

Jessica Lynn Yang

EDUCATION

University of Denver
Graduate School of Social Work
Doctor of Philosophy, June 2017 (expected)

Appalachian State University
Department of Social Work
Master of Social Work, 2011
Concentration: working with individuals and families, community and organizational practice

Appalachian State University
Department of Social Work
Bachelor of Social Work, 2009
Concentration: Child Welfare
North Carolina Child Welfare Scholar

RESEARCH INTERESTS

As a mixed methods researcher, my main substantive interest is in understanding the experiences of children in foster care and the impact of those experiences across the lifespan. Additionally, what the impact of foster care is on global identity development and the relationship to sense of self later in life.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant
University of Denver
Faculty Dr. Yolanda Anyon
September 2014-May 2015
Project: Discipline Disparities within Denver Public Schools

- Specific tasks include synthesis of quantitative data, generating reports, attending meetings with community partners, and manuscript publication. Other duties include contributing to classroom content, guest lecturing, and any and all tasks assigned by Dr. Anyon.

Denver's Village Diligent Recruitment Grant Evaluation
University of Denver
Graduate School of Social Work
Butler Institute for Families

Research Assistant, *June 2014-October 2014*

Project: Funded by Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau Grant # 90CO1037. This project was completed in contract with Denver County Department of Human Services.

Principal investigator: Michele Hanna, PhD

- Completed comprehensive data cleaning and preliminary analysis. Specifically, tasks included ensuring that all data was captured and entered correctly, managing survey responses, and creating preliminary reports regarding the quantitative outcome data.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Denver

Faculty Dr. Michele Hanna

September 2013-May 2012

Project: *From Foster Care to Adoption: The Untold Story* (Book)

- Specific duties related to this project include, completing literature reviews, drafting chapters, qualitative coding, and editing.

Appalachian State University

Department of Social Work

Graduate Research Assistant, *August 2010-May 2011*

Project: Transgender, transsexual, and gender queer individuals with a Christian upbringing: The process of resolving conflict between gender identity and faith

Principal investigator: Denise Levy, Ph.D.

- Completed comprehensive literature reviews, researched information related to the methodology and foundational portions of the manuscript, transcribed interviews, participated in the development of the model that resulted from the coded interview data and constructing portions of the completed manuscript.

Caldwell County Department of Social Services

Co-investigator/Grant writer, *September 2010-May 2011*

Project: Educational needs of children in foster care: A comparative study

Principal investigator: Wendy Pyle, MSW.

- Completed comprehensive literature reviews, assisted in design and development of the study, assisted in the analysis of the outcomes and assisted with production of the final manuscript and subsequent grant (unfunded).

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2013-2015

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, full tuition waiver & \$16,000 stipend/year

University of Denver, Office of Graduate Studies, 2013-2014

Doctoral Fellowship, \$4,500

North Carolina Child Welfare Scholar Program
BSW Child Welfare Scholar, \$12,000

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Bender, K., **Yang, J.**, Ferguson, K., & Thompson, S. (Revise and Resubmit). Street experiences and service needs of homeless youth with a history of foster care.
- Lo, J.R.** & Ortega, D. (In progress). Bureaucratic Neglect and Oppression in Child Welfare: Historical Precedent and Implications for Current Practice.
- Levy, D. L., & **Lo, J. R.** (2013). Transgender, transsexual, and gender queer individuals with a Christian upbringing: The process of resolving conflict between gender identity and faith. *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work.*

BOOKS

- Hanna, M. D., & **Yang, J.** (contracted 2015). *From Foster Care to Adoption: The Untold Story*. Chicago: Lyceum Books.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Lo, J.**, Bender, K., Thompson, S., & Ferguson, K (2015, January) *Service needs of homeless youth formerly in foster care*. Presentation given at the annual conference for the Society for Social Work Research New Orleans, LA.
- Lo, J.** (2014, October) *Narrative identity formation in child welfare: Educating future social workers*. Presentation given at the annual conference for the Council on Social Work Education Tampa, FL.
- Levy, D. L. & **Lo, J.** (2012, January). *Resolving conflict between sexual or gender identity and a Christian upbringing*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research Washington, DC.
- Lo, J.** & Yang, T. (2011, April). *Liberty and justice for all*. Presented at the biannual Hmong National Development Conference Minneapolis, MN.
- Lo, J.** (2009, April). *Hmong youth can influence public policy*. Paper presented at the biannual Hmong National Development Conference Appleton, WI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 2014-December 2014- SOWK 4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Theory and Practice, University of Denver (TA).

