


# Ari S. Gzesh

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice** anticipated 2025  
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare

Dissertation: *“Understanding Psychosocial and Behavioral Constructs Related to PrEP Interest Among Trans-Masculine People Assigned Female at Birth.”*

Committee: *Dr. Abigail Ross (chair), Dr. Sarah Wood, Dr. Sharon Ravitch, Dr. Dana Prince*

**University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine** anticipated 2025  
Certificate in Implementation Science

**University of Pennsylvania Center for Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies** anticipated 2025  
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Study Graduate Certificate

**Columbia University of New York School of Social Work** 2019  
Master of Science in Social Work,  
Advanced Clinical Practice with specialization in Family, Youth & Children

**Bryn Mawr College** 2012  
Bachelor of Arts  
History of Art Major and English Minor, focus in Gender and Sexuality Studies, graduated with honors

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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LGBTQ+ adolescents; trauma; moral distress; identity-based support & chosen family; harm reduction; sexual exploitation/work; substance use; clinical care; queer/trans theory; system dynamics; critical mixed methods

## GRANT FUNDING & TRAINING AWARDS

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### *Research Funding*

**Understanding Psychosocial and Behavioral Constructs Related to PrEP Interest Among Trans-Masculine People Assigned Female at Birth**, funded through the Penn Mental Health AIDS Research Center (PMHARC), an NIH-funded program (P30 MH 097488). Principal Investigators: *Ari Gzesh, MSW* & Sarah Wood, MD, MSHP. Co-investigators: Stephen Bonett, PhD, MA, RN & Scott Jelinek, MD, MPH, MAEd. Total Direct Support: \$30,000.

**Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative Summer**, in partnership with the Penn Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics 2024. Total Direct Support: \$6,375.

**Leonard Davis Institute LGBTQ+ Research Proposal**, Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health & Penn Medicine Center for Evidence-Based Practice (CEP) 2023. Total Direct Support: \$6,375.

**Examining Attitudes Towards the Measurement, Collection, Storage, and Use of Data about Gender**

**Identity in Children, Adolescents, and Their Caregivers**, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Health Systems and Policy Small Grants Awards. PIs: Amy Hillier, MSW, PhD and Scott Jelinek, MD, MPH, MAEd. Co-Investigators: Jose Bauermeister, MPH, PhD; Nadia Dowshen, MD, MSHP; *Ari Gzesh, MSW*; Steven Marcus, PhD; Joseph Whelihan, MD; Sarah Wood, MD, MSHP. Total Project Support: \$20,000.

*Training Awards*

**Marymount Fellowship**, nominated by faculty at School of Social Policy & Practice, selected from applicant pool across twelve graduate schools by University of Pennsylvania faculty committee, 2022-24. Total Direct Support: \$5,000 per year.

**Leadership Education in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Training Award in System Dynamics**, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 2023. Total Direct Support: \$2,700.

**Graduate Fellowship for Teaching Excellence**, UPenn Center for Teaching & Learning, 2023-24. Total Direct Support: \$6,500 per year.

**Summer Innovation Institute on Collaborative Design & Co-Creation for Health Scholarship**, Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative and Penn Nursing. 2024. Total Direct Support: \$1,500.

**Leadership Education in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Fellowship**, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 2022-24. Total Direct Support: \$9,882 per year.

*Other Funding & Awards*

**Words of Healing for our Younger Selves**, Awarded 1st Place for 2023 Journal of Adolescent Health Intersection Contest. Total Direct Support: \$500

**Leboy-Davies Award, Honorable Mention**, University of Pennsylvania Center for Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies. Total Direct Support: \$500.

**Fulbright-Hays Seminar Through the Center for Middle Eastern Studies**, University of California Berkeley. 2016. Total Project Support: \$80,059.

**Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grant**, Facing History and Ourselves, 2017. Total Direct Support: \$2500.

