

Curriculum Vitae

Olivia Teresa Caruso, MPH

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EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present **PhD, Western University**
Department of Geography and Environment
Dissertation: The Neighbourhood Food Retail Environment as a Determinant of Food Purchasing Behaviours among Adolescents
Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland
- 2019 – 2021 **MPH, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto**
Social and Behavioural Health Sciences (Health Promotion)
- 2015 – 2019 **BA (Hons), University of Toronto**
Majors in Health Studies and Human Geography
Focus in Urban Geography
Graduated with High Distinction (CGPA: 3.91/4.00)
Undergraduate Thesis: The Changing Food Retail Landscape of the Bronx, New York: An Analysis of Commercial (In)Stability, 2008 to 2017
Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Wakefield

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, Health Environments Analysis Laboratory, Western University
Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland
Responsible for conducting data collection, data analysis, and knowledge translation activities for projects related to food environments and dietary behaviours among adolescents and young adults; manage lab website; supervise work-study, practicum, and volunteer students.
- 2020 **Graduate Student Researcher**, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Supervisor: Robert Cribb
Responsible for preparing a literature review focused on the proximal and distal mechanisms underpinning the youth mental health crisis and the innovative strategies being adopted to address it.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Caruso, O., McEachern, L., Minaker, L., & Gilliland, J. (2024). The Influence of the School Neighbourhood Food Retail Environment on Unhealthy Food Purchasing Behaviours among Adolescents: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behaviour*.

Caruso, O., Schaafsma, H., McEachern, L., & Gilliland, J. (2023). The Campus Food Environment and Postsecondary Student Diet: A Systematic Review. *Journal of American College Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2023.2227725>

Caruso, O., Chrobok, M., & Cohen, N. (2022). Gentrification and Food Retail Instability: A Census Tract Analysis of the Bronx, New York, 2008 and 2017. *The Professional Geographer*, 74(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2021.2000440>

Cohen, N., Chrobok, M., & **Caruso, O.** (2020). Google-Truthing to Assess Hot Spots of Food Retail Change: A Repeat Cross-Sectional Street View of Food Environments in the Bronx, New York. *Health & Place*, 62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2020.102291>

Other Publications

Overvelde, A. & **Caruso, O.** (2023). Deep Dish #13: FRESHER and Employee Wellbeing. Food Retail Environment Study for Health & Economic Resiliency. <https://fresher.theheal.ca/blog/>

Caruso, O. (2019). *Food for (policy) thought: Mapping the recent evolution of New York's grocery shopping landscape* [Unpublished bachelor's thesis]. University of Toronto.

Caruso, O. (2019). Environmental Remediation for Whom? Environmental Gentrification and Ecological Public Health. *denCITY*, 3: 27-34.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers

Caruso, O., McEachern, L., Minaker, L., & Gilliland, J. (2024). *The Influence of the School Neighbourhood Food Retail Environment on Unhealthy Food Purchasing Behaviours among Adolescents: A Systematic Review* [Conference Presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Virtual.

Caruso, O. & Schaafsma, H. (2023). *The Campus Food Environment and Postsecondary Student Diet* [Conference Presentation]. Western Research Forum, Western University, London, ON, Canada

Posters

Apedaile, D., Winkleman, S., Dali, N., & **Caruso, O.** (2021). *COVID-19 Workplace Health and Safety Interventions in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes* [Poster Presentation]. Canadian Public Health Association Conference, Virtual.

