Research Report

October 2022

Addressing the Grand Challenges of Social Work through Science and Social Inquiry
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Message from Dean Hatcher

Greetings,

Welcome to the University of Alabama’s School of Social Work Annual Research Report!

This report was created to provide the latest news in social work research and scholarship from our faculty, upcoming research events related to social work, and profile some of the accomplishments from our doctoral students who are preparing to launch social work careers. The report will also highlight the impact of our work with vulnerable communities, particularly as we focus on the Grand Challenges of Social Work.

It is my privilege to introduce the relaunch of the UA SSW Annual Research Report from our new Associate Dean of Research, Dr. Nicole Ruggiano, and the Office of Social Work Research. Enjoy!

Dean Schnavia Smith Hatcher
Message from the New Associate Dean of Research

For more than two years the COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges for social work research and scholarship. At the start of the pandemic, many researchers were not fully prepared to transfer their research projects to virtual formats as they had to learn how to navigate new strategies for collecting data. Many researchers experienced challenges to recruitment for their studies. Peer-reviewed scholarship lagged due to disruptions while working from home and fewer volunteers to conduct peer reviews for academic journals.

Reflecting on pandemic challenges, this year’s Annual Research Report highlights the creativity, determination, and resilience of our faculty and students as they continued to conduct their research and disseminate knowledge aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of communities locally, nationally, and globally.

In celebrating our accomplishments over the past year, I would like to take this opportunity to commend our talented faculty and students in their efforts to pursue research that makes a meaningful impact on the Grand Challenges for Social Work. Initiated by the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare in 2016, these Grand Challenges are:

*a call to action for social work researchers and practitioners to harness social work’s science and knowledge base, collaborate with professionals from related fields and disciplines, and work together to tackle our toughest social problems. ~ Grand Challenges for Social Work, 2022.*

More about the Grand Challenges can be found at grandchallengesforsocialwork.org.

As the incoming Associate Dean of Research, I look forward to new opportunities for supporting our faculty and students in leading the charge of the Grand Challenges of Social Work through their research endeavors. As we continue a path towards a post-pandemic world, I’m excited to see how our School of Social Work will create innovative approaches to building knowledge, advancing practice, and promoting policy change that improves individual and family wellbeing, strengthens our social fabric, and promotes a just society.

September 2022

Nicole Ruggiano, PhD, MSW
Professor and Associate Dean of Research
FACULTY RESEARCH
2021–2022

Achievements and Accolades

42 Submissions for Funding

$23 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

**TOP 5 FUNDING AGENCIES**
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Justice
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- Alabama Department of Youth Services

**DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE**
- Peer-reviewed Articles: 96
- Conference Presentations: 107

**GROWTH IN PRODUCTIVITY**
- Increase in peer-reviewed journal articles since 2019–2020: 100%

**NUMBER OF DOCTORAL DEGREES AWARDED**
- 21
- Mentoring the next generation of social work scholars.

2 Academic Journals
- The Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care
- Best Practices in Mental Health Journal
Despite ongoing prevention efforts, the prevalence of violence against women and children in Uganda remains disturbingly high. The U.S. State Department reports that each year up to 12,000 children are victims of trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation. The United Nations also reports that almost half of Ugandan women will experience interpersonal violence during their lifetime. Survivors of trafficking and violence often suffer negative mental health consequences, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Unfortunately, Dr. Catherine "Cady" Carlson reports that mental healthcare is extremely difficult to access in most areas of the country. Dr. Carlson is an Assistant Professor of social work who has focused her career on advancing violence prevention and evidence-based mental health care to women and children in Uganda. She says that some survivors in rural communities of Uganda must travel several days to receive the mental health treatment they need. Such challenging conditions inspired her more than a decade ago to partner with local community-based organizations focused on violence prevention and mental health.

Dr. Carlson reports that there is a severe shortage of mental healthcare providers across the country. Also, there are many significant social and cultural barriers to providing mental health care in Uganda, including stigma, low health literacy, and lack of communication regarding mental health issues. She explained, “In Uganda, there’s not necessarily language around mental health. There’s not even in many of the local languages the term ‘mental health.’” As a result, many people associate mental health only with severe mental illness, such as those receiving psychiatric care in hospital settings. She said, “There’s no concept of that everybody has mental health. Every single human being has mental health and it’s something that we can all work on.”

