

# THOA V. KHUU

327 Ketchum, Boulder CO 80309

email: [thoa.khuu@colorado.edu](mailto:thoa.khuu@colorado.edu) | website: [www.thoakhuu.com](http://www.thoakhuu.com) | last updated: Jan 2026

## ACADEMIC POSITION

Assistant Professor of Sociology University of Colorado, Boulder	2026-present
NIH K99 Postdoctoral Fellow The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute	2024-2025
Postdoctoral Fellow The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute	2022-2024

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Irvine	2022
M.A. in Demographic and Social Analysis, University of California, Irvine	2019
B.A. in Psychology, Vanderbilt University	2013

## PRIMARY AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Immigration/immigrant integration, social demography, education, and health

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer-reviewed journal articles*

- Khuu, Thoa V., Jennifer Van Hook, and Kendal Lowrey. 2025. "[Living With\(out\) Citizenship: Investigating the Impact of Naturalization on Mortality Risk Among U.S. Immigrants.](#)" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 6(4): 430-451.
- Khuu, Thoa V. 2024. "[Mapping Immigrant Health Trajectories: Investigating the Implications of Institutional Selection and Support on Health Advantages and Declines Across Legal-Entry Pathways.](#)" *Population Research and Policy Review*. 43(4):4.
- Khuu, Thoa V., David Schaefer, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, and Allison Ryan. 2023. "[The Limitations of Intergroup Friendship: Using Social Network Analysis to Test the Pathways Linking Contact and Intergroup Attitudes in a Multi-Group Context.](#)" *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. 9:23780231231161048.

Khuu, Thoa V., Frank D. Bean. 2022. "[Refugee Status, Settlement Assistance, and the Educational Integration of Migrants' Children in the United States.](#)" *International Migration Review*. 56(3): 780-809.

Schaefer, David, Thoa V. **Khuu**, J. Ashwin Rambaran, Adriana Umaña -Taylor, and Deborah Rivas-Drake. 2022. "[How do youth choose activities? Assessing the relative importance of the micro-selection mechanisms behind adolescent extracurricular activity participation.](#)" *Social Networks*. 77: 139-150.

### *Policy briefs*

Khuu, Thoa V., Jennifer Van Hook, and Kendal Lowrey. 2025. [Policy Brief](#). *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 66(4): 429.

Bean, Frank D., and Thoa V. **Khuu**. 2020. "[The Context and Consequences of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.](#)" *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*.

### *In Progress*

Khuu, Thoa V., Jennifer Van Hook, Peng Huang, and James Bachmeier. "Dispersed Settlement, Diverging Paths: The Uneven Geography of Second-Generation Educational Attainment." R&R.

Khuu, Thoa V. , David R. Schaefer, and Adriana Umaña-Taylor. "Similarity, Not Assimilation: How Does Immigrant Generational Status Shape U.S. Youth School Friendships?" In progress.

## GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

### *External*

NIH-NICHD R00 Award (PI; \$747,000) - <i>applied</i>	2026-2029
<i>Adolescent Friendship Networks: Effects on Immigrant Youth's Psychosocial Health</i>	

NIH-NICHD K99 Award (PI; \$259,610)	2024-2025
<i>Adolescent Friendship Networks: Effects on Immigrant Youth's Psychosocial Health</i>	

UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, San Diego, CA (\$25,000)	2021-2022
---	-----------

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)	2018-2022
--	-----------

International Network for Social Network Analysis Travel Grant (\$800)	2018
--	------

### *Internal*

Nevin Graduate Endowment Fellowship, UC Irvine (\$30,000)	2016
---	------

Provost Fellowship, UC Irvine (\$20,000)	2016
--	------

## INVITED TALKS

Khuu, Thoa. 2025. "Sociology of the Future." Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Khuu, Thoa V., David R. Schaefer, and Adriana Umaña-Taylor. 2025. "Immigrant Integration and Friendships: Youth Network Differences in Two U.S. High Schools" International Network for Social Network Analysis Annual Meetings, Paris.

Khuu, Thoa V., Jennifer Van Hook, Kendal Lowrey. 2024. "Aging With(out) Citizenship; A Longitudinal, Life Course Examination of the Effects of Naturalization on Immigrant Mortality" Population Association of America, Columbus.

Khuu, Thoa V. 2023. "Health and Health Change by Legal-Entry Status: Examining Effects of Institutional Contexts of Immigration and Integration" American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia.

