Sara Ann Le, M.S.
PhD. Student
The University of Texas at Austin
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EDUCATION

AUG 2024 - PRESENT
Doctor of Philosophy, Prevention Science
Department of Kinesiology and Health Education
College of Education
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX, USA
Advisor: Dr. Deborah Salvo
Approximate Dissertation Title: Examining Active Transportation Equity in Low-Income Urban Communities
Current GPA: 3.93 out of 4.00

AUG 2022 – MAY 2024
Master of Science, Health Behavior and Health Education
Department of Kinesiology and Health Education
College of Education
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX, USA
Advisor: Dr. Deborah Salvo
Master's Thesis: Understanding the Influence of the Urban Environment on Usage of a Publicly Funded Bicycle-Sharing Program in Mexico City

AUG 2018 – MAY 2022
Bachelor of Arts, Kinesiology
Southwestern University
Georgetown, TX, USA
Undergraduate Capstone Thesis: Associations with the Number of Well-Known Grocery Stores, Gyms, and Parks to Median Household Income

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

OCT 2023 – PRESENT
Graduate Research Assistant
Center for Research to Community Impact (CRCI)
The People, Health, and Place Lab
Director: Deborah Salvo, PhD.
College of Education
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

JUN 2024 – PRESENT
Racket Technician [Part-time]
New Tech Tennis, Austin, Texas

EXPERIENCES AND PROJECTS

AUG 2025 - PRESENT
Contextually responsive implementation of place-activation interventions for promoting physical activity in low-income urban communities (5R01MD019155) [NIH Research Project]
Role: Graduate Research Assistant
PI: Deborah Salvo, PhD.
The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Research to Community Impact (CRCI), Austin, Texas, USA
The National Institute of Public Health of Mexico [Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP)]

AUG 2024 - PRESENT	**Active Middle School Communities (1R01MD019423)** [NIH Research Project] Role: Graduate Research Assistant PI: Deanna Hoelscher, PhD. RDN, CNS & Deborah Salvo, PhD. UTHealth Houston, School of Public Health The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Research to Community Impact (CRCI), Austin, Texas, USA
SEPT 2025- PRESENT	**Playground Surface and Playability** [Research Project] Role: Graduate Research Assistant PI: Deborah Salvo, PhD & Esbelle Jowers, PhD The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Research to Community Impact (CRCI), Austin, Texas, USA Responsibility: Data Management, Data Collection, Data Analysis, GIS Analysis, Direct Observations *Funding: Partially-supported by a gift from ForeverLawn USA to the People, Health, and Place (Salvo) Lab*
MAY 2024 – DEC 2024	**Williamson County and Cities Health District** [Internship] Role: Community Health Assessment Intern Quality and Strategic Management District Round Rock, TX, USA Responsibility: Secondary Data Analyst, Qualitative Research Assistant, Community Health Assessment Writer
AUG 2024 – SEPT 2024	**Safe TRavel Environment Evaluation in Texas Schools (STREETS) (5R01HD097669)** [NIH Research Project] Role: Graduate Research Assistant PI: Deanna Hoelscher, PhD. RDN, CNS UTHealth Houston, School of Public Health The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA Responsibility: GIS analysis
JAN 2024 – JUNE 2024	**Cell to Community Action (C2C) Rio Grande Valley** [Research Project] Role: Graduate Research Assistant Responsibility: Secondary Data GIS Analysis The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
JAN 2024 – MAY 2024	**Playgrounds for Health Equity** [Research Project] Role: Graduate Research Assistant PI: Deborah Salvo, PhD. University of Texas at Austin, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, People Health and Place Lab. Austin, Texas, USA. Responsibility: Research Assistant, Field Collector

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026	**Guest Speaker (Event)** Department of Kinesiology Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas Oral Presentation Title: "Prevention Science, Health Education, & Physical Activity in Public Health"
	Guest Lecturer Department of Kinesiology Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas Faculty: Dr. Vanessa Mikan

Course: Health Promotion and Programming
Lecture Title: Physical Activity in Public Health: How Does Research Advance the Field?

