



Graduate College of Social Work  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

# PhD Forthcoming Graduates 2026



# Table of Contents

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| <b>ANIL ARORA</b> .....       | 3  |
| <b>MARCUS BROWN</b> .....     | 11 |
| <b>HELEN CLANCY</b> .....     | 18 |
| <b>JESSE HARTLEY</b> .....    | 26 |
| <b>YING MA</b> .....          | 31 |
| <b>KATYAYANI STROHL</b> ..... | 37 |
| <b>AYESHA TARIQ</b> .....     | 42 |

# ANIL ARORA, MSW, LCSW

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Anil Arora, LCSW (he/him), is a first-generation Indian student and ayes D Candidate at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work.

He developed an early awareness of both the visible and invisible struggles people face in pursuit of stability and belonging. This awareness—and the compassion modeled by those around him—became the foundation of his purpose as a social worker and researcher.

His scholarship centers on advancing the mental health and well-being of military service members and veterans who have experienced trauma. Drawing from nearly a decade of clinical practice with veterans and their families, Anil's quantitative dissertation integrates trauma-informed, community-engaged, and holistic frameworks to examine how military sexual trauma (MST), moral injury, and institutional betrayal influence mental health outcomes and service utilization. His approach reflects a commitment to amplifying the voices of service members through their support in creating the research through applied, anti-oppressive, and culturally responsive research. Anil's goals include contributing to mental health service utilization research, empowering emerging social workers through ongoing mentorship, and informing future interventions addressing sexual trauma.

Anil is passionate about making research accessible to all. With a focus on public impact scholarship and the democratization of knowledge through hosting a podcast or making one-page summaries. Clinically, he continues to provide therapy through a private practice and his long-term goal is to bridge the gap between research and practice.



## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Trauma (Military Sexual Trauma)
- Moral injury & institutional betrayal
- Resilience and mental health service utilization
- Community-engaged and anti-oppressive research methods
- Suicide prevention
- Program development, evaluation, and public impact scholarship

# ANIL ARORA, LCSW

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## Information

✉ aarora7@cougarnet.uh.edu

☎ (720) 229-5563

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## Education

### Anticipated Graduation: December 2025

Graduate College of Social Work

\*Expected Graduation Date: May 2025

University of Houston - Houston, Texas

### March 2017 - USC Global Immersion- China

Conducted research on holistic healing and gender fluidity within sexuality

### March 2022 - UH Study Abroad- India

Conducted research on mental health and substance use across cultures

### March 2015 - University of Colorado at Boulder

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

### May 2017

University of Southern California Master of Social Work

Department: Children, Youth & Families

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## Focused Expertise

- Advocating/Therapy with Veterans (Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and Self-esteem)
- Community organizing for Military/Veterans and their families
- Suicide and Substance use among Military/Veteran population
- Trauma related services/groups
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Non-Profit management
- Fundraising through grants & donor relations
- Program management, development, implementation & training
- Homelessness advocacy
- Holistic approaches to mental health healing

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## Training

Gottman Method Couples Therapy - Level 1

September 2021

Gottman Method Couples Therapy - Level 2

January 2023

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## Awards

|                                                                                         |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ralph Fertig Research Award<br>May 2017                                                 | University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work<br>Travel Award<br>December 2022 |
| Hawthorne Endowment Director's Award<br>May 2017                                        | University of Houston MH-RITES Dissertation Award- \$2000<br>December 2024             |
| Order of the Torch<br>May 2017                                                          | Southern California Grant Makers Dissertation Award-<br>\$10000<br>December 2024       |
| University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work<br>Travel Award<br>September 2021 |                                                                                        |
| SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award<br>January 2021                                      |                                                                                        |

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## Certificates

Problem Solving Therapy (PST)  
 Motivational Interviewing (MI)  
 Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

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## Licensure

|                                                                |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Colorado Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) [CSW.09928319] | 2022-Present |
| California Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) [#107484]    | 2022-Present |

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## Academic Appointments

|                                                                                                                                                            |                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| University of Houston, Houston, TX- <b>Adjunct Professor</b><br>Advance Social Work Practice in Organizations class at the Graduate College of Social Work | September 2022-December 2022 |
| University of Houston, Houston, TX- <b>Guest Lecturer</b><br>Human Diversity and Development class Graduate College of Social Work                         | 2021                         |

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## Publications (Articles, White Papers, Chapters, & Policy Briefs)

Otterloo, N. de Mol van, Yun, J., **Arora, A.**, Nair, M.D. (2018). Healing Power of the Environment: Traditional Dimensions. International Research Journal of Environmental Sciences, 7(9), 39-47.

Barr, N., Fulginiti, A., Petry, L., **Arora, A.**, Cederbaum, J., Hines, T., Winetrobe Nadel, H., Castro, C., & Rice, E. (2021). Soldier stress, attitudes and beliefs related to COVID-19 following deployment. [https://cais.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Soldier-Stress-and- COVID\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cais.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Soldier-Stress-and- COVID_FINAL.pdf)

Narendorf, S. C., **Arora, A.**, Santa Maria, D., Bender, K., Shelton, J., Hsu, H. T., ... & Barman-Adhikari, A. (2023). Self Identification of Mental Health Problems Among Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness. Community Mental Health Journal, 1-11.

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## Publications (Articles, White Papers, Chapters, & Policy Briefs)

Savani, S., **Arora, A.**, Brown, M., Ma, Y., & Gearing, R. E. (2024). The influence of religion on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. In A. Breivik, M. Schouler-Ocak & M. Khan (Ed.), *Suicide Across Cultures*. London: Oxford University Press.

Gearing, R. E., Alonzo, D., Savani, S., Burr, S., **Arora, A.**, & Khudododova, S. (2024). Suicide and Religion: A Comparative Analysis of this Complex Relationship to Inform Practice. In A. Breivik, M. Schouler-Ocak & M. Khan (Ed.), *Suicide Across Cultures*. London: Oxford University Press.

Barr, N., Petry, L., Fulginiti, A., **Arora, A.**, Cederbaum, J., Rice, E. & Castro, C., (2025) Who Supports the Troops? Social Support Domains and Sources in Active Duty Army Networks. *Armed Forces and Society*.

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## Manuscripts in Preparation for Peer-Reviewed Journals

**Arora, A.**, Narendorf, S. C., Santa Maria, D., Bender, K., Shelton, J., Hsu, H. T., ... & Barman-Adhikari, A. Rapid Rehousing For Young Adults: Perspectives from Case Managers and Participants. *Journal TBD*

Mytelka, C., Narendorf, S. C., Munson, M., Jones, E.C., **Arora, A.** (In Press) Contextualizing social support networks of youth exiting foster care: A mixed methods examination. *Child and Youth Services Review*.

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## Presentations

Winters, D., **Arora, A.**, (2017). Caring for the Caretakers: Understanding Ourselves Through an Artistic Lens. *Family Services Santa Monica, CA*.

Winters, D., **Arora, A.**, (2018). Understanding Compassion Fatigue and Burnout: Using Art as an Expression of Trauma and Healing. *Kedren Community Health Center*.

**Arora, A.**, Narendorf, S., (2021). Rapid Rehousing For Young Adults: Perspectives from Case Managers Poster Presentation accepted at the Council on Social Work Education.

**Arora, A.**, Narendorf, S., (2021). Transitioning from Homelessness to Housing in Rapid Rehousing: Perspectives of Young Adults Poster Presentation accepted at Society for Social Work and Research.

Barr, N., Petry, L., Fulginiti, A., **Arora, A.**, Cederbaum, J., & Rice, E. (2022). Social support in active duty Army social networks: Roles, relationships, and implications for Soldier wellbeing. Oral paper accepted for publication at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.

Gardner, J., Narendorf, S., **Arora, A.**, Ali, S., Harris, A., (2022). Infrastructure to Support Public Impact Scholarship: Launching the Hub for Engaged Action Research (HEAR) Lab. Roundtable accepted for publication at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.

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## Presentations

Harvey, A., Blankenship, A., **Arora, Anil.**, Borah, E., (2024). Informing Peer Support Programming for Active Duty Military Spouses and Committed Partners. Poster presentation accepted for publication at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington D.C.

**Arora, A.**, Gardner, J., Vences, M., Martinez, M., Narendorf, S., (2024). Transforming Research: Innovative Ways to Democratize Knowledge through Research Podcasts. Roundtable accepted for publication at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington D.C.

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## Research Experience

### **Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative- Statistician under Aimee Bravo    June 2021- Current**

- Compute monthly service usage data looking specifically at homelessness, mental health, etc.
- Support 150 organizations with using the Unite Us Platform for data collection purposes
- Create monthly exhibitions for monthly collaborative meeting

### **UT Austin Research Intern- Work under Professor Elisa Borah                      May 2022- December 2023**

- Participate in weekly meetings with professor and team to ensure projects move forward
- Support with manuscript writing
- Develop one page research briefs of research articles that can be used for dissemination

### **UH Research Assistant-Work under Professor Sarah Narendorf                      August 2020-Current**

- Participate in weekly meetings with professor to ensure quantitative and qualitative projects move forward
- Support in the development of the Hub for Engaged Action Research to support anti-racist scholarly work and its dissemination
- Work collaboratively to write, edit, and contribute to different manuscripts

### **USC Research Assistant-Worked under Professor Murali Nair                      August 2016-May 2017**

- Wrote, edited, and contributed to published articles before sending them to the university editor
- Attended meetings with the professor to ensure research was going as planned

### **USC- Provost's Interdisciplinary Homelessness Initiative                      September 2016- May 2017**

- Collaborate with students from different disciplines (Law, Public Policy, Journalism, Social Work)
  - Work with community partners to improve programs and tackle homelessness issues
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## Service to the Profession

### **Field Instructor- PESA & BBSLA                                                              August 2022-Current**

- Supervised MSW and BSW students during their field education internships
- Created a new partnership with University of Southern California and Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Los Angeles (BBSLA) to be a new practicum site for MSW students to host MSW students to increase mentor matching by 25%.

