

Wayne Edward Kepner, PhD, MPH
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EDUCATION

- Stanford University, School of Medicine** 2024-2026
T-32 Post-doctoral Fellowship in Pain and Substance Use
Advisors: Dr. Keith Humphreys, Dr. Mark McGovern
- University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** 2024
San Diego State University (SDSU)
Joint Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Research on Substance Use
Advisors: Dr. Alison Moore, Dr. Benjamin Han
- San Diego State University (SDSU)** 2020
Master of Public Health (MPH)
Advisors: Dr. Guadalupe Ayala, Dr. James Lange, Dr. John Elder
- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)** 2017
Bachelor of Arts in World History

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- University of California, San Diego**
Principal Investigator: *Dr. Alison Moore* 3/2022 - Present
Graduate Research Assistant, School of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics
- Conducted qualitative interviews and thematic analysis for 20 older adult patients in a primary care setting related to cannabis use and health services utilization.
 - Managed a team of 5 graduate research assistants (MD and PhD students) and trained them to conduct qualitative analysis on Nvivo
- University of California, San Diego**
Principal Investigator: *Dr. Benjamin Han* 3/2022 - Present
Graduate Research Assistant, School of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics
- Conducted qualitative interviews and thematic analysis for 20 middle-aged and older adults for a study exploring methamphetamine use among people living with HIV
 - Helped write and secure funding for two grants:
 - NIH R21 study on loneliness in older adults who use opioids
 - Developmental grant for HIV and harm reduction services among older adults
 - Using data from California's Department of Healthcare Access and Information, we conducted a trend analysis of stimulant-related ED visits from acute care hospitals in California from 2016 to 2021.

University of California, San Diego

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Carla Marienfeld* 3/2021– 3/2022
Graduate Research Assistant, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

- Cleaned, merged and wrangled EHR data from multiple file types from over 350,000 patient records using a combination of SPSS, SAS and R
- Conducted quantitative analysis (i.e. multivariate regression) of health services utilization on electronic health records (EHR) from 350,000 patient records
- Conducted psychometric analyses (i.e. factor analysis) to develop new reliable and valid measurement instruments for assessing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among people with opioid use disorder

University of California, San Diego

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Alicia Nobles* 2020 – 2021
Graduate Research Assistant, School of Medicine

- Used qualitative coding methods to systematically examine three Reddit (social media) subforums (r/OpiatesRecovery, r/Methadone, r/Suboxone) to investigate self-disclosure of real or perceived stigma related to medications for opiate use disorder
- Conducted a time-series analysis of mental health search terms (i.e. Google Trends) using an ARIMA model in Python

SDSU- Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age 2018 - 2020

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Ming-Tsiang Tsou*
Graduate Research Assistant I

- Conducted automated natural language processing (i.e. sentiment analysis) on COVID-19 related Tweets using R (TweetR).
- Worked with senior public health officials to qualitatively analyze county-level Tweets at near real-time to develop and detail emerging trends from the public about COVID-19 to inform policy.
- Conducted geospatial analysis for the comparison of breast cancer and digestive cancer rates using longitudinal data (1995-Present) from the California Teacher Study

SDSU- Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age 2019 - 2020

PI(s): *Dr. Ming-Tsiang Tsou, Dr. Eyal Oren, Dr. Lourdes Martinez*
Research Assistant

- Used the Python package 'Beautiful Soup' to web scrape data from Yelp to examine density of vape shops around schools
- Used ArcGIS Pro to examine census tract correlates of vape shop locations including social-economic status, proximity to school, and cluster density

SDSU- Well-Being and Health Promotion Center 2018 - 2019

Advisor: *Dr. James E. Lange*
Graduate Intern

- Recruited community stakeholders (e.g bars and restaurants) for a designated driver program on behalf of a state funded harm reduction organization: Recording Artists Against Drunk Driving (RADD)

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W.**, Cleland, C. M., & Palamar, J. J. (2024). Trends and characteristics in ketamine use among US adults with and without depression, 2015–2022. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

Kepner, W., Courchesne-Krak, N. S., Satybaldiyeva, N., Narasimhan, R., & Marienfeld, C. B. (2024). Emergency care utilization in persons with substance related diagnoses. *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, 20, 100573.

Abu Baker, D., Cruz Rivera, P. N., Narasimhan, R., Nguyen, N., Tibiriçá, L., **Kepner, W.**, O'Malley, P., Nguyen, A. L., & Moore, A. A. (2024). Older adults' use of cannabis and attitudes around disclosing medical cannabis use to their healthcare providers in California-A mixed methods study. *Drugs - Real World Outcomes*.

Cioffi, C. C., Flinn, R. E., Pasman, E., Gannon, K., **Kepner, W.**, McCabe, S. E., ... & Lofaro, R. J. (2024). Beyond the 5-year recovery mark: Perspectives of researchers with lived and living experience on public engagement and discourse. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 133, 104599.