The National Institute on Mental Health awarded Dr. Carlson a $636,572 career development grant to pursue a 4-year project that integrated an evidence-based mental health program into schools to reduce depression among adolescents. Like many research studies over the past two years, this project was complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Schools in Uganda were closed from COVID for two entire years. The vast majority of students in the entire country just didn’t go to school,” she said. She explained that unlike students in the U.S., those in Uganda did not have an option for virtual learning and experienced one of the longest school closures in the world. She said that when the schools reopened, part of her project focused on teachers’ experiences with returning to the classroom with students who have not received any schooling for two years. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the project was able to make a positive impact. Her team found that at the end of the program, children who had participated in the study experienced lower rates of depression. More importantly, the teachers and students learned that offering mental health services within school settings makes sense, creating future opportunity for offering mental health services for youth. For her next project, Dr. Carlson plans to train teachers in Uganda how to implement mental health interventions for students.
In addition to her work in school-based mental health, another line of Dr. Carlson’s research has tested a yoga-based therapeutic program for survivors of human trafficking in Uganda, mostly adolescent girls as young as 14 years old. Early findings show that the research team observed significant improvements in depression, anxiety, and PTSD among the program participants. The success of the program has led to it being culturally adapted and implemented for trafficking survivors in the Philippines.

Overall, Dr. Carlson believes her research is making a positive impact on social work practice by focusing on the larger question of, “How can we effectively implement existing interventions that we know already work, but aren’t there in practice?” She explains that such efforts are particularly needed in non-Western nations, like Uganda and the Philippines, given that access to evidence-based treatment is often limited or nonexistent. Dr. Carlson’s work is a strong example of faculty efforts to address the Grand Challenges of Social Work, including ensuring healthy development for youth, and to build healthy relationships to end violence.

Raising Voices is a community-based organization dedicated to anti-violence activism for women and children across the globe. Dr. Carlson has partnered with Raising Voices for her work in Uganda. Photo Credit: https://raisingvoices.org/
UA Researchers **Harnessing Technology for Social Good**

Reliance on information technology (IT) over the past decade has increased dramatically, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic where telecommunications were critical for most daily interactions. It is not surprising, then that **harnessing technology for social good** is currently a **Grand Challenge for Social Work**. UA researchers have met the evolving challenges of an ever-changing tech world through their efforts to develop innovative technology applications (apps). Here are some examples of research projects at UA that are creating opportunities for advancing quality and access to health and human services.

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**The Connect Alabama App: Improving Access to Behavioral Health Services and Treatment**

Dr. David L. Albright has led efforts as part of the VitAL Initiative to develop and test the recently launched **Connect Alabama Behavioral Services & Treatment Finder** application. It is the State of Alabama’s official services and treatment finder application that provides instant access to education, information, and services related to substance use, mental health, and prevention. The app was funded and developed through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Department of Mental Health, and VitAL to bring Alabamian’s up-to-date and accurate information in one convenient resource, which simplifies finding and connecting with services and treatment. The state is committed to adding additional functionality and features to support mobile users, service providers, and other stakeholders.

Connect Alabama provides immediate and easy access to helplines for suicide, domestic violence and human trafficking, crisis, and more. It also finds and connects users to geographically proximate state-certified mental health, prevention, and substance use treatment providers. The app works in rural areas or situations where there is limited or no data. The app automatically updates when internet/Wi-Fi becomes available to ensure the latest information. Visit [vitalalabama.com](http://vitalalabama.com) or view the Connect Alabama video here by scanning this QR code to learn more.

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**The GROW App: Combating the Opioid Crisis**

According to the CDC, between 2006 and 2020 Alabama had one of the highest rates of opioid dispensing rates among states across the country. Also, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama report that the rate of patients diagnosed with an opioid use disorder (OUD) is about twice the rate nationwide. Dr. Hee Lee is working on
multiple projects involving tech development. One example is her team’s work on the GROW Alabama App, which will use geographic data to provide tailored resources and information about treatment and recovery to help people suffering from opioid addiction. The GROW app can be used to inform people with OUD as well as health care providers. One of the benefits of the GROW App is that it allows people with OUD to seek out information regarding opioid use in private to avoid feeling stigmatized. Dr. Lee’s team plans to start testing the GROW App in November 2022.