### **Board Member- Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Los Angeles                      March 2023- Current**

- Support gala, fundraising, and oversight of agency funding through quarterly board meetings
- Inaugural Social Work Board Member for BBBSLA to enhance trauma-informed programming, recognition of alcohol and other drugs, and school-based mentoring



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## Service to the Profession

**Guest Peer Reviewer- Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal                      October 2022**

Critically review manuscripts by identifying strengths and weaknesses and analyzing potential contribution to the field of social work

**Editorial Board Member- Perspective in Social Work                                              March 2021-August 2022**

Coordinate manuscript submissions for a doctoral student led journal and host networking events at conferences

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## Clinical Experience

**Down To Grow Therapy PLLC- Owner/Therapist                                              August 2022-Current**

- Set-up and manage a private practice to conduct couples therapy, individual therapy or family therapy
- Complete needed assessments with clients and submit notes via online portal to simple practice

**The Geneva Foundation- Mindfulness Therapist                                              August 2022-August 2023**

- Conduct one on one mindfulness sessions based on Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery
- Enhancement Training to reduce pain and opioid dependency
- Attend weekly group supervision sessions to continue learning about mindfulness

**The Relationship Center of Colorado- Couples Therapist                                              August 2019-March 2023**

- Conduct couples therapy, individual therapy or family therapy with private practice clients
- Complete needed assessments with clients and submit notes via online portal to simple practice

**Health One Hospital- Social Worker II                                              August 2019- March 2021**

- Responsible for assessing the psychological, social, cultural and/or financial needs that impact the high-risk patient's health and recovery
- Provide emotional support, case coordination, crisis intervention, and referrals for individuals
- Facilitate groups (ages 7-90) around anxiety, depression and bipolar affective disorder
- Use meditech to enter notes within 24 hours

**Wellness Works- Social Worker/Program Director                                              August 2016-March 2019**

- Managed a caseload of 20 veterans and their families for therapy and case management
- Created a PTSD class curriculum and implemented the class for 2 cohorts allowing veterans to feel more connected and stable in realms of: mental, spiritual, and physical health
- Learned cognitive approach therapy through 500 hours of the internship portion of work participating in supervision
- Conceived, planned, and managed first fundraising Gala Dinner with 90 attendees raising \$25,000
- Managed and composed 4 grants raising \$170,000 in funds to support the needs of veterans

**Compton Unified School District- Social Work Intern                                              August 2015 – July 2016**

- 450-hour internship, had weekly individual supervision and group supervision
- Conducted Support for Students Exposed to Trauma (SSET) group with middle school students to help reduce symptoms related to existing traumatic experiences
- Implemented a district wide train the trainers Trauma program called "Typical or Troubled"
- Practiced individual therapy with different theoretical modalities (CBT, TF-CBT, MI, PST, Guided Imagery) 25 caseload



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## Clinical Experience

**Equinox Counseling & Wellness Center- Therapeutic Specialist** **May 2014 – August 2015**

- Created group curriculum for special needs youth to increase socialization and positive manners
- Community specialist focused on balance of responsibility and recreational activity for troubled teens
- Provided real time coaching with behavior and accountability situations for youth and parents
- Mentored troubled teens/youth on the autism spectrum in academics and healthy lifestyles
- Improved flexible thinking in special needs youth through consistent challenging activities

**Children's Hospital - Kempe Center Intern** **January 2014–January 2015**

- Conducted therapeutic childcare using child directed play skills leading to increasing cooperation and positive behavior for those that have experienced trauma
- Collaborated with trial clinicians to investigate evidence-based therapeutic approaches to best support clients and understand cognitive development after trauma
- Learned about clinical trials in the ongoing training & supervision with the Child Trauma Program

**Counseling and Psychological Services- Head Peer Educator** **August 2013 – May 2015**

- Selected to be the second head peer educator in order to manage and support 22 volunteers
- Co-Facilitated weekly academic Bounce Back Program for students on academic probation
- Communicated and planned 55 events per semester with psychologists and volunteers
- Designed and managed an outreach project used to reduce stigma of counseling on campus
- Organized bi-weekly trainings for volunteers to improve understanding of community psychology
- Accountability meetings with supervisors to go over weekly goals and provide progress reports for projects/events

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## Leadership Experience

**Children's Hospital of Los Angeles- Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Fellow**  
**August 2018- May 2019**

- Engaged in 300 hours of life course perspective seminars, clinical cases, small group exercises, interdisciplinary team modeling, family-based experiences, and policy and advocacy work.
- Completed leadership project with the Boone Fetter Clinic, created follow-up survey for services, obtained IRB approval, identified participants, and established the research protocol.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary team to achieve project goals, while synthesizing data, and was selected to participate in the Association of University Centers on Disabilities conference.

**Crystal Stairs- Building Stronger Families Watts/Willowbrook Coordinator**  
**December 2017-July 2018**

- Managed the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and budget for First 5 LA grants valued at \$1.2 million, which provided professional and emotional development for young parents ages 16-24
- Developed and facilitated professional trainings, support groups, and special events
- Created partnerships in the community, provided logistical support, and created a participant tracking system

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## Leadership Experience

### **USC- Social Work Graduate Government- Community Service Chair**

**May 2016-May 2017**

- Advocated for and attended Men in Social Work Caucus bi-monthly meetings, and helped create/manage events
- Managed and coordinated as team captain for 60 Social work students to participate and raised \$3,000 for United Way in their fight to end homelessness
- Coordinated a month of social work events and led a homelessness-awareness week

### **Vector Marketing/Cutco- Branch Manager/Senior Field Sales Manager**

**May 2011 – Present**

- Managed office operations for the #1 office in the nation leading to \$1.5 million in sales in 3 months
- Sold over \$85,000, while growing sales and building relationships across the country through 300 in home appointments
- Critiqued & guided a new training program that was implemented as a best practice for employees
- Supported and directed a team of 30 individuals

### **Dream Team Bhangra @ CU Boulder (DTB) – Founder**

**August 2013 – May 2015**

- Envisioned and formed a team of 8 people that performed traditional Indian Bhangra Dance at community festivals, campus events, and weddings
- Coordinated logistics, created weekly schedules for practice and multiple routines with student choreographers

### **South Asian Student Association (SASA) – President**

**January 2012 – May 2015**

- Advocated to governing boards with proposals/budgets to receive \$50,000 from the university to run the organization, funded 6 student community events and travel to South Asian Leadership conference at Harvard
- Created year-long strategy, programming, led weekly meetings, organized logistics for events and worked with a 6-person team to promote South Asian culture across a 39,000 student campus
- Planned & facilitated a South Asian culture show for 550 people, raised \$1,054 for charity by hosting a 5k run/walk

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## Professional Affiliations

Member, Council on Social Work Education

Member, Society for Social Work and Research

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## Languages

- Hindi, Punjabi & proficient in Spanish

# MARCUS BROWN, MSW, LCSW-S

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Marcus Brown, MSW, LCSW-S (he/him) is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston and a doctoral fellow with the Council on Social Work Education's Minority Fellowship Program. He brings over a decade of clinical experience and a deep commitment to racial and mental health equity across research, teaching, and practice. His professional background includes work in inpatient psychiatry, integrated care, crisis intervention, and youth development across Missouri and Texas.



Marcus's dissertation, *Pathways to Mental Health Recovery among Black Adults with Serious Mental Illness*, is externally funded and explores how Black adults navigate formal and informal support systems in relation to their recovery. Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and semi-structured interviews, his work centers the lived experiences of Black adults and the cultural, spiritual, and structural factors shaping their recovery journeys. As part of this work, he chairs a Community Advisory Board, reflecting his commitment to participatory and community-engaged research.

His broader scholarship focuses on dismantling barriers to care and reimagining recovery-oriented services for Black communities. Marcus currently provides clinical supervision to LMSWs as an LCSW-S and works as a therapist. He is also passionate about mentoring and teaching the next generation of social workers through clinically grounded, anti-oppressive, and culturally responsive pedagogy.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Formal and informal mental health service use
- Social support networks and community-based supports
- Mental health recovery among Black adults with serious mental illness
- Help-seeking behaviors and recovery intentions
- Mental wellness, healing, and racial equity in mental health

# MARCUS BROWN, MSW, LCSW-S

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## Information

✉ [mdbrown5@uh.edu](mailto:mdbrown5@uh.edu)

📍 University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

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## Education

### University of Houston, Houston, TX

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

Anticipated May 2026

**Dissertation:** Pathways to Mental Health Recovery among Black Adults with Serious Mental Illness

### Washington University, St. Louis, MO

George Warren Brown School of Social Work

Master of Social Work

### Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL (SIUC)

Bachelor of Science in Social Work - Cum Laude

Minor: Psychology

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## Research Interest

Serious Mental Illness (SMI); Black Adults with SMI; Formal and Informal Mental Health Service Use; Social Support Networks; Mental Health Recovery and Wellness; Help-Seeking Intentions and Behaviors

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## Teaching Interests

Assessment and Diagnosis; Introduction to Social Work; Human Behavior and the Social Environment; Social Work Generalist Practice and Clinical Courses; Qualitative Research.

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## Funding

### 2025 PhD Dissertation Research Award

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Worker

Humana Endowed Chair in Social Determinants of Health (Total: \$1,620)

### 2025 PhD Dissertation Research Award

New York University, Silver School of Social Work

Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Group (Total: \$1,500)

### 2025 PhD Dissertation Research Award

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Worker Child & Family, Center for Innovative Research (Total: \$1,000)

### 2023-current Doctoral Fellow

Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Program (Total: \$25,800 annually)

### 2020-2022 Presidential Fellowship

University of Houston Graduate, College of Social Work (Total: \$3,000)

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## Publications and Book Chapters

**Brown, M.**, Narendorf, S. C., Khan, U., Gomez, G., & Munson, M. R. (2025). Co-creating the healing partner: An examination of the feasibility and acceptability of a boundary spanning and provision shifting clinician. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 1-17.

Narendorf, S.C., Munson, M. R., Khan, U., **Brown, M.**, Gomez, G., Santa Maria, D., Gilmer, T., Gattis, M. N., Hayward, P. & Herman, D. (2025). Study protocol for a feasibility evaluation of Charge Up!: An adaptation of Critical Time Intervention for young adults moving from homelessness to housing. *Pilot and Feasibility Trials*, 1-13.

**Brown, M.**, Horton, D., & Henderson, J. (2024). A Narrative of the Community Cultural Wealth of a Black Male Engineering Undergraduate Student. *Studies in Engineering Education*, 1-19.

Lea, C.H., **Brown, M.**, & Byatt, R. (2022). Alternative Schools, Career and Technical Education, and Emerging Adult Black Men in Reentry: A Case Study. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 1-18.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Savani, S., Arora, A., **Brown, M.**, Ma, Y., & Gearing, R. E. (2024). The influence of religion on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. In A. Breivik, M. Schouler-Ocak & M. Khan (Ed.), *Suicide Across Cultures*. London: Oxford University Press.

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## Papers Under Review and In Preperation

Lea, C.H., **Brown, M.**, Kennedy, P., Bhatt, R., Ma, Y., Rodriguez, M. & Adams, R. (Under Review). "Reentry and COVID-19: An Examination of the Vaccine Beliefs and Behaviors of Black Adults in an Urban Community. *BMC Public Health*.

Asante, R., Sanchez, C., **Brown, M.**, Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Boateng, D. A., Fogel, S. J., Robbins, S. P., & Gearing, R. E. (Under Review). Exploring Research Assistants' Changing Perceptions After Participating in a Mental Health Research Study. *Journal of the Society for Social Work Research*.

Gearing, R., Coffey, M., Weaver, N., Olson, L., & **Brown, M.** (Under Review). Rural Mental Health Services: A Systematic Review of Barriers and Promoters to Treatment Engagement. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health Services Research*.

**Brown, M.**, Lea, C., Jones, T., Malorni, A., Spencer, M., & Bruick, S. (In Preparation). Social-Emotional Development and Culture: Exploring the Experiences and Perceptions of Racially and Ethnically Diverse Young People.

Narendorf, S., Brown, M., Jeter, S., & Munson, M. (In Preparation). Modeling the Process of Treatment Continuation or Discontinuation Following Psychiatric Hospitalization.

