



THE FELLOW

EDITORIAL BOARD

Megan Stanton
Jeffrey Sharlein
Dexia Kong
Jia Xue

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the DSSC

Page 1

Peer Review

Conference Season: Megan Stanton

Page 2

Alumni Spotlight

Rosie Frasso Ph.D.

Page 3

Peer Cites

Page 4

Not Social Welfare

Page 5

The Fellow is the official peer-reviewed publication of the Ph.D. students at the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania

Happy New Year from the DSSC,

We hope you all had a wonderful winter break and return to us energized for this semester. We would like to congratulate the first year students who successfully completed their first semester. The first semester is the hardest so hopefully with one semester down you will feel validated in this academic journey.

We would also like to recognize the PhD students and candidates who have been leaving their mark on the industry. We had a number of students present their work at large national conferences like the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in November and the Society for Social Work and Research conference two weeks ago. Please check out the “Peer Cites” section to see what interesting contributions to the field our classmates have been making (SSWR presentations will be in the April edition).

We would like to thank Zvi Gelles for acting as the Director of the PhD Program in the fall and also welcome back Susan Sorenson from her sabbatical as she resumes the position. Susan Sorenson is the person responsible for fielding academic questions about the program (i.e. course requirements or completing a dual-degree/certificate). She will also be speaking with us during our ProSeminar on February 27th to address prelim questions and others concerns “from the Director’s Chair.” So mark your calendars.

One of our goals for the DSSC is to foster a sense of community across cohorts in the PhD program. We hope we are achieving this goal through the events we have coordinated. In the fall we had a lot of fun getting to know everyone during happy hours. We also took a trip to the Barnes Foundation in October which was a great opportunity for us to meet and mingle with each other’s families. In February we will visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art for their “Art After 5” program, which provides live music while we enjoy the exhibits. We will also have an end of year party to celebrate our progress, so please be on the lookout for announcements of the exact dates of these events. Please feel free to contact us with ideas for future programming.

Good luck this semester!

DSSC co-chairs,

Ryan and Angelina

PEER REVIEW

We all work hard writing papers for classes, and many papers are worthy of more than just a letter grade. The Fellow provides an outlet to share unpublished manuscripts, essays, book reviews and editorials with colleagues in an effort to distribute ideas, spark debates, obtain feedback, encourage journal submissions, and support interdisciplinary collaborations. Full references are available upon request to the authors.

Conference Abstract Season

Hello and Season's Greetings... conference abstract submission season that is! This time last year, my research friend-leagues (a term I just now coined for colleagues who are also close friends) and I were on a conference abstract submission *roll*. It was the first conference submission season I had experienced and I learned a lot in the process. Though different conferences open their calls for abstracts throughout the year, the deadlines for several major conferences related to social work fall between February and April. Presenting research at an academic conference is a great way to get experience talking about your research and gain insight from others in your field. It can also serve as a powerful external deadline and incentive to get your work publication-ready. Conferences are also an important part of the doctoral student CV. So here, for your reading pleasure, are a few of the things I learned about the process last year.

1. Figure out what, if anything, you can present.

The most important thing is that you have some data to present. Most conferences need full results at the time of abstract submission. Results might be preliminary, but they must exist. Some conferences, such as ARNOVA, require a full paper draft by the time of the conference. Talk to your advisor and the PIs of projects you are working on early to explore the possibility of presenting some work. If it's too late to submit this year, get thinking about the next cycle. As I stated earlier, abstract deadlines can be a great external deadline to incentivize productive research work.

2. Find the best conference for your presentation.

What are the key conferences in your discipline? We know about the discipline-wide conferences like SSWR and APHA, but what about smaller conferences that are topic-specific? For example the research my team presented last year on housing for transgender people living with HIV/AIDS was appropriate for SSWR and APHA, but there is also a large HIV/AIDS specific conference (nmac.org) and even more specific, the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit. Different kinds of conferences attract different audiences, create different platforms to share your research, and result in different experiences. Talk to your mentors and people in your field to find the best home for your research.

3. Learn about the conference.

Go to the conference website to get a sense of the culture of the conference. Read about the theme. Conference themes are usually broad enough to accommodate all research in the discipline, but give a sense of what the organization values. Many conferences link to the abstracts of presentations from past conferences. This is an extremely helpful way to get a sense of

what is accepted and what is expected. Also, find out the different forms that presentations take and figure out if you are going to submit a poster, an oral presentation, or (less likely) a panel/ roundtable.

4. Double check submission requirements.

If you are applying to more than one conference, make a chart of deadlines and be sure to know what is due when. We are all busy and it is easy to lose track of the dates. Read the requirements of each conference. Most conferences require that you have not published or presented on the same paper in other venues. Abstract word limits are different for each conference. Collect all necessary components for submission before submitting. Sometimes conferences want things you don't expect, like learning objectives or a disclosure of financial interest form. These things aren't difficult, but they take time and can be stressful if you don't expect them and leave submission to the last minute.

