

# 2023 IMPACT REVIEW

Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work

OCTOBER 2023



SCHOOL *of*  
SOCIAL WORK



# SCHOOL *of* SOCIAL WORK

## 28<sup>th</sup>

Best Graduate Program in Social Work

## 1<sup>st</sup>

Online Bilingual MSW Program in U.S.

## \$5.3M

In Current Active Research Grants

## 65

Active Research Projects

## 71%

Tenure Track Faculty with Active  
Research Grant Funding

## 1498

Internship Site Partners

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work IMPACT Review 2023.

As Interim Dean, it is my honor to continually witness our faculty's innovative, practice-informed, human-centered, social justice-focused, and empowerment-based research and scholarship activities.


This overview of faculty activity and accomplishments over the past year underscores our many important connections to clients and communities across Chicago, our country, and the world. We are honored to retain long-standing community partnerships and work with many collaborators as co-leaders that respond to contemporary social work issues while always grounded in our Jesuit tradition of *magis* and *cura personalis*.

Over the past 100 years, our school has remained committed to redesigning approaches to transform practice that can build system-level change, sustainability, and progress. As the academy and social work profession continues to respond to social changes and needs, we are committed to remaining in the forefront of this work today and in the years to come. Recent initiatives include:

- Working at the border and across Chicago with migrants and refugees to provide counseling, basic needs, linkage to care, and support
- Collaborating with NASW and local community partners to advocate for and support the national student movement for paid student internships
- A school-wide year focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion activities from faculty scholarship, to preparing students in the classroom and our internship partners

We are committed to the next generation of transformative social workers. We are committed to engaging in research and scholarship that has a direct impact on the community. And we look forward to our continued collaborations and invite scholars and researchers to connect with us as we collectively move the profession of social work forward.

Sincerely,



James A. Marley, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean





Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work graduates decorate their caps at Spring Commencement 2023

## NOTABLE STORIES

**E**ach academic year, Loyola University Chicago’s School of Social Work highlights exemplary students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other members of our community who go above and beyond to exemplify our mission. Here is a selection of just a few notable accomplishments from our social work family.

### Singer Named “Social Work Pioneer” by NASW

Professor Jonathan Singer, Ph.D. was recently named a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers. This prestigious recognition comes in light of Dr. Singer’s contributions to the field of social work, particularly his innovative work with technology. He started the Social Work Podcast in 2007 as the first podcast by and for social workers. Since then, he has published 135 episodes for 40,000 monthly listeners across 208 countries. Dr. Singer is one of 25 Social Work Pioneers in the 2023 class.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



The following stories are included in the 2021-22 Impact Review: :

**SINGER NAMED “SOCIAL WORK PIONEER” BY NASW**

**TWO SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS NAMED SCHWEITZER FELLOWS**

**2022-23 AGENCY PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - E.M. BRANCH & ASSOCIATES**

# NOTABLE STORIES

## Two Social Work Students Named Schweitzer Fellows

Two Loyola School of Social Work students were recognized by Health & Medicine Policy Research Group as 2023-24 Schweitzer Fellows. Fatima Rasoul and Jacque Leuken were both awarded the prestigious honor, which aims to empower emerging leaders in the field of social work to make a significant impact in the lives of underserved communities.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## 2022-23 Agency Partner of the Year

Loyola's School of Social Work named Josselyn its 2022-23 Agency Partner of the Year. The nonprofit community mental healthcare provider serves as an internship site for social work students, giving valuable hands-on experience to MSW students. Josselyn stood out among more than 1,000 agencies the school partners with, in part thanks to its innovative model to provide financial aid to interns. That model includes generous tuition forgiveness, financial support for employees seeking an MSW, and scholarship opportunities.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## Alumni Spotlight - E.M. Branch & Associates

On Chicago's south side, private behavioral healthcare practice E.M. Branch & Associates is a business built on family. Founder and CEO Brenda Thompson and Chief Operating Officer Nikia Thompson-Sledge represent two generations of Thompsons who earned a degree from Loyola's School of Social Work. Their business is built on the values instilled in them by Brenda's mother Eddie Mae, and strengthened by their respective time at Loyola. Their business has expanded to 28 employees and contractors, and the duo also runs The Branch Family Institute - a nonprofit serving low-income families.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# CENTERS & INSTITUTES

The School of Social Work faculty and students engage in research across a range of disciplines through institutes, centers, and institutes that support a diverse community that values freedom of inquiry, the pursuit of truth and care for others.

## C-FIRST - Center for Field Innovation, Research, Strategy, and Training

C-FIRST engages community-based interventions and practice-based research that supports the sustainable implementation of innovative interventions to meet the unique challenges faced by organizations, clinicians, and students across Chicago and suburban communities. SSW faculty members Dr. Orwat and Dr. Dentato co-direct the Center with a team of social work doctoral students, internship agencies, and colleagues from other schools at LUC (e.g., nursing, medicine, education, public health). Examples of C-FIRST's impact this year include:

- Several multi-year interprofessional multi-million dollar HRSA grants were awarded to support social work student training for the behavioral health workforce. In addition to a number of learning objectives associated with child/adolescent behavioral health, opioids and substance use, and the SBIRT model, students receive stipends in the amount of \$10-15K.
- Publication of a white paper with the SAMHSA funded Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity on: *Practice Considerations: Use of the SBIRT Model Among Transgender & Nonbinary Populations*, along with other scholarship under review/in press, and notable national and international presentations by faculty and doctoral students.

