

Sarah Grajdura, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

2024-Present

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Utah State University
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Postdoctoral Associate

2022-2024

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Vermont

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Civil & Environmental Engineering: concentration in Transportation 2022

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

M.S. Applied Economics: concentration in Environmental Economics 2016

B.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering 2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transportation equity & justice, Disaster resilience, Community-based research, Accessibility, Rural travel, Travel barriers, Evacuation modeling, Climate change adaptation, EV adoption

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1 Palm, M., Raynor, K., **Grajdura, S.** (2025) Bridging access with life satisfaction and Nussbaum's core capabilities. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 146, 104877.

2 **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2025) Understanding Wildfire Evacuees' Perceived Safety on their Evacuation Route: A Study of the 2018 Camp Fire. *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives*.

3 Barajas, J., **Grajdura, S.**, Karner, A., Palm, M., Rowangould, D. (2025) Shifting Priorities from Equity to Exclusion: Investigating US Transportation Policy Changes in the Anti-DEI Era. *Transport Findings*.

4 LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, & Rowangould, D. (2024) "We have the right and we need better transportation": Mobility, Community, and Connection of Latin American migrant workers in Vermont. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 118, 103947.

5 **Grajdura, S.**, Niemeier, D. (2023) State of Programming and Data Science Preparation in Civil Engineering Undergraduate Curricula. *Journal of Civil Engineering Education*, 149(2), 04022010.

6 **Grajdura, S.**, Borjigin, S., & Niemeier, D. (2022) Fast-Moving Dire Wildfire Evacuation Simulation. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 104, 103190.

7 **Grajdura, S.**, Qian, X., & Niemeier, D. (2021). Awareness, departure, and preparation time in no-notice wildfire evacuations. *Safety Science*, 139, 105258.

Under Review

Pezeshknejad, P.[‡], Damon, L.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D.. Barriers to Electric Vehicle Home Charging and Impacts on Adoption.

[†]undergraduate student author

[‡]graduate student author

Grajdura, S., Espeland, S.[‡], LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], Barajas, J., Rowangould, D.. “Having your own vehicle... it changes everything”: Rural car access, (im)mobility, and quality of life.

Grajdura, S., LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], Robtoy, N. [†], & Rowangould, D.. The Effects of Inland Flooding on the Mobility and Housing Trajectories of the Rural Unhoused.

GRANTS

Course Material Development for the Innovative Transportation Electrification Certificate Program (2025). X. Liu (PI), R. Zane, M. Harper, C. Liu, M. Liu, P. Singleton, **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**

RAPID: Data Collection on Roadway Vehicle Abandonment in the Fast-Moving Los Angeles Wildfire Evacuations (2025). *National Science Foundation*. **S. Grajdura (PI)**, M. Palm, M. Brozen.

Engineering Undergraduate Research Scholars Program Grant (2025). *USU College of Engineering*.

Undergraduate Research Grant (2025). *Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters*.

RAPID: Household Responses to the Los Angeles Wildfire Emergency (2025). *National Science Foundation*. E. Blumenberg (PI), K. Idziorek, S. Wong, E. Borowski, **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**.

Transit Riders' Health Risks and Adaptive Travel During the Los Angeles Wildfires (2025). *Natural Hazards Center*. M. Palm (PI), M. Brozen, **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**, T. Goddard, A. Lee, S. Dennis-Bauer, R. Miller, S. Kim.

Wildfire Evacuation Response and Plans Among Transit Riders in Los Angeles County (2025). *UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies*. M. Brozen (PI), S. Kim, A. Lee, T. Goddard, **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**, M. Palm, S. Dennis-Bauer.

Advancing equitable electric vehicle adoption: Addressing home charging barriers and costs (2023). *National Center for Sustainable Transportation*. D. Rowangould (PI), **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**.

Rural Mobility, Housing, and Infrastructure: Flood Resilience and Equitable Recovery in Vermont (2023). *Vermont Flood Event Rapid-Response Grant Awards, University of Vermont*. **S. Grajdura (PI)**, D. Rowangould (co-PI).

Transportation Equity Working Group Seed Grant (2019). *Feminist Research Institute, University of California Davis*. **S. Grajdura**, S. Erasmus.

Improving Our Understanding of Fire Evacuation and Displacement Effects (2019-2021). *National Center for Sustainable Transportation*. D. Niemeier (PI), **S. Grajdura (co-PI)**.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

1 Grajdura, S., Beddoes, K. (2022). A Systematic Literature Review of the Research on Gendered Socialization in Graduate Engineering Education. *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference*.

