

Kalen Flynn, MSW, MSSP

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare, expected 2018

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, Philadelphia PA
Dissertation: Beats per Minute: Exploring the Impact of Neighborhood Conditions on Adolescents in Philadelphia

Master of Science in Social Policy, 2010

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, Philadelphia PA

Master of Social Work, 2009

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, Philadelphia PA

Bachelor of Science in Biology, 2005

St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia PA

Awards and Fellowships

Hal Levin Award, 2016

SP2 Top Ten Senior Fellow, 2016

Heyer Foundation Fellow, 2015

Center for Race and Equity in Education Fellow, 2015

AIR Spot Award, Contributions to Proposals, 2011, 2012

Dean's Award for Excellence in Social Policy, 2010

Stoneleigh Foundation Emerging Leaders Fellowship, 2010

John Hope Franklin Combatting American Racism Award, 2009

Global Innovation Fund Fellowship, 2009

Research Interests

Wellbeing of older adolescents / young adults

Perceptions and impact of neighborhoods and place

Violence prevention and theory development

Qualitative spatial methodologies

Publications

Campie, P.; Pakstis, A.; Flynn, K & McDermott, K. (2015) Developing a coherent approach to youth well-being in the fields of child welfare, juvenile, justice, education, and health: A systematic literature review. *Families in Society* 96(3) 175-184.

Wiebe DJ, Flynn K, & Branas CC. (2017) Letters to the editor in response to studies of guns in the home and homicide and suicide. *Injury Epidemiology* 4(1), 1-8.

Flynn, K.; Branas, C.; Richmond, T.; & Wiebe, D. (2017) Neighborhood social trust and perceptions of safety during daily activities. *Injury Prevention* Published online first: 07 October 2017. doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2017-042444

10 additional publications written under contract with the federal government

Published Abstracts

Wiebe DJ, Hohl B, Flynn K, McDonald CC, Richmond TS, Guo W, & Branas CC. Using virtual walks to study adolescents' safety in urban schools and neighborhood environments. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research* 2016;40:309A.

Papers in Progress

Contextualizing school violence: What the data say, what the teachers feel (brief report)

The landscape of school based violence: A cluster analysis approach

“I’m going to go through this fence”: Using walking interviews with older adolescents to understand spatial relationships (a research note)

“And it got really quiet when they tore the houses down”: Sensory perceptions of place

“It’s just like everyone knows each other and you feel like family”: Affective ties and urban space in Philadelphia

Presentations

Impact of Social Trust on Adolescents’ Perceptions of Safety, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting – Criminology at the Intersections of Oppression, November 19-22 2014.

An Exploration of Social Trust and Perceived Safety among Adolescents, Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research, March 10-13 2015

Perceptions of Safety Among Philadelphian Youth, National Conference for Physician-Scholars in the Social Science and Humanities – Policies and Politics of Care, April 18-19 2015

Neighborhood Social Trust & Adolescents’ Perceptions of Safety: A Philadelphia Case, Violence in the City, May 8 2015 – Invited Panelist

Social Trust and Safety: A Philadelphia Case, American Public Health Association Annual Conference, November 1 – 4, 2015

Perceptions of Safety and Impact of Social Trust, Poster Presentation, Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, January 15-19, 2016

Safe for Whom? Adolescent Perceptions of Safety During Time Spent in High Versus Low Trust Areas in Philadelphia, American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, March 29 – April 2, 2016

The Landscape of School-Based Violence in Pennsylvania, Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research, September 18-20, 2017

Neighborhood Youth, Public Safety, and Police, Society for Social Work Research, 22nd Annual Conference, January 10-14, 2018

Experience

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice, Philadelphia PA, 2013-2018

Research Fellow, PhD Student

- Performing secondary data analysis of GIS interviews with youth (ages 10-18) on their step-by-step 24 hour daily activity and a city-wide measure of social trust to examine how adolescents’ feelings of safety vary as a function of their social environment and the social trust in the neighborhoods they traverse
- Leading focus groups on impact of community on perceptions of safety among youth
- Conducting interviews with youth on school violence and safety

- Analyzing spatial data on violent crime and school violence in Philadelphia through GIS and STATA

NIJ: Space Time Adolescent Risk: Schools Project (2014-present)

- Conducting and managing walking interviews with adolescents on perceptions of risk and protective factors on their school routes
- Leading focus groups and one-on-one interviews with teachers and school personnel on risk and safety on school property
- Creating a formal survey based on qualitative data to be used in a larger study design