## CIRA - Center for Immigrant & Refugee Accompaniment

CIRA supports the formation of social work professionals that, in solidarity, can accompany migrants in the construction of a more inclusive local and global community that affirms the human dignity of the person. Along with Director Dr. Vidal de Haymes and Associate Director Dr. Rai, CIRA affiliates engage in collaborative research, advocacy, community engagement and direct accompaniment opportunities to listen, witness, and engage in critical inquiry and joint action through Curriculum innovation and professional development, Interdisciplinary and international research, Residence program for scholars, and Accompaniment and advocacy. Examples of CIRA's impact this year include:

- With grant support from the Katherine A. Kendall Institute for International Social Work Education, CIRA faculty and students, in collaboration with Boston College and the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City and Puebla developed a curriculum and internship model designed to prepare social work students to provide socio-emotional care for migrants in crisis situations and prepare students and mental health professionals to conduct forensic mental health assessments for use in asylum cases and other immigration proceedings.
- Over the past two years, CIRA faculty, students, and colleagues from the University of Tennessee have engaged in supporting newly arriving Afghan evacuees in Chicago and Nashville. Partner agencies included Muslim Women Resource Center and World Relief in Chicago and Catholic Charities in Nashville. Efforts led to development of a culturally responsive and adaptable intervention, *AER (Afghan Evacuee Resettlement) for Stronger Communities* to support evacuee integration in the U.S.

### School of Social Work Programs

BSW

5-Year BSW/MSW

MSW

MSW Advanced Standing

Online MSW

Online Bilingual MSW

MSW/JD

MSW/MJ (Child/Family Law)

MSW/MDiv

MSW/MA Social Justice

MSW/MA Women's Studies

MSW/MPH

Ph.D. (Social Work)

Certificate in Advanced Psychotherapy

Post-MSW PEL: School Social Worker Endorsement

School Mental Health Advanced Practice Program

Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Counseling

Certificate in Empowering Women: South Asian Women & Girls

# CENTERS & INSTITUTES

## ECP - Empowering Counseling Program - Participatory Science Initiative

ECP serves youth of color and their families residing in low-income Chicago communities, providing free after school and summer program services, trauma-focused mental health care in schools and community agencies, and street-based social work to support participants and link them with resources. Services include advocacy for redress of human rights violations related to poverty and prejudice and focus on uplifting the strengths and cultural wealth of participants. Dr. Tyson McCrea (Founding Director/PI since 2006) and a team of social work students at ECP have served over 1,000 youth of color across Chicago that experience low income and educated more than 60 social work interns in participatory social work practice and research. Examples of ECP's impact this year include:



- *The Dignity Project* is a participatory research project that studies types of racism African American parents and youth experience, and examines the conversations African American parents have with their children that protect their self-esteem from racism. The project will yield a youth and parent co-authored curriculum that can be used by schools, out of school programs, and social workers to support the dignity of youth of color, counteracting racism.
- For the 17th year, ECP-PSI offered a summer youth program, this time entitled *Law Under Curious Minds: Narratives of Social Justice*. Best practices for digital youth programming based on youth feedback over the years advance the availability of out of school digitally based programs that support youths' human rights and self-determination.

## FCTI - Fostering Connections Training Institute

FCTI engages caregivers/child welfare professionals, adult mentors, and foster parents in trainings focused on building skills toward improving relationships with youth in care. Led by faculty director Dr. Pryce and program director Dr. Couture, the training curriculum (which is comprised of two models, including the Mentoring FAN (in collaboration with the Erickson Institute) and TIP) provides participants with evidence informed approaches to relationship development and psychological self-sufficiency, which can lead to higher quality relationships and improved goal achievement. Fostering Connections trainings and technical assistance are available to community agencies. FCTI will evaluate participant skill development as well as the impact of the trainings on various outcomes and share findings with agencies as one component of professional development. Examples of FCTI's impact this year include:



- Conducting focus groups to better understand the importance of attunement in child welfare, including foster parents sharing their understanding and experience of attunement and introducing the FAN intervention and gathering feedback on the model as it relates to relationships within child welfare.
- Training over 135 adults working with youth in care from multiple agencies, which was supported through a grant from Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. Over 80 completed Level 1 Transforming Impossible to Possible (TIP) Shared Vulnerabilities training and over 50 completed FAN training, enabling FCTI to strengthen relationship development and psychological self-sufficiency within child welfare.