**Innovation Award**, Teach for America, 2015-2016. Total Direct Support: \$10,000.

**Civic Engagement Office Praxis Grant**, Bryn Mawr College, 2012. Total Direct Support: \$5000.

**Hepburn Center Summer Funding Grant**, Bryn Mawr College, 2011. Total Direct Support: \$7000.

**CARE National Conference Ambassador**, Bryn Mawr College, 2011. Total Direct Support: \$600.

**Stories That Live Grant**, Holocaust Storytelling Fellowship, 2009-2010. Total Direct Support: \$2000.

**Center for Peace & Global Citizenship Internship Funding**, Haverford College, 2010. Total Direct Support: \$6500.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts Published & In Press*

1. **Gzesh, A. S.**, Prince, D., Jelinek, S. K., Hillier, A., Kattari, S. K., Shelton, J., & Pacey, M. S. (2024). “Death threats and despair”: A conceptual model delineating moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 9, 100867. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.100867>
2. **Gzesh, A. S.**, Jelinek, S. K., & Arrington Sanders, R. (2024). Rainbow resilience: Addressing the mental health needs of sexual- and gender-diverse youth. *Contemporary Pediatrics*, 40(02).
3. DelFerro, J., Whelihan, J., Min, J., Powell, M., DiFiore, G., **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., Schwartz, K. T. G., Davis, M., Jones, J. D., Fiks, A. G., Jenssen, B. P., & Wood, S. (2024). The role of family support in moderating mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth in primary care. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 178(9), 914-922. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.1956>
4. Kynn, J., Boyke, H., McCarthy, S., & **Gzesh, A. S.** (2024). Structural vulnerabilities and over-criminalization of LGBTQ + youth in the California justice system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 107586. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107586>
5. Jelinek, S. K., **Gzesh, A. S.**, & Whelihan, J. T., Jr (2024). Queer-affirming mentorship: a catalyst for change and a challenge to power structures. *Academic medicine: journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, 99(6), e17–e18. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.00000000000005536>
6. Grishow-Schade, L., Hillier, A., **Gzesh, A. S.**, & Thompson, M. G. (2023). Breadcrumbs for family: How gender nonconforming, non-binary, and transgender adults give and receive gender messages. *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/27703371.2023.2208046>
7. **Gzesh, A.** (2022). Queering kinship: Biopolitics, the death function, and transcendent capacity. *NEOS* 14 (2).
8. Bozak, C. & **Gzesh, A.** (2022). Teaching tool: Queering kinship: Biopolitics, the death function, and transcendent capacity. *NEOS* 14 (2).
9. Greeson, J.K.P., **Gzesh, A.S.**, Wasch, S., Jaffee, S.R, Ciluffo, K. (2022) “Just being there, like a shoulder to lean on”: Resilience and mental health among older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-022-00498-7>.
10. Nagy, A., Lyons, A., Arendt, A., **Gzesh, S.** (2022). Research socialization in participatory projects: a trans-Atlantic exchange between the US and Europe. Forschungssozialisation(en) in partizipativen Projekten: Ein transatlantischer Austausch zwischen den USA und Europa. Beitrag in „[Widersprüche](#)“, Heft 166.

### *Book Chapters and Other Publications*

1. **Gzesh, A.**, Kattari, S., Juarez, N., & Meyer, M. (2024). A (very brief) history of disability and sexuality policy. In S. Kattari (Ed) *Exploring Sexuality and Disability: A guide for human service professionals* (pp. 13–27). New York, NY: Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003308331-3.
2. **Gzesh, A.** (2023). Invited foreword. Published in *Rosine 2.0: Futures and Histories of Collective Care*. Swarthmore College Libraries.
3. **Gzesh, A. S.** (2023). Words of healing for our younger selves. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.04.020>

### *Manuscripts Under Review & In Revision*

1. **Gzesh, A.**, Nolan, N., Truel, J., Malone, S. & Adams, D. (under review). Expanding harm reduction and health equity for unstably housed people who inject drugs through implementation science: A case study of StreetMed St. Louis.
2. Jelinek, S., DelFerro, D., Whelihan, J., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (in revision). Inclusion & privacy in practice: examination of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and confidentiality concerns among LGBTQ+ adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network.
3. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (in revision). Navigating murky waters: A case report on ethical dilemmas and moral distress in communicating and documenting sexual orientation and gender identity in adolescents.
4. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Mayer, L., Hawkins, L., & Dowshen, N. (in revision). “Giving agency over their health:” A content analysis of responses to a patient and family satisfaction survey regarding gender inclusivity in a large pediatric academic center.

