



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
School of Social Work



PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

**ACHIEVING OUR HIGHEST-EVER LEVEL OF
PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION AT SSWR**



Dean Kirk Foster PhD, MSW, MDiv | SSWR President-Elect

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work is proud to be represented by Dean Kirk Foster as President-Elect of the Society for Social Work and Research. Known for his commitment to service, excellence in research and education, and steadfast professionalism, Dean Foster exemplifies the values of the social work profession. We look forward to the leadership he will provide alongside the SSWR Board of Directors as they advance critical conversations, drive meaningful change, and seek solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing diverse populations today.

16 FRIDAY ROUND TABLES

Independence
BR A, ML 4
9:45AM-11:15AM

Is Decolonizing Social Work a Lost Cause? Asking the Questions No One Wants to Answer

Organizer: **Stephen Silva-Brave**, MSW, Doctoral Student UT Arlington

Speakers/Presenters:

Stephen Silva-Brave, MSW, Doctoral student, UT Arlington

Jodi Voice-Yellowfish, MMIW TX Rematriate

Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Ana Ponciano, LMSW, Doctoral Student, UT-Arlington
Joanna La Torre, PhD(c), LCSW

Marquis BR 10,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

What's Past Is Prologue: Reckoning with Social Work's Complex History to Reimagine Its Future in a Precarious Present

Organizer: **Christian Adeleke**, LMSW, PhD Student, UT-Arlington

Speakers/Presenters:

Elin Amundson, LICSW
Irene Routte, MSW

Stephanie Franklin, JD

Independence
BR C, ML 4
11:30AM-1:00PM

Disability Research in the Current Sociopolitical Climate

Speakers/Presenters:

Sandy Magana, PhD

Zachary Morris, PhD

Weiwen Zeng, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Robert Hock, PhD

Kelly Nye-Lyngerman, PhD

18 SUNDAY ROUND TABLES

Archives, ML 4
8:00AM-9:30AM

Developing a Research Framework for Improving Residential Psychiatric Treatment for Children and Youth in the United States

Speakers/Presenters:

Paul Lanier, PhD

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Bethany Lee, PhD

JOIN US AT OUR RECEPTION

Marriott Marquis Liberty

Ballroom Salon M

JANUARY 16 | 8:00PM

SSWR 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 15-18, 2026 / MARRIOTT MARQUIS WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESENTATIONS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

School of Social Work

15 THURSDAY PRESENTATIONS

Dogwood, Mezzanine Level 1:30PM-3:00PM	The Protective Role of Light Physical Activity in the Association between Caregiving Burden and Loneliness Among Informal Caregivers Soeun Jang , MSW, PhD Student, UT-Arlington
Silver Linden, Mezzanine Level 1:30PM-3:00PM	Decolonizing Therapy: Centering Indigenous and Ancestral Healing in Mental Health Practices Ana Ponciano , LMSW, Mental Health Therapist and Research Assistant, UT-Arlington Tasha Pelletier , PhD student, UT-Arlington
Cherry Blossom, Mezzanine Level 3:15PM-4:45PM	Fulfilling End-of-Life Dreams: A Scoping Review of Bucket Lists in Palliative and Hospice Care Swasati Handique , PhD student & Graduate Research Assistant, UT-Arlington Michael Bennett, PhD, Assistant Professor Scott D. Ryan , PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

