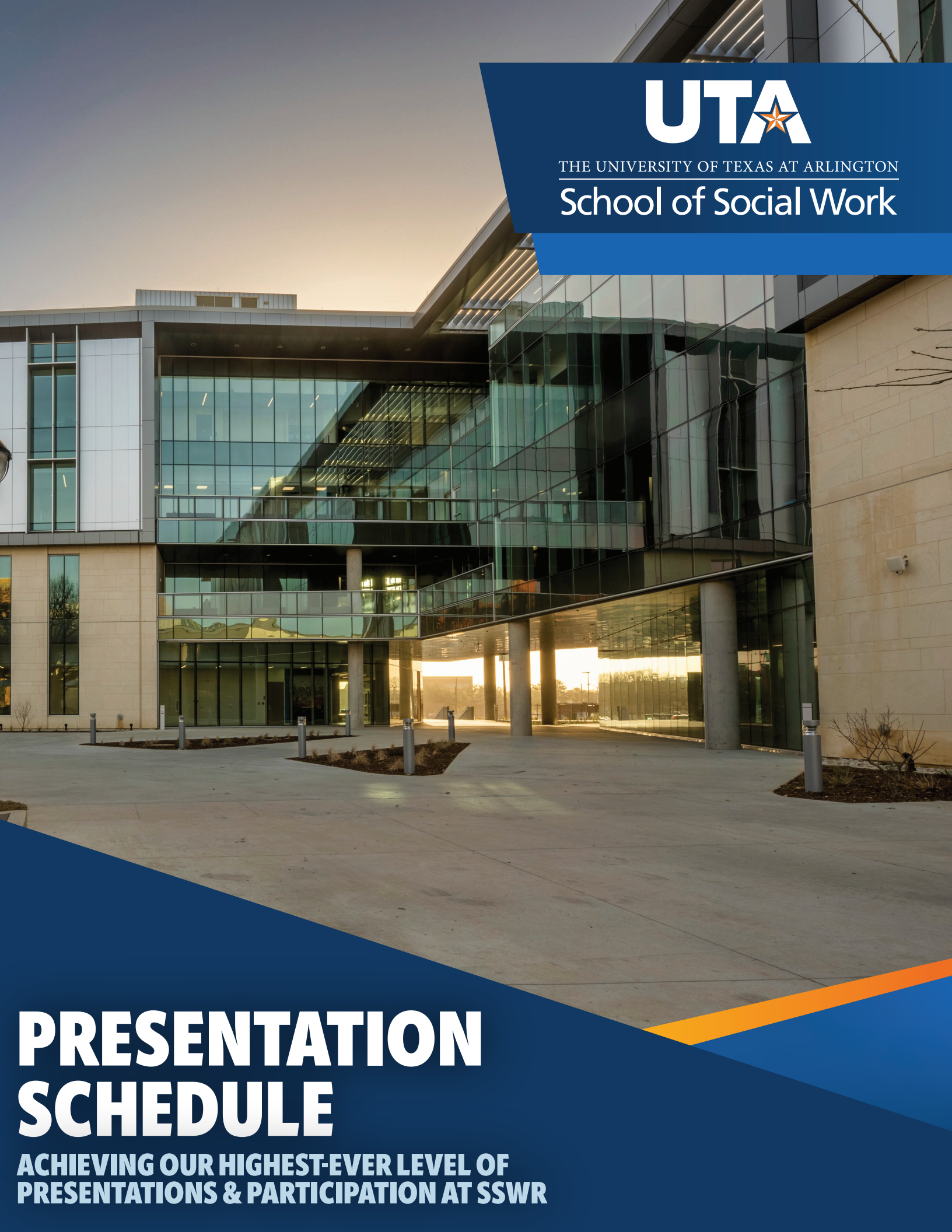




THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

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**, MEd; MSW, Doctoral student, UT-Arlington

**Philip Baiden**, PhD, Associate Professor, UT-Arlington

**Bethany Wood**, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT-Arlington

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

**Military Trauma and Moral Injury**

**Thomas Mwibanda**, MSW, PhD Student, UT-Arlington

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

**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  
Sonyia 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**

Sonyia 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 Phillippo, PhD, Professor

**Jandel 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 Kyoung 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 Pomaes, 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  
Kathryne 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  
Kathryne 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**, MEd, 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 Chinwoku-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 Awua**, 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  
Haelim 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 Petit, 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**, MEd; 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

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

### 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 I

*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 SATUDAY 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

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

### 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 Carbajal**, 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 SYMPOSIUM

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 SYMPOSIUM

*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 SYMPOSIUM

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.

SSW centers and labs include CARS, the Center for Child Welfare Research, STARR Lab, Emotional Robotics Living Lab, and the Social Networks for Social Good Lab, with additional centers planned for 2026. We are also proud of our state-of-the-art facility, which opened in Spring 2023.

### Our Students & Community Involvement:

**2,300** Students

**400** Agency partners for student internships with research & Community impact.

**540K** Hours of community service annually

### Our professors:

**200+** Academic and Scientific articles published in journals annually

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**63** Full-Time Faculty



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The University of Texas at Arlington  
School of Social Work & SMART Hospital  
Box 19129, 501 W. Mitchell Street  
Arlington, TX 76019-0129  
Phone: 817-272-3181

