

Active GSSW Research Projects - Fall 2017



Contact	Project	Description
Inna Altschul Associate Professor inna.altschul@du.edu	Relationship and parenting processes in vulnerable families with young children	This project uses analyses of secondary data to analyze transactional longitudinal models of relationship and parenting processes in young, low-income, racial diverse families.
	Adolescent identity and academic achievement	This project looks at multiple sources of quantitative and qualitative data to understand how various components of adolescent identity, including civic engagement, racial-ethnic identity, academic identity - are associated with academic achievement.
Yolanda Anyon Assistant Professor yolanda.anyon@du.edu	Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning (YELL) at the Bridge Project	A mixed methods study of interventions to increase opportunities for youth voice in after school programs serving low-income adolescents of color.
	Evaluation of the Restorative Practices Learning Community	This study considers whether schools' participation in a district-level learning community focused on restorative practices will lead to increased implementation of the approach.
	Impact of Restorative Practices on Students' Academic Outcomes	A quantitative, longitudinal study of the relationship between students' participation in restorative practices and academic outcomes like attendance, dropout, and test scores.
	Searching for solutions: Disrupting disparities in the School-to-Prison Pipeline	A mixed methods study of discipline practices in high and low suspending schools in Denver, with a focus on the implementation of restorative justice and social-emotional learning approaches.
Anamika Barman-Adhikari Assistant Professor anamika.barmanadhikari@du.edu	Social networks and risk and protective behaviors among homeless youth in Los	This study delves into social-contextual factors associated with a host of risk and protective factors among homeless youth.
	Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey	This project is a six-city assessment of the kind of risk and protective influences on homeless youth's lives.
	Facebook: An observational study	This study will use an observational method to understand the kind of interactions homeless youth are involved in with an eye on social-media based intervention development.
Jennifer Bellamy Associate Professor jennifer.bellamy@du.edu	Home Visiting for Fathers	Randomized controlled trial of an intervention testing an adapted home visiting intervention to better engage and serve fathers.

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Jennifer Bellamy Associate Professor jennifer.bellamy@du.edu	Military Veteran Families	This is an online survey and individual interviews with Colorado parents who have served in the military, but are no longer serving or are parenting with someone who is a veteran. The survey and interviews include questions about military service, parenting and community risks and strengths, and general demographics.
	National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) Secondary Data Analysis	Secondary data analysis of a national child welfare dataset examining mental health services and key child welfare outcomes.
Ramona Beltran Assistant Professor ramona.beltran@du.edu	AOD and HIV Needs Assessment in Urban Mexican American Indian Communities	This is a pilot project conducting a comprehensive AOD and HIV Needs Assessment in the Mexican American Indian community in Seattle, Washington.
	Indigenous Youth RiseUp! A Culture Centered HIV Prevention Curriculum for Indigenous Youth	This project is evaluating the impact of a culture-centered HIV prevention curriculum for Indigenous youth.
Kimberly Bender Professor kimberly.bender@du.edu	Safety Awareness For Empowerment: An RCT to prevent victimization and substance use among homeless youth	A 3-year longitudinal study of 230 homeless youth randomized to receive a mindfulness-based cognitive intervention to improve risk detection and prevent substance use and victimization.
	Homeless youth risk and resilience survey	A multi-city study of risk and protective factors for positive and adverse outcomes (housing, sexual health, mental health, victimization) among homeless young people.
	Youth voice: A photovoice project	This project invites young people staying at the homeless shelter to join a leadership team that photographs the needs of their community and advocates for social change. The study examines the needs of this group and the outcomes associated with participation.
	Fostering Healthy Futures for Teens	This study tests the effects of a mentoring and skill-building program for adolescents involved in the child welfare system.
	A systematic review of youth voice programs	This study reviews all literature on the effects of youth voice programs on young people.
Sarah Bexell Visiting Clinical Associate Professor sarah.bexell@du.edu	Human rights approach to family planning	This project is collecting qualitative data on how young people choose when and if they will have children and how they navigate this decision process.
	The Interface of Environmental Inequality and Reproductive Rights	This initial project will lead to more investigations to discover intervention points to promote reproductive justice and environmental protection.
	The importance of animals in child development	Very preliminary investigations with several MSW students.