In addition to the GROW app, Dr. Lee has also been collaborating with researchers to develop the mobile Mental Health Education, Awareness, and Learning (mHEAL) program. This training program is for first responders, such as firefighters and emergency medical technicians to learn more about mental health and mental illness. The team recently tested the program with 152 first responders and found that the program improved participants’ knowledge about mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia. Participants were also more likely to report positive attitudes towards people with mental illness after the training.

 Technologies that Support Dementia Care and Caregiving

Dr. Nicole Ruggiano has received multiple grants to develop and test technologies that support people living with dementia (PLWD) and their caregivers. Most recently, she and her collaborators at Florida International University were awarded a $1.6M grant from the National Institute on Aging to develop and test a touchscreen technology that will allow PLWD who have communication problems express their daily care preferences and experiences, like mood and sleep quality. The My Person Assisted Touchscreen Interface (My PATI) will be tested in a clinical trial in partnership with two memory clinics starting fall 2023.

Dr. Ruggiano and a team of computer scientists at UA also received a grant from the National Science Foundation to develop artificial intelligence and crowdsourcing mapping software that may better connect dementia caregivers to information and services they need. More information can be found on their project website by scanning the QR code or visit https://caregiverconnect.ua.edu/.
Welcome Back from Sabbatical!

Last year three members of the School of Social Work Faculty were on sabbatical leave to concentrate on their research agendas. Sabbatical leave is designed to provide opportunities to tenured faculty for professional growth. Faculty requesting sabbatical must develop a comprehensive plan for scholarly or other professional activities that will advance their personal academic career goals while also contributing to the University’s academic mission.

Dr. Tania Alameda-Lawson is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work. For the past several decades her research has focused on a comprehensive parent and community engagement community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative for schools that is designed to improve outcomes at the individual, school, and community levels. Over her career, this intervention had been successfully replicated and implemented in Florida, California, and upstate New York. Dr. Alameda-Lawson had contemplated taking sabbatical leave for several years, but felt unsure of what specific “grand product” she may work on and was also unsure of the feasibility of keeping up with her CBPR while being away from the University for six months to focus on a grand project. She asked herself, “How can I leave now when the school principal finally seems to be buying into and demonstrating ownership of the initiative? How could anyone think of leaving for six months when it’s taken a year to bring a group of service providers to buy into the notion that individual assets possessed and offered by the informal support providers add value to the community...? If we’re not there, we’ll lose the ground we’ve gained.” Over the past few years, her thoughts about sabbatical changed due to several factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic and personal life events. She also felt that social work as a profession was not rising to the challenge as social movements were exposing lingering societal racism, oppression, and inequalities. She wanted to renew her passion for the career path she chose.

While on sabbatical, Dr. Alameda-Lawson has been working on a proposal for a book on community-engaged partnerships across families, schools, and organizations in marginalized communities for which she has been working with an editor for future publication. She’s written a manuscript highlighting recent critiques of the social work discipline and also explores a new social work paradigm, entitled, Is the Social Work Profession Ready for a New Formidable Paradigm Shift? Dr. Alameda-Lawson’s sabbatical also provided an opportunity to explore the neuroscience of social work practice as it relates to children living in poverty who are at higher-risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that may lead to negative educational and developmental outcomes. This has led to two manuscript projects, one being a systematic review and a second entitled, ACEs, Community Resilience and Implications for Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations. Overall, Dr. Alameda-Lawsons encourages other eligible faculty members to take sabbatical leave, as she has found hers a way to re-energize, reflect on her research, and explore new areas of scholarship.
Dr. Avani Shah is an Associate Professor within the School of Social Work. Under Dr. Hee Lee’s mentorship, Dr. Shah participated in the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Health Disparities Certificate program to increase the scope of her research and take into consideration disparities in health and mental health care and access. Dr. Shah also used her time during sabbatical for development work on a research agenda that will investigate why few African-Americans enroll or attend cardiac rehabilitation services following a heart attack. As part of this process, she worked on developing relationships with 3 cardiac rehabilitation centers to increase access to individuals who live in rural areas; particularly the Black Belt areas of Alabama. Dr. Shah is preparing a grant application that she plans to submit for funding in the near future. With Dr. Hee Lee, she also worked on developing a manuscript on the correlates of health literacy in the Black Belt. She plans to present this work at the 2022 Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America this November, in Indianapolis, Indiana. To further her research on technological interventions to promote independent living in older adults, Dr. Shah engaged in the Crimson Start-Up NSF program and collaborated with engineering and undergraduate social work students. As part of the program, her team interviewed older adults, assisted living facility providers, nursing home providers, and senior apartment managers about their technology needs. In addition, she is collaborating with an aging research team on campus to work on ways to prevent falls in older adults using technology. Dr. Shah’s work is a great example of how School of Social Work faculty are tackling Social Work’s Grand Challenge of closing the health gap.

