

# Abigail Cochran, Ph.D.

acochran@unl.edu, 520-237-1883  
abigailcochran.com

Updated June 2022

## Education

---

- 2020            **University of California, Berkeley**  
Ph.D., City and Regional Planning  
Dissertation, *The travel behavior of people with disabilities in the era of ridebailing*  
Advised by Drs. Daniel Chatman (Chair), Karen Chapple, and Karen Trapenberg Frick
- 2016            **University of California, Berkeley**  
M.C.P. with specialization in Transportation Policy and Planning  
Client Report, *Is ignorance bliss? Impact of real-time information on commuter perceptions of transit network usability*  
Advised by Drs. Paul Waddell (Chair) and Karen Trapenberg Frick
- 2014            **University of Arizona**  
B.S. with honors, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, *summa cum laude*  
Honors Thesis, *The urban ecology of Gila Topminnow: A case study of population health in built environments*  
Advised by Drs. Peter Reinthal (Chair) and Philip Rosen

## Employment

---

- 2022–Present    **University of Nebraska–Lincoln**  
Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Planning
- 2020–2022      **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of City and Regional Planning  
Supervised by Dr. Noreen McDonald

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

---

- Oluyede, Lindsay, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Mary Wolfe, Lauren Prunkl, and Noreen McDonald. 2022. “Addressing Transportation Barriers to Health Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives of Care Coordinators.” *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 159 (May): 157–68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2022.03.010>.
- Oluyede, Lindsay, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Lauren Prunkl, Jueyu Wang, Mary Wolfe, and Noreen C. McDonald. 2022. “Unpacking Transportation Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Health Care: Interviews with Care Coordinators.” *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives* 13 (March): 100565. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trip.2022.100565>.

- Wang, Jueyu, Noreen McDonald, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Lindsay Oluyede, Mary Wolfe, and Lauren Prunkl. 2021. "Health Care Visits during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Mobile Device Data." *Health & Place* 72 (November): 102679. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102679>.
- Cochran, Abigail L., Jueyu Wang, Lauren Prunkl, Lindsay Oluyede, Mary Wolfe, and Noreen McDonald. 2021. "Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine in Centralized and Dispersed Distribution Scenarios." *Findings* (May): 23555. <https://doi.org/10.32866/001c.23555>.
- Cochran, Abigail L., and Daniel G. Chatman. 2021. "Use of App-Based Ridehailing Services and Conventional Taxicabs by Adults with Disabilities." *Travel Behaviour and Society* 24 (July): 124–31. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tbs.2021.02.004>.
- Cochran, Abigail L. 2020. "Impacts of COVID-19 on Access to Transportation for People with Disabilities." *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives* 8 (November): 100263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trip.2020.100263>.
- Cochran, Abigail L. 2020. "Understanding the Role of Transportation-Related Social Interaction in Travel Behavior and Health: A Qualitative Study of Adults with Disabilities." *Journal of Transport & Health* 19 (December): 100948. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2020.100948>.
- Cochran, Abigail L. 2020. "Challenging the Urban/Rural Divide: Implications for Contemporary Planning Theory and Practice." *Berkeley Planning Journal* 31 (1). <https://doi.org/10.5070/BP331042884>.
- Santana Palacios, Manuel, **Abigail Cochran**, Corwin Bell, Ulises Hernández Jiménez, Eleanor Leshner, Francisco Trejo Morales, and Daniel G. Chatman. 2020. "Bus Rapid Transit Arrives in Barranquilla, Colombia: Understanding a Changing Landscape through Residents' Travel Experiences." *Travel Behaviour and Society* 21 (October): 131–39. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tbs.2020.06.003>.

## Patents

---

- Caywood, Matthew, **Abigail Cochran**, Ryan Croft, and Diego Canales Salas. Apparatus and Method for Quantifying Multimodal Transportation Resources at a Geographic Location. U.S. Patent 10,380,891, issued August 13, 2019.  
*Developed transportation access algorithm for calculating an address' MobilityScore™*

## Research Grants

---

- North Carolina Department of Transportation, "Impacts of Medicaid Transformation on North Carolina Public Transit Systems: Lessons Learned and Best Practices" (Co-PI with Dr. Noreen McDonald), \$162,607, 2022–2023.