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

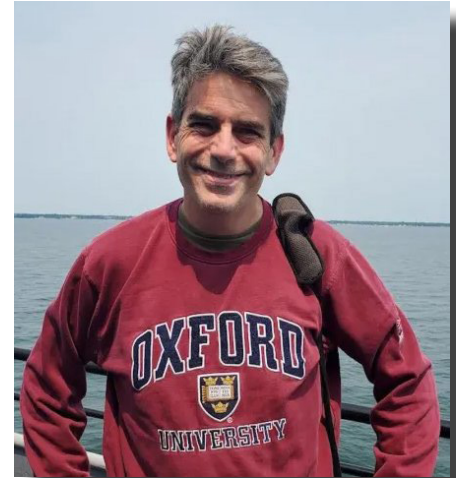
## Group Work CEU Series

Loyola continues its popular group work programming in 2023. The series enables attendees to gain knowledge and practical strategies for working with a variety of groups in a dynamic, interactive setting. Topics across seven sessions include addressing diversity in groups, adventure-based group work, strategies for leading online groups, and working with LGBTQIA+ communities. Each session is hosted by a guest instructor who is an authority on the given topic.

## Michael Stokely Kelly Summer Institute

Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work held the 2023 Michael Stokely Kelly Summer Institute in July 2023. Keynote speakers Melissa Reeves, Ph.D. (former president of the National Association of School Psychologists), Katie Greeley, LCSW (founder of Prevention Education Solutions), and Stacy Gherardi, Ph.D. (associate professor at New Mexico State University) guided participants through a two-day program on the theme of "Re-Grounding Ourselves, Leveraging Our Strengths, Leading Our Schools."

The long standing summer institute was renamed last year in honor of its founder, Michael S. Kelly, Ph.D. (1968-2021).



## Loyola University Chicago Institute for Advanced Psychotherapy

The Certificate in Advanced Psychotherapy is a year-long certificate program for licensed practitioners and clinical supervisors. The program provides clinicians the training needed to expand and update clinical skills, enrich care provided to clients, and enhance their overall practice. The framework incorporates multiple theoretical disciplines and offers a method of case conceptualization that includes various listening and intervention techniques from a variety of treatment approaches. Additional info can be found at <https://www.luc-iap.com/>.

## Joan Greenstone Lecture

Each year, Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work and the Institute for Clinical Social Work collaborate to bring a thought-provoking speaker to their audiences in memory of Joan Greenstone, Ph.D. Dr. Greenstone served as a distinguished faculty member at both institutions, fully committed to excellence in teaching, ethics, and clinical practice. Sadly, Dr. Greenstone passed away in 1996.



# FACULTY IMPACT

Dear Colleagues:

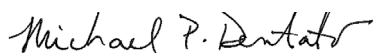
Welcome to the 2023 LUC/SSW Office of Research Development IMPACT Report on faculty scholarship, research, honors, and clinical advancements! The report highlights the hard work and success of our faculty and doctoral students as reflected in grant activity, scholarly activity (e.g., peer-reviewed, books, book chapters, presentations), awards and honors, and clinical advancements. Our school community collectively continues to produce important work that has a significant impact from the classroom to the community at-large. This year's IMPACT report highlights key activities including:

- Faculty scholarship encompassing a broad range of research contributing to the field of social work in areas related to behavioral health and wellness, poverty, race, violence, technology, and practice methods, among others. We notably created research clusters and sub-clusters that map on to the [Grand Challenges for Social Work](#) to ensure our work continues to strongly align with the profession. On the next page of this report, we map faculty and doctoral student activity with the clusters and sub-clusters visually via several pie charts that more clearly convey our work over the past year.
- Grants received from federal sources (e.g., HRSA, SAMHSA, DOE, and DOJ) as well as numerable local and national foundations that directly supports student tuition stipends, faculty engagement in migrant/refugee efforts, and practice with youth and families across Chicago and the country.
- 80% of tenure track faculty involve graduate and doctoral students in research activities that results in co-authorship in peer-reviewed journals and local/national professional conference presentations.

We also realize there are many ways that the work of our faculty and doctoral students remains unseen, such as via service efforts to our school, the university, and most importantly across local Chicago neighborhoods, the country, and global community. What remains most impressive is our school's commitment to preparing our students for impactful integrated and affirming practice efforts with diverse communities, advocacy, and the promotion of social justice. Faculty are also quite engaged in interprofessional education and practice, designing and implementing innovative curricula and specializations, and hold thriving private practices.

We extend our gratitude for the support we receive from Dr. Rana Hong, Casey Krajewski, and our MSW graduate assistants Kevin Conway and Francesca Castelli. Their assistance in compiling and creating this annual IMPACT report, as well as supporting us in other year-long efforts is most appreciated. In closing, it remains our honor to work alongside the most impressive faculty, staff, and student community at LUC/SSW.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Dentato, Ph.D., MSW  
Associate Dean for Research



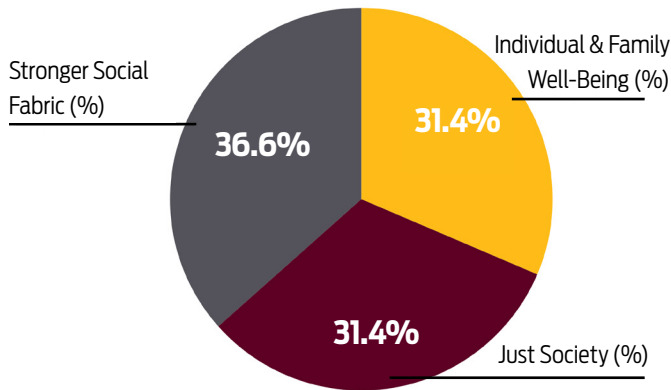
Paula Carney, Ph.D., CPCC, ACC  
Director of Grants & Scholarship



