

# SOCIAL WORK PHD CANDIDATES SEEKING ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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## Xiayu Summer Chen, MSW

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work

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### Education

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**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** 2021 - 2025 (Expected)

*Ph.D. in Social Work, School of Social Work*

*Illinois, U.S.*

**Dissertation:** Harnessing AI for Older Adults: A Three-Paper Approach Examining the Applications, Use Acceptance, and Perception of Conversational Agents

**Committee:** Dr. Flavia Andrade (Chair), Dr. Ian Brooks, Dr. Chi-Fang Wu, Dr. Moses Okumu, Dr. Qingwen Xu

**New York University** 2017 - 2019

*Master in Social Work, Silver School of Social Work*

*New York, U.S.*

**Tsinghua University** 2013 - 2017

*Bachelor in Psychology, School of Social Science*

*Beijing, China*

*Bachelor in Business Management, School of Economics and Management*

### Research Interests and Focus Area

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**Topics:** Digital Interventions; Digital Equity; Harness Technology for Social Good; Social Determinants; Health and Mental Health Disparities; International Social Work

**Population:** Older Adults; Immigrants; Ethnic/Racial Minorities

**Methods:** Longitudinal Analysis; Structural Equation Modeling; Computational Social Science Methods; Human-centered Design

### Teaching Interests

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Gerontological Social Work, Technology in Social Work, Research Methods and Statistics, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Death and Dying, Social Work Practice in Healthcare

### Publications and Work in Progress

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#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

14 . Fernandes, L. V., de Oliveira, G. B., Ripka, W., **Chen, X. S.**, Andrade, F. C. D., Vasques, A. C. J. & Corona, L. P. The Use of Portable A-Mode Ultrasound in Appendicular Lean Mass Measurements among Older Adults: A Comparison Study with Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry and Handgrip Strength. *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. (In press)

- 13 . Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Zeng, X., Wu, B., Liu, J., Daquin, J. & Li, C. (2024). Cognitive Trajectories and Associated Social and Behavioral Determinants Among Racial/Ethnic Minority Older Adults in the United States. *The Gerontologist*. (In press)
- 12 . **Chen, X. S.** & Feng, Y. (2024). Exploring the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Systematic Searching: A Comparative Case Study of a Human Librarian, ChatGPT-4 and ChatGPT-4 Turbo. *IFLA Journal*, 03400352241263532.
- 11 . Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Gu, D., Smith, D. B., Dong, Y. & Peet, J. Z. (2024). Examining First and Second-Level Digital Divide at the Intersection of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Socioeconomic Status: An Analysis of the National Health and Aging Trends Study. *The Gerontologist*, gnae079
- 10 . **Chen, X. S.** & Wang, K. (2024). Gender Disparities in Telehealth Use among Older Adults in the United States during COVID-19. *International Journal of Population Studies*, 1817.
- 9 . Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Dong, Y., Sanabria Véaz, K. G. & Gu, D. (2024). Bridging the Access Gap: A Decade of Narrowing the Digital Divide for Hispanic Older Adults in the United States. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 08982643241238789
- 8 . de Oliveira, G. B., Fernandes, L. V., **Chen, X. S.**, Andrade, F. C. D., Costa, L. S., Vasques, A. C. J. & Corona, L. P. (2024). Intra- and Inter-rater Reliability of Muscle and Fat Thickness Measurements Obtained Using Portable Ultrasonography in Older Adults. *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN*, 60, 65-72.
- 7 . Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Kang, S-Y., Smith, D. B. & Gu, D. (2024). Older Adults' Online Activities and Cognition: Investigating the Psychological Mechanisms and Age and Gender Differences. *Social Science & Medicine*, 116988
- 6 . Sun, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Muzhylko, T. & Andrade, F. C. D. (2023). Doctors' Recommendations and Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors among Adults with Hypertension in Brazil. *Preventive Medicine Report*, 102315.
- 5 . Tan, K. & **Chen, X. S.** (2023). Keeping Up with Technology: Socioemotional and Equity Challenges with Children and Schools. *Children & School*, 45(3), 127-130.
- 4 . **Chen, X. S.**, Xu, Q., Hu, Y. & Xie, Y. (2022). Aging in Chinatowns: The Meaning of Place and Aging Experience for Older Immigrants. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, 37(4), 375-391.
- 3 . **Chen, X. S.** & Andrade, F. C. D.(2022). A Biopsychosocial Examination of Chronic Back Pain, Limitations on Usual Activities, and Treatment in Brazil, 2019. *PloS one*, 17(6), e0269627.
- 2 . Wang, K., Marbut, A. R., Suntai, Z., Zheng, D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2022). Patterns in Older Adults' Perceived Chronic Stressor Types and Cognitive Functioning Trajectories: Are Perceived Chronic Stressors Always Bad? *Social Science & Medicine*, 115297.

1 . Wang, K., Cheatham, L., Marbut, A. R. & **Chen, X. S.** (2021). Longitudinal Associations between Cancer History and Cognitive Functioning among Older Adults. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 97, 104521.

### **Research & Technical Reports**

2. Shende, S. A, **Chen, X. S.**, Mudar, R. A. & Rogers W. A. (2023). Scalability of the OneClick Video Technology for Home- and Community-Based Organizations (HFA-TR-2302). Human Factors and Aging Laboratory. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

1. **Chen, X. S.**, Zhan, Y., Huang, C. & Xu, Q. (2023). Navigating the Digital Divide Gap among the Older Community Dwellers in Shanghai: Recommendation for Community Workers.

### **Book Chapters**

3. Chen, C., **Chen, X. S.**, Guo, H., & Zhang, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Positive Youth, Positive Energy - 3: We Developed the Coping Skills* (in Chinese). Beijing, China: Tsinghua University Press. ISBN: 9787302447511.

2. Chen, C., **Chen, X. S.**, Guo, H., & Zhang, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Positive Youth, Positive Energy - 2: We Found the Right Learning Methods* (in Chinese). Beijing, China: Tsinghua University Press. ISBN: 9787302447450.

1. Chen, C., **Chen, X. S.**, Guo, H., & Zhang, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Positive Youth, Positive Energy - 1: We Experienced Hardship* (in Chinese). Beijing, China: Tsinghua University Press. ISBN: 9787302450863.

### **Manuscripts Under Review**

8. **Chen, X. S.**, Farina, M., Andrade, F. C. D. & Wang, K. Internet Use among Brazilians Adults in Late Life: Determinants of Usage and Association on Cognitive Performance. Under Review by *Journal of Hispanic and Behavioral Sciences*

7 . Zhan, Y., **Chen, X. S.** & Xu, Q. Synergistic Effects on the Technology Use: Older Chinese during the Pandemic and After. Under Review by *The Gerontologist*

6 . **Chen, X. S.**, Lydon, L., Mathias, V. F., Rogers, W. A., Mudar, R. A. & Raj, M. Loneliness Among Older Caregivers in the California Health Interview Survey. Revise and Resubmit to the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*

5 . Sun, F., Jiang, L., **Chen, X. S.** & Feng, Y. Assisting Dementia Family Caregivers with Interactive AI Technology: Exploring Unmet Needs and Current Evidence of Implementation. Revise and Resubmit to the *Journal of Technology in Human Services*

4 . **Chen, X. S.**, Zhan, Y. & Xu, Q. The Digital Displacement on Everyday Activities and Effect on Loneliness among Chinese Older Adults. Revise and Resubmit to the *International Journal of Social Welfare*



3 . **Chen, X. S.** & Sun, K. Implementation of WeChat for Public Health and Mental Health Intervention: A Scoping Review of RCT Research Protocol. Under Review by the *Informatics for Health and Social Care*

2 . **Chen, X. S.**, Andrade, F. C. D. & Lima-Costa, F. M. Living Arrangement, Met and Unmet Needs for Older Adults With Disabilities in Brazil. Under Review by the *BMC Public Health*

1 . Fernandes, L. V., de Oliveira, G. B., Guerra, R., **Chen, X. S.**, Andrade, F. C. D., Amaral, T., Vasques, A. C. J. & Corona, L. P. Development and Validation of Equations to Estimate the Body Fat Percentage in Older Adults Using Anthropometric Measurements and Portable A-Mode Ultrasound. Under Review by *Journal of the American Nutrition Association*

### **Working Manuscripts**

7 . Mois, G., Lydon, E. A., Myers, D., Danilovich, M. K., **Chen, X. S.**, Mudar, R. A., & Rogers, W. A. A social engagement technology-based randomized controlled trial for older adults: Outcomes and lessons learned

6 . Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, & Dong, Y. J. Social media use and loneliness among older adults with and without disabilities: The mediating effects of traditional social interactions

5 . **Chen, X. S.**, Rodriguez, T., Wu, R. & Andrade, F. C. D. Digital Rural-Urban Disparities in Health Among Brazilian Older Adults: The Moderating Role of Internet Use

4 . **Chen, X. S.**, Wen, W., Choi, S., Andrade, F. C. D. & Mejia, S. The Utilization of Artificial Intelligence-Based Conversational Agents on Mental Health Care for Older Adults: A Scoping Review

3 . **Chen, X. S.** & Kang, S. What Are We Caring for Our Rural Older Adults? Bibliometric and Visual Analysis of the 22 years in Chinese Rural Older Adults and Mental Health Research

2 . **Chen, X. S.** Digital Interventions for Depression among Older Adults: A Comprehensive Review of the Design, User Experience, and Effectiveness

1 . **Chen, X. S.**, Varzino, M., Azevedo, F. A. R. & Rogers, W. Evaluating Effectiveness of mHealth Applications for Older Adults with COPD: Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

### **Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations**

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30. **Chen, X. S.**, Farina, M., Andrade, F. C. D. & Wang, K. (2024, November). *Internet Use and Cognitive Health Among Older Brazilians: A Cross-Sectional Examination on National Representative Survey*. [Poster]. 2025 Society For Social Work & Research Annual Conference. Seattle, U.S.

29. **Chen, X. S.**, Lydon, L., Mathias, V. F., Jones, S., Rogers, W. A., Mudar, R. A. & Raj M. (2024, November). *Loneliness Among Older Caregivers in the California Health Interview Survey*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.

28. **Chen, X. S.** & Wen, W. (2024, November). *A Scoping Review of the Artificial Intelligence-based Conversational Agents on Mental Health Care for Older Adults*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
27. **Chen, X. S.**, Farina, M., Andrade, F. C. D. & Wang, K. (2024, November). *Internet Use among Brazilian Adults in Late Life: Determinants of Use and Impacts on Cognitive Health*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
26. Jiang, L., Sun, F., **Chen, X. S.** & Feng, Y. (2024, November). *Dementia Family Caregivers with Interactive AI Technology*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
25. Zhan, Y., **Chen, X. S.**, Huang, C. & Xu, Q. (2024, November). *Understanding Older Adults' Digital Experience during and After the Pandemic: A Mixed-Methods Study*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
24. **Chen, X. S.**, Zhan, Y. & Xu, Q. (2024, November). *How Does Digital Use Affect the Daily Activities and Loneliness Among Chinese Older Adults?* [Poster]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
23. **Chen, X. S.** & Wen, W. (2024, November). *Unveiling the Aging Experiences of Chinese Immigrants with Social Media Posts*. [Poster]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
22. **Chen, X. S.**, Rodriguez, T. M., Wu, R. & Andrade, F. C. D. (2024, November). *Does Internet Use Moderate the Rural-Urban Disparities in Health Among Brazilian Older Adults*. [Poster]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
21. Wang, K., **Chen, X. S.**, Dong, Y. & Vêaz, K.S. (2024, November). *Trends in Digital Device Access among Hispanic Older Adults in the U.S. (2011-2021)* [Poster]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
20. Baby, E., Lydon, L., **Chen, X. S.**, Jones, S., Mathias, V. F., Rogers, W. A., Mudar, R. A. & Raj, M. (2024, November). *Participant Evaluation of a Social Engagement Program for Family Care Partners of Persons with Dementia*. [Poster]. 2024 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, U.S.
19. **Chen, X. S.** (2024, October). *Text Mining of Social Media Posts: Unveiling the Aging Experiences of Chinese Immigrants*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, U.S.
18. **Chen, X. S.**, Farina, M., Andrade, F. C. D. & Wang, K. (2024, September). *Internet Use among Brazilian Adults in Late Life: Determinants of Usage and Impacts on Cognitive Health*. [Poster]. 2024 Conference Series on Aging in the Americas's Bridging Workshop. Austin, U.S.

17. de Oliveira, G. B., Fernandes, L. V., **Chen, X. S.**, Andrade, F. C. D., Costa, L. S., Vasques, A. C. J. & Corona, L. P. (2024, April). *Intra- and Inter-rater Reliability of Muscle and Fat Thickness Measurements Obtained Using Portable Ultrasonography in Older Adults*. [Oral Presentation]. 2024 Congresso Associação Portuguesa De Nutrição Entérica E Parentérica. Boa Vista, Brazil.
16. **Chen, X. S.** (2024, April). *Trends in Studying the Mental Health of Chinese Rural Old People: The Past and the Future*. [Oral Presentation]. The First Graduate Symposium on Asian Studies at Urbana-Champaign. Champaign, U.S.
15. **Chen, X. S.** (2024, April). *Telehealth Use among U.S. Older Adults during Pandemic: A gender Comparison*. [Poster]. 2024 Social Work & Social Development Conference. Nassau, Bahamas.
14. **Chen, X. S.**, Shende, S., Mois, G., Lydon, L., Mudar, R. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2024, March). *Enabling Home and Community-Based Organizations to Provide Support Services through Video Conferencing Platform*. [Poster]. 2024 International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics Health Care. Chicago, U.S.
13. **Chen, X. S.**, Wang, K. & Smith, D. B. (2023, November). *Has the Racial/Ethnic Digital Divide Among Older Community Dwellers Deepened or Improved in the 2010s?* [Poster]. 2023 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, U.S.
12. Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2023, April). *Needs and Care of Older Adults With Disabilities in Brazil, 2019-21*. [Oral Presentation]. 2023 Population Association of America's Annual Meeting. New Orleans, U.S.
11. Andrade, F. C. D., Sun, K., **Chen, X. S.** & Muzhylko, T. (2023, April). *Doctors' Recommendations and Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors among Adults with Hypertension in Brazil*. [Oral Presentation]. 2023 Population Association of America's Annual Meeting. New Orleans, U.S.
10. **Chen, X. S.** & Sun, K. (2023, January). *New Trends in Studying the Mental Health of Chinese Rural Old Adults: Tracing 22 Years of Research with a Bibliometric Analysis*. [Poster]. 2023 Society For Social Work & Research Annual Conference. Phoenix, U.S.
9. Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2023, January). *Caregiving for Adults in Aging Brazil: Findings from the Latest National Study*. [Poster]. 2023 Society For Social Work & Research Annual Conference. Phoenix, U.S.
8. **Chen, X. S.**, Evans, J., Mwima, S., Watkins, D., & Okumu, M. (2023, January). *Digital Technology Use among Older Adults in the U.S.: What Has Changed Since the COVID-19 Outbreak?* [Poster]. 2023 Society For Social Work & Research Annual Conference. Phoenix, U.S.
7. Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2022, November). *Unmet Needs among Adults and Older Adults in Brazil, ELSI-2019*. [Oral Presentation]. 2022 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Indianapolis, U.S.



6 . Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2022, November). *Chronic Back Pain, Limitations on Usual Activities, and Treatment among Older Brazilians*. [Poster]. 2022 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Indianapolis, U.S.

5 . Fernandes, L., Oliveira, G., Vasques, A., Andrade, F. C. D., **Chen, X. S.** & Corona, L. (2022, November). *Ultrasound Muscle Thickness as an Easy Method to Assess Lean Mass and Grip Strength in Older Adults*. [Poster]. 2022 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Indianapolis, U.S.

4 . Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2022, October). *A Biopsychosocial Examination of Chronic Back Pain, Limitations on Usual Activities and Treatment in Brazil, 2019*. [Oral Presentation]. Virtual VI Portuguese Conference of Demography.

3 . Andrade, F. C. D. & **Chen, X. S.** (2022, October). *Disability Met Needs for Older Adults in Brazil, ELSI-2019*. [Oral Presentation]. Virtual VI Portuguese Conference of Demography.

2 . Wang, K., Suntai, Z. & **Chen, X. S.** (2021, November). *Chronic Stress Patterns among Older Adults and Associations With Cognitive Functioning*. [Poster]. 2021 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Phoenix, U.S.

1 . Wang, K., Suntai, Z. & **Chen, X. S.** (2021, November). *Internet Use and Cognitive Functioning at the Interaction of Age and Gender among Older Adults*. [Poster]. 2021 Gerontology Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. Phoenix, U.S.

## Invited Talks

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5 . **Chen, X. S.** (2024, October). *When Tech Meets Care: How AI-led Conversational Agents Support Older Adults?* Community Seminar Series: Autumn Health Picks 2024, University of Illinois. Champaign, U.S.

4 . **Chen, X. S.** (2023, July). *Heart to Heart: How to Start End of Life Conversations*. Asian American Cultural Center Food for Thought Event, University of Illinois. Champaign, U.S.

3 . **Chen, X. S.** (2023, April). *An Overview of Linear Growth Models in Longitudinal Research*. Virtual Frontier Research Methods Series from Emerging International Scholars, South China University of Technology and New York University Shanghai.

2 . **Chen, X. S.** (2022, November). *Care and Needs among Older Adults in Brazil*. The Graduate Forum at Lemann Center for Brazilian Study, University of Illinois. Champaign, U.S.

1 . **Chen, X. S.** (2020, October). *Oncology Social Work Service System in the United States*. The Chinese Medical Social Work System Development Virtual Symposium, Renmin University in China.

