anderson, K. M., Morgan, K. Y., Christens, B. D., Trott, C. D., and Silka, L. (2023, June). *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., and Christens, B. D. (2023, June). *Building a youth leadership ecosystem in the Nashville Youth Design Team* [Presentation]. Youth Organizing and Participatory Action Research: Towards Sustainable Partnerships and Practices at The Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Anderson, K. M., and Christens, B. D. (2023, April). *Investigating the impacts of short-term rentals in Nashville through a graduate action research class* [Presentation]. Urban Affairs Association Conference, Nashville, TN.

- Anderson, K. M.,** Morgan, K. Y., and Gibson, M. (2023, March). *Youth-driven change: The Nashville Youth Design Team, a youth participatory mapping collective* [Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Conference, Denver, CO.
- Morgan, K. Y. and **Anderson, K. M.** (2022, June). *Building youth community power in a participatory design collective* [Presentation]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.,** Christopher, C., Marks, C., Fisher, B., and 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, Seattle, WA.
- Anderson, K. M.,** Caballero, M. D., and 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 Environment, virtual.
- Caballero, M. D., **Anderson, K. M.,** and McDonald, Y. J. (2022, February). *Crude oil production & regulation of BTEX in drinking water in the United States* [Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Conference, 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 Conference, virtual.
- Morgan, K. Y., **Anderson, K. M.,** Thabit, B., and 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., and VanDerslice, J. (2021, April). *Utilizing collaboration to address the complexities of drinking water* [Panelist and session organizer]. American Association of Geographers Conference, virtual.
- Anderson, K. M.** and 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* [Presentation and session organizer]. American Association of Geographers Conference, virtual.
- McDonald, Y. J. and **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. and **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.** and Morgan, K. Y. (2020, October). *Critical GIS demo and resource share* [Teach-in]. Southeast ECO Conference, virtual.

Anderson, K. M. and Morgan, K. Y. (2020, June). *Motivations, experiences, and learning in community leadership* [Presentation]. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference, Denver, CO. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

Anderson, K. M. and 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 Conference, Denver, CO. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

McDonald, Y. J. and **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.

Anderson, K. M. (2019). *Spatial analysis of community water systems and health-based drinking water violations in Tennessee* [Poster presentation]. Vanderbilt Geographic Information Systems Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.

Invited Presentations

Anderson, K. M. (2023, October). *Action research* [Presentation]. Community Inquiry (HOD 6210 and HOD 8210), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Beth Shinn, PhD and Doug Perkins, PhD.

Anderson, K. M. (2023, August). *Short-Term Rentals in Nashville, TN* [Presentation]. Action Research (HOD-6300 and HOD-8400), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Ashley Carse, PhD and Paul Speer, PhD.

Anderson, K. M. and 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* [Presentation]. Public Policy and Advocacy (HOD 8130), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Beth Shinn, PhD

Anderson, K. M. and Ranseen, O. (2023, March). *Sustainable city planning workshop* [Workshop Facilitator]. Nashville Youth Climate Summit. Nashville, TN.

Anderson, K. M. and Christens, B. D. (2022, October). *Action research* [Presentation]. Community Inquiry (HOD 8210 and HOD 6210), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Beth Shinn, PhD and Ashmeet Oberoi, PhD.

Anderson, K. M. (2022, March). *Interviews* [Presentation]. Systematic Inquiry (HOD 2500), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Jordan Jurinsky, MEd.

Anderson, K. M. and 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. and Haapanen, K. (2022, March). *Problems of power: Environmental injustice* [Presentation]. Health Equity & Community Power (HOD 3650), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Jyoti Gupta, PhD.

McDonald, Y. J., **Anderson, K. M.**, and Caballero, M. D. (2021, October). *GIS and drinking water justice* [Presentation]. Special Topics: Computing and the Environment (CS 3891), School of Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructor: Doug Fisher, PhD.

Anderson, K. M. and 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. and Morgan, K. Y. (2021, February). *Student perspectives on action research* [Presentation]. Action Research (HOD 6300), Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Instructors: Brian D. Christens, PhD and Sarah Suiter, PhD.