Social Work Professor Dr. Brenda Smith used part of her spring semester sabbatical to advance and expand an ongoing line of research addressing how community characteristics relate to involvement from the child welfare system. In effort to promote healthy development for youth, her research raises questions about apparent inequities in the level of child welfare involvement at the community level. Dr. Smith’s research identified areas of the country in which child welfare involvement was disproportionate to community-level child maltreatment risk and protective factors. The research illustrates that some areas of the country seem to have been subjected to over-surveillance by the child welfare system, while other areas have received little attention from the child welfare system despite apparent need.

In another part of the sabbatical, Dr. Smith addressed a challenge faced by MSW graduates practicing in human service organizations. Practicing social workers sometimes have difficulty upholding social work values and ethics because they are asked by supervisors or other agency administrators to engage in practices that are unsupportive of clients, or even unethical. Dr. Smith had observed that social work education includes lots of content addressing how to work with clients, but it includes little content addressing how to persuade people with authority in human service organizations to enable social workers to practice in accord with their values and ethics. In the sabbatical, Dr. Smith developed ideas suggesting that social work education should equip students with skills to persuade people with authority in human service organizations, which she labeled “practicing up.”
School of Social Work Hosts Two National Conferences

National Conference on DSW Education and Social Work

On April 29th, the School of Social Work hosted the inaugural National Conference on DSW Education and Social Work. This was the first time a national conference has been organized that was dedicated to DSW-level scholarship and practice. Over the course of the day there were seven presentations from DSW faculty, students, and practitioners that covered a variety of topics, including:

- Current trends and future directions for the DSW degree;
- Innovations in social work practice;
- Innovations in DSW education and teaching; and
- Career trajectories for DSW graduates.

There was also a networking hour for DSW students as well as information sessions hosted by current DSW Program Directors from programs across the country.

Demand for a national platform to discuss the DSW degree was evident through participation in the conference. More than 220 faculty, students, and professionals registered for the event, representing 36 states and the District of Columbia. Almost 70% of attendees were current MSW or DSW students. Evaluation data demonstrated that participants were overwhelmingly satisfied with the conference content. Almost all participants reported that they wanted to attend the next conference in 2023. Suggestions for future conferences including having more opportunities for students to present their work.

Future Leaders in Advancing Society and Health with Technology (FLASH Tech) Conference

On January 26th, the School hosted the conference, which brought together researchers and non-academic professionals from social work, nursing, and STEM disciplines. The conference featured experts across a number of disciplines who presented on a number of topics, including innovative applications of artificial intelligence in health care, team science, and digital mapping for community planning. Participants also learned about applying for funding at the National Science Foundation. Overall, the conference was a success with 96 participants. Evaluation data showed that the participants were highly satisfied with the conference content and more than half of participants who completed an evaluation indicated that they were more likely to apply for NSF funding in the future as a result of attending. This conference was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.
Youth Services Institute (YSI) Receives DOJ Funding to Research Therapeutic Services

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded lead Primary Investigator and YSI Associate Director, Dr. Mandi Fowler, and YSI Director, Jill Beck, more than $467k to implement multidisciplinary services for youth involved in the criminal justice system to several rural areas of the State, while also providing training to professionals in the community in an evidence-based model. Dr. Lewis Lee, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, is collaborating with YSI to collect, manage, and analyze large datasets that have been created through a collaborative relationship between ALDYS, AOC and YSI.

