

Sara Tabatabaie

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My research and teaching areas include healthy community design, planning and policy determinants of healthy communities, planning for urban green spaces, community engagement in design, and the application of GIS in planning and design.

EDUCATION

PhD in Environmental Studies Program- Program in Environmental Design 2012- 2018
University of Colorado Boulder, USA

Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and GIS
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

MA in Urban Planning and Design
School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

MS in Transportation Planning
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

BS in Civil Engineering
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR_ Program in Environmental Design_ University of Colorado Boulder (Fall 2022-now)

LECTURER_ Program in Environmental Design_ University of Colorado Boulder. (Spring 2016 – Spring 2022)

LAND 3003 (Site Planning)	Fall 2022, Fall 2023
ENVD 1022 (Technology 3) teaching and coordination	Fall 2022, Fall 2023
ENVD 1130 (Landscape Architecture Studio 2)	Fall 2022, Fall 2023
ENVD 3300 (Westwood praxis studio and seminar)	Spring 2016
ENVD 3100 (Junior level Urban Planning studio focused on East Colfax, Denver)	Fall 2018
GIS (Geographic Information System) (as part of ENVD 3300, ENVD 3100 and PLAN 2100)	
ENVD 2130 (Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture Studio)	Spring 2019
PLAN 2100 (Foundations of Planning and Urban Design)	Spring 2021
ENVD 1140 (Planning and Urban Design Studio 2)	Fall 2021
ENVD 1130 (Landscape Architecture Studio 2)	Fall 2020
ENVD 1120 (Architecture Studio 2)	Fall 2021
ENVD 1150 (First Year Writing)	Spring 2022
ENVD 1040 (Introduction to Planning and Urban Design Studio)	2020, 2021, 2023
ENVD 1030 (Introduction to Landscape Architecture Studio)	2020, 2021, 2023
ENVD 1020 (Introduction to Architecture Studio)	Fall 2019, Fall 2020
ENVD 1012 (Technology 2) teaching and coordination	Spring 2020, 2022
ENVD 1002 (Technology 1)	Fall 2019

GRADUATE PART TIME INSTRUCTOR, Program in Writing and Rhetoric_ University of Colorado Boulder (2016-2018)

WRTG 1150 (First Year Writing and Rhetoric) Fall 2016 – Spring 2018

Lens on Climate Change, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES),
(worked as a science mentor) Summer 2017

TEACHING ASSISTANT, Program in Environmental Design, Environmental Studies Program (2012-2016)

ENVD 1004 (Introduction to Environmental Design I) 2012 - 2016

ENVD 1104 (Introduction to Environmental Design II)

ENVD 3003 (Site Planning)

ENVD 3124 (Introduction to Planning History and Issues)

ENVS 3525 (Health and The Built Environment)

TEACHING ASSISTANT, Colorado School of Public Health

EHOH 6618 (Environmental Health Policy and Practice) Spring 2015

PROFESSIONAL and RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, CEDaR (The Community Engagement Design and Research Center),
University of Colorado Boulder Jan 2018 – Now

Part time Health Data Analyst, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment Jan 2021 – June 2021

Research Assistant, Colorado School of Public Health May 2014- May 2016

Principal Investigator, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver, CO. April-June 2015

Core Team Member, Cool Connected Westwood, Denver, CO. Jan 2016 – Jan 2019

Research Assistant, Program in Environmental Design Jan 2011- Jan 2012

Community Engagement Intern, Re:Vision, Denver, CO. Summer 2013

Environmental Planning Intern, Institute for Environmental Solutions, (IES), Denver, CO. Jan – Sep 2012

Urban Planning Intern, Community Resource Center (CRC), Denver, CO. Sep- Dec 2011

Urban Designer, Bogdan Newman Caranci Inc. (BNC) Architects, Toronto, Canada 2007 - 2010

Urban Planning Intern, Institut international de gestion des grandes métropoles, Montreal 2006 - 2007

Transportation Planner, Sharif Institute for Transportation Studies and Research (SITSR), Sharif
University of Technology, Tehran, Iran 2002 - 2005

Civil Engineering Intern, Bandab Consulting Engineers, Tehran, Iran Summer 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Tabatabaie, S., Litt, J. S., & Muller, B. H. (2023). Sidewalks, trees and shade matter: A visual landscape assessment approach to understanding people's preferences for walking. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 84, 127931.

