

Seungju Kim

Champaign, IL

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EDUCATION

- Expected* **Ph.D. in Clinical/Community Psychology,**
 2024- 2031 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
APA/PCSAS Accredited
 Advisor: Nathan Todd, Ph.D.
- 2020-2023 **B.A. in Psychology with Honors, magna cum laude**
 Wheaton College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Multilevel religiosity/spirituality, LGBTQ+, mental health, longitudinal modeling, and psychometrics.

FUNDING (*N = 2; \$160,000 EXTERNAL FUNDING*)

*See end of CV for unfunded grants.

- 2025 **Kim** (PI) & Todd (Co-I). Development and Initial Validation of the Adverse and Beneficial Religious Experience Assessment Scale for LGBTQ+ People. *CHANGE Grant, American Psychological Foundation; \$2,000 (under review)*.
- 2024-2029 **Kim** (PI) Graduate Research Fellowship, *National Science Foundation; \$159,000 (funded)*.
- 2024 **Kim** (PI) Presentation Travel Grant, *Minority Health Disparity Initiative; \$1,000 (funded)*.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2024 Doctoral Merit Fellowship Nominee,
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020-2023 Dean's List, Wheaton College
- 2023 Top Poster Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Research Symposium
- 2022 Excellence in Research, YouRR Lab

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Total Citations = 20

9. **Kim, S.**, Yarhouse, M.A., Zaporozhets, O., Matthews, E., & Matlack, J.P. (2025). Sexual Attraction and Perceived Relational Insecurity in Mixed Orientation Marriages: Is Religiousness a Risk or Protective Factor? *Contemporary Family Therapy*. doi.org/10.1007/s10591-025-09762-y [[Open-Access](#)]
8. **Kim, S.**, & Xu, W. (2025). The State of LGBQ+ Support: Correlates, Predictors, and Congregational Moderators of a National Sample of U.S. Religious Leaders. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. doi.org/10.1007/s13178-025-01192-7 [[Open-Access](#)] [[Preregistration](#)] ([Citations = 1](#))
7. **Kim, S.**, Jankowski, P.J., Wang, D.C., & Hawkins, H.A. (2025). Patterns of Christian Nationalist Engagement and Connections to Spirituality. *Pastoral Psychology*. doi.org/10.1007/s11089-025-01241-3 [[Open-Access](#)]
6. Todd, N.R., Nguyẽn, D.M., Blackburn, A.M., La R., & **Kim, S.** (2025). Linking the Religious and Social Environment to Sexual Minority Mental Health. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.70002 [[Open-Access](#)] ([Citations = 1](#))
5. **Kim, S.**, Wang, D. C., Gin, D. H. C., Deasy, J. A., & Sandage, S. (2025). Contrasting Experiences: Gender Disparities in Spirituality, Character Strengths, Mental Health, and Social Justice Among Next-Generation Religious Leaders. *Review of Religious Research*. doi.org/10.1177/0034673X251336459 [[Accepted-Manuscript](#)] ([Citations = 1](#))
4. Edwards, K.M., Wheeler, L.A., **Kim, S.**, Miller, G., Napolitano, C., Xu, W., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Farquhar-Leicester, A., & Chavez, A. (2025). Bystander Helping Intentions in Situations of Risky Alcohol Use and Teen Dating Violence among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. doi.org/10.1177/08862605251329471
3. Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L. A., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Xu, W., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Chavez, A., **Kim, S.**, Choi, D., Allen, M., Camp, E., Ashworth, S., Sharma, M., Girard, J., Higgins, M., Hopfauf, S., & Neighbors, C. (2025). An Online Program for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Reduces Alcohol Use and Teen Dating Violence: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. doi.org/10.15288/jsad.24-00007 [[Accepted-Manuscript](#)] ([Citations = 4](#))
2. **Kim, S.**, Lefevor, G.T., & Skidmore, S.J. (2025). Mitigating the Impact of Religiously Based Family Expectations on Depression among Sexual and Gender Minorities: The Role of Authenticity. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 72(8), 1401-1425. doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2024.2378745 [[Accepted-Manuscript](#)] ([Citations = 4](#))
1. Lefevor, G.T., **Kim, S.**, & Pérez-Figueroa, A.M. (2024). How does religiousness influence health among sexual and gender minorities? Evaluating the propositions of the religious/spiritual stress and resilience model. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000749 [[Accepted-Manuscript](#)] ([Citations = 6](#))

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

5. **Kim, S.**, Jankowski, P.J., Todd, N.R., Lefevor, G.T., & Miller, C.K. *Modeling the longitudinal relationship between sexual orientation change efforts and suicidality: Evidence of a reciprocal relationship*.
4. Xu, W., Wheeler, L.A., Littleton, H., **Kim, S.**, Thomas, R., Gardella, G., Scheer, J., Ryan, C., Barba, A., Spitz, C., Chavez, A., & Edwards, K.M. (Revise & Resubmit). A

Prospective Study Examining the Consequences of Family Rejection for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth.