Khuu, Thoa V. 2023. "Health-Selective Migration and Resource Disparities: A comparative Study on the Long-Term Health of Refugees, Nonrefugee migrants, and the U.S.-born." Population Association of America, New Orleans.

Echols, Leslie., Thoa V. **Khuu**, David R. Schaefer, Sandra Graham. 2023. "Holding Fast or Coming Undone: What Makes Same- and Cross-Race Friendships Stick in Middle School." Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meetings, Salt Lake City.

Khuu, Thoa V., David Schaefer, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Deborah Rivas-Drake, and Alison Ryan. 2022. "The Limitations of Intergroup Friendship: Testing Pathways Linking Contact and Intergroup Attitudes using Social Network Analysis." American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Los Angeles.

Khuu, Thoa V., David Schaefer, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Deborah Rivas-Drake, and Alison Ryan. 2021. "Reconceptualizing Immigrant Structural Integration in a School Network Context." American Sociological Association Annual Meetings (virtual).

Schaefer, David, Thoa V. **Khuu**, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Deborah Rivas-Drake, Alison Ryan, Johannes Rambaran. 2021. "The Co-Evolution of Friendship and Activity Contexts." Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meetings (virtual).

Khuu, Thoa V., David Schaefer, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Deborah Rivas-Drake, and Alison Ryan. 2020. "Intergroup Exposure vs. Attitudinal Influence." Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meetings, San Diego (virtual).

- Khuu, Thoa V. and Frank D. Bean. 2019. "U.S-Refugee Integration Dynamics and Offspring Education." American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, New York.
- Khuu, Thoa V. and Frank D. Bean. 2019. "International Migrants, Governmental Contexts of Reception, and Second-Generation Educational Integration" Population Association of America, Austin.
- Khuu, Thoa V., David Schaefer, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Deborah Rivas-Drake, and Alison Ryan. 2019. "Inter-versus Intra-Group Friendship Effects on Students' Intergroup Contact Attitudes." International Network for Social Network Analysis Annual Meetings, Montreal.

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

- Co-advisor (undergraduate research thesis)* 2021-2022  
 Advisee: Elizabeth Montoya  
 Thesis Topic: Healthcare access among immigrants from Central America  
 Department of Sociology, University of California at Irvine
- Instructor* 2020  
 Probability and Statistics Summer Workshop (graduate level)  
 Department of Sociology, University of California at Irvine
- Teaching Assistant - Lab Instructor* 2017-2018  
 Probability and Statistics (undergraduate)  
 Computer-based Research in the Social Sciences (undergraduate)  
 School of Social Sciences, University of California at Irvine
- Instructor of English* 2013-2016  
 Japan Exchange and Teaching Program  
 Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Discipline*
- Ad-Hoc Reviews: *Social Problems*, *Network Science*,  
*Population Research and Policy Review*,  
*Population Development Review*, *The Sociological Quarterly* 2022-present
- Professionalization and Mentoring Committee 2021-2022  
 International Migration Section, American Sociological Association
- University*
- Panelist on NIH K Grant Information Session 2025  
 Social Science Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University
- Steering Committee for an Outreach Program 2022-present  
*Moment of Change: Immigration, Identity and Citizenship*

College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University

Co-chair of the Professional Grant Writing Committee  
Penn State Postdoctoral Society 2024-present

Dean's Fellowship Advisory Committee, University of California at Irvine 2018-2022

*Department*

Co-organizer of the Migration and Diversity Initiative Working Group  
Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University 2022-2024

Webinar Series Coordinator  
Center for Demographic/Social Analysis, University of California, Irvine 2020-2021

Graduate Peer-Mentorship Program, University of California at Irvine 2017-2021

Student Representative  
Diverse Educational Community & Doctoral Experience Program,  
University of California at Irvine 2016-2018

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Social Networks and Health Training Workshop  
Duke University, Durham North Carolina 2025

Personal Networks: Theory, Method and Application Workshop  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona 2025

Workshop on Formal Demography, University of California Berkeley 2024

Summer Institute on Migration Research Methods, University of California Berkeley 2024

NIH-NICHD Grant Writing Workshop, Pennsylvania State University 2023

Max Planck Institute's Migration Data and Models Workshop  
ASA Annual Meeting in New York City 2019

Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute on Migration Research Methods  
Pennsylvania State University 2019

Center for Networks and Relational Analysis, University of California at Irvine 2018-2022

Social Science Method Workshop, University of California at Irvine 2017-2019

Advanced Topics in R Programming Workshop  
Data Science Initiative, University of California at Irvine 2017-2018

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Population Association of America

International Network for Social Network Analysis