

MFP

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2020-2021

Doctoral Fellows CV Booklet



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Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues:

The CSWE Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is pleased to share with you our 2020–2021 CV booklet. In the following pages, you will read about nine standout MFP doctoral fellows and recent alumni who are on the academic job market. Each of them is committed to addressing the behavioral health needs of BIPOC communities. Through their SAMHSA-supported training, they have acquired the methodological expertise to be productive scholars. Drawing from their practice and teaching experiences, they will be engaged faculty members who can advance the social discourse and take the steps necessary to tackle race-based inequities.



I invite you to read the biographies in this document, download the fellows' vitae, and contact them directly for more information. I am confident that each of them will make substantive contributions to faculties at all levels of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. P. N. H.", written in a cursive style.

Duy Nguyen, PhD

Director, Minority Fellowship Program

Angela R. Fernandez, PhD, MPH, MSW

University of Michigan, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
angefern@umich.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: July 2019

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Indigenous health, mixed methods, cultural and place-based interventions, community engaged research, mental health, substance abuse, HIV, diabetes



Born and raised in the Menominee Nation of Wisconsin, Dr. Fernandez's research agenda is built on nearly two decades of combined national and international social work and public health practice and service with Indigenous, Latinx, and other minoritized communities in inpatient and outpatient health care settings, academic settings, nonprofit organizations, and the Peace Corps. As an Indigenous and Latinx prevention scientist, her research examines whether participation in cultural practices that depend up nature contact can be protective in the prevention of chronic, co-occurring, and syndemic diseases (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, diabetes) among Indigenous peoples. She has 10 years of experience working on federally funded (NIH, SAMHSA) collaborative research projects, focused on prevention of mental health, substance use, sexual risk, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and diabetes, from design through dissemination. Her long-term goals are to build on this knowledge and better define the role of engagement in Indigenous cultural practices that depend on nature contact in prevention and to respond to the significant gap in culturally informed measures that can be used to evaluate chronic, co-occurring, and syndemic health outcomes in culturally grounded health interventions.

As a second-year postdoc, she is currently exploring internal funding opportunities to conduct a pilot study and is also exploring external funding (i.e., National Institutes of Health). Results from this formative research will inform a future R01 application focused on developing and testing the efficacy of a cultural practice and nature contact-based prevention intervention for chronic, co-occurring, and syndemic diseases among Indigenous communities.

Dr. Fernandez also has 15 years of combined experience teaching and mentoring from undergraduate to graduate students, in academic, professional, and community contexts. As a doctoral teaching assistant and sole instructor, she received outstanding student evaluations and departmental and university-wide nominations for teaching awards. As a postdoc, she continues to mentor, present, and guest lecture for graduate students across the country.

Crystal M. Hayes, MSW

University of Connecticut

Crystal.hayes@uconn.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Reproductive justice; teaching, advocacy, and organizing; antiracist feminist pedagogies



Living by the Audre Lorde quote “silence will not protect you,” Crystal has always tried to use her voice and work in service to others to tell the truth about racialized sexism and other forms of racial oppression. As a social work scholar, Crystal’s major research interests focus on the birthing experiences of incarcerated pregnant Black women and other women of color as a human-rights, feminist, and reproductive justice issue. She uses anti-oppression theoretical frameworks such as antiracism, reproductive justice, anticolonialism, and Black feminist theoretical frameworks to center the experiences of incarcerated women of color and their stories and experiences of arrest, imprisonment, violence, childbirth, and motherhood.

Crystal is particularly interested in using her research to reduce health disparities of incarcerated pregnant women by promoting the need for gender-responsive, healing-centered, comprehensive health-care interventions at the intersections of mental illness, substance abuse, and reproductive health. Additionally, she is deeply committed to prison reform policies that address the disproportionate impact that imprisonment has on women and girls of color and their families.

As the recipient of the White House Equity Research Grant on Women and Girls of Color in 2016 and 2017, Crystal conducted a preliminary dissertation pilot study looking at the antishackling campaign in Massachusetts and its impact on the birthing experiences of incarcerated women.