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## Conference Presentations

Sanchez, C., **Brown, M.**, Asante, R., Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Boateng, D. A., Fogel, S. J., Robbins, S. P., & Gearing, R. E. (Accepted). No longer exclusive to madness: The impact of involvement in mental health research on graduate research assistants. Poster presentation accepted at the 2026 Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

**Brown, M.**, Johnson, K., Bell, M., DeFrance, L., Roach, J., & Perkins, B. (Accepted). Community advisory board insights on recovery for Black adults with serious mental illness. Poster accepted for presentation at the 2025 Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.

Narendorf, S., **Brown, M.**, Straughter, A., Jackson, B., Shelley, A., Greenmun, J. & Justice, N. (June 2025). Introducing Charge Up!: Youth Centered Support Model. Panel presentation at the Texas Network for Youth Services, Houston, Texas.

**Brown, M.**, Narendorf, N., Gomez, G., Khan, U., & Munson, M. (January 2025). The Healing Partner: Reimagining Mental Health Supports for Young Adults at Critical Points of Transition. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle, Washington.

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## Conference Presentations

Narendorf, N., **Brown, M.**, Munson, M., Singletary, B. (January 2024). Applying the ADAPT-ITT Framework to build a Housing Support Intervention. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

**Brown, M.**, Savani, S., Arora, A., Ma, Y., & Gearing, R. (June 2024). End-of-life decisions: Exploring religious perspectives on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. Oral presentation at the International Association for Suicide Prevention Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Ionesc, E., Bhatt, R., Davies, H., Arora, A., & **Brown, M.** (April 2022). Teaching Excellence: Should Social Work PhD Students Learn how to Teach? A pilot study-survey report.  
Poster presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association, San Antonio, TX.

**Brown, M.**, Johnson, K., & Johnson, M. (September 2021). Black and Indigenous people of color (BIPOC) mental health matters: Disparity to parity. Oral presentation delivered during the opening session at the National Association of Social Workers Indiana Chapter Annual Conference, Virtual.

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## Research and Evaluation Experience

### 09/2020 - Research Assistant

Present University of Houston Graduate College of Social

Conducts literature reviews and qualitative interviews; facilitates data collection and analysis; co-authors manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication.

### 08/2021- Item Writer (Contract)

Present Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

Develops clinical exam items for licensure; applies research and practice expertise across diverse content areas.

### 08/2022 - Program Evaluator Team Member

### 12/2022 - Lovescaping,<sup>®</sup> Houston, TX

Conducted summative evaluation of a social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum; developed and delivered final report and presentation to stakeholders.

### 08/2021- Doctoral Research Intern

### 05/2022 - University of Houston College of Chemical Engineering Henderson Research Group

Conducted qualitative data analysis using the Community Cultural Wealth framework; synthesized findings and submitted an article for publication.

### 05/2011- Undergraduate Research Assistant

### 05/2012 - Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

### McNair Scholar – McNair Summer Research Institute

Researched literature on attitudes and ethical concerns regarding e-therapy; presented findings at the McNair Summer Research Symposium (Carbondale, IL) and the National McNair Conference (Delavan, WI).

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## Teaching Experience

**08/2025      Adjunct Instructor (Fall 2025)**

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work Course: Groups: Advanced Clinical Practice  
Instructs 27 MSW students in an in-person course on clinical group work.

**01/2023      Adjunct Instructor (Spring 2023)**

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work  
Course: Clinical Applications of the DSM-5 in Social Work Practice  
Instructed 27 MSW students in assessment and diagnostic clinical practice.

**08/2022      Teaching Assistant (Fall 2022)**

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work  
Courses: Clinical Applications of the DSM-5 (online) in Social Work Practice and Brief Targeted Interventions (in-person)  
Instructor: Steven Parks, LCSW-S, MBA  
Delivered guest lectures, facilitated class discussions, and evaluated student assignments.

**01/2019-05/2020      Field Instructor**

Saint Louis County Department of Public Health Affiliated with Washington University in St. Louis  
Supervised MSW interns; provided clinical instruction and conducted performance evaluations

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## Clinical Experience

**05/2025-Present - Clinical Supervisor**

Provides clinical supervision to Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) in the state of Texas.

**05/2023-Present - Clinical Therapist**

SonderMind  
Delivers virtual therapy; conducts biopsychosocial assessments and co-develops individualized treatment plans.

**02/2023-Present - Healing Partner**

University of Houston /Full Circle Strategy, LLC  
Provides therapeutic support and case management for young adults experiencing homelessness; co-develops intervention materials for the mental health role.

**09/2022-Present - Clinical Social Worker**

West Oaks Hospital, Houston, TX  
Conducts assessments and facilitates psychoeducational groups for children, youth, and adults in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings.

**01/2018-07/2020 - Clinical Social Worker/Behavioral Health Consultant**

St. Louis County Department of Public Health, St. Louis, MO  
Provided trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy to children and youth; delivered crisis intervention and mental health services to individuals across the lifespan within an integrated healthcare setting.

Provided therapeutic mentoring to youth and families to address interpersonal challenges and behavioral health needs.



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## Clinical Experience

**09/2017-06/2020 - Clinical Social Worker/Intake Clinician**

Mercy Hospital South, St. Louis, MO

Conducted mental health assessments for adolescents and adults to determine level of care, including inpatient admission, outpatient services, or discharge; provided diagnostic evaluations and clinical recommendations.

**04/2014-12/2017 - Clinical Social Worker**

Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO

Conducted psychiatric assessments on the inpatient psychiatry unit; facilitated discharge planning and group therapy. Cross-trained in a Level 1 trauma emergency department and responded to crises requiring social work intervention.

**12/2013-08/2015 - Crisis Intervention Clinician**

Behavioral Health Response St. Louis, MO

Provided crisis counseling and suicide prevention services via phone, text, and virtual platforms to individuals of all ages.

**12/2013-08/2015 - Youth Specialist**

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services St. Louis, MO

Provided therapeutic mentoring to youth and families to address interpersonal challenges and behavioral health needs.

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## Professional Service

**03/2024- 03/2025 - PhD Student Representative, Dean Search Committee**

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

**08/2022-05/2022 - Representative, Clinical Social Work Concentration Committee**

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

**01/2022 (Spring) - Ad Hoc Reviewer**

Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal

**01/2019-06/2020 - Chair, Behavioral Health Committee**

St. Louis County Department of Public Health

**12/2012-05/2013 - Volunteer Crisis Worker**

Life Crisis Services

**01/2012-05/2012 - BSW Case Manager Intern**

The Lighthouse Shelter

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## Community Service and Engagement

**08/2024 – Present**

Chair, Community Advisory Board for R36 Dissertation Award

Dissertation: Pathways to Mental Health Recovery Among Black Adults with SMI

**08/2018 – 05/2020**

Chair, Men's Health Committee

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

**08/2017 – 08/2018**

Chair, Kappa League National Youth Mentoring Program Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

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## Scholarships and Awards

**2019**

Director's Award, Recognized for Outstanding Services  
Awarded by Saint Louis County Department of Public Health

**2013**

Shirlee Fink Kahn Award, Recognized for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the St. Louis Community  
Awarded by Washington University in St. Louis

**2012**

Social Work Undergraduate Student of the Year Award  
Awarded by Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**2010**

McNair Scholar

McNair Scholars program providing educational and professional development activities related to research and academic skills awarded by Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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## Professional Licensure (Active)

Texas Licensed Clinical Social Worker Supervisor

Texas Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Active License #: 103731

Missouri Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Active License #: 2017015856

# HELEN CLANCY, MSW

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Helen Clancy, MSW (she/her) is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston. Her research examines how overlapping crises—including hurricanes, flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic—shape resilience, civic engagement, and well-being in disaster-affected communities. Guided by a social ecological framework, Helen investigates how individual and community resilience processes interact with disaster exposure to influence well-being. Using structural equation modeling with community survey data from Harris County neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by multiple disasters, her dissertation explores resilience as both a mediator and moderator in the relationship between disaster experiences and well-being.



Helen's research agenda is deeply informed by her career as a journalist, communications strategist, and public servant, where she developed community-centered storytelling and policy communications in public education, local government, and philanthropy. This background drives her commitment to public-impact scholarship: producing accessible reports, policy briefs, and op-eds that connect research to civic dialogue and decision-making. Her long-term goal is to advance equitable disaster resilience policies and strengthen civic infrastructure in under-resourced communities.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Community resilience in disaster contexts
- Social ecological approaches to resilience
- Mixed-methods and participatory research design
- Disaster mental health and social support systems
- Storytelling, communications, and public-impact scholarship
- Education and preparation of future social workers in disaster preparedness and civic life

# HELEN CLANCY, MSW

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## Information

- ✉ hspencer@uh.edu
- 📄 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/helencclancy/>
- 📍 Houston, Texas

**Professional Interests:** Exploring community resilience factors in disaster-affected neighborhoods and Community-engaged research and public impact scholarship.

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## Education

### August 2020-Present - Ph.D. Student

Graduate College of Social Work  
\*Expected Graduation Date: May 2025  
University of Houston - Houston, Texas

### December 2021 - Master of Social Work

Graduate College of Social Work  
Phi Alpha Honor Society  
University of Houston - Houston, Texas

### August 1998

Bachelor of Arts, English  
Texas A&M University - College Station, Texas

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## Clinical Experience

### Social Work Intern

Bridge Solutions Home Health - Houston, Texas

June-August 2021

Conducted social work home health evaluations and home care assessments; connected clients and their families with community resources; supported launch of LGBT Council on Aging.

### Social Work Intern

Humble Area Assistance Ministries - Humble, Texas

January-August 2020

Connected clients and families with mental health and community resources. Supported multiple grants benefitting 72,460 individuals in the Humble region through research, writing, and multimedia creation. Performed client screenings; coordinated Meals on Wheels program, recruiting, training, and retaining community volunteers; conducted pilot program funded by Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries to connect clients with work opportunities; supported Coalition for the Homeless' annual point-in-time count.

---

## Research Experience

**2023-2024**                      **University of Houston** - Houston, Texas

**Research Assistant**

Conducted in-person surveys in Harris County communities that have experienced disproportionate impacts from COVID-19 in the context of multiple natural disasters. Conducted data analysis and supported writing, editing, and design of evaluation report. Community survey was part of Healthy Minds Healthy Communities (HMHC) study to inform policies and community-based interventions

**2020-2023**                      **Rice University** - Houston, Texas

**Consultant**

Collaborated with research scientists at the Texas Policy Lab to produce white papers, executive summaries, research reports, website and social media content, and presentations to funders.

**2021-2022**                      **University of Houston** - Houston, Texas

**Research Assistant, Dr. Suzanne Pritzker**

Supported writing and dissemination across two community-based participatory action research studies, Building civic engagement in the post-Harvey context: Exploring facilitators and barriers to civic activity in four hurricane-affected communities in Houston, and Exploring civic engagement during COVID-19. Supported research, development, writing, and editing of Take Action Greater Houston regional report on civic engagement for Houston in Action and Houston Endowment, in collaboration with Rice University and Texas Southern University research teams.

**2022**                                **Harris County Department of Education** - Houston, Texas

**Project Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Caruthers**

Designed and conducted qualitative exploratory program evaluation of out-of-school time service providers.