## Research Experience

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### **Digital Technology and Social Work** 05. 2024 - Present

*Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Steve Anderson*

*Illinois, U.S.*

- Conducted an Oxford Bibliographies project on harness technology for social good, performing extensive literature reviews, bibliometrics analyses, and writing annotated bibliographies
- Analyzed State Digital Equity plan policy, involving policy response extraction and synthesis for publication and presentations

### **Understanding Older Shanghainese's Digital Experiences** 05. 2023 - 08. 2024

*Co-Investigator, with Dr. Qingwen Xu*

*Shanghai, China*

- Co-led research design, drafted focus group interview scripts and conducted two in-person focus groups with older community dwellers in Shanghai, China
- Collaborated on manuscript writing, synthesizing results for peer-reviewed conference presentations and publications

### **The Human Factors and Aging Laboratory** 06. 2022 - Present

*Graduate Researcher, Lab Director: Dr. Wendy Rogers*

*Illinois, U.S.*

**Project [1] Enhancing Quality of Life for Older Adults with and without MCI through Social Engagement over Video Technology.** Supported by [R44 AG059450] National Institute on Aging Phase II Small Business Innovation Research Grant. PI: Dillon Myers, Potluck, LLC, Wendy Rogers, University of Illinois and Raksha Mudar, University of Illinois

- Conducted needs assessments with community partners using video technology platforms to enhance the quality of life and social engagement for older adults with cognitive impairment
- Provided tech support for Randomized Controlled Trials and participated in qualitative data coding and analysis

**Project [2] Video Technology-based Social Engagement Intervention for Family Care Partners of Persons with Dementia.** Supported by RRF Foundation for Aging Research Grant. PI: Raksha Mudar, Minakshi Raj, and Wendy Rogers, University of Illinois

- Delivered assessment for Randomized Control Trails and actively engaged with the intervention process
- Contributed to conference abstract and manuscript writing

**Project [3] Meta-Analyses of mHealth Applications for Older Adults: Technology Enhancing Health Maintenance and Well-Being.** Supported by the CREATE Pilot Grant. PI: Renato F. L. Azevedo

- Prepared a systematic review protocol and participated in the meta-analysis of mHealth applications designed to enhance well-being among older adults with COPD

### **The Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSI-Brazil)** 08. 2021 - Present

*Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Flavia Andrade*

*Illinois, U.S.*

- Conducted a series of quantitative studies on health disparities in pain, life expectancy, caregiving, and disabilities using nationally representative data from the Brazilian older population
- Compiled comprehensive literature reviews, performed data analysis, and interpreted results
- Collaborated with international scholars to enhance cross-cultural understanding and contributed to joint publications and conference presentations

### **Community Resilience at the Chinese Immigrant Community**

07. 2019 - 09. 2020

*Assistant Research Scientist, PI: Dr. Qingwen Xu*

*New York, U.S.*

- Contributed to the design and implementation of qualitative research focused on community resilience among older Chinese immigrants
- Recruited participants and conducted bilingual (Mandarin/Cantonese) interviews with older adults in Chinatowns to explore their aging experiences and resilience strategies
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed qualitative data, providing insights into the unique challenges and strengths within the immigrant aging population

### **Behavior Health among Unsheltered Homelessness**

09. 2018 - 04. 2019

*Researcher, NYC Department of Homeless Service*

*New York, U.S.*

- Conducted comprehensive literature reviews and developed research protocols to investigate the behavioral health challenges faced by chronically unsheltered homeless individuals
- Recruited and interviewed 20 service providers, and transcribed verbal materials for analysis

### **Parental Style and Children's Well-Being in Migrant Family**

08. 2018 - 12. 2018

*Independent Research Study, Advisor: Dr. Wen-jui Han*

*New York, U.S.*

- Conducted a quantitative research study, including literature reviews, data analysis, and manuscript writing, to better understand children's psychological outcomes in migrant families in Shanghai, China

### **NGOs and Chinese Official Development Assistance policy**

07. 2016 - 10. 2016

*Research Assistant, PI: Dr. Guosheng Deng*

*Beijing, China*

- Conducted interviews with the officers from the UK embassy and Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Compiled literature reviews and cross-national reports on the policies of Official Development Assistance and NGO management among the U.S., UK, Germany, and Japan

## **Teaching & Mentoring Experience**

### **Adjunct Instructor**

08. 2024 - 12. 2024

*Social Work Research Methods, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

*Illinois, U.S.*

- Revised and structured the course syllabus to align with professional standards in social work research and integrate advanced digital tools for research and data analysis

- Developed and delivered dynamic, in-depth lectures on research methodologies, empowering undergraduate social work students with practical skills in both quantitative and qualitative research processes
- Mentored students individually, providing personalized guidance that significantly improved the quality of their research proposals and deepened their mastery of complex research concepts

**Teaching Assistant**

08. 2023 - 12. 2023

*Social Work Statistics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

*Illinois, U.S.*

- Led study sessions and articulated statistical procedures in both one-on-one and group settings for 50 BSW students, enhancing their grasp of complex statistical concepts
- Evaluated student performance through weekly practice problems and homework assignments, providing detailed feedback to foster academic improvement
- Collaborated with the course instructor to adapt teaching methods based on student performance data, resulting in a marked increase in class engagement and comprehension

**Academic Consultant and Peer Mentor**

11. 2022 - Present

*AiScholar*

*Online*

- Mentored four graduate students from social science backgrounds, providing personalized guidance on academic progression
- Guided students in developing strong research proposals, including forming research questions, designing methodologies, and conducting comprehensive literature reviews
- Supported students in identifying networking opportunities and conferences to enhance professional growth

**Guest Lecturer**

11. 2022 & 04. 2023

*HBSE I: Human Development Class, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

*Illinois, U.S.*

- Delivered guest lectures on the challenges and social dynamics of the oldest-old population, integrating recent research and case studies to enhance BSW students' learning experience

**Assistant Lecturer**

05. 2018 - 09. 2018

*Nutrition Class for Chinese Older Adults, Henry Street Settlement*

*New York, U.S.*

- Delivered two series of culturally tailored nutrition and social welfare courses for older Chinese immigrants, focusing on enhancing their understanding of nutritional needs and available social services
- Assisted in curriculum design and translated course materials, ensuring accessibility and cultural relevance for non-English-speaking participants

**Teaching Assistant**

06. 2018 & 06. 2019

*Summer Professional Course for Social Workers, New York University*

*New York, U.S.*

- Contributed to the development of a culturally competent program protocol, translating and editing training manuals to meet the needs of a diverse student body

- Communicated and coordinated with the instructor in daily lesson plans, revised lesson material and provided side-by-side interpretation
- Coordinated daily lesson plans with the lead instructor, revised lesson materials, and provided side-by-side interpretation to support non-native English speakers
- Facilitated class discussions and provided tailored assistance to students with special needs, ensuring an inclusive and supportive learning environment

## Professional Experience

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### **Assistant Coordinator & Independent Consultant** 09. 2021 - Present

*NIA-funded Conference Series on Aging in the Americas* U.S.

- Helped co-organized the 2022 ICAA Conference in Chicago, overseeing the preparation of program materials and presentations to ensure a successful event
- Managed social media outreach and support for conference planning and execution, increasing visibility and engagement with key stakeholders

### **Graduate Assistant** 01. 2024 - 08. 2024

*Lemann Center for Brazilian Study* Illinois, U.S.

- Coordinated campus-wide social media and outreach initiatives, implementing targeted communication strategies that significantly increased engagement and visibility for the Lemann Center
- Led the 15th-anniversary online campaign, overseeing web page design, video production, and the creation of the weekly and annual newsletter, effectively highlighting the center's milestones and achievements

### **Full-time Medical Social Worker** 08. 2019 - 06. 2021

*Coalition of Asian-American IPA/ Maimonides Cancer Center* New York, U.S.

- Delivered comprehensive care management, individualized counseling, and support services to cancer patients and their families, ensuring holistic care throughout the treatment process
- Facilitated bi-monthly support groups for Chinese cancer patients, providing culturally competent guidance and connecting participants with vital community resources and support networks to enhance their well-being

### **Summer Program Assistant** 04 - 05. 2019 & 06 - 08. 2018

*New York University, Silver School of Social Work* New York, U.S.

- Coordinated the annual Sino-American International Summer Social Work Training Programs, liaising with social service agencies and academic institutions to ensure successful program delivery

### **Macro Social Work Intern** 09. 2018 - 04. 2019

*New York City Department of Homeless Service* New York, U.S.

- Delivered client-centered case management and crisis intervention, addressing immediate needs and supporting long-term stability



- Utilized motivational interviewing techniques to resolve grievances and improve client outcomes
- Arranged and facilitated 10 “Coffee and Connection” sessions in NYC libraries, connecting clients with essential community resources

**Macro Social Work Intern**

01. 2018 - 07. 2018

*Pacific Education Advocacy Research Learning Institute*

*New York, U.S.*

- Organized and coordinated the agenda and logistics for two annual ‘Opportunity and Challenge’ global mental health conferences and seminars, focusing on the Asian community in collaboration with NYU
- Drafted proposals and managed gala and fundraising events for the institute
- Served in an administrative capacity, acting as a liaison with external partners and managing daily operations

**E-learning Specialist**

02. 2017 - 05. 2017

*XuetangX, Open Online Course Platform*

*Beijing, China*

- Collaborated with university partners to curate online course materials, including readings, multimedia resources, and assessments tailored for diverse learning styles
- Structured online course modules to ensure progressive skill development, providing ongoing updates to course content based on learner feedback and advancements

**Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist**

05. 2016 - 11. 2016

*Didi Chuxing Technology Co., Ltd*

*Beijing, China*

- Developed and implemented programs focused on ethical business practices, sustainability, and environmental responsibility, collaborating with NGOs to align corporate initiatives with global social impact goals
- Served as the primary responsible person for company-wide events during the 99 Giving Day in partnership with the Tencent Charity Foundation, driving employee engagement and raising awareness about charitable causes through coordinated fundraising and volunteer efforts

**Social Media Specialist**

09. 2015 - 06. 2017

*Tsinghua University Center for Counseling and Psychological Development*

*Beijing, China*

- Co-developed the official WeChat Account “Xiaoqingxin” and managed social media strategies to raise mental health awareness among students, delivering wellness content tailored to the campus-wide student audience

**Co-Founder**

07. 2015 - 06. 2017

*Xuefang Online Education Forum*

*Beijing, China*

- Established an online forum focused on youth development, organizing over 30 academic and psychoeducation workshops for students and parents in rural areas, delivered educational articles with accumulated up to 100,000 online views
- Served as the core editor and author for a published book series, contributing to the forum’s mission of educational advancement.

## Honors, Awards & Fellowships

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|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>AGESW Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Fellow, \$1,200</b>          | 2023           |
| <i>Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work</i>                       | U.S.           |
| <b>List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students</b>                     | Fall, 2023     |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Chinn Family Scholarship, \$5,000</b>  | 2023           |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Daniel S. Sanders Scholarship in International Social Development, \$2,725</b> | 2023           |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Lemann Center Graduate Fellowship for Brazilian Studies, \$12,500</b>          | 2023           |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>School of Social Work Professional Development Fund, \$1000</b>                | 2023           |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Paul D. Doolen Graduate Award, Alternate</b>                                   | 2023 & 2024    |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, \$500 Per Year</b>                   | 2021 - 2024    |
| <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>School-Based Named Jane Bram Scholarship, \$10,000</b>                         | 2018 - 2019    |
| <i>New York University</i>  | New York, U.S. |
| <b>Silver Scholarship, \$12,000</b>   | 2017 - 2019    |
| <i>New York University</i>  | New York, U.S. |
| <b>Outstanding Public Good Leader of the Year</b>                                 | 2017           |
| <i>Tsinghua University</i>  | Beijing, China |
| <b>Global Social Venture Competition, Top 10 Winner</b>                           | 2016           |
| <i>China Division</i>   | China          |
| <b>The Fifth Public Welfare Case Competition, Second Prize</b>                    | 2016           |
| <i>Peking University</i>  | China          |
| <b>Beijing Government Full Academic Scholarship</b>                               | 2013 - 2017    |
| <i>Tsinghua University</i>  | Beijing, China |

## Leadership

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Advisory Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center</b><br><i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>              | 2023 - Present<br><i>Illinois, U.S.</i> |
| <b>Diversity Committee Member, School of Social Work</b><br><i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>                      | 2023 - 2024<br><i>Illinois, U.S.</i>    |
| <b>Social Media &amp; Outreach Chair, Doctoral in Social Work Association</b><br><i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i> | 2021 - 2024<br><i>Illinois, U.S.</i>    |
| <b>Organizer, Nevada Freedom Bazaar</b><br><i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>                                       | 2021 - 2024<br><i>Illinois, U.S.</i>    |
| <b>Committee Member for Mental Health</b><br><i>Women in Front Institute</i>  | 2020<br><i>New York, U.S.</i>           |
| <b>Fellow, Student Leadership Council</b><br><i>New York University</i>   | 2018 - 2019<br><i>New York, U.S.</i>    |
| <b>Vice president, Chinese Student Support Group</b><br><i>New York University</i>  | 2018 - 2019<br><i>New York, U.S.</i>    |
| <b>President, Student Association of Education Poverty Alleviation</b><br><i>Tsinghua University</i>                            | 2015 - 2017<br><i>Beijing, China</i>    |

## Ad Hoc Peer-Review Journal and Conference Reviewer

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**Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications Journal**

**of Gerontology: Social Sciences**

**Innovation in Aging**

**The International Journal of Aging and Human Development**

**Journal of Applied Gerontology**

**Ageing and Society**

**Scientific Reports BMC**

**Public Health**

**Frontiers in Public Health**

**2023 Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference**

## Professional Trainings & Certificates

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|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>IPUMS Data Workshop</b> / <i>University of South California</i>   | 2023 |
| <b>Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science</b> / <i>National University of Singapore</i>                                       | 2023 |
| <b>Leveraging Existing Data and Analytic Methods for Health Disparities Research Related to Aging and ADRDs</b> / <i>Duke University</i> | 2023 |
| <b>Topics in Digital and Computational Demography</b> / <i>Max Planck Institute, Demographic Research</i>                                | 2022 |
| <b>PhD Program Professional Development Certificate</b> / <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>                                 | 2022 |
| <b>Programming for Everybody - Getting Started with Python</b> / <i>University of Michigan, Coursera</i>                                 | 2020 |
| <b>Eleven Weeks Training in Bereavement and Grief-Related Issues</b> / <i>Calvary Hospital</i>   | 2020 |
| <b>Chinese Hospice &amp; Palliative Care Training</b> / <i>Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care</i>                         | 2020 |
| <b>Certified Trauma-informed CBT Training</b> / <i>Medical University of South California</i>  | 2019 |
| <b>Mental Health First Aid USA</b> / <i>New York City</i>  | 2019 |

## Professional Affiliations

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|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Council on Social Work Education</b> / <i>Member</i>                     | 08. 2024 - Present |
| <b>International Federation of Social Workers</b> / <i>Member</i>           | 08. 2023 - Present |
| <b>Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work</b> / <i>Member</i> | 03. 2023 - Present |
| <b>Gerontological Society of America</b> / <i>Member</i>                    | 09. 2021 - Present |
| <b>Society for Social Work and Research</b> / <i>Member</i>                 | 11. 2021 - Present |

## Licensure

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|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Licensed Master Social Worker in the State of New York</b> | 2019 - 2021 |
|---|-------------|

## Professional Skills

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**Languages:** Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native), Taishanese (native), English (fluent)

**Data Analysis:** Proficient in STATA, SPSS, and Mplus for advanced quantitative analysis; R for text mining, topic modeling and sentiment analysis; NVivo and Taguette for qualitative data analysis.

**Academic Tools:** Skilled in Qualtrics, RedCap for survey and data management; Covidence and Rayyan for systematic reviews; LaTeX for academic typesetting; Generative AI for research and content creation

**Technical Skills:** Skilled in professional photography; Proficient in Photoshop, Lightroom and InDesign for creative design

**Jennifer Mann Evans, LCSW**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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252 Grimm Road  
Congerville, IL 61729  
847-612-9734  
Jemann4@illinois.edu

**EDUCATION**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** Expected May 2025  
*Doctor of Philosophy, School of Social Work, Candidate*

**University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.** 2011  
*Master of Social Work, Crown Family School of Social Work*  
Concentration: Clinical Social Work  
Program of study: Evidence-Based  
Practice

**Indiana University, Bloomington, IN** 2008  
*Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science.*  
Major: Human Development and Family Studies  
Minors: Psychology, Sociology, Human  
Sexuality

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

My research explores the lived experiences of individuals with obesity and substance use disorder (SUD). My current interests relate to those who have SUD and obesity who are on GLP-1 medications, using a phenomenological approach. I am focusing on the dual stigma associated with these conditions and how these individuals navigate their health and recovery journeys. I am currently conducting the first qualitative study to apply this model to the intersection of obesity, SUD, and GLP-1 treatment. This research makes theoretical contributions to the biopsychosocial model.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**University of Illinois- Urbana/Champaign** **2021-Present**

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*Research Assistant, School of Social Work*

- Assist Dr. Doug Smith at the Center for Prevention and Research Development
- Contribute to manuscripts that utilized data from the Illinois Youth Survey
- Complete IRB applications
- Participate in data collection and data analysis on several projects



**Indiana University****2008***Research Assistant, School of Health, Physical Education & Recreation*

Assisted Dr. Kathleen Gilbert with research in Human Development and Family Studies (data management SPSS, searching literature, and organizing surveys)

6. Completed a systematic review of hundreds of articles related to grief and loss and categorized which bereavement instruments were used, the instrument source, and validity and reliability information (e.g., Cronbach's alpha)
7. Research was related to grief and loss, and specific research related to grief among "third culture kids"

Research related course work:

IU HPER-F 440 Research in Human Development and Family Studies

IU HPER-H 494 Research and Evaluation Methods in Health &amp; Safety

MATH K-300 Statistical Techniques for Health Professionals

UC SSAD 30200 Social Interventions: Research and Evaluation

SOCW 585- Qualitative Research Methods

SOCW 595- Quantitative Research Methods

EPSY 550- Methods of Educational Inquiry

EPSY 480- Educational Statistics

EPSY 589- Qualitative Research Methods

**PUBLICATIONS**Douglas C. Smith, **Jennifer M. Evans**, Crystal A. Reinhart, Shaneil

E. Taylor, Shahana Begum & Karen V. Jenkins (2023) Adolescent Perceptions of Substance Use Problem Resolution and Recovery, Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly, DOI: [10.1080/07347324.2023.2292028](https://doi.org/10.1080/07347324.2023.2292028)

Evans, Jennifer (2023). *Book Essay "How to Write a Phenomenological Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide"*. Qualitative Social Work (in press). DOI: 10.1177/14733250231155614

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Mwima, S., Small, E., Sharma, B., Okumu, M., **Evans, J.**, Nzomene, A., Ramirez, X.: Social Influences on HIV Services Engagement Among Adolescents Experiencing HIV Stigma and Discrimination in Uganda. Society for Social Work Research. January 2023. Phoenix, AZ.

Chen, X., **Evans, J.**, Mwima, S., Watkins, D., Okumu, M: Digital Technology Use Among Older Adults in the U.S.: What Has Changed Since the COVID-19 Outbreak? Society for Social Work Research. January 2023. Phoenix, AZ.

**Evans, J.** 20 Years of Drug Policy Analysis: A comparison between the United States and Portugal. National Harm Reduction Conference. October 2022. San Juan, PR.

Smith, D.C., **Evans, J.**, Taylor S., Reinhart, C., Bergum, S., Jenkins, K.V. Adolescent Perceptions of Substance Use Problem Resolution and Recovery. Research Society on Alcoholism Conference; June 2022; Orlando, FL.

**Evans, J.** Mental Health First Aid First Episode Psychosis Pilot Study Results. National Council for Behavioral Health National Convention. March 2019. Nashville, TN

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work** **2022-Present**

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*Adjunct Instructor*

*Independently taught the following:*

- 6 Substance Use in a Social Context (FA 22)
- 7 Social Welfare Policy and Practices (SP 23)
- 8 Social Work in Groups- Graduate level (SU 24)

**UnityPoint Methodist College** **2020-2022**

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*Faculty- Instructor*

*Independently instructed the following courses:*

- 9 Concepts of Social Work (FA 20, FA 21)
- 10 Foundations of Social Work (FA 20, FA 21)
- 11 Service Learning in Social Work (SU 2021)
- 12 Cultural Humility (FA 20, FA 21)
- 13 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (SP 21, SP22)
- 14 Family Lifecycle Transitions (SP 21, SP 22)
- 15 Special Topics in Social Work (SP 21, SP 22)
- 16 Transcultural Healthcare (SP 21)
- 17 Social Work Advocacy (SP 22)
- 18 Field Practicum (SP 21, SU 21, FA 21)
- 19 The Ethics of Social Work Practice (SP 21, SU 21)
- 20 Social Work in Groups (SP 21, SP 22)

**Indiana University** **2007**

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*Teaching Practicum, School of Health, Physical Education & Recreation*

- 21 Facilitated break out discussions after each lecture, proctored exams, and graded assignments for Human Sexuality IU HPER F-255
- 22 Explored educational strategies for college sex education

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

**Jenny Evans Counseling, PLLC.** **October 2023-Present**

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*Owner, Clinician*

- Provide psychotherapy services to a diverse clientele.
- Complete all administrative tasks including service documentation, prior authorizations, insurance credentialing and contracting, and bookkeeping.