## Under Review

---

Cochran, Abigail L., Jueyu Wang, Mary Wolfe, Evan Iacobucci, Emma Vinella-Brusher, and Noreen McDonald. 2022. "Spatial and Temporal Trends in Travel for COVID-19 Vaccinations." SocArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/bq74k>.

Cochran, Abigail L., Noreen McDonald, Lauren Prunkl, Emma Vinella-Brusher, Jueyu Wang, Lindsay Oluyede, and Mary Wolfe. 2021. "Transportation Barriers to Care among Frequent Health Care Users during the COVID Pandemic." SocArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/qf7kt>.

Cochran, Abigail L. "How and Why do People with Disabilities Use App-Based Ridehailing?"

## Popular Press

---

Mary Wolfe, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Lindsay Martin Oluyede, and Noreen McDonald. "For Effective Vaccine Rollout, Transportation Cannot Be an Afterthought." 2021. *Community Transportation Association of America*. June. <https://ctaa.org/>.

Cochran, Abigail. "Pandemic Underscores Difficulties Accessing Transportation for People with Disabilities." 2020. *Streetsblog California*. April 21. <https://cal.streetsblog.org/>

## Conference Papers, Presentations, Organized Sessions & Invited Talks

---

Abigail L. Cochran and Noreen McDonald. 2021. "Transportation barriers to health care access during the COVID-19 pandemic among North Carolina residents" Paper accepted for presentation at the 2021 NCDOT Research & Innovation Summit, October 2021 (virtual) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdBgrbYxXkA&ab\\_channel=UNCHighwaySafetyResearchCenter](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdBgrbYxXkA&ab_channel=UNCHighwaySafetyResearchCenter) (start 43:10); and the ACSP Annual Conference, Miami, FL, October 2021 (virtual).

"Transportation's Critical Role in the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout" Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development and Education (STRIDE) Center Webinar, June 2021 (virtual). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlZydFuCMro&ab\\_channel=UFTransportation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlZydFuCMro&ab_channel=UFTransportation)

"Transportation to Health Care and COVID-19: Exploring Pandemic-Era Travel Trends and Post-Pandemic Challenges and Opportunities" STRIDE Center Webinar, June 2021 (virtual). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knsLN\\_OLZDA&ab\\_channel=UFTransportation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knsLN_OLZDA&ab_channel=UFTransportation)

"Disability and Transportation." Cornell University Department of City and Regional Planning, CRP 3860/6860 Transportation Equity and Justice Guest Lecture, March 2021 (virtual).

Zhang, Xiaojian, Yu Yang, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Noreen McDonald, and Xilei Zhao. 2021. "Optimizing Demand-Responsive Paratransit Operations: A Mixed Integer Programming Approach." In *2021 55th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS)*, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1109/CISS50987.2021.9400283>.

- Abigail L. Cochran. 2020. "I'm stuck": Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response on Access to Transportation and Other Essentials Among People with Disabilities." Paper accepted for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2021 (virtual).
- "Transportation Equity, Disability, and Health Disparities." Invited talk at the UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, October 2020 (virtual).
- "How can we plan post-pandemic cities to be more accessible to people with disabilities?" Abstract accepted for presentation at the Pandemic Urbanism Symposium, University of Washington, May 2020 (virtual). View (start 27:45): <https://vimeo.com/430087468>
- Abigail L. Cochran. 2020. "How and why do people with disabilities use app-based ridehailing?" Paper accepted for presentation at the ACSP Annual Conference, Toronto, ON, November 2020 (virtual); and the TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2022 (virtual).
- "Urban Data Science Beyond the Hype: Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities of Incorporating Data Science into Urban Planning Pedagogy and Practice." with Manuel Santana Palacios. Roundtable abstract accepted for the ACSP Annual Conference, Toronto, ON, November 2020 (virtual).
- Abigail L. Cochran and Daniel G. Chatman. 2019. "Demand for On-Demand: Use of Conventional Taxis and App-Based Ridehailing Services by Adults with Disabilities." Paper accepted for presentation at the ACSP Annual Conference, Greenville, SC, October 2019; and the TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2020.
- "Transportation Justice in Theory and in Practice: How Have They Evolved During the Past Decades?" with Manuel Santana Palacios and Tamara Kerzhner. Roundtable abstract accepted for the ACSP Annual Conference, Greenville, SC, October 2019.
- "Transportation Equity and Justice." CP 114 Introduction to Urban and Regional Transportation Guest Lecture, Berkeley, CA, June 2019.
- "Does Privatization Mean Isolation? Transportation Mode Use and Out-of-Home Activity Participation Trends Among People With Disabilities." Abstract accepted for presentation at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2019.
- "People with Disabilities' Use of On-Demand Transportation Services: Evidence from the 2017 National Household Travel Survey." Invited presentation at the JSPS Symposium on Disability, Technology, Architecture and Design in Berkeley, CA, December 2018.
- "App-Based Ride Hailing Among Immigrants and Persons with Disabilities." Presented by co-author Daniel Chatman (additional co-author, Nicholas Klein) at National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Data for Transportation Applications Workshop, Washington, DC, August 2018.
- "Disability-Responsive Planning." CP 114 Introduction to Urban and Regional Transportation Guest Lecture, Berkeley, CA, June 2017, February and September 2018.

