

PHFA Kathy A Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship

2023 Fellows

Jongwoong Kim



Biography: Dr. Jongwoong ("Jong") Kim (he/him/his) is an Assistant Professor and Assessment Coordinator in the Department of Geography and Planning and a faculty affiliate of the Center for GIS and Spatial Analysis at West Chester University (WCU). Dr. Kim's research and teaching interests include Housing and Community Development, Geospatial Analysis and Visualization, and Health/Aging and the Built Environment.

Project Summary: This project intends to connect and analyze often separately discussed yet critical/timely issues --- property tax and aging in place --- for the well-being of the growing older Pennsylvanians. Using GIS (Geographic Information System) and spatial analysis techniques, the project will examine the geography of locally varied property tax components (e.g., CLR, local tax rate, and school tax rate) in Pennsylvania and their implications for older Pennsylvanians considering aging in place, especially those with limited financial means. The project will develop a set of publicly accessible online (web-based and interactive) maps that highlight, and aid in the analysis of, locally varied residential property tax components at different administrative levels and geographic scales (e.g., county and municipal). This project will also create a series of rankings and indices of county/municipality, which will be formulated based on the variables (i.e., the property tax components) used to create these maps, to provide a more comprehensible assessment and analysis of the geographic-financial feasibility of aging in place in Pennsylvania from the perspective of the property tax burden. These maps and rankings/indices will help uncover multiple implications of, for example, possible relocation decisions (as opposed to aging in place) and future housing, community development, and tax policy/research directions.