

Elyssa Schroeder, LMSW

 elyssa@uga.edu

 linkedin.com/in/elyssaschroeder

Professional areas of interest: *service models for victims of gender-based violence and trauma, interdisciplinary research, implementation research, global social work, program development and evaluation, domestic violence, human trafficking*

Education

The University of Georgia, August 2019 - Present

Ph.D., Social Work

The University of Texas at Austin, May 2015

Master of Science in Social Work, Community & Administrative Leadership (Macro) Concentration

The University of Georgia, May 2011

Bachelors of Arts in International Affairs, Magna Cum Laude

Research Experience

Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach, August 2019 - present

Pre-doctoral Fellow, University of Georgia

- Provided consultation, capacity building, and trainings on shelter and trauma-informed best practices for trafficking survivors with programs in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Senegal
- Completed 5-year data analysis of client file data of child labor trafficking survivors, which was used to collaboratively re-tool assessment tools for use in Sierra Leone's only child trafficking shelter (funded by International Labour Organization grant)
- Part of international consortium that provides strategic data analysis and service support in West African anti-child trafficking initiatives
- Coordinated the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum, an event to bring together researcher-learners to share cutting edge research methodologies to sample hard-to-reach populations
- Conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of therapeutic interventions for human trafficking
- Helped with planning and executing the ECOWAS Regional Human Trafficking Conference in Sierra Leone

STARR Lab, June 2020 - May 2021

Research Team Leader, University of Georgia

- Coordinated team of undergraduate and graduate students creating qualitative coding schemes and qualitative thematic analysis
- Used qualitative data analysis to understand drivers and facilitators of child trafficking in West Africa

Texas Council on Family Violence, September 2017 - July 2019

Policy Coordinator, Austin, Texas

- Coordinated research team from four research institutions (University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and St. Edward's University) to complete the Texas State Plan, a mixed-methods, comprehensive study on available services and needs in the state funded by the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor
- Contributed to the development of survey and interview protocols and conducted 25 in-person, qualitative interviews
- Facilitated 6 population-specific stakeholder groups to understand historically underserved populations' experiences while seeking domestic violence services

Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, September 2013 - December 2014

Research Fellow, University of Texas at Austin

- Created first draft of survey for service providers of victims of human trafficking as part of the Human Trafficking Compendium Project for the Office of the Attorney General to compile a statewide clearinghouse of services
- Involved in creating an assessment tool identifying victims to be implemented at agencies statewide

Publications

Schroeder, E., Yi, H., Okech, D., Bolton, C., Cody, A., & Aletraris, L. (2023) *Do Social Service Interventions for Human Trafficking Survivors Work?: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*. (In Press).

Pless, J., **Schroeder, E.**, Blackburn, J., & Choi, Y. J. (2023). "They Knew They Were Still Safe with Us": Experiences of Domestic Violence Shelter Staff on Survivors' Experiences in Shelter in the Early COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Family Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00545-3>

Schroeder, E., Pless, J., Blackburn, J., & Choi, J. Sheltering during COVID-19: Domestic violence shelter staff experiences in the early stages of the pandemic, Technical Report. University of Georgia. www.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28116.53127

Okech, D., Bolton, C., & **Schroeder, E.** *Financial education in human trafficking interventions: Implications for research, programming, and policy*, In Nicolini, G., Cude, B.J. (Eds). Handbook on Financial Literacy. Routledge, Milton Park Abingdon (UK).

Schroeder, E., Edgemon, T. G., Aletraris, L., Kagotho, N., Clay-Warner, J., & Okech, D. (2022). *A review of prevalence estimation methods for human trafficking populations*. *Public Health Reports*, 137(1_ suppl), 46S-52S. <https://doi.org/10.1177/003335492111044010>

US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Okech, D., Aletraris, L., & **Schroeder, E.** (2020). Human trafficking statistical definitions: Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum. University of Georgia African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery & The US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.31986.12484>

Voth Schrag, R. J., Ravi, K., Robinson, S., **Schroeder, E.**, & Padilla-Medina, D. (2020). Experiences with help seeking among non-service engaged survivors of IPV: Survivors' recommendations for service providers. *Violence against Women*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801220963861>

Marguiles, J., Voyles, M., **Schroeder, E.**, Hooper, M., Sudolsky, C., Moore, T., Cantrell, A., Bocklage, D. (2020). Trauma-informed assessment project: A statewide report. Texas Council on Family Violence. http://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/recentered_report_0820.pdf

Cantrell, A., **Schroeder, E.**, & Voyles, M. (2019). Creating a safer Texas: Access to safety, justice, & opportunity. Texas Council on Family Violence. <http://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-State-Plan-Executive-Summary-11.2.pdf>

Audio Publications

Salerno, A. (Editor). Schroeder, E. (Contributor). (2022, December 2). *Athens news matters: Sex trafficking myths*. [Radio Broadcast]. WUGA. <https://www.wuga.org/local-news/2022-12-02/athens-news-matters-sex-trafficking-myths>

West, W. & Weaver, S. (Hosts) **Schroeder, E.** (Guest Contributor). (2021, March 23). Furthering the conversation on trafficking (No. 30) [Audio podcast episode]. In *Down the rabbit hole*. Texas Council on Family Violence. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/furthering-the-conversation-on-trafficking/id1530727648?i=1000514070048>

Invited Presentations

Schroeder, E., Fofanah, U., Bruner, J., & Okech, D. (2022, November 11). *Developing a Decentralized Approach to Evaluation*. [Oral presentation]. United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF): UNICEF Global Evaluation Meeting. Virtual Presentation.

Schroeder, E. (2022, January 11). *Sheltering during COVID-19: Domestic violence shelter staff experiences during the pandemic*. [Oral presentation]. National Network to End Domestic Violence. Virtual Presentation.

Balfour, G., **Schroeder, E.,** & Okech, D. (2021, November 15). *Reintegration for human trafficking survivors: Using data to improve outcomes*. [Oral Presentation]. United States Department of State: Child Protection Compact Grantee Gathering. Virtual Presentation.

Schroeder, E. (2021, April). *Sheltering during COVID-19: Domestic violence shelter workers' experiences during the early stages of the pandemic* [Oral Presentation]. Social Work Research in Action: Community, Policy, and Practice Colloquium. Athens, GA.

Presentations

Schroeder, E. (2023, January 14). *Using community-based participatory methods to create and implement assessment tools*. In R. Fusco (Chair), *Human trafficking domestically and globally: Improving practice and research to aid survivors*. [Symposium]. Society for Social Work Research Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

Callands, T. A., Okech, D., Cody, A.M., **Schroeder, E.** (2023, January 12). *Enhancing Rigor, Transparency and Impact of Multi-Source, Multi-Methods Qualitative Analysis: A Workshop Exploring the Use of Framework Matrices As a Practical, Organizational and Analytical Tool Supporting Comparative Thematic Analysis*. [Conference Workshop]. Society for Social Work Research, Phoenix, Arizona, United States.

Poon, R., **Schroeder, E.,** Hansen, N., & Okech, D. (2022, November 9). *Using a decolonization approach to capacity building in international and under-resourced contexts*. [Oral