2 Grajdura, S., Beddoes, K. (2022). What Early Career Civil Engineers Wish They Had Done Differently: Lessons For Students and Faculty. *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference*.

3 Grajdura, S., Borjigin, S., & Niemeier, D. (2020). Agent-Based Wildfire Evacuation with Spatial Simulation: A Case Study. *Proceedings of the 3rd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on GeoSpatial Simulation, GeoSim 2020*, (November), 56–59.

[‡]graduate student author

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Quddoos, T. ‡, Tree, D. †, LanzDuret-Hernandez, J., Robtoy, N.†, Rowangould, D., **Grajdura, S.**(2025). Displacement, Wellbeing, and Transportation Access in the 2023 Vermont Floods. *Natural Hazards Workshop*.

Palm, M., Brozen, M., **Grajdura, S.**, Goddard, T., Lee, A., Dennis-Bauer, S., Miller, R., Kim, S. Health, Transit, and Evacuation in the 2025 Eaton and Palisades Wildfires (2025). *Natural Hazards Workshop*.

Quddoos, T. ‡, LanzDuret-Hernandez, J. †, Robtoy, N.†, Rowangould, D., **Grajdura, S.**(2025). Exploring the Connections Between Displacement, Transportation Access, and Wellbeing: Evidence from the 2023 Vermont Floods. *MR2025: Mobility, Adaptation, and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate*, Columbia University.

Grajdura, S., LanzDuret-Hernandez †, Robtoy, N.†, Rowangould, D. (2025). “I lost it all. The water destroyed everything”: Transportation Resilience, Housing, and Displacement of Rural Homeless Communities. *Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting*.

Pezeshknejad, P.‡, Damon, L.†, **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2025). Advancing Equitable Electric Vehicle Adoption: Addressing Home Charging Barriers and Costs. *Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting*.

Grajdura, S., Espeland, S.‡, LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.†, Rowangould, D. (2024). “Having your own vehicle...it changes everything”: Limited Car Access and Rural Mobility in Vermont. *Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting*.

LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.†, **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2024). Mobility, Community, and Connection: Transportation Experiences of Rural Latinx Migrant Workers. *Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting*.

Wong, S., Alam, M.D., **Grajdura, S.**, Anderson, W. (2023). A Guidebook for Community-Based and Equitable Transportation Response in Disasters. *Transportation Resilience 2023: International Conference on Extreme Weather and Climate Change Challenges*.

Grajdura, S., Sun, R., Barbour, E., Handy, S., Circella, G.(2023) Post-COVID Scenario Futures: a California Case Study. *Transportation Research Board’s 102nd Annual Meeting*.

Erasmus, S., **Grajdura, S.** (2020). Bringing Mobility Justice Research to UC Davis. *California Higher Ed Sustainability Conference*.

Grajdura, S., Niemeier, D. (2020). Agent-based Model for Wildfire Evacuation. *Production and Operations Management Society Annual Conference*, cancelled due to COVID-19.

Grajdura, S., Zhang, Y., Liang, Z., & Maheshwari, S. (2019). Perceived Health Status and Travel Patterns: NHTS Data Challenge. *Transportation Research Board 98th Annual Meeting*.

INVITED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Panelist. Climate, Economics, Equity and Planning for Change: Lessons from Our Scorched Earth (2025). *Natural Hazards Workshop*.

Kim, S., Brozen, M., Dennis-Bauer, S., Miller, R., Palm, M., **Grajdura, S.**, Lee, A., Goddard, T. (2025). Serving Transit Riders During Wildfires: A Practice-Focused Workshop. *Southern California Association of Governments*.

