Welcome to the 2017-2018 academic year! This past year was full of new beginnings – coming in as the new PhD director this first year has been an exhilarating and rewarding year. With no standing staff to fill the position of the PhD coordinator, I had to depend on the goodwill of my many colleagues, to ensure that our PhD program ran smoothly with few disruptions. I am particularly grateful to Dan Treglia, Isabel Boston, Andrea Nurse and Sherie Browne who with their acumen and insights and questions kept me informed and current with the program.

I have had the pleasure of working with the PhD Committee, Zvi Gellis (SW), Toorjo Ghose (SW), Amy Castro Baker (SW/SP) and Ezekiel Ramon Dixon (SP), who have guided me the throughout the year and especially during the admissions process.

Beginnings: “The end is in the beginning and lies far ahead.” — Ralph Ellison

Four students have been admitted for this year and are well ensconced into their first semester. Please take a moment to reach out to them and make them feel welcome!

- **Mina Addo** has a MS in Urban Policy & Management from The New School and a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Mina’s first-year advisor will be Amy Castro-Baker.
- **Meghna Chandra** has a BA in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Meghna’s first-year advisor will be Toorjo Ghose.
- **Kel Kroehle** studied Gender Studies and LGBTQ studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a MSW at the University of Pennsylvania. Kel’s first year-advisor will be Amy Hillier.
- **Claudia Vogelsang** received her bachelor’s degree from West Chester University and a Master’s degree from Smith College School of Social Work. Claudia’s first-year advisor will be Irene Wong.
Greetings from the Ph.D. Program Director (Cont’d)

In addition, we welcome Dr. Ioana Marinescu, an economist, to teach SWRK 968 in the PhD program.

Endings: “An end is only a beginning in disguise.” — Craig D. Lounsbrough,

We have a record number of summer and fall graduates: I am very proud of our graduates’ successes; it is a pleasure to work with such dedicated and smart people. We wish them the best in their future endeavors in academe and as agents of social change:

- **Allison Thompson** will be the Intervention Development Director for the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.
- **Christina Denard** will be an assistant professor at University of Illinois at Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work.
- **Alexandra Wimberly** has accepted a post-doctorate fellowship at Columbia University in their social work and public health departments; she has also accepted an offer to start as an assistant professor at University of Maryland’s School of Social Work after completing her post doc.
- **Ryan Petros** will be the Beals-Ferguson Scholar in Behavioral Health and assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington.
- **Eunhae Kim** accepted a position as an assistant professor at Texas State University.
- **Travis Labrum** accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Division of Social Work, University of Wyoming.
- **Sambuddha Chaudari** writes from New Delhi that he is working on a project to “promote awareness of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases among prisoners, prisons being a particularly opaque and difficult to access system, research wise, in India”.
- **Angelina Ruffin**, soon to graduate, has been appointed as Philadelphia’s new Director of Performance Management and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

All current students writing their preliminary exams passed. Congratulations!

Looking ahead, I will soon announce our new PhD coordinator who will take the many administrative responsibilities that have now been gallantly fielded by many staff in addition to their other duties.

We will continue our outreach efforts, updating the Ph.D. student profiles and videos on our website, considering changes to the curriculum, and thinking about the program and its funding structure. I wholeheartedly invite your input, either at an upcoming one-on-one (see the email sent by Dan Treglia) or at your convenience.

Do see me if you want a 2-3-minute video made to put on our website, which is a great way to market yourself and your interests. Please update your profile on the SP2 website. To do this, fill out the form at: [https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3atCj9dQqeyl8x](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3atCj9dQqeyl8x).

Going forward, let me remind you that I take your success seriously, so please feel free to email me and set up an appointment to see me to discuss anything that impedes your success or will enable it. I will do my best to help you be successful!

Femida
Greetings from the DSSC

Welcome back to all the PhD students and candidates! We hope the summer gave everyone an opportunity to recharge, especially for those students who completed prelims over the past few months. Congratulations on achieving a major milestone!

We’d also like to extend a special welcome to the incoming cohort: Claudia Vogelsang, Kel Kroehle, Meghna Chandra, and Mina Addo! If you haven’t had a chance to meet them yet, DSSC will have plenty of opportunities to do so, including our upcoming trip to Longwood Gardens on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Feel free to email DSSC (sp2dssc@gmail.com) for more information.

DSSC strives to cultivate a positive, supportive environment in the PhD program. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us with ideas, suggestions, or concerns about how we can collectively do this. We are thrilled that ProSem overlaps with the SP2 Faculty Speakers Series and hope this allows more students and faculty to connect with one another.

We look forward to seeing you all out at a social event soon. Best wishes for a great semester and a fantastic year!

Sincerely,
Dan Heist, Marquisha Lawrence Scott, and Megan Farwell

NEW STUDENTS

Mina Addo

Mina Addo is a first year PhD student at SP2. Before joining the program, Mina was based in New York City and served as a project manager for Urbane Development, a community development organization that works with community anchors and small entrepreneurs to strengthen underserved neighborhoods.

Mina's advisors are Amy Baker in SP2 and Lisa Servon in Penn Design. Her research interests include consumer financial services, urban poverty and the intersection between financial insecurity and health. She has engaged in research projects to better understand the population of alternative credit users, including their needs and motivation for choosing certain financial products. Mina previously served as a policy analyst at a New York City-based think tank, where she contributed to an analysis of the state's Medicaid redesign program. Mina's previous experience also includes serving as a health and education policy adviser in the U.S. Senate and providing public policy and communications counsel to non-profit organizations.

Mina is originally from the Washington, DC area. In her free time, she enjoys travel and cooking.
NEW STUDENTS (cont’d)

Meghna Chandra
Meghna Chandra was born in India but grew up in Merrimack, NH. She got her BA from Penn in Urban Studies and her MA in Modern history at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. After getting her MA, she worked as an English as a Second Language teacher and as a community organizer with 215 People's Alliance. She is interested in the role of political education in social work and the relationship between harm reduction and sex worker collectivization.

Her advisor is Toorjo Ghose, whom she met at Occupy Philadelphia. She enjoys reading science fiction and climbing mountains in her spare time, and can be found every Saturday morning at the Saturday Free School for Black Philosophy and Liberation at the Church of the Advocate.

Kel Kroehle
An Ohio native, Kel Kroehle studied Gender Studies and LGBTQ studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before earning their Masters of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. Spending seven years as Director of the training and education arm of Philadelphia’s Attic Youth Center, they worked with and on behalf of LGBTQ youth to facilitate workshops in the region to develop cultures of respect and support for the LGBTQ community, ultimately reaching over 12,000 youth serving professionals. Kel's professional interests include reconceptualizing gender and sexuality as liberatory possibilities in social work. Kel personally enjoys writing for Everyday Feminism, competitive cross wording, and snuggling their pup.

Claudia Vogelsang
After high school Claudia chose to enlist in the military. She spent a little under six years serving as an interrogator in the US Army. Upon completing her military service she started her social work education. Claudia received her bachelors degree from West Chester University and a Masters degree from Smith College School of Social Work. Since graduating she had been working at Norristown State Hospital as a social worker. She looks forward to continuing her education at the University of Pennsylvania and plans to research how individuals adjust to and from military service. In her leisure time Claudia enjoys playing flute in her local community band and playing board games.
Publications


Technical Reports


Presentations


Grants, Awards, & Fellowships