16 FRIDAY PRESENTATIONS

Liberty BR I, ML 4 8:00AM-9:30AM	Investigating the Longitudinal Effects of Racial Discrimination on Internalizing Behavior Symptoms Among Racial/Ethnic Minority Young Adolescents: Findings from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development Study Angela Hall , MSEd; MSW, Doctoral student, UT-Arlington Philip Baiden , PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington Bethany Wood , PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Monument, ML 4 8:00AM-9:30 AM	Military Trauma and Moral Injury Thomas Mwibanda , MSW, PhD Student, UT-Arlington
Monument, ML 4 8:00AM-9:30 AM	The Interplay of Combat History, Inpatient Treatment for Substance Use Disorders, and Support Thomas Mwibanda , MSW, PhD Student, UT-Arlington
Monument, ML 4 2:00PM-3:30PM	Beyond Individual Choice: Social Barriers Influence on Early Social Security Retirement Among Women Erica D. Robinson , PhD (Recent Grad) MSW, UT-Arlington
Monument, ML 4 3:45PM-5:15PM	School Connectedness as a Mediator between School-Based Racial Discrimination and Depression Among Adolescents Chenyu Zhao , MSW, Graduate Research Assistant and PhD Student, UT-Arlington Danielle Harrell , PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Independence BR A, ML 4 5:30PM-7:00PM	School Connectedness and Suicidal Ideation Among Black Youth: A Latent Class Analysis Danielle Harrell , PhD, LCSW, UT-Arlington Sonya Richardson, PhD, Assistant Professor, Arielle Sheftall, PhD, Associate Professor
Independence BR A, ML 4 5:30PM-7:00PM	The Role of Schools in Supporting Youth Behavioral Health Services Outcomes: Centering Youth and Caregiver Voices Jennifer Murphy , PhD, Assistant Professor UT-Arlington Katherine Borge , Graduate Student, UT-Arlington Genevieve Graaf , PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington Millie Sweeney, Director of Learning and Workforce Development, Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association Kathleen Thomas, PhD, Associate Professor

16 FRIDAY PRESENTATIONS

Independence BR B, ML 4 5:30PM-7:00PM	Racist Experiences at School and Suicidal Behaviors: A Latent Class Analysis Among a National Sample of Black High School Students Sonya Richardson, PhD, Assistant Professor Danielle Harrell , PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington Dina Arch, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher
Independence BR K, ML 4 5:30PM-7:00PM	Enhancing Implementation of a Multi-System AOT Program to Support Positive Mental Health Outcomes for Individuals Living with Serious Mental Illness Micki Washburn , PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington Robin Gearing, PhD, Professor and Director of the Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation in Treatment Engagement and Service Jamison Kovach, PhD, Professor

17 SATURDAY PRESENTATIONS

Independence BR B, ML 4 8:00AM-9:30AM	The Association between State-Level Policies Directed Toward Sexual and Gender Minorities and Suicidal Ideation, Suicide Planning, and Suicide Attempts Among High School Students in the United States Christina Sellers, Ph.D., Associate Professor Antonia Diaz-Valdez, PhD, Associate Professor Emma Cho, MSW student Philip Baiden , PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington Julie Stubbs, MSW student Sky Gavis-Hughson, MSW, Research Assistant Joanna Almeida, Sc.D., Professor
Liberty BR K ML 4 8:00AM-9:30AM	Bias in Healthcare Settings Jaclyn Kirsch , PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Liberty BR K ML 4 8:00AM-9:30AM	"Families Are Intimidated...Really Confused...Afraid": Healthcare Service Disparities for Spanish-Speaking Patients Witnessed by Their Language Interpreters Jaclyn Kirsch , PhD, Assistant Professor UT-Arlington Derek Falk , PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, UT-Social Work Alicia Rueda-Acedo , Department Head at UT-Arlington Preston Osborn, PhD, Associate Professor
Liberty BR J ML 4 9:45AM-11:15AM	Cumulative Trauma Exposures in Childhood and Adulthood and Pain Outcomes Among Older Adults Lisa S. Panisch, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor Yeonwoo Kim, PhD , Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Marquis BR 7 ML 2 9:45AM-11:15AM	Practitioner Voice Informed Survey Instrument Development: School Social Workers, Race, and Racism Kate Phillippe, PhD, Professor Janel Crutchfield , PhD, LCSW, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington Jennifer Murphy , PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

18 SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

Independence
BR G, ML 4
8:00AM-9:30AM

Navigating Complexity and Cultivating Resilience: Human Service Providers' Perspectives on Afghan Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.