Teaching and TA-ing

- Lead Instructor: Contemporary Social Policy (Summer 2016 & Summer 2017)
- Lead Instructor: American Racism and Social Work Practice (Fall 2017)
- TA: The Ghetto: Race, Space, and the Ethnographic Impossible (Fall 2017)
- TA: American Racism and Social Work Practice (Fall 2015)
- TA: Post-Modern Theory and Policy in Difference (Spring 2016)
- Guest Lecturer: Urban Health and Environments (Lecture: Structural Violence)
- Guest Lecturer: Child Welfare Policy (Lecture: Redefining Violence and Policy)
- Guest Lecturer: Contemporary Social Policy (Lecture: Introduction to the Policy Process; Criminal Justice Policy: Parts I & II)

University of Pennsylvania, Criminology Department, 2017-2018

- Qualitative lead, WorkReady Program Evaluation
- Developed interview and field observation protocols
- Supervised and trained two qualitative research assistants
- Developed codebook and coding protocol

University of Chicago, Chapin Hall, Voices of Youth Count, Chicago, IL 2016
Interviewer, Philadelphia Site

- Attended training conducted by Chapin Hall
- Conducted interviews with youth, aged 13-24, experiencing housing instability in Philadelphia
- Worked on a multi-site, national team

University of Pennsylvania, PENN PRAXIS, Philadelphia PA 2015-2016
Lead Interviewer and Qualitative Research Consultant

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with 22 congregations in the Philadelphia region
- Created a code book and analysis plan
- Analyzed qualitative data
- Wrote final report for client

American Institutes for Research, Human and Social Development Program, Washington DC

Researcher, 2011- 2013

State Training and Technical Assistance Center, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency: STTAC works with states, territories, tribes, and local communities that receives funding through the Title II Formula Grant program and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program.

- Managing STTAC website team; coordinating with web specialists to identify and respond to technical features and troubleshooting and with senior project staff to develop and implement website enhancements on a regular basis
- Overseeing website content development and web analysis

- Providing training and technical supervision to less experienced staff
- Conducting and coordinating training and technical assistance
- Interacting with Federal client
- Developing the technical assistance tracker database, using FileMaker Pro

Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration: The TA Partnership provides TA to system of care communities that are funded through the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families.

- Serving as a juvenile justice content specialist
- Developing juvenile justice related content
- Conducting research for technical assistance requests related to juvenile justice

Grant Development

- Working with a justice-oriented team to develop a justice marketing plan
- Adopting ethnographic research models for justice work
- Developing template for proposal sections
- Writing and providing support for justice related proposals
- Conducting social science and legal research on the school to prison pipeline

Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA

Graduate Student Intern 2008-2010

- Participated in and created graded templates for grant selections
- Coordinated and conducted stakeholder meetings in multiple Pennsylvanian counties
- Conducted social science and legal research on educational access, foster care, juvenile justice, and diversion
- Worked with the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative in Pennsylvania on juvenile justice diversion projects for youth with mental health illness in Lehigh and Chester Counties
- Drafted a model policy for diversion of youth with substance abuse and mental health issues in Pennsylvania
- Developed a county-level workbook for analyzing and drafting diversion policies
- Implemented diversion policies in Erie and Philadelphia Counties
- Wrote summaries of national policies for education in the foster care system for the Juvenile Law Center publication: Blueprint for Education
- Aided in the collection and analysis of data on minority youth in the juvenile justice system
- Conducted data collection and statistical analysis for School Justice Panel initiative in Lehigh County

Public Defenders Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Data Management Intern 2009-2010

- Collected data and conducted a statistical analysis for Graduated Sanctions Court (a specialty Juvenile Justice court in Philadelphia)
- Observed pre-trial meetings with the Master, probation officers, District Attorney, and Public Defender
- Observed court room procedures

Africare: Nyamagabe District, Gikongoro, Rwanda

Global Innovation Fund Fellow Summer 2009

- Assessed the viability of community based structures
- Worked with Africare Staff to assist associations in graduating to cooperative societies to enable them to benefit from government-based micro-loans

- Performed a pre-evaluation assessment through conducting focus groups, interviews and field observations of a Title II USAID Food Distribution Program
- Analyzed constraints, lessons learned, evidence based practices, and identified needs and areas of intervention to strengthen project results and sustainability

Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), Philadelphia, PA

Graduate Student Intern, 2007-2008

- Provided case management services for families with children with special healthcare needs
- Maintained a full caseload of approximately 10 families per month
- Participated in monthly meetings with the Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division
- Advocated for policy changes and participated in discussion on city-wide budget changes

The Newman School, Boston, MA

Math/Science Teacher 2006-2007

- Taught Algebra I, Biology I, Anatomy and Physiology I, and Advanced Placement Biology
- Implemented a motivational teaching tool
- Coached soccer and cheerleading

The First Place for Youth, Oakland, CA

Youth Advocate 2005-2006

- Advocated for emancipating foster care youth, ages 14-24
- Provided case management services for youth
- Taught Independent Living Skills (ILS) classes

Service Positions

Co-Chair, Doctoral Student Steering committee, 2014-2016

Professional Association

Society for Social Work Research

Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research