Crystal is an online clinical assistant professor at Sacred Heart University. She has held several academic appointments at the MSW and BSW levels and has worked in nonprofit leadership and management, community mental health, and social work education. For example, she was the director of racial justice and maternal child wellness at the YWCA of the Greater Triangle in Raleigh, NC. A public speaker, feminist scholar, and blogger, she is involved in social justice campaigns from reproductive justice to advocacy for prisoners and their families and writes about racial and social justice. Her work as an engaged scholar and activist has been featured in media outlets such as MSNBC’s *The Grio*, *Ms. Magazine*, and various U.S. newspapers.

Monique Holguin, LCSW

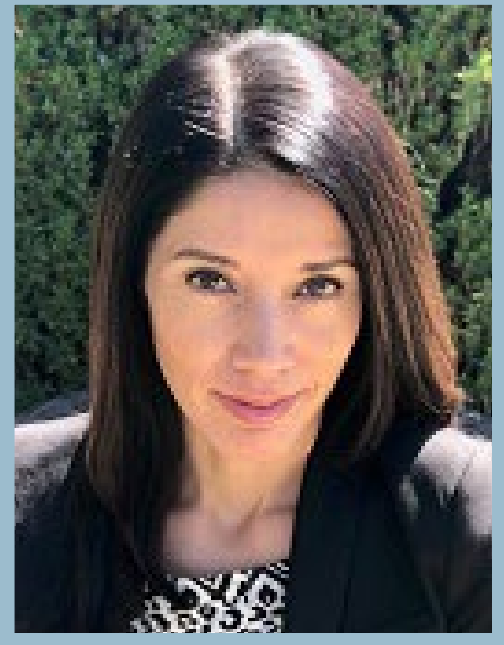
University of Southern California

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DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Racial/ethnic health disparities, discrimination and racial equity, integrated health service delivery, enhancing support systems for youths and young adults at risk or currently experiencing homelessness and/or serious behavioral health issues, mental health service access and use



As an LCSW and a community-participatory researcher and practitioner, Monique collaborates with community partners, administrators, practitioners, and researchers to address health and behavioral health needs for diverse communities. Monique’s long-term career objectives are to develop, implement, and evaluate culturally responsive resilience-focused behavioral health interventions centered for marginalized communities.

The common thread underlying Monique’s academic, clinical, and research experience is her unwavering commitment to enhancing the overall health and well-being of marginalized communities disproportionately affected by key social determinants of health, including poverty, discrimination and access to care, and chronic homelessness. Her research agenda is centered on improving equity in health-care delivery by addressing discrimination, support systems, and behavioral health service access and use for marginalized communities. Through her dissertation, Monique will critically examine discrimination and the role of social support in mental health service use for youths experiencing homelessness.

In the classroom, Monique incorporates critical race, intersectionality, and ecosocial theoretical frameworks to create a rich learning environment where students can critically examine the historical impact of systems, power, privilege, and oppression on diverse communities and its significance to current service delivery and physical/behavioral health outcomes. Monique has served as a co-instructor for the MSW Social Justice course and as a facilitator for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Mental Disorders course at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, and as a guest speaker on integrated health care at California State University Long Beach and California State University Northridge.

As a clinical social worker, Monique has had the privilege to serve individuals ranging from youths and adults experiencing homelessness, children and youths entering into and going out of the foster and/or juvenile justice systems, to individuals grappling with co-morbid and tri-morbid conditions in inpatient and outpatient health, mental health and residential facilities. During this 16-year period, two themes have continued to emerge: the enormous risk of acute and chronic health and behavioral health conditions, particularly for marginalized groups disproportionately; and the desperate need to move toward equity- and evidence-based, culturally/community tailored multidisciplinary interventions to meet the specific needs and prevent serious health consequences for this population.