**Human Service Center (Now Carle Trillium Place) Peoria, IL** **2011-2020**

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As a Program Manager for substance use counseling services, I managed multiple programs across several locations, including outpatient and intensive outpatient services, drug courts, TASC, and Federal Probation services. I implemented a new evidence-based substance use program, contributing to curriculum and program design. I provided supervision and training to clinical staff in CBT, Motivational Interviewing, and the delivery of remote counseling via video conferencing during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, I was trained as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor by the National Council for Wellness and regularly conducted agency training sessions.

1. *Manager of Community Substance Use Disorder Programs and Specialty Courts*
2. *Manager of Outpatient Substance Use Services*
3. *Team Leader, Transitions Adult Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient*
4. *Recovery Specialist, Peoria County Jail Services*
5. *Clinician (Therapist), True North Solutions*
6. *Recovery Specialist (Counselor), Transitions Adult Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient*

**Wellspring Camps, St. Petersburg, FL** **2010**

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*Cognitive Behavioral Therapist/Behavioral Coach, Wellspring Florida*

Provided group and individual counseling at a wellness camp for use focusing on obesity management

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Peer Reviewer** **2022-Present**

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*Journal of Addiction*

*Medicine Qualitative Social Work*

**University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign** **August 2021-Present**

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*DSWA, Media and Social Chair 2021-2022*

*DSWA, Professional Development Co-Chair 2022-2024*

*Diversity Committee 2022-Present*

**Methodist College** **2020-2022**

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*Social Work Congress (Chair)*

*Academic Council (Social Work representative)*

*Faculty Senate (Social Work representative)*

*Title IX Advisor*

*DEI Committee*

*Student Rapid Retention Response Committee*

*Student Conduct Investigation Committee*

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**University of Chicago, SSA (Now Crown Family School of Social Work) 2010-2011**

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*Secretary, Student Government Association Executive Board*

- Elected by the student body to plan social events, organize community engagement arrange panels and presentations, and as secretary, keeping all SGA meeting minutes.

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**Indiana University, Eta Sigma Gamma, Nu Chapter 2007-2008**

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*Secretary, Executive Board*

- Elected by honorary members to assist in planning activities related to ESG's pillars: teaching, research, and service. My focus was on service, and I arranged partnerships with Ruth Lilly Health Education Center in Indianapolis, Boys and Girls Club of America, and several other local and national non-profits.

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

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**Peoria Hebrew Day School 2023-Present**

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*Board member, Board of Education*

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**American Cancer Society 2023-Present**

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*Volunteer Driver, Road to Recovery Program*

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**JOLT Harm Reduction 2015-2022**

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*Volunteer*

- Provided community trainings on opioid overdose education
- Dispense naloxone under a standing order by a local physician
- Assisted in organization of harm reduction supplies
- Participated in street outreach

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**Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center. Gurnee, IL \_ 2007-2010**

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*Volunteer, Advocacy*

- Medical, court, and hotline advocacy

**AWARDS**

- 2022- University of Illinois- On the list of teachers rated as excellent by their students
- 2022- University of Illinois- Travel Award (\$500)
- 2022- University of Illinois- Completion of Professional Development
- 2022- University of Illinois- Involvement in DSWA
- 2021- Methodist College, Outstanding Faculty of the Year
- 2021- University of Illinois- Travel Award (\$500)
- 2014- Human Service Center- FAB Award (\$75)

**CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation**

Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

LCSW # 149.015726. Active since 2013.

**National Council For Behavioral Health**

Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Certified January 2017; National Council for Behavioral Health

Selected for the Mental Health First Aid First Episode Psychosis Community of Practice (received grant from National Council for Behavioral Health).

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Council on Social Work Education

Society of Social Work Research

Research Society on Alcoholism



**GUEST LECTURES/TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

1. Guest Lecturer; Binghamton University Research Course; “Evidence Based Practice” 8/31/2022
2. Presenter; “Motivational Interviewing”. 12/4/14, 4/16/15, 8/6/15, 10/22/15, 4/7/16, 4/20/17, 11/16/17. Human Service Center.
3. Presenter; “Successful Prevention of Aggression and Crisis for Employees”. 7/30/15, 11/20/15, 4/14/16, 6/23/16, 3/27/17, 11/9/17. Human Service Center.
4. Presenter; “Naloxone Overdose Prevention Training”. November 14, 2015. JOLT Foundation at Remnant Community Church.
5. Presenter; “Columbia Suicide Severity Risk Scale”. January 15, 2016. Human Service Center.
6. Guest Speaker; “Opiates: Medications, and Overdose Reversal”. February 16, 2016. OSF College of Nursing.
7. Guest Speaker; “A Feeling is Just a Feeling; Mindfulness and Visualization”. February 24, 2016. Stark County High School Mental Health Teen Conference.
8. Presenter; “Naloxone Overdose Prevention Training”. 4/6/17, 4/7/17, 10/5/17. Human Service Center.
9. Presenter; “Crisis and Suicide Prevention”. 4/14/16, 6/23/16, 3/17/17, 11/9/17. Human Service Center.
10. Guest Speaker; “Opiates: Medications, and Overdose Reversal”. September 20, 2016. OSF College of Nursing.
11. Presenter; “Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness”. 10/10/16, 10/9/17. Peoria County Courthouse
12. Guest Speaker; “Motivational Interviewing”. November 9, 2016. Bradley University.
13. Guest Speaker; “Opioid Use and Family Involvement in Treatment”. February 28, 2017. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Bradley University.
14. Presenter; “Co-occurring Disorders”. April 4, 2017. Illinois Central College; Crisis Intervention Training for Police (multiple departments)
15. Instructor; Mental Health First Aid. April 7, 2017. Human Service Center.
16. Guest Speaker; “Mental Health and Substance Use”. September 11, 2017. Bradley University.
17. Instructor; Mental Health First Aid. September 12, 2018. Chillicothe Public Library.
18. Instructor; Mental Health First Aid; Methodist College 2021x2
19. Instructor; Mental Health First Aid; Congregation Anshai Emeth June 2019

**Tiffany Laursen**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work  
1010 West Nevada Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Phone: (585) 729-5097  
[tlaursen@alumni.harvard.edu](mailto:tlaursen@alumni.harvard.edu)  
ORCID: [0000-0002-4145-8531](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4145-8531)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Expected Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work  
December 2024 3 Article Dissertation: “[Upending the Social Innovator’s Dilemma: Probing the Social Innovation Process to Explain the Pathways that Build Evidenced Based Models for Social Development.](#)” (p. 14 in link provides detail)  
Chair: Dean, Professor Dr. Benjamin Lough  
Members: Dean Emeritus, Professor Dr. Steven Anderson; Professor Dr. Min Zhan; Assistant Professor Dr. Priscilla Alamos-Concha

ALM Harvard University  
2018 Master of Liberal Arts in International Relations  
Thesis: “Doing Good and/or Feeling Good: Examining International Citizen-to-Citizen Service Programs.”  
Thesis Director: Dr. Julie Boatright Wilson

B.A. State University of New York – Empire State University  
2014 Bachelor of Arts in Social Theory, Social Structure, and Social Change  
Concentration: Leading International Social Change  
Advisors: Dean, Dr. M.D. Haque, Dr. Adele Andersen

A.S. Monroe Community College  
2011 Associate of Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Certificate New York State Association of Community and Residential  
2009 Agencies Certificate in Disability Studies

**ACADEMIC AWARDS RECEIVED**

2024 Daniel S. Sanders Scholarship in International Social Devel  
2023 Ackerson Scholarship for Excellence in Student Teaching  
2014 Outstanding Adult Student Award: SUNY Empire State College  
2010 – 2014 Dean’s List: Monroe Community College and Empire State College  
2011 Graduated “With Distinction.” Monroe Community College

## FUNDED GRANTS

2023 Professional Development and Training Funds Research Grant from School of Social Work (\$1,200). Project: “Upending the Social Innovator’s Dilemma: Probing the Social Innovation Process to Explain the Pathways that Build Evidenced Based Models for Social Development.”

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship, and Triple Bottom Line  
Translation Science – Theory for Practice of Social Innovation and Social Change  
Typological Theory as Strategy for Social Innovation & Social Change Practice  
Transnational NGO Strategy in International Development  
Civil Society Engagement in International Development  
Social Development in West Bengal, India and Bangladesh

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer Reviewed*

Tan, K., Mahoney, J., Campbell, J., **Laursen, T.**, Sabin, P., Kemp, D., & Kim, E.B-K. (2023). The Promise of Racial Healing to Achieve Health Equity through School-based Prevention. *American Journal of Public Health*, 113. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307288>

**Laursen, T.** & Lough, B.J. (2022). Deployment of Funding Across Nonprofit, Hybrid, and For-profit Ventures. *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment*. DOI: [10.1080/20430795.2022.2154125](https://doi.org/10.1080/20430795.2022.2154125)

### *Peer Reviewed Special Issue Articles*

**Laursen, T.S.** (2021). [Strings Attached? How Global South partner organizations’ perceptions of feminism shape their relationships with Feminist Foreign Policy Donors from the Global North.](#) [Special Issue], *Voluntaris: The Journal of Voluntary Services and Civic Engagement*. (pp 76 -90). DOI: [10.5771/9783748924951-76](https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748924951-76)

Tiessen, R., **Laursen, T.S.**, Lough, B.J. with Mirza, T. (2021). [Gender-Focused Social Innovation and the Role of International Development Volunteers in Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment.](#) [Special Issue], *Voluntaris: The Journal of Voluntary Services and Civic Engagement*. (pp 91 - 107). DOI: [10.5771/9783748924951-91](https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748924951-91)

### *Book Chapters*

Iverson, M., & **Laursen, T.** (In print). Bringing Macro Social Work Education into the Future. In *Social Work and Simulations: Teaching Practice, Research, Policy and Social Injustices*. In Eds: Tan, K., Ostler, T., Wu, C. Oxford University Press.

**Laursen, Tiffany**, Mahoney, J., Chitwanga, A. (In print). Trauma Informed Response and Social Justice Through Simulations with Police. In *Social Work and Simulations: Teaching Practice, Research, Policy and Social Injustices*. Eds: Tan, K., Ostler, T., Wu, C. Oxford University Press.

Wu, C., & **Laursen, T.** (In print). The Role of Simulations in Teaching Policy. In *Social Work and Simulations: Teaching Practice, Research, Policy and Social Injustices*. In Eds: Tan, K., Ostler, T., Wu, C. Oxford University Press.

#### *Sample of Manuscripts in Progress*

**Laursen, Tiffany S.** (In Progress). The social innovator's dilemma: Typologies of social sector organizations in the Global South.

**Laursen, Tiffany S.** (In Progress). Dissecting "The Holy Grail:" Pathways to social innovation for social innovation labs in the Global South.

**Laursen, Tiffany S.** (In Progress). Exploring Qualitative Comparative Analysis as the basis of a competitive analysis tool for building evidenced based theories of change.

**Laursen, T.**, & Manisha, M. (In Progress). Gender, social media, and social impact finance in the Global South.

Lough, B.J. & **Laursen, T.** (In Progress). Conceptual definitions of social enterprises.

Tan, K., **Laursen, T.**, Campbell, J., Mahoney, J., & Kemp, D. (In Progress). How did the 2021 Capitol Insurrection Impact Perspectives on Youth Identity, Belonging, and Agency?

#### **C0-EDITED VOLUMES SPECIAL ISSUE**

R. Tiessen, B.J. Lough, **T.S. Laursen**, & K. Sadat (Eds), (2021), [\*Innovations in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Understanding the Role of International Development Volunteers as Transnational Actors\*](#), *Voluntaris: The Journal of Voluntary Services and Civic Engagement*, Special Issue.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025                    **(upcoming/accepted) International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD)**  
  
Kochi, Kerala, India  
“The Social Innovator’s Dilemma: Typologies of Social Sector Organizations in the Global South”  
  
“Dissecting ‘The Holy Grail:’ Social Innovation Lab Pathways to Social Innovation Outcomes”
- 2024                    **(upcoming/accepted) Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)**  
Kansas City, Missouri  
“Advancing Social Work Education: Leveraging Simulations for Policy Teaching and Future-Oriented Macro Practice”  
  
**The Joint Conference on Social Work and Social Development**  
Panama City, Panama  
“Exploring pathways to social innovation strategy: a potential solution for developing evidenced based theories of change”
- 2023                    **Emergence of Social Enterprise in Europe (EMES)**  
Frankfurt, Germany  
“Deployment of Funding Across Nonprofit, Hybrid, and For-Profit Ventures”  
  
**Society for Social Work (SSWR)**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
“How did the 2021 Capitol Insurrection impact youth’s identity, belonging and agency?”
- 2022                    **Seoul National University Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA)**  
Chicago, Illinois  
“Deployment of Funding Across Nonprofit, Hybrid, and For-profit Ventures.”
- 2021                    Coinciding Onsets: GEDLSID & the Pandemic  
<https://www.omprakash.org/blog/gedlsid-->
- 2010                    **Seneca Falls Dialogues**  
Seneca Falls, NY  
“The transculturation of Eastern Religions that Lure Women”



## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

7/2022 – 5/2024

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

#### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Supervisors:* Chi-Fang Wu, PhD; Kevin Tan, PhD; Terry Ostler, PhD

*Project Name:* Chancellor's Call to Action to Address Racism & Social Injustice, and the Provost's Initiative on Teaching Advancement (PITA).

- Assisted with IRB protocol, including the development of interview, focus group guides, surveys, etc.
- Key liaison recruiting and facilitating interview process with police officers; facilitated focus groups post simulation with students.
- Prepped data and developed analysis plan.

1/2020 – 7/2023

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

#### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & University of Ottawa**

*Supervisors:* Benjamin Lough, PhD; Rebecca Tiessen, PhD

*Project Name:* Gender Equality, Digital Learning, and Social Innovation across Differences (GEDLSID)

- EDGE Platform: engaging with community partners and international volunteers during the early days of the pandemic. Provided initial analysis of data.
- Network with community partners in five countries on EDGE regarding classroom reflections on gender equality, transnational flows, social innovation, and research methods. Began outlining potential publications on the project.
- Data Collection and Preparing Analysis plan, Data Coding and Analysis, Manuscript production

12/2020 – 3/2021 &  
5/2021 – 3/2023

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

#### **University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign**

*Supervisor:* Kevin Poh Hiong Tan, Ph. D.

*Project Name:* Healing Illinois

- Facilitated focus group discussions on social and emotional learning of young people following the 2020 presidential election.
- Facilitated the development of analysis plan: developed coding plan, redacted transcripts, developed codebook and prepared software applications for coding, trained and supervised coders, assisted with manuscript production.

8/2019 – 12/2021

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

#### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & University of Ottawa**

*Supervisors:* Benjamin Lough, Ph.D.; Rebecca Tiessen, PhD

*Project Name:* The Effects of International Volunteers on Gender Equity and Women’s Empowerment: Perspectives from Partner Organizations in the Global South.

- Data coding, analysis, and prepared publications preparation on grant examining: Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy and role of international volunteers on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

2017

**Research Assistant: Observer and Assessor Harvard University: Graduate School of Education**

*Supervisors:* Sibyl Holland, MA; Catherine Snow, PhD; Nonie Lesaux, PhD

*Project Name:* Expanding Children’s Early Learning (ExCEL)

- Collected data through pre-k observations and child assessments in Boston Public Schools.
- Social & Behavioral Science Research Certified: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative.

## RESEARCH SOFTWARE

IBM SPSS, Atlas-Ti, Qualtrics, fsQCA 3.0, R Studio for fsQCA, GPower 3.1, Mendeley, Office 365, Dedoose, (social) Lifecycle Assessment (LCA, SLCA).

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship, and SocialChange Non-Profit & Social Enterprise Strategy and Management International Development & Human Rights Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice Social Programs

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall ‘22, ‘23, ‘24  
Spring ‘23, ‘24

**Adjunct Instructor**

**Social Entrepreneurship and Social Change (BSW, iBSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

Achievement: [List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students \(all semesters\)](#)

Spring ‘24

**Adjunct Instructor**

**Theories of Diversity, Inequality, & Social Change (iMSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

Achievement: [List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students \(all semesters\)](#)

**Grading Assistant**

**Managing Human Service Organizations (MSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

Fall '21, '23, '24  
Spring '22

**Adjunct Instructor**

**Social Work Research Methods (BSW, iMSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

Achievements: [List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students \(all semesters\)](#)

Summer '23, '24

**Adjunct Instructor**

**International Social Work and Development (MSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

[Achievements: List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students \(all semesters\)](#)

**Adjunct Instructor**

**Social Welfare Policy (iMSW)**

University of Illinois Urbana –  
Champaign School of Social  
Work

Achievements: [List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students](#)

Fall '19

**Teaching Assistant**

**Honors: Doing Good through the Nonprofit Sector**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work

Specific Classes Taught:

Effective Meetings & Parliamentary

Procedures Social Entrepreneurship

Social

Enterprise Non-Profit Finance

Careers in the Non-Profit Sector

2005-2014            **Instructor**  
Diversity  
Lifetime Assistance, Inc.

## **GUEST LECTURES & INVITED OPPORTUNITIES**

Fall 2022            **Invited Guest Lecturer**  
**Monroe Community**  
**Colleege Honors: Literature**  
Composition

**Invited Guest Lecturer**  
**University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign**  
Honors: Doing Good in the Nonprofit Sector

Spring 2020        **Judge:** “Map the Systems” challenge  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign GIES College of Business

Spring 2015 &  
Spring 2016        **Invited Guest Lecturer**  
**Monroe Community College**  
Honors: Literature Composition

## **COMMITTEES & SERVICE**

Fall 2024            Peer Reviewer: Social Enterprise Journal

Fall 2023 –  
Present              Emergence of Social Enterprise in Europe  
PhD Committee  
Co-Planned Global, Virtual Webinar: “The relationship between  
research and practice for social enterprises.”

Fall 2020 –  
Work Spring 2023    UIUC School of Social  
PhD Mentor

Fall 2023 &  
Work Spring 2024    UIUC School of Social  
Research Advisory Comm.

