
Stephanie J. Begun, MSW

Stephanie.Begun@du.edu

EDUCATION

University of Denver
Denver, CO
Graduate School of Social Work
Doctor of Philosophy, June 2016 (expected)

University of Denver
Denver, CO
Graduate School of Social Work
Master of Social Work, June 2012
Concentration: Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA
Bachelor of Arts, May 2000
Latin American Studies; Government and Foreign Affairs

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a mixed methods researcher who focuses on reproductive and sexual health and decision-making among homeless youth—specifically, how policies and community-based research interventions may work in tandem to positively impact reproductive and sexual health access and outcomes. My goal is to conduct research that promotes the health and wellness of vulnerable populations, while also reflecting my commitment to social justice and anti-oppressive practice.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Curriculum areas: social welfare policy analysis and advocacy, history of social welfare, social work research methods and program evaluation, community social work theories and practice, positive youth development, place-based education

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2014-2015
Susan S. Manning Pre-doctoral Fellowship, \$16,000 award
Award granted annually to an outstanding doctoral student with research focus in qualitative methods, leadership, and/or gender studies

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2014-2015
GSSW Online Initiative, \$1,000 stipend

Stipend awarded for assisting GSSW faculty and the DU Office of Teaching and Learning in course-conversion efforts (transformation of Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy and Practice, SOWK 4120) course into e-learning format.

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2013-2014
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, full tuition waiver & \$16,000 stipend

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2012-2013
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, full tuition waiver & \$16,000 stipend

University of Denver, Office of Graduate Studies, 2012-2013
Doctoral Fellowship, \$4,500

Society of Family Planning, 2014–present
Junior Fellow

North American Forum on Family Planning, 2014
Forum Partners Committee Scholarship, \$535

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Begun, S. (2014). Investing in what works: How social workers can influence policy to reduce pregnancies among homeless youth. *Perspectives on Social Work, 10*(1), 14-23. Retrieved from: <http://www.uh.edu>

Beltrán, R., & **Begun, S.** (2014). ‘It is medicine’: Narratives of healing from the Aotearoa Digital Storytelling as Indigenous Media Project (ADSIMP). *Psychology & Developing Societies, 26*(1), 155-179. doi: 10.1177/0971333614549137

Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A., Haffejee, B., & Kaufmann, S. (2014). Utilizing technology for longitudinal communication with homeless youth. *Social Work in Health Care, 53*(9), 865-882. doi: 10.1080/00981389.2014.925532

Begun, S., & Walls, N. E. (in press, *Affilia*). Pedestal or gutter: Exploring ambivalent sexism’s relationship with abortion attitudes. Published online via *OnlineFirst*, doi: 10.1177/0886109914555216

Thompson, S. J., **Begun, S.**, & Bender, K. A. (in press). Pregnancy and parenting among runaway and homeless young women. In S. J. Morewitz & C. Sturdy-Colls (Eds.), *Handbook of missing person, an interdisciplinary study of missing persons*.

Thompson, S. J., Ferguson, K., Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, & Kim, Y. (in press). Homeless emerging adults: A developmental perspective. In J. J. Arnett (Ed.), *Oxford handbook of emerging adulthood*.

Beltrán, R., Hacker, A., & **Begun, S.** (revise & resubmit, *Journal of Social Work Education*). Environmental justice is a social justice issue: Incorporating environmental justice into social work practice curricula.

Lee, M. S., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A. P., & Chu, A. (revise & resubmit, *Psychology of*

Women Quarterly). Acceptability of dating violence among adolescent girls who witnessed domestic violence: The role of ambivalent sexism and relationship schema.

Begun, S. (under review, *Journal of Social Work Education*). The elephant in the room: Abortion and family planning in social work education and practice.

Bender, K. A., DePrince, A., **Begun, S.**, Hathaway, J., Haffejee, B., & Schau, N. (under review, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*). Enhancing risk detection among homeless youth: Effects of a randomized clinical trial.

Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A. P., Haffejee, B., Brown, S., Hathaway, J., & Schau, N. (under review, *Journal of the Society for Social Work Research*). Mindfulness intervention with homeless youth.

Bender, K. A., Schau, N., **Begun, S.**, Haffejee, B., Barman-Adhikari, A., & Hathaway, J. (under review, *Evaluation and Program Planning*). Electronic case management with homeless youth.

Brown, S. M., **Begun, S.**, Bender, K., Ferguson, K., & Thompson, S. (under review, *Community Mental Health Journal*). An exploratory factor analysis of coping strategies and relationship to depression among a sample of homeless youth.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Begun, S. (in preparation). Pregnancy, parenting, and family planning among homeless youth: A review of challenges and opportunities.

Begun, S., Bender, K. A., Brown, S., Barman-Adhikari, A., Thompson, S., & Ferguson, K. (in preparation). Social connectedness, self-efficacy, and mental health outcomes among homeless youth: Prioritizing approaches to service provision in a time of limited agency resources.

Begun, S., & Kattari, S. K. (in preparation). Conforming for survival: Associations between transgender visual conformity/passing and homelessness experiences.

Barman-Adhikari, A., Rice, E., & **Begun, S.** (in preparation). Social network norms and HIV related drug use behaviors among homeless youth.

Bender, K. A., Brown, S., **Begun, S.**, Thompson, S. J., & Ferguson, K. (in preparation). Coping styles associated with victimization profiles among homeless youth.

Bender, K. A., Durbahn, R., **Begun, S.**, Brown, S., Thompson, S. J., & Ferguson, K. (in preparation). Coping on my own: Homeless youths' hesitance to seek help and strategies for coping independently.

Brown, S. M., Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, Ferguson, K., & Thompson, S. J. (in preparation). Direct and indirect indicators of street victimization among homeless youth.

Kattari, S. K., & **Begun, S.** (in preparation). On the margins of the marginalized: Exploring sex work and homelessness among transgender/gender-non-conforming individuals.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Begun, S. (2012). *Smoking during pregnancy*. Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures.

Begun, S. (2012). Improving babies' health and reducing Medicaid costs. *National Conference of State Legislatures LegisBrief, 20(21)*. Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Begun, S. (2015, April). *The elephant in the room: An exploration of family planning topics in social work*. Paper to be presented at the Western Social Science Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR. [presenting author]

Begun, S. (2015, January). *Awkward silences: A qualitative exploration of family planning topics in social work*. Poster to be presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO. [presenting author]

Begun, S. (2015, January). *Examining relationships between ambivalent sexism and anti-choice attitudes: Implications for reproductive rights and policy*. Poster to be presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO. [presenting author]

Begun, S., Bender, K. A., Brown, S., Thompson, S., & Ferguson, K. (2015, January). *Self-efficacy versus social connectedness among homeless youth: Prioritizing approaches to service provision in a time of limited agency resources*. Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. [presenting author]

Begun, S., & Kattari, S. (2015, January). *Conforming for survival: Associations between transgender visual conformity/passing and homelessness experiences*. Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. [co-presenting author]

Brown, S., Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.,** Ferguson, K., & Thompson, S. (2015, January). *Direct and indirect indicators of street victimization among homeless youth*. Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Kattari, S., & **Begun, S.** (2015, January). *On the margins of the marginalized: Exploring sex work and homelessness among transgender/gender-non-conforming individuals*. Poster presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. [co-presenting author]