Drs. Mandi Fowler (PI) and Lewis Lee are analyzing criminal justice data to support decision making about youth criminal justice services.

Congratulations to 2022 Recipients of the UA President’s Faculty Research Awards

In April, the University of Alabama held the first Faculty Research Day since the pandemic started. Last year two faculty members from our School of Social Work were selected for university-wide research awards. This year’s Faculty Research Day honored the 2020, 2021, and 2022 award recipients. Dr. Nicole Ruggiano received the 2021 President’s Faculty Research Award for Mid-Career Scholars, Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Congratulations, Dr. Hyunjin Noh! 2022 President’s Faculty Research Award Recipient - Mid-Career Scholars Social & Behavioral Sciences

Congratulations, Dr. Hee Lee! 2022 President’s Faculty Research Award Recipient – Senior Scholars, Social & Behavioral Sciences
Achievements in Doctoral Education

Graduating Students

The PhD and DSW Programs in the School of Social Work both made notable achievements during the last academic year. The DSW Program celebrated its first graduates from the program. Across both programs, the School of Social Work awarded 21 doctorate degrees last year.

First On-Campus DSW Residency

The COVID-19 pandemic required that the first two summer residencies that are part of the DSW curriculum to be offered virtually. This past June the program was finally able to host students on-campus where they participated in a series of workshops, networking, and social events. Almost 40 students from the 2020 and 2021 cohorts participated, many of whom were meeting each other face-to-face for the first time.

Research and Scholarship Recognition

Last year’s recipient of the PhD Program Award for Contributions to Scholarship was Yan Luo. Since starting her studies at the University of Alabama, Yan has authored or co-authored 24 publications in peer-reviewed journal articles, five of which she was the first or sole author. She also was a lead or co-presenter on 19 scholarly presentations at local and national conferences. Yan plans to graduate from the PhD program in December of 2022. In an effort to close the health gap, her research area of interests are in health disparities as they related to social determinants of health, gerontological social work, and health information technology. After graduating Yan will be starting a new position as an Assistant Professor in the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa’s Social Science Research Institute.

Yan accepting her award on Honors Day alongside PhD Program Director, Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell

The 2020 & 2021 Cohorts at the 1st On-campus DSW Residency
DSW Student Wins University and Regional 3MT Awards

Generating excitement across the university, Dr. Carmen Reese Foster won first place in both the University and regional Three-minute Thesis (3MT) competitions. She received these awards for her Capstone research, entitled *Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 and Race-Based Trauma on the Mental Health of Black Social Work Professionals*. This mixed-methods study is an example of how our doctoral students are using social science to tackle the Grand Challenges of eliminating racism and achieving equal opportunity and justice.

In November, Dr. Foster won the University 3MT competition where she competed against 14 other graduate student finalists who represented a variety of disciplines across campus. As a result, she advanced to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools’ regional 3MT competition, which took place in February. There, she competed against students from 47 other colleges and universities, winning first place. This is the first time that a University of Alabama student won the regional trophy. Dr. Foster will now compete in the national 3MT competition, which will take place in San Francisco this upcoming December. The national winner will move on to compete globally in Queensland, Australia. Most information about Dr. Foster’s award can be found on UA News or use the QR Code to access the article.

*Dr. Carmen Reese Foster and her fellow competitors at the University of Alabama annual 3MT Competition. Dr. Foster was awarded 1st place for her work, which addresses the Grand Challenges of eliminating racism and achieving equal opportunity and justice.*
Select Faculty Achievements 2019-2022

Here are some select achievements from our faculty last year. Want to learn more about what our faculty are doing? Check out our School of Social Work faculty webpage or scan the QR Code.