- This foundation course provides an overview of theoretical frameworks for understanding human behavior from a social work perspective. The course emphasizes a social work perspective and key frameworks of social work, with an emphasis on the person in the environment and systems theory as they describe diverse individual behavior in relation to social class, race and ethnicity, age, gender orientation, sexual orientation, and other multicultural backgrounds.

August 2014- December 2014-SOWK 3090: The Philosophy of Social Work, Metropolitan State University.

- This course focuses on understanding what it means to be human, ways of knowing, and understanding philosophical differences among people. This course is a required class in the BSW sequence at Metropolitan State University.

July 2014-August 2014-SOWK 4330: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Assessment in Adults.

- This course focuses on the assessment of psychological, social and biological contributors to mental health disorders in adults and the use of this assessment as a guide for treatment/clinical interventions. It examines the strengths and weaknesses of the DSM-5 classification system in terms of social work values and ethics. It examines symptoms, theories of etiology, treatment interventions and prognosis within each diagnostic category and reviews a variety of assessment tools in the context of gender, ethnicity, cultural diversity, sexual orientation and historically oppressed and/or disadvantaged populations..

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Caldwell County North Carolina Department of Social Services
Child Welfare Case Manager, *August 2012-August 2013*

- Completed case plans, monitored and evaluated for progress, worked with families to overcome barriers to success, petitioned the court for case monitoring, evaluation and custody when necessary, assisted families in finding and obtaining resources, completed referrals, participated in team case staffing and worked with the management to ensure that all cases are in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

Caldwell County North Carolina Department of Social Services
Child Welfare Investigator, *May 2011-August 2012*

- Investigated allegations of abuse and neglect, completed biopsychosocial assessments with families, contacted and interviewed collateral sources of information, provided initial referrals and services where maltreatment had occurred before transferring the

case to the case management or foster care team, petitioned the court for custody when necessary, participated in team case staffing, supervised one BSW intern and worked with the management to ensure that all cases are in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The DSM What Every Social Worker Needs to Know, Denver, CO February 2014

North Carolina LCSW Supervision, Hickory, NC, June 2011-August 2013

Child Protective Services Assessor and Investigator Training, Charlotte, NC, August 2011

Trauma Focused CBT Training, Online, November 2011

Child Protective Services Death Scene Investigation Training, Lenoir, NC December 2011

Legal Aspects of North Carolina Child Welfare, Hickory, NC, February 2012

Introduction to Child Sexual Abuse, Charlotte, NC, April 2012

Engaging Absent Fathers, Lenoir, NC June 2012

Child Protective Services Case Management Training, Charlotte, NC, September 2012

Methamphetamine, What a Social Worker Needs to Know, Lenoir, NC, March 2013.

Ethics and the Social Work Profession, Lenoir, NC, June 2013

SERVICE

- Off Site Field Supervisor, Metropolitan State University, Denver, Colorado August 2014-May 2015

Provides supervision to a foundation year MSW student for the duration of her field placement. Supervision topics include but are not limited to ethics and professional development, applied theory, professional identity, and what it means to be a social worker.

- Leadership Development Team Member, Caldwell County Department of Social Services, Lenoir North Carolina- August 2011-2013

Worked with other agency staff to develop a curriculum of speakers, workshops and various other activities to promote personal and professional development.

- Therapeutic Team Volunteer, Robin's Nest Child Advocacy Center, Lenoir North

Carolina- October 2011 through June 2012

Co-leader and developer of a support group for parents whose children were victims of sexual abuse. The purpose of the group was to provide information about normal sexual development in children, coping skills, ways support the child following the sexual abuse and basic protection and CBT techniques.

MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society
Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences
Society for Social Work Research