Spring 2023        UIUC School of Social Work  
Affinity Group: Bridging Student Opportunities Between Children Youth  
& Family Services & Leadership and Social Change

Fall 2022 &  
Spring 2023        UIUC School of Social Work  
2 Affinity Groups: Infusing Curriculum with Anti-Racism  
& Social Justice

Faculty Who Teach Leadership and Social Change Concentration  
Faculty Who Teach Research Methods

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Emergence of Social Enterprise in Europe (EMES)  
Harvard Alumni Associations: Global Development; Women for Defense,  
Diplomacy, Development; Entrepreneurs; Club of Rochester, Club of Chicago,  
Club of Houston Society Social Work and Research (SSWR)  
Academy of Management  
International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS)

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DIRECT, IN FIELD) PRACTICE

- 2012 – **Global Partners for People, Inc.**  
Founder, President of Board
- 2014 **Grahamstown, South Africa**  
Piloted Borderless Development model focused on international collaborations for social innovation.
- 2013 **Karachi, Pakistan**  
Assisted with gathering training materials and funding opportunities for a speech and language pathology social enterprise.  
Co-authored Op-Ed published in 2015 in Pakistan, “The Missing Link”
- 2012 **Medinipur & Kolkata, West Bengal, India**  
Solo travel – toured and researched local development projects.
- 2008 & 2009 **Progreso & Reynosa, Mexico**  
Consulted and brainstormed opportunities with a local mission school.
- 2001 **Prague, Brno, & Havlikuv Brod, Czech Republic**  
Provided relief services to refugees.
- 2000 **Baguio City, Pampanga, & Dagupan, Philippines**  
Participated in education projects and anti-drug campaigns.
- 1999 **Quito & Quichua, Ecuador**  
Collaborated with education projects with Quichua Indians, urban slums, and street kids.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Present      **Mortalis Brewing Company, Avon NY**  
Current: Per Diem Midwest Rep. Previous: Assistant Manager  
Assisted with leading the quick transition from an innovative start-up into established business of a four-month-old, globally ranked top-20 micro-brewery.
- 2017 – 2019      **Idol Ridge Winery, Lodi NY**  
Tasting Room Lead Bartender & Airbnb Manager  
Increased sales (exhibited with customer reviews) by interactive knowledge sharing, suggesting marketing and sales ideas to increase foot traffic draw, and organizing inventory for easy flow and count,  
Assisted with opening sister winery Spring/Summer 2018:  
Fossenvue Opened and oversaw operations of Airbnb guest house.
- 2016 – 2017      **Harvard University Libraries, Cambridge MA**  
Temp Assistant  
Processed, ordered, and located 3.5 million resources at Harvard's flagship library.
- 2003 – 2014      **Lifetime Assistance, Rochester NY**  
Community Integration Manager/Specialist  
Provided supports and services to individuals with intellectual disabilities: direct support, management, and trained new employees as a Human Resources Diversity Instructor.  
Added social science research into Human Resources Diversity Trainer Manual. Built staff development training manual to improve programs and services.  
Incorporated cross-cultural communications trainings into professional development strategy. Researched and encouraged staff development through external trainings.  
Assisted with opening two day programs, closing two day programs, and opening one new residential model.
- 2001 – 2003      **Heritage Christian Services, Rochester, NY**  
Residence Support Counselor  
Provided supports and services to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

## CERTIFICATIONS

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)  
Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention – Revised (SCIP-R)  
TIPS Certified



**Alex (Po-Kang) Lee, MSW, MA**  
Curriculum Vitae

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School of Social Work  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1010 W. Nevada  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(215)-450-0764 / E-mail: [alexlee5@illinois.edu](mailto:alexlee5@illinois.edu)

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
May 2025 (expected) School of Social Work  
Dissertation: Investigating Emerging Adults in Recovery: A  
Recovery Capital Perspective Using National-Based Data
- M.S.W.** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2022 School of Social Work  
Concentration: *Advanced Clinical in Mental Health*
- M.A.** Westminster Theological Seminary  
2020 Master of Arts in Religion  
Concentration: *Counseling*
- B.S.W.** National Taiwan University  
2014 Department of Social Work  
Bachelor of Social Work

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## RESEARCH AREAS

- Areas** Substance Use Disorder, Recovery & Recovery Capital, Mental Health, Stigma, Adolescent and Emerging Adult Development, Health Disparities, Motivational Interviewing
- Method** Latent Class Analysis, Structural Equation Modeling, Machine Learning (LASSO, Random Forest), Human-centered Design, Longitudinal Analysis

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## AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

### Scholarships and Awards

- 2024 **Chinn Family Scholarship**, \$7,500  
Asian American Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2023 **Excellence in Teaching** (SOCW 427 Research Methods)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2022 **Graduate College Conference Travel Award, \$600**  
Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2021 **Graduate College Conference Travel Award, \$550**  
Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2017     **Professional Development Award, \$5,000**  
Childhood Burn Foundation of Republic of China, Taiwan

2013     **Study Abroad Scholarship, \$75,000 NTD**  
Ministry of Education Republic of China,  
Taiwan

### Practice Recognitions

2013     **Innovative Group Program Design**  
Childhood Burn Foundation of Republic of China, Taiwan

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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#### Peer-reviewed Publications

Smith, D. C., Garthe, R. C., **Lee, A.**, Kim, S., Thebaud, M., & Kovacevic, L. (2023). Expanded Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Adult Cannabis Use: A Latent Class Analysis. *Cannabis*, 6(1), 1.

**Lee A.**, Smith C. S., & Campbell C. Corey. (Under Review). The Impact of Substance Use Terminology on Stigma Among MSW Students: A Randomized Study.

**Lee, A.**, B, Tuyen., Evans, M. J., Wilson, B., & Smith D. C. (Under Review). “It’s a Revolving Door!”: A Qualitative Study of Family Members’ Perspectives on Opioid Use Disorder Treatment.

#### Other Publications (Book Chapter, Reports)

Smith D. C., **Lee, A.** (In Press). *Motivational Interviewing with Families Rising and Launching Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults*. In Smith D. C & Lee, A. *Motivational Interviewing with Families*.

**Illinois Statewide Epidemiology Outcomes Workshop** (2023). Racial, Gender, and Income Disparities in Marijuana, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Prescription Drug in Illinois. Lead Author: **Alex Lee** & Aalishba Ahmad.

#### Conference Presentations

**Lee, A.**, B, Tuyen., Evans, M. J., Wilson, B., Smith D. C. (2023, May). “It’s a Revolving Door!”: A Qualitative Study of Family Members’ Perspectives on Opioid Use Disorder Treatment. Oral presentation at UIUC at International Conference of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Urbana, IL.

**Lee, A.**, Smith D. C. (2023). Comparing Youth in and out of Recovery who Resolved Cannabis Use Problems. Poster presented at the 2023 Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj). Long Beach, LA.

**Lee, A.**, Smith, D. C., & Reinhart, C. (2023). Associations between Dabbing Cannabis and Adolescent Substance Use Risk Behaviors. Poster presented at the at the 2023 Annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Phoenix, AZ.

**Lee A.**, Smith C. S., & Campbell C. Corey. (2022). Language Matters: A Randomized Study to Examine Substance Use-Related Stigma among Master of Social Work(MSW) Students. Poster presented at the Annual conference of Council of Social Work Education. Anaheim, LA.

Smith D. C\*., Garthe, R. C., **Lee, A.**, Kim, S., and Thebaud, M. I., & Kovacevic, L. (2022, January). Patterns of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Community Violence, Racial Discrimination, and Bullying: Associations with Adult Cannabis Use. Oral presentation at the meeting of Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington, D.C.

**Lee A.**, Kuang-yi, T., Jun-Hua, L. (2017). Program Evaluation of Teenage Group of Child Burn Summer Camp in 2016. Poster presented at 11th Asia Pacific Burn Congress. Taipei, Taiwan.

\* Symbol indicates a presenter.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

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- Social Work Research Methods
- Social Work Statistics
- Social Work and Technology
- Human Behavior & Social Environment I & II
- Introduction to Social work
- \* Mental Health Policy
- \* Substance Use and Behavioral Disorder
- \* Social Work and Substance Use Disorder

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

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|         |  |
|---------|--|
| FA 2023 | <b>Instructor</b><br>SOCW 427 Social Work Research Methods<br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  |
| SU 2024 | <b>Lab Mentor</b> , BSW Student Summer Program<br><b>Roles:</b> Mentored undergraduate students in independent research; Provided instruction in data analysis; Supported presentation poster preparation              |
| 2023/24 | <b>Lab Mentor</b> , SUPPORT program<br><b>Roles:</b> Trained undergraduate students in qualitative research methodologies; Conducted weekly meetings; Reviewed interview contents; Provided feedback on student’s work |

## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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2024 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**

**Illinois Police Deflection Evaluation Program**

Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC

PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith; Ebonie Epinger

Funder: Illinois Department of Human Services

☰☑ Conducted comprehensive literature reviews; developed quantitative research questionnaires; prepared and managed IRB applications; and ensured data quality throughout the research process.

2023 – 2024

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**Youth Mix-method Recovery Study**

Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC

PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith; Dr. Flora Cohen

☰☑ Conducted comprehensive literature reviews; developed both quantitative research questionnaires and qualitative study questions; prepared and managed IRB applications; created codebooks; and ensured data quality throughout the research process.

2022 – 2024

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**Illinois State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)**

Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC

Funder: Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith; Dr. Crystal Reinhart

☰☑ Analyzed state-level data from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Youth Survey (IYS), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); and developed comprehensive reports based on findings.

2022 – 2024

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**Illinois Youth Survey (IYS)**

Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC

Funder: Illinois Department of Human Services

PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith; Dr. Crystal Reinhart

☰☑ Ensured data collection quality; managed an online web application; created Qualtrics surveys; and used SQL to oversee and manage the data collection process.

2021 – 2022

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**Improving Opioid Use Disorder Treatments for Medicaid Enrollees in Illinois (SUPPORT program)**

Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC

Funder: Illinois Department of Human Services.

PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith

- Designed and conducted a qualitative study using semi-structured interviews with families of individuals with opioid use experience; trained, supervised, and evaluated junior researchers on qualitative methodologies, tools, and literature review processes; analyzed qualitative survey response data and successfully published the

findings; ensured interview data quality and created codebook.

- 2020 – 2021     **Graduate Research Assistant**  
**Peer-enhanced Motivational Interview Study**  
Center of Prevention Research and Development, UIUC  
PI: Dr. Douglas. C. Smith
- Assisted with literature reviews, data cleaning, and the design of quantitative research questionnaires, and supported data management.
- 2013 – 2014     **Undergrad Research Assistant**  
**National Taiwan University**  
Taipei, Taiwan  
PI: Dr. Huei-Ching, Wu
- Assisted with mental health policy literature reviews, data cleaning, project organization, office administration, and budget management.

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022 – Present     **Counselor/Mentor**  
Taiwan Emmaus Biblical Counseling Center  
Taipei, Taiwan
- 2022     **Social Work Intern, Advanced Clinical Social Work**  
VA Illiana Health Care System  
Danville, IL
- 2015 – 17     **Clinical Medical Social Work**  
Mackay Memorial Hospital  
Taipei, Taiwan

## **SKILLS AND TRAINING**

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### **Software and programming skills**

Advanced: R, Nvivo, Dedoose, SPSS, STATA, python, and Qualtrics  
Intermediate: STATA, Mplus, SQL, REDCap

### **Clinical Training**

Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Family Therapy

## **PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE**

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- 2014     Licensed Social Worker | Taiwan Testing and Certification Center

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2024     **Advisory**, Asian American Cultural Center  
**Reviewer**, *Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia*; 2024 American Public Health Association Annual Conference
- 2023     **Reviewer**, *Qualitative Social Work*

2023 **Co-Chair**, Ph.D. Resources Outreach Team

2021 **Reviewer**, *Qualitative Social Work*

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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Asian American Cultural Center (AACC)

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Qualitative Social Work



**Jenna Mahoney, LCSW**  
Curriculum Vitae

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406.600.1626 • jmahony2@illinois.edu

**EDUCATION**

**PhD Student within the School of Social Work**

- *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*, Fall 2021-Present
- Research interests: Teacher Self-Efficacy in Classroom Management, Exclusionary Discipline Practices for Students of Color, School Staff Burnout, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Social Emotional Learning, Equity in Schools, Trauma Informed Practices, School Social Workers

**Graduate Coursework:**

National Social Welfare Policy (SOCW 585) *Fall 2021*  
Qualitative Research (SOCW 593) *Fall 2021*  
Educational Statistics (EPSY 480) *Fall 2021*  
Leading School Improvement (EPOL 536) *Fall 2021*  
Quantitative Research (SOCW 595) *Spring 2022*  
Methods of Educational Inquiry (CI 550) *Spring 2022*  
Social Work Practice Theories (SOCW 579) *Spring 2022*  
Independent Study (SPED 595) *Fall 2022*  
Statistical Inference in Education (EPSY 580) *Fall 2022*  
Mixed Method Inquiry (EPSY 575) *Fall 2022*  
Teaching Practicum (SOCW 576) *Fall 2022*  
Independent Study (SPED 595) *Spring 2023*  
Applied Regression Analysis (EPSY 581) *Spring 2023*  
Social Work Teaching Seminar (SOCW 576) *Spring 2023*

**Master of Social Work**

- *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*, Degree Received: May 2015
- Specialization: School Social Work
- GPA: 3.69/4.0

**BA in Psychology, minor in Child Development**

- *California State University, Sacramento*, Degree Received: May 2012
- BA in Psychology, minor in Child Development
- GPA: 3.38/4.0, Semester Hours:124

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Adjunct Instructor**

**01/2024-05/2024**

Course: Public School Policy/Services  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Adjunct Instructor** **08/2023-12/2023**

*Course:* Social Work and Disability (SocW370)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Adjunct Instructor** **01/2023-5/2023**

*Course:* Trauma Informed Practice with Children and Youth (SOCW503)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Teaching Practicum** **08/2022-12/2022**

*Course:* Social Work Practice with Children and Youth (SOCW 506)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Instructor:* Dr. Kevin Tan, Assistant Professor

**Invited Guest Lecturer** **Spring 2024**

*Course:* HBSE I: Human Development  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Instructor:* Jenna Muller, MPH

**Invited Guest Lecturer** **Spring 2023**

*Course:* School Social Workers Role in Special Education  
School of Social Work and College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Instructor:* Brenda Lindsey and Stacy Dymond

**Invited Guest Lecturer** **Spring 2022**

*Course:* School Social Work Practice  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Instructor:* Brenda Lindsey

**Invited Guest Lecturer** **Fall 2022**

*Course:* Social Work Practice with Children and Youth  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Instructor:* Dr. Kevin Tan

**AWARDS & CERTIFICATES**

- Adjunct Instructor of the Year, School of Social Work, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Spring 2024
- License Clinical Social Worker Exam completed and passed, March 2018
- Outstanding Field Instructor Award from UIUC School of Social Work, March 2018
- Educator of the Year Nominee from Rantoul City Schools, November 2017
- Professional Educators License, June 2015

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Mahoney, J.** (March 2024). *School Social Workers: Advocating for Our Role*. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Self-Care Retreat for Schools Mental Health Professionals.

**Mahoney, J., Free, J.,** (June 2023). *School Social Workers Advocating for the Profession: Demystifying the Role*. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Self-Care Retreat for School Social Workers.

Roegman, R., Tan, K., Rice, P., **Mahoney, J.** (April 2023). *Politics, Polarization, and Politicization of Social Emotional Learning and School Boards*. American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

Tan, K., Kim, B.K., Campbell, J., **Mahoney, J.** Larson, T. (April 2023). *Seeking Truth About the Context of School-to-Prison Nexus: Role of Racial Trauma and Healing*. American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

Muller, J., **Mahoney, J.,** Tan, K., Powell, T., (April 2023). *Educator Coping and Moderating Effects of Mental Health and Experience on COVID-19 Worries and Distress*. American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

**Mahoney, J.,** Free, J. (March 2023). *School Social Workers Advocating for the Profession: Demystifying the Role*. School Social Work Association of America. Denver, CO.

Campbell, J., Tan, K., Kim, B.K., **Mahoney, J.** Larson, T. (January 2023). *Reflections from Healing Illinois: Understanding the Impact of Contemporary Events on the Socioemotional Well-Being of K-12 Educators, Parents, and Students and Its Implications for Racial Healing*. Society for Social Work Research. Pheonix, AZ.

**Charting an Agenda for School-Based Research in Racial Equity, Social Justice, and Pandemic Recovery Around the Framework for 21st Century School Social Work Practice.** (January, 20230. **Organizer:** Jenna Mahoney, MSW. **Speakers/Presenters:** Aaron Thompson, PhD , Kevin Tan, PhD , Leticia Villarreal Sosa, PhD , Andy Frey, PhD and Brenda Lindsey, Ed.D

Tan, K., Flamini, A., **Mahoney, J.** (March 2022). *The Role of the School Social Worker in Building Capacity for PBIS and Equity*. School Social Work Association of America. Chicago, IL.

Roegman, R., Tan, K., Rice, P., **Mahoney, J.** (Spring 2022). *Illinois Board Members Perspectives on SEL Amidst a Global Pandemic*. ESSA/Multilingual Illinois Combined Conference, IL.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Lenstra, L., Muller, J. M., **Mahoney, J.,** & Tan, K. (2022). Social–Emotional Learning in Action with Young Elementary Students through StoryWalk. *Children & Schools*, 44(4), 247–250. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdac017>

Roegman, R., Tan, K., Rice, P., & **Mahoney, J.** (2022). *Politics, Polarization, and Politicization of Social Emotional Learning and School Boards*. 19(2).

Tan, K., & Mahoney, J. (2022). Is Self-Care the Answer? *Children & Schools*, 44(3), 131–135. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdac012>

Muller, J., Mahoney, J., Tan, K., Powell, T. (2022). *We Have a Gun Problem (and What's New about That?)* | *Children & Schools* | *Oxford Academic*. Retrieved February 8, 2023, from <https://academic.oup.com/cs/article-abstract/44/4/191/6693581?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Tan, K., Mahoney, J., Kim, B.E., Campbell, J., Larson, T. (2023) The Promise of Racial Healing to Achieve Health Equity through School-based Prevention. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Mahoney, J., McClowry, G., Lenstra, L., Tan, K., (2023). PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT: Bright Futures: A University-Community Partnership Nurturing Possible Selves Among Young Underrepresented Students. *Children and Schools*.

Alvarez, M., Santamaria, D., Mahoney, J., Coble-Lindsey, B., Wiechert, A., Oliver, R. (2023). Launching National Certification for School Social Workers. *School Social Work Journal*.

Mitchell, B. D., Lucio, R., Souhrada, E., Buttera, K., & Mahoney, J. (2024). Understanding the Attack on Social–Emotional Learning: Strategizing on the Response and Advocacy of School Mental Health Practitioners. *School Mental Health*.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Assistant**

**08/2021-Present**

- Assist with general research project needs.
- Attend school social work/ school psychologist meetings in nearby school district to assist with Tier Two social emotional needs.
- Utilized SPSS and Atlas.ti to analyze data for publications.
- Organize data as needed.
- Lead research assistant in qualitative data analysis.

## **SERVICE**

### **School Social Work Practice Model 2.0**

**2022-2024**

Consulted with faculty tasked to update the School Social Work practice model.

### **Event Coordinator: Self-Care Retreat for School Social Workers**

**March 2023**

Event Coordinator for school social worker retreat held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work.

- Contacted and coordinated presenters for the 2-day event.
- Planned and organized social events for the event.
- Ensured that all CEU forms were completed and turned in.

### **Student representative for the University Librarian's Student Advisory Committee December 2023-Present**

University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

**Diversity Committee Member** **October 2023-Present**  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work

**Paper reviewer for Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy**  
**Fall 2023**

**Paper reviewer for American Education Research Association (AERA) August 2023**  
Reviewed five submitted papers for inclusion in the AERA national meeting.

**Event Coordinator: Self-Care Retreat for School Social Workers** **June 2023**  
Event Coordinator for school social worker retreat held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work.

- Contacted and coordinated four presenters for the 2-day event.
- Planned and organized social events for the event.
- Ensured that all CEU forms were completed and turned in.

**Vice President- Feeding Our Kids** **2/2021-02/2024**  
Board member for non-profit assisting with food insecurity in school aged children within Champaign County.

- Participate in monthly board meetings.
- Provide school-based perspective to better meet the needs of students and school staff.
- Assisted with organizing a “Thank You” event for volunteers.

**Board Member- The Healing Project** **12/2022-Present**  
Board member for non-profit focusing on healing complex trauma through the arts.

