

## **Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences**

### **2 Funded Research Projects, beginning autumn 2020**

**Faculty Advisers:** [Noah Seixas](#) and [Esi Nkyekyer](#)

Peer Navigator for Home Care Aides. Drs. Seixas and Nkyekyer are working with the SEIU Local 775 Benefits Group, who represent WA State Home Care Aides (HCA), to assist workers who have either been injured on the job, or have musculoskeletal pain while at work. We are training a small group of experienced HCAs on occupational injury, workers compensation, reducing MS strain and pain reduction techniques. These workers will then act as "Peer Navigators" to assist their co-workers with finding information or services, filing for workers' compensation, or other resources to better recover and maintain their ability to work. An RA could assist the project with training, evaluation processes and analysis, or other tasks within the project. Students should have interest in underserved worker populations and work injuries, and worker-oriented solutions to occupational health problems.

**Faculty Advisers:** [Noah Seixas](#) and [Jen Otten](#)

Early Childhood Education Providers Health and Safety at Work. Drs. Seixas and Otten are conducting a two-year evaluation of ECE Provider working conditions and health status. The project combines a state-wide survey, with follow-up observations in selected ECE Centers. The project seeks to link working conditions, including occupational hazards and employment arrangements (pay, benefits, schedules, etc.), with worker physical and mental health, and consider the implications for the quality of childcare and education. Graduate students may assist with survey analysis, worksite observations, or both. Students with interests in social determinants of health, occupational risk, vulnerable worker populations, or hazard observation techniques, along with data analysis skills, should be interested in this project.