**2020-2021**                      **University of Houston** - Houston, Texas

**Research Assistant, Dr. Christina Miyawaki**

Recruited caregiver/recipient dyads for Alzheimer's Association-funded clinical trial on Life Review activity for older adults with early dementia and depressive symptoms. Performed pre- and post-intervention screenings, including cognitive (MoCA) assessments; adapted workflow to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. Monitored fidelity of implementation; met weekly with caregivers to offer guidance and support.

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## Journal Articles

Miyawaki, C., McClellan, A., Bouldin, E., Brohard, C., **Spencer, H.**, Tahija, N., & Kunik, M. (2023). Feasibility and Efficacy of Life Review Delivered by Virtually-Trained Family Caregivers. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. 95(2):573-583. doi:10.3233/JAD-230371

Pritzker, S., Moreno, D. Nicotera, N., Saenz, R., **Clancy, H.**, Avila, K., Ruiz, A., & Campos, S. (2024). Promoting good trouble: Latinx youth-driven change strategies for civic engagement and activism. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 164. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107807

Mollhagen, A., **Clancy, H.**, & Pritzker, S. (Under review). When helpers are also survivors: a student-centered model for disaster preparedness in social work education.

## Public Impact

Op-eds (editorial support and placement)

1. Pritzker, S., Durrani, A., & Hafizi, N. (2023, Sept. 25). The danger of a single Election Day narrative. Democracy Docket. Miyawaki, C., McClellan, A., Bouldin, E., Brohard, C., Spencer, H., Tahija, N., & Kunik, M. (2023). Feasibility and Efficacy of Life Review Delivered by Virtually-Trained Family Caregivers. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 95(2):573-583. doi:10.3233/JAD-230371
2. Ellis, R. (2024, Jan. 14). MLK would have supported Harris County's guaranteed income program. Houston Chronicle. Pritzker, S., Moreno, D. Nicotera, N., Saenz, R., Clancy, H., Avila, K., Ruiz, A., & Campos, S. (2024). Promoting good trouble: Latinx youth-driven change strategies for civic engagement and activism. Children and Youth Services Review, 164. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107807
3. Tubbs, M., & Ellis, R. (2024, Feb. 24) Guaranteed income is the 'solution to poverty' we need across America. The Hill. Miyawaki, C., McClellan, A., Bouldin, E., Brohard, C., Spencer, H., Tahija, N., & Kunik, M. (2023). Feasibility and Efficacy of Life Review Delivered by Virtually-Trained Family Caregivers. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 95(2):573-583. doi:10.3233/JAD-230371
4. Ortega Hogue, C., Stephens, S., & Trevino, M. (2024, July 26). One way to make Houston more resilient? Citizenship. Houston Chronicle. Pritzker, S., Moreno, D. Nicotera, N., Saenz, R., Clancy, H., Avila, K., Ruiz, A., & Campos, S. (2024). Promoting good trouble: Latinx youth-driven change strategies for civic engagement and activism. Children and Youth Services Review, 164. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107807
5. Castaneda-Lauver, A. (2024, Nov. 1). 10% of eligible U.S. voters are immigrants. We share one value: patriotism. Houston Chronicle. Mollhagen, A., Clancy, H., & Pritzker, S. (Under review). When helpers are also survivors: a student-centered model for disaster preparedness in social work education.

Podcasts (speaking)

1. Wilson, M. (2022, June 1). The influence school connectedness has on students' performance. Harris County Department of Education's Making After-school Cool Podcast.
2. Wilson, M. (2022, Oct. 4). OST professionals' reflections during COVID-19. Harris County Department of Education's Making After-school Cool Podcast.

Public-facing reports (writing, editing, and design)

1. Marschall, M., Pritzker, S., Clancy, H., Hartley, J., Rollins, T., Smith, K., Powell, U., Becerra, E., Martinez, M., Barker, R., Bhakta, K., Gupta, S., Joyce, M., Naqvi, K., Sethi, A., & Viswanathan S. (2024, Dec. 10). Battlegrounds for access: Civic engagement in the Greater Houston region. 2. Wilson, M. (2022, Oct. 4). OST professionals' reflections during COVID-19. Harris County Department of Education's Making After-school Cool Podcast.

## Grant Experience

### 2023-2024

American Rescue Plan Act. "Evaluation of The Harris Center Community Initiated Mental Health and Resiliency Care." Award: \$680,000. Co-Principal Investigator: Sarah Narendorf, Ph.D.  
Role on Grant: Research Assistant

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## Grant Experience

### 2022-2023

**Houston Endowment.** Take Action Houston 2. Award: \$235,000 Principal Investigator: Melissa Marschall, Ph.D.; Co-Principal Investigator: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant

### 2021-2022

**AmeriCorps.** Exploring civic engagement during COVID-19. Award: \$116,960.16. PI: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant

### 2021-2022

**AmeriCorps.** Building civic engagement in the post-Harvey context: Exploring facilitators and barriers to civic activity in four hurricane-affected communities in Houston. Award: \$225,346.29. PI: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant

### 2020

**Alzheimer's Association.** Caregiver-provided life review (C-PLR) for persons living with dementia in care facilities. Award: \$150,000. PI: Christina Miyawaki, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant

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## Teaching Experience

### March 2025

#### Guest Lecturer

Course: Advanced Social Policy  
University of Houston - Houston, Texas

### September 2021

#### Guest Lecturer

Course: Social Work in the Policy Environment  
University of Houston - Houston, Texas

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## Leadership Experience

**2017 - Leadership ISD** Civic Voices of Houston fellow

**2015 - Center for Houston's Future** Civic Leadership fellow

**2013-2014 - Houston Education Research Consortium** (HERC)/Kinder Institute for Urban Research advisory committee

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## Peer-Reviewed Presentations

### 2025

Mollhagen, A., **Clancy, H.**, & Pritzker, S. (January 2025). Preparing, reacting, and adapting: Prioritizing social work students as natural disasters compound. Hurricane Resilience Research Institute 2025 Climate Health Frontiers Symposium: AI and Data for Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience, Houston, Texas.



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Peer-Reviewed Presentations**2024**

Pritzker, S., **Clancy, H.** (October 2024). “Battlegrounds for access”: Community-engaged policy research to advance political justice. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting (APM)–It’s Time to Act: Indigenous Knowledge Sovereignty and Environmental Justice, Kansas City, Missouri.

**2024**

Pritzker, S., **Clancy, H.** (October 2024). “Battlegrounds for access”: Community-engaged policy research to advance political justice. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting (APM)–It’s Time to Act: Indigenous Knowledge Sovereignty and Environmental Justice, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Spencer, H.,** & Pritzker, S. (January 2024). Getting fit to print: Driving dialogue through university-community partnerships. Society for Social Work and Research 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference–Recentring & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science, Washington, D.C.

**Spencer, H.,** Pritzker, S., Garrido, G., King, D., & Robbins, M. “Never in the loop”: Information access emerges as shared concern in communities affected by hurricane, pandemic. Society for Social Work and Research 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference–Recentring & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science, Washington, D.C.

**2023**

Pritzker, S., Becerra, E., Smith, K., **Spencer, H.** (June 2023). “Battlegrounds for access”: Applying a regional lens to advance political justice and protect voting rights. Macro United Conference: Rising Together to Protect Our Rights, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Spencer, H.** (January 2023). Promoting equity in adolescent wellbeing among youth in alternative family structures: why context matters. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27th Annual Conference–Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.

**Spencer, H.,** & Pritzker, S. (January 2023). Constructing meaning in a time of destruction: defining civic engagement in disaster-affected communities. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27th Annual Conference–Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.

**Spencer, H.,** & Pritzker, S. (January 2023). Civic engagement throughout the disaster lifecycle: Hurricane Harvey and resilience in the Houston area. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference–Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.

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## Peer-Reviewed Presentations

### 2022

**Spencer, H.**, & Tahija, N. (April 2022). Physically safe but socially isolated: A challenging paradox in long-term care facilities during the pandemic. The Southwestern Social Science Association 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting–Global Pandemics and Dynamics of World Affairs: Politics, Economics, and Technology, San Antonio, Texas.

### 2021

**Spencer, H.**, & Tahija, N. (November 2021). Lessons learned while recruiting long-term care facility residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting (APM)–Leading Critical Conversations: Racial, Economic, & Environmental Justice, Orlando, Florida.

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## Professional Presentations

**Clancy, H.** (April 2024). Conceptualizing, writing, and pitching op-eds to stimulate policy change (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (November 2023). Opting in to op-eds, part 3 (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (September 2023). Opting in to op-eds, part 2 (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (July 2023). Opting in to op-eds, part 1 (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.**, Sharmin, S., Silva, C., & Sundrani, A. (February 2023). Program evaluation: Center for Pursuit Employment Services, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (June 2022). Twitter for researchers (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (April 2022). Building a Twitter platform for research (webinar). Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (May 2018). Public board meeting, Annual update on the HCDE communication and community enrichment division. Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.**, Colbert, J., Wimpelberg, R. (August 2016). Panel discussion on public education, Corporate Community Relations Council, Houston, Texas.

**Spencer, H.** (July 2016). How to engage stakeholders. Council of the Great City Schools.

**Spencer, H.** (July 2015). Beyond the talking head: Learning the essentials of digital storytelling. Council of the Great City Schools.

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## Certifications

- |                  |                                                                          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2021-Present | <b>CPR/AED and First Aid</b> , National Safety Council.                  |
| September 2022   | <b>CITI Certification</b> , Social, Behavioral, Educational Researchers. |

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## Volunteer Experience

- |           |                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020      | <b>Coalition for the Homeless/The Way Home</b><br>Volunteer, Houston, Texas        |
| 2020      | <b>Meals on Wheels</b><br>Volunteer, volunteer trainer/coordinator, Houston, Texas |
| 2018-2022 | <b>EMERGE</b><br>Volunteer, volunteer trainer/coordinator, Houston, Texas          |

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## Awards and Honors

- |      |                                                                                          |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | Dissertation Award, Child & Family Center for Innovative Research (CFCIR)                |
| 2023 | GCSW Travel Scholarship Fellow                                                           |
| 2022 | Phi Alpha Honor Society                                                                  |
| 2019 | First Place (MSW cohort), Research poster presentation, Graduate College of Social Work. |
| 2016 | Excellence in Writing, National School Public Relations Association.                     |
| 2016 | Golden Achievement, National School Public Relations Association.                        |
| 2012 | Gold Medallion, National School Public Relations Association.                            |

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## Memberships

- |                      |                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| November 2022–2024   | Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) |
| March 2021–June 2022 | Council on Social Work Education            |

# JESSE HARTLEY, MS, MSW

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Jesse M. Hartley, MS, MSW, is a doctoral student at the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW). Her community, educational, and professional experiences inform her broader research agenda, which examines how historical and present-day structural violence – rooted in whiteness and anti-Blackness – continues to shape social welfare work. Jesse explores the profession's systemic neglect in confronting whiteness in the classroom and social welfare institutions. Jesse's dissertation, "Benevolent Violence: Examining White Women's Investment in Social Welfare Work," uses historical methodologies to explore how Progressive Era social welfare work positioned Black communities as moral projects and sites of reform, through which white women gained emotional authority and professional legitimacy. The long-term goal of this work is to generate knowledge that disrupts hegemonic social work educational and institutional spaces.