Anderson, K. M. and Morgan, K. Y. (2020, October). *Incorporating GIS into action research* [Presentation]. 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* [Presentation]. 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* [Presentation]. Human and Organizational Development- 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:

Lab Instructor August 2023-December 2023
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Applied Human Development (HOD-1250), Jeremy Payne, PhD & Andy Pinedo, PhD

Graduate Student Instructor January 2023-May 2023
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Action Research (HOD-6300/8400), Brian D. Christens, PhD & Rong Wang, PhD

Lab Instructor January 2023-May 2023
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Applied Human Development (HOD-1250), Andrew Finch, PhD & Meaghan Mundy, PhD
4.8/5.0 Course Evaluation

Co-Instructor August 2022-December 2022
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Environmental Health: Through the Lens of Water Justice (HOD-3650-01), Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD
5.0/5.0 Course Evaluation

Graduate Student Instructor for GIS Training January 2022-May 2022
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Action Research (HOD-6300), Brian D. Christens, PhD & Sarah Suiter, PhD

Teaching Assistant August 2021-May 2022
Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Course: Systematic Inquiry (HOD-2500), Andrew Van Schaack, PhD & Jordan Jurinsky, MEd

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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lead Research Assistant November 2018- Present
Drinking Water Justice Lab (DWJL), Vanderbilt University
PI: Yolanda J. McDonald, PhD

Research Assistant April 2022- Present
Grundy County Environmental Justice Project
PI: Brooke Ackerly, PhD

Co-Facilitator & Co-PI August 2020- Present
Nashville Youth Design Team (NYDT)
Co-PIs: Kayla M. Anderson, Kathryn Y. Morgan, PhD, Melody Gibson, Brian D. Christens, PhD

Senior Research Fellow April 2019- Present
Research Intern January 2019- April 2019
Civic Design Center

GIS Contractor August 2022- December 2022
GIS Research Intern May 2022- August 2022
Environmental Working Group (EWG), Washington, D.C.

HASTAC Scholar November 2020- May 2022
Nashville Sites
PI: Mary Ellen Pethel, PhD

Research Assistant

May 2019- November 2019

*The Aspen Institute- Weave: The Social Fabric Project**PI: Brian D. Christens, PhD***Research Assistant**

August 2018- April 2019

*Vanderbilt Institutional Research Group***FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

- Community Scholars Award 2023-2024
The Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core
\$5,000 award to support research activities
\$1,000 award for community partner (Grundy County Cancer Research Organization)
- Imagine Nashville Research Grant 2023-2024
Nashville Youth Design Team
Imagine Nashville & Dream City Research Project
\$60,000 award funded by Imagine Nashville
- 2023 Emerging Scholar 2022-2023
Healthy Neighborhood Study- Emerging Scholars Program
Conservation Law Foundation and Massachusetts Institute for Technology
\$5,000 award funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- HASTAC Scholar with Nashville Sites 2020-2022
Vanderbilt University
- University Graduate Fellowship 2020-2025
Vanderbilt University
- Russell G. Hamilton Student-Faculty Summer Research Grant 2019
Vanderbilt University- Peabody College
- Jere Phillips Honors Scholarship 2019-2020
Vanderbilt University- Peabody College
- Peabody Honors Scholarship 2018-2020
Vanderbilt University- Peabody College

HONORS & AWARDS

- Winner, Best Overall Award, [Graduate Leadership Anchor Awards](#) 2023
Vanderbilt University
- 2nd Place in the Doctoral Student Poster Competition 2022
Yale New Horizons in Conservation Conference
- 2nd Place in the Student Paper Competition 2020
Applied Geography Conference
- People's Choice Award 2020
Southeast ECO Conference
- Applied Geography Conference (AGC)- SP3 Student Award 2019
- Daniel Burtness Leadership Award 2013
Whitworth University

- Sociology Department Scholar 2011, 2012, 2013
Whitworth University
- Alpha Delta Kappa Society, Sociology Honor Society 2013
Whitworth University
- Phi Alpha Theta Society, History Honor Society 2012
Whitworth University
- Whitworth Laureate Society 2010-2013

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Community Research and Action Student Association September 2021- August 2023

Co-President

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

Community Research and Action Admissions Committee December 2022- May 2023

Admissions Committee Member

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

Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series March 2022

Colloquium Panel Co-Organizer

Data and Activism for Social and Environmental Justice with Dr. David Padgett and Dr. Amber J. Bosse
*Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College
Vanderbilt University*

Department of Human and Organizational Development Colloquium Series March 2022

Colloquium Panel Co-Organizer

Youth Leadership in Nashville: Voice, Power, and Social Change
*Department of Human and Organizational Development, Peabody College
Vanderbilt University*

CRA Professional Development Committee September 2021-May 2022

Committee Member

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

CRA Colloquium Committee September 2020- May 2021

Committee Member

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

Peer Career Mentor Program August 2019- May 2020

Peer Career Mentor

*Community Development and Action Program, Peabody College
Vanderbilt University*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Journal Reviewer

Co-Reviewer for Social Science and Medicine

Columbia Environmental Justice Bootcamp

August 2022

Attendee

Columbia University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

SKILLS

Experience with a range of data management, analysis, and visualization software, including ArcGIS Pro and online, QGIS, Stata, R, SPSS, NVivo, MAXQDA, Excel, Dedoose, REDCap, and Canva.