### **GRANTS RECEIVED**

- Community Learning Lab, Small Grants Big Impact, \$1,005. University of Illinois Field Trip for K-8 Students, 2024.
- Community Learning Lab, Small Grants Big Impact, \$825. Feeding Our Kids 10 Year Anniversary Celebration, 2023.
- Community Learning Lab, Small Grants Big Impact, \$1,005. University of Illinois Field Trip for K-8 Students, 2023.
- Mini-grant received from IASSW for Conscious Discipline materials, 2017.

**COMPLETED TRAININGS**

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training, Spring 2024
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, Winter 2016 & Spring 2024
- Campus Training Authority, Spring 2024
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training, October 2019
- Crisis Prevention Intervention Training, November 2018
- Conscious Discipline Training, March 2019, August 2017, December 2016
- Facilitated IEP Training, Fall 2016
- Choice Language Therapy Training, August 2015
- Positive Behavior Facilitation Training, Fall 2014

**Jenna M. Muller, MPH**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work

1010 W. Nevada Street  
Urbana, IL 60801

[jmuller2@illinois.edu](mailto:jmuller2@illinois.edu)

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**EDUCATION**

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- 2020- Present      **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL**  
*Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Work*  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Dissertation: Understanding Palestinian University Student Mental Health, Coping and Institutional Support Needs: A Mixed Methods Study
- 2020                      **University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**  
*Master in Public Health*  
Concentration: Global Health  
Capstone: Factors Influencing Career Attainment of Foster Youth with Chronic Conditions: A Photo-Elicitation Study
- 2017                      **University of Portland, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Portland, OR**  
Minors: Neuroscience, Spanish  
Capstone: Investigating Perceptions of Non-Profit Employees Towards the Homeless

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Trauma and Coping; Systemic Trauma; Global Mental Health; International Social Work; Social Justice

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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- Summer 2024- Present      **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Dr. Rachel Garthe  
School of Social Work  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL  
*Project Title: Illinois Criminal Justice Authority Statewide Violence Prevention Plan 2020-2024: Review of Programs and Strategies, Needs Assessment of Violence in Illinois & Recommendations for Funding: Needs Assessment of Violence in Illinois. Funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA).*



- Conducted quantitative and qualitative data analyses from violence needs assessment
- Attended research lab meetings
- Corresponded with grant participants
- Co-authored publications on disparities in reporting and help seeking across marginalized groups following violent crime victimization

Spring 2024

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Janet Liechty

School of Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

- Analyzed and synthesized BSW and MSW student survey data for biannual CSWE accreditation learning competencies
- Analyzed and synthesized survey data for internal department review
- Designed SOPs for data analyses
- Generated reports on survey data

2022-2023

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD)

School of Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

*Project Title: Office of Population Affairs (OPA) Teen Pregnancy*

*Prevention (TPP) Tier 1 Phase 1 Program (T1P1). Funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).*

- Analyzed and synthesized qualitative data on teen pregnancy prevention program evaluation for annual grant reviews
- Authored literature review on state, national and international trends in adolescent sexual behavior
- Authored literature review on use of Theory of Planned Behavior in adolescent sexual education

2021-2023

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Kevin Tan

School of Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

*Grant Title: Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program Grant, funded by Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA).*

- Conducted quantitative data analysis across several projects focusing on improving youth development through implementation of social-emotional learning (SEL) programs in local K-12 schools
- Attended grant meetings

- Corresponded with grant participants
- Gathered and synthesized quantitative and qualitative data for ongoing grants
- Wrote and submitted quarterly ICJIA grant reports
- Co-authored publications on SEL interventions in schools

2022-Present

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Tara M. Powell

School of Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

*Study Title: Pragmatic RCT of a multi-level mechanistically informed community intervention to prevent the onset of behavioral health symptoms among socioeconomically disadvantaged pandemic-affected children.*

*Protocol Number 21906; Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health [1R01MH131248-01]*

- Attended weekly research team meetings
- Assisted with development of study materials
- Trained research assistants and facilitators on project methods and interventions
- Maintained large databases
- Corresponded with enrolled study participants and study team members
- Co-authored papers for publication
- Prepared materials for conferences and presentations

2020-Present

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Tara M. Powell

School of Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

- Wrote and contributed to publications
- Performed miscellaneous job-related duties as assigned

2019-2020

**Research Assistant**

Psychology of Eating and Consumer Health (PEACH) Lab

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

- Maintained databases
- Assisted with preparation of lab materials
- Actively recruited and screened study participants
- Conducted market research with children and families

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Spring 2024                    **Human Development (Adjunct Lecturer)**  
Bachelor's Course  
The University of Illinois School of Social Work, Urbana, IL
- Developed and delivered course lectures and activities
  - Documented class attendance, held office hours, and assisted students with course-related inquiries
  - Graded and provided feedback on all assignments
- Fall 2023                    **Diversity: Identities and Issues (Teaching Assistant)**  
Bachelor's Course  
The University of Illinois School of Social Work, Urbana, IL
- Documented class attendance, held office hours, and assisted students with course-related inquiries
  - Developed and delivered several course lectures and activities
  - Graded and provided feedback on all assignments
- Spring 2021                **Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents (Teaching Assistant)**  
Master's Course  
The University of Illinois School of Social Work, Urbana, IL
- Assisted professor in conducting group activities
  - Assisted in grading assignments
  - Developed and delivered several course lectures and activities

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Published Refereed Journal Articles***

1. Scott, J., Leytham-Powell, T., Morales-Rodríguez, I., Suarez-Rodriguez, A., Yuma, P., & **Muller, J.** (2024). The disparate impact of Hurricane Maria: the relationship between recovery of public services, traumatic stress and household income of healthcare and social service industry workers. *Environmental Hazards*, 1–17.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17477891.2024.2351383>
2. **Muller, J.**, Mahoney, J., Tan, K., Powell, T. (2022). We Have a Gun Problem (and What's New about That?), *Children & Schools*. DOI: <https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1093/cs/cdac021>
3. Lenstra, L., **Muller, J.**, Mahoney, J., Tan, K. (2022). Practice Highlight: Social-Emotional Learning in Action with Young Elementary Students through StoryWalk®. *Children & Schools*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdac017>
4. Powell, T., Billiot, S., **Muller, J.**, Elzy, K., & Brandon, A. (2022). The Cost of Caring: Psychological Adjustment of Healthcare Volunteers During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Traumatology*. DOI: <https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1037/trm0000387>

5. Choi, S., Powell, T., **Muller, J.**, & Lux, E.A. (2021). Exploring the disproportionate impact of disasters-Social service providers' perceptions of factors increasing vulnerability among hurricane survivors. *Families in Society*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894211051570>

### **Research Reports**

1. **Muller, J.** Powell, T. and Lough, B.J. (2023). Conceptualization of Mental Health. Evidence Brief. Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC
2. **Muller, J.**, Powell, T. & Lough, B.J. (2023). Treatment Approaches in the Global South: A Review of the Evidence. Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC.
3. Miles, T., Powell, T., **Muller, J.**, Lough, B.J. (2023). What standard terminology is used to describe mental health across professions and contexts? Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC.
4. Powell, T., **Muller, J.**, Lough, B.J. (2023). Contextualization of mental health interventions in global mental health. Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC.
5. Powell, T., **Muller, J.**, Lough, B.J. (2023). Trauma-Informed Approaches. Research Technical Assistance Center: Washington, DC.

### **Book Chapters**

1. Powell, T. & **Muller, J.** (2024). Students with Adverse Childhood Experiences. In C. G. Franklin, M. B. Harris, & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.), *School services sourcebook* (3rd Ed).
2. Powell, T., **Muller, J.**, & Wetzel, G. (2023). Evidence-based interventions for children and families during disaster recovery: Trends, lessons learned, and future directions. In *Environmental Impacts on Families: Change, Challenge, and Adaptation*.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Peer Reviewed Presentations**

1. **Muller, J.**, Powell, T., Billiot, S. (January 2022). *Psychological Distress, Social Support, and Coping during the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Healthcare Volunteers in New York City*. Poster Presentation at Society for Social Work Research. Washington, D.C.
2. **Muller, J.**, Mahoney, J., Tan, K., Powell, T. (April 2023). *Moderating Effects of District Supports, Previous Mental/Emotional Health, and Years of Teaching Experience on COVID-19 Worries and Overall Emotional Distress in Suburban Public School District Teachers*. American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

### **Invited Presentations and Lectures**

1. *Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care*. (March 2024). Presenter. Self-Care Retreat for School Social Workers. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2. *Family and Disability*. (November 2023). Presenter. Undergraduate social work: Social Work and Disability Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
3. *Body Diversity and Fatphobia*. (November 2023). Presenter. Undergraduate social work: Diversity Identities and Issues. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
4. *Disabilities, Seen and Unseen*. (November 2023). Presenter. Undergraduate social work: Diversity Identities and Issues. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
5. *Addressing Mental Health of Healthcare Providers During COVID-19*. (April 2022). Presenter. Virtual Conference: Eastern Illinois University.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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Spring 2024-  
Present

**Global Mental Health Research Lab Assistant**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Attended all lab meetings and recorded notes for meeting members
- Assisted in location of funding and collaboration opportunities for research

November 2022-  
April 2023

**Global Mental Health Consultant**  
USAID, US

- Reviewed extant literature in relevant areas of global mental health (e.g., cultural conceptions of mental illness, cultural adaptation)
- Developed policy briefs to inform future interventions

## **SELECT EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

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September 2017-  
July 2018

**Lead Youth Care Counselor**, Boys & Girls Aid, Portland, OR

Supervised youth ages 12-18. Managed medication for all youth, including administering medications, connecting or maintaining connection to health services, filling prescriptions, maintaining inventory and proper documentation. Lead weekly group skill-building sessions. Utilized trauma-informed interventions for youth. Arranged and provided transportation for youth. Worked in partnership with youth care counselors, program director and program coordinator for program development.

January 2017-  
September 2017

**On-Call Youth Advocate**, New Avenues for Youth, Portland, OR

Supervised homeless clients aged 17-24. Assisted clients with effective development of life skills. Fostered interpersonal relationships with clients.

Implemented crisis management procedures. Maintained program facilities and spaces.

## **SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

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|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Peer Reviewer</b>   | American Journal of Preventive Medicine, European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  |
| <b>Social Co-Chair</b> | Doctoral Social Work Student Association (DSWA), School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL (2021-2022) |
| <b>Co-Lead</b>         | Penn Public Health Society (PPHS), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (2019-2020)  |
| <b>Volunteer</b>       | Solo Chicas Program, I-Change Peru, Trujillo, Peru (Summer 2019)   |
| <b>Volunteer</b>       | Books Through Bars, Philadelphia, PA (2018-2019)   |

## **CERTIFIED TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

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|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2021 | Attachment Styles Interview (ASI) Training (Virtual Training)<br>Middlesex University<br>London, UK (October 5-6, 12-13, 2021) |
| 2021 | Journey of Hope Curriculum for Caregivers<br>Tara Powell<br>Champaign, IL (July 9, 2021)                                       |

## **SKILLS**

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Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis Software: Stata, SPSS, R, NVivo

Databases and Survey Tools: REDCap, SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics, Excel

Cloud-Based Content Management Systems: Box, Microsoft Teams, Canvas

Graphic Design Tools: Canva

Languages: Spanish (Proficient), Arabic (Elementary)

## **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

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|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2023 | UIUC School of Social Work Professional Development Grant (\$700) |
|------|---|

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2022 | Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III Doctoral Program Disruption (DPD) Grant (\$5000) |
| 2022 | UIUC School of Social Work Professional Development Grant (\$600)                                   |
| 2022 | Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III Emergency Grant (\$500)                          |
| 2021 | UIUC School of Social Work Professional Development Grant (\$600)                                   |
| 2021 | Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II Emergency Grant (\$1000)                          |
| 2020 | UIUC School of Social Work Professional Development Grant (\$600)                                   |



**Simon Mwima MPH, MSW**

**Curriculum Vitae**

**PhD Candidate,**

School of Social Work

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

1010 W. Nevada Street; Urbana, IL 61801

Email: [smwima2@illinois.edu](mailto:smwima2@illinois.edu), Phone: 217-202-0907

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2745-2026>

Google Scholar: <https://rb.gy/mj99zf>

**EDUCATION**

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|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Expected 05/2025 | <b>Ph.D.</b> Social Work<br>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA<br><b>Dissertation:</b> <i>Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) For HIV Prevention Among African Youth: A Multi-Methods Examination of Implementation, Usage Patterns And Adherence Determinants.</i> |
| 2023             | Master of Social Work, <b>MSW</b><br>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA<br><b>Concentration:</b> Advanced Clinical Health Care  |
| 2018             | Master of Arts, <b>Sociology</b><br>Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda   |
| 2016             | Master of Public Health, <b>MPH</b><br>Lund University, Sweden<br><b>Concentration:</b> Family, Society, and Health  |
| 2009             | Bachelor of Arts, <b>BA</b> (Hons)<br>Makerere University Kampala, Uganda<br><b>Major:</b> Sociology; <b>Minor:</b> Communication Skills   |

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

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Social and structural determinants of HIV/STI vulnerability among key populations, Developing and testing biomedical interventions to advance sexual health and Community-engaged research, policy, implementation, and translation sciences and multi-level strength-based approached.

**SUMMARY OF SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Peer-reviewed Journal Articles              | 30  |
| Google Scholar Citations                    | 425 |
| Google Scholar h10-Index                    | 14  |
| Conference Proceedings                      | 28  |
| Technical, Policy Reports and Presentations | 07  |
| Professional Development Training           | 13  |

**COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS, TRAININGS, HONORS & AWARDS**

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|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Fall 2024   | <b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work</b><br>Professional Development Fund Award to attend and present at the CSWE 2024 Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO (\$600)                |
| Spring 2024 | <b>Center for Dissemination &amp; Implementation, Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis.</b> Introductory Workshop for Implementation Science Investigators Scholarship Award (\$500) |
| Spring 2024 | <b>National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA</b><br>International Forum Travel Award to attend and present at the 31 Society for Prevention Research Annual Conference in Washington, D.C, May 2024 (\$1,000)      |
| Spring 2024 | <b>The Society for Prevention Research, SPR</b><br>Minority Travel Award (\$500)  |
| Fall 2023   | <b>National Institute of Mental Health, Washington University in St. Louis</b><br>Pre-Doctoral Research Resilience Training Fellowship Award, June 2023-June 2024, NIMHD#T37MD014218 (\$10,000)                 |
| Fall 2023   | <b>The American Public Health Association, APHA</b><br>Student Scholarship Travel Award to attend and present at the 2023 Annual Meeting & Expo in Atlanta (\$500)  |
| Fall 2023   | <b>The Society for Prevention Research, SPR</b><br>Early Career Preventionists Network (ECPN) Travel Award (\$500)  |
| Fall 2022   | <b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work</b><br>Professional Development Fund to attend and present at the 2022 APHA Annual Conference (\$600)   |
| Summer 2022 | <b>International AIDS Society, IAS</b><br>AIDS 2022 Scholarship award to attend and present at the 24 <sup>th</sup> IAS conference in Montreal, Canada (\$1,000)  |
| Spring 2022 | <b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work</b><br>Professional Development Fund to attend and present at the 2022 SSWR annual conference, Washington, DC (\$600)                         |
| Spring 2022 | <b>Society for Social Work and Research, SSWR</b><br>Doctoral Student Travel Award to attend and present at the annual conference in Washington DC (\$500)  |
| Fall 2021   | <b>The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work</b><br>Daniel Sanders International Social Development Award (\$2,700)  |

- Fall 2021                    **The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**  
University’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Award (HEERF)  
(\$5,000)
- Spring 2021                **Society for Social Work and Research, SSWR**  
Doctoral Student Travel Award to attend and present at the annual  
conference in Washington DC (\$500)
- Fall 2021                    **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work**  
PhD scholarship Award (\$50,000/year)
- Fall 2018                    **Uganda Christian University, School of Social Work**  
Outstanding Undergraduate Adjunct Lecturer Award
- Fall 2014                    **Swedish Institute Scholarship for Global Professionals, SI**  
Tuition and Stipend Scholarship Award for Master of Public Health, Lund  
University, Sweden
- Fall 2005                    **Government of Uganda Scholarship, Makerere University Kampala**  
Merit-Based Government Scholarship Award for undergraduate studies,  
Makerere University Kampala, Uganda
- Spring 2004                **2004 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education**  
Best High School Student of the Year Award, Tororo District- Uganda

#### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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1. Garthe, R. C., Gorman-Smith, D., Kim, S., Yoon, S., **Mwima, S.**, & Cosey-Gay, F. N. (2024). Promotive Factors Within Neighborhood, Family, and School Contexts for Adolescents Living in an Urban, High-Burden Community. *Youth & Society*, 0044118X241282348. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X241282348>
2. Bogart, L. M., Musoke, W., **Mwima, S.**, Kadama, H., Mulebeke, R., & Wanyenze, R. K. (2024). Enhanced Oral Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Implementation for Ugandan Fisherfolk: Pilot Intervention Outcomes. *AIDS and Behavior*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-024-04432-w>
3. Chitneni, P., Owembabazi, M., Kanini, E., **Mwima, S.**, Bwana, M. B., Psaros, C., ... & Matthews, L. T. (2024). Sexually transmitted infection (STI) knowledge and perceptions among people in HIV-sero-different partnerships in rural southwestern Uganda. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 4(1), e0002817. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0002817>
4. Chipalo, E., Odii, I.O., Mvula, A., **Mwima, S.**, & Kapupa, L., (2024). The Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Subsequent Exposure to Violence and Mental Health Outcomes for Adolescent & Youth in Zimbabwe. *Texila International Journal of Academic Research*. <https://doi.org/10.21522/tijar.2014.11.01.art012>

5. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Berry, I., Hakiza, R., Baral, **S. Mwima**, & Mbuagbaw, L. (2023). Findings from the Tushirikiane mobile health (mHealth) HIV self-testing pragmatic trial with refugee adolescents and youth living in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 26(10), e26185. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jia2.26185>
6. **Mwima, S.** (2023). Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) use, effects and sexual risk behaviours among female sex workers at MARPI Clinic in Kampala District (master's degree dissertation, Makerere University).
7. Malama, K., Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Hakiza, R., **Mwima, S.**, & Kyambadde, P. (2023). Factors associated with motherhood among urban refugee adolescent girls and young women in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda. *Women & Health*, 63(1), 51-58. [10.1080/03630242.2022.2158411](https://doi.org/10.1080/03630242.2022.2158411)
8. Okumu, M., Logie, C. H., Ansong, D., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., & Newman, P. A. (2023). Digital technologies, equitable gender norms, and sexual health practices across sexting patterns among forcibly displaced adolescents in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 138, 107453. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2022.107453>
9. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Latif, M., Parker, S., Hakiza, R., Kibuuka-Musoke, D., **Mwima, S.**, Batte, S., & Kyambadde, P. (2023). Mixed-methods findings from the Ngutulu Kagwero (agents of change) participatory comic pilot study on post-rape clinical care and sexual violence prevention with refugee youth in a humanitarian setting in Uganda. *Global public health*, 18(1), 2092178. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2022.2092178>
10. Sharma, B. B., Small, E., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, & Patel, M. (2022). Addressing the Syndemics of HIV, Mental Health, and COVID-19 using the Health and Human Rights Framework among Youth living with HIV, in Uganda: an interpretive phenomenological study. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*, 7(3), 285-298. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41134-022-00221-4>
11. Chipalo, E., Suntai, Z., & **Mwima, S.** (2022). Factors Associated with Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Among Newly Resettled Refugees in the United States. *J. Soc. & Soc. Welfare*, 49, 135.
12. Okumu, M., Logie, C. H., Ansong, D., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., & Newman, P. A. (2022). Exploring the protective value of using sexting for condom negotiation on condom use determinants and practices among forcibly displaced adolescents in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. *AIDS and Behavior*, 26(11), 3538-3550. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-022-03677-7>
13. Logie, C. H., Berry, I., Okumu, M., Loutet, M., McNamee, C., Hakiza, R., Musoke, D.K., **Mwima, S.**, Kyambadde, P., & Mbuagbaw, L. (2022). The prevalence and correlates of depression before and after the COVID-19 pandemic declaration among urban refugee adolescents and youth in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda: A longitudinal cohort study. *Annals of epidemiology*, 66, 37-43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2021.11.005>
14. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Malama, K., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., Kiera, U. M., & Kyambadde,

