FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

VIVIANA CHIU-SIK WU

This is Viviana, a third-year doctoral student at SP2. My research revolves around two intersecting foci. The first is my lasting interest in the realm of citizen-driven collective action. I research the ways through which social media facilitate civic participation and influence policy process. I am also exploring how nonprofits and community foundations create place-based impact in disadvantaged communities. My second line of work grows out of the importance of measuring nonprofit impact: what does the nonprofit sector (“neither market nor state”) contribute to the society? As a curious person myself, I am more than thrilled to learn something new from you all! :)

It is my pleasure to take up the new editorship for The Fellow, which has been in the very good hands of Ama Nyame-Mensah. Let’s extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ama for all the great work in the past years! The Fellow is designed to make space for meaningful information exchange, recognition and celebration, as well as a platform for us to develop professionally through connecting with our outstanding faculty and alumni. This is my vision in carrying these important agenda forward and to serve in a way that meets the needs of our fellow cohorts to “Stay Inspired, Stay Driven!”

I am glad to bring out the first issue of Volume 13 for the 2018-19 academic year. With our key agenda of welcoming incoming PhD cohorts and visiting students, this issue also features an insightful experience sharing from our outstanding alumni, Dr. Christina DeNard, a must-read for all! With the “Good News & Peer Cite” section, we celebrate our hard work and accomplishments that would be recognized among our peers and faculty.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome incoming PhD students including, Stefanie, Jessica, Michelle, Arlene, and Alicia, Aditi, Jinghua and Zhe (names not listed in order), who have completed half of the Fall semester! Another round of applause for them, please! I hope you enjoy going through this issue of The Fellow and will also send me any suggestions to make it a resource for you!

Gratefully yours,

Viviana Wu
Welcome back to all the PhD students and candidates! We hope the summer was rejuvenating and that fall semester is off to a great start. For students who took their Prelims this summer: congratulations on achieving a major milestone!

We’d also like to extend a warm welcome to the new cohort: Jessica Kim, Michelle Mullen, Stefanie Ruiz, and Alicia Chatterjee (MSW/PhD)! Additionally, we would like to welcome a visiting PhD candidate and Fulbright Scholar, Aditi Dey Sarkar, who will be working with Femida, as well as Jinghua Gao and Zhe Zhang, who will be working with Chao and Ram this academic year.

After two (or more) great years of service, Dan Heist and Ama Nyame-Mensah will no longer be serving as a DSSC chair and editor of the Fellow, respectively. We thank both Dan and Ama for how well they served the SP2 PhD community! Graciously, Viviana Wu has taken over as the editor of the Fellow. We are, however, looking for two people to serve on the DSSC committee. If you are interested, please reach out to the DSSC email (sp2dssc@gmail.com) or connect with Megan or Marquisha.

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. Best wishes for a great semester and a fantastic year!

Sincerely,
Marquisha Lawrence Scott & Megan Farwell
“And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that never were.” —Rainer Maria Rilke

A hearty welcome to the new academic year! As Rilke aptly puts it, the new academic year will bring for all of you many experiences that ‘never were’. Among the many things you will encounter for the first time are those experiences that contribute to your learning and growth as a scholar. These will come in a myriad of shapes and forms - from the spoken to the written word, from your social to your professional connections, and from your successes to your failures. I wish that all these experiences will allow you to be the best person and the best scholar you can be.

This past year has been a very successful and productive year for our PhD program. Our graduates are now carving out their professional careers, mostly in academia, but elsewhere as well. You, the current cohort are marching along well, and no one has fallen off the beaten path with the exception of a diversion or two. Many of you have successfully defended your dissertation proposals, attended and presented at conferences, been awarded research grants, published successfully in peer-reviewed journals, and even published a book!

I am extremely proud of all your hard work and dedication as well as the comradeship that exists between you. You all form a well-knit community, looking out for each other and cooperating on many endeavors - both academic and non-academic.