Leas, E., Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.**, Yang, K. H., Harati, R. M., Corroon, J., & Rouffet, M. (2024). Need for a public health response to the unregulated sales of Amanita muscaria mushrooms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Courchesne-Krak, N. S., Marienfeld, C. B., & **Kepner, W.** (2023). Focus: Big Data: What Brings You in Today? Sex, Race, Substance Type, and Other Sociodemographic and Health-Related Characteristics Predict if Substance Use is the Main Reason for a Clinical Encounter. *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, 96(3), 277.

Yang KH, Tam R, Satybaldiveya N, **Kepner W**, Han BH, Moore AA, Palamar JJ. Trends in past-month cannabis use among US adults across a range of disabilities and health conditions, 2015–2019. *Preventive Medicine*. 2023;177:107768. doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107768.

Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W.**, Nijum, A., Han, B. H., & Palamar, J. J. (2023). Prevalence and Correlates of Past Year Ecstasy/MDMA Use in the United States. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*

Asheh, A. M., Courchesne-Krak, N., **Kepner, W.**, & Marienfeld, C. (2023). Adverse Childhood Experiences Are Associated with History of Overdose Among Patients Presenting for Outpatient Addiction Care. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 10-1097.

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Nguyen, D., Han, S. S., Lopez, F. A., & Palamar, J. J. (2022). Past-month binge drinking and cannabis use among middle-aged and older adults in the United States, 2015-2019. *Alcohol*.

Kepner, W., Meacham, M. C., & Nobles, A. L. (2022). Types and Sources of Stigma on Opioid Use Treatment and Recovery Communities on Reddit. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 57(10), 1511-1522.

Courchesne-Krak, N., **Kepner, W.**, Rubano, A., & Marienfeld, C. (2022). Differences in outpatient, emergency, and inpatient use among pregnant women with a substance-related diagnosis. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*, 100559.

Fernandez, G., Maione, C., Zaballa, K., Bonnici, N., Spitzberg, B. H., Carter, J., Yang, H., McKew, J., Bonora, F., Ghodke, S. S., Jin, C., De Ocampo, R., **Kepner, W.**, & Tsou, M. H. (2021). The Geography of Covid-19 Spread in Italy Using Social Media and Geospatial Data Analytics. *The International Journal of Intelligence, Security, and Public Affairs*, 1–31.

BOOK CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

Fernandez, G., Maione, C., Zaballa, K., Bonnici, N., Spitzberg, B. H., Carter, J., **Kepner, W.**, ... & Tsou, M. H. (2021). Sentiment analysis of social media response and spatial distribution patterns on the COVID-19 outbreak: The case study of Italy. In *Empowering Human Dynamics Research with Social Media and Geospatial Data Analytics* (pp. 167-184). Springer, Cham.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.**, Nobles, A., Hendrickson, E., DiMartino, L., & Leas, E. C. (2022). 21 Hemp-Derived Cannabinoids and Counting: Identification of Novel Hemp-Derived Cannabis Products Through Product Reviews on an Online Forum. *Journal of International Drug Policy*

Yang, K. H., Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.**, Bergstrom, J., Moore, A. A., & Lee E. E. (2023). Dose-dependent association of loneliness with depression and suicidal ideation among older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Kepner, W. (2023) Oral Presentation. Trends in emergency department visits associated with stimulant use among adults in California, 2016-2021. *Association of Multidisciplinary Research on Substance Use (AMERSA) Annual meeting*. Washington, D.C.

Kepner, W. (2022) Keynote speaker. *Young People in Recovery Annual Conference*. San Diego, CA

Kepner, W., Wiss, D., Vest, N. (2022) *Expert panel on recovery science*. San Diego State University *Colloquium on Recovery Science Annual Conference*. San Diego, CA

Kepner, W., Satybaldiyeva, N. (2020) *Collegiate Recovery Impact Project Presentation*. Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE) Annual Meeting-Virtual Conference. San Diego, CA

Ashford, R., Horvath, T., Zuniga, M., Lange, J., Webb, N., **Kepner, W.** (2019) *Colloquium on Recovery Science*. San Diego State University. San Diego, CA

Kepner, W. (2019) *Panel on Alcohol and Other Drugs* San Diego State University Mental Health Awareness Week. San Diego, CA

Kepner, W. (2019) *Substance Abuse Prevention and Fraternity Risk Management*. Oral presentation to San Diego State University's FrattManners Organization. San Diego, CA

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Kepner, W., Nguyen, A., Moore, A. A., Bazzi, A., & Han, B. (2024). *Naloxone ownership and opioid overdose knowledge among older adults in opioid treatment programs*. College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Conference. (Montreal, Canada)