5. Write the abstract.

Abstracts must be extremely concise, but at approximately 15 minutes for most conferences, so are presentations. This means you must learn how to get to the meat of your study, which can be harder said than done. Learning how to write succinctly is an important academic skill. Writing conference abstracts last year trained me to make every word count. Give your abstract to people to read. Your mentors and colleagues (and friend-leagues) can help you cut what needs to be cut or let you know if you've cut so much it no longer makes sense. Make sure to discuss authorship and author order with co-authors early.

6. Submit and Wait

Most conference websites give an approximate waiting time for acceptance. Rejection is an inevitable part of academia and rejection rates are getting higher for the better-known conferences. For doc students, the process of submitting is extremely valuable regardless of the outcome. That said, we do incredible work and many of us will be presenting at major conferences in the coming years. If submitting several abstracts to different conferences make a plan for the (happy) event that they all get in. It's hard/ impossible to do too many conferences in a semester, especially if you are in classes.

That's all I've got! Good luck out there, folks. I know for a fact that you all have ideas worth sharing and look forward to seeing you share them in many and varied venues during our time together at SP2. On the next page I have listed some of the major conferences where our work is presented. If others know of more, please share with the SP2 PhD Community!

-Megan Stanton

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rosie Frasso, PhD

Tell us about your work in your current position at the University of Pennsylvania.

I am the Director of Education for Penn's Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) (<http://www.cphi.upenn.edu/index.shtml>). The CPHI is a university-wide center which was founded in 2007 by the Provost's Office. The CPHI promotes interdisciplinary research, education and practice in public health. At Penn we do not have a School of Public Health, so the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program is housed in the CPHI and the Perelman School of Medicine (<http://www.med.upenn.edu/publichealth/Faculty.shtml>). I am responsible for the MPH program. There are over 100 students working toward an MPH at Penn so I am very busy. I love teaching and mentoring students.

What experiences at Penn have been the most valuable for you – as a student and now in your current position?

Penn has been great to me. I came to Penn in 2004 to finish my PhD. As a student I had several opportunities to TA and teach courses. My background was in public health and at SP2 I was able to weave my public health interests into my work. I found great mentorship in Drs. Solomon and Marcus and feel very lucky to have had a chance to work with them. They are now great friends and continue to provide me support and guidance.

What were your key considerations in deciding to take a position as Director of Education?

I am in a unique position, as an older graduate, I needed to think about the ticking "academic clock" in a different way. I opted not to pursue a tenure track position. For me that made a lot of sense. In my role now I really have the best of both worlds. I had a great deal of administrative experience before I began my PhD, and I use those skills every day to manage the MPH program. Also, I am an affiliated faculty member of the Mixed Methods Research Lab (MMRL) here at Penn. (<http://www.med.upenn.edu/mmrl/>). In that role I get to work on 3 or 4 research projects at a time --- so I am using those research MUSCLES I built up in my PhD program too.

Tell us about your transition from being a graduate student to your current position. What, if anything, has been challenging about this transition?

It can be a bit of a challenge moving from the role of a student to the role of a faculty member when you stay in the same place. At first, there were some people that did not realize I had



graduated so on occasion they would still treat me like a student. That did not last long, I think he gray hair helped a lot.

Do you have any advice for current SP2 Ph.D. students vis-à-vis the job market and their career prospects and options?

I think students should think outside of the box a bit. There are many amazing ways you can use the training you get at Penn! For me getting a great deal of teaching experience while working on my dissertation really helped me get the job I have now. Students should not take any experience lightly! Get a few papers out while you are in your PhD program. I did not do that and have been playing catch-up ever since. Also, make the time to connect with faculty and your fellow students. I made great friends during my PhD program; we all helped each other get through the process!!

Major Conferences and Deadlines

Society for Social Work Research:

<http://www.sswr.org/conferences.php>

Deadline: Not posted yet. Usually end of April.

Council on Social Work Education:

<http://www.cswe.org/Meetings/2014APM.aspx>

Deadline: Feb. 17

Association for Research on Non-Profit Organizations and Voluntary Action:

<http://arnova.org/index.php>

Deadline: Not posted yet. Usually end of March.

American Public Health Association:

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/>

Deadline: Feb 10-13

Publications

Shier, M.L., Graham, J.R., Deane, L., & Jones, M.E. (2013). Leadership in a Chinese advocacy focused non-profit organization: Adaptability to context for leadership success. *Social Development Issues*, 35(3), 96-108.

Jones, M.E., **Shier, M.L.**, & Graham, J.R. (2013). Social exclusion and self-esteem: The impact of the identity – bureaucracy nexus on employed people experiencing homelessness in Calgary, Canada. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*, 29(2), 134-142. (Research Note)

Shier, M.L., & Graham, J.R. (2013). Identifying Social Service Needs of Muslims Living in a Post 9/11 Era: The Role of Community-Based Organizations. *Advances in Social Work*, 14(2), 379-394.