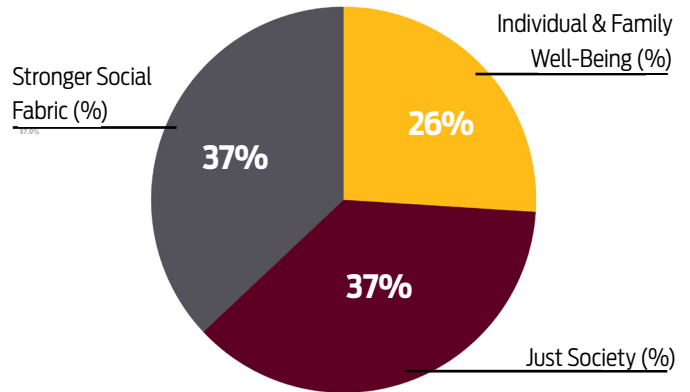
# FACULTY IMPACT

The Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work faculty is dedicated to research that intersects with many areas of social work. Below, you'll find a breakdown of how our faculty, as a whole, has focused its efforts. To better demonstrate our areas of specialization, we've divided each publication and book/book chapter into the three main categories defined by the *Grand Challenges for Social Work*: Stronger Social Fabric, Individual & Family Well-Being, and Just Society.

**Peer-Reviewed Publications by Grand Challenges**



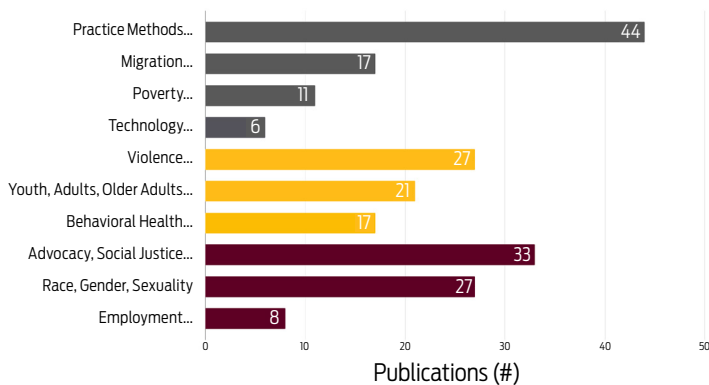
**Books & Book Chapters by Grand Challenges**



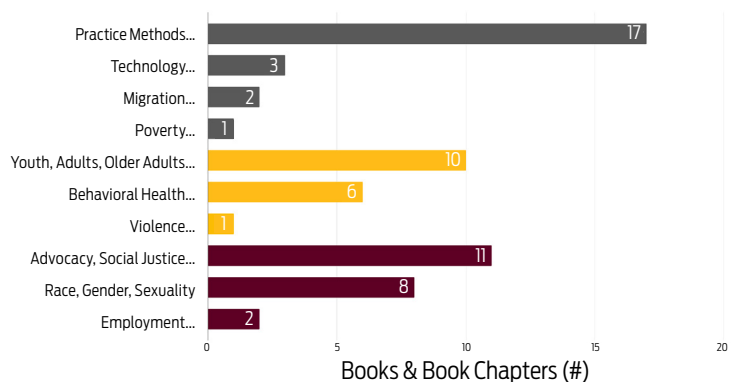
We further divided those categories into sub-clusters.

Stronger Social Fabric	Individual & Family Well-Being	Just Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice Methods, Theories, &amp; Education</li> <li>- Migration, Refugees, &amp; Human Mobility</li> <li>- Poverty, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness</li> <li>- Technology &amp; Innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth, Adults, and Older Adults: Development Concerns, Well-Being, &amp; Resilience</li> <li>- Behavioral Health &amp; Wellness, Health Equity, and Integrated Systems of Care</li> <li>- Violence (Lifespan &amp; Structural)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy, Social Justice, Environmental, International, &amp; Global Issues</li> <li>- Race, Gender, Sexuality</li> <li>- Employment &amp; Work</li> </ul>

**Peer-Reviewed Publications by SSW Sub-Clusters**



**Book & Book Chapters by SSW Sub-Clusters**



# FACULTY IMPACT



[Michael P. Dentato, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Dean for Research  
Co-Director, C-FIRST  
Associate Professor

Email: [mdentato@luc.edu](mailto:mdentato@luc.edu)

Dr. Dentato's research and scholarship agenda includes the examination of health and mental health disparities, strengths, and resilience among sexual and gender minority populations; preparedness of social work students for affirming practice with diverse communities; and assessment of macro practice, interprofessional relationships, effective non-profit leadership, and service delivery. The second edition of his text: *Social Work Practice with the LGBTQ+ Community: The Intersection of History, Health, Mental Health, and Policy Factors* was recently published by Oxford University Press. Dentato has over thirty years of clinical, administrative, policy, and consultant experience in New York City, Miami, and Chicago.