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<p>Sarah Bexell Visiting Clinical Associate Professor sarah.bexell@du.edu</p>	Utilization of public conservation education to combat the wildlife trade	This project is being conducted in Chengdu, China to assess whether learning about threats to wildlife due to consumption of them or their parts can decrease consumption behavior.
<p>Daniel Brisson Associate Professor daniel.brisson@du.edu</p>	CHASE	Mapping of county resources for homelessness in Colorado.
	City Heights	Analysis of qualitative stories about the successes and struggles of a large scale neighborhood transformation project.
	Public Dialogues about Homelessness	Presenting public dialogues to influence the discussion of homelessness.
	Denver's Beloved Community Village	Evaluation of Denver's first Tiny Home Village.
	SIBS	Documenting local homelessness resources in support of a pay for success intervention to address homelessness.
	Your Family, Your Neighborhood	Intervention for low-income families living in low-income neighborhoods.
	Boulder County Housing and Human Services	Research on a measurement tool to assess the impact of integrating county level housing and human services departments.
	Mercy Housing	Assessment of service effects of a private provider of affordable housing.
<p>Stacey Freedenthal Associate Professor stacey.freedenthal@du.edu</p>	Cognitive and Emotional Reactions to Suicidal Thoughts	In collaboration with Nicole Nicotera, this PROF-funded project will examine Denver Health Psychiatric Emergency Service's patients' responses to their suicidal thoughts.
	Various psychometric projects	In collaboration with Augustine Osman at the University of Texas-San Antonio, I'm participating in projects developing and/or examining the psychometric properties of various psychiatric-related instruments.
<p>Jennifer Greenfield Assistant Professor jennifer.greenfield@du.edu</p>	Mothering in the NICU: Barriers and Facilitators to Maternal Engagement in the NICU and Impact of Maternal Engagement on Infant Development	This is a mixed methods project that entails interviewing mothers in three area neonatal intensive care units to understand how their social, economic, and psychological circumstances impact infant health and development through the mechanism of maternal engagement in NICU care.
	Understanding the Reach and Impact of a Pre-Dissertation Training Program for Gerontological Social Work PhD Students	With colleagues at several universities across the country, I am helping develop an evaluation of a pre-dissertation training program. Survey data will collect information about the individuals who participated in the program, as well as social network information about their connections to other scholars and students.

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<p>Jennifer Greenfield Assistant Professor jennifer.greenfield@du.edu</p>	<p>Understanding the Costs of Caregiving: A Survey of Colorado Caregivers</p>	<p>With Leslie Hasche, and funded by DU's Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, we have piloted a survey of the economic and well being costs of caregiving for older adults and how workplace supportive policies may impact the caregivers. Data collection is now complete and we're focusing on a) data analysis & publication of findings and b) development of follow-up grant proposals to extend the work beyond the pilot phase.</p>
<p>Leslie Hasche Associate Professor leslie.hasche@du.edu</p>	<p>OARS</p>	<p>This NIJ funded project with Anne DePrince examines the impact of the Denver Forensic Collaborative's impact on criminal justice and health outcomes for victims of elder maltreatment.</p>
	<p>APS Assessment validation project</p>	<p>With a subcontract from Colorado's Adult Protective Services, I am analyzing administrative assessment data to help validate their assessment procedures.</p>
	<p>CO Caregiver Survey</p>	<p>With Jennifer Greenfield, and funded by DU's Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, we are piloting a survey of the economic and well being costs of caregiving for older adults, and how workplace supportive policies may impact the caregivers.</p>
<p>Amy He Assistant Professor amy.he@du.edu</p>	<p>Protecting neighborhoods from child maltreatment: Exploring social dynamics of immigrant communities and interagency collaboration</p>	<p>To isolate and define neighborhood social dynamics that contribute to patterns of maltreatment (and maltreatment reporting) in small geographical areas of unusual risk and protection.</p>
	<p>National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW II)</p>	<p>Ongoing research using NSCAW II (nationally representative data) to examine both macro and micro issues pertaining to families involved in child welfare.</p>
<p>Jeff Jenson Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk jeffrey.jenson@du.edu</p>	<p>Effects of the Bridge Project Afterschool Program on Academic and Social and Emotional Outcomes</p>	<p>This project compares academic and social and emotional outcomes between Bridge Project participants and a comparison group of 275 youth who reside in public housing communities without supportive after school services.</p>
	<p>Unleashing the Power of Prevention</p>	<p>This project aims to implement a 7-step action plan designed to increase the implementation and evaluation of preventive interventions for behavioral health problems in children and youth. A Grand Challenge for Social Work, the project is: 1) working with states to increase infrastructure necessary to deliver interventions; 2) developing prevention workforce curricula; and 3) partnering with a collaborative of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to explore the delivery of healthy parenting programs in primary care settings.</p>