Daniel Jacobson López, PhD, MSW, LSW

University of Pittsburgh

DAJ57@pitt.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2019

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Latino and Black gay men, sexual violence and trauma, racial and ethnic health disparities, antibias training and education, culturally informed health services



Dr. Daniel Jacobson López is currently a T32 postdoctoral associate in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in the Graduate School of Public Health. Dr. López's primary research focus is the development of culturally responsive evidence-based health interventions for gay Latino and Black sexual assault survivors in the United States. As a Latino who is originally from Honduras, he is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of oppressed populations, especially those with multiple marginalized identities. His dissertation research explored facilitators and barriers to assault reporting as experienced by gay Latino and Black sexual assault survivors, which informs the development of interventions and programming to reduce the racial and ethnic health disparities experienced by these men in health-care. In his current position as a T32 postdoctoral associate, he is immersed in various research projects focused on violence against gay Black and Latino men, LGBT individuals, and the effects of COVID-19 on persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Additionally, he is currently a Career Education and Enhancement for Health Care Research Diversity (CEED) Scholar at the Institute for Clinical Research Education at the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Pitt.

Dr. López's teaching experience encompasses undergraduate and graduate level social work courses, including Diverse Populations, Global Perspectives in Social Work, and Social Welfare and Lab Practicum (direct practice). He is currently a co-instructor for the Emergence and Global Spread of COVID-19 in the Graduate School of Public Health.

His teaching and research are informed by his extensive practice experience, which encompasses work with oppressed populations including Black LGBT young adults, Latinx immigrants, those who use substances or have substance use disorders, individuals in the criminal justice system, and youths placed in the foster system. Dr. López also has research experience as an intern with the United Nations. He is an antibias facilitator with the Anti-Defamation League, where he provides training to schools and universities on how to combat various forms of bias and discrimination. He received his MSW from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015.

Francisco J. Lozornio, DSW, LCSW

University of Southern California

fjlozornio@gmail.com

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: August 2020

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Community trauma, recidivism among returning citizens, community mental health, leadership, innovation for social change



Dr. Lozornio's doctoral capstone project focused on improving mental health services delivery to returning citizens. A goal of this project is to integrate a model/framework that can be used in reentry programs across the United States to target symptoms of PTSD and behaviors that place returning citizens at risk for recidivism. A mission of this project is to foster a community-wide healing movement in marginalized communities by providing community members with tools they can use to foster community healing.

Over 8 years, Francisco has taught social work foundations courses at Northeastern Illinois University, including Human Behavior and the Social Environment and Social Work Practice. He integrates a variety of innovative approaches into his pedagogy that include storytelling, poetry, meditation, and Theatre of the Oppressed exercises.

Francisco is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 17 years of diverse community-based practice experience. For the past 5 years he has provided consultation services to community organizations in the Chicago area. This includes program development; clinical supervision; and providing training and coaching to social workers, counselors, gang intervention workers, program managers, program directors, school administrators, and community leaders.

Amittia Parker, LMSW

University of Kansas

amittia@ku.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Maternal, infant, and child mental health; racial/ethnic health disparities among Black and Latin/x populations; behavioral health service access and use; community-based interventions; student mental health in higher education



Amittia is committed to the prevention of mental illness and mitigating racial and economic disparities among Black and Latin/x communities. She promotes racial equity and social justice in her research, the classroom, and through her service. Through her dissertation, Amittia is applying the constructivist grounded theory method to develop a substantive grounded theory that describes and explains how Black mothers access and use supports for their mental health. She will use the findings to develop, test, and implement culturally responsive behavioral health interventions in natural settings for Black mothers.

Amittia is committed to preparing and supporting the next generation of social workers, with specific interests in recruiting, training, and mentoring students of color. Amittia's classroom experience spans teaching fully online, blended, and in-person courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs. She is particularly interested in student mental health and is currently conducting a study to understand the perceptions of supports across contexts. This work will also lead to developing, implementing, and evaluating mental health interventions for social work students.

Amittia has a decade of experience working with predominantly Black and Latin/x children and their families in low-income urban contexts. These practice experiences enhance and inform her research. Additionally, she serves in leadership roles in local, state, and national organizations focused on infant and early childhood, the Black community, and Black social workers and students.