- P. (2022). Examining the substance use, violence, and HIV and AIDS (SAVA) syndemic among urban refugee youth in Kampala, Uganda: cross-sectional survey findings. *BMJ global health*, 7(Suppl 5), e006583. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-006583>
15. Okumu, M., Logie, C. H., Ansong, D., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., & Newman, P. A. (2022). Support for texting-based condom negotiation among forcibly displaced adolescents in the slums of Kampala, Uganda: Cross-sectional validation of the condom use negotiated experiences through technology scale. *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, 8(4), e27792. <https://doi.org/10.2196/27792>
  - 16 Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Latif, M., Parker, S., Hakiza, R., Kibuuka-Musoke, D., **Mwima, S.**, Batte, S., & Kyambadde, P. (2022). Relational Factors and HIV Testing Practices: Qualitative Insights from Urban Refugee Youth in Kampala, Uganda. *AIDS and Behavior* 26, no. 7 (2022): 2191-2202. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-021-03567-4>
  - 17 Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Latif, M., Parker, S., Hakiza, R., Kibuuka-Musoke, D., **Mwima, S.**, Batte, S., & Kyambadde, P. (2022). Social contextual factors associated with lifetime HIV testing among the Tushirikiane urban refugee youth cohort in Kampala, Uganda: Cross-sectional findings. *International Journal of STD & AIDS* 33, no. 4 (2022): 374-384. <https://doi.org/10.1177/095646242111069>
  - 18 Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Latif, M., Musoke, D. K., Odong Lukone, S., **Mwima, S.**, & Kyambadde, P. (2021). Exploring resource scarcity and contextual influences on wellbeing among young refugees in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, Uganda: findings from a qualitative study. *Conflict and Health*, 15(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00336-3>
  - 19 Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Berry, I., Hakiza, R., Musoke, D. K., Kyambadde, P., **Mwima, S.**, & Mbuagbaw, L (2021). Kuka Salama (Staying Safe): study protocol for a pre/post-trial of an interactive mHealth intervention for increasing COVID-19 prevention practices with urban refugee youth in Kampala, Uganda. *BMJ open*, 11(11), e055530. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2021-055530>
  - 20 Logie, C., Okumu, M., Lucene, O.S., Loutet, M., McAlpine, A., Latif, A., Berry, I., Kisubi, N., **Mwima, S.**, Narasimhan, M., Kyambadde, P., Neema, S., Small, E., Balyejjusa, M. S., Musinguzi, J. (2021). Ngutulu Kagwero (agents of change): study design of a participatory comic pilot study on sexual violence prevention and post-rape clinical care with refugee youth in a humanitarian setting in Uganda. *Global health action*, 14(1), 1940763. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16549716.2021.1940763>
  - 21 Logie, C., Okumu, M., Hakiza, R., Musoke, D. K., Berry, I., **Mwima, S.**, ... & Mbuagbaw, L. (2021). Mobile health-supported HIV self-testing strategy among urban refugee and displaced youth in Kampala, Uganda: protocol for a cluster randomized trial (Tushirikiane, supporting each other). *JMIR research protocols*, 10(2), e26192. <https://doi.org/10.2196/26192>
  - 22 Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Kibuuka Musoke, D., Hakiza, R., **Mwima, S.**, Kyambadde, P., Abela, H., Gittings, L., Musinguzi, J., Mbuagbaw, L., & Baral, S. (2021). Intersecting stigma and HIV testing practices among urban refugee adolescents and youth in Kampala, Uganda:

qualitative findings. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 24(3), e25674.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25674>

23. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Latif, M., Musoke, D. K., Odong Lukone, S., **Mwima, S.**, & Kyambadde, P. (2021). Exploring resource scarcity and contextual influences on wellbeing among young refugees in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, Uganda: findings from a qualitative study. *Conflict and Health*, 15, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00336-3>
  24. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., Kibuuka Musoke, D., Hakiza, R., **Mwima, S.**, Kacholia, V., ... & Williams, T. (2021). The role of context in shaping HIV testing and prevention engagement among urban refugee and displaced adolescents and youth in Kampala, Uganda: findings from a qualitative study. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*, 26(5), 572-581. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13560>
  25. Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., Abela, H., & Kyambadde, P. (2021). Gender, transactional sex, and HIV prevention cascade engagement among urban refugee and displaced adolescents and youth in Kampala, Uganda. *AIDS care*, 33(7), 897-903. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2020.1861181>
  26. Network, T. P. (2020). Protocol: Standardised protocol for a prospective cross-sectional multicentre clinic-based evaluation of two dual point-of-care tests for the screening of HIV and syphilis in men who have sex with men, sex workers and pregnant women. *BMJ Open*, 10(11). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-044479>
- Logie, C., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Kyambadde, P., Hakiza, R., Irungu, P. K., & Kironde, E. (2020). Sexually transmitted infections testing practices and diagnosis among urban refugee and displaced youth living in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda: A cross-sectional study. *BMJ Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 46(3), 192-199. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjsex-2019-200392>
  - Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., Chemutai, D., & Kyambadde, P. (2020). Contextual factors associated with depression among urban refugee and displaced youth in Kampala, Uganda: Findings from a cross-sectional study. *Conflict and Health*, 14(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00289-7>
  - Logie, C. H., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., Irungi, K. P., Kyambadde, P., ... & Narasimhan, M. (2019). Social ecological factors associated with experiencing violence among urban refugee and displaced adolescent girls and young women in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda: a cross-sectional study. *Conflict and health*, 13, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-019-0242-9>
  - Logie, C., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Kyambadde, P., Hakiza, R., Irungu, P. K., Kironde, E., & Musigunzi, J. (2019). Exploring associations between adolescent sexual and reproductive health stigma and HIV testing awareness and uptake among urban refugee youth in Kampala, Uganda. *Sexual & Reproductive Health Matters*, 27(3), 86-106. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26410397.2019.1695380>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVISE & RESUBMIT



1. **Mwima, S.**, Bogart, L. M., Musoke, W., Mukama, S. C., Allupo, S., Kadama, H., Naigino, R., Mukasa, B., & Wanyenze, R. K. (in revision) Applying implementation science frameworks to understand why fisherfolk continue or discontinue PrEP in Uganda: A qualitative analysis. *Global Public Health*.
2. Small, E., Sharma, B., Patel, M., **Mwima, S.**, & Okumu, M. (in revision). Understanding the intersecting role of culture, misinformation, and institutional systems on stigma and coping among youth with HIV using the socioecological systems' perspective. *Journal of Global Social Welfare*.
3. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Katushabe, G., Obbo, S., Mayatsa, J., Chipalo, E., Kyambadde, P. & Kadama, H. (in revision). Resilience in pre-exposure prophylaxis disclosure: Experiences of Ugandan adolescent girls engaged in transactional sex - A qualitative study. *Frontier in sexual and reproductive health*.

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Katushabe, G., Obbo, S., Mayatsa, J., Abura-Meerdink, G., Chipalo, E., Kyambadde, P. & Kadama, H. (under review). Implementation Strategies and Recommendations to Enhance Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Delivery for HIV Prevention Among Adolescent Girls Engaged in Transactional Sex and Drug Use in Uganda: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of AIDS and Behavior*

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

1. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Thabani, N. & Chipalo, E. (*prepared for the Journal of Implementation Science*). A systematic review of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) intervention studies targeting adolescents and emerging adults (15-29) in Sub-Saharan Africa using the RE-AIM framework
2. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Katushabe, G., Obbo, S., Odoi, P., Mayatsa, J., Chipalo, E., Kyambadde, P. & Kadama, H. (*prepared for Sexual & Reproductive Health Matters journal*). Assessing the Factors Associated with HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing Practices Among Adolescent Persons in Uganda.
3. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Katushabe, G., Obbo, S., Mayatsa, J., Odoi, P., Chipalo, E., Kyambadde, P. & Kadama, H. (*prepared for International Journal of STD & AIDS*). Social-Ecological Factors Associated with PrEP Persistence and Adherence Among HIV Vulnerable Youth in Uganda
4. **Mwima, S.**, & McDonald, H. (*prepared for Journal of Social Work Education*). Reflections on Supervisory Dynamics During an International Social Work Internship: Experiences, Challenges, and Lessons from Uganda

#### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**First author & Presenting Author = 18, \*student mentees**



1. **Mwima, S.**, Chipalo, E. & Abura-Meerdink, G. (January 2025). *A Systematic Review of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Intervention Studies Implemented Targeting Adolescents and Young Adults Aged 15-29 in Sub-Saharan Africa: RE-AIM-Ing 4 PrEP*. Accepted for **Poster presentation** at 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): Seattle, Washington, USA, January 15-19: **Role-Presenting Author**
2. Jeong, H., Chipalo, E., **Mwima, S.**, Nkwanzu, V., & Oddi, I. O. (January 2025). *The prevalence of childhood violence and psychological distress among adolescents and young adults living with HIV in Zimbabwe*. Accepted for **oral presentation** at 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): Seattle, Washington, USA, January 15-19: Co-author
3. **Mwima, S.**, Chipalo, E & Musingi, A. \* (October 2024). *Adverse Childhood Experiences, Sexual Risk Behavior, and HIV Testing Engagement Among Adolescents in Uganda*. **Accepted for Poster presentation** at the CSWE 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Program meeting. Kansas City, Missouri, USA, October 24-27: **Role-Presenting Author**
4. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Small, E., Sharma, B., Patel, M., Okumu, M., & Mukubba, B\*. (October 2024). *Implementation Strategies and Recommendations to Enhance Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Delivery for HIV Prevention Among Adolescent Girls Engaged in Transactional Sex and use Drugs in Uganda: a qualitative study*. **Accepted for Poster presentation** at the HIVR4P 2024, the 5<sup>th</sup> HIV Research for Prevention Conference. Lima, Peru, 6-10 October 2024: **Role-Presenting Author**.
5. **Mwima, S.**, Mukubba, B., & Chipalo, E., Kasakya, G\*. (October 2024). *HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use and its effects on the sexual health of HIV-negative adolescent girls and young women who engage in transactional sex: A qualitative study*. **Accepted for Oral presentation** at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting& Expo Minneapolis, USA, Oct. 28-30: **Role-Presenting Author**.
6. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Katushabe, G., Obbo, S., Mayatsa, J., Odoi, P., Chipalo, E., Abura-Meerdink, G., Kyambadde, P. Wamakoto, L., Kadama, H., & Kapyo, A. (May 2024). *Implementation Strategies to Enhance Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Delivery for HIV Prevention Among Adolescent Girls Engaged in Transactional Sex and Drug Use in Uganda: A Qualitative Study*. **Oral Presentation** at the SPR 32nd ANNUAL MEETING for Advancing Partnerships and Collaborative Approaches in Prevention Science in Washington, DC, May 30 – June 2, 2024. **Role: Presenting Author**.
7. **Mwima, S.**, Okumu, M., Chipalo, E., Chen, X.Y. (January 2024). *Assessing the Relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Sexual Risk Behavior and HIV Testing Engagement Among Adolescents: Evidence from Uganda Violence Against Children Survey*. Oral presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Washington, DC, January 14-17, 2024. Role: **Presenting Author**
8. **Mwima, S.**, Evans, J., Kibirige, K.S., Chipalo, E., Mukuba, B., Nzomene, A., Small, E., & Okumu, M. (May 2023). *Promoting Psychosocial Interventions in Social Work to Manage Intersectional Stigma Among Sexual Minorities during COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda*. **E-**

**Poster presented** at the International Conference on Social Work, Paris, France. May 17-18, 2023. **Role: Presenting Author.**

9. **Mwima, S.**, Evans, J., Kibirige, K.S., Chipalo, E., Mukuba, B., Nzomene, A., Small, E., & Okumu, M. (May 2023). *Social Influences on HIV Services Engagement Among Adolescents Experiencing HIV Stigma and Discrimination in Uganda*. **E-Poster presented** at the International Conference on Social Work, Paris, France. May 17-18, 2023. **Role: Presenting Author.**
10. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R., Chen, X.A., Chipalo, E., Mowry, D., & Katambala, P. (January 2023). *Exploring Factors Associated with Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing Practices Among Adolescents and Young People in Uganda*. **Poster Presented** at the Society for Social Work Research, Phoenix, Arizona. 11-15, January 2023. **Role: Presenting Author.**
11. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R. C., Evans, J., Ramirez, X., Muheni, D., Saldana, J\*., Mukuba, B., & Kukunda.S. (May 2023). *Exploring Perceived Barriers, Facilitators, and Sources of Support for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Uptake Among Young Women Who Engage in Transactional Sex and Use Drugs in Uganda*. **Oral presentation** at the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) 31st Annual Conference in Washington, DC, May 30 – June 2, 2023. **Role: Presenting Author.**
12. Evans, J & **Mwima, S.** (May 2023). *20 Years of Drug Policy Analysis: A comparison between the United States and Portugal*. **Poster presentation** at the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C, May 30 – June 2, 2023.
13. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R. C., Evans, J., Ramirez, X., Nzomene, A., Chipalo, E., Small. E., & Wabwire, C. (May 2023). *Peer Relations Influences on HIV Services Engagement Among Adolescents Experiencing Intersectional Stigma in Uganda*. **Poster presentation** at the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) Annual conference in San Diego, California, April 13-15, 2023. **Role: Presenting Author.**
14. Chipalo, E., Malele-Kubanga, K., & **Mwima, S.** (2023) Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth Exposed to Violence & Mental Health Outcomes in Zimbabwe. In Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. S203-S204). Two Commerce Sq, 2001 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 USA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
15. Chipalo, E., Malele-Kubanga, K., & **Mwima, S.** (2023) Adverse Childhood Experiences & Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Youth in Zimbabwe. In Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. S202-S203). Two Commerce Sq, 2001 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 USA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
16. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R. C., Kasule, S., Evans, J., Mukuba, B\*., Chipalo, E., Nzomene, A., & Small, E. (May 2023). *Promoting Psychosocial Intervention in Social Work to Manage Intersectional Stigma among Sexual Minorities during COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda: Implications for Social Work Practice*. **Oral presentation** at the International Conference on Social Work, Paris, France, May 11-12, 2023: **Role-Presenting Author.**

17. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R. C., Evans, J., & Mowry, D. (November 2022). *Social Influences on HIV Service Engagement Among Sexual Minorities Experiencing HIV Stigma and Discrimination in Uganda*. **Poster presentation** at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo Boston, USA, Nov. 6-9: **Role-Presenting Author**.
18. **Mwima, S.**, Garthe, R. C., Evans, J., & Mowry, D. (November 2022). *Assessing the Factors Associated with HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing Practices Among Adolescent Persons in Uganda*. **Oral presentation** at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo in Boston, USA Nov. 6-9: **Role-Presenting Author**.
19. **Mwima, S.**, Small, E., & Sharma, B. (November 2022). *The Syndemics of HIV, Mental Health, and Human Rights Concerns During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. **Oral presentation** at the 68<sup>th</sup> Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting: Anaheim-California, USA, November 10-13: **Role-Presenting Author**.
20. **Mwima, S.**, Small, E., Sharma, B., Patel, M., Okumu, M., & Mukubba, B\*. (2022, July). *Experiences of intersecting stigma among young people living with HIV in Uganda*. **Presented orally** at the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (IAS): Montreal, Canada, 29 July – 2 August 2022: **Role-Presenting Author**.
21. Thabani, N., **Mwima, S.**, & Okumu, M. (2022, July). *A systematic review of technology-based interventions promoting sexual health outcomes of adolescents and young people (10–24 years) in sub-Saharan Africa*. **Presented as a poster** at the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (IAS): Montreal, Canada, 29 July – 2 August 2022: **Role-Presenting Author**.
22. **Mwima, S.**, Thanh, T., Small, E., Muheni, D\*., & Okumu, M. (2022, January). *Experiences of HIV, COVID-19, and Sexual Health Stigma Among Adolescents Living with HIV in Uganda*. **Orally presented** at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI): Urbana-Champaign, USA, May 18-21, 2022: **Role-Presenting Author**.
23. Logie, C., Okumu, M., Lukone, O.S., Loutet, M., McAlpine, A., Latif, A., Berry, I., Kisubi, N., **Mwima, S.**, Narasimhan, M., Kyambadde, P., Neema, S., Small, E., Balyejjusa, M. S., Musinguzi, J. (2022, January). *Findings from the Ngutulu Kagwero (Agents of Change) Participatory Comic Intervention on Sexual Violence Prevention and Post-Rape Clinical Care with Refugee Youth in Humanitarian Setting in Uganda*. **Presented as a poster** at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): Washington, DC, USA, January 14-16.
24. Small, E., Sharma, B., Patel, M., **Mwima, S.**, & Okumu, M. (2022, January). *Perceptions of Intersectional Stigma Among Adolescents Living with HIV In Uganda*. **Presented as e-Poster** at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): Washington, DC, USA, January 14-16.
25. Logie, C. Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Balyejjusa, S. M., & Hakiza, R. (2020, January). *Pathways between Economic Insecurity, Sexual Violence, and Depression Among Urban Refugees and Displaced Adolescents and Youth in Kampala, Uganda*. **Presented as e-Poster** at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): San Francisco, CA, USA, January 15-19.

26. Logie, C. Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Kironde, K. E., Balyejusa, S. M., Hakiza, R., Kyambade, P., Kibathi, I. P., Neema, S., & Angucia, M. (2019, January). *Social-Ecological Factors Associated with Multi-Dimensional Experiences of Violence Among Urban Refugee Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kampala, Uganda*. **Presented** at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): San Francisco, CA, USA, January 16-20, 2019.
27. Okumu M., Logie, C., **Mwima, S.**, Hakiza, R., Kyambade, P., Kasule, K. & Neema, S. (2019, January). *Examining Early Initiation of Sexual Intercourse Among Sexually Active Urban Refugee Adolescent Girls and Young Women Living in the Slums of Kampala, Uganda*. **Presented** at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR): San Francisco, CA, USA, January 16-20, 2019.
28. Logie C., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Musigunzi, J., Neema, S., Kibathi, I. & Kironde, E. (2018, June). *HIV Vulnerabilities and Testing Practices Among Urban Refugee Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kampala, Uganda*. **Presented** at the 2018 International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World and European Congress: Dublin, Ireland, June 27-30, 2018.
29. Logie C., Okumu, M., **Mwima, S.**, Musigunzi, J., Neema, S., Kibathi, I. & Kironde, E. (2018, June). *Exploring Sexually Transmitted Infections Testing Practices and Prevalence among Urban Refugee Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kampala, Uganda*. Poster **presented** at the 2018 International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World and European Congress: Dublin, Ireland, June 27-30, 2018.