Arati Maleku, PhD, Associate Professor
Youn Kyung Kim, PhD, Associate Professor
Mee Young Um, PhD, Assistant Professor
Shambika Raut, MSW, Doctoral student,
Jhuma Acharya, MSW, Doctoral student
Jaclyn Kirsch, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Archives, ML 4
9:45AM-11:15AM

Evidence Based Practices in Family First Prevention Services Act State Plans: A Policy Surveillance

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Cassandra Simmel, PhD, Associate Professor
Hannah Pomales, Research Coordinator
Cassidy Roth, MSW, Social Worker, UT-Arlington

17 SATURDAY WORK SHOPS

Congress, ML 4
8:00AM-9:30AM

Transforming Social Work Education: Centering Community Voices and Inclusive Pedagogy

Organizer: Esmeralda Rubalcava Hernandez, LMSW, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ut-Arlington
speakers/Presenters: **Marcela Nava**, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 14,
ML 2
4:15PM-5:45PM

Navigating the Ethics of Research in a Challenging Policy Environment: Data Collection and Protection Strategies for Research with Immigrant Populations

Speakers/Presenters:
Megan Finno-Velasquez, PhD, LMSW
Maryam Rafieifar, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Cheryl Aguilar, MSW, LICSW, PhD Student

15 THURSDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
1:30PM-3:30PM

County-Level Industrial Job Profiles and Substance Use/Misuse/Use Disorders Among U.S. Working-Aged Individuals: A Latent Profile Analysis

Sehun Oh, PhD, Associate Professor
Bridget Freisthler, PhD, Cooper-Herron Endowed Professor in Mental Health
Yeonwoo Kim, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:15PM-4:45PM

The Public Health Consequences of Discretionary Arrests on LGBTQ+ Communities in the United States: A Scoping Review

Esmeralda Rubalcava Hernandez, LMSW, PhD Candidate UT-Arlington
Marcela Nava, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:15PM-4:45PM

No Longer Exclusive to Madness: The Impact of Involvement in Mental Health Research on Graduate Research Assistants

Chelsea Sanchez, MSW, PhD Student
Marcus Brown, MSW, PhD Student
Rabiu Asante, PhD, Senior Lecturer
Kathyne Brewer, PhD, Associate Professor
Micki Washburn, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Doris Boateng, PhD, Lecturer
Sondra Fogel, PhD, Associate Professor
Shahnaz Savani, PhD, Assistant Professor
Susan Robbins, PhD, Professor
Robin Gearing, PhD, Professor & Director MH-RITES Center

15 THURSDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:15PM-4:45PM

Mental Health Stigma, Informal Help-Seeking, and Professional Care in Ghana: A Mediation Analysis

Joshua Awua, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate
UT- Arlington
Micki Washburn, PhD, Associate Professor
UT-Arlington
Philip Baiden, PhD, Associate Professor UT-Arlington
Kathyne Brewer, PhD, Assistant Professor
Rabiu Kwaku Boakye Asante, PhD, Senior Lecturer
Robin Gearing, PhD, Professor

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:15PM-4:45PM

The Moderating Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Age on Loneliness and Depression: Examining Disparities for Sexual and Gender Minorities

Derek Falk, PhD, MSW, Postdoctoral Fellow, UT-Arlington
De'An Roper, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Associate Professor of Practice UT-Arlington
Jennifer O'Brien, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Micki Washburn, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

16 FRIDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Employment of a Qualified Social Worker and Residents' Health in Nursing Homes: A National Longitudinal Data Analysis

Ling Xu, MSW, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Yutong Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Wei Jiang, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Noelle Fields, LCSW, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Parenthood, Partnership, and Post-Secondary Education: Intersecting Effects on Women's Health and Social Security Retirement Pathways