**Binita Donohue, MSW**

Clinical Instructor

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Professor Donohue's passion is to help schools and organizations recognize systems of oppression and replace them with systems that are generative. As a free and appropriate education continues to be the only entitlement program available to every person in the US, the purpose of public schools becomes so much more than a space for teaching and learning. As an immigrant to the U.S., culture and race have always had a profound impact on her life. Building awareness of these dynamics in interpersonal and institutional practices is of great professional interest. Professor Donohue integrates identity awareness into her practice in order to help people uncover their true and full identities.



[Marquitta Dorsey, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor

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Dr. Dorsey uses intersectionality to examine well-being and health equity for young Black females as they interact within and across various systems including family, community, healthcare, education, child welfare, and carceral systems. She has contributed to several community-based initiatives and professional undertakings where she actively engaged in and/or led after-school programming, youth gang interventions and prevention programs, juvenile justice interventions, child welfare systems, and homelessness projects. Related themes in Dr. Dorsey's scholarship address agency and voice, sexual autonomy and decision-making, paternal involvement, historical context, and intervention development for Black adolescent and young adult females. Recently funded projects exploring the impact of sexual health barriers and understanding the role of contextual factors, including social media and digital modalities on sexual health decision-making and well-being.

# FACULTY IMPACT



## [Diana Franco, DSW](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor

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Dr. Franco's scholarly pursuits are centered on examining and ameliorating the academic and social-emotional requisites of immigrant and undocumented youth. Additionally, she contributes her expertise as a trained volunteer clinician for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (NMILC).



## [Priscila Freire, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Dean for Academics  
Clinical Assistant Professor

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Dr. Freire's areas of practice experience includes intimate partner violence across the lifespan, perpetrators of intimate partner violence, trauma-informed practice, children and families, practice with immigrant communities, and mental health across diverse communities. She was involved in the development and launching of the Online Bilingual Program at LUC/SSW and currently focuses on student, faculty, staff, and curricular needs.



## [Susan Grossman, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Dean, The Graduate School  
Professor

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Dr. Grossman's research focuses on the evaluation of programs and interventions affecting urban communities and impoverished populations. A central focus of her work examines the intersection of personal and systemic factors that relate to service use and influence the effectiveness of interventions. Consequently, she regularly collaborates with community-based organizations focusing on the impact of poverty and intimate partner violence on the lives of women. Dr. Grossman teaches research methods and policy courses at LUC/SSW and she also teaches in the Women's Studies/Gender Studies (WSGS) program.



## [Dana K. Harmon, Ph.D.](#)

Clinical Associate Professor

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Dr. Harmon's research focuses on Black males and families, police brutality against Black males, spirituality and religiosity among Black Americans, and social work education. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at local and national conferences. Dr. Harmon has over 25 years of clinical practice experience.

# FACULTY IMPACT



[Rana Hong, Ph.D.](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor

Email: rhong1@luc.edu

Dr. Hong's research and scholarship primarily focus on developing/validating metrics and conducting clinical trials centered on evidence-based models. Her current research endeavors involve the validation of the Perceived Youth Barriers Scale (PYBS) for minority youth and the Joint-Attention Observational Coding System (JAOCS) for the evaluation of social and emotional competencies in children. Recently, she has published two clinical books, namely "Theraplay®: Innovation and Integration" and "Integrative Theraplay® Approach for Children on the Spectrum," both of which have been published by Jessica Kingsley Publisher.



[Brian Kelly, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

Email: bkelly6@luc.edu

Dr. Kelly's research explores current and historical uses of recreational, art, and music-based activities in social work and related fields, building on his background in audio engineering. He combines his clinical experience with individuals with substance use issues, and those experiencing homelessness and chronic health conditions to advance social work practice. Dr. Kelly is an advocate for the advancement of social work practice with groups and prioritizes group work in his teaching, research, and scholarship.



[Caleb Kim, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

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Dr. Kim's research involves child/youth violence, global social work education, suicide, and Asian-American immigrant youth/family issues. Dr. Kim's current research program, STOP School Violence is funded by the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. He has successfully received a number of federal grants over the years at LUC/SSW.



[Maribel Lopez, Ed.D.](#)

Director, Online Bilingual MSW Program  
Clinical Assistant Professor

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Dr. Lopez has counseling experience working with children, families, individuals, couples, and youth. She is engaged in community education on women empowerment, early childhood education, substance abuse and domestic violence. Dr. Lopez co-founded Latina Child Care Providers In Action (LCCPIA) in 1998; a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster economic development in the Latina community.

# FACULTY IMPACT



## [Francisco Lozornio, DSW](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor

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Dr. Lozornio has been a social work practitioner and educator in community mental health and wellness for over 20 years. He has extensive knowledge of the unique health needs of Latino immigrant communities impacted by separation, violence, and trauma. His professional social work experience ranges from providing mental health services to immigrant youth, families, and adults to working with multidisciplinary teams partnering with street organizations, the justice system, community schools, hospitals, and non-profit organizations, as well as developing and implementing programs that targets violence survivors. He has also been active in the decarceration movement and co-led the School-to-Prison Pipeline Reversal Project in the Los Angeles area. Dr. Lozornio has trained and supported clinicians, case managers, and street outreach workers in various community organizations that support clients who have experienced violence and trauma.