- Bender, K. A., Haffejee, B., Schau, N., Hester, B., Hathaway, J., **Begun, S.**, & DePrince, A. (2015, January). *Mindfulness intervention with homeless youth*. Paper presentation in symposium: *Interventions for homeless young adults: Outcomes and implications* (Dr. Sanna Thompson, Moderator). Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A., Haffejee, B., Schau, N., & Hathaway, J. (2014, November). *Improving risk detection among homeless youth: Effects of a randomized trial*. Paper presentation, American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. [presenting author]
- Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A., Haffejee, B., Schau, N., & Hathaway, J. (2014, November). *Tracking homeless youth longitudinally: The role of technology*. Poster presentation, American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. [presenting author]
- Begun, S.** (2014, October). *Awkward silences: A qualitative exploration of family planning topics in social work*. Poster presentation, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Tampa, FL. [presenting author]
- Lechuga Peña, S., Brown, S. M., **Begun, S.**, & Klawetter, S. (2014, October). *Examining social work students' experiences and understanding of positionality in field settings*. Paper presentation, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Tampa, FL. [co-presenting author]
- Schau, N., **Begun, S.**, Haffejee, B., Bender, K. A., & Hathaway, J. (2014, October). *Navigating new ethical territories in research using technology and social media*. Paper presentation, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Tampa, FL. [co-presenting author]
- Begun, S.** (2014, October). *Examining relationships between ambivalent sexism and anti-choice attitudes: Implications for reproductive rights and policy*. Poster presentation, North American Forum on Family Planning, Miami, FL. Poster abstract published in *Contraception*, 90(3), 301-302. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2014.05.034 [presenting author]
- Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.**, DePrince, A., & Haffejee, B. (2014, May). *Enhancing risk detection among homeless youth: Effects of a randomized trial*. Paper presentation, Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. [presenting author]
- Begun, S.** (2014, May). *Examining ambivalent sexism's relationship to abortion attitudes: Implications for social work practice, research, and policy advocacy*. Paper presentation, 4th International Conference on Sociology and Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. [presenting author]
- Begun, S.** (2014, May). *Reducing unintended pregnancies among homeless youth: Exploring and advocating for evidence-based policies and interventions*. Paper presentation, 4th International Conference on Sociology and Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. [presenting author]

Begun, S. (2014, April). *Young, homeless, and pregnant: An application of ambivalent sexism theory to the issue of unintended pregnancies among homeless youth.* Paper presentation, Western Social Science Association Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM. [presenting author]

Begun, S., & Walls, N. E. (2014, January). *Grappling with the complexities of beliefs about women and abortion: Does ambivalent sexism relate to abortion attitudes?* Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX. [presenting author]

Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.,** Haffejee, B., Kaufmann, S., Matthews, A., & DePrince, A. (2014, January). *Effects of a randomized clinical trial to enhance risk detection among homeless youth.* Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX. [co-presenting author]

Bender, K. A., **Begun, S.,** Haffejee, B., Matthews, A., Kaufmann, S., & DePrince, A. (2014, January). *Utilizing technology for longitudinal data collection with homeless youth.* Paper presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX. [co-presenting author]

Begun, S. (2013, October). *More than a women's issue: Reframing social work classroom conversations about abortion.* Poster presentation, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX. [presenting author]

Begun, S., Brown, S. M., Klawetter, S., Lechuga Peña, S., & Whitfield, D. (2013, August). *Isn't it ironic? Grappling with higher education's perpetuation of privilege, power, and oppression differentials.* Research-based interactive workshop presentation, Pedagogy of Privilege Conference, Denver, CO. [co-presenting author]

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS: INVITED

Bender, K. A., & **Begun, S.** (2015, February). *Trauma and risk detection among homeless youth.* Coping with change in higher education: The growing strategic role of community engaged scholarship, University of Denver Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning symposium, Denver, CO.

Rice, E., Bender, K. A., Pollio, D., & **Begun, S.** (2014, February). *Reaching and engaging homeless youth through social media.* National Alliance to End Homelessness: National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness, New Orleans, LA.