Jesse holds a Bachelor of Psychology from University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Clinical Psychology from Mississippi State University, and a Master of Social Work from Tulane University. Jesse began her career as a clinical therapist then worked in the nonprofit sector for 11 years. She has served as a director for both a state and local children's advocacy center where she secured state and federal grant funding, implemented and managed program evaluation, and led national accreditation processes. Jesse has built and sustained community partnerships, led strategic planning efforts, and continues to support local organizations in a volunteer capacity. Jesse has served as a clinical supervisor, practicum supervisor, and faculty advisor for the GCSW's Political Social Work Focused Learning Opportunity. She served on the CSWE Marco Curricular Guide Policy Focus Team and currently teaches foundations and advanced policy and leadership courses.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Whiteness and white feminism
- Interrogations of benevolent historical social work narratives
- Performative allyship
- Emotionalities of whiteness

# JESSE M. HARTLEY, MS, MSW

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## Information

✉ [jessehartleymsw@gmail.com](mailto:jessehartleymsw@gmail.com)

📍 University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

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## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy** **2021 - present**

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston TX

**Master of Social Work** **2020**

School of Social Work, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

**Master of Clinical Psychology** **2003**

Department of Psychology, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

**Bachelor of Psychology** **1995**

Department of Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

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## Research Interest

Impacts of historical and present-day structural violence, whiteness, and anti-Blackness on social work education and social welfare institutions; historical interrogations of white women's motivations and efforts towards professionalization during Progressive Era social welfare work; performative allyship and whitelash.

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## Publications

Pritzker, S., **Hartley, J.M.**, King, D., & Bebee, E. (in press). A Liberatory Participatory Action Research Approach to Qualitative Methods: Civic Engagement Post Disaster. Community Development.

**Hartley, J.M.** & Hafen, Q. (2025) Whiteness. In Encyclopedia of Social Work.

Pritzker, S., Richards-Schuster, K., & **Hartley, J.M.** (2024) Developing a Youth-Centered Ethics Training for Youth Participatory Action Research: Navigating the Academic Institutional Review Board. Social Work Research, 48(3), 213-219.

Dettlaff, A.D. & **Hartley, J.M.** (2023). A racist transformation. In Confronting the racist legacy of the child welfare system: The case for abolition (p. 53-84). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197675267.001.0001>

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## Academic and Community Presentations

Pritzker, S., **Hartley, J.M.**, King, D. & Bebee, E. (2025). Making Our Methods More Liberatory: Experiences with a Qualitative Participatory Action Research Study [Paper Presentation]. Macro United Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Rollins, T., **Hartley, J.M.**, & Hafen Q. (2024). You Can't Handle the Truth: When White "Allies" Lash Out. [Panel Presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Kansas City, MO.

**Hartley, J.M.** & Miles, C. (2024). Tapping into Ethics [Conference Presentation]. EMDRIA Summit, Bellevue, WA.

**Hartley, J.M.** (2023). Interrogation of Whiteness in Social Work Educational Spaces [Poster Presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Rollins, T., Gomez, G., **Hartley, J.M.**, Jacobs, A., Strohl, K., & Harris, A. (2023) Racial (In)justice in a School of Social Work: Experiences of a Multiracial Doctoral Cohort [Panel Presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Rollins, T. & **Hartley, J.M.** (2023, September). A Journey to Abolition in Child Welfare [Conference Session]. Workshop presented at the National Child Welfare Law Annual Conference (virtual), Minneapolis, MN.

Rollins, T. & **Hartley, J.M.** (2022, October). A Journey to Abolition in Child Welfare [Conference Session]. Workshop presented at the National Association of Social Workers Texas Annual Conference, Galveston, TX.

## Community Presentations

**Hartley, J.M.** (2025, August 16). Positionality, Critical Reflexivity, and Whitelash. Continuing education for student, faculty, and practicum supervisors at Southeastern Louisiana University.

**Hartley, J.M.** & Miles, C. (2025, June 20). EMDR: Tapping into Ethics. Training and continuing education for Medicaid providers.

Rollins, T. & **Hartley, J.M.** (2023, September 27-28). Knowing Who You Are: Racial and Ethnic Identification. Training and continuing education session for Arms Wide, Houston, TX.

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## Teaching Experience

**Teaching Assistant & Faculty Mentor**      **2023 – present**  
Political Social Work Focused Learning Opportunity (SOCW 3000)  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Adjunct Faculty**      **Fall 2025**  
Social Policy Analysis (SOCW 7367)  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Adjunct Faculty**      **Summer 2025**  
Leadership and Ethics (SOCW 7334)  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Guest Lecturer**      **Spring 2025**  
Implications of Race, Culture, and Oppression (SW 840)  
Performative Allyship and Manifestations of Whiteness  
Department of Social Work, University of New Hampshire

**Guest Lecturer**      **Fall 2024**  
Principles and Philosophy of Social Work (SOWK 500)  
Social Work Values and Ethics through a Lens of Whiteness  
School of Social Work, Colorado State University

**Guest Lecturer**      **Fall 2023**  
Teaching in Higher Education (SOCW 8335)  
Academic Website Building  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Guest Lecturer**      **Fall 2022**  
Human Diversity & Development (SOCW 6308)  
Systems of Marginalization and Privilege  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Guest Lecturer**      **Fall 2022**  
Human Diversity & Development (SOCW 6308)  
Trauma and Sociocultural Context  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**Lecturer**      **2004 – 2005**  
Psychology of Abnormal Behavior (PSY 3213)  
Department of Psychology, Mississippi State University, Meridian Campus

**Lecturer**      **2004 – 2005**  
Human Sexual Behavior (PSY 3413)  
Department of Psychology, Mississippi State University, Meridian Campus

**Lecturer**      **2004 – 2005**  
Introduction to Psychological Statistics (PSY 3103)  
Department of Psychology, Mississippi State University, Meridian Campus

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## Research and Technical Experience

|                                                                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Research Assistantship</b>                                                | 2022 – 2025 |
| Dr. Suzanne Pritzker, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston |             |
| <b>Editorial Assistant</b>                                                   | 2022 – 2023 |
| Abolitionist Perspectives in Social Work Journal                             |             |
| <b>Research Assistantship</b>                                                | 2021 – 2022 |
| Dean Alan Dettlaff, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston   |             |

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## Professional Practice Experience

|                                                           |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Consultant - Trauma Informed City Initiative</b>       | 2020 – 2022 |
| Children Youth and Planning Board, New Orleans, LA        |             |
| <b>MSW Graduate Student Intern</b>                        | 2019 – 2020 |
| Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, New Orleans, LA            |             |
| <b>State Director</b>                                     | 2015 – 2017 |
| Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA |             |
| <b>State Director</b>                                     | 2008 – 2012 |
| Hope House, Children's Advocacy Center, Covington, LA     |             |

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## Service

|                                                                                                               |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Macro Specialization Curricular Guide: Policy Focus Team</b>                                               | 2024 - 2025 |
| CSWE Special Commission to Advance Macro Social Work                                                          |             |
| <b>New Student Orientation Facilitator</b>                                                                    | Fall 2025   |
| Intersectionality, Power, and Systems of Oppression<br>Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston |             |
| <b>Racial Justice Committee</b>                                                                               | 2022 - 2024 |
| Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston                                                        |             |
| <b>Caucus Facilitator</b>                                                                                     | Fall 2022   |
| White Supremacy Culture<br>Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston                             |             |
| <b>Board President</b>                                                                                        | 2019 – 2021 |
| Project Peaceful Warriors, New Orleans, LA                                                                    |             |
| <b>Board Member</b>                                                                                           | 2020 – 2021 |
| Justice and Accountability Center, New Orleans, LA                                                            |             |



# YING MA, MSW

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Ying Ma, MSW (she/her/hers), is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston. She received a Master of Social Work from Washington University in Saint Louis, with a specialization in aging society and older adults; a doctoral degree in Epidemiology from Anhui Medical University in China; and a Master of Science from Anhui Medical University in Health Care Management. Ying has practicum experience in case management with immigrant older adults and in advocating for residents in assisted living facilities as an

Ombudsman. She is also a co-founder of the Hefei Community School in her hometown, which offers continuing education for frontline social workers and conducts program evaluations, and the founder of Glimmers Together, an online reading circle designed to advance social connection, reduce loneliness, and promote psychological well-being among women. She is currently a licensed Master of Social Work in Hong Kong.

Ying has over fifteen years of experience in teaching undergraduate and graduate students prior to pursuing social work. She has taught courses including Health Systems, Health Education, Health Care Management, Hospital Management, and Research Methods. Her primary goal as an educator is to help students become more aware of their values, interests, and strengths throughout the learning process. She embraces a participatory teaching style that encourages active engagement, fosters critical thinking, and integrates technology to enhance the learning experience.

Ying's research focuses on aging and health, with particular attention to mental health (e.g., depression and loneliness), the digital divide, chronic disease management, and cognitive functioning. Drawing on her personal experience of living with her grandparents and her interdisciplinary training in public health, health care management, and social work, she has led multiple research projects in China examining diverse aspects of healthy aging. As a quantitative researcher, she employs cross-sectional and longitudinal cohort designs, and her dissertation explores how Internet use and social capital shape loneliness among Chinese adults, with variations across age, gender, and region. Her future work will expand to include qualitative methods and evidence-based interventions, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing gerontological social work and enhancing the impact and applicability of her research in promoting healthy aging.



## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Loneliness and mental health among older adults
- Social capital and healthy aging
- Resilience and cognitive functioning
- Long-term care and public policy
- Digital divide and technology use among older adults
- Evidence-based intervention
- International social work education
- Taoist-Informed Group Work

# YING MA, Ph.D., MSW

## Information

✉ [yingma@uh.edu](mailto:yingma@uh.edu)  
 ☎ (314)229-7261  
 📍 University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

## Education

**University of Houston**  
 Ph.D. in Social Work - Graduate College of Social Work

**Houston, TX**  
**August 2020**

**Washington University in St. Louis**  
 Master of Social Work - Brown School

**St. Louis, MO**  
**August 2020**

**University of California**  
 Visiting Scholar, Epidemiology Department

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**September 2013 – September 2014**

**Anhui Medical University**  
 Ph.D. in Epidemiology  
 Master in Social Medicine and Health Service Management,  
 Bachelor in Social Medicine and Health Service Management

**Hefei, China**  
**July 2013**  
**December 2006**  
**June 2001**

**Fudan University**  
 Visiting Scholar, School of Public Health

**Shanghai, China**  
**September 2007 – June 2008**

## Research Experience

**Connected Yet Lonely: Investigating the Relationships Between Internet Use, Social Capital, and Loneliness in Chinese adults**  
**July 2024 – December 2025** | *Dissertation research, Supervised by Professor Patrick Leung* | **Houston, USA**

- This study employs secondary data from a cross-sectional survey to explore the mechanisms through which Internet use and social capital influence loneliness in Chinese adults (≥18 years), as well as how these relationships vary by age, gender, and region.