I am blessed to have Kate Lannan helping with the administration of the program, and as you all have noted, she is very helpful and delightful to work with! I am especially grateful to her, Isabel Boston, Andrea Nurse and Sherie Browne, who, with their acumen and insights have helped me manage the various parts of the program. I have had the pleasure of working with my advisory PhD Committee which include Professors: Zvi Gellis, Toorjo Ghose, Ioana Marinesu and Ezekiel Dixon-Ramon, who have guided me ably throughout the year and especially during the admissions process.

Five students have been admitted to our cohort year and are well-installed into their first semester, and by now you have hopefully met each other: Alicia Chaterjee (MSW/PHD), Arlene Fernandez (DUAL with Annenberg), Jessica Kim, Michelle Mullen, and Stefanie Ruiz.

While welcoming students into the program we bid fare thee well to our newly minted PhD graduates. I am very proud of their successes, it is always a pleasure to work with such dedicated and smart people. I wish them the best in their future endeavors in academia and as agents of social change. Below I list them, their dissertation titles, the chair of the dissertation committee and their current positions.
1. **Kalen Flynn** – *Beats Per Minute: Exploring the Impact of Violence and Neighborhood Conditions on Adolescents in Philadelphia Neighborhoods* (Chair: Dr. Bobbie Iverson)
   Assistant Professor appointment at The Jane Addams College of Social Work, a division of the University of Illinois at Chicago

2. **Jeffrey Sharlein** – *At the End of the Day, We're Still in the Hood': Lawbreaking, Agency, and Geography Among Youth in Marginalized Neighborhoods* (Chair: Dr. Bobbie Iverson)
   Research Associate appointment at The Center for Court Innovation in New York

3. **Jia Xue** – *Social Media and Agenda Setting for Intimate Partner Violence in the US and China: A Comparison of Twitter and Weibo* (Chair: by Dr. Richard Gelles)
   Assistant Professor appointment at Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work University of Toronto, Canada

4. **Dexia Kong**: *Health Services Utilization Among Older Asian Americans* (Chair: Dr. Irene Wong)
   Post-Doc appointment at Rutgers University: Institute for Health Healthcare Policy and Aging Research

5. **Christina DeNard** – *Child Welfare Caseworkers: A Pivotal Role in the Uptake of Evidence-Based Practices* (Chair: Dr. Antonio Garcia)
   Assistant Professor appointment at The Jane Addams College of Social Work is a division of the University of Illinois at Chicago

6. **Chenyi Ma** - *Home Recovery in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina* (Chair: Dr. Bobbie Iverson)
   Post-Doc appointment with Dr. Amy Castro Baker, University of Pennsylvania

Further news:
- All current students who wrote their preliminary exams passed. **Congratulations!**
- An updated list of job market candidates can be found at this link here: [https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/academics/phd-in-social-welfare/resources/current-academic-job-market-candidates/](https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/academics/phd-in-social-welfare/resources/current-academic-job-market-candidates/)

We have had an opportunity to do a self-review of the PhD program, and undertaken some benchmarking with our peers. Over the summer I have, with the help of an extraordinary research assistant, Omkar Katta, and the resources provided by Dean John Jackson, put together an alumni database, capturing 98% of all the PhD alumni from the SP2 PhD program since its inception. Stay tuned…. find out who they are and what they do……! If you have not updated your recent achievements or CV, please do so and follow this link. We want to know what you are doing and celebrate it! [https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3atCjr9dQqeylI8x](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3atCjr9dQqeylI8x)

I take your achievements seriously and want to help you with the challenges you will face. Please feel free to email me and set up an appointment to discuss anything that may facilitate (or hinder) your successes. I will do my best to help you be successful!