#### **AUTHORED AND CO-AUTHORED POLICY AND TECHNICAL REPORTS**

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1. MoH. (2020). Ministry of Health Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HI and AIDS in Uganda.
2. MoH. (2020). Ministry of Health consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV And AIDS in Uganda.
3. MoH. (2020). Ministry of Health National Training Curriculum for Rollout of the Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV and AIDS in Uganda.
4. MoH. (2019). Uganda National ART Literacy and HIV Community Strategy for HIV Response to Strengthen Community Facility Referrals to Improve Adherence and Fast-Track the Achievement of the 90-90-90 National Targets.
5. MoH. (2018). Ministry of Health National Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) Communication Plan
6. MoH. (2018). Ministry of Health Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV and AIDS in Uganda.

7. MoH. (2018). Uganda Health Sector HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23 Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program, Uganda

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, School of Social Work, USA**

#### Adjunct Instructor (Lead Instructor)

Fall 2024 SOCW 427: Research Methods for Social Work (Undergraduate)

#### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023 SOCW 300: Diversity-Identities and Issues in Social Work (Undergraduate)

Spring 2022 SOCW 225: Social Work Statistics (Undergraduate)

### **Uganda Christian University, School of Social Work, Mukono, Uganda**

#### Adjunct Faculty

Fall 2024 MSW 354: Social Development, Children and Families—Virtual class (Graduate)

Fall 2021 BSWSA 1104: Healthcare Systems & Service Delivery (Undergraduate)

Fall 2020 BSWSA 3210: Research Methods and Dissertation Writing (Undergraduate)

Spring 2020 BSWSA 1122: Introduction to Sociology (Undergraduate)

Spring 2019 BSWSA 2202: Health Disparities & Social Determinants of Health (Undergraduate)

Fall 2018 BSWSA 1122: Introduction to Sociology (Undergraduate)

#### Student Dissertation Research Mentorship

1. Wanyenze Sabrina (2021). Barriers to consistent condom use among adolescents in Mukono Town Council.
2. Kura Derick (2020). Factors contributing to the burden of street children in Kampala Capital City- Uganda.
3. Katongole Alvin (2020). Assessing factors associated with sex work among youth in Kampala.

4. Nasasiira Tasha Anishacontra (2019). Contraceptive use among adolescent girls in Mukono district.

External Field Instructor

2018/19 I supervised 06 Undergraduate students on field placements at Uganda's Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program, Kampala, Uganda.

**INVITED GUEST LECTURE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2023 **Mwima, S.** (August 2023). The Role of Medical Social Workers in Public Health: Guest lecture in the Health Promotion class invited by Dr. Mukunya David, "Addressing Social Determinants of Health and Improving Health Outcomes in Uganda." School of Public Health, Busitema University, Mbale, Uganda.
- 2023 **Mwima, S.** (March 2023). HIV prevention. Guest lectured in the Diversity, Identities, and Issues in Social Work class invited by Professor Carter Black on HIV Services Engagement Among Adolescents Experiencing HIV Stigma and Discrimination in Uganda, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA.
- 2023 **Mwima, S.** (March 2023). Research and building collaborations. Guest lectures in a research methods class on Publishing and Disseminating Research Findings invited by Dr. Mukunya David: Enhancing Visibility and Impact through International Collaboration in Social Work & Public Health Research, Busitema University, Mbale, Uganda.
- 2018 **Mwima, S.** (June 2018). Interdisciplinary collaboration. Guest lecture in social work class on Integration of Social Work Practice in Healthcare Settings in Uganda invited by Mr. Kasule Kibirige: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Enhancing Patient Care., Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS**

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- 2021 **Mwima, S.** (February 2021). HIV prevention. Presented at a training of community HIV/AIDS stakeholders conference, the role of CSOs, people living with HIV, and Peers in achieving the national HIV/AIDS targets- strengthening the linkage between the community to the facilities and from the facilities back to communities at the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV & AIDS, Jinja, Uganda.
- 2021 **Mwima, S.** (March 2021). Social work and public health. Guest lecture at the continuing education seminar for healthcare professionals at Mulago National Referral Hospital on the role of medical social workers in multi-disciplinary HIV care teams during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2020 **Mwima, S.** (June 2020). Antiretroviral therapy literacy among people living with HIV. I organized and delivered presentations at the national retreat to develop the ART Literacy materials and harmonize with the HIV community strategy for HIV response meant to strengthen community facility referrals and improve adherence to fast track the achievement of the 90-90-90, Entebbe, Uganda.
- 2020 Chimulwa, T., & **Mwima, S.** (May 2020). Peer-led service delivery. Facilitated the national Uganda's Youth and Adolescent Peers Program (YAPS) training to revise the national implementation and monitoring guidelines for Uganda's YAPS program during the COVID-19 pandemic, delivered virtually in Uganda.
- 2020 Kigundu J., Chimulwa, T. & **Mwima, S** (August 2020). Psychosocial Support for people living with HIV. Presented at the Virtual National Training of Trainers workshop for HIV Counseling and Psychosocial Support Case-Based Facility coaching, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2020 Ministry of Health. (February 2020). HIV prevention policy. Trainer and co-facilitator during that workshop that developed Uganda's Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV, Kampala, Uganda.  
<https://elearning.idi.co.ug/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Consolidated-Guidelines-for-the-Prevention-and-Treatment-of-HIV-and-AIDS-in-Uganda-2020.pdf>
- 2019 **Mwima, S.** (October 2019). HIV prevention among adolescents. Presentation at the Global Fund-supported workshop to conduct regional support supervision training of national and regional supervisors for implementing the National condom strategy, Kampala, Uganda
- 2019 Ministry of Health (April 2019). Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) communication strategy. Trainer and co-facilitator during and after the development of Uganda's National PrEP Communication Plan, Jinja, Uganda  
[https://avac.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/National\\_PrEP\\_CommPlan.pdf](https://avac.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/National_PrEP_CommPlan.pdf)
- 2018 Ministry of Health (September 2018). HIV prevention policy. National trainer and co-facilitator during the workshop that Developed the Consolidated Guidelines for The Prevention and Treatment of HIV in Uganda.



<https://platform.who.int/docs/default-source/mca-documents/policy-documents/guideline/UGA-RH-43-01-GUIDELINE-2018-eng-Final-Uganda-HIV-Guidelines.pdf>

- 2018 Ministry of Health (June 2018). HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. National trainer and co-facilitator during the development of Uganda's Health Sector HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23, Kampala, Uganda  
<https://www.health.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Health-Sector-HIV-AIDS-Strategic-Plan.pdf>
- 2018 **Mwima, S.** (March 2018). Psychosocial support in HIV care. Guest lecture in the training program organized to update healthcare on the updated consolidated guidelines, "Integrating Social Work into HIV Care Services," at the Mildmay training center for healthcare workers supported by Mildmay Uganda, Mubende, Uganda.
- 2018 **Mwima, S.** (2018, September). HIV prevention. Implementing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) program for key populations. Presentation at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2018 **Mwima, S.** (July 2018). Addressing HIV stigma and discrimination in HIV care services. Presented at the training workshop for community health workers at the Ministry of Health organized workshop, Entebbe, Uganda.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2024-2025 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Listen to Us (LTU) Study, The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, School of Social Work Translational Research in Child Welfare  
**Funder:** Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).  
**Roles:** Designing, conducting, and analyzing qualitative data from listening cycles, in-depth interviews, and focused group discussions with adolescents, young adults, caregivers, and parents.  
**Supervisors/MPIs:** Robin Rae Lasota, PhD.
- Spring 2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Statewide Violence Prevention Needs Assessment Study, The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, School of Social Work **Roles:** Contributed to the data collection processes and supported the development of manuscripts.  
**Supervisor:** Rachel Garthe, PhD.
- Fall 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Violence Prevention Study, The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, School of Social Work.  
**Roles:** Contributed to literature reviews, victim needs assessment, questionnaire development, pilot testing of research instruments, data collection, and report writing.  
**Supervisor/Study PI:** Rachel Garthe, PhD.

- 2017 **Research Assistant**, Substance Use Prevention and Needle Syringe Exchange Program (NSP) Pilot Study, Ministry of Health, Uganda  
**Funder:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Uganda  
**Roles:** Facilitated participant recruitment, conducted interviews, provided psychosocial support, and assisted in the implementation of harm reduction strategies for adolescents and young adults aged 15-24.  
*Study PI: Professor. Anthony Mbonye (RIP)*

## **FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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### ACTIVE PROJECT

- 2024-2025 **Graduate Research Coordinator, Food Insecurity study**, The University of Texas at San Antonio, College of Health & Community Health, Texas, USA  
**Role:** Contribute to conceptualization, development of study instruments, and local IRB approval; identify and coordinate community stakeholders, including Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Ministry of Health, and Bukedi Prevention Institute Uganda.  
*Supervisors/PI: Bonita Sharma, PhD., University of Texas at San Antonio*  
**\$9,500**

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

- 2021-2022 **Policy Liaison Focal Person & Co-Investigator, Ministry of Health**  
*Funder: Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR),*
- Project:** “*Tushirikiane Kuka Salama*” (Supporting Each Other to Stay Safe) study was a Pre-Post trial of a WhatsApp social group for increasing COVID-19 prevention practices with urban refugees and displaced youth in Kampala, Uganda.  
**Roles:** Supervised data collection, developed manuscripts, facilitated the integration of research findings into policy discussions, coordinated stakeholders, and supported the implementation of a WhatsApp social group intervention to enhance COVID-19 prevention practices.  
*Study PI: Carmen Logie, PhD., University of Toronto School of Social Work*  
**\$295,246**
- 2018-2022 **Policy Liaison Focal Person & Co-Investigator, Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program, Uganda**  
*Funder: Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)*  
**Project:** “*Tushirikiane*” (*Supporting Each Other*) study aimed to develop, implement, and evaluate a novel HIV Self-Testing delivery approach with Urban Displaced and Refugee Adolescent Girls in Uganda.  
**Roles:** I facilitated the integration of research findings into policy and coordinated stakeholder engagement. I supported the development, implementation, and evaluation of an innovative HIV self-testing delivery approach for urban displaced and refugee adolescent girls in Uganda.  
*Study PI: Carmen Logie, PhD., University of Toronto School of Social Work*  
**\$445,000**

- 2020-2021 **Research Coordinator, Most At Risk Populations (MARPI) Clinic**  
*Funder: University of Texas at Arlington, USA*  
**Project:** *Twekume (Vigilance) Stigma and COVID-19 Study*  
This community-engaged study between University of Texas at Arlington, Bukedi Prevention Institute, and MARPI Clinic in Uganda aimed to explore stigma surrounding HIV for Young People ages 18-25 living with HIV (YPLWH) in Uganda.  
**Roles:** Managed all aspects of the study, including conducting research team meetings, developing and refining research instruments, obtaining local research ethics approvals, recruiting and training research assistants, research nurses, and clinical social workers, screening, consenting, and conducting focused group discussions, and preparing and publishing manuscripts related to the study. Three manuscripts have been published.  
*Supervisor/Study PI: Eusebius Small, PhD. University of Texas at Arlington*  
**\$3,300**
- 2018-2019 **Co-Investigator and Project Research Coordinator, Five Ugandan Study Sites**  
*Funded by World Health Organisation, Geneva*  
**Project:** Clinic-based evaluation of SD BIOLINE HIV/Syphilis Duo (Alere) and DPP® HIV-Syphilis Assay (Chembio) for the screening of most at-risk populations (MARPs) in five health facilities in central Uganda (MARPI Clinic, Kirudu Health Center IV, Kawaala HC IV, Kisenyi HC IV and Kiswa HC IV) in Kampala region.  
**Roles:** Managed all study aspects, including leading research team meetings, developing and refining research instruments, and obtaining local research ethics approvals. I was responsible for recruiting and training research assistants, research nurses, and clinical social workers. I conducted participant screening, participant consent processes, and data collection and prepared and published manuscripts related to the study.  
*Study PI: Dr. Isaac Ssewanyana, Ministry of Health, Uganda*  
**\$57,300**
- 2017-2018 **Research Coordinator, Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program, Uganda**  
*Funder: The Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)*  
**Project:** Development of a community-based, interdisciplinary research agenda to advance HIV prevention and care cascades in refugee settlements in Uganda. My role was to coordinate community-based research activities.  
**Roles:** My responsibilities included developing and implementing the research agenda, facilitating stakeholder engagement, conducting data collection and analysis, developing and writing manuscripts, and supporting and disseminating findings to inform HIV prevention and care strategies in refugee settlements.  
*Study PI: Carmen Logie, PhD., University of Toronto School of Social Work*  
**\$19,595**
- 2017-2018 **Research Assistant, Funder: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Uganda**  
**Project:** Substance Use Prevention and Needle Syringe Exchange Program (NSP) Pilot Study project for adolescents and young adults aged 15-24 at MARPI Clinic.

**Roles:** I facilitated participant recruitment, conducted interviews, provided psychosocial support, and assisted in the implementation of harm reduction strategies for adolescents and young adults aged 15-24.

*Study PI: Professor. Anthony Mbonye (RIP), Ministry of Health, Uganda: \$7,300*

## CLINICAL PRACTICE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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5/2023-12/2023 **Case Manager (MSW Intern), Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, HIV Clinic**

**Roles:** I implemented and delivered Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services for adolescents and young adults. I conducted assessments to identify high-risk adolescents for HIV, provided PrEP education and counseling, and developed individualized care plans to support adherence. I collaborated with healthcare providers to integrate PrEP into the care continuum, addressed access and adherence barriers by linking clients to support services and community resources, and provided ongoing follow-up and tailored interventions to promote sustained PrEP use and overall well-being among adolescents.

*Supervisors: Dr. Stephen Obbo, Medical Director, Mbale Regional Referral Hospital*

2018-2021 **Medical Social Worker, Uganda's Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program, Uganda**

**Roles:** Collaborated with healthcare teams and community partners and provided direct patient support, trained over 900 healthcare providers in best practices, including reducing stigma and enhancing the uptake of antiretroviral therapy, HIV testing, and PrEP services. Additionally, I supported the development and implementation of an adolescent peer trainer's curriculum to improve access to HIV prevention and care among vulnerable youth. Partnered with academic institutions, strengthening healthcare delivery and promoting successful community research programs.

*Supervisor: Dr. Joshua Musinguzi (RIP), AIDS Control Program Manager*

2020-2021 **Consultant, Uganda's Ministry of Health, National COVID-19 Mental and Psychosocial National Taskforce,**

**Roles:** Collaborated with stakeholders in the development of training materials and conducted capacity-building sessions for healthcare providers, equipping them with skills to offer mental health support and crisis management to adolescents living with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019-2020 **Consultant, Uganda's Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program**

**Task:** Led the review and development of National ART Literacy materials and harmonized with HIV community strategy for HIV response is meant to strengthen community-facility referrals and improve adherence to fast-track the achievement of the 90-90-90 national targets.

2016-2019 **Social Worker, Most At Risk Populations (MARPI) Clinic, Kampala- Uganda**

**Roles:** Provided psychosocial support, counseling, and case management services to adolescents and young adults at high risk for HIV, helping them navigate complex healthcare systems, linking them to community agencies, and facilitating

access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services while addressing stigma and barriers to care.

## **SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

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|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| PhD Program 2022-2023 Professional Development Certificate<br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign                                | May 2023    |
| Certificate in Foundations of Teaching<br>Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning,<br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign | May 2023    |
| UIUC CITL Grad Academy for Teaching Assistants  | August 2022 |
| Certificate in Foundations of Teaching<br>Dedoose Core Skills<br>University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work                                    | Nov 2022    |
| PhD Program 2022-2023 Professional Development Certificate<br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign                                | May 2022    |

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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### Editorial Board Membership

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| BMJ Public Health Journal                   | 2024- Present |
| World Health Organisation, ProSPeRo Program | 2021- Present |

### Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

Journal of Qualitative Social Work  
 The British Journal of Social Work  
 Global Social Welfare Journal  
 AIDS and Behavior  
 PLOS Global Public Health  
 The Reproductive Health Matters (RHM) Journal  
 Journal of Travel medicine and infectious disease

### Conference Reviewer

American Public Health Association  
 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry  
 Society for Prevention Research  
 Society for Research on Adolescence  
 2022 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium

### Committee Services

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Chair, International Students Chair, Doctoral Social Work Association, UIUC | 2023-2024 |
| Co-Chair, APHA- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Committee                          | 2022-2024 |
| Chair, APHA Student Assembly Programming- Scientific Sessions               | 2023-2024 |
| Member, University of Illinois Senate Committee on Admissions               | 2023-2024 |
| Member, University of Illinois, School of Social Work Diversity Committee   | 2022-2024 |

### Services to National and Community-Based Organizations

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Positive and Alive Initiatives (PAI), Youth-led community agency, Patron | 2024- Present |
| McKinley Community Food Pantry, Urbana-Champaign, IL, Volunteer          | 2021- Present |
| African Students Organisation, UIUC, Member & volunteer                  | 2021- Present |
| Mattis Avenue Free Methodist Church, IL, Member & volunteer              | 2022- Present |
| Co-founder and Board Member, Bukedi Prevention Institute, Uganda         | 2018- Present |
| Member, COVID-19 Mental Health Taskforce, Uganda's Ministry of Health    | 2020-22       |
| HIV Prevention Technical Working Group, Uganda's Ministry of Health      | 2017-22       |
| Sexual and Gender-based Technical Working Group, Ministry of Health,     | 2017-22       |

### Professional Affiliations

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Member, Society for Prevention Research (SPR)                    | 2022- Present |
| Member, American Association of Public Health Association (APHA) | 2022- Present |
| Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), US          | 2021- Present |
| Member, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), US              | 2021- Present |
| Member, International AIDS Society (IAS)                         | 2021- Present |
| Member, National Association of Social Workers of Uganda         | 2020- Present |

**Dorothy (Dora) Nicole Watkins, MSW**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work  
1010 West Nevada Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
[Dnw6@illinois.edu](mailto:Dnw6@illinois.edu) | +13134630093

**EDUCATION**

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|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Doctoral Candidate</b><br>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br><i>*Anticipated graduation May 2025</i>                                | 08/2021 - Present* |
| <b>Master of Social Work</b><br>Wayne State University School of Social Work<br>Concentration: Mental Health Equity, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy | 06/2019 - 04/2020  |
| <b>Diploma</b><br>Dale Carnegie of Southeast Michigan<br>Concentration: High Impact Presentations and Leadership Management                       | 2020 - 2020        |
| <b>Bachelor of Social Work</b><br>Wayne State University School of Social Work<br>Minor: Philosophy   | 08/2015 - 05/2019  |

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**The Healing Project**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Radical, Authentic, Rigorous, and Environmentally Brave Spaces Study (R.A.R.E.)  
Funded by the Mellon Foundation Interseminars Initiative (Humanities Research Institute)  
and the School of Social Work Professional Development Award**

**Dates:** 2022 — Present

This dissertation project commits to critical participatory action research, utilizes a critical narrative approach, and pilots an innovative arts-informed method to authentically engage with storied experiences, recenter marginalized knowledges, and destabilize master narratives of resilience among Afro-descendent women. Independently designed the study, conducted primary data collection, and data analysis.

*Dissertation Committee Chair: Rachel C. Garthe, PhD, School of Social Work*

*Dissertation Committee Members: Michelle Fine, PhD, City University of New York; Maryam Kashani, PhD, Gender and Women's Studies; Janet Liechty, PhD, School of Social Work; Helen Neville, PhD, Educational Psychology; Emma Velez, PhD, Gender and Women's Studies*

**Awarded Support: \$4,250**



**Improvise and Intervene Collective**

Humanities Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Funded by the Mellon Foundation as part of a \$2,000,000 grant**

**Dates:** 2023-2024

This interdisciplinary project explored improvisation as theory and method toward developing innovative approaches to interdisciplinary and collaborative research design. It took inspiration from text and arts-based scholarship and practices of collectivity and collaboration in the Black radical tradition, indigenous critique, critical ethnic studies, liberation theology, Third World feminism, and queer of color critique.