### *Manuscripts In Preparation*

1. **Gzesh, A.**, Kirk, S., & Ross, A. Psychosocial and behavioral constructs related to PrEP interest among trans-masculine people assigned female at birth: A scoping review.
2. Prince, D., Roberts, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Schuler, M., & Munson, M. Peer support services for sexual and gender minority youth with behavioral health needs: a scoping review.
3. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Whelihan, J., DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Arrington Sanders, R. Understanding predictors of PrEP interest among sexually active adolescents in a large primary care network.
4. **Gzesh, A.**, Prince, D., Pacey, M., & Shelton, J. From gate-keeping to safeguarding: Recommendations for navigational capacity-building in accessing gender-affirming care.
5. **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Prince, D. Resilience under fire: Leveraging group model building to delineate moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers.
6. Sanders, R., Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Dowshen, N., Wirtz, A., Mariño Clyne, & Galai, N. Disparities in HIV prevention: a study of PrEP awareness and usage in gender-minority adolescents and young adults.
7. **Gzesh, A.** Book review of *Queer Data Studies for Affilia*.
8. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., & Hughes, L. Between oath and legislation: navigating bioethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### *Invited Presentations*

1. Halem, J., **Gzesh, A.**, Flores, D., Hillier, A. & Bassett, D. (2024, March). “New perspectives on gender and sexuality in medicine and science.” Invited panelist at University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies 50th Anniversary Symposium. Philadelphia, PA.
2. **Gzesh, A.** & Jelinek, S. (2024, January). QCARE Lab: LGBTQ+ Collaborative for Advocacy, Research, and Education. Invited presentation at the National Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Conference. Virtual.
3. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, April). Intentional affirmation: public health considerations for visibility,

confidentiality, and support of LGBTQ+ youth and their families. Invited presentation to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Harrisburg, PA.

4. **Gzesh, A.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., Ciluffo, K., & Jaffee, S. (2022, May). Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and resiliency of older youth in and aged out of foster care. Invited presentation at the FC2C Statewide Network Quarterly Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
5. **Gzesh, A.**, Eskridge, S., Briere, X. (2020, October). Creating safe and affirming systems of care for LGBTQ children, youth, and families. Invited presentation at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Conference. Virtual.

#### *Peer-Reviewed Presentations*

1. **Gzesh A.** (accepted for January, 2025). Understanding psychosocial and behavioral constructs related to PrEP interest among trans-masculine people assigned female at birth. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
2. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., and Hughes, L. (accepted for January, 2025). Bioethics, biopower, and gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
3. Smith, E. K., **Gzesh, A.**, Kattari, K. S., Gartner, R.G., Harner, V., Cuneo, J. (accepted for January, 2025). Trans-affirming care: the role of social work research and practice. Roundtable at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
4. **Gzesh A.** & Jelinek SK. (October, 2024). Leveraging group model building to delineate moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Workshop at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
5. **Gzesh A.** & Jelinek SK. (accepted for October, 2024). Resilience under fire: Conceptualizing moral distress of pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Poster at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
6. Jewell, T., Roblee, C., Wolfe, A., Wille, L., Klooster, D., Sphinx, H., Villavisanis, D., Abrahams, J., **Gzesh A.**, Pacquer, MJ & Votto, J. (October, 2024). A year in review: Growth of the GLMA Health Professionals in Training Curriculum Reform Committee. Oral presentation at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
7. Jelinek, S. & **Gzesh A.** (October, 2024). Visibility vs. vulnerability: assessing comfort in discussing health information among trans/gender-diverse adolescents. Oral presentation at GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
8. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., and Hughes, L. (September 2024). Between oath and legislation: Navigating bioethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation. Oral presentation at World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Scientific Symposium. Lisbon, Portugal.
9. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DelFerro, J., Whelihan, JT., DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, AG., Jenssen, B.P., and Wood, S. (September 2024) Gender identity and privacy: assessing comfort and preferences in discussing sensitive health information among trans/gender-diverse and cisgender adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Oral presentation at World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Scientific Symposium. Lisbon, Portugal.
10. Jelinek, S., DelFerro, D., Whelihan, J., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (May, 2024). Examining attitudes towards the collection, storage, and use of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data among adolescents and their caregivers. Oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies Conference. Toronto, Canada.

11. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (May, 2024). Inclusion & privacy in practice: examination of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and confidentiality concerns among LGBTQ+ adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies Conference. Toronto, Canada.
12. **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Prince, D. (2024, April). "Death threats and despair" A conceptual model delineating moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Oral presentation at the Society for Research on Adolescents Annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
13. **Gzesh, A.**, Pacey, M., Kattari, S., Shelton, J., Prince, D., & Hillier, A. (2024, January). "I had to fight for this!" Implications for youth, caregivers, and providers amidst attacks on gender-affirming care. Roundtable facilitated at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
14. Prince, D., Roberts, S., **Gzesh, A.**, & Tyson, C. (2024, January). Peer support interventions for sexual and gender minority youth with behavioral health needs: A scoping review. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
15. **Gzesh, A.** (2024, January). "Transcendent Capacity": a strengths-based conceptual framework celebrating trans resistance and resilience. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
16. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Hawkins, L., Dowshen, N. (2023, November). "Giving agency over their health:" a content analysis of responses to a patient and family satisfaction survey regarding gender inclusivity in a large pediatric academic center. Oral presentation at USPATH Scientific Symposium on Transgender Health. Denver, Colorado.
17. Whelihan, J., Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, October). Do say gay: Talking with patients and families about sexual orientation and gender identity. Poster presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference. Washington, DC.
18. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Whelihan, J., Delferro, J. (2023, September). A step towards inclusion: assessing gender pronoun documentation during adolescent primary care visits. Poster presented at GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Virtual.
19. **Gzesh, A.** (2023, June). Who's your daddy? The need for queer elders. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
20. Grishow-Schade, L., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, June). Dropping breadcrumbs for family: A phenomenological study of GNBT young adults. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
21. Jelinek, S., Whelihan, J., Delferro, J., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, May). Respect and visibility: improving the collection and documentation of gender pronouns during adolescent well visits. Poster presented at the Quality and Safety Symposium at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA.
22. **Gzesh, A.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., & Jaffee, S. (2023, January). "Just being there, like a shoulder to lean on:" Resiliency and mental health among older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
23. **Gzesh, A.** (2022, June). Hate the sinner, love the sin: Discourse analysis in sex work and social work. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
24. **Gzesh, A.** (2018, June). The Culture Keepers: YPAR, restorative justice, and Community Cultural Wealth. Oral presentation at the Leadership Public Schools Equity Symposium. Oakland, CA.
25. **Gzesh, A.** (2017, October). Literature of liminality: displacement, diaspora, and cultural dialogue. Oral presentation at the Fulbright-Hays Summit at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of California. Berkeley, CA.
26. **Gzesh, A.** (2017, June). Project Hearts Desire: Allied exploration for youth experiencing belonging uncertainty in schools. Oral presentation at the Leadership Public Schools Equity Symposium. Oakland, CA.

27. **Gzesh, A.** (2016, June). iLearn: Collective feedback tool for equitable engagement. Innovation Award Panel, at the Teach for America Bay Area EdTech Summit. San Francisco, CA.
28. **Gzesh, A.** (2016, March). Trauma transformed: School sites as conduits for healing, empowerment, and social cohesion. Oral presentation at the Comparative and International Education Society 60th Summit. Vancouver, Canada.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

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### **Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Fellow, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia** *2022 – 2024*

- Accepted into competitive federally funded interdisciplinary training program encompassing core competencies of medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Integrated bio-behavioral, bio-psychological and social determinants concepts through public health and policy frameworks, explicit focus on health disparities and equity; co-authored peer-reviewed proposals and publications
- Developed, enhanced, and improved evidence-based, patient-centered, family-involved, culturally responsive, community-based care plans and practices for adolescents with specialized needs
- Created Individualized Training Plan and Leadership Project in collaboration with attending physicians and research scientists at the Gender Clinic, Adolescent Initiative, Center for AIDS Research, Adolescent Specialty Clinic

### **Graduate Fellow in Teaching Excellence, UPenn Center for Teaching & Learning** *2023 – 2024*

- Nominated by department for collaborative fellowship encompassing twelve UPenn graduate schools
- Facilitated nine monthly intra and inter-discipline teaching workshops on inclusive and equitable didactic approaches
- Conducted >10 teaching consultations and observations of Penn graduate and postdoc students