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Suzanne Kerns Research Associate Professor suzanne.kerns@du.edu	Center for Effective Interventions	Implementation of MST in the Rocky Mountain Region.
	Creating Connections	Evidence-based practices and trauma informed care in child welfare.
	Parenting in Primary Care	Integration of a behavioral parenting intervention in primary care settings.
	Emotion Coaching and Parenting Intervention for children with limited prosocial traits	RCT exploring enhancements to a standard parenting intervention to incorporate emotion coaching.
	Study of EBPs in Marriage and Family Therapy curricula	A follow-up to a similar study about MSW programs- exploring how MFT programs integrate EBP into their curricula.
Johnny Kim Associate Professor johnny.kim@du.edu	OPI-2	RCT study comparing SFBT w/TAU for child welfare parents with substance use.
Julie Laser-Maira Associate Professor julie.laser@du.edu	Investigating the History and Demographics of Patients at the Colorado State Mental Health Institutes that have a History of Being Victims of Sexual Abuse	Evaluating mental hospital data on demographics and sexual abuse history.
	ELL Measure of homeless/street youth	Evaluating the relationship between street youth and human trafficking.
	Evaluating Experiential Activities	Community research with Denver Parks and Recreation Challenge Course.
	Evaluating the Impact of Family Based Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Program	Evaluating the effectiveness of family therapy on MIP youth.
	Evaluation of Divorce Busting Telephone Coaching	Evaluating the effectiveness of a couples counseling program.
Amber McDonald PhD Candidate Amber.McDonald@du.edu	BELL Measure of homeless/street youth	Evaluating factors that effect homeless/street youth involvement in trading/selling sex.
	Trauma Informed School Initiative	Partnership with CDHS, CU's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence on implementing social emotional learning in to Colorado schools and transforming school culture to become trauma informed.
Nancy Lucero Research Associate Professor nancy.lucero@du.edu	Collaborative, Integrated, and Trauma-Informed Services for Urban American Indian/Alaska Native Children Impacted by Parental Substance Abuse	Intervention research assessing outcomes & effectiveness of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center's Urban Indian Child Welfare Practice Model.
	Situating Conservation of Resources Theory as an Additional Perspective for the American Indian Historical Trauma Response	Applying Hobfoll's Conservation of Resources Theory as an additional understanding of American Indian historical trauma.