**Opting In & Out of COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines: Perspectives of Formerly Incarcerated Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)** | **April 2022 – February 2023** | *Research Assistant to Dr. Charles Lea*

- Analyzed focus group data using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) within the framework of the Health Belief Model to examine COVID-19 testing and vaccination beliefs among formerly incarcerated Black and Hispanic/Latino individuals.

**Senior Housing with Services for Low-Income Seniors in St. Louis** | **March 2019 – Present**  
*Research Assistant to Professor Sojung Park of Brown School, Washington University* | **St. Louis MO, USA**

- Interview Chinese-born residents to determine the types of services and support provided by the housing complex, and study the influence of the community's social infrastructure on the physical activity and social engagement of seniors.

## Research Experience

### Strategy Research on the Combination of Medical Care and Pension

*Program Leader, Funded by Anhui Social Science Association | July 2016 – May 2018 | Anhui, China*

- Identified and analyzed the policies regarding the combination of medical care and pension in China
- Investigated the in-home and personal care services needed by senior residents of urban communities and identified the factors resulting in inadequate services

### Study on the Social Capital and Mental Health among Old People

*Program Leader, Funded by National Natural Science Foundation of China | January 2012 – December 2015 | Anhui, China*

- Investigated the connections between social capital and mental health among senior residents
- Conducted literature review, developed questionnaires to gauge social capital, and completed field research and data analysis  
Analyzed the role of non-government organizations in improving aging adults' mental health

### Study on the Association & Strategy of Social Capital in AIDS Prevention, Control | January 2010 – January 2013

*Doctoral Dissertation, Supervised by Professor Zhi Hu | Anhui, China*

- Analyzed the characteristics of social capital at the individual level (focusing on “guanxi”), organizational level (trust, common language, norm, and reciprocity among multi-sectors fighting against HIV/AIDS), and national level (trust and social participation from World Value Survey) in China
- Determined the impacts of social capital on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, and explored the strategies for developing and utilizing social capital in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in China

### Multi-center Community-based Dementia Research in Four Provinces of China | June 2008 – June 2009

*Program Coordinator, Supervised by Dr. Ruoling Chen, Funded by Alzheimer's Research Trust | China*

- Collaborated on the project with the School of Public Health in Fudan University, School of Public Health in Guangzhou Medical University, School of Public Health in Shanxi Medical University, and School of Health Care Administration in Harbin Medical University
- Assisted in a cross-sectional study to investigate the prevalence of dementia among rural and urban senior residents, and analyze the determinants using the tools developed by 10/66 Research Group, a collective of researchers carrying out population-based research of dementia in low- and middle-income countries
- Analyzed the collected data using SPSS and Stata to identify the correlation between exposure to second-hand smoke and dementia in women

## Professional Experience

### Doctoral Research Journal: Perspectives on Social Work | June 2020 – Present, Houston, USA

*Peer reviewer coordinator*

- Engaged with the peer reviewer network through regular communication.
- Worked with the Editor to update peer reviewer status/eligibility and communicate with reviewers responding to Calls for Reviewers.
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### Concentration Practicum: Bilingual International Assistant Services | May – August 2020, MO, USA

*Caseworker*

- Provided counseling services regarding Medicaid, SNAP, and other benefits programs for Chinese older immigrants
- Conducted independent assessment for Chinese older immigrants

### Foundation Practicum: VOYCE and Sunrise on Clayton January | June 2019, MO, USA

*Ombudsman in Sunrise on Clayton*

- Collected data on older residents' levels of satisfaction
- Advocated for older residents at Advocacy Day of 2019 in Jefferson City to raise awareness of issues concerning long-term care facilities

### Hefei Community School | March 2019 – Present, Anhui, China

*Legal Representative*

- Developed training programs for front-line social workers, community resident committee staff, and volunteers within the community to deal with social issues, such as social injustice, chronic diseases, and disability

## Professional Experience

### Foundation Practicum: VOYCE and Sunrise on Clayton January | June 2019, MO, USA

*Ombudsman in Sunrise on Clayton*

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*Legal Representative*

- Developed training programs for front-line social workers, community resident committee staff, and volunteers within the community to deal with social issues, such as social injustice, chronic diseases, and disability

## Teaching Experience and Training

### University of Houston | September 2020

*Guest lecture*

- Topic: Stepped wedge design, SOCW 6305: Research and Knowledge Building in Social Work Practice, Graduate College of Social Work, Instructor: Dr. Patrick Leung

### Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) at the University of Houston | June – August 2021

- *CIRTL Associate Level: Virtual Training on Transforming Research into Teaching,*

### Anhui Medical University | September 2003 – July 2018 | Anhui, China

*Associate Professor in Health Care Management Department*

- Taught undergraduate courses, including Health Policy, Health Care Management, and Health Education and Promotion

## Publications

Zhu, Y., Park, S., Kolady, R., Zha, W., **Ma, Y.**, Dias, A., ... & Babulal, G. M. (2024). A systematic review/meta-analysis of prevalence and incidence rates illustrates systemic underrepresentation of individuals racialized as Asian and/or Asian-American in AD/HD research. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, 20(6), 4315-4330.

Chen, A., Yin, J., **Ma, Ying.**, Hou, J., Zhou, W., Bai, Z., ... & Chen, R. (2024). Impact of PM2.5 exposure in old age and its interactive effect with smoking on incidence of diabetes. *Science of The Total Environment*, 175219.

**Ying Ma**, Patrick Leung, Yi Wang, Monit Cheung, Xin Chen, and Xiaowei Sun. (2024). Psychological resilience and mental health among older Tekun men in long-term care facilities in rural China. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 1-13.

Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., Cheung, M., Leung, P., Carr, L. C., Savani, S., **Ma, Y.**, Chen, W., & He, X. (2023). Formal versus informal pathways to mental health care in China. *China Journal of Social Work*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17525098.2023.2252913>

**Ying Ma**, Patrick Leung, Yi Wang, and Li Wang. Psychological Resilience, Activities of Daily Living, and Cognitive Functioning among Male Tekun Older Adults in Rural Long-Term Care Facilities in China. *Social Work in Health Care* (2022). *Social Work in Health Care*, 61(6-8), 445-467. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2022.2147628>

Xie, S., **Ma, Y.**, Cui, M., Che, X., & Wang, L. (2022). A meta-analysis of correlation between resilience and quality of life in older adults. *Chinese Mental Health Journal*, 36(1): 56-61.

Chen, R., Zhou, W., **Ma, Y.**, Wan, Y., Xia, Q., Rodney, A., ... & Copeland, J. R. Impacts of Depression Case and Subcase on All-Cause Mortality Among Older People in China: Are there gender differences? . (2021). Available at SSRN 3768556.

**Ma, Y.**, Hu, Z., Qin, X., Chen, R., & Zhou, Y. (2018). Prevalence and socio-economic correlates of insomnia among older people in Anhui, China. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 37(3), E91-E96.

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## Publications

- Yu, X., **Ma, Y.**, Wu, M., Cui, L., Lu, L., & Bai, T. (2017). Analysis on the policy content of pension combined with medical service from the perspective of policy in china. *Chinese Journal of Health Policy*, 10(1), 41–45.
- Zhao, Y., **Ma, Y.**, Chen, R., Li, F., Qin, X., & Hu, Z. (2016). Non-disclosure of sexual orientation to parents associated with sexual risk behaviors among gay and bisexual MSM in China. *AIDS and Behavior*, 20(1), 193–203.
- Hu, F., Niu, L., Chen, R., **Ma, Y.**, Qin, X., & Hu, Z. (2015). The association between social capital and quality of life among type 2 diabetes patients in Anhui province, China: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*, 15(1), 786.
- Chen, R., Tao, F., **Ma, Y.**, Zhong, L., Qin, X., & Hu, Z. (2014). Associations between social support and condom use among commercial sex workers in China: a cross-sectional study. *PLOS One*, 9(12), e113794.
- Chen, R., Hu, Z., Chen, R., **Ma, Y.**, Zhang, D., & Wilson, K. (2013). Determinants for undetected dementia and late-life depression. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 203(3), 203-208.
- Chen, R., Hu, Z., Zhang, D., **Ma, Y.**, & Wei, L. (2013). Second-hand smoke and dementia. *Epidemiology* 24(4), 623-624.
- Ma, Y.**, Qin, X., Chen, R., Li, N., Chen, R., & Hu, Z. (2012). Impact of individual-level social capital on quality of life among AIDS patients in China. *PLOS One*, 7(11), e48888.
- Chen, R., **Ma, Y.**, Wilson, K., Hu, Z., Sallah, D., Wang, J., Fan, L., Chen, R., & Copeland, J.R. (2012). A multicenter community-based study of dementia cases and subcases in older people in China—the GMS-AGECAT prevalence and socio-economic correlates." *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 27(7), 692-702.
- Ma, Y.**, Fu, H., Wang, J., Fan, L., Zheng, J., Chen, R., Qin, X., & Hu, Z. (2012). Study on the prevalence and risk factors of depressive symptoms among 'empty-nest' and 'non-empty-nest' elderly in four provinces and cities in China. *Zhonghua liu xing bing xue za zhi*, 33(5), 478-482.

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## Peer Reviewed Conferences

- Ying Ma**, Patrick Leung, & Monit Cheung. Neighborhood social cohesion and subjective well-being: Gender differences among Chinese Older Adults. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference (2023). e-Poster
- Ying Ma** & Patrick Leung. Gender and age differences in the association between sleep quality and suicidal ideation among older adults in China. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 68th Annual Program Meeting (2022). Oral Presentation.
- Ying Ma** & Patrick Leung. Risk factors of Intimate Partner Violence among Older Asian Americans in Houston. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 67th Annual Program Meeting (2021). Oral Presentation.
- Ying Ma** & Patrick Leung. Resilience and Mental Health Among Male Older Adults in Extreme Poverty in Long-term Care Facilities in Rural China. The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting (2021). e-Poster.
- Ying Ma** & Patrick Leung. Resilience, ADL, and Cognitive Functioning Among Male Older Adults in Poverty in Rural Long-Term Care Facilities in China. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference (2021). e-poster.
- Ying Ma**, Yiqi Zhu, & Guimei Chen. Rural-Urban Differences in the Association between Social Capital and Suicidal Ideation Among the Older Adults

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## Published Chapters

Wang, Y., **Ma, Y.**, Guo, M., & Wang, L. (Accepted, 2025). Family and neighborhood support in moderating the negative psychological effects of adverse events. In S. Wu & S. Chen. *Social Work Research and Practice: China in an International Perspective* (section 3.5). Springer Nature.

Savani, S., Arora, A., Brown, M., **Ma, Ying**, & Gearing, R. E. (2024). The influence of religion on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. In A. Breivik, M. Schouler-Ocak & M. Khan (Ed.), *Suicide Across Cultures*. London: Oxford University Press.

**Ma, Y.**, Wang, Y., Tang, B., & Wang, X. (2022). Practice of home-based dementia care in the United States and its implications for China: Experience from a Non-profit Agency in Missouri. In Y. Liu (Ed.), *Annual report on elderly health in China (2020-2021)* (pp. 359–376). Social Sciences Academic Press. (China).