### **Fellow, SexGen Lab, UPenn School of Social Policy & Practice** *2023 – present*

- Developed research tools to better capture mechanisms of gender and sexuality inequities to inform equity efforts, including Reconceptualizing Gender and Health Project
- Informed dissemination and translation of research to effectively communicate expertise to various audiences, including clinical, policy, and intellectual communities

### **Associate Fellow, UPenn Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics** *2022 – present*

- Spent >75 hours per year related to LDI’s mission through collaboration, participation, and community engagement
- Attended policy seminars and conferences, Perelman School of Medicine health services workshops

## **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH & PROGRAM EVALUATION EXPERIENCE**

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### **Co-Founder, Q+CARE: LGBTQ+ Collaborative for Advocacy, Research, and Education** *2024 – present*

- Conduct pioneering mixed methods research at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) that promotes well being of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults
- Leverage health informatics and implementation science to promote equity and access to gender-affirming care
- Partner with CHOP Adolescent Medicine attending physicians and fellows, mentor residents and medical students
- Discern best practices to balance visibility and confidentiality of sexual orientation and gender identity information, disseminate findings through crafting clinical decision-making tools, pathways, and electronic medical records

**Research Assistant, Center for Guaranteed Income Research, UPenn** *Philadelphia, PA 2022 – present*

- Assist with qualitative and quantitative data collection (ethnography, oral history), qualitative analysis, and co-authorship of peer reviewed manuscripts on asset building, cash-transfers, and economic justice and mobility
- Co-author interview guide for West Hollywood Pilot for Guaranteed Income (low-income LGBTQ+ older adults)

**Project Evaluator, Rosine 2.0** *Swarthmore, PA 2022 - 2023*

- Wrote invited foreword for book publication; served on advisory council for participatory exhibition
- Evaluated extent to which the final project aligns with objectives of exploring how harm reduction and mutual aid seek to reduce stigma and increase community health and social cohesion in marginalized communities
- Co-authored Institutional Review Board application; assisted in community-based participatory action research project on harm reduction modalities

**Student Intern, Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice, and Research** *Philadelphia, PA 2021 – 2022*

- Co-authored research reports, academic conference presentations, and peer-reviewed journal articles to disseminate topical findings pertaining to child welfare
- Participated in monthly interdisciplinary forum exploring abolitionist movement in child welfare

**Program Manager and Clinician, Larkin Street Youth Services** *San Francisco, CA 2020 – 2021*

- Evaluated organizational practices for serving LGBTQ+ youth across various housing sites, focusing on comparison of two engagement centers; utilized cluster analysis from intakes and youth feedback, conducted focus group with Youth Advisory Board, and presented findings and recommendations to Core Leadership
- Authored Behavioral Health reference for therapists and case managers, guiding best practices for non-pathologizing and liberatory documentation; integrated clinical imperatives while maintaining anti-racist framework
- Co-crafted staff survey in service of Strategic Plan, incorporating tenets of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Scholar, Fulbright-Hays, UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies** *Morocco, Summer 2017*

- Conducted socio-cultural ethnographic field research on impact of Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab Spring on inter-communal and minority-majority relations, utilizing material culture and sacred objects as tools for storytelling
- Developed programming with Moroccan counterparts, focused on cultural competence and narrative healing

**WASC Accreditation Project Lead, Leadership Public Schools** *San Jose & Hayward, CA 2013 – 2018*

- Pioneered instructional/assessment modalities with Gooru & Exit Ticket vis-à-vis idea formation and beta-testing
- Served as a member of Solidarity Advisory Council and adapted research-driven socio-emotional best practices to address the impact of racism on educational experience of students of color; implemented Leaders of Equity tools for planning and action, in coalition with FREE (Fellowship for Race and Equity in Education)
- Advised school action plan; gave key feedback on program elements as member of Instructional Leadership Team
- Utilized investigative process with key stakeholders (students, alumni, faculty, staff, Board of Directors, community partners); achieved the maximal 5-year accreditation granted at both school sites



## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Behavioral Health Clinician, Larkin Street Youth Services**

*San Francisco, CA 2020 – 2021*

- Performed on-site behavioral health screening, clinical assessments, crisis intervention and support services; conducted street-level outreach and harm reduction interventions for homeless youth
- Acted as Program Manager during on-call rotation for nine transitional housing programs and three shelters
- Crafted community-based photo narrative entitled “Elegy for My Inner Child” which centered the experiences of transitional age LGBTQ+ youth, addressing the impact of developmental trauma through narrative therapy, using ‘testimonios’ and ethnography to showcase individual and collective healing within the community

