UNIVERSITY *of* **MARYLAND**
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2023-2024
PHD CANDIDATES
AND RECENT GRADUATES

Fall 2023

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

I am very pleased to introduce to you the University of Maryland School of Social Work PhD candidates and recent graduates. These scholars are incredibly passionate about social justice research. Their dedication to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential for our field.

The PhD program at the University of Maryland School of Social Work provides rigorous training in research design and methods. Students complete coursework in both qualitative and quantitative methodology as well as intervention research. A formal course in social work teaching is also offered, with opportunities to serve as a teaching assistant or to teach independently within our BSW or MSW programs. Our students are well-equipped to make a positive impact on the profession through their research, teaching, and service.

I encourage you to explore this booklet and become acquainted with these scholars to learn more about their accomplishments and what they could offer to your program. Feel free to reach out to them directly or contact the PhD program if we can help facilitate a connection.

Thanks for your interest in the PhD program at the University of Maryland School of Social Work!

Bethany Lee, PhD, MSW
Director of the PhD Program

Lauren Pryce McCarthy, PhD, MSW

Lauren McCarthy is a postdoctoral fellow at Children's Hospital Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colo., who earned her PhD in 2022 from the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW).

EDUCATION

PhD, University of Maryland School of Social Work
MSW, School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania
BA, Psychology, Dickinson College

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

McCarthy successfully defended her dissertation, "Exploring Child Welfare Placement Pathways to Residential Treatment Settings: A Three Paper Dissertation," in 2022. In her postdoctoral fellowship, she is responsible for developing research study proposals in collaboration with other faculty and staff and writing individual grants to support future research projects, among other tasks.

McCarthy has co-authored numerous articles that have been published in peer-reviewed journals and has given presentations at multiple conferences around the country.

She won three awards during her time at UMSSW — the Dean's Teaching Award and the Donna Harrington Fellowship Award in 2020, and the Dissertation Award in 2021. McCarthy also was nominated in 2021 for the Student Award for Leadership and Service from the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

McCarthy has been part of research teams as a postdoctoral fellow, during her time with UMSSW under several prominent professors, and while she was an undergraduate at Dickinson.

Her research interests lie in ensuring equitable access to quality mental health care for all children and their families to reduce the need for residential treatment for youth. She is particularly interested in the intersection of the child welfare and mental health service systems.

TEACHING INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

McCarthy's teaching interests include foundation practice with individuals and families, advanced clinical practice, research methods, structural oppression, and social work practice. She has been an adjunct faculty member at UMSSW, University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work, and Boise State University School of Social Work, was a teaching assistant at UMSSW and Dickinson, and a guest lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and the University of South Carolina School of Social Work.

PRACTICE INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

McCarthy worked for seven years as an in-home family therapist and case manager for youth in Philadelphia. She is a licensed clinical social worker in Pennsylvania, certified in eco-systemic structural family therapy, and trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. She also worked as an intern at Durand Academy in Woodbury, N.J., and the Natale Crisis Residential Program in Media, Pa., providing counseling at both sites.

Learn more ⤴

Danielle R. Phillips, MSW, LSW

Danielle Phillips is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) who is interested in improving health equity among historically marginalized and diverse populations by using intersectional and strengths-based approaches to policy analysis and intervention development. She is expected to defend her dissertation in fall 2023.

EDUCATION

MSW, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2017
BS, Psychology, University of Georgia, 2007

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Phillips was awarded the UMSSW Dean's Teaching Award in fall 2021 for exemplary independent teaching in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program. She received UMSSW's 2022 Susan J. Zuravin PhD Scholarship for her research on child welfare and transgender and gender diverse youth and young adults. Phillips was selected to be part of the 2020-2022 cohort of the International Student Training Network through the International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience. She has co-authored eight papers that have been published in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Child and Family Studies, Qualitative Health Research*, and *Children and Youth Services Review.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Currently, Danielle is a graduate research assistant with Iris Cardenas, PhD, and Corey Shdaimah, PhD, where her work is focused on improving experiences and outcomes among families involved in justice systems. Danielle recently completed work as a graduate research assistant with Dr. Jill Farrell at The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, focused on improving experiences and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Aparicio, Danielle has been a research assistant with the Community THRIVES Lab since 2016, focusing on adolescent sexual health, teen pregnancy, and parenting. In 2020, Danielle joined Dr. Jessica Fish's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Health Lab as a research assistant for the LGBTQ Health Programs Project. Both the Community THRIVES Lab and the SOGI Health Lab are located at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Danielle was also selected for the 2020 – 2022 cohort of the International Student Training Network (ISTN) through the International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR), a research partnership between universities and community organizations across Canada, the US, the UK, Mexico, and Australia.

TEACHING INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Phillips is well-equipped for independent teaching in the classroom and online. She co-developed and co-taught Social Work with Formerly Incarcerated Individuals: Social Work's Grand Challenge of Smart Decarceration with Caroline Long, PhD, LCSW-C, associate professor, and independently taught Social Work Practice with Individuals, a foundation course for MSW students.

PRACTICE INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Before pursuing her PhD, Phillips worked as a licensed social worker in Hawaii, where she is still actively licensed. She served as director of social services at Hale Makua Health Services and worked as a substance abuse counselor at the only federally qualified health center on the island of Maui.

Learn more ⤴

Yao Wang, MSW

Yao Wang is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) who is interested in child welfare. She is expected to defend her dissertation in spring 2024.

EDUCATION

MSW, Ohio State University, 2017

BA, Japanese Language, Shanghai International Studies University, 2015

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During her time in UMSSW's PhD program, Yao Wang has co-authored nine manuscripts that have been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, and *Research on Social Work Practice*. She has also co-authored several reports, and, as of fall 2023, had five additional manuscripts under review.

In 2019, Wang received UMSSW's Jeongseok Kong & Sunmi Jin Memorial PhD Endowment Scholarship ($2,000) and in 2022 received the Grand Challenges for Social Work Dissertation Award ($4,000).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Wang has presented her research at multiple national conferences and to local community groups. She works with associate professors Haksoon Ahn, PhD, MSW, MA, and Terry Shaw, PhD, MSW, MPH, on analyzing state administrative child welfare data to examine the transition process of older youth and young adults who age out of care in Maryland.

Wang is interested in the emerging adulthood outcomes and social support of older youth and young adults who transition out of the child welfare system. In her dissertation, she is using mixed methods to explore how to support the needs and empower young adults involved in care to achieve their potential as their peers do.

TEACHING INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Wang completed a graduate teaching assistantship to gain focused skill development on teaching from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and taught as an adjunct instructor for Social Work Research (hybrid) for MSW students in spring 2022. She is working with professor Jennifer Swanberg, PhD, MMHS, on developing the social work research course for the online MSW program at UMSSW.

PRACTICE INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

During her MSW field placement, Wang interned at a substance recovery center for one year. After she received her master's degree, Wang was a family support social worker at the Asian American Community Center in Columbus, Ohio, for a half-year. Both practice experience and personal experience inform her research interests in the well-being of older youth and young adults with child welfare history.

Since 2021, Wang has been assisting with the review of local jurisdictions in Children and Family Services Reviews in Maryland. She has been actively engaged with various stakeholders involved in the child welfare system, including children and family, front-line workers, and other professionals.

Learn more ⤴