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## Under Review

**Ying Ma**, Patrick Leung, Marla Berg-Weger, Monit Cheung, Theodore K. Malmstrom, Guixia Ma, and Xin Chen. Loneliness among Chinese adults: Validation of the ALONE scale and its association with age. *BMC Public Health*.

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## Trainings and Certificates

### Poetic medicine workshop | April 2025

It was a three-week training program, conducted once a week for one hour, focusing on the healing power of poetry writing in coping with loss and grief. The program was offered by Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care and MERI Center for Education in Palliative Care at Mt Zion, UCSF.

### Diabetes prevention series | February 2025 – May 2025

A 12-week training program, conducted once a week for two hours, focusing on preventing or delaying the progression of diabetes, especially for people with prediabetes or early-stage diabetes. The program was offered by El Camino Health in California.

### Mindful self-care training | February 2024 – May 2024

A 12-week training program, held once a week for two hours, focusing on mindfulness and self-care skills. This training was delivered by Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care at California. The training was offered by Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care.

### Mental Health First Aid for Youth (中文) and Adults (English) | March and May 2024

Included two parts: a 2-hour self-paced learning component and a 4.5-hour instructor-led training session. These two separate training sessions were organized by Mental Health First Aid.

### Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) Training | June 2023

An evidence-based treatment for people with mild to moderate dementia. CST was designed in the United Kingdom by Aimee Spector, Ph.D. This training was offered by Saint Louis University's Geriatric Education Center (GEC). This training was offered by Saint Louis University.

### Micro-certificate in Facilitating Older Adult Learning | January 2023 – March 2023

Focused on the developmental lifespan of older adults. The content covers topics such as physiological changes (biological theories, physical and sensory changes), psychological considerations (changes in cognition, memory, intelligence) and sociological perspectives (role of gender and minority status in aging). It's offered by Manitoba University.

### Community Emergency Response Team Training | September 2022 – November 2022

A training program that prepares people to help themselves, their family, and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. It is an eight-week training course, including courses, exercises, and drills. It was offered by CERT in Houston.



# KATYAYANI STROHL, MSW, LICSW

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Katyayani R Strohl, MSW, LICSW is a Doctoral Candidate at the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston and a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Washington State. She received her MSW from the University of Washington in 2016 with a concentration in Multigenerational Policy and Practice. Her clinical practice focused on working with communities, family caregivers, and individuals impacted by Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. Her academic projects have included: program evaluation for community-based interventions and services, conceptual work focused on applying theoretical frameworks to practice and empirical research, and community-based qualitative research conducted in multiple languages with the goal of creating integrated health palliative care interventions for individuals with a primary language other than English.



Katyayani's Dissertation, "I am Just a Bill no Longer Sitting on Capitol Hill: A Critical Policy Ethnographic Look at How the Government-Nonprofit Relationship Impacts the Implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)", was built off her clinical and mezzo practice. This research investigates how typology of power and third-party government theory impacts the implementation of NFCSP services at the local level. The project aims to look at decisions and influences of the Nonprofit-government relationship made at the Federal, State and Local level that impacts service equity.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Administration of Governmental Policy through Non-Profits
- Interprofessional Health Care and Services
- Application of Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks in Practice and Research
- Policy in Practice
- Program Evaluation
- Anti-Racist, Decolonial Research Methods

# KATYAYANI R. STROHL, M.S., MSW, LICSW

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## Information

✉ krstrohl@gmail.com  
☎ (708) 305-1809  
📍 University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

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## Education

### **PhD - In Progress - University of Houston**

Graduate College of Social Work  
University of Houston, Houston, TX

### **MSW - May 2016 - University of Washington**

Seattle, WA  
Multi-Generational Concentration

### **M.S. - Dec 2010 - Global Campus**

University of Illinois, Champaign, IL  
Sports, Recreation, & Tourism Degree

### **BA May 2008 Scripps College**

Claremont, CA  
Religious Studies, Media Studies

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## Research Interest

Social Work Policy; Policy Implementation; Implementation Science; Health Equity; Role of Nonprofit & Voluntary Health Organizations in Policy and Service Implementation; Interprofessional Health Care

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## Publications

Storer, H & **Strohl, K. R.** (2017). A Primer for Preventing Teen Dating Violence? The Representation of Teen Dating Violence in Young Adult Literature and Its Implications for Prevention. *Violence Against Women*, 23(14), 1730–1751.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216666725>

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## Peer-Reviewed Presentations

### **ORAL PRESENTATIONS & FLASH TALKS**

**Strohl, K.**, Dotolo, D., & Sharma, R., (2025). “Social Worker Perspectives: Providing High-Quality Palliative Care to Individuals Preferring Languages other than English.” Society for Social Work and Research. Seattle, WA.

Strohl, K., & Ali, S. (2024). “Examining the Role of Power and Service Equity in Government-Nonprofit Partnerships: NFCSP.” Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action. Washington, D.C.

Sampson, M., **Strohl, K.**, Maio, J., Mantel, J., Singh, J., & Moudin, H. (2022). Community Integrated Health Teams: Exploration of Team Successes and Setbacks. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.

Xu, Wen. Sampson, M. & **Strohl, K.** (2022). When Home Visiting Meets Client Information System, but it Doesn't Work: A Case Study. Contributor at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.



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## Peer-Reviewed Presentations

### PANELS & WORKSHOPS

Ali, S., Stanton, M. & **Strohl, K.** (2025). "What are the Points of Methodological Collaboration? Using the Nonprofit Industrial Complex, Implementation Science and Policy Implementation Frameworks to Understand the HIV Service Nexus." Society of Social Work and Research. Seattle, WA.

Gomez, G., Harris, A., Hartley, J., Jacobs, A., Rollins, T., **Strohl, K.** (2023). Racial(In)justice in a School of Social Work: Experiences of a Multi-Racial Doctoral Cohort. Panel presentation at Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Strohl, K.**, Ghosh, N., Amed, S.F., Dotolo, Danae, Ko, L., Sharma, R. (2024). "Improving Palliative Care for Multilingual Populations with Dementia, or Advanced Cancer: Interpreter and Social Worker Perspectives." American Public Health Association. Minneapolis, MN.

**Strohl, K.**, Ghosh, N., Amed, S.F., Dotolo, Danae, Sharma, R. (2024). "Health Care Workers' Perspectives on Providing Palliative Care to Multilingual Populations with Dementia." Gerontological Society of America. Seattle, WA.

Yu, J., Sampson, M & **Strohl K.** (2023). "Key Features and Characteristics of Success Among Community Based Health Integrated Teams." Society of Social Work Researchers Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Sampson, M., **Strohl, K.**, & Xu, W. (2023). "Toward Interprofessional Health Service Delivery: Results from a HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce and Education Training Program." Society of Social Work Researchers Annual Conference. Phoenix Az.

Lewis, J. & **Strohl, K.** (2015). "Foster individual meaning, optimism, and sense of community through serious leisure endeavors among homeless Alaska Native Elders" Elder Friendly Future Conference. Seattle, WA.

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## Invited Presentations and Workshops

### LOCAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Strohl, K.**, & Sampson, M. (2022). Preparing Mental Health Graduate Students for Collaborative Care. Texas IPE Consortium Annual Meeting. Fort Worth, TX

**Strohl, K.** (2018). Enhancing Communication and Care-planning for Professionals Serving Persons with Dementia. At the Alzheimer's Association Central Washington Alzheimer's & Dementia Conference. Yakima, WA

Farrell, E, & **Strohl, K.** (2018). "Respite: Reducing Isolation & Promoting Self-Care" Presenter and Author at the Alzheimer's Association Snohomish County Family Caregiver Conference. Lynnwood, WA.

**Strohl, K.** (2012). Diversity Workshop. Facilitator at the Vermont Women in Higher Education Conference. Killington, VT.

### CLASSROOM TALKS

Gardner, J., Bhatt, R., **Strohl, K.**, & Brown, M. (2022). Special Topic: Social Work Clinical Practice. Panelist for SOCW 7304: Transtheoretical Social Work Practice: Brief Targeted Interventions at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. Houston, TX. [Instructor: Quenette L. Walton, Ph.D., LCSW]

**Strohl, K.** (2022). Special Topic: Solution-Focused Therapy. Guest Lecturer for SOCW 7304: Transtheoretical Social Work Practice: Brief Targeted Interventions at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. Houston, TX. [Instructor: Quenette L. Walton, Ph.D., LCSW]

Barthalemey, J., Hartley, J. & **Strohl, K.** (2022). Special Topic: Caucus Facilitator for SOCW 7319: Social Work Practice in Organizations at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. Houston, TX. [Instructor: Melanie Pang, MSW]

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## Research and Academic Positions

**Sept 2023-Present      Graduate/Research Assistant**

SUSTAIN WellbeingCOMPASS Coordinating Center  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Samira Ali  
Project Funding Source: Elton John AIDS Foundation

**Apr 2023-Present      Research Coordinator**

Improving Palliative Care Together Studies, Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence  
University of Washington Medicine  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Rashmi Sharma  
Project Funding Sources: National Institute of Aging (R01); American Cancer Society

**Sep. 2021-May 2023      Graduate/Research Assistant**

Maternal Health Equity Research & Training Center, Graduate College of Social Work  
University of Houston Principal Investigator: Dr. McClain Sampson  
Project Funding Source: Health Resource and Service Administration

**Aug. 2015- Jun. 2016      Writing Consultant**

School of Social Work, University of Washington

**Jun. 2015- Jun. 2016      Research Intern**

Indigenous Wellness Research Institute  
School of Social Work, University of Washington

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## Teaching Experience

**Jul 2024 – Present****Adjunct Professor**

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
SOCW6035 Social Work Research  
SOCW6037 Policy in the Social Environment  
SOCW7313 Global SW: Women & Human Rights

**Jan 2023 – May 2023****Teaching Assistant**

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
SOCW7378 Behavioral Health for Social Work Practice in Integrated Healthcare

**Sep 2018-May 2025****Practicum Instructor for Masters of Social Work Students**

School of Social Work, University of Washington  
Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston

**Jan 2020-Aug 2020****Practicum Instructor for Masters of Public Policy**

Hobby School, University of Washington  
Antioch University

**Jan 2019-Dec 2019****Practicum Instructor for Associates Health and Human Service**

Edmonds Community College

**Jan. 2010-Jun. 2012****Adjunct Professor**

Community College of Vermont  
DEV0280 Introduction to College Studies

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## Awards and Scholarship

**2025-2026 Fernando J. Zúñiga y Rivero Doctoral Fellowship**

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

**2023-2024 Graduate Diversity Scholars and Leaders Professional Development Workshop**

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action

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## Academic and Community Service

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

**Aug 2022-Aug 2025****Committee Member, Institutional Review Board 2**

University of Houston

**Sep 2019-July 2021****Chair, Social and Human Services Advisory Committee**

Edmonds Community College

**Aug 2008 – Aug 2011****Recent Graduate Trustee**

Scripps College

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Jan 2017- Jan 2018****Board Member**

Out There Adventures

**Aug 2008-Aug 2010****Americorps Member**

Vermont Youth Development Corps

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## Post MSW Professional Experience

Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter

Aug 2018- Jul 2021

**Volunteer Engagement Manager**

May 2016-Aug 2018

**Care Consultant**

Jan 2015-Nov 2018

**Early Stage Memory Loss Support Group Facilitator**

# AYESHA TARIQ, MPhil

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Ayesha Tariq, MPhil (she/hers) is a first-generation Pakistani doctoral candidate at the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work. Her scholarship and professional trajectory are shaped by her lived experiences and her work with displaced populations. Prior to pursuing doctoral studies, Ayesha worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Pakistan, where she collaborated with internally displaced populations (IDPs) and Afghan refugees. In this role, she designed inclusive interventions that promoted social cohesion and addressed the needs of vulnerable communities, an experience that continues to ground her commitment to advancing equity in refugee resettlement.