“Disability-Responsive Urban Design in the United States.” Universal Design Festival, Moscow, Russia, October 2017.

*With Eurasia Foundation US-Russia Social Expertise Exchange (SEE) Disability Initiative Program*

“Disability-Responsive Versus Disability-Proactive Planning.” SOC WEL 98/198 Breaking the Digital Age Barrier Guest Lecture, Berkeley, CA, November 2017.

Santana Palacios, Manuel, **Abigail L. Cochran**, Corwin Bell, Ulises Hernández Jiménez, Eleanor Leshner, Francisco Trejo Morales, and Daniel G. Chatman. 2017. “Bus Rapid Transit Comes to Barranquilla: Perspectives from Metropolitan Area Residents.” Paper accepted for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2017.

“Moving Oakland Forward: Building and Innovative Department of Transportation.” With Lee Reis. Abstract accepted for presentation at 2016 Berkeley Circus, Berkeley, CA, March 2016.

“Impacts of Transmetro BRT in Barranquilla, Colombia: A qualitative approach to understanding the lived experience of Barranquilla residents post-BRT.” With Corwin Bell, Dana Rubin, Evelyne St-Louis, and Manuel Santana Palacios. CY PLAN 201B Planning Methods Gateway: Part II Guest Lecture, Berkeley, CA, March 2016.

“Impacts of Transmetro BRT in Barranquilla, Colombia: A qualitative perspective.” With Ulises Hernández Jiménez. Abstract accepted for presentation at UCCONNECT Student Conference, Riverside, CA, February 2016.

*Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Best Podium Presentation*

“Moving Oakland Forward: Enhancing Mobility and Building and Innovative Department of Transportation.” With Karl Anderson, Derek Cheah, and Dana Rubin. Presentation to City of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff and Staff, Oakland, CA, December 2015.

“Barranquilla Transportation Studio: Qualitative assessment of changes to life in the city after BRT.” With Kelan Stoy. Invited presentation at BRT and Private Transit: Integration in Domestic and International Contexts Symposium, Berkeley, CA, October 2015.

“On Proximity to Transit-Oriented Development and Automobile Use: A Case Study of the Fruitvale Neighborhood in Oakland, CA.” Abstract accepted for presentation at UCCONNECT Student Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, February 2015.

## **Research**

---

### **University of California, Berkeley**

Summer 2016 Graduate Student Researcher, data scientist for *Planning for Jobs* project, Center for Community Innovation, supervised by Dr. Karen Chapple

2015-2016 Graduate Student Researcher, *Impacts of Transmetro BRT in Barranquilla, Colombia: A qualitative perspective*, supervised by Dr. Daniel Chatman

## **Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History**

Summer 2011 Research Assistant, *Fine-Scale population dynamics of suburban white-tailed deer*, supervised by Dr. Mark Siddall

## **University of Arizona**

Summer 2010 Research Assistant, Plant Pathology and Microbiology Laboratory, supervised by Dr. Elizabeth Arnold

Summer 2009 Research Assistant, Conservation Biology Laboratory, supervised by Dr. Melanie Culver