All by very best wishes for this academic year,

**Femida**
A little bit about my process:

When I was nearing my 4th year, I decided that I wanted a postdoc. I didn’t feel confident in my research skills nor was I settled on whether I wanted to go into academia or some other setting. I was working on an application for an NIH postdoc but also had some funds from a dissertation fellowship I was awarded that I could have used to create a postdoc position at one of the agencies where I was collecting my dissertation data. Since I had made up my mind to have a postdoc, I was only going to apply for jobs that came up where I would deeply regret it if I were to let the opportunity pass me by. I saw it as a way to get comfortable with the job market process so that when I actually needed to go on the market, I would have a little bit of experience. It just so happened that I received an email from the search chair at my current institution and was asked to consider applying for a tenure-track position. When I saw the school’s mission statement, commitment to community-engaged research, request for my area of expertise and specific training for MSWs in a sector that I was passionate about, I knew that I wanted to apply. I figured that if I were to give academia a try, it would be in a place like this one. I went for it and was honestly surprised that I was hired.

Even though my process was a bit untraditional, I still learned some things that might be helpful to you along your journey:

**Have at least one person on your committee who is a true mentor to you.**

This was invaluable to me as I navigated both writing my postdoc application and going through the job interview process. As I mentioned before, I lacked confidence in my research skills and abilities and needed someone that knew my work to be able to help me determine what skills I already had and what I could learn on the job. This person being on my committee also was able to guide me to be able to finish my dissertation before I started my job. I felt more confident accepting my job offer when I saw that my committee thought that I was ready to take on a tenure-track position. Also, hopefully this mentor and others will guide you through the application process, specifically the campus visit (i.e. job talk). My chair organized a mock job talk for me before my visit which was immensely helpful. Penn faculty and students attended and provided feedback from a variety of perspectives. My mentors also helped me to frame my discussion of my research in light of the other projects that I worked on since I had not collected more than a third of my dissertation data. I was still able to demonstrate a research trajectory that could sustain me as I transitioned into a tenure-track position. Side note: If you happen to be on the market without dissertation data, there is hope!
Learn as much as you can during your PhD program.

You are in an amazing space to learn from top scholars in the field. Learn from them! Take classes and learn methods that you can take with you to your new job. I wish I stretched myself more to be more involved in different kinds of analyses while I was at Penn. Statistical and methods seminars are not free postgrad so take advantage! Run your own analyses on your projects if you can, that way you will feel more comfortable completing those same analyses independently.

TEACH.

If you plan on going into a faculty position or think you may adjunct on the side, having teaching experience is a must. Not just so that you are comfortable speaking in front of students or developing a syllabus, but so that you can hopefully cut down on your prep time. Teaching new classes can take up a lot of your time, which is at a premium as you will be trying to publish papers and establish new relationships/projects at the same time. If you can come into your job with a solid set of readings and class activities from a class that you have taught before, you will be ahead of the game.

Know what's important to you.

As a laid-back, relational person who considers herself pretty down to earth, I knew that I needed an environment that fit my personality. The same collegial, family-like atmosphere that I had with my cohort mates and colleagues at Penn was what I knew I needed at whatever job setting I landed in next. Therefore, I chose a place that has also has a laid back, relatively down to earth faculty. I knew I was going to the right place when the search chair gave me a hug at the end of my campus visit 😊. I knew that about myself, so I would encourage you to figure out what aspects of a working environment are crucial for you to thrive. Then don’t compromise on having them in your next place of work. It's not worth taking a job only to be miserable because of the environment that you’re in. Trust me, the job is hard enough on its own.

In sum… I hope you found my tips and experiences helpful. Know that if you ever have any additional questions or would like more insight, feel free to keep in touch. I'm always happy to help!

