

**University of Pennsylvania  
School of Social Policy & Practice  
Social Welfare Doctoral Proseminar**

**Spring 2018  
Wednesdays, Noon-1:20 PM;  
3815 Walnut Street—2nd Floor Conference Room B**

**I. Course Description & Objectives**

As a requirement for the PhD in social welfare, the proseminar is designed to provide training and exposure to the various norms, practices, and research in the field of social welfare. We will explore what social welfare is and does via professional development and research talks. Throughout the semester the proseminar will include presentations, discussions, and workshops on different topics of professional development. These topics may range from various methods based topics, the dissertation process, the peer-review process, publishing, the job market, postdoctoral fellowships, grantsmanship, etc.. This will include an assignment that is designed to formatively foster your professional trajectories both in the short and long-term, including dissertation. Finally, we will have two SP2 faculty, a postdoc, and a visiting scholar give research talks on their current work. These talks will provide a space and opportunity for each student to learn about the exciting research that SP2 faculty and researchers are engaged in. SP2 faculty (as well as the campus community) will be invited, thus the research talks will also serve as text to facilitate dialogue among and between SP2 faculty and PhD students. The proseminar aims to facilitate student progress towards the completion of a meaningful dissertation that addresses an important issue in social welfare, while socializing you to the academy: that is, to enable the development of the skills, identity, and habits of mind of a social welfare scholar.

**III. Course requirements:**

**Expectations**

Classroom learning is a fundamental component of your professional education. Students are therefore expected to attend each class, arrive to class on time, and be in attendance for the full class. In the event that you are unable to attend class for any reason, you must notify the instructor in advance. Excessive absenteeism (i.e., missing more than two classes) is considered a serious problem the instructor will handle by meeting with the student and determining whether the student's educational adviser should be notified. Excessive absenteeism could result in course failure.

Students are expected to: (A) participate substantively in seminar discussions; and, (B) complete the one assignment for the academic year.

Attendance for PhD students is mandatory until you defend your dissertation proposal. Please use the class to workshop your proposal or any other conference or community presentations! We will make room for your presentation.

### **Assignment**

Students will be responsible for one assignment during the academic year and this assignment will be contingent on first- or second-year status. The assignment is designed to be formative for you professionally and toward your dissertation.

### **Recommended**

Control Societies Speaker Series: Technocratic Forces and Ontologies of Difference  
(<http://www.criticalpolicystudies.com/speaker-series>)

## **Spring Term 2018 Dates and Topics**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> | PD Topic: Practice Job Talk by Kalen Flynn  |
| Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup> | SP2 Speaker Series: Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins, Vice-Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow<br><br>Talk Title: "Chasing the Boogieman: Race, Racism, and Critical Methodologies in Medicine"     |
| Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> | PD Topic: NVivo Training with Shimrit Keddem<br><br>*will be meeting in the Goldstein Electronic Classroom (Room 114), located on the first floor of Van Pelt Dietrich Library Center |
| Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | PD Topic: The Dissertation Process: From Topic to Completion<br><br>Guest Speakers: Arjun Shankar, Kevin Jenkins, and Dan Treglia   |
| Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> | PD Topic: Evan Anderson, JD, PhD, Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives   |
| Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> | PD Topic: Granstmanship: Foundation & Private Donor Support<br><br>Guest Speakers: Dennis Culhane & Diana B. Altegoer, Penn Executive Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations  |
| Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> | SP2 Speaker Series: Dr. Irene Wong<br><br>Talk Title: "Understanding Familial Stigma of Mental Illness in Transitioning China"  |
| Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>   | No Proseminar: Spring Break   |
| Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>  | PD Topic: Introduction to the R program with Ama Nyame-Mensah   |

- Mar 21<sup>st</sup> Visiting Scholar Talk: Dr. Korina Jocson, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst*  
Talk Title: TBD
- Mar 28<sup>th</sup> SP2 Speaker Series: Dr. Amy Hillier  
Talk Title: "Understanding the experiences of transgender youth, their parents and teachers"
- Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> PD Topic: The Job Market: From Academic to Non-Academic Positions  
Guest Speakers: Amy Baker, Azahara Palomeque, & Ariel Schwartz
- Apr 11<sup>th</sup> Workshopping of Dissertation Topics/Proposals
- Apr 18<sup>th</sup> Workshopping of Dissertation Topics/Proposals
- Apr 25<sup>th</sup> Workshopping of Dissertation Topics/Proposals

## **First-Year Assignment Career Development Plan**

Each first-year student will be required to produce a career development plan by the end of the academic year. The career development plan will consist of a statement of program of research, a list of the fields you situate yourself in, a list of the leading/relevant scholars in your area(s) of research, a list of the main conferences, a list of the main funding institutions (both fellowships and grants), and a scheduled short-term and long-term writing schedule. Each of the list should correspond to and support your program of research. It is expected that this career development plan will be an ever-evolving document and will be added to and revised as each of you matriculate through the program and into your professional careers. The hope is that they will also help to organize and become aspirational guidepost for your careers. Due date: End of the academic year.

## **Second-Year/Third-Year Assignment “Workshop” of Dissertation or Research Projects**

In consultation with the Doctoral Student Steering Committee (DSSC) input, we will ask that second-year and third-year students present their work for the class. Ideally, these would be on work related to or in development of your dissertation proposal. The interest is to “workshop” in class more or less developed work (eg., precis of dissertation ideas, grant proposal, IRB application, conference presentation, a lecture, etc.). These presentations can be quite informal or more formal based on your individual needs. **THE WEEK BEFORE YOUR PRESENTATION, PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND, PLEASE SEND OUT AN ABSTRACT TO YOUR COLLEAGUES AND ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE AUDIENCE IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO ATTEND TO DURING YOUR PRESENTATION.**