Erica D. Robinson, PhD (Recent Grad), MSW, Adjunct Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Equipping Providers Who Serve Rural Veterans at Risk for Suicide: Qualitative Findings to Inform a Virtual Reality Simulation

Donna L. Schuman, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Chenyu Zhao, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant/PhD student, UT-Arlington
Thomas Mwibanda, MSW, PhD student, UT-Arlington
SuLynn Mester, DNP, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Suzanne Lohman, BS, MSW student, UT-Arlington
Dekontee Carter, BSW, MSW student, Ut-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Perceived Norms and Vaping Among Young Adults in College: The Mediation Role of Expectancies

Joshua Awua, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate, UT-Arlington
Micki Washburn, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Mariepearl Agordzo, MPhil, PhD student
Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT Arlington
Ernestina Aidoo, MPhil, PhD student
Conor Mullarkey, MSW, Clinical Supervisor for Multi Systemic Therapy
Matthew K. Meisel, PhD, Assistant Professor
Antover P. Tuliao, PhD, Associate Professor

16 FRIDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

Unpacking the Harmful Effects of Exposure to Neighborhood Violence on Substance Use Among Adolescents: Findings from a Population-Based Study

Philip Baiden, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Angela Hall, MSEd, MSW, Doctoral student, UT-Arlington
Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Joshua Awua, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

Bridging the Gap: Child Welfare Workers' Experience on Working with Key Stakeholders during the Transition out of Care to Adulthood

Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Hui Huang, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Lauren McCarthy, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor
Linda-Jeanne Mack, MSW, LICSW, PhD Candidate, Graduate Research Assistant

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

Exploring Intergenerational Trauma in Refugee Populations: A Qualitative Meta-Synthesis

Jaclyn Kirsch, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Hanna Haran, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Maryam Rafieifar, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
2:00PM-3:30PM

Understanding Public Perceptions of Mental Illness in Ghana: Implications for Community-Based Mental Health Care

Kathryne Brewer, PhD, Associate Professor
Micki Washburn, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Rabiu Kwaku Boakye Asante, PhD, Senior Lecturer
Doris Akyere Boateng, Senior Lecturer
Phillip Baiden, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Joshua Awua, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate, UT-Arlington
Gabrielle Scott, MA, Graduate Researcher, UT-Arlington
Sondra Fogel, PhD, Associate Professor
Steven Moore, MSSW, Doctoral Student, UT-Arlington
Susan P Robbins, Professor
Robin Gearing, PhD, Professor and Director MH-RITES Center

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
2:00PM-3:30PM

Broke, Hungry, and Behind: Psychometric Validation of a Three-Factor Scale of Financial Hardship in Social Work Field Education

Christian Adeleke, LMSW, PhD student, Graduate Research Assistant, and Adjunct Faculty UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:45PM-5:15PM

Racial Matching and the Likelihood of Aging out of Foster Care: A Logistic Regression Analysis

Damone Wisdom, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT-Arlington
Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:45PM-5:15PM

Fostering Research Participation Among Sexual and Gender Minority Children and Youth Who Are Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Results of a Mixed Method Study

Chioma Chinwokwu-Njemanze, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant UT-Arlington
Jennifer O'Brien, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Derek Falk, PhD, MSW, Postdoctoral Research Associate, UT-Arlington
Joshua Owua, PhD, Post Doctoral Research Associate, UT-Arlington

16 FRIDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
3:45PM-5:15PM

Exploring Cognitive Reappraisal as a Mechanism of Resilience: The Role of Anti-Racism Engagement in Mitigating Suicidal Ideation in the Campus Context

Sangmi Kim, MSW, PhD Student
Haejin Jeong, MSW, Doctoral Candidate, **Yeonwoo Kim**, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Mary Gitau, PhD, Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
5:30PM-7:00PM

Financial Capability and Mental Health Rating Among Youth Aging out of Foster Care

Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor UT-Arlington
Sally Hageman, PhD, Assistant Professor
enna Thompson, MSW, Doctoral Student
Lauren McCarthy, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor
Yanfeng Xu, PhD, Assistant Professor

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
5:30PM-7:00PM

Parent Mental Health and Stress Exposure Associated with Behavioral Health Outcomes of Military-Connected Children

Kathrine Sullivan, PhD, Assistant Professor
Yangjin Park, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Sabrina Richardson, PhD, Researcher
Valerie Stander, PhD, Researcher
James Jaccard, PhD, Professor Emeritus

17 SATURDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Predicting Adolescent Suicide Attempts: A Comparative Supervised Machine Learning Study

Catalina Cañizares, PhD, Assistant Professor
Mark Macgowan, PhD, Professor of Social Work and Associate Dean
Miriam Potocky, PhD, Professor
Hui Huang, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Jeremy Pettit, PhD, Associate Professor
Raymond Balise, PhD, Assistant Professor

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

The Roles of Social Workers and Direct Healthcare Professionals in Advancing Sleep Health Promotion Among Older Adults: A Scoping Review

Soeun Jang, MSW, PhD student, UT-Arlington
Christine Spadola, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Kathy Siepker, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

The Impact of Urban and Rural Resident Basic Medical Insurance on Health and Health Inequality Among Adults Aged 45 or Above: Evidence from China

Ling Xu, MSW, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Lingya Zhao, PhD, Assistant Professor
Noelle Fields, LCSW, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
9:45AM-11:15AM

Predictors of School and/or Work Connection Trajectories Among U.S. Young Adults Experiencing Low-Incomes

Ashley N. Palmer, PhD, Assistant Professor
Mary Collins, A.M., PhD, Professor, Social Welfare Policy
John Connolly, PhD, Manager, UT-Arlington
Deidre Potter, Graduate Research Assistant

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
4:15PM-5:45PM

Examining the Relationship of Bullying, School Violence, Mental Health and Adolescent Gun Carrying

Angela Hall, MSEd; MSW, Doctoral Student, UT-Arlington

17 SATURDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
4:15PM-5:45PM

Characteristics of Technology-Facilitated Abuse and Safety Strategies Discussed in the Reddit Community, r/Stalking

Morgan PettyJohn, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Kyla Cary, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher
Solomon Dandekar, Master's student, UT-Arlington
Mohit Singhal, PhD, Assistant Teaching Professor
Shirin Nilizadeh, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Rachel Voth Schrag, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

18 SUNDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

A Scoping Review of Terminations of Parental Rights in the US

Linda-Jeanne Mack, MSW, LICSW, PhD Candidate, Graduate Research Assistant
Lauren McCarthy, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor
Kimberly Williams, PhD, Senior Research Analyst
Haelim Lee, MSW, PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant
Mariel Pfister, Manager of Community Programs
Meng-Hsuan Yu, MSW, PhD student
Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor UT-Arlington

Survivor Perspectives on Interventions Aimed at Addressing Technology-Facilitated Abuse: A Scoping Review

Rachel Voth Schrag, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Christina Mecca-McClory, PhD student, UT-Arlington
Lecia Edwards, MSW student, UT-Arlington
Nichola Rowan, MSW student, UT-Arlington
Morgan PettyJohn, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Developing an Online and SMS Intervention to Increase Protective Behavioral Strategy Use in Young Adults Using Alcohol and Cannabis

Melissa Lewis, PhD, Professor, School of Social Work, UT-Arlington
Dana Litt, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington
Jennifer Murphy, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Rachel Stankus, MSW, School of Social Work, UT-Arlington

Predictors of Adolescents' Perceptions of Safety and Mental Health Outcomes: The Mediating Role of Perceived Safety

Silviya Nikolova, PhD, Associate Professor
Bonita Sharma, PhD, Associate Professor
Eusebius Small, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington
Benjamin Sesay, MSW, MBA, PhD student, UT-Arlington, TX