Christina DeNard, PhD
Assistant Professor
Jane Addams College of Social Work
University of Illinois at Chicago
Email: christ5@uic.edu

*Stay tuned to our next issue for Christina's sharing on transitioning to Assistant Professor life!
INCOMING PHD STUDENTS & VISITING STUDENTS

My name is Anne Stefanie Ruiz Sportmann (Stefanie, for short) – I am an international student from Stuttgart, Germany. Though I was born in Panama, I spent most of my life in Europe where I graduated from a BSc in International Business at the ESB Business School, which additionally allowed me to pursue two long-term internships and an exchange semester in South Korea. Ever so adventurous, I decided to switch from the private to the third sector and completed a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management and Leadership at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After graduating I decided to extend my stay for an additional year so as to compose my study on "Relational Interactions between Immigrant and Native-Born Volunteers: Trust-building and integration or suspicion and conflict?". With a strong objective to further cover all three sectors, I now have the honor of joining the PhD program in Social Welfare at SP2 under the supervision of Professor Femida Handy. I am highly interested in researching the impact of immigrant volunteering - specifically that of second-generation immigrants such as myself. During my spare time I love to travel, explore cities, dive into cultures, learn new languages, read, and engage in faith-based initiatives. I am looking forward to a couple of busy and successful years at SP2!

Jessica Kim is a licensed clinical social worker with 15 years of practice experience in agency, governmental, and private practice settings delivering clinical services to children, adults, and families. Borne of her diverse experience as a psychotherapist comes a strong interest in researching the developmental trauma of adverse childhood experiences and its impact on families. She hopes this research will contribute to the implementation of trauma-informed interventions in and beyond clinical settings. In particular, she is interested in broadening access to culturally competent mental health services in schools and churches for marginalized youth and families who do not utilize existing systems of care. Jessica will be advised by Dr. Malitta Engstrom. Jessica was born in Seoul, South Korea. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Rutgers University and a Master’s degree in social work from Columbia University. Additionally, she completed a post-master's social work fellowship in child and adolescent mental health at Yale University. Jessica lives in Cherry Hill, NJ with her husband and their three young children where there is never a dull moment. She enjoys being active in the Korean church community, torturing her family with yoga and mindfulness, and hosting yummy dinner parties.
Michelle G. Mullen, MS, CRC, CPRP is the developer of a career development model that seeks to support the normative educational and vocational development of young adults with mental health conditions. She has worked for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, was an Assistant Professor for the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions at Rutgers University, and consultant to the Jed Foundation. She received her Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with a specialization in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from Boston University. Michelle has led multiple federally-funded research and development projects evaluating the effectiveness of various interventions for college students with psychiatric conditions. Her current interests and studies focus on the prevention of disability of young adults with mental health conditions; standardizing services supporting college students with mental health conditions (e.g. Supported Education); identifying and evaluating the effectiveness of educational supports; testing a compensatory model of cognitive remediation for college students; and evaluating the services that are effective for young people to develop meaningful, long-term careers. Michelle has developed career services for those with mental health conditions in many states including, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; she has also assisted in developing first episode psychosis programs. Michelle has provided training and technical assistance to organizations, institutions of higher education, counties, states, and other countries on career services, psychiatric rehabilitation, service design, program development, and systems change.