## [Marion Malcome, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor

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Dr. Malcome's scholarship and community work focuses on reducing health and mental health disparities within marginalized communities of color. Informed by more than a decade of clinical social work practice in community mental health, her research is situated at the intersection of race(ism), place, and mental health. Using quantitative and qualitative methodologies, Dr. Malcome centers the lived experiences of Black mothers to examine the long-term mental health impact of exposure to multi-contextual racism, violence, and other stressors within high-burden urban neighborhoods and communities. She uses findings from her research to inform the development and testing of anti-racist, culturally relevant mental health practices and policies designed to improve quality of care and lead to health equity for Black mothers across the life course.



## [James Marley, Ph.D.](#)

Interim Dean  
Associate Professor

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Dr. Marley has over 35 years of social work practice experience in adult mental health and family therapy. He is the author and co-author of published articles and several books in family therapy and mental health. Dr. Marley has focused on professional ethics for many years and gives numerous trainings and talks related to ethics, mental health, and family therapy. Recently, he worked on state and federal grants related to domestic terrorism, targeted violence prevention, and interventions. He is the co-chair of the ethics committee for a national network of clinicians and organizations focused on this work. Dr. Marley has been on the editorial board for the Clinical Social Work Journal since 2004 and is active in several national social work organizations.

# FACULTY IMPACT



## [Christie Mason, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Dean for MSW Programs  
Clinical Associate Professor

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Dr. Mason teaches practice and human behavior courses at LUC/SSW. She has more than 20 years of clinical practice experience with clients across the lifespan, specializing in working with children who have experienced trauma. Dr. Mason's areas of interest include neuroscience in social work education, play therapy, and adoption and attachment.



## [Ivan Medina, MSW](#)

Clinical Instructor

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Professor Medina is a practicing social worker and incorporates his rich community experience into his teaching within the classroom. He has served on a number of non-profit boards across Chicago and teaches in areas including policy, non-profit management, philanthropy, and service delivery.



## [Goutham M. Menon, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

Email: [gmenon@luc.edu](mailto:gmenon@luc.edu)

Dr. Menon's research and scholarship focuses on leadership within higher education; information and communication technologies; and social work education. He has been an academic for over two decades and has held leadership positions at the Council on Social Work Education; International Consortium for Social Development; National Association of Deans and Directors; and the Network for Social Work Management. Dr. Menon's current focus is on improving access; mitigating affordability, and managing student debt for students; strategic planning; and change management. He teaches in the areas of social work macro practice and policy and he also provides consultation on social work accreditation.



## [Terry Northcut, Ph.D.](#)

Ph.D. Program Director  
Director of Global Initiatives  
Liaison and Coordinator of Advanced Psychotherapy Certificate Program  
Lucian and Carol Welch Matusak Endowed Professor

Dr. Northcut teaches on social work pedagogy, religion and spirituality in clinical social work, and bridging psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral therapy. She has published extensively in the areas of teaching, religion and spirituality, integrating psychodynamic and CBT, and social work in Ethiopia. Dr. Northcut continues to practice as a licensed clinical social worker.



# FACULTY IMPACT



SCHOOL of  
SOCIAL WORK

## [John Orwat, Ph.D.](#)

Professor  
Co-Director, C-FIRST

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Dr. Orwat's research and teaching interests are in health services research, health and behavioral health policy, and clinical practice. He has successfully received a number of HRSA and SAMHSA grants over the years supporting student learning in areas such as the SBIRT model, interprofessional practice, behavioral health, workforce development, and substance use.



## [Nathan H. Perkins, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor

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Dr. Perkin's professional and research interests include physical and emotional sibling violence, family violence, mental health issues, and social work education and pedagogy. His research explores parental perceptions of physical and emotional sibling violence as well as the lack of policy that exists to address this form of family violence.



## [Kate Phillippo, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

Email: [kphillippo@luc.edu](mailto:kphillippo@luc.edu)

Dr. Phillippo's work centers on youth experiences of schools and schooling, policy and practice attunement to youth needs, and on how to help make schools growthful places for young people. Her research examines how stakeholders take up and carry out education policy and practice, particularly equity-oriented urban education policy and student wellness policy, how local, organizational, and professional contexts shape that enactment, and implications for racial and educational equity. Dr. Phillippo's instruction emphasizes both professional skill development and socio-political education, aimed at helping candidates think critically about their positioning in schools so that they may use it to promote inclusive and empowering youth development through their work at micro-, meso- and macro-levels.



## [Julia Pryce, Ph.D.](#)

Professor  
Faculty Director, Fostering Connections Training Institute

Julia Pryce, Ph.D. believes in the transformative potential of relationships, and the ways positive non-parental adults can facilitate collaborative growth with the young people they support. Her research focuses on the role of mentoring in the fields of youth development and child welfare. A committed teacher, Dr. Pryce is the Runner Up recipient of the 2023 St. Ignatius Loyola Teaching Award, and teaches in the areas of developmental theory, research, and youth development.