### **Mental Health Therapist, Westcoast Children’s Clinic**

*Oakland, CA 2019 – 2020*

- Conducted community-based, trauma-informed psychotherapy, crisis intervention and stabilization to assess cognitive, emotional, and social functioning and needs for sexually exploited youth
- Provided mental health screening/assessment as children entered into or changed placement within the child welfare system

### **Intern, Oakland Unified School District**

*Oakland, CA 2018 – 2019*

- Provided counseling at Title I public elementary and high schools for children and families struggling with histories of trauma, forced migration, incarceration, housing instability, substance abuse, and domestic and community violence
- De-escalated student dysregulation through behavioral/therapeutic interventions in counseling-enriched Special Day Class for children with ADD/ADHD, ODD, emotional disturbance, and autism

### **Intern, Leadership Public Schools**

*Hayward, CA 2017 – 2018*

- Advocated for AB540 (undocumented) students on the “Dream Team” and fostered coalitional agency
- Designed and implemented “Project Hearts Desire,” a project pairing mentors with youth who lacked an identified caring adult for allied exploration of a mutual interest, modeled after CARE intervention
- Developed and spearheaded “Culture Keepers,” a Youth Participatory Action Research mental health initiative training student first-responders to address conflict utilizing peer-led restorative practices

### **Youth Advocate and Mentor, Windows for Peace NGO**

*Tel Aviv, Israel 2011*

- Designed and implemented project-based expressive arts healing for Israeli, Arab-Israeli, and Palestinian youth
- Empowered and educated through new media cultural programs designed to break down stereotypes

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

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### **Executive Board, LGBTQ Caucus of Students & Faculty in Social Work**

*2024 – present*

- Elected Events Coordinator (two year term)
- Coordinate quarterly membership events, including job market panel, networking, journal clubs, conference events

### **Sub-committee Lead, GLMA Providers-in-Training Curricular Reform Committee**

*2023 – present*

- Lead for “new ideas” subcommittee of GLMA Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality, project focused on collecting/storing/displaying sexual orientation and gender identity information in electronic medical records
- Assess the state of LGBTQ+ curricular inclusion across various healthcare disciplines
- Create a centralized resource for students seeking to create curricular change in their own institutions, including content and skill building resources

- Undergraduate Research Mentor, Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics** *2023 – present*
- Mentored multiple undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in health equity research
  - Procured funding for students through Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative

- Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer, Various Academic Journals** *2023 – present*
- Provide timely and thorough feedback on manuscripts under review for publication in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Affilia*, *Transgender Health*, and *Journal of Adolescent Health*

- Secretary of the Board of Directors, Pacific Center** *2020 – 2021*
- Identified strategic priorities to align with mission and purpose as third-oldest LGBTQ+ center in the US
  - Contributed to national searches for executive leadership positions; provided direct support to interim leaders
  - Facilitated Town Halls and listening tours; served as liaison between Board and clinical staff
  - Initiated organizational assessment to infuse Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in systemic and clinical practices

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Graduate Fellow in Teaching Excellence, UPenn Center for Teaching & Learning** *2023 – 2024*
- Nominated by department for collaborative fellowship encompassing twelve UPenn graduate schools
  - Facilitated nine monthly intra and inter-discipline teaching workshops on inclusive and equitable didactic approaches
  - Conducted >10 teaching consultations and observations of Penn graduate and postdoc students

- Invited Lecturer, Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia**  
*2023 – present*
- Case Conference: Housing instability amongst trans and gender-diverse adolescents and young adults
  - Lecture: Commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents and young adults
  - Lecture: System dynamics and implications for implementation science

- Teaching Assistant, UPenn Graduate School of Education** *Fall 2023*
- Co-taught Participatory Educational Research in Global Perspective: Theory and Practice
  - Mentored Masters-level students engaging in youth participatory action research

- Teaching Assistant, UPenn School of Social Policy and Practice** *Spring 2023*
- Co-constructed syllabus for SWRK 701: Health and Mental Health Policy, including delineating key concepts and skills, and application of course objectives through written and oral discussions
  - Facilitated small group interactive activities, provided feedback on completed assignments, crafted rubrics in accordance with demonstration of proficiency for Masters-level students

