



WELCOMING OUR NEW FACULTY



SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

Dean's Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to the 2017-18 cohort of new faculty members at Michigan Social Work. These faculty focus on our world's most important social challenges including child well-being, income inequality, migration, health equity and inclusion of people with different abilities.

These new faculty bring extensive knowledge and diverse perspectives to the School. We are fortunate to welcome these colleagues with their devotion to students, innovative research and social justice. Please join me in welcoming our newest colleagues.



LYNN VIDEKA
DEAN AND CAROL T. MOWBRAY
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Todd Herrenkohl

MARION ELIZABETH BLUE PROFESSOR OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES



ssw.um

HERRENKOHL joins the faculty from the University of Washington School of Social Work in Seattle, where he is currently a Professor and Co-Director of the 3DL Partnership 4, a newly established center focusing on innovations in three-dimensional learning. Herrenkohl holds a PhD from the University of Washington and an MSW from Simmons College in Boston. His work focuses on the study and promotion of positive youth development and the amelioration of risk factors related to interpersonal violence. Herrenkohl has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge for programs and services for vulnerable groups. Trained as a prevention scientist with a strong focus on social welfare, he is committed to bridging the gap between research and practice in prevention, including policy.

ich.edu

Kathleen Doyle

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



DOYLE served as the executive director of Ozone House Youth and Family Services and as LEO faculty at U-M SSW. Doyle is a human services leader who brings innovation to her work. She is interested in cultivating leaders in youth development and social justice. Doyle studied Interpersonal Practice at U-M SSW where she was a Civitas Fellow, and graduated with an MSW in 1997. She subsequently completed an MBA at U-M in 2013.

- SOCIAL IMPACT ORGANIZATIONS
- INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE
- YOUTH WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA AND HOMELESSNESS
- LGBTQ+ YOUTH

William Elliott III

PROFESSOR



ELLIOTT is a leading researcher in children's savings and college debt focused on public policies related to issues of economic inequality and social development. He founded the Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion which has served as the impetus for Children's Savings Account (CSA) programs and policies across the United States. Elliott received his PhD and master's in social work from George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis and was an associate professor at the University of Kansas before moving to U-M.

- ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND RACIAL DISPARITIES
- SOCIAL POLICY
- MENTAL HEALTH
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Daniel Fischer

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR FIELD INSTRUCTION AND
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



- SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
- INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
- INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

FISCHER has been with U-M since 1989, working as a clinician, teacher, researcher and administrator. He was previously a LEO Lecturer in the School of Social Work, and is also a Clinical Assistant professor in the U-M Medical School's Department of Psychiatry. He previously served in several roles at Michigan Medicine, including interim director of Social Work and Pastoral Care, and director of Child and Family Life, Spiritual Care Department, Community Relations at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Fischer has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters related to pediatric anxiety disorders and cognitive-behavioral therapy; his current research interest is related to interprofessional education.

Odessa Gonzalez Benson

TRANSITIONAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN SEPTEMBER
2017 AND AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ON 9/1/2018



GONZALEZ BENSON'S research examines refugee resettlement policy and community practice with refugees, focusing on labor equity and participatory approaches. Gonzalez Benson draws upon years of engagement with refugee communities and social work practice with military families. Her personal path as a 1.5-generation immigrant informs her research, pedagogy and practice.

- REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION
- MIGRANT/REFUGEE-LED GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS
- STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY RELATIONS
- POLICY DISCOURSE
- IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

Shanna Katari

TRANSITIONAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN SEPTEMBER
2017 AND AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ON 9/1/2018



KATARI is a board-certified sexologist with a PhD from the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work. Her work currently centers on disabled people and ableism, and transgender/gender nonconforming identities and transphobia. Katari uses an intersectional lens to examine health disparities within these communities. She values translational research and strongly believes in making research accessible to academics and society at large.

- HEALTH DISPARITIES
- LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITIES
- DISABILITY AND ABLEISM
- SEXUALITY/SEXUAL HEALTH
- INTERSECTIONALITY

Matthew Smith

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



SMITH received a PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He studies familial and environmental factors that contribute to recovery from severe mental illness. Smith is committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities, including schizophrenia and autism, by developing and evaluating treatments that enhance the capacity to remain engaged in the community through work and other activities. He has coauthored numerous articles in various peer-reviewed journals.

- TECHNOLOGY-BASED INTERVENTIONS
- AUTISM AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL DISABILITIES
- SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS (E.G., SCHIZOPHRENIA)
- EX-OFFENDERS AND ADJUDICATED YOUTH
- VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR THE ABOVE POPULATIONS

Xiaoling Xiang

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



XIANG completed a PhD in Social Work at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She conducts community-based research concerning the physical and mental health and service use of diverse older populations. Xiang has coauthored many articles in peer-reviewed journals. She is particularly interested in psychosocial approaches to promoting mental health and enhancing quality of life in older adults. Her research also emphasizes strong partnerships with community organizations and interdisciplinary collaborations.

- SOCIAL AND HEALTHCARE INTEGRATION
- LATE-LIFE DEPRESSION
- MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION IN ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SETTINGS
- CHRONIC DISEASE
- PSYCHIATRIC-PHYSICAL COMORBIDITY
- HEALTH DISPARITIES



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REACH OUT
RAISE HOPE
CHANGE SOCIETY