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Nancy Lucero Research Associate Professor nancy.lucero@du.edu	Learning to Serve American Indians: Social Work Students' Reflections on their Journeys toward Cultural and Structural Responsiveness	Qualitative research examining changes in students' cultural and structural competence after completing social work course content on American Indian policy and practice.
	Capacity Building Center for Tribes Evaluation	Mixed-methods project evaluation and research on implementing capacity-building with tribal child welfare programs.
	Evaluation of the Casey Family Programs Recruitment and Retention of ICWA Preferred Placements Project	Mixed methods research examining outcomes of an intervention pairing state and tribal stakeholders seeking to increase the number of ICWA compliant foster homes for American Indian/Alaska Native children.
Lisa Magruder Doctoral Candidate llangen2@du.edu	Harassment/Victimization of LGBTQ Adults	This project focuses on the harassment and victimization experiences of LGBTQ adults, both in Colorado and Nationally, frequently from an intersectional lens.
	Intimate Partner Violence Victim Service Provider Perspectives on Improving Services to Families with Pets	This project focuses on service providers' experiences working with intimate partner violence victims and their pet-related needs.
Amanda Moore McBride Morris Endowed Dean and Professor amanda.mcbride@du.edu	Social innovation and civic engagement in higher education	Edited book project with authors across the US.
	Civic mission of higher education	Book project assessing the status of civic and community engagement in higher education.
Kevin Morris Research Associate Professor kevin.morris@du.edu	Savio Study	Aims to measure the impacts of an animal-assisted therapy on family functioning within a family preservation environment.
	The Green Chimneys Project	Aims to measure the impacts of a wide variety of animal-assisted interventions within a special education and therapy environment for youth.
	Community Impacts of HSUS' Pets for Life	Aims to measure the community-wide impacts of the Humane Society of the United States Pet for Life programs.
	WADOC Prison Dog Training Programs	Aims to measure the impacts of prison dog training programs in Washington State correctional facilities on inmates, staff and the dogs.
	Economic Impacts of a Compassion Center in Oklahoma City	Aims to measure the economic impacts of building a new animal sheltering concept in downtown Oklahoma City.
Nicole Nicotera Professor nicole.nicotera@du.edu	Research on adult participants in trauma informed yoga groups for sexual assault survivors	Mixed methods; original data collection in ongoing community partnership with The Blue Bench, Denver, CO to evaluate their trauma informed yoga group for sexual assault survivors.

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<p>Nicole Nicotera Professor nicole.nicotera@du.edu</p>	Cognitive and Emotional Responses to Suicidal Ideation	Qualitative methods, original data collection to systematically investigate acutely suicidal individuals' responses to their suicidal thoughts. Research being conducted in collaboration with Denver Health Psychiatric Emergency Services.
	Self-care and wellness for the helping professions	Quantitative, original data collection evaluating the effects of wellness activities on the stress and quality of life for foundation MSW students at the Graduate School of Social Work.
	Effects of interventions to support undergraduate students at risk for dropping out	Quantitative, original data collection evaluating the effects of 4 interventions to support DU undergraduate students who are struggling socially and/or academically and at risk for dropping out of college.
	The Effects of Engaged Learning on Civic Development and Well-being	Quantitative methods, data were collected and analysis is ongoing to examine the relationship between the psychosocial well-being of undergraduate students and participation in engaged learning initiatives, civic engagement.

<p>Ashley O'Connor Doctoral Candidate ashley.oconnor@du.edu</p>	From Veteran to Student: Using Structural Equation Modeling to Examine the Impact of School Environment on Education and Psychosocial Outcomes	Survey study to examine the theory that student veterans are negatively affected when they feel they are unsupported at school due to their veteran status.
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<p>Deb Ortega Professor debor.ortega@du.edu</p>	The experience of dialysis by undocumented people	A qualitative study in conjunction with Denver Health about the experience of undocumented people as they access kidney dialysis.
	Diabetes care and practices of Latino and Indigenous people	Qualitative research project using information utilizing genograms and ecomaps to determine family and social support experiences of Latino and Indigenous people diagnosed with diabetes.
	Mental Health, Immigrants, and Service Delivery in rural Colorado	Community partnership with Latino Community Foundation of Colorado; Hispanic Affairs Project; San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center to train community organizations in rural Colorado to provide and evaluate services that meet the needs of immigrants' mental health in light of their multiple trauma experiences.