Suicidal Ideation in Adolescents Exposed to Community Violence: A National Study of Risk Factors, Yrbs 2023

Silviya Nikolova, PhD, Associate Professor
Eusebius Small, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington
Benjamin Sesay, MSW, MBA, PhD Student, UT-Arlington
Bonita Sharma, PhD, Associate Professor

18 SUNDAY E-POSTERS

Marquis BR 6,
ML 2
11:30AM-1:00PM

Social Isolation and Cognitive Health: Does Physical Activity Protect Against Cognitive Decline in Socially Isolated Older Adults?

Yeonwoo Kim, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Soeun Jang, MSW, PhD Student, UT- Arlington

Impact of Parental Involvement in Children's Educational Achievements: A Systematic Review

Shamila Sivakumaran, MSW, Doctoral student, UT-Arlington
Damone Wisdom, Doctoral student, UT-Arlington
Christina Mecca-McClory, PhD student, UT-Arlington

Perspectives on Child Maltreatment in Kyrgyzstan Among Public Health, Social Work, Education, and Criminal Justice System Professionals

Saltanat Childress, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Nibedita Shrestha, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher UT-Arlington
Mary McKay, PhD, Vice Provost
Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD

Assessment of Disaster Preparedness Associated with Food Insecurity Among Youth Living with HIV in Uganda with Prior Disaster Experience

Bonita Sharma, PhD, Associate Professor
Emily Coard, MPH Student
Silviya Nikolova, PhD, Associate Professor
Eusebius Small, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

15 THURSDAY FLASH TALKS

Marquis BR 13,
ML 2
3:15PM-4:45PM

Adolescent and Youth Development Flash Talk Session

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

16 FRIDAY FLASH TALKS

Marquis BR 12,
ML 2
8:00AM-9:30AM

Climate, Leadership, and Well-Being

Christie Eckler, LMSW, PhD student, UT-Arlington

Archives, ML 4
9:45AM-11:15AM

Community-based Interventions and Research in Child Welfare

Strengthening Families and Communities: A Scoping Review of Family Resource Center Outcomes

Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor
Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington
Damone Wisdom, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT-Arlington
Christina Mecca-McClory, PhD student, UT- Arlington

Independence
BR G, ML 4
2:00PM-3:30PM

Perspectives from Caregivers in Child Welfare *The Association between Birth Mothers' Satisfaction with Relinquishment and Perceived Social Supports*

Elissa Madden, PhD, Associate Professor
Donna Aguiniga, PhD, Assistant Dean, Rei Shimizu, PhD, Assistant Professor
Scott Ryan, MSW, MBA, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

Marquis BR 14,
ML 2
3:45PM-5:25PM

Mental Health Flash Talk Session 1

Emerging Adult Unmet Mental Health Needs: Identifying Patterns of Barriers to Mental Health Service Utilization

Jennifer Murphy, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington
Leah Bouchard, PhD, Research Associate
Jeff Ciak, MSW,
Tasha Pelletier, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT-Arlington

17 SATURDAY FLASH TALKS

Treasury, ML 4
8:00AM-9:30AM

Adolescent and Youth Development Flash Talk Session

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Supreme Court, ML 4
9:45AM-11:15AM

Intimate Partner Violence: From types and impact to interventions and resilience

Technology-Facilitated Abuse: Experiences and Service Preferences of Survivors and Community-Based Advocates

Morgan Pettyjohn, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Christina Mecca-McClory, PhD student, UT-Arlington

Lecia Edwards, MSW student, UT-Arlington

Nichola Rowan, MSW student, UT-Arlington

Rachel Voth Schrag, PhD, Associate Professor and PhD Program Director, UT-Arlington

The Impact of Digital Hotline on Health and Safety of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survivors