Tania Alameda-Lawson
Associate Professor
PhD, Florida International University
MSW, Florida International University
BA, University of Miami

Publication

Presentations


M. Daniel Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Professor
PhD, Univ. of North Carolina
MSW, Univ. of Pennsylvania
BA, Hampton University

Publications


Presentations

David L. Albright
Distinguished Research Professor
Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health Research
VitAI. Principal Investigator
PhD, Florida State University
MSW, Florida State University
BA, Centre College

Grants/Contracts
Principal Investigator. VitAI. Alabama, a research, implementation, and training and education initiative that includes 17 extramurally funded projects that aims to improve services, policies, and community and social conditions for Alabamians with mental health, substance use disorder, and trauma-related challenges.

More about Dr. Albright's work can be found at Albright, David L., PhD – socialwork.ua.edu | The University of Alabama


**Daphne S. Cain**

Associate Dean for Administrative Services

Editor in Chief of Best Practices in Mental Health

PhD, University of Tennessee

MSW, East Carolina University

BA, North Carolina State University

**Publications**


https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0044118X19871853

**Presentations**


**Catherine Carlson**

Assistant Professor

PhD, Columbia University

MSW, University of Georgia

BA, Emory University

**Publications**


Lee, L. H., Kim, M., Carlson, C., Ellis, T., Johnson, K., & Pretz, A. (2022). The Association Between Perceptions of Neighborhood Conditions and the Employment of
Emerging Adults Formerly Involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Youth & Society, 0044418X221103898.


Leah Cheatham
Associate Professor
JD, Yeshiva University
PhD, Florida State University
MSW, Florida State University
BS, Florida State University

Publications


Presentation

Ellen Csikai
Professor
PhD, University of Pittsburgh
MSW, University of Pittsburgh
MPH, University of Pittsburgh
BA, University of Pittsburgh

Publications


Presentations

Shaw, S., Csikai, E. L. (2021). The preservation of spousal and partner relationships among nursing home residents. Gerontological Society of America, Phoenix, AZ.


Publications


Presentation

Publications


Presentation


Laura Hopson
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
MSW, Columbia University
B.A, Bowdoin College

Publications


Presentation

Grants/Contracts
Co-Investigator (with Jeffrey Parker and Abby Horton). (2020-2021) “Risk, Resilience, and Context: Analyzing the Social Adjustment and Wellbeing of Adolescents and Families in Rural Alabama during COVID” which examines survey data collected in Pickens County and Dallas County on the impact of COVID on student and family wellbeing and access to care funded by the Alabama Life Research Institute.


M. Sebrena Jackson
Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Educational Programs and Student Services
PhD, Clark Atlanta University
MSW, Clark Atlanta University
BSW, Tuskegee University

Publications


Karen Johnson
Assistant Professor
PhD, Columbia University
MSW, Hunter College
BA, Syracuse University

Publications


Presentation

(Selected from 22 presentations from 2019-2021)

Hee Yun Lee
Professor and Endowed Academic Chair on Social Work and Health
PhD, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
MSW, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
MSC, Univ. of Southern California
MA, Seoul National University
BA, Seoul National University

Publications


(Selected from 71 publications from 2019-2021)
Publications

https://doi.org/10.1080/09603132.2021.1897533

Presentations


Grant/Contract:
Co-PI, Alabama Department of Youth Services’ program evaluation and validation project (10/2021 – 9/2024).
Debra Nelson-Gardell  
Associate Professor  
Director of PhD Program  
Coordinator of  
International Initiatives  
PhD, Florida State University  
MSW, Florida State University  
BA, Clark University

Publications


10.1080/08893675.2020.1803614

10.1177/1473325019881190

https://api.elsevier.com/content/abstract/scopus_id/85063029599 DOI: 10.1007/s10560-019-00612-z

Hyunjin Noh  
Associate Professor  
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
MSW, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
MA, Seoul National University  
BA, Seoul National University

Publications
https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648221084174

Noh, H., Bui, C., & Mack, J. (2022). Factors affecting hospice use among adolescents and young adult (AYA) cancer patients. Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology. May 27th, 2022 (OnlineFirst)  
https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2021.0225

https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648221084174

doi:10.1017/s1478951520001200.

Presentation
Noh, H., Suntai, Z., & Won, C. (2021). Rural Older Adults’ Experiences with Pain from Chronic Illnesses

Grant/Contract

Hyunjin Noh (PI), Lewis Lee (co-PI). Aug 2022 – July 2023 Understanding the Attitudes toward Deprescribing and Knowledge and Views of Non-Pharmacological Pain Management among Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Health Conditions funded by The U.S. Deprescribing Research Network (R24AG064025, National Institute on Aging)

The study aims to learn about the nature of learning that happens as students complete professional social work internships in Washington, D.C. or outside of the U.S.