<p>Jason St. Mary PhD Candidate Jason.StMary@du.edu</p>	Effects of the Bridge Project Afterschool Program on Academic and Social and Emotional Outcomes	This project compares academic and social and emotional outcomes between Bridge Project participants and a comparison group of 275 youth who reside in public housing communities without supportive after school services.
	Perceptions of academic achievement and educational outcomes among Black and African American youth	Qualitative study exploring the shares experiences of Black and African American youth residing in low income public housing communities on academic achievement.
	NICHD Grant	This project focuses on the relationship between women experiencing IPV and pets receiving animal abuse.

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Jason St. Mary PhD Candidate Jason.StMary@du.edu	Dissertation	Examining the impact of an income generation project among South African township youth.
Jon Phillips PhD Candidate Jon.Phillips@du.edu	Exploring burnout across the stages of child welfare caseworker development	This project involves secondary data analysis to determine if predictors of caseworker burnout vary depending on the worker's tenure and developmental stage.
	Achieving sustained reunification in the child welfare system	This project seeks to identify child, parent, family, caseworker, and organizational factors associated with sustained reunification in the child welfare system. Analyses will be conducted using the National Study of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II dataset.
	The impact of interprofessional collaboration on child and family outcomes in the child welfare system	This project will use administrative data to examine how interprofessional collaboration between caseworkers and other professionals (e.g., therapists, counselors, and guardians ad litem) impacts safety and permanency outcomes for the families they serve. Focus groups will be conducted with these professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship and identify strategies to improve collaboration as a means of improving outcomes.
Andreas Rechkemmer Professor and American Humane Endowed Chair Andreas.Rechkemmer@du.edu	Environmental Justice: Collaborative Management of Natural Resources	This qualitative research project examines how collaborative approaches to local management of natural resources enhances or impedes environmental justice.
Shannon Sliva Assistant Professor shannon.sliva@du.edu	Evaluating the Impact of High-Risk Victim Offender Dialogue	This project (beginning/formative stage) will evaluate the impact of high-risk victim offender dialogue practices in the Colorado Dept of Corrections on victim well-being and offender empathy/shame.
	Case Analysis of Prisoner Rights Litigation post-PLRA	This project utilizes partnerships with local civil rights attorneys to engage in content analysis of prisoners rights litigation filings and dispositions in order to critique the impact of the Prisoner Litigation Rights Act, with attention to economic and racial justice.
	Impact of Restorative Justice Statutes on Colorado Criminal Justice Systems	This project tracks the impact of restorative justice legislation in Colorado utilizing interviews and focus groups with justice-system actors and time series analysis of system level indicators.
Jess Sparks Doctoral Candidate jess.sparks@du.edu	Social Conflict on the Seas: Understanding the Linkages between Overfishing-Induced Fish Stock Declines and Forced Labor and Slavery	This study uses fuzzy-logic cognitive mapping to test a theoretical framework positing overfishing-induced fish stock declines as a driver of increases in forced labor and slavery on the high seas (dissertation).

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<p>Jess Sparks Doctoral Candidate jess.sparks@du.edu</p>	<p>The Interface of Environmental Inequality and Reproductive Rights: A Mixed-Methods Study Exploring a Pressing Social Justice Issue for Social Work</p>	<p>This study uses an exploratory mixed-methods approach to understand the intersectionality of environmental and reproductive justice in social work curricula and social work practice.</p>
	<p>A Just and Blue Earth: A Systematic Review of Findings Linking Fishery Declines and Social Injustices</p>	<p>A systematic review of of disciplinary and multi-disciplinary literature across the natural, social, and biological sciences exploring how fishery declines exacerbate social injustices (e.g., poverty and gender equality). Findings will be synthesized to create an evidence map published on the Science for Nature and People (SNAP) website that identifies research gaps and priorities.</p>
<p>Heather Taussig Professor heather.taussig@du.edu</p>	<p>Fostering Healthy Futures</p>	<p>Intervention research with youth who have a history of child maltreatment and child welfare involvement.</p>