## **Teaching & Curriculum Development**

---

### **University of California, Berkeley**

Spring 2020 CY PLAN 101 Introduction to Urban Data Analytics (lecture/lab), created instructional videos with Dave Amos on introductory statistics and working with Census data, <http://www.cp101.org/stats-reference.html>

Fall 2019 CY PLAN 218/CY PLAN 250 Transportation and Land Use (studio), advised students on disability research project, invited by Dr. Karen Trapenberg Frick

Spring 2019 CY PLAN 101 Introduction to Urban Data Analytics (lecture/lab), Co-Instructor with Dr. Karen Chapple  
*86 enrolled students, Overall teaching effectiveness rating: 6.07/7.00*

Fall/Spring 2017–2019 CY PLAN 280C Doctoral Colloquium in City & Regional Planning (lecture/speaker series), Co-Organizer and Co-Instructor  
*~10 enrolled students, 10-25 People in attendance per session*

Fall 2018 CY PLAN 88 Introduction to Urban Data Science Methods (lecture), developed syllabus with Drs. Karen Chapple and Paul Waddell

Summer 2018 CY PLAN 114 Introduction to Urban and Regional Transportation (lecture), Instructor  
*24 enrolled students, Overall teaching effectiveness rating: 5.88/7.00*

Spring 2017 CY PLAN 101 Introduction to Urban Data Analytics (lecture/lab), developed syllabus with Dr. Karen Chapple

Fall/Spring 2015–2017 ESPM 175 A/B Senior Thesis Research in Environmental Sciences (lecture/lab), Graduate Student Instructor  
*45 enrolled students (AY 2015–2016), 61 enrolled students (AY 2016–2017)  
Overall teaching effectiveness rating: 6.22/7.00 (AY 15–16); 6.65/7.00 (AY 16–17)*

## University of Arizona

Spring 2014 SBE 201 Sustainable Design & Planning, Assistant Instructor

Summer 2013 PLG 301 Introduction to Regional Planning (online), Assistant Instructor

### Mentoring & Students

---

2018–2021 Senior Thesis Advisor: Rachel Schten, 2021, *The Disproportionate Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Social Well-Being of People with Disabilities in the Bay Area and the Structural Inequities in Disaster Response Planning in the Region*; Jacquelyn Broader, 2019, *Expanding Horizons: Increasing Air Travel Accessibility for People with Disabilities*; Allison Yang, 2019, *Improving Senior Mobility and Bay Area Rapid Transit*

2019–2020 UC Berkeley Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP), students: Caitlin Aladham, Jordan Collins, Hannah Habibi, Rachel Schten, Wako Morimoto

### Membership & Service

---

2020–Present *Findings, Journal of Transport Geography, Journal of Public Transportation, Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Transportation Research Part A, Transportation Research Part D, Transportation Research Record, World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research*, Reviewer

2020–2021 WTS San Francisco Bay Chapter, Member

2016–Present Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Member

2019–2020 UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning Ph.D. Committee, Student Representative

2019–Present California SB 1376 TNC Access for All Act Working Group Member

2017–2021 Metropolitan Transportation Commission Policy Advisory Council Member, Representing the Disabled Community of Alameda County

2017–2018 *Berkeley Planning Journal*, Editor and Reviewer

2016 UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design Graduate Student Council, City & Regional Planning Ph.D. Representative

2015–Present LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Fitness Partner, Instructor and Counselor at Enchanted Hills Camp  
*LightHouse Volunteer of the Year 2019*

## **Other Professional**

---

- 2017 Consultant, G3ict: The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs
- 2015–2016 Researcher, TransitScreen
- 2014–2015 Intern, San Francisco Clean Cities Coalition

## **Awards & Fellowships**

---

- 2020 Michael B. Teitz Fellow
- 2020 Eno Center for Transportation Future Leaders Development Conference Fellow
- 2020 WTS Maggie Walsh Leadership Legacy Scholarship, San Francisco Bay Chapter Award
- 2019 2019 Data Science Summer School Student, University of Göttingen
- 2016–2019 USDOT FHWA Dwight David Eisenhower Graduate Fellow
- 2017 UC Berkeley Data Science for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (DS421) NSF Fellow
- 2016–2020 Eugene Cota-Robles Fellow
- 2014 University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation (UCCONNECT) Fellow
- 2014 Lucretia Hamilton Scholar
- 2013 Phi Beta Kappa