Werding, E.; Schinnenburg, H.; **Walk, M.** (2014): Kompetenzentwicklung und Mitarbeiterzufriedenheit im Rahmen von Inklusionsprozessen in Kindertageseinrichtungen (Development of competencies and employee satisfaction during the implementation of inclusion in childcare organizations). In G Hensen, et al. (ed.): *Inklusive Bildung. Organisations- und professionsbezogene Aspekte eines sozialen Programms* (Inclusive Education. Organizational and profession-related aspects of a social program), 206-236. Beltz Juventa, Weinheim (in German).

Conference Presentations

Ali, S., **Stanton, M.**, Clarke, M., Shubert, V., Ghose, T., **Chauduri, S.** (2013, November). Civic Engagement as a Component and Outcome of Direct Services for Formerly Homeless People with HIV/AIDS. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action 42nd Annual Conference, Hartford, Connecticut.

Ali, S., Robinson, K., Ghose, T., Shubert, V., & **Stanton, M.** (2013). Understanding needs and outcomes: Examining a transitional housing program for women living with HIV. Paper presented at the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit VII, Montreal, Canada.

Stanton, M., Walker, L., **Ali, S.**, Ghose, T., & Shubert, V. (2013). Trans-competent housing for women living with HIV. Paper presented at the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit VII, Montreal, Canada.

Stanton, M., Ghose, T., **Ali, S.**, Shubert, V., & Walker, L. (2013). Housing as a structural intervention for transgender and gender non-conforming PLWHA: Promoting positive health behaviors. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association 141st Annual Meeting and Exposition, Boston, Massachusetts.

Walk, M.; Handy, F.; Schinnenburg, H.; Xiaomin Yu (2013, November): For-profit, nonprofit, or public sector? Influencing factors for sector choice in China. Presented at the 42nd ARNOVA conference. Hartford, Connecticut.

Handy, F.; **Walk, M.**; Greenspan, I.; Crossley, H. (2013, October): Mind the Gap: Discrepancies Between Expectations And Experiences Of Clients Utilizing Job Training Services In A Social Purpose Enterprise. Presented at the 4th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy (ICOSE), Antwerp (Belgium).

Xue, J., Cui, N. & Liu, J. (2013, November). Trends in Child maltreatment: a cross-generational study in Mainland China. Poster presented at the Pediatric Global Health Conference --Violence against Children, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, US.

Sorenson S.B., Shi R, Zhang J. & **Xue, J.** (2013, November). Self-presentation on the web: U.S. agencies serving abused and assaulted women. The 141st *American Public Health Association* Annual Meeting (Poster presentation). Boston, US.

Awards

Marlene Walk was awarded the Emerging Scholar Award, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), November 2013.

Megan Stanton was awarded the Heyer Foundation Fellowship.

Defended Dissertation

Samira Ali, “A Family-Based Sexual Health Communication Intervention with a Sex Worker Community in Kolkata, India”

Stacey Barrenger, “Mental Illness and Prison Reentry Intervention in High Risk Context”

This issue we have a recipe from Dan Treglia (thanks, Dan!). It looks tasty (provided you eat meat), and could be great for an extended study break. And please start thinking about things that aren't social welfare that you might want to share in future issues!

-Jeffrey

Pork Rilette

Total Time: 16 hours (includes resting overnight)

Active Time: 5 hours

1 lb pork fat – fatback is the easiest to find at a butcher

3lb boneless pork shoulder

¼ cup water (could be more if necessary)

1 TB salt

1 tsp freshly ground black pepper

1 tsp ground allspice or juniper berries

1 bay leaf, ground or crushed

1 tsp cinnamon

- 1) Dice the pork shoulder into cubes. Mix with the spices and refrigerate overnight.
- 2) Remove the pork from the refrigerator and rinse the spices off. Doesn't have to be perfect, but try to get most off.
- 3) Dice the pork fat. If it came with the skin on, remove the skin before dicing.
- 4) Put the pork fat into a wide-bodied pot (a Dutch Oven works great for this) with the water, and then put the pork on top.
- 5) Cover and cook over a medium-high heat until the water comes to a boil. The first goal is to melt the lard, and the water helps with that. Add water if necessary to assist and keep anything from sticking to the bottom (but not much, because you'll want to get rid of it all later)
- 6) The liquid level will rise as the fat melts, and once you have another inch of liquid, reduce the heat to low. The pork will now poach in the fat and water. Simmer for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally and making sure the meat isn't browning too much or quickly. Keeping the pot covered helps this, since it keeps the moisture inside the pot.
- 7) After 2-3 hours, check for doneness by pulling out a piece of pork and crushing it against a cutting board. It should fall apart very easily.
- 8) Once the meat is ready, remove the meat with a slotted spoon, shred it, and return it to the liquid. Now take off the lid and turn up the heat to medium—the goal is to boil off the water and leave only the meat and the fat. Stir constantly to prevent burning. If the lard is cloudy, moisture remains so keep going until it's almost entirely clear.
- 9) Put the rilette into ramekins or mason jars with a spoon, and press down to remove any air. Pour the fat over it, covering with about ¼ of fat (this will help preserve it).
- 10) Let the rilette cool overnight. Best served room temperature or slightly under, just as the fat is melting. Serve on crostini, with pickled vegetables and good whole grain mustard.