Tabatabaie, S., Litt, J.S. & Crane, L.A. The experience of outdoor physical activity for skin cancer survivors: understanding the importance of the built and natural environments. *J Cancer Surviv* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11764-020-00889-5>

Tabatabaie, S., Litt, J. S., & Carrico, A. (2019). A Study of Perceived Nature, Shade and Trees and Self-Reported Physical Activity in Denver. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16(19), 3604.

McAndrews, C., **Tabatabaie, S.**, & Litt, J. S. (2018). Motivations and strategies for bicycle planning in rural, suburban, and low-

density communities: The need for new best practices. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 84(2), 99-111.

Tabatabaie, S., Litt, J., MacAndrews, C., The Role of Bicycle Master Plans in Advancing Bicycle-Friendly Places in Urban Centers, Manuscript under review.

Nassiri, H., **Tabatabaie, S.**, & Sahebi, S. (2017). Delay-based Passenger Car Equivalent at Signalized Intersections in Iran. *PROMET-Traffic&Transportation*, 29(2), 135-142.

SERVICES

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (Chair and Member)

Work on DEI committee included developing the DEI Action plan to expand the diversity infrastructure for ENVD. This action plan includes activities and initiatives that will improve equity, diversity and inclusion practices in ENVD and contribute to the retention of people with minority identities. 2022-Present

Hiring Committee (Chair)

This committee aimed to recruit new faculty for ENVD. Work on this committee included revising and posting the job posting, acting as a liaison between the committee members, the director, and faculty, interviewing and selecting the final candidates, and organizing in-person interviews with the finalists. Summer 2023-Present

Honors Council (Member)

The Council members are responsible for managing or amending policies, administering the honors program, admitting students, and ensuring the continued success of the honors program within ENVD. Summer 2023-Present

Curriculum Committee (Advisor)

Work on this committee included reviewing revisions to curriculum for ENVD and preparing Program Learning Objectives and other required materials for CU's Program Assessment. 2022-Present

Classroom Best Practices Task Force (Member)

Work on this task force included overhauling the current attendance policy and providing pedagogical support for staff and faculty. 2022- Present

Materials Library Task Force (Member)

Is responsible for the expansion of the materials-specific archives at ENVD and to coordinate relevant workshops and events. Fall 2023- Present

Faculty mentor

Assist with onboarding and facilitated the newcomer's transition into both ENVD and the city of Boulder. I have been available to address questions regarding teaching, CU, ENVD culture, Boulder attractions, and more. 2023 – Present

HONORS THESIS ADVISING

Thesis chair of Annie Geoghegan

Investigating on the process of green gentrification in Denver, aiming to identify associations between greenness projects and gentrification indicators across various neighborhoods in Denver. Additionally, the study examines other factors that have accelerated this process in different neighborhoods. 2023-Present

Thesis chair of Ainsley McElwee

Examining the historic designation process/criteria in Boulder and comparing this process with similar processes in the US and other countries, to parse out the strengths and weaknesses of each process and propose a new paradigm for historic designation in Boulder. 2022-2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Tabatabaie, S.**, Szuberla M., Muller B. (2019) From Forestry Management Actions to a Planning Framework to Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer: A Case Study of Boulder, Colorado *59th ACSP National Conference*, Greenville, SC.
- Tabatabaie, S.** (2017) Trees, Aesthetics and People's Choices of Physical Activity: A Case Study of Denver's Residential Streets, *57th ACSP National Conference*, Denver, CO.
- Tabatabaie, S.**, Litt, J. (2015) Shade, Health and the Built Environment: How behavioral factors can inform new shade policies, *55th ACSP National Conference*, Houston, TX.
- Tabatabaie, S.** (2015) Application of Shade Audit Methods to Neighborhoods in Denver, Colorado: implications for chronic disease prevention and community planning, *Colorado Public Health Association Conference*, Vail, CO.
- Tabatabaie, S.**, MacAndrews, C., Litt, J. (2014) Are we getting to bicycle friendly communities? The role of the plan in advancing built environment change: lessons from cities in Colorado, *54th ACSP National Conference*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Tabatabaie, S.**, Nassiri, H. (2004) Delay-Based Estimation of Passenger Car Equivalent at Signalized Intersections, Proceedings of 1st National Congress On Civil Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, May 11-13, 2004.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Research Grant for CEDaR (\$4000) Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)	2022
Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1000) Center to Advance Research and Teaching in Social Sciences (CARTSS)	2016
Research Grant (\$5000) Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)	2015
Tuition and Teaching Assistant Scholarship for studying PhD in Environmental Studies University of Colorado at Boulder	2012-2018
Graduate Research Assistantship Colorado School of Public Health	2014-2016