*Supervisors: Maryam Kashani, PhD; Junaid Rana, PhD; Eli Velasquez, PhD, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, and Gender & Women's Studies departments.*

**Role:** Predoctoral Fellow

**Beckman Center for Advance Science and Technology**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Illinois kids Development Study (IKIDS)**

**Funded by the National Institutes of Health Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes Program**

**Dates:** 2024 – Present

IKIDS is a prospective birth cohort study in which women are enrolled early in pregnancy and their children are followed from birth through middle childhood to investigate the impact of prenatal exposures to chemicals and other environmental factors on neurodevelopment.

*Supervisor: Karen Tabb-Dina, PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

**Violence Prevention Research Lab**

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Creating a Digital Ecosystem to Support Survivors and Reduce Gender-based Violence on College Campuses**

**Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against**

**Women Dates:** 2022 – Present

Primary data collection with university students and stakeholders as part of a multidisciplinary effort to develop a tool to be used on the Illinois app, a mobile app used by University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff to support survivors and reduce gender-based violence on campus. Helped develop interview and focus group protocols and helped train research team members on focus group facilitation.

*Supervisor: Rachel C. Garthe, PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

**Violence Prevention Research Lab**

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Victim Needs Assessment**

**Funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

**Dates:** 2021 – 2024

This project sought to better understand experiences with violence, crime, resilience, and adversity, while examining participant perceptions of support, help, and resources. Contributed to primary data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing.

*Supervisor: Rachel C. Garthe, PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

### **Center for Prevention Research and Development**

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### **Closing the Racial Disparity Gap in Juveniles Transferred to Adult Court**

**Dates:** 2022 – 2023

This project aimed to illuminate processes that may maintain disproportionate transfers of Black juveniles to adult court. Contributed to compiling literature for manuscript writing.

*Supervisor: Douglas C. Smith, PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

### **Dismantling Racism Research Lab**

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### **Racial Discrimination for Women of Color During Perinatal**

**Period Dates:** 2021 – 2023

This project aimed to (a) describe the experiences of pregnant Women and Mothers of Color about racial bias and discrimination in clinical interaction, (b) to create a roadmap to improve patient-provider communication for Women of Color, and (c) develop a pilot intervention to address racial bias in clinical interaction as a step toward reducing larger systematic disparities in healthcare. Contributed to primary data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing.

*Supervisor: Tuyet-Mai Ha Hoang, PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

### **Social Justice Research Lab**

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### **COVID-19 Project in East St. Louis, IL**

**Funded by the National Institutes of Health**

**Dates:** 2021– 2022

This project aimed to examine the effectiveness of an adaptive intervention to increase COVID-19 testing and adherence to CDC recommendations of preventative behaviors in a vulnerable community. Facilitated critical dialogue sessions with community members and contributed to primary data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing.

*Supervisor: Liliane Windsor, PhD, School of Social Work*

**Role:** Graduate Research Assistant

### **Youth Empowerment Solutions for Healthy Relationships (YES-HR) Study**

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

**Dates:** 2018-2019

Implemented YES-HR curriculum to address teen dating violence in two intervention schools for evaluation and comparison. Administered surveys to eighth-grade research study participants.

Conducted end-of-the-year projects with youth utilizing the YES-HR curriculum to facilitate community involvement and critical dialogue.

*Supervisor: Poco Kernsmith, PhD, School of Social Work, Wayne State University*

**Role:** Social Work Intern

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## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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**Mellon Foundation Interseminars Initiative** 2023-2024

Humanities Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Pre-doctoral Fellowship**

The Interseminars initiative aims to change the face of graduate education in the arts and humanities by building communities of inquiry around emerging, interdisciplinary research directions. This cohort of Interseminars explored the theme: *Improvise and Intervene*.

**Awarded Support: \$32,250**

**Small Grants Big Impact Award** 2024

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Community Learning Lab**

The Small Grants Big Impact is a transformative initiative that enables social work students, faculty, staff, and adjuncts to receive funding for service projects that make a significant difference in the local community. This grant was awarded for service work with *The Healing Project*, grass roots community-engaged effort aimed at mental health equity and healing justice among racialized women.

**Awarded Support: \$600**

**Small Grants Big Impact Award** 2023

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Community Learning Lab**

The Small Grants Big Impact is a transformative initiative that enables social work students, faculty, staff, and adjuncts to receive funding for service projects that make a significant difference in the local community. This grant was awarded for service work with *The Healing Project*, a grassroots community-engaged effort aimed at mental health equity and healing justice among racialized women.

**Awarded Support: \$1,700**

**School of Social Work Grant** 2021

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This grant is awarded to support the academic success of underrepresented doctoral students in the School of Social Work.

**Awarded Support: \$9,650**

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## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Manuscripts in Preparation**

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**Watkins, D.N.,** Nag, A., Garthe, R. (*manuscript in preparation*).  
An Intersectional Analysis of Women’s Experiences of Law Enforcement  
Reporting Following Victimization.

**Watkins, D.N.,** (*manuscript in preparation*).  
Comprehensive Literature Review of Risk and Resilience Theory Among Blackwomen: A  
Critical Re/examination of Eurocentric Concepts, Myths, and Methodologies in a United  
States Context

### **Book Chapters**

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**Watkins, D.N.,** (*book chapter in preparation*).  
Tour de Healing: Social Justice Through the Arts of Black and Embodied Storytelling.  
*Art-based Strategies for Social Justice.*

### **Publications Under Review**

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**Watkins, D.N.,** Garthe, R. (*under review*).  
Adverse Childhood Experiences, Victimization, and Perceptions of Formal Help-Seeking  
Experiences among Black Adults. *Journal of Black Psychology.*

Rieger, A., **Watkins, D.N.,** Garthe, R. (*under review*).  
Appreciating the complexity of local gender-based violence needs assessments:  
Some key considerations and tensions in context. *Violence Against Women.*

Garthe, R., **Watkins, D.N.,** Vasquez, A., Nag, A. (*under review*).  
Perceptions of Victim Services, Supports and Help-Seeking: Findings from a  
Mixed Methods Statewide Victim Needs Assessment. *Journal of Interpersonal  
Violence.*

Hayes, R., Jones, H., Benoit, E., **Watkins, D.N.,** Windsor, L. (*under review*).  
Reducing substance misuse and building community capacity for radical healing  
among Formerly incarcerated Black men. *American Journal of Community Psychology.*

Tuyet M., Sbrilli, M., Ramirez, X., **Watkins, D.N.,** Lee, A., Hsieh, W., Wong, A.,  
Worthington, V., Dina, K. (*under review*). Impact of Racial Bias on  
Providers’  
Communication Behaviors with Women of Color during Perinatal Period. *Health Affairs.*

Simonovich, S., Gavin, A., Nidey, N., Hansen, M.D., Hsieh, W., **Watkins, D.N.,** Ables-Torres,  
L., Wozniak, J., Huang, H., Tabb Dina, K. (*under review*) PTSD & Adverse Birth  
Outcomes Meta Analysis. *General Hospital Psychiatry.*

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

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Garthe, R. C., Hsieh, W., Guenther, M. E., **Watkins, D.**, Kwon, C., Welsh, M.

(2022) 2022 Victim Needs Assessment. *Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority*.

## PRESENTATIONS

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Garthe, R., **Watkins, D.N.** (October 2023). *Utilizing a Mixed Methods Approach to Conduct a Statewide Victim Needs Assessment*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting: “It’s Time to Act: Defining and Reckoning with Anti-Racist Social Work Education”. Atlanta, GA.

Benoit, E., Perkins, H., Hayes, R. **Watkins, D.** (August 2023). *Reducing Substance Use and Building Community Capacity for Radical Healing*. Society for the Study of Social Problems In Pursuit of Social Justice 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

**Watkins, D.** (April 2023). *Strength as Violence: Interrogating Discourse of Resilience for Black Women in the U.S.* ResilienceCON Life Paths Research Center Annual Conference.  
Nashville, TN.

**Watkins, D.** (February 2023). *(Re)imagining Resilience: A Call for Social Justice and Collective Healing Through the Arts*. 2023 Black and Latinx Summit: Futurism: Creating a New Generation. Champaign, IL.

**Watkins, D.**, Hayes, R., Benoit, E., Hawkins, D. Jemal, A. (January 2023).  
*Capacity Building Projects: Developing Critical Consciousness through Action*. Society for Social Work and Research 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Benoit, E., Windsor, L., **Watkins, D.**, McBride, L., Khan, M. (January 2023).  
*“Without Critical Consciousness, How Could You Move on?” Critical Consciousness and Recovery Among Formerly Incarcerated Men in Newark, NJ*. Society for Social Work and Research 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Lee, C. **Watkins, D.**, Hawkins, D., Jemal, A., Windsor, L. (January 2023).  
*Critical Dialogue: Developing Critical Consciousness through Reflection*. Society for Social Work and Research 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

## Poster Presentations

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**Watkins, D.N.** Garthe, R. (accepted for January 15-19). Adverse Childhood Experiences, Victimization, and Perceptions of Formal Help-Seeking Experiences Among Black Adults: Insights from a Statewide Victim Needs Assessment. Society for Social Work and Research 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Seattle, WA.

Simonovich, S., Gavin, A., Nidey, N., Hansen, M.D., Hsieh, W., **Watkins, D.N.**, Ables-Torres, L., Wozniak, J., Huang, H., Tabb Dina, K. (September 4-7, 2024). *The relationship between maternal post-traumatic stress disorder and adverse birth outcomes in the U.S. – a meta-analysis*. The International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health. Barcelona, Spain.

Chen, X.Y., Evans, J., Mwima, S., **Watkins, D.N.**, Okumu, M., (January 12-15, 2023). *Digital Technology Use Among Older Adults in the U.S.: What Has Changed Since the COVID-19 Outbreak?* Society for Social Work and Research 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Simonovich, S., Gavin, A., Nidey, N., Hansen, M.D., Hsieh, W., **Watkins, D.N.**, Ables-Torres, L., Wozniak, J., Huang, H., Tabb Dina, K. (April 22-24, 2022). *Meta-analysis of post-traumatic stress disorder and adverse birth outcomes, 1980-2021*. North American Society for Psychological Obstetrics & Gynecology Biennial Meeting. Ann Arbor, MI.

## INVITED PROFESSIONAL TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

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**Watkins, D.N.**, LaTasha Barnes, (September 2024). *The Jazz Continuum: LaTasha Barnes in Conversation with Dora Watkins: A Soul-Stirring Workshop for Veterans on Utilizing the Arts for Service After Service*. Chez Veterans Center. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Watkins, D.N.**, Felicia Li (March 2024). *Honolulu Theater Post-Performance Expressive Arts Workshop*. Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Watkins, D.N.**, (February 2024). *De Mule uh De World: Re/thinking Resilience among Black Women: Lightening Round of Graduate Research*. Humanities Research Institute. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Watkins, D.N.**, Felicia Li (February 2024). *The Stories We Tell: Expressive Arts as a Tool to Play with Roles. Manuel Cinema Post-Performance Expressive Arts Workshop*. Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Watkins, D.N.**, (February 2024). *The Healing Project: Healing Justice Through the Arts*. Women's Resource Center. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Watkins, D.N.**, Bentley, B. (September 2023). *Managing Bumps in The IECMH Road*. Department of Veteran Affairs. OneOp Professional Development Resource. College of Education. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



**Watkins, D.N.** (September 2023). *Interrogating Discourses of Resilience for Black Women: Holding Space for Strong Stories and Radical Healing*. School of Social Work CEU Event. University of Illinois School of Social Work. Urbana, IL.

**Watkins, D.N.**, (July 2023). *Foster Care Resources for Postsecondary Education and Navigating the Transition to Post Secondary Education Story Circle*. Better Futures Summer Institute with Judy Havlicek, PhD. University of Illinois School of Social Work. Urbana, IL.

**Watkins, D.N.** (August 2022). *Mental Health and Black Women; Rethinking resilience while exploring unique barriers to help-seeking*. Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department. Perinatal Mental Health Equity: Challenges and Opportunities CEU Event. Champaign, IL.

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## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Conveners: **Watkins, D.N.**, Fields, L. (January 2024) *Social Workers and the use of Art in Advocacy, Healing, and Self-Expression*. Society for Social Work and Research. (Washington, DC).

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## COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS

**Watkins, D.N.**, Curatorial Lead (September 2024). *Beneath Our Feet: Grounded Space, Place, and Worldmaking*. Humanities Research Institute. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Independent Media Center. Urbana, IL.

**Watkins, D.N.**, Curator (September 2023). *What Happens in this House, Stays in this House: an installation*. School of Social Work CEU Event. University of Illinois School of Social Work. Urbana, IL.

**Watkins, D.N.**, Curator (February 2023). *Tour de Healing: Strong Stories and Healing Justice*. The Literary Bookstore. Champaign, IL.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Social Work and the Military** Fall 2024  
*Adjunct Instructor*  
Bachelors-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Diversity: Identities & Issues** Fall 2023  
*Independent Lecturer*



Bachelors-level Course (online)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Diversity: Identities & Issues** Spring 2023  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
Bachelors-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: Janet Carter-Black, PhD

**Diversity: Identities & Issues** Fall 2022  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
Bachelors-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: Janet Carter-Black, PhD

**Program Evaluation** Fall 2022  
Adjunct Instructor  
Master-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Social Welfare Policy and Services** Fall 2022  
*Invited Guest Lecturer*  
Master-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: Brandie Bentley, MSW

**Human Behavior in the Social Environment** Fall 2022  
*Invited Guest Lecturer*  
Bachelors-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: EunJee Song, MSW

**Social Welfare Policy and Services** Summer 2022  
*Invited Guest Lecturer*  
Masters-level Course (online program)  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: Brandie Bentley, MSW

**Diversity: Identities & Issues** Spring 2022  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
Bachelors-level Course  
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: Janet Carter-Black, PhD

**Human Behavior in the Social Environment** Spring 2022  
*Invited Guest Lecturer*  
Masters-level Course

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lead Instructor: EunJee Song, MSW

**Social Welfare Policy and Services**

Spring 2022

*Invited Guest Lecturer*

Bachelors-level Course

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lead Instructor: Brandie Bentley, MSW

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**SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE**

**Undergraduate Independent Research Supervisor**

2021 - 2023

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Violence Prevention Research Lab

Supervise undergraduate student independent research projects for the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Undergraduate Student Mentor**

2021 - 2023

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Violence Prevention Research Lab

Mentor undergraduate students and collaborate on research activity including compiling data, analyzing data, and manuscript writing.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Founder and Executive Director**

2016 – Present

The Healing Project, Detroit, MI; Urbana-Champaign, IL

- Utilizes Black feminist healing arts (i.e., visual, expressive, contemplative, and performance art) for social justice
- Facilitates story circles and healing circles as counter-spaces to amplify the wisdom, experiences, and stories of racialized women
- Facilitates professional arts-informed workshops and presentations
- Curates performance-based, multisensorial experiences to foster critical dialogue with local and scholarly communities (fusing research and art)
- Conducts primary arts-informed, community-engaged research to advance health and mental health equity among historically marginalized and oppressed groups, namely, racialized women.
- Cultivated a research collective with differently situated folks (scholar/artist/activist, community members, survivors, researchers)

**Outpatient Therapist** 2018 - 2020

Judson Center Family Behavioral Health Clinic, Macomb, MI

- Managed caseloads of clients
- Conducted comprehensive diagnostic assessments
- Developed treatment plans using a person-centered, solution-focused approach.
- Collaborated with collateral professionals, referral services, and providers of ancillary services on behalf of clients

**Adoptions Specialist**

Judson Center Child and Family Services, Oakland, MI 2019 - 2020

- Helped children find forever families and families get the support they need to thrive.
- Provided focused family services related to foster care, adoption services, and family preservation services.

**Military Operations**

2009-2014

**52<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion, United States Army, Active Duty**

Fort Carson, CO

Maintain responsibility for day-today military operations such as administrative support, ensuring all efforts are coordinated, reports are timely and accurate, and working closely with senior non-commissioned officers to support command and the mission of the battalion, including those in Fort Jackson, SC; Dungducheon-si, South Korea; and Fort Lee, VA.

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**SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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**Departmental Service**

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**Liaison**

2021 - Present

School of Social Work and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Instrumental in fostering an effective, collaborative relationship between the School of Social Work's Community Learning Lab and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Community engagement and interdisciplinary strategic planning and facilitation to build bridges and break barriers between the School of Social Work, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and the broader community.

**Course Development Committee Member**

2023 - 2023

Trauma Informed Task Force/Trauma Informed Care Course development.

**PhD Student Peer Mentor**

2022 - Present

School of Social Work

**Co-Chair President**

2021 - Present

Doctoral Social Work Association

**PhD Committee Member**

2021- Present

School of Social Work PhD Committee

**Committee Member** 2021-2022  
School of Social Work Diversity Committee

**University Service**

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**Future Interseminars Committee** 2024 – Present  
Humanities Research Institute

**Student Representative**  
Community and Civic Engagement/Social Practice Team 2021 - Present  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in the College of Fine and Applied Arts

**Planning Committee Member** 2023  
McKinley Health Center  
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Programming

**Student Representative** 2022  
Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Inclusion, and Belonging

**Community Service**

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**Advisory Board Member** 2024 - Present  
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Advisory Commission on Reducing the Disproportionate Representation of African-American Children in Foster Care. Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Task Force.

**Board of Directors** 2023 - Present  
YWCA Champaign County

**General Volunteer** 2022  
Trauma & Resilience Initiative

**Founder and Executive Director** 2016 -Present  
The Healing Project

**Survivor Advocate and Fundraising Support**  
Core Committee 2014 – 2017  
African American 490 Challenge. Michigan Women’s Foundation.

**Story Circle Facilitator** 2009-2013  
Department of  
Defense United States  
Army

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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|---|----------------|
| <b>Conference Travel Award, \$1,000</b><br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  | 2024           |
| <b>PhD Student Professional Development Fund Award, \$1000</b><br>For Dissertation Research<br>School of Social Work at Urbana-Champaign              | 2024           |
| <b>List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students</b><br>Course: Diversity: Identities & Issues<br>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | 2024           |
| <b>The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi</b><br>Inductee/Member  | 2023 – Present |
| <b>Conference Travel Award, \$700</b><br>School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  | 2023           |
| <b>List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students</b><br>Course: Diversity: Identities & Issues<br>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | 2023           |
| <b>SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award, \$680</b><br>Society for Social Work and Research  | 2023           |
| <b>Conference Travel Award, \$600</b>   | 2023           |

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**2022 Student Leader Luncheon** 2022

Dean's Guest

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Dean Steve Anderson, PhD*

**List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students** 2022

Course: Program Evaluation

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Leadership and Service Award** 2021-2022

Co-Chair President, Doctoral Social Work Association

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Professional Development Award, PhD Program** 2021-2022

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Conference Travel Award, \$500** 2021

School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Graduate College Block Grant, \$9,650** 2021

The Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Breakthrough Performance Award** 2020

Dale Carnegie Award Circle

Dale Carnegie of Southeast Michigan

**The Army Achievement Medal** 2010, 2013

United States Army

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

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**Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Certificate** 2020 – Present

Medical University of South Carolina

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

References available upon request