Kepner, W., Nguyen, A., Moore, A. A., Bazzi, A., & Han, B. (2024). *Naloxone ownership and opioid overdose knowledge among older adults in opioid treatment programs*. California Academic Geriatrics Institutions Inaugural Conference. (Irvine, CA)

Abu Baker, D., Nguyen, A., Narasimhan, R., Nguyen, N., Cruz Rivera, P. N., **Kepner, W.**, Doland, H., & Moore, A. A. (2024). "Because it is legal now I don't have a problem talking about it": Exploring attitudes around disclosing medical cannabis use among older adults in California. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo, San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W., Courchesne, N., Han, B., & Marienfeld, C. (2023). *Sociodemographic correlates of a substance-related diagnosis and associations with the number of emergency department visits using electronic health record data from 2012-2019*. College of Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. (Denver, CO)

Nguyen, N., Cruz Rivera, P., **Kepner, W.**, Doland, H., Narasimham, R., Durai, S., Nguyen, A., & Moore, A. (Year). *Older Adults' Cannabis Discussions with Healthcare Providers (HCP): Preliminary Qualitative Findings*. American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2023 Annual Conference. (Long Beach, CA)

Cruz Rivera, P., Nguyen, N., Doland, H., **Kepner, W.**, Narasimhan, R., Durai, S., Nguyen, A., & Moore, A. (Year). *Motivations and Behaviors of Medical Cannabis Use in Older Adults: Preliminary Qualitative Findings*. American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2023 Annual Conference. (Long Beach, CA)

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Nguyen, D., Han, S. S., Lopez, F. A., & Palamar, J. J. (2022). *Past-month binge drinking and cannabis use among middle-aged and older adults in the United States, 2015-2019*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2022 Annual Conference. (Boston, MA)

Asheh, A., Courchesne-Krak, N., Marienfeld, C., **Kepner, W.** (2022) *Adverse childhood experiences are associated with a history of overdose among patients in outpatient addiction care*. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 2022 Annual Conference. (Hollywood, FL)

Courchesne, N., Marienfeld, C., **Kepner, W.** (2021) *A substance-related diagnosis impacts healthcare service utilization among pregnant women*. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 2021 Annual Conference (Virtual)

Kepner, W., & Nobles, A. (2021). *Characterizing experiences of stigma shared in online opioid treatment and recovery communities on Reddit*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo (Virtual / Denver, CO)

Kepner, W., Satybaldiyeva, N., Oren, E., Tsou, M. (2020) *Vape shop locations and proximity to schools in San Diego County*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2020 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)

De Ocampo, R., **Kepner, W.** (2020) *Geospatial Analysis of Breast Cancer Rates in California Food Deserts*. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting-Illustrated Poster Competition (Denver, CO)

De Ocampo, R. **Kepner, W.** (2020) *Geospatial Analysis of Breast Cancer Rates in California Food Deserts*. Student Research Symposium at San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)

Kepner, W. Satybaldiyeva, N., Lange, J.E. (2020) *Correlates of Electronic Cigarette Use Among College Students In A Hispanic Serving Institution: Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Smoking, Marijuana Use and Alcohol Consumption*. Annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (New Orleans, LA)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

"Telemedicine for Veterinary Visits in the Time of COVID-19," *NBCLA*, 19 June 2020.

"UC San Diego Scientists Warn About Emerging 'Magic Mushroom' Market," *KPBS*, 12 February 2024. (Co-Author Appearance)

MEDIA ARTICLES

As Expert Interviewee:

Loeppky, J. (2024, August 6). An unregulated ingredient in these mushroom chocolates may have made people sick. Verywell Health. <https://www.verywellhealth.com/mushroom-chocolates-recall-7972555>

Cited Research:

Wapner, J. (2024, July 3). 'Magic mushrooms' are legal in many states, but that doesn't mean they're safe. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/07/03/mushrooms-psychedelic-edible-harmful/>

Thompson, D. (2024, June 12). There's another 'magic mushroom' being sold in gummies, but it can kill. U.S. News & World Report. <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-06-12/theres-another-magic-mushroom-being-sold-in-gummies-but-it-can-kill>

LaMotte, S. (2023, November 6). Marijuana use raises risk of heart attack, heart failure and stroke, studies say. CNN. <https://kvia.com/health/cnn-health/2023/11/06/marijuana-use-raises-risk-of-heart-attack-heart-failure-and-stroke-studies-say​>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advocates for Human Potential

2019 - 2020

Field Interviewer

Supervisor: Dr. David Centerbar

Project: Massachusetts State Opioid Response Evaluation Project

- Contacting individuals with a history of opiate use disorder (OUD), gaining respondent consent, and administering SAMHSA directed GRPA interviews for a state-wide opioid response program (CAPI/CATI)