SELECTED PROJECTS

Community Engagement, Design and Research Center (CEDaR) The history and evolution of participatory practices within community engagement initiatives at ENVD. (UROP Advisor)	2022 - Present
An Analysis of the Distribution and Socio-demographic Characteristics of Manufactured Housing Communities in Colorado	2021
A Planning Framework to Mitigate the Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer in Boulder	2020-2021
The Emerald Ash Borer Survey to Understand People's Baseline Knowledge About Trees and EAB in Boulder	2018 - 2019
Impacts of Capital Improvement Projects on Gentrification in Westwood, Denver	2021
The Clearinghouse Website for Manufactured Community Residents in Colorado	2019 - 2020
Impacts of Walking Infrastructure Interventions and Related Policies on Walking Behavior in Westwood	2019
PhD Dissertation and Other Research Projects The Application of Visual Landscape Assessment to Evaluate People's Perception of the Residential Street Environment for Physical Activity	2016-2018
Physical Activity Behaviors among Skin Cancer Survivors in Denver, Colorado	2017-2018

A Study of Perceived Nature, Shade and Trees and Self-Reported Physical Activity in Denver	2016-2017
The Role of Bicycle Master Plans in Advancing Built Environment Changes, Colorado	2015
Application of Shade Audit Methods to Neighborhoods in Denver, CO.	2015
City of Boulder/ University of Colorado Sustainability Indicators Project	2012
A Health Survey to Understand the Impacts of Re:Vision's Food Stainability Program on the Health and Socioeconomic Life of Southwest Denver Participants (Re:Vision)	2013
Tree Project: Integrating Urban Environmental Improvement through Tree Selection and Management, IES, Denver, CO.	2012
Statistical models for Rural Philanthropy Days, CRC, Denver, CO.	2011

Master's Thesis

The Attitudes of Children towards Walkability in Their Neighborhood, Montreal, CA	2007
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Urban Planning and Design projects, BNC Architects, Toronto, CA

St. Catharines Downtown Creative Cluster Master Plan (Creating a framework for revitalization and main street development of downtown St Catharines, ON)	2007 - 2009
Western Hill Revitalization Strategy (Identification of Smart Growth principles and redevelopment options for Western Hill, ON)	2008 - 2009
Vales of Humber Estates Concept Plan	2009 - 2010
Courtice Main Street Study (part of Clarington Official Plan)	2009 - 2010
Review of several Urban Design Guidelines and Official master Plans	2007 - 2010
Transportation Master Plans of Mashad and Shiraz, SITSR, Tehran, Iran	2002 - 2005

EVENT ORGANIZER AND COORDINATOR

Coordinator of the 3 rd Annual Community Building, Colorado Style Conference: Squeezed Out, Challenges of Diversity and Affordability in Colorado Communities (CEDaR)	2020
Manufactured Homeowners Symposium, CEDaR	2019 and 2020
Sustainability Indicator Symposium, Program in ENVD, University of Colorado Boulder	Summer 2013
Graduate Colloquium Committee member, Environmental Studies Program, University of Colorado at Boulder	2015 – 2016
Editorial Board Member, Civil Magazine, the internal publication of Civil engineering Department, Sharif University	1999 - 2001

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)	2014 - now
Canadian Institute of Planners	2007- 2011
US Green Building Council, LEED Green Associate	2011 - 2015

COMPUTER SKILLS

ArcGIS	ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Desktop (Surface Analyses, Spatial Analyses, Spatial Statistics, Network Analyses), ArcCatalog, ArcGIS Online
Graphic Design/ 3D Modeling	Auto CAD, Rhino, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Sketchup
Data Analysis/ Visualization	SAS, SPSS, Stata, Excel, Tableau

Qualitative Analysis
Survey Design
Course Management

NVivo
Qualtrics
D2L, Canvas, Blackboard