Bender, K. A., & **Begun, S.** (2013, December). *Project SAFE: Safety awareness for empowerment.* Invited to share research results from longitudinal randomized clinical trial assessing risk detection among homeless youth, Urban Peak Homeless Youth Shelter, Denver, CO. *Principal Investigator: Kimberly A. Bender, PhD.*

Begun, S. (2013, September). *Using research to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for homeless youth.* Invited to share research findings and future trajectories, Colorado Youth Matter, Denver, CO.

National Conference of State Legislatures. (2011, November). *Using limited health dollars wisely: What states can do to create the health system they want*. Served as state team co-facilitator/presenter at maternal-child health conference hosted by National Conference of State Legislatures and partnering maternal-child health organizations, Atlanta, GA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project SAFE, Denver, CO

Doctoral Student Graduate Research Assistant, 2012-present

Principal Investigator: Kimberly A. Bender, PhD

- Coordinate and supervise research team engaged in grant-funded longitudinal intervention pilot study of homeless youth (a randomized clinical trial with aims of improving risk detection through mindfulness) in Denver-based homeless youth shelter
- Recruited study participants and executed longitudinal data collection tasks
- Data cleaning and analysis
- Constructed and maintained web-based research surveys and instrumentation
- Prepare peer-reviewed manuscripts and conference abstracts and presentations
- Incorporate pilot study results into subsequent grant proposals and future research project conceptualizations

Reproductive and Sexual Health Topics in Social Work (exploratory quantitative nationwide survey of social work students)

Principal Investigator, 2014-present

Family Planning Topics in Marriage and Family Therapy Social Work (exploratory qualitative investigation)

Principal Investigator, 2013-present

Women's Bean Project, Denver, CO

MSW Student Researcher, 2010-2011

Project: Women's Bean Project Graduate Narratives

- Conducted qualitative interviews of 25 2010-2011 Women's Bean Project program graduates
- Interpreted findings for organization and transcribed results for organizational use in areas of program evaluation, development, and marketing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Social Work Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice, University of Denver

Adjunct Professor, Winter 2015

- Co-revised course as part of GSSW's updated curriculum
- Participated in course-planning meetings and trainings with appointed and adjunct faculty
- Instruction of 25 students, including grading and individual consultation regarding course content, assignments, and projects

Social Work Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice [online], University of Denver
Adjunct Professor, Winter 2015

- Co-developed course as part of GSSW's updated curriculum
- Instruction of 15 students, including grading and individual consultation regarding course content, assignments, and projects

Community and Positive Youth Development, University of Denver
Teaching Practicum with Dr. Yolanda Anyon, Spring 2014

- Participated in course-planning meetings (new course introduced as part of DU GSSW's MSW updated curriculum)
- Co-instruction of course, grading, and individual consultation with students regarding course content, assignments, and projects

Social Policy, Advocacy, and Practice, University of Denver
Teaching Assistant to Jae McQueen, LCSW, MSW, Winter 2014-Fall 2015

- Participated in faculty committee course-planning meetings (course was redesigned as part of DU GSSW's MSW updated curriculum)
- Identified and evaluated additional course content, including media and online materials, for use in further online course iterations
- Developed faculty and student evaluation forms to evaluate effectiveness of course
- Continue to pilot and develop online version of course (using Canvas) along with assistance from DU Instructional Design team
- Completed Quality Matters™ training program for online course design

Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice, University of Denver
Teaching Practicum with Dr. John Kayser, Fall 2013

- Participated in faculty committee course-planning meetings (course was redesigned as part of DU GSSW's MSW updated curriculum)
- Co-instruction of course, grading, and individual consultation with students regarding course content, assignments, and projects

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Field Supervisor, University of Denver

MSW Field Supervisor to Andrea Martin, MSW Candidate, 2014-2015

- Provide field-based mentoring, instruction, and evaluative support to MSW Candidate placed at Civic Canopy, a community-based partnership organization that specializes in capacity-building, civic networking, place-based initiatives, and PYD-oriented childhood- and youth-based initiatives