Charlene Poola, LCSW

Arizona State University

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DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Culturally adapted interventions, evidence-based treatments for Indigenous communities, workforce development strategies for rural communities, American Indian behavioral health program development



Charlene focuses on enhancing behavioral health systems that serve Indigenous communities. This work is grounded in her two decades of clinical social work experience in American Indian communities in the southwest providing counseling, suicide, and substance abuse prevention services. Her practice experience informs her dissertation that explores how American Indian behavioral health organizations adapt evidence-based treatments. This research helps ensure cultural relevance for American Indian clients. She has collaborated with tribal behavioral health organizations to apply for state and federal funding to strengthen their workforces through organizational development and continuing education.

Since 2007, Charlene has done training and given guest lectures on culturally based services for American Indian clients. She has taught courses on evaluative research methods to MSW students and has been a field practicum consultant. Additionally, she provides clinical supervision to social work students seeking licensure.

Dasha J. Rhodes, LMSW

Morgan State University

daeva14@morgan.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: May 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Black Americans' mental health, police and community relations, quantitative analysis of police interactions, community violence and public health, integration of social work and policing



Dasha's research focuses on police and community relations, emphasizing mental health and psychological well-being with marginalized groups. Her dissertation examines anxiety rates among Black Americans who experienced either direct or indirect police encounters. Her dissertation builds on her experience on several projects involving the Baltimore Police Department and community members.

Dasha is a teaching fellow at Shippensburg University and teaches across the BSW and MSW curriculum [with multiple invitations as a guest lecturer at various institutions]. She implements critical race theory throughout her instruction to challenge students' comprehension of societal structures through race, power, and privilege and critically analyze social issues and delivery of services. Her teaching emphasizes student-centered learning to promote an inclusive environment for student and professional development.

Dasha worked for 3 years as a hospice social worker in the greater Houston, TX, area. She served patients from diverse populations and various economic statuses on an interdisciplinary team, where she strengthened her appreciation for collaborative work and collective problem-solving.

Stephanie “Rachel” Speer, LCSW

University of Denver

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DOCTORAL DEGREE DATE: June 2021

ACCESS CV [HERE](#)

AREAS OF INTEREST: Mental health and trauma, parenting and intergenerational transmission of risk, LGBTQ, communities of color, intersectionality



Rachel seeks to disrupt the intergenerational effects of inequality and inequity for many marginalized communities mindful of intersecting identities (e.g., communities of color, queer communities, people with disabilities, and those with disadvantaged social class) through her research. Her research is organized around two areas of inquiry: (1) how experiences of oppression and trauma affect the mental health, physical health, and well-being of marginalized communities and their intersectional identities; and (2) how experiences of oppression and trauma connect to parenting behaviors and the intergenerational transmission of risk among these communities. As a mixed-methods researcher, Rachel is dedicated to using quantitative and qualitative methodology to understand the experiences of people from marginalized communities. Her dissertation is a cross-sectional secondary data study assessing the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and paternal warmth, identifying whether and how racial identities moderate this relationship and determining whether depression, anxiety, and physical health mediate this relationship.

She has extensive experience independently teaching foundation and elective courses. Courses include Power, Privilege and Oppression; Child Development; Human Behavior and the Social Environment; and Advanced Standing Seminar, Trauma Response and Recovery, Cognitive Behavioral Therapies, and Group Interventions. She has assisted in teaching additional courses at the master's level, including Evidence for Practice and Health-Care Policy. She is prepared to teach additional courses related to research methods, evidence-based practice, and policy. Her teaching includes direct experience in facilitating online courses, and she has completed workshops on online pedagogy.

Rachel received her MSW from the University of Denver in 2009 and obtained her license as a clinical social worker in 2011. She has worked in various clinical mental health settings and roles including outpatient, school-based mental health, integrated care, telephonic services, intensive in-home services, emergency evaluation, and program management.