Ayesha's dissertation, "Refugee Resettlement, Intersecting Identities and Wellbeing: A Narrative Inquiry of South Asian Refugee Mothers in the Greater Toronto Area", employs an intersectional lens and centers decolonial voices to amplify the lived experiences of refugee mothers. By engaging deeply with their narratives, her research explores how intersecting identities, such as gender, motherhood, culture, and migration status, shape resettlement journeys and influence well-being. Through this work, she seeks to uncover the structural barriers, social support, and cultural resources that inform refugee mothers' integration experiences.

Her scholarly goals are threefold: (1) to contribute to a deeper understanding of the resettlement processes of refugee women through intersectional and decolonial scholarship, (2) to inform the design of culturally grounded policies and interventions that promote refugee well-being, and (3) to mentor and support emerging social work scholars who aspire to engage in anti-oppressive, community-centered research.

As a first-generation scholar, a mother, and a woman of color, Ayesha brings a unique perspective to her work that bridges lived experience, professional practice, and academic research. She is dedicated to ensuring that refugee women's voices are centered in both scholarship and practice, resisting epistemic exclusion and advancing more inclusive understandings of well-being in resettlement contexts.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Refugee resettlement and maternal well-being
- Intersecting identities in migration and integration
- Decolonial and community-centered methodologies
- Gendered experiences of displacement
- Inclusive and anti-oppressive social work education

# AYESHA TARIQ, MPhil

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## Information

✉ atariq20@cougarnet.uh.edu

☎ (720) 229-5563

📍 Tupper Drive, Milton, Ontario

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## Education

### Aug 2023 - Present

**University of Houston** PhD in Social Work Research  
Interests: Gender and Development, Refugee Rights, Narrative Inquiry. **Dissertation Title:** Role of Evolving Maternal Identity in Refugee Resettlement Process

### Sep 2011 - May 2015

**Lahore University** of Management Sciences BSc (Honors) in Politics & Economics Courses: Economics, Data Analysis, Politics, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Literature

### Feb 2017- Aug 2019

**Quaid-i-Azam University** MPhil in International Relations Courses: Research methodology, Conflict Resolution, Theories of IR, Arms Control. **Dissertation Title:** Impact of New Confucianism on China's Foreign Policy

### Jan 2014 - May 2014

**Augustana College**, Sioux Falls (SD, USA)  
Exchange Semester- BSc (Honors) in Politics. **Courses:** Social Sciences Research Methodology, American Foreign Policy, Politics in Diverse World

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## Honors and Awards

- Won UHPA- An-Nisa Voice of Impact Scholarship 2025
- Received Abstract of Distinction Award at Society for Prevention Research (SPR) 2024
- Won travel fellowship of Early Career Preventionist Network to participate in SPR 2024
- Received Presidential Fellowship from University of Houston
- Received Graduate Tuition Fellowship from GCSW, University of Houston
- Served as Cultural Ambassador of Pakistan in United States of America
- Granted "Global UGRAD Pakistan" (Exchange Program) award for Spring Semester 2014
- Secured First Position in MPhil degree at International Relations Department, QAU
- Won Merit based scholarships at QAU
- Won study scholarship from LUMS and Bestway Organization for four years of BSc degree

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## Experience

### Graduate College of Social Work – University of Houston

#### Graduate Research Assistant - Aug 2023 - Present

- Conducted in-depth literature reviews to support research projects, ensuring the inclusion of current and relevant studies.
- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data using tools such as SPSS, Discovertext, and Dedoose.
- Authored and co-authored abstracts and articles for conferences (ESWRA, SPR, SSWR) and peer-reviewed journals.
- Assisted in drafting grant proposals for NIH, CDC, and The Spencer Foundation funding.
- Assisted in launching International Observatory of Humanitarian Assistance at CEAHPAZ Headquarters, Mexico

## Experience

### United Nations- International Organization for Migration

#### Grants Assistant - Oct 20- Jul 2023

- Advocated for women's empowerment in the workplace by designing and securing approval for gender-sensitive budget guidelines in the CRA-North project of IOM.
- Coordinated between USAID and program team drafting grant awards, including agreements, budgets, objectives, theories of change, and work plans, for IOM's direct implementation and Implementing Partners (IPs).
- Organized secretariat support for the Implementing Partner Technical Review Committee and other IP awarding processes.
- Facilitated training workshops for CRA-North project staff and stakeholders, addressing programming requirements and process queries.
- Designed and supported USAID funded Resilience focused initiatives for Wazir and Dawar tribes of North Waziristan, Shia Sunni sects of Upper and Lower Kurram, and Aka Khel and Shalober communities of Khyber
- Collected and monitored qualitative and quantitative data to ensure accuracy, validity, and reliability.
- Documented lessons learned and programmatic recommendations to improve the grants management cycle.
- Managed internal grants tracker and donor databases, monitoring performance indicators and compliance with approved guidelines.

### Human Resource Development Network

#### Lincoln Corner Coordinator (Project of US Embassy) - Jan 18 - Oct 19

- Encourage community engagement and promote the Lincoln Corner by reaching out to the community
- Ensure timely execution of activities & smooth running of operations
- Manage relations with the Embassy & Lincoln Corner host institutes
- Increase P2P contact between Pakistanis and Americans
- Increase connectivity between South Asian Lincoln Corners via frequent Skype sessions

### Propergaanda (Digital Media Production Agency)

#### Writer (Socio-political section) - Jan 18 – Oct 20

### Pakistan Innovation Foundation

#### Policy Research Associate - Jun 16 - Dec 16

- Worked on Muslim Science Project by arranging Task Forces and Report Writings
- Assisted in Muslim Philanthropy Project aimed to evaluate the public philanthropy in health sector of Muslim World
- Worked on Education Policy in collaboration with Alif Ailan to inculcate innovative thinking among school students
- Managed Karachi Innovation Challenge, a Hackathon aimed to resolve Karachi's civic issues
- Managed National STEM School, a project to experiment hands-on science

### The Banquet, Sioux Falls, USA

#### Volunteer - Community Service - Nourishing the Community - Feb 14 - May 14

- (The Banquet, a local food kitchen in downtown Sioux Falls, provides meals each day to people in need. I volunteered on weekends to assist and coordinate with people to feed the needy of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA)

## Teaching Experience

### Teaching Assistant

#### Course: Social Policy Analysis (MSW)

#### University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

- Assisted in designing and delivering course materials, including lectures, assignments, and quizzes, to support student learning.
- Conducted tutorial sessions and provided one-on-one academic support to students, addressing their individual learning needs.
- Graded assignments, exams, and projects, ensuring fairness and consistency in evaluation.
- Facilitated class discussions and encouraged student participation to promote critical thinking and engagement.

### Guest Lecture

#### Topic: Global Social Work

- Delivered a guest lecture titled "Global Social Work" to Master of Social Work (MSW) students at the University of Houston, focusing on theoretical and practical aspects, e.g. comparative social work practices, global challenges, cultural humility, etc.
- Engaged students through interactive discussions and case studies to enhance understanding of cross-cultural social work approaches.

### Guest Lecture

#### Topic: How do we know what's "true": Exploring Political Communications

- Delivered a guest lecture to Master of Social Work (MSW) students at the University of Houston, focusing on inequality through the critical lens of theory.
- Engaged students through interactive discussions and audio-visuals to enhance understanding of dangers of misinformation.

### Visiting Lecturer

#### Fatima Jinnah Women University

- Designed and delivered undergraduate courses on History of South Asia and Conflict Resolution in the Department of Development Studies (DDS) for two semesters.
- Conducted regular in-person and online lectures, integrating interactive teaching methods to enhance student engagement.
- Developed and assessed quizzes, assignments, and examinations, ensuring alignment with course objectives.
- Provided constructive feedback to students, fostering academic growth and critical thinking skills.
- Adapted teaching strategies to suit diverse learning environments and needs, demonstrating flexibility and innovation.
- Maintained consistent communication with students to support their academic and professional development.

## Research Papers and Conferences

- **"Harmonizing Human Rights and Religious Sensitivities: A Comprehensive Analysis and Reform Propositions for Blasphemy Laws in Pakistan"** - Published Academic Paper at Scope- Volume 15 Number 02 June 2025
- **"Factors Associated with the Economic Integration of Recently Resettled Refugees in the United States: Implications for Gender-Responsive Programs and Services"** - Presented Paper at (SSWR)- 2025
- **"Refugee Healthcare Access in US and Mexico"** - Presented Paper at European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)- 2024
- **"Promoting Equity through Positive Childhood Experiences: Mediation Effects on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Black Youth's Self-Concept"** - Presented Paper at Society for Prevention Research (SPR)- 2024
- **"Preventing Teen Dating Violence Among Black Youth Promoting Equitable Positive Experiences: Mediating Effects on Adverse Youth Outcomes"** - Presented Paper at Society for Prevention Research (SPR)- 2024
- **"Confucius Riding the Dragon?"** - Manuscript under review at Contemporary China

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## Training Certificates

- Completed Adult Mental Health First Aid Training by National Council for Mental Wellbeing USA (2025)
- Completed CITI Program Course: Human Research & Social-Behavioral-Educational Research (2024)
- Received Certificate of “Analysing Complexity” from Macquarie University, Australia through Coursera (2020)
- Attended “PUAN International Conference: Meet Pakistan through Arts, Culture and Society” (2018)
- Attended Workshop on “Religious Harmony” funded by HEC (2017)
- Received Certificate of “Chinese for Beginners” from Peking University through Coursera (2017)
- Attended Workshop on “Communication Skills Development Using MBTI” arranged by U.S. Department of State (2018)
- Participated in Workshop on “Lincoln Corners and Strategic Collaborations” by United States Mission in Pakistan (2018)
- Received Certificate of “Program Management for the Social Entrepreneur” from the U.S. Department of State (2015)

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## Additional Skills and Affiliations

### **Proficient in SPSS, Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop and STATA and VBA**

- Member of the SPR International Committee
- Member of SPR network
- Member of ESWRA SIG of Early Careers
- Member of ESWRA Network
- Member of Research Observatorio in Casa Refugees Mexico
- Member of Pakistan-USA Alumni Network (PUAN)
- Director in LRS (LUMS Religious Society)
- Member in the society of Augustana International Club at Augustana College, USA
- Member of Writing Club of "Namud" Magazine





Graduate College of Social Work  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PHD PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT:**

<https://www.uh.edu/socialwork/academics/phd>