# FACULTY IMPACT



[Abha Rai, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor  
Associate Director, CIRA

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Dr. Rai comes to Loyola with over 15 years of international community work experience. She has worked closely with community-based organizations while designing programs, engaging in program evaluation and providing direct support to individuals, families and groups, internationally and across the U.S. She utilizes community-based participatory research approaches for her work and primary areas of interest include immigrant and refugee well-being with a focus on gender-based violence across minoritized communities. Dr. Rai specializes in survey methodology and the development of culturally responsive interventions and instruments.



[Celeste Sanchez, Ph.D.](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

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Celeste Sánchez's research interests are centered around Latine immigrant communities and underrepresented students within social work education. Her social work experience includes working with youth in group home settings in Central America and working with Central American families seeking immigration relief in Southern California.



[Guillermo Sanhueza, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

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Dr. Sanhueza's scholarship focuses on understanding the intersections between prisons, rehabilitation (reintegration), neighborhoods, violence, prison reform and human rights. He has conducted extensive prison research in Chile and other countries in Latin America, usually working along with interdisciplinary teams (e.g., law, engineering, public health, sociology). Current projects include: the exploration of the rule of law within the Illinois prison system; the role of faith-based organizations in supporting formerly-incarcerated individuals in IL; the development of an integrated prototype of data visualization for improving rehabilitation conditions in Chilean prisons; and the relationship between obesity and accelerated, induced aging.



[Shirley Simon, MSW](#)

Associate Professor

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Professor Simon is committed to group work education for social workers. She has been a leader at the International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG) where she has mentored over 225 students in making presentations of papers, posters, and workshops at a number of local, national, and international professional social work conferences. Professor Simon's scholarly interests include contemporary challenges in group work education and practice, hybrid-online social work education, and educational trends in clinical social work.

# FACULTY IMPACT



[Jonathan Singer, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

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Jonathan Singer's research and scholarship are centered on youth suicide and social work technology. He is the author of over 85 publications, and his research has been featured in national and international media outlets including NPR, BBC, Fox, Time Magazine, and The Guardian. He is co-author of the best-selling textbook "Suicide in Schools: A Practitioner's Guide to Multi-level Prevention, Assessment, Intervention, and Postvention." As a founder and host of the award-winning Social Work Podcast, he was recognized as a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Work in 2023.



[Shweta Singh, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

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Dr. Singh's research is on women's identity and wellbeing; evaluation; and social work and international social development. Her international work experience includes research and advocacy projects with International and local development agencies in India on issues of child rights, child abuse and social policy. Dr. Singh is also an author of fiction, plays, and self-help manuals focused on the Indian Subcontinent. In 2016, she was awarded the Service Award in Recognition of Outstanding Community Service in Media and Social Work, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County for her 10 years in community radio work on the show Global desi World and Women. She is the founder of a publishing and coaching company known as Think Women Company for women, motivation, and mediation.



[Jeanne Sokolec, Ed.D.](#)

BSW Program Director  
Clinical Associate Professor

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Dr. Sokolec is an alumna of the School of Social Work and she has actively worked in a number of faculty and administration positions at Loyola University Chicago over the past 25 years. Her specialty is policy and older adults and she advances the infusion of content on older adults and healthcare disparities into bachelor level courses.



[Kathryn Tyson McCrea, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

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Dr. Tyson McCrea has served as Principal Investigator for the Empowering Counseling Program, Participatory Science Initiative (ECP-PSI) since 2006, which has educated 60 masters and doctoral social workers, served 1,000 youth, and produced numerous dissertations, journal articles, and presentations. Her research utilizes participatory action and qualitative methods to optimize social services with youth experiencing marginalization, using translational science to scale interventions that build opportunity in under-resourced communities.

# FACULTY IMPACT



[Maria Vidal de Haymes, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

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Dr. Vidal de Haymes' grant activity and published research focuses on unaccompanied immigrant minors, immigrant well-being and integration; child welfare; and social work education. She is co-editor of the Journal of Poverty and serves on local, national, and international boards including the Taller de José, National Pastoral Migratoria, the Jesuit Migration Network of Central and North America, and the Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees Working Group of the International Association of Jesuit Universities. Dr. Vidal de Haymes also teaches social welfare and immigration policy courses.



[Maria Wathen, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

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Dr. Wathen's research advances social justice in the access and provision of social services to vulnerable groups at the intersection of social policy, public, nonprofit, and volunteer arenas and the influence of cultural forces utilizing theories of social change, civil society development, organizations, globalization, and inequality. She focuses on organizations that provide social supports, the macro-level influences (such as legislation and policies) on their operation, and their efficacy in responding to on-the-ground needs of persons requiring a social safety net.



[Marcy Wilroy, DSW](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor  
CADC Specialization Director

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Dr. Wilroy's experience in social work spans long term care, rehabilitation hospitals, hospice, adolescent self-esteem issues, and helping individuals that have received a challenging medical diagnosis. She has assisted businesses in becoming DUI treatment centers and has created many new options for offenders allowing them to see how their addiction is affecting their lives without judgment. Dr. Wilroy is a client-centered therapist working to open a non-profit organization that will allow pre-teen young ladies to explore how a strong self-esteem can lead them to make better choices when faced with challenges as young adults.