- Teaching Assistant, UPenn School of Nursing** *Spring 2023*
- Co-taught NURS 3420/5420: The Health of Sexual and Gender Diverse Individuals and Populations Across the Lifespan
  - Provided support for primary instructor using structured, active, in-person pedagogical approaches

- Invited Guest Lecturer, Various Graduate-level Courses** *Fall 2022 - present*
- HBSS 4113 Human Sexuality Education, Columbia University, 2024
  - SASS 500 Special Topics LGBTQIA2S+ Health & Wellbeing, Case Western Reserve, 2024
  - SWRK 803 History and Philosophy of Social Welfare, University of Pennsylvania, 2022-24
  - EDUC 7464 Advanced Qualitative and Case Study Research, University of Pennsylvania, 2024
  - EDUC 7460 Qualitative Research: Concepts, Methods, and Design, University of Pennsylvania, 2023
  - PUBH 5700 Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Adolescent and Young Adult Health, 2023-24
  - SWRK 7470 Social Policy and the LGBTQ Community, University of Pennsylvania, 2023

- NURS 3420/5420 The Health of Sexual and Gender Diverse Individuals and Populations Across the Lifespan, University of Pennsylvania, 2023

### *Related Teaching Experience*

#### **Educational Consultant, Scholar Co**

*San Francisco, CA 2017 – present*

- Advise youth and families on all aspects of college access and narrative-building
- Utilize reflective practices to enhance students’ competitiveness, support their educational/vocational goals, and help them develop executive functioning skills and practical strategies for purposeful learning

#### **English Teacher, Course Facilitator: Leadership Public Schools**

*San Jose & Hayward, CA 2013 – 2018*

- Taught English in Title I high school serving 60% free or reduced lunch, 74% English Language Learners, 85% first generation, 9% undocumented students
- Achieved “Accomplished Teacher” designation through rigorous application process with portfolio review

#### **Volunteer Humanities Instructor, San Quentin Prison**

*Marin, CA 2016 - 2018*

- Through the Prison University Project, provided student-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally-responsive education in humanities for incarcerated men at San Quentin Prison

#### **Bay Area Regional Facilitator, Girls Leadership Institute**

*Bay Area, CA 2014 - 2016*

- Conducted weekly workshops for elementary-aged girls and their guardians on assertive self-expression, social-emotional intelligence, and leadership capabilities using theater-based Freirian model of kinesthetic learning

#### **English Teacher, San Jose Unified School District**

*San Jose, CA 2012 - 2013*

- Taught English Language Arts and English Intervention classes to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade system-involved students who had been expelled from public schooling
- Differentiated instruction for students with special needs, including speech impairment, ADD/ADHD, ODD, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, and autism (approximately 68% of students had 504 plans or IEPs)

#### **Lead Facilitator and Grant-Writer, BuildaBridge International**

*Philadelphia, PA, 2010-2012*

- Educated youth in transitional housing, using hope-infused, child-centered, trauma-informed arts-based model
- Secured continued \$75,000 grant from the Philadelphia School District

#### **Co-Founder & Teacher, Tiger Pass School, Asian University for Women**

*Chittagong, Bangladesh 2010*

- Served 90 students (5-15 years of age) located in an impoverished "slum"
- Instructed >120 Access Academy students during their pre-university bridge program
- Designed three tiers of skill groupings; developed and launched curriculum and assessment metrics; trained university students to be teachers by utilizing a hierarchical structure modeled after BRAC schools

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Counsel on Social Work Education
- National Association of Social Workers
- Society for Social Work and Research
- Sexuality, Relationships, Gender Research Collective
- Gay & Lesbian Medical Association: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health
- Leadership Education in Adolescent Health
- Harvard SOGIE Health Equity Research Collaborative

## **CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING**

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- Cleared Secondary English Teaching Credential, State of California
- Red Cross Disaster Relief Mental Health First Responder
- American Teenager Project Ambassador
- Mind-Body Awareness Project Facilitator
- National Suicide Hotline Certified Counselor
- CSE-IT (Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool) Trainer
- Social Worker #NPI 1326604844, State of California