†undergraduate student author

‡graduate student author

- Grajdura, S.**(2025). Ongoing Research: 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires. *Transportation Research Center, University of Vermont.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2024). Mobility, Car Access, and Flood Resilience in Rural Unhoused Communities. *Purdue University — University of Texas El Paso— Utah State University.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2024). Transportation and Wellbeing: Building Post-Flood Resilience in Rural and Small Communities. *Geo Hub for Climate and Health in the Middle East and North Africa.*
- Panelist, Building Resilience in Community Public Health in Response to Natural Disasters (2024). *Resilient Vermont Conference, Norwich University.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2023). Vulnerability and Equity: Wildfire Evacuation Perspective. *Transportation Research Board Webinar: Community-Based and Equitable Transportation in Disasters.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2023). Engineering Transportation Systems to Meet Essential Travel Needs. *Civil & Environmental Engineering Department Seminar, University of Vermont.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2023). Evacuation, Accessibility, & Equity. *Postdoc Showcase, University of Vermont.*
- Grajdura, S.,** Fulton, L. (2022) Modeling the Global Trade in Used Vehicles. *STEPS Research Symposium, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis.*
- Grajdura, S.,** Fulton, L. (2021) Analysis of the Global Secondhand Vehicle Trade: Data and Future Steps. *STEPS Seminar, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2021). Fire in Paradise: Climate Change and Aging Infrastructure, *American Society of Civil Engineers, Region 2 Assembly Webinar.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2021). Transportation Equity and Wildfires in California. *Transportation Research Board, Standing Committee on Women and Gender in Transportation Young Scholars Webinar.*
- Grajdura, S.**(2021). Agent-based Modeling with NetLogo. *UC Davis DataLab*
- Grajdura, S.**(2021). Equity and Wildfires in California: the 2018 Camp Fire, *Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center, Emerging Scholars Symposium.*

REPORTS

- Espeland, S.[‡], LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2024). Evaluation of Rural Travel Constraints and Travel Burdens in the U.S. and in Rural Zero-Car Households. *National Center for Sustainable Transportation*
- Barbour, E., **Grajdura, S.**, Sun, R., Circella, G., Barajas, J., Jaller, M., D’Agostino, M., Handy, S. (2023). Post-Covid Transportation Scenarios: Evaluating the Impact of Policies. *California Air Resources Board*
- Grajdura, S.** & Niemeier, D. (2022). Improving Our Understanding of Fire Displacement Effects. *National Center for Sustainable Transportation*

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Quddoos, T., Zhang, Z., **Grajdura, S.** (2025). GeoAI for Disaster Response: Benchmarking Deep Learning Architecture for Post-Earthquake Damage Detection using Satellite Imagery. *Utah AI Summit, University of Utah.*

[‡]graduate student author

[†]undergraduate student author

Grajdura, S., LanzDuret-Hernandez [†], Robtoy, N.[†], Rowangould, D. (2024). “I lost it all. The water destroyed everything”: Transportation Resilience, Housing, and Displacement of Rural Homeless Communities. *Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association Summit*.

Pezeshknejad, P.[‡], Damon, L.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, & Rowangould, D.. (2024). Advancing equitable electric vehicle adoption: Addressing home charging barriers and costs. *Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity*.

Grajdura, S. (2024). Measuring Feelings of Safety in Wildfire Evacuations. *Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting 2024*.

LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], Wuthrich, C.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2023). “We have the right and we need better transportation”: Mobility, Community, and Connection of Latinx migrant workers in Vermont. *Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association Summit*.

Espeland, S.[‡], **Grajdura, S.**, LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], Rowangould, D. (2023). Evaluation of Rural Travel Burdens in the U.S. and in Rural Zero-Car Households in Vermont. *Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association Summit*.

Grajdura, S., Rowangould, D. (2023). When the Stakes are High: Evacuation Quality and Safety. *48th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*.

Foster, H.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2023). Rural Travel Needs Assessment: Transportation Equity in the Northeast Kingdom, Vermont. *Institute of Transportation Engineers Northeastern District Annual Meeting*.

LanzDuret-Hernandez, J.[†], **Grajdura, S.**, Rowangould, D. (2023). Community and Isolation Among Latinx Migrant Workers in Vermont: Achieving Connection through Mobility, Personal Networks, and Language and Culture. *Institute of Transportation Engineers Northeastern District Annual Meeting*.

Grajdura, S., Qian, X, Niemeier, D. (2020). Awareness, Departure, and Communication in the 2018 Camp Fire. *Transportation Research Board 99th Annual Meeting*.

Grajdura, S., Zhang, Y., Liang, Z., & Maheshwari, S. (2018). Perceived Health Status across Rideshare Use. *3 Revolutions Research Symposium*.

MANUSCRIPT AND PROPOSAL REVIEW

Cartography and Geographic Information Science

Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California

Journal of Computational Science

Journal of Transport Geography

METRANS Transportation Consortium

Natural Hazards Review

PLOS One

Safety Science

Sustainability Analytics and Modeling

Transport Policy

Transportation

Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment

Transportation Research Record

[‡]graduate student author

[†]undergraduate student author

ACADEMIC SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

Associate Editor Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives	<i>2025-Present</i>
Faculty Advisor Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Club, Utah State University	<i>2024-Present</i>
Committee Member TRB Committee on Disaster Response, Emergency Evacuations, & Business Continuity	<i>2024-2025</i>
Alliance Summer School: Inequality & Environment , Columbia University	<i>2021</i>
Asking Different Questions Research Training Series , Feminist Research Institute	<i>2021</i>
Co-Organizer , Transportation Equity Working Group. University of California, Davis	<i>2019-2021</i>
Mentor , Society of Women Engineers. University of California, Davis	<i>2019-2020</i>
Member , Mobility Justice Research Network	<i>2019-2022</i>
Co-Organizer , Heartland Environmental Resource Economics Workshop. U. Illinois	<i>2014-2015</i>
Mentor , Women in Math, Science, and Engineering. U. Illinois	<i>2008-2009</i>