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver, CO

Policy Analyst Intern, 2011-2012 (Concentration-Year Practicum for MSW Program)

- Analyzed public policy for NCSL Health Program; specialized in reproductive and maternal-child health policy issues
- Tracked legislation, drafted issue briefs, and responded to reproductive and maternal-child health health policy information requests from legislators, legislative staff, and community members

- Contributed to NCSL newsletters, magazine articles, researched and wrote policy *LegisBriefs*, updated health policy issue websites, and designed policy issue postcards
- Assisted with legislator conference planning and facilitation
- Grant writing

Women's Bean Project, Denver, CO

Community Practice Intern, 2010-2011 (Foundation-Year Practicum for MSW Program)

- Development, fundraising, and program evaluation for the organization, which is a social enterprise that helps chronically unemployed women reach self-sufficiency through job training, life skills, and empowerment programming
- Served as job coach mentor for four program participants
- Volunteer recruitment and coordination
- Grant writing

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, Denver, CO

Public Affairs Specialist and Field Organizer, 2008-2010

- Grassroots recruitment and mobilization of reproductive health and rights activists
- Planned and facilitated community events, lobby days, policy-issue phone banks, election canvassing, and public health messaging campaigns
- Served as a planning member of the Protect Families, Protect Choice *No on 48* campaign coalition to defeat the 2008 Colorado personhood ballot initiative
- Chaired the Pikes Peak Equality Coalition, which hosted voter education events, administered candidate forums, and published ballot issue surveys
- Testified in Colorado legislative committee hearings on issues related to reproductive health and rights
- Oversaw and mentored public affairs interns
- Tracked reproductive health legislation and policies

Financial Analysis and Personnel Consulting; Denver, CO, and Greenwich, CT 2000-2007

- Strategic financial advisory of corporations, including mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, and fairness opinions
- Complex financial modeling, forecasting, and analysis
- Staffing, recruiting, and personnel consulting for financial organizations
- Hiring, training, and supervision of staff

SERVICE

Curriculum Committee, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver *MSW Student Representative, 2010-2011*

Democratic National Convention Host Committee, Denver, CO *Convention Volunteer, 2008*

- Served as judge for *Write to Lead* youth essay contest
- Assisted Planning and Credentials Committee, verified and delivered convention delegate credentials, attended all convention hall activities as volunteer

Girls Inc., Denver, CO

Teen Center Program Assistant, 2008-2011

- Taught after-school/Positive Youth Development-based enrichment classes in program for teen girls. Classes included *Job Readiness, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, College Preparation (Mi Avenida), Health and Sexuality, Women in Politics*
- Named Girls Inc. Volunteer of the Month, December 2008

UVa Madison House, Charlottesville, VA

Volunteer academic tutor in local elementary schools, 1996-2000

Perspectives on Social Work

Invited Reviewer, 2013-present

Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society, Graduate School of Social Work,
University of Denver

President, 2011-2012,

Inducted, March 2011

Society for Prevention Research

SPR Annual Meeting Abstract Review Committee, 2014-present

Women's Bean Project, Denver, CO

Development Committee, 2011-2012

- Named to organization's Development Committee after completion of MSW internship. Assist organization in strategic planning for fundraising and development goals and activities

TRAINING

Teen Center Program Assistant volunteer training (extended), Girls Inc.
Denver, CO, June 2010

Credentials volunteer training, Democratic National Convention Credentials Committee
Denver, CO, June 2008

Convention volunteer training, Democratic National Convention Host Committee
Denver, CO, July 2008

Teen Center Program Assistant volunteer training (introductory), Girls Inc.
Denver, CO, May 2008

Portuguese language proficiency, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA, May 2000

Spanish language proficiency, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA, May 1998

Madison House volunteer literacy tutor training, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA, September 1996

MEMBERSHIPS

American Public Health Association
Council on Social Work Education
Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Social Work and Research
Society of Family Planning
Western Social Science Association