3. **Kim, S.**, Lefevor, G.T., Miller, C.K., & Jankowski, P.J. (Revise & Resubmit). *Is religious coping a protective factor, and for whom? A moderation and subgroup analysis on loneliness and suicide attempts among LGBTQ+ adults.*
2. **Kim, S.** *In God's name, against God's children: How religious leader-led sexual orientation change efforts undermine health.*
1. **Kim, S.**, Jankowski, P., & Wang, D.C. *Does Anxious Attachment to God fuel Christian Nationalism?*

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

3. **Kim, S.** & Todd, N.R. *How do sexual and gender diverse emerging adults engage with religiousness? And what does it mean for their health?* [[Preregistration](#)]
2. **Kim, S.**, Jankowski, P.J., Yarhouse, M.A., & Hawkins, H.A. *Distinct Trajectories of Substance Misuse Over Time: A Longitudinal Study of Sexually Diverse Adults.*
1. **Kim, S.** & Todd, N.R. *Current, Former, and Never Religious Sexual Minorities: Is Religious Identity Linked to Differences in Social Network Composition, Density, Contact, and Support?* [[Preregistration](#)]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

10. Todd, N. R. & **Kim, S.** (under review). Is Perceived Religious Environment Associated with LGBTQ+ Mental Health? In S. Kim (Chair), *How Religion Shapes LGBTQ+ Health: Person, Community, and Environment*. Symposium submitted to the American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
9. **Kim, S.** & Todd, N. R. (under review). Religious Engagement Profiles and Health Outcomes for SGD Emerging Adults. In S. Kim (Chair), *How Religion Shapes LGBTQ+ Health: Person, Community, and Environment*. Symposium submitted to the American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
8. **Kim, S.** (2026, April 16). *Applied Guide to Latent Profile Analysis in R*. Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
7. **Kim, S.** & Todd, N.R. (2026, April 17). *Religious Engagement Profiles and Health Outcomes for LGBTQ+ Emerging Adults*. Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
6. **Kim, S.**, & Todd, N.R. (2025). *Examining Patterns of Religious Engagement and Its Link to Health Among Sexual and Gender Diverse Emerging Adults*. Clinical-Community Program Brown-bag. Champaign, IL.
5. **Kim, S.** & Lefevor, G.T. (2025, June 17-21). *How Do Sexual and Gender Minorities of Color Engage with Religion and Spirituality?* Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Conference. Lancing, MI. [[Presentation](#)]
4. Gardella, J., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Allen, M., Camp, E., Higgins, M., Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Wheeler, L.A., Xu, W., Hespe, P., Spitz, C., Girard, J., **Kim, S.**, & Hopfauf, S. (2025, April 6-8). *Process-Evaluation for Assessing Implementation of a Randomized Online Program for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth to Prevent Alcohol Use and Teen Dating Violence*. Resilience Conference. Nashville, TN.

3. Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L.A., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Xu, W., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Ashworth, S., Camp, E., Girard, J., Chavez, A., **Kim, S.**, Allen, M., Sharma, M., Higgins, M., Hopfauf, S., Neighbors, C. (2024, August 15-17) *Pilot randomized controlled trial of an online program for sexual and gender minority youth to prevent alcohol use and teen dating violence*. National LGBTQ Health Conference. Atlanta, GA.
2. Wang, D. & **Kim, S.** (2024, October). *Diverse trajectories of human and spiritual formation in theological education: data-informed insights from longitudinal research*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Pittsburgh, PA.
1. Edwards, K.M., Littleton, H., Wheeler, L., **Kim, S.**, Xu, W., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Chavez, A. (2024, May). *Bystander helping intentions in situations of risky alcohol use and teen dating violence among sexual and gender minority youth*. Society for Prevention Research. Washington, DC.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12. **Kim, S.** & Todd, N.R. (under-review). *Current, Former, Never Religious: Social Network Differences Among LGBQ+ Emerging Adults*. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
11. **Kim, S.** & Lefevor, G.T. (2025, August 8th). *How Do Sexual and Gender Minorities of Color Engage with Religion and Spirituality?* American Psychological Association.
10. Wheeler, L. A., Xu, W., Chavez, A., **Kim, S.**, Thomas, R., Edwards, K., Littleton, H., & Gardella, J. (2025, May 1-3). *Affirming Prevention Programming Promoting Resilience for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth of Color*. 2025 Biannual Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). Minnesota, United States.
9. Ortells-Faci, P., **Kim, S.**, Edwards, K. M., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L. A., & Littleton, H. (2024, June 6-7). *Exploring Hope for the Future as a Protective Factor in Intimate Partner Violence and Alcohol Use in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth*. LGBTQ Research Symposium Annual Meeting, Virtual.
8. **Kim, S.** (2024, August 8-10). *Effective Methods of Detecting Mischievous Responses in Online Study of SGM Youth*. American Psychological Association.
[10.17605/OSF.IO/2W9VC](https://osf.io/2w9vc)
7. **Kim, S.** & Lefevor, G.T. (2024, August 8-10). *Testing the Effectiveness of the Religious/Spiritual Stress and Resilience Model*. American Psychological Association.
[10.17605/OSF.IO/Y6HMS](https://osf.io/y6hms)
6. **Kim, S.** (2023, August 3). *Effective Methods of Detecting Mischievous Responses in Online Study of SGM Youth*. Summer Research Symposium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. [10.17605/OSF.IO/2W9VC](https://osf.io/2w9vc)
- Awarded 1st Place in Health Equity
5. Martin, E., Yarhouse, M.A., Dean, J., **Kim, S.**, O'Connor, D., & Brose, A. (2024, March 21-23). *Comparing Spiritual Abuse of LGBTQ+ identified college students with their cisgender, heterosexual peers*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies Annual Conference.
4. Martin, E., Yarhouse, M.A., Palladino, N., O'Connor, D., & **Kim, S.** (2023, March 30-April 1). *A Review of the Literature on Spiritual Abuse as it Relates to LGBTQ+ Individuals from Faith-Based Backgrounds*. Annual National Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

3. **Kim, S., & Rueger, S.** (2022, March 19). *Facilitating Psychology-Church Collaborations: A Four-Step Framework for Practical Integration*. Regional Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, Wheaton College.
2. Pyun, Y., **Kim, S., & Rueger, S.** (2022, March 19). *Psychology-Church Collaborations: Understanding the Role of Acculturation and Hope in Adolescent Depression*. Regional Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, Wheaton College.
1. Case, S., Chen, P., Chen, Z., Coyle, S., Eveleigh, E., Kassel, M., **Kim, S., Kimble, C., & Rueger, S.** (2021, May 15-19). *Financial Hardship and the Role of Mother and Father Support on Academic Outcomes*. National Conference of the Association of Psychological Studies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

08/2024–Present

Ecologies of Liberation Lab,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Advisor: Nathan Todd, Ph.D.

Involved in data collection, cleaning, and launch of the SGM Networks Study ($N=920$), an ego network study measuring LGBTQ+ and measures on religiosity, health, and social support structures.

- Preregistered a study examining how social support and network structures differ by formerly, currently, and never religious sexual minorities [[Preregistration](#)].
- Created an automated data quality monitor workflow using R and GitHub.

Research Affiliate

05/2023–Present

Spiritually and Emotionally Sustainable Leadership Lab,
Fuller Theological Seminary
Supervisor: David Wang, Ph.D.

In collaboration with Dr. Wang, I led analyses and dissemination of the Seminary Formation Assessment Project ($N=452$), a \$1.9 million longitudinal study funded by the John Templeton Foundation that examined seminary students' spiritual and personality development.

- Longitudinal analyses examining the role of narcissism and gender differences across spiritual and personality traits in seminary students.
- Lead author on several manuscripts.
- Led and instructed an analysis team of two graduate students to use R for data analysis.

Research Assistant

08/2023–07/2024

Nebraska Academy for Methodology, Analytics, & Psychometrics;
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Supervisor: Lorey Wheeler, Ph.D.

Recruited as a research assistant after completion of the NSF-REU under the supervision of Dr. Wheeler. I supported funded projects using R, SPSS, and Mplus.

- Assisted data cleaning and analysis in 6 federally and privately funded projects (>\$2.3M).
- Consultant on problematic and mischievous responses in survey data collection.
- Supported analyses on manuscripts for journal submission.