SAFE Project Leadership Academy and Fellowship

2019 - 2020

Advisors: *Mary Fleming, MS*

- Working with assigned mentors from SAMHSA to create and implement an impact project related to substance use and collegiate recovery at San Diego State University

City of Hope- California Teacher Study

2018 - 2019

PI(s): *Dr. James Lacey Jr., Dr. Ming-Tsiang Tsou*

Health Analytics Research Assistant

- Working within a remote desktop environment with data from a large longitudinal cohort (n=130,000) to examine geospatial risk factors for cancer
- Creating novel applications of geographic information system (GIS) software for application to a large repository of stored health data (Data Warehouse)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

San Diego State University School of Social Work

Spring 2023

Instructor of Record: Social Work 610- Computer Applications in Social Work Practice

Grant Funding (Peer-Reviewed)

Project	Role	Amount	Period	Agency/Mechanism
Delivering HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction Interventions for Middle-aged and Older Adults within Opioid Treatment Programs in San Diego County	Co-PI	\$100,000	6/23 – 6/24	San Diego Center for AIDS Research

Grant Funding (Non Peer-Reviewed)

Aztec Parents Fund

2021

\$10,000: Aztecs for Recovery Collegiate Recovery Program– Funding for a collegiate recovery program and accompanying recovery support services such as mutual help meetings (e.g., SMART, 12 Step), pro-social events, and digital recovery support services. Funds were also allocated for an annual academic conference on Recovery Science titled “Colloquium on Recovery Science.”

Aztec Parents Fund

2020

\$13,780: Aztecs for Recovery – Aztecs for Recovery Collegiate Recovery Program– Funding for a collegiate recovery program and accompanying recovery support services such as mutual help meetings (e.g., SMART, 12 Step), pro-social events, and digital recovery support services. Funds were also allocated for an annual academic conference on Recovery Science titled “Colloquium on Recovery Science.”

Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force

2019

\$1,000: Aztecs For Recovery - Colloquium on Recovery Science.

San Diego State University

Instructionally Related Activities

2019

\$2,000: Aztecs For Recovery - Colloquium on Recovery Science

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	T-32 Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pain and Substance Use Disorders, Stanford University School of Medicine
2024	CPDD Travel Award for Early Career Investigators
2023	AMERSA Growing a Diverse Workforce Award
2021	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Health Policy Research Scholar Semi-Finalist
2020	SAMHSA - Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) Building and Sustaining a Thriving Collegiate Recovery Program

2020	Frontiers in Addiction Research and Pregnancy (FrARP) Advanced Training Program
2020	SDSU Graduate Student Travel Award
2020	Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) Mentoring Pilot Program
2019	Una Davis Scholarship
2019	Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic (SAFE) Project Leadership Academy and Fellowship
2019	Walter Koppelman Memorial Scholarship for Social Justice
2019	UCSD SCAIFE Summer Clinical Institute in Addiction Studies

SERVICE

A New PATH Recovery Community Organization

- Youth opioid overdose task force
- Partnered with UCSD, SDSU and A New Path RCO to spread awareness of the uses of naloxone to students and youth in San Diego

Triton Campus Recovery Group

- Founding member of a collegiate recovery program at UC San Diego

Aztecs For Recovery

2019 – Present

Advisors: *Dr. James Lange, Dr. Jennifer Rikard, Dr. Maria Zuniga*
Co-President and Co-Founder

- Founding member of a collegiate recovery program at SDSU which is focused on fighting the stigma of behavioral, drug and alcohol addiction and creating a safe, sober environment in which SDSU students can flourish.
- Coordinating, planning, and directing an annual Colloquium on Recovery Science with a registration list of approximately 60 attendees and a budget of \$5,000.

MENTORSHIP

Garland Gerber, PhD student

Giovanni Appolon, PhD Student

Sardor Abdumanapov, UCSD undergraduate student

Alise Colins, SDSU MPH student

Leticia Camacho, UCLA undergraduate student.

Dan Agheze, MD. Addiction medicine trained fellow.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATES

12.2019	Protecting Human Research Participants (PHRP) Online Training
10.2019	National Conflict Resolution Center – The Art of Inclusive Communication
01.2019	Getting Started with GIS. ESRI Academy
10.2018	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Human Research – Social & Behavioral Researchers & Staff

MEMBERSHIPS

2023 Association of Multidisciplinary Research on Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA)
2019 Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)
2019 International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)

SKILLS

- Dissemination and Implementation
- Coding Languages: SAS, R, Python
- Spatial Analysis: ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, QGIS, SatScan
- Statistical Analysis: Qualtrics, REDCap, SPSS, SAS
- Qualitative Analysis: Nvivo
- Data Visualization: Tableau
- Complete PC configuration including motherboard, CPU, GPU, RAM, SSD/HD, PCIE,
- Stage acting
- Conversational Korean