Alicia Chatterjee is an MSW/PhD student at the School of Social Policy and Practice. She is originally from coastal Maine and has a BA in Anthropology from Tufts University and a Master’s in Education from University of Pennsylvania. Before joining SP2, Alicia worked in community mental health for three years and co-founded an arts, activism, and education project for people affected by sexual and intimate violence, with a focus on supporting survivors of color. Alicia is also a yoga teacher with an interest in trauma-informed and restorative practices. Her research interests include anti-racist and anti-colonial practices in social work, critical studies of trauma, and social welfare through arts activism. Her advisor is Dr. John L. Jackson. Alicia’s hobbies include practicing yoga and meditation, jiu jitsu, creative writing, and being by the ocean!
Arlene Fernández is a joint doctoral student at the Annenberg School for Communication and the School of Social Policy and Practice. She earned her MSW at SP2 in 2017 and spent the past year working on several projects, including serving as the research coordinator for the Venezuela Initiative with Dr. Ezekiel Dixon-Román; she was the 2017-2018 director of the CAMRA Fellows Program with the support of Dean John Jackson; and she supported a graduate course and film projects for GSE Films and SP2 Films alongside Amitanshu Das, Director of GSE Films. Prior to completing her MSW, Arlene worked at Penn as an educator and advisor for undergraduate students in a service-learning and research program at Civic House and previously worked in the non-profit sector in Philadelphia and a law firm New York City. Arlene will continue to work with Dr. Dixon-Román and Dean Jackson as a doctoral student. She is broadly interested in culture, discursive racial and class formations, visual communication, and social policy. Currently, she is exploring the ways that Latinx racialization and related counter-hegemonic practices are informed by, manifested through, and discursively formed in media and digital spaces, and connections between (mediated) identities and rhetoric about the U.S. social welfare system within the context of our current sociopolitical moment. As a mediamaker, she is committed to the idea that multimodal approaches to research can serve as vehicles for public engagement and translation, and as spaces for cultural reimaginings that center those at the margins. Arlene holds a B.A. in Urban Studies, also from the University of Pennsylvania (she is working towards a trifecta of Penn degrees). She is a long-time Philadelphia resident and originally from Queens, New York. She enjoys spending time with family, making stuff with her hands, people-watching, wandering, and coffee shops.

Jinghua Gao is a PhD candidate of Renmin University of China and a 2018-2019 visiting scholar of SP2 in Upenn. Her advisors are Chao Guo and Ram Cnaan in SP2. Jinghua's major is social security. Before joining the PhD program, she worked in Beijing City and served as a project manager at China Charity Alliance, which is a joint and pivotal organization dedicated to promoting the development of philanthropy of China. In that period, she also served as an informal Charity Officer in the Bureau of Social welfare and Charity, Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, where she contributed to an analysis of the charity policies. During the PhD program, as an assistant researcher, she has been a volunteer at China Association of Social Security for two years. The core values of that organization are fairness, justice and sharing. Her research interests include charitable giving motives, social media philanthropy, poverty relief and child welfare policy. In her free time, she enjoys playing Guqin, a traditional ancient Chinese musical instrument.
Aditi Dey Sarkar is a Fulbright Doctoral Research Fellow at SP2. Through the fellowship she is examining the impact of policies made in the Global North on the daily lived realities of SHG women and their negotiations with the State in claiming citizenship, with a special focus on interdisciplinary scholarship and debates taking place in the fields of Gender and Development.

This forms an important link to her research in Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Her ongoing thesis focuses on rural women in Kerala who are a part of Self Help Groups (SHGs) established by the State, and aims to investigate the complex web of relationships that SHG women share with the State (as citizens) and the market (as consumers and entrepreneurs) in the framework of the neoliberal economy of development. Prior to pursuing my Ph.D in Sociology, Aditi was working with the National Rural Livelihood Mission in Kerala. She completed her Masters in Social work in 2013 from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India and has a bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering.

Aditi's advisor is Femida Handy and her research interests include rural poverty, microfinance and volunteering. In her free time, she enjoys reading books, watching movie or participating in peace; culture and education activities organized by Soka Gakkai, a lay Buddhist Organization.

Zhe Zhang is a third-year PhD student at China Institute for Philanthropy and Social Innovation (CIPSI), Renmin University of China. She is a 2018-2019 visiting scholar of SP2 and her advisor here is Chao Guo, who is also the dean of CIPSI. Zhe's research interests include nonprofit management and philanthropic culture. Before joining the visiting program, Zhe has visited a few nonprofits dedicated to inheriting Confucianism in China, and she became so curious about how culture affect nonprofits management. During the visiting time in UPenn, Zhe is gonna learn more about how western culture affect nonprofits management and make some comparison. Zhe comes from middle part of China and can cook some traditional Chinese food. In her spare time, she loves badminton and museums.
GOOD NEWS & PEER CITES

Publications:


Successful Grant Applications:


Awards and Fellowships:


Conference Presentations:


Last but not least, Congratulations to Marquisha on her successful Proposal Defense!
“The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*