Leila Wood, PhD, Professor

Rachel Voth Schrag, PhD, Associate Professor and PhD Program Director, UT-Arlington

Aly Jacobs, MSW, Research Associate

Jeff Temple, PhD, Professor and Associate Dean

Elizabeth Baumler, PhD, Professor

Independence BR F, ML 4
4:15PM-5:45PM

Social Determinants of Mental Health among Refugees and Immigrants

The Impact of Homelessness, Social Support, and Mental Health on Suicide Ideation Among Immigrant Women

Chioma Chinwokwu-Njemanze, MSW, PhD
Student, UT-Arlington

Treasury, ML 4
4:15PM-5:45PM

LatinX Focused-Research Flash Talk Session

Parent-Child Conflict and Role Negotiation in Mixed-Status Families

Ana Ponciano, LMSW, Mental Health Therapist and Research Assistant, UT-Arlington

Maryam Rafieifar, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Ana Marcial, BSW, MSW student, UT-Arlington

18 SUNDAY FLASH TALKS

Liberty BR J, ML 4
11:30AM-1:00PM

Sexual and Reproductive Violence and Sex

I Would Say Almost Every Single Case Has Some Sort of an Internet Connection": Service Providers' Insights on Technology's Role in the Trajectories of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Ayelet Prior, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow

Jennifer O'Brien, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Gina Zwerling Kahn, Adjunct Research Associate

Kimberly Mitchell, PhD, Research Professor

Mint, ML 4
11:30AM-1:00PM

Individualized Education Plans: Associations with Care Coordination and Mental Health Service Use

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

School Social Work Flash Talk Session

Individualized Education Plans: Associations with Care Coordination and Mental Health Service Use

Jennifer Murphy, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Genevieve Graaf, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Lex Owen, Assistant Professor

Ambra Green, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

18 SUNDAY FLASH TALKS

Liberty BR N, ML 4
11:30AM-1:00PM

Mental Health Flash Talk Session 2
The Use of Abbreviated Screening Tools in Primary Care Settings as an Important and Proactive Resource to Identify At-Risk First Responders

Christy Collins, LCSW-S, DSW Candidate, Assistant Professor

Dayna Gurley, LCSW-S, DSW Candidate, Clinical Director

Jose Carbalal, PhD, Associate Professor, **Donna Schuman, PhD, LCSW**, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Warren Ponder, PhD, Director of Outcomes & Evaluations, Army Veteran, and representative of First Tribe Foundation

15 THURSDAY SYMPOSIA

Treasury, ML 4
1:30AM-3:00PM

Exploring Harm Reduction Perceptions Among Persons Who Use Drugs and Service Providers: Reimagining Harm Reduction Practice and Implications for Care Systems

Understandings of Harm Reduction by Trafficking Survivors with Substance Use Disorder in Diverse Service Settings

Theresa Anasti, PhD, Assistant Professor

Hilary Thibodeau, MSW, Doctoral Student

Nathaniel Dell, PhD, Assistant Professor, **Kathleen Preble, PhD**, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Lauren Grimes, MPH, Clinical Research Coordinator II

Lindsay Gezinski, PhD, Associate Professor

Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor UT-Arlington

Independence BR H, ML 4
3:15PM-4:45PM

Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce: Title IV-E Stipends, Policy Reform, and Child Welfare Outcomes

Organizer: Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor
Interprofessional Collaboration, Community Resources, and Child Welfare Workforces Professional Well-Being

Hui Huang, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Scott Ryan, MSW, MBA, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor
State Investment in Title-IV-E Stipend Programs and Placement Instability: A National Study

Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Scott Ryan, MSW, MBA, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

Hui Huang, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Yao Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor

Damone Wisdom, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT-Arlington

Navigating Policy from the Frontlines: Impacts on the Child Welfare Workforce and Implications for Title IV-E Stipend Program