[Terri Kilbane, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor  
Emeritus



[Marta Lundy, Ph.D.](#)

Professor Emeritus

# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



David Apopo, MSW

Email: akennedy7@luc.edu

Research Interests: Equity, Social Justice, Social and Public Policy, Poverty, Inclusion



Yigermal Demissie Ayalew, MSW

Email: yayalew@luc.edu

Research Interests: Intergenerational poverty, urban poverty, social welfare and social protection policy and practice, maternal and child nutrition, affordable healthcare, African indigenous knowledge, program development, evaluation and assessment, participatory service models, and international development



Juli Chaffee, MSW

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Research Interests: Non-abuse-oriented attachment trauma in children, adoption attachment trauma, mental illness, neuropsychology, improving education and therapeutic interventions regarding attachment for social workers in macro, mezzo, and micro levels



Marjorie E. Colindres, MSW, LCSW

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Interdisciplinary Fellow

Email: mcolind@luc.edu

Research Interests: School social work, history of mental health in school settings, education of school social workers, Latinx students and bilingualism, social workers working with immigrants and refugees, mental health counseling, psychotherapeutic process, child development, adolescent mental health



Bridget Colacchio, Ph.D. (2023)

Co-Director, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy  
Clinical Assistant Professor - School of Education

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Research Interests: Well-being, belonging, love, attachment, foster care, child welfare, adolescence, emerging adulthood, youth violence

# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Larry (Leo) B. Davis, MPH, MSW  
Ignatian Fellow for Social Justice  
Health Policy Research Scholar

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Research Interests: Black fatherhood engagement, Child/foster youth development, Social policy, Mass Incarceration, Social determinants of health, Homelessness, Mental health, Social Entrepreneurship, Poverty, Racism



Patrick Decker-Tonneson, Ph.D. (2023)

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Research Interests: Organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and practices; Boardroom and board member development, strategy, and purpose; Internal and external stakeholder organizational experience



Patiya Freely, Ph.D. (2023)

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Research Interests: Racial Minority Youth, Violence Prevention, Spirituality, Faith-Informed Practices, Complex Traumatic Stress, Restorative Justice, Critical Race Theory and Pedagogy



Katrina Herweh, MASW, LISW, CDCA

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Research Interests: Pediatric medical trauma; pediatric trauma; screening tool for pediatric trauma; hospital discharge and mental health treatment referral; and the impact of medical events on children and adolescents

# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Ruri Kim, MA, LPC

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Research Interests: Mental Health and Social Justice; Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Problems; Mental Health and Workforce Development; Community Mental Health; Culturally-Responsive and Anti-Oppressive Mental Health Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention; Clinical Practice and Supervision; Social Work Education; Field Education



Sungsim Lee, MA, MSW

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Research Interests: Spirituality, Religion, and Mental Health for Older Adults, Eco-Spiritual Social Work, Spiritually Based Practices/Interventions (e.g., Mindfulness, Gratitude) for Human Service Organizations, Spiritually Based Gratitude Practice from a Won Buddhism Perspective and Its Implications for Social Work Practice



Kevin Miller, Ph.D. (2023)

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Research Interests: Community-based Critical Youth Participatory Action Research; Resistance; Resilience; Critical Consciousness; Humanistic Group Therapy; Youth and Adolescent Mental Health; Human Rights; Structural Violence; Critical Civic Inquiry; Photovoice; After School Programs; Mixed Methods; Emancipatory and Liberatory Science; Decolonizing and Anti-Racist Research Methodologies



Margaret Ann Paauw, Ph.D. (2023)

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Research Interests: Community mental health, serious mental illness, homelessness, library social work, and animal-assisted interventions

# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



SCHOOL of  
SOCIAL WORK

Sharitza Rivera, AM, LCSW

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Research Interests: First-generation college students; low-income college students; peer mentorship; program development and evaluation; community college student persistence; macro social work; social justice; social work education; sense of belonging; social and cultural capital; poverty and welfare in the United States; social class; systematic change and innovation



SCHOOL of  
SOCIAL WORK

Alanna Shin, MSW

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Research Interests: Financial Capability and Economic Well-Being; Financial Social Work; Psychological Self-Sufficiency; Poverty



SCHOOL of  
SOCIAL WORK

Brianna Sorensen, MSW, LCSW, CADAC

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Research Interests: LGBTQ studies and their acknowledgment within social work education and clinical practice. The implications of internalized trans/homophobia on countertransference in the clinical setting and bias in the classroom



Adriane "Addie" Van Zwoll, MJ, LCSW

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Research Interests: School-Based Mental Health; Juvenile Justice; Trauma-Informed Care; Interprofessional Practice



# DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Heather Watson, MSW

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Research Interests: Mental health; individual and environmental factors that lead to healthy child development; evidence-based clinical practice; disadvantaged youth and families; social justice; disparities in social services and communities among various minority groups



Diane Williams, MSW, MPP

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Research Interests: Aging and social welfare; aging social policy; barriers to housing stability for older adults; housing security and aging; the role of senior housing on successful aging; productive aging among older adults



Nora Wynn, AM

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Research Interests: Adolescent sexual health and development; sex education; peer-led education; positive youth development; feminist theory; participatory research methods



Rachel Young, MSW

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Research Interests: Advancement of human rights through social uprisings, the development of social work, social policy, food systems, and art as a method for social change.

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