The primary aim of this qualitative project is to obtain participant feedback from social work students who participate in a two-day policy and advocacy experiential learning experience in Washington, D.C.

Carroll Phelps
Senior Instructor and Field Coordinator of the Washington, D.C. Internship Programs for MSW & BSW students
BA, B'11, Southern College
MA, University of Alabama
MSW, University of Alabama

Nicole Ruggiano
Professor and Associate Dean of Research
PhD, University of Delaware
MSW, Temple University
BA, University of Delaware

Presentations


Research


Grants/Contracts
Primary Investigator, Integration of Health Information Technology and Promotion of Personhood in Family-Centered Dementia Care. (Multiple PIs, also PI: Brown), 1R01AG068572-01. National Institute of Aging. 2020-2025

Primary Investigator, Planning Live, Sustainable Community Asset Mapping for a Dementia e-Friendly Alabama. Award Number 1951974. National Science Foundation.

(Selected from 15 presentations and 20 Presentations from 2019-2022)

Avani Shah
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Alabama
MA, University of Alabama
MSW, University of Alabama
BA, University of Alabama

Presentations

Cassandra Simon
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington
MSW, Louisiana State University
BA, University of New Orleans

Publications


Presentations


Brenda Smith
Professor
PhD, University of Chicago
AM, University of Chicago
BA, St. Olaf College

Publications


Sherron Wilkes
Interim MSW Program
Director and MSW Instructor
BSW, Jackson State University
MSW, Jackson State University

Publications


Presentations


Select Recent Doctoral Student Achievements

Haley Heckman Beech (PhD)

Publications


Stefanie Binion (PhD)

Publications


Publication Under Review


Presentations


**Kelly Bolton (PhD)**

**Publications**


Namy, S., Carlson, C., Namakula, S., Nabachwa, A.G., Ollerhead, M., Bolton, K., Nkwanzzi, V., Cordisco-Tsai, L. (In Press). "All that I was thinking about was shattered": Women’s experiences transitioning out of post-trafficking shelter care during the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda. *Affilia*.


**Presentation**


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**Monikee Burrow (DSW)**

**Presentation**


**Elsa Candelario (DSW)**

**Publications**


**Presentations**


Candelario, E. & De La Cruz, J. (2021, March 8). *Achieving culturally responsive policy through collective action with Latino/a/x communities: A case study*
Edson Chipalo (PhD)

Publications


Presentations


Helen Fischle (DSW)

Presentations


Miranda Goodwin (DSW)

Presentations


Haelim Jeong (PhD)

Publications


Jeong, H., & Noh, H. (under review). Resilience as a Protective Factor in Older Adult Suicide: A Systematic Review.


Kirsten Laha-Walsh (PhD)

Publications


Research

Project Director, Greater Birmingham Area Veteran Needs Assessment, Alabama, 2020-2022

(Selected from 19 accepted publications.)

Yan Luo (PhD)

Publications


James Meadows (PhD)

Publications


Presentation

Tracy Pressely (PhD)
Publication

Angela Smith (PhD)
Presentations


Publication

JaeHee Sherman (DSW)
Presentations
Chung-Sherman, M. (2022, October). Eating disorders, marginalized populations, and adoption.

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Natalia L. Smith (PhD)
Publications


**Presentations**

**Smith, N. L.** (2022, September). Parenting Children with Trauma: Strategies for Kinship, Adoptive, and Foster Caregivers. Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, AL.


**Chris Ward (DSW)**

**Publications**


**Presentations**


**Ward, C. J., Neff, D.,** Did it work?: A pilot embedded evaluation project. Presentation at the Social Work Distance Education conference, San Antonio, TX, April, 2021.

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**Retisha Warr (PhD)**

**Publication**


**Presentations**


**Cho Rong Claudia Won (PhD)**

**Publications**

Determinants of health and technology access among rural African American Alabamians. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*


**Presentations**


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