Scott Ryan, MSW, MBA, PhD, professor, UT-Arlington

Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor

UT-Arlington

Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor,

Examining a Decade of Title IV-E Outcomes: A Scoping Review

Damone Wisdom, PhD Student, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT-Arlington

Lacey Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor

Catherine LaBrenz, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Scott Ryan, MSW, MBA, PhD, Professor, UT-Arlington

16 FRIDAY SYMPOSIA

Independence
BR C, ML 4
9:45AM-11:15AM

Borders within, Bridges Beyond: Community Healing and Empowerment across Youth, Family, and Organizations in the Contemporary Immigration Climate

Maryam Rafieifar, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

Independence
BR H, ML 4
3:15PM-4:45PM

Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce: Title IV-E Stipends, Policy Reform, and Child Welfare Outcomes

Discussant: Kathleen Preble, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Interventions to Support Substance Use Recovery Among Human Trafficking Survivors: A Scoping Review

Nathaniel Dell, PhD, Assistant Professor

Lauren Grimes, MPH, Clinical Research Coordinator II

Theresa Anasti, PhD, Assistant Professor

Victoria Ogbeifun, BS, Medical student

Angela Hardi, Academic Librarian

Lindsay Gezinski, PhD, Associate Professor

Kathleen Preble, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Perspectives of Social Workers on the Use of Harm Reduction Strategies for Trafficking Survivors with Substance Use Disorder

Theresa Anesti, PhD, Assistant Professor

Hilary Thibodeau, MSW, Doctoral student

Nathaniel Dell, PhD, Assistant Professor

Lauren Grimes, MPH, Clinical Research Coordinator II

Kathleen Preble, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Lindsay Gezinski, PhD, Associate Professor

16 FRIDAY SYMPOSIA

The Role and Impact of Peer Support in Aftercare for Survivors of Sex Trafficking Who Use Substances: Service Providers' Perspectives

Lindsay Gezinski, PhD, Associate Professor

Ariel Richer, PhD, Assistant Professor

Aundrea Dilanchian, MSW, Doctoral Student

Nathaniel Dell, PhD, Assistant Professor

Theresa Anasti, PhD, Assistant Professor

Kathleen Preble, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Cassandra Price, Student

Applying Intersectionality to Understand the Harm Reduction Service Needs of Trafficking Survivors Who Use Drugs: Insights from Survivors

Hilary Thibodeau, MSW, Doctoral student

Theresa Anasti, PhD, Assistant Professor

Nathaniel Dell, PhD, Assistant Professor

Lauren Grimes, MPH, Clinical Research Coordinator II

Kathleen Preble, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

Lindsay Gezinski, PhD, Associate Professor

18 SUNDAY SYMPOSIA

Congress, ML 4
11:30AM - 1:00PM

Uplifting Central American Parents' Narratives: Strengthening Practice and Responding to Policy

From Fear to Fortitude: Family Separation Preparedness Among Mixed-Status Immigrant Families in the US

MARYAM RAFIEIFAR, PhD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UT-ARLINGTON

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The UTA School of Social Work—ranked among the top 13% of social work graduate programs nationwide—upholds the highest standards of integrity and excellence in research, teaching, and service. Our mission is to advance justice, fairness, and social responsibility while strengthening individuals and communities.

With more than 2,300 students across our BSW, MSW, and PhD programs, we partner with over 400 agencies, contributing more than 540,000 hours of community service each year. These strong partnerships provide innovative, hands-on learning experiences. The launch of our DSW program in 2026 will further expand our impact in communities and classrooms worldwide.

Our faculty publish more than 200 articles annually in leading academic journals, placing the School in the top 6% nationally for research productivity. This work is supported by specialized research centers, learning labs, and community initiatives that keep faculty deeply engaged in their fields.

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Our Students & Community Involvement:

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Students

400

Agency partners for student internships with research & Community impact.

540K

Hours of community service annually

Our professors:

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Academic and Scientific articles published in journals annually

TOP 6%

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