Research Assistant

05/2023–07/2024

Sexual, Gender, and Religious Identities Lab, Utah State University

Supervisor: Tyler Lefevor, Ph.D.

Assisted in analyzing the Four Options study, a national longitudinal study of Latter-day Saints who are SGMs. This study examined the associations of sexuality, gender identity, and religiosity in LDS-SGMs.

- Led analysis of moderation and moderated mediation models using R programming.
- Construction and validation of the Religiously-based Family Expectations scale through exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis using {psych} and {lavaan} packages.

Research Associate

12/2023–05/2024

Sexuality and Gender Identity Institute, Wheaton College

Supervisor: Mark Yarhouse, Psy.D.

Led quantitative analyses related to the SGI+ Project [$N > 2,200$] of SGM college students across the contiguous United States. This study examined two groups of SGM college students, those attending religious and non-religious academic institutions.

- Cleaned data and created a codebook.
- Provided consultation on identifying mischievous responders.

Research Assistant

08/2022–12/2023

Sexuality and Gender Identity Institute, Wheaton College

Supervisor: Mark Yarhouse, Psy.D.

The SGI Institute focuses on research and clinical practice on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in religious communities. Assisted in the launch and analysis of “SGI+ Project,” a national project investigating SOGI experiences in Christian college students across the United States. SGI Institute also provides clinical services to religious and non-religious clients.

- Completed transcription of sexual attitudes and behavior, campus climate, emotional well-being, sexual identity, and gender identity.
- Observed over 20 hours of gender dysphoria consultations, family counseling sessions, and assessments.
- Completed an honors thesis on associations between sexual attraction and psychological distress in religious mixed-orientation marriages.
- Consultant on quantitative analyses for graduate dissertations.

NSF-REU Health Equity Summer Research Scholar

05/2023–08/2023

Interpersonal Violence Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Supervisors: Katie Edwards, Ph.D. & Lorey Wheeler, Ph.D.

Accepted as a full-time summer research scholar into the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program and funded by the National Science Foundation. This program provided intense research and educational opportunities for undergraduates interested in pursuing careers in research. Worked on the PRYSHM Project, an NIMH control trial, to decrease teen dating violence and substance abuse in SGM youth.

- Led data cleaning and identifying mischievous responders in an online sample using R & SPSS
- Quantitative analyses with ANCOVA, correlations, and mediations using R & SPSS
- Qualitative analysis of youths' experiences of PRYSHM using NVivo
- Educational seminars on graduate school, funding, and more.
- Awarded Top Poster for Research Symposium for Healthy Equity.

Research Assistant

12/2020–05/2022

Youth Risk & Resilience Lab, Wheaton College

Supervisor: Sandra Rueger, Ph.D.

“Coalition for Healthy Asian Minds” study funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield, examining barriers and interventions to increase mental healthcare in Asian Americans.

- Assisted with manuscript preparation by cleaning data and tables.
- Completed literature reviews on family support moderating Asian American help-seeking attitudes on mental health.
- First authored a poster on Psychology-Church collaborations and another on the role of acculturation on depression in Asian American youth.
- Awarded Excellence in Research

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**Doctoral Student Clinician**

08/2025–Present

University of Illinois Autism Clinic,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Supervisor: Amy Cohen, Ph.D., L.P.

Working with families and college students around autism spectrum disorder and mental health.

- Counseling for college students on topics related to anxiety and depression
- Screen, assess, and diagnose autism spectrum disorder in children (ages 3-6)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2024-Present Graduate student member of the American Psychological Association

- *Division 36, Religion and Spirituality*
- *Division 44, Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*

2021–2023 Student member of the Association of Psychological Sciences

2021–2023 Student member of the American Psychological Association

SOFTWARE & PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Proficient *R Programming; SPSS*

Familiar *Nvivo, MPlus*

CERTIFICATION

- 12/2022 Statistician with R Programming
DataCamp
- 05/2023–05/2027 Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research (ID: 56169734)
CITI Program
- 06/2023–06/2027 Conflict of Interest (ID: 56284296)
CITI Program
- 06/2023–06/2027 Social/Behavioral Research Investigator and Key Personnel
(ID: 56169733)
CITI Program

UNFUNDED GRANTS

- 2025 **Kim (PI)** & Todd (Co-I). Development and Validation of the Assessment of Religious Experiences Scale for LGBTQ+ People. *Wayne F. Placek Grant, American Psychological Foundation*; \$14,933.
- 2025 **Kim (PI)** & Todd (Co-I). *Broadening the Landscape Research Award, Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*; \$3,000.