Caruso, O. (2019). *The Changing Food Retail Landscape of the Bronx, New York: An Analysis of Commercial (In)Stability, 2008 to 2017* [Poster Presentation]. University College Poster Fair and Health Studies Program Symposium, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2023 – 2026	Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (\$105,000)
2023	Ontario Graduate Scholarship , Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities and Western University (\$15,000) [declined]
2022	Ontario Graduate Scholarship , Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities and Western University (\$15,000)
2021	Ontario Graduate Scholarship , Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities and Western University (\$15,000)
2020	Dr. Carolyn Bennett Scholarship in Health Studies , University of Toronto (\$1,047)
2019	Grace Agnes Fletcher Scholarship in Geography , University of Toronto (\$700)
2019	Gail Ferris Sheard Scholarship , University of Toronto (\$860)
2018	John Horner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography , University of Toronto (\$638)
2017	Grace Agnes Fletcher Scholarship in Geography , University of Toronto (\$672)
2017	Outstanding Performance Award: Environmental Geography , University of Toronto
2015	Ted Mossman Award and Scholarship , University of Toronto (\$2,000)
2015	University of Toronto Admission Scholarship , University of Toronto

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Courses Taught**

2024	Head Teaching Assistant , Healthy Cities, Western University
2023	Teaching Assistant , Environment & Development Challenges, Western University
2023	Teaching Assistant , Healthy Cities, Western University
2022	Teaching Assistant , Environment, Economy, and Society, Western University
2022	Teaching Assistant , Healthy Cities, Western University
2021	Teaching Assistant , Ontario & the Great Lakes, Western University

Guest Lectures

2024	Western University (“Food Environment, Food Access, and Health in Cities”)
2023	Western University (“Food Environments and Dietary Behaviours among Adolescents and Young Adults”)
2023	Mount Saint Vincent University (“Food Environments and Dietary Behaviours among Adolescents”)

Public and Invited Talks

- 2022 *What Happens after Graduation?*, Health Studies Program, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)
- 2017 *Nursing Cuts in Ontario*, Ontario Nurses Association (Toronto, ON)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Ad Hoc Reviewer

The Professional Geographer [1]

SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Western University

- 2023 – Present Member of the Geo Grad Society Media and Design Committee
- 2021 – Present Social Media and Website Manager for the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory
- 2023 Member of the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonizing Committee
- 2021 – 2023 Co-facilitator of the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory Youth Advisory Council

University of Toronto

- 2024 – Present Mentor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Public Health Alumni Association Mentorship Program
- 2022 – Present Vice President: External Communications for the Public Health Alumni Association
- 2020 – 2021 Member of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health Student Led Conference Evaluation Committee
- 2019 – 2021 Member of the Public Health Students' Association Advocacy Committee
- 2020 Member of a Community Action Group
- 2019 – 2020 Member of the Public Health Students' Association Social Committee
- 2016 – 2019 Peer Reviewer for the Health Perspectives Student Journal
- 2018 – 2019 Social Vice-President for the Health Studies Students' Union
- 2017 – 2018 Third-Year Representative for the Health Studies Students' Union

Academic and Professional

- 2023 – Present Member of the Ontario Public Health Association Built Environment Working Group

- 2021 Member of the Canadian Association of Geographers – Ontario Division Annual Meeting Program Committee
- 2020 – 2021 Director of Community Engagement for the Infectious Disease Working Group

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023 – Present Ontario Public Health Association
- 2023 – Present Canadian Public Health Association
- 2023 – Present American Association of Geographers
- 2023 – Present Canadian Association of Geographers
- 2022 – Present Dalla Lana School of Public Health Alumni Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2024 Developing your Teaching Dossier, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University
- 2023 Teaching Mentor Program, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University
- 2023 Introduction to Universal Design for Learning and Equity Education Framework, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University
- 2023 TA eLearning Series, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University
- 2022 Introduction to Videography, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University
- 2021 - 2022 Implementation Science Trainee Cluster, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
- 2021 Teaching Assistant Training Program, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University

MEDIA & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Interviews

The Globe and Mail: [“Several Canadian universities cancelling in-person final exams amid rise in COVID-10 cases”](#)

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Geographic Information Systems: ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Web AppBuilder, ArcGIS Story Maps

Graphic Design Tools: CANVA

Analytic Software: R, SPSS, NVIVO

Additional Software: REDCap, Adobe Premier Rush