TEACHING

Utah State University Travel Behavior (CEE 6245)	<i>Fall 2025</i>
Urban and Regional Transportation Planning (CEE 5240/6240)	<i>Spring 2025</i>
Traffic Engineering (CEE 5220/6220)	<i>Fall 2024</i>
Guest Lecture , GIS for Sustainable Transportation course, University of Vermont	<i>2022-2023</i>
University of California, Davis, Feminist Research Institute <i>Facilitator</i> , Asking Different Questions Research Training Series	<i>2021-2022</i>
Guest Lecture , STEM for HER- Girls Empowered by Math	<i>2020</i>
University of California System <i>Facilitator and Co-Creator</i> , Dimensions of Transportation Equity Seminar & Discussion Series	<i>2020-2021</i>
Guest Lecture , California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science	<i>2019</i>
University of California, Davis, Department of Economics <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , American Economic History	<i>2016</i>
University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Microeconomic Theory I	<i>2015-2016</i>

MENTORING

Utah State University Talha Quddoos, Ph.D. Advisor	<i>2025-Present</i>
Dawson Tree, Undergraduate Research	<i>2025-Present</i>
Angel Antayhua-Reynoso, Undergraduate Research	<i>2025-Present</i>
Jackson Hall, Undergraduate Research	<i>2024-Present</i>
Atul Subedi, Ph.D. Committee	<i>2024-Present</i>
Fariba Soltani, Ph.D. Committee	<i>2024-Present</i>
Mahyar Vahedi Saheli, Ph.D. Committee	<i>2024-Present</i>
Daniel Kane, Ph.D. Committee	<i>2024-2025</i>

Amir Rafe, Ph.D. Committee	<i>2024-Present</i>
Shailendra Khanal, M.S. Committee	<i>2024-2025</i>
University of Vermont	
Parsa Pezeshknejad, Ph.D. Research	<i>2024-Present</i>
Nat Robtoy, Undergraduate Research	<i>2023-Present</i>
Julia LanzDuret-Hernandez, Undergraduate Research	<i>2022-2025</i>
Maisie Melican, Undergraduate Research	<i>2022-2024</i>
Sierra Espeland, Master's Research	<i>2022-2023</i>
Holly Foster, Undergraduate Research	<i>2022-2023</i>
Alvaro Nadal-Alvarez, Undergraduate Research	<i>2022-2023</i>
University of California, Davis	
Mariam Massoud, Undergraduate Research	<i>2019</i>
Sierra Winter, Undergraduate Honors College Thesis	<i>2019</i>

HONORS AND AWARDS

Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship	<i>2022</i>
Paula Hammond Leadership Legacy Scholarship, Women in Transportation Studies	<i>2022</i>
Outstanding student of the year, National Center for Sustainable Transportation	<i>2021</i>
Nominee, Outstanding student of the year, Pacific Southwest Region UTC	<i>2021</i>
Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center Dissertation Award	<i>2020</i>
Helene M. Overly Scholarship, WTS, Sacramento Chapter	<i>2020</i>
UC Davis Institute for Transportation Studies Travel Award	<i>2019</i>
Nico Linesch Legacy Fund Award	<i>2018</i>
Winner, TRB 2017 National Household Travel Survey Data Challenge	<i>2018</i>
Department Fellowship, Ag, Resource, & Environmental Economics, UC Davis	<i>2017</i>
Best Master's Thesis, Department of Ag & Consumer Economics, U. Illinois	<i>2016</i>
Henry Bulta Scholarship, U. Illinois	<i>2016</i>
EPA Campus RainWorks Green Infrastructure Competition, 2 nd Place Design	<i>2014</i>
Illinois General Assembly Scholarship	<i>2007</i>

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R, Python, SQL, STATA, SAS, ArcGIS, QGIS, Atlast.ti, Dedoose, NVivo, NetLogo, TransCAD

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English-native, Spanish-proficient, Portuguese-beginner