2024 **Guest Lecturer**
Department of Kinesiology
Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas
Faculty: Dr. Vanessa Mikan
Course: Health Promotion and Programming
Lecture Title: Health Promotion, Environmental Research, & Physical Activity

Guest Speaker (Event)
College of Education
University of Texas at Austin, Austin Texas
Organization: Texas Health Promotion Club

CERTIFICATES AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025 **CITI Certificate**
Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research
The University of Texas at Austin
Expires: 01/14/2028

2022 **CITI Certificate**
Human Research; Social/Behavioral Researchers
The University of Texas at Austin
Expires: 10/30/2028

PUBLICATIONS & JOURNALS

Scientific journal articles: First, Senior, and Corresponding Authorships
**Authors Share Equal Contribution*

1 Garza, C., Resendiz, E., **Le, S.**, Corral, C., Mai, H., Steed, C., Messineo, A., Hunt, E., & Salvo, D. (2026). Playgrounds for Health Equity: A Mixed Methods Study in Urban Central Texas. Journal of Healthy Eating and Active Living, 6(1), 1–23. https://doi.org/10.51250/jheal.v6i1.112

2 Huang, Y.-C., Zapien, V., Chen, Y., **Le, S**., Cumberbatch, A., & Valdez, C. (2025). Urban Spillover, Health Disparities, and Community Strengths in Small Towns in Central Texas. *Healthcare*, *13*(5), 501. https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13050501

BOOK CHAPTERS

Scientific journal articles: First, Senior, and Corresponding Authorships
**Authors Share Equal Contribution*

1 Messineo, A.*, **Le, S.***, Garza, C., & Salvo, D. (2026) Co-Benefits of Physical Activity for Societal and Planetary Health. Routledge Handbook of Physical Activity and Health. (Forthcoming) *[Accepted for publication, pending proof]*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1 Williamson County and Cities Health District (2025). 2025 Williamson County Community Health Assessment. Accessed at www.healthywilliamsoncounty.org/CHA [Report]

2 **Le, S**., Merritt, E., and Mikan, V. Associations with the Number of Well-Known Grocery Stores, Gyms, and Parks to Median Household Income. International Journal of Exercise Science: Conference Proceedings: Vol. 2: Issue. 14, Article 123. 2022. https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijesab/vol2/iss14/123 *[Journal Abstract]*

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Scientific Abstracts: First, Senior, or Corresponding Authorships

OCT 2026	**Le, S.**, Garza, C., Morrison, B., Hunt, E., Jowers, E., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Do parental perceptions of public playgrounds influence children's levels of active and social play?" The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Oral Presentation]*
OCT 2026	**Le, S.**, Swinney, K., Garza, C., Zhang, Y., Ganzar, L.A., Karner, A., Bentley, S., Hoelscher, D.M., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Harnessing youth, parent, and community insights for prioritizing active travel improvements: A public-participatory GIS study." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. *[Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation]*
OCT 2026	Mireles-Amezcua, X., **Le, S**., Lopez-Soto, A., Orozco-Lapray, D., Brown, S., Brownson, R., Garza, C., Hernández, C., Kepper, M., Montero-Zamora, P. Jáuregui, A., Salvo, D. (2026) "Implementation of evidence-based, place-activation physical activity interventions in Mexico according to government, NGOs and residents." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation*]
OCT 2026	Miao, F., **Le, S.**, Garza, C., Morrison, B., Reininger, K., Pellerin, B., Hunt, E., Jowers, E., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Playground Design Features and Children's Active Play: An Exploratory Study Across Neighborhood Income Levels." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation*]
OCT 2026	Reininger, K., Garza, C., **Le, S.**, Morrison, B., Miao, F., Hunt, E., Jowers, E., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Who knows best? Essential Playground Features to Maximize Active Play according to Stakeholders versus Parents." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation*]
OCT 2026	Garza, C., Montero-Zamora, P., **Le, S.**, Hernández, C., Kepper, M., Brownson, R., Martínez, A. M., Martínez, M., González, O., Orozco-Lapray, D., Brown, S., Jáuregui, A., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Identifying Contextually-Relevant Place-Activation Strategies for Promoting Active Leisure in Mexico: An AI-Assisted Qualitative Study." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Oral Presentation*]
OCT 2026	Montero-Zamora, P., López-Soto, A., Hernández, C., Garza, C., **Le, S.**, Kepper, M., Brownson, R., Martínez, A. M., Martínez, M., González, O., Orozco-Lapray, D., Brown, S., Jáuregui, A., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Optimizing Physical Activity in Public Open Spaces: Assessing the Adaptability of Place-Activation Strategies for Mexico." The International Society of Physical Activity and

	Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation*]
OCT 2026	López-Soto, A., Montero-Zamora, P., Hernández, C., Garza, C., **Le, S.**, Kepper, M., Brownson, R., Martínez, A. M., Martínez, M., González, O., Orozco-Lapray, D., Brown, S., Jáuregui, A., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Barriers and Facilitators for Implementing Evidence-Based Place-Activation Strategies for Physical Activity in Mexico." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, Merida, MX. October 5-8, 2026. [*Forthcoming: Accepted as Poster Presentation*]
APR 2026	Hunt, E., Garza, C., Morrison, B., **Le, S.**, Jowers, E., & Salvo, D. (2026) "A mixed-methods study assessing playground playability and the role of surfacing." US Play Coalition 2026 National Conference on the Value of Play, Bloomington, Indiana, USA. April 28-30, 2026. [Oral Presentation]
MAR 2026	**Le, S.**, Garza, C., Morrison, B., Beaty, C., Estrada, M., Pellerin, B., Schweninger, A., Tran, J., Jowers, E., & Salvo, D. (2026). "Assessing Social and Macro-Environmental Features to Playground Surfaces in Low-Income and High-Income Neighborhoods in Central Texas." American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB) 2026 Scientific Meeting, Austin, Texas, USA. March 29-April 1, 2026. [Poster Presentation]
MAR 2026	Salvo, D., Swinney, K., **Le, S**., Garza, C., Hoelscher, D.M. (2026) "Public Participatory GIS for Active Living Research and Action: Integrating Spatial and Qualitative Methods to Amplify Local Community Priorities." 2026 Active Living + Outdoor Health Summit Conference, Minneapolis/Twin Cities Region, MN, USA. March 8-13, 2026. [Workshop Presenter]
MAR 2026	**Le, S**., Swinney, K., Garza, C., Karner, A., Ganzar, L.A., Bentley, S., Badillo, D.J., Hoelscher, D.M., Salvo, D. (2026). "Student, Parent, and Community Resident Geospatial Insights on Walkability and Bikeability Near Middle Schools: a Public Participatory GIS Study in Central Texas." 2026 Active Living + Outdoor Health Summit Conference, Minneapolis/Twin Cities Region, MN, USA. March 8-13, 2026. [Oral Presentation]
MAR 2026	Swinney, K., **Le, S**., Garza, C., Karner, A., Ganzar, L.A., Bentley, S., Badillo, D.J., Hoelscher, D.M., Salvo, D. (2026). "Using Public Participatory GIS to gain insights into community perceptions of walkability and bikeability near middle schools: qualitative findings from the Active Middle School Communities project." 2026 Active Living + Outdoor Health Summit Conference, Minneapolis/Twin Cities Region, MN, USA. March 8-13, 2026. [Oral Presentation]
MAR 2026	**Le, S**., Garza, C., Morrison, B., Beaty, C., Estrada, M., Pellerin, B., Schweninger, A., Tran, J., Jowers, E., Salvo, D. (2026). "Assessing Social and Macro-Environmental Features to Playground Surfaces in Low-Income and High-Income Neighborhoods in Central Texas." American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB) 2026 Scientific Meeting, Austin, Texas, USA. March 29-April 1, 2026. [Poster Presentation]
NOV 2025	**Le, S**., Garza, C., Springer, A., Zhang, Y., Bentley, S., Swinney, K., Hoelscher, D., Salvo, D. (2025). "Public Participatory GIS on Built Environment Features Influencing Physical Activity in Middle School Communities." UT GIS Day 2025, Austin, Texas, USA. November 19, 2025. [Poster Presentation]
NOV 2025	Huang, Y-C., Zapien, V., **Le, S**., Chen, Y. (2025). "The Impact of Urban Expansion, Health Inequities, and Community Resilience in Central Texas Small Towns." American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo, Washington, DC, USA. November 2, 2025 [Poster Presentation]

APR 2025	**Le, S**., Karner, A., Hoelscher, D.M., Salvo, D. (2025). "Associations of Leisure Physical Activity and Active Transportation to Walkability of School Communities in Central Texas." UT Interprofessional Health Showcase, Austin, TX, USA. April 18, 2025. [Poster Presentation]
MAR 2025	**Le, S**., Karner, A., Hoelscher, D., & Salvo, D. (2025). "Characterizing Active Living Neighborhood Supports in Middle School Communities." Active Living Conference. Manhattan, KS, USA. March 16-20, 2025 [Poster Presentation]
OCT 2024	**Le, S**., Resendiz, E., & Salvo, D. (2024). "More than an eyesore? Effects of vacant and demolished housing on physical activity and health." The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 10th Congress, Paris, FR. October 28-31, 2024. [Oral Presentation]
OCT 2024	Salvo, D., Garza, C., **Le, S**., Resendiz, E. Identifying priorities for improving playground access equity in Austin, Texas, USA: a mixed-methods, community-engaged study; in Symposium session: "The importance of playgrounds for children's active outdoor play." Biennial Congress of the International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH). Paris, France; October 28-31, 2024. [Symposium]
MAR 2024	Salvo, D., **Le, S**., Resendiz, E. & Jauregui, A. (2024). "Towards integrated urban design for active and sustainable travel: identifying built environment factors associated with optimal bicycle-sharing program usage in Mexico City." Active Living Conference, Chattanooga, TN, USA. March 25-28, 2024 [Oral Presentation]
APR 2024	**Le, S**., Resendiz, E., and Salvo, D. (2024). "Urban crime as a public health emergency in cities: the case of Mexico City's open public spaces." UT Interprofessional Health Showcase, Austin, TX, USA. April 19, 2024. [Poster Presentation]
APR 2022	**Le, S**., Merritt, E., and Mikan, V. (2022). "Associations with the Number of Well-Known Grocery Stores, Gyms, and Parks to Median Household Income," Southwestern University Creative Works Symposium, Georgetown, Texas, USA. April 12, 2022. [Poster Presentation]
FEB 2022	**Le, S**., Merritt, E., and Mikan, V. (2022). "Associations with the Number of Well-Known Grocery Stores, Gyms, and Parks to Median Household Income," Texas American College of Sports Medicine Annual Conference, Waco, Texas, USA. February 24, 2022. [Poster Presentation]

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025

Texas New Scholar Fellowship
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

Poster Award (2nd Place)
Active Living Conference
Manhattan, Kansas
Poster Title: *Characterizing Active Living Neighborhood Supports in Middle School Communities*

2024

Teresa Lozano Long Endowed Graduate Fellowship
Texas New Scholar Fellowship
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

2022 & 2022	**Dean's List** Southwestern University Georgetown, Texas
2019 - 2022	**Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll** Southwestern University; Women's Tennis Georgetown, Texas

SERVICE TO FIELD

Peer Reviewer for:

- Public Health (2025)

Conference abstract reviewer for:

- The International Society of Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) 11th Congress, 2026, Merida, MX.

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

Languages

- English – Native Language
- Vietnamese – Native Language
- Chinese – Formerly Advanced (7 years)
- Spanish – Novice (>1 years)

Technical Skills

- Statistic Softwares:
  R Studio, JASP, & SPSS
- Direct Observation Instruments:
  SOPARC, SOTRAVEL, SOPLAY, SOPEN
- Geographic Information Systems Softwares:
  ArcGIS Pro, ArcMap, & QGIS
- Anthropometry Measurement Tools:
  Height, Weight, Skinfolds, Physical Therapy exercises
- Qualitative Research Methods:
  Dedoose Software
  Focus Groups, In-depth Interviews, Photovoice

COMMUNITY SERVICE

JAN 2024 – MAY 2024	**Volunteer** Austin Parks Foundation, Austin, Texas, USA
JUNE 2021 – AUG 2023	**Volunteer Assistant Tennis Coach** Tennis assistant for Pflugerville High School Varsity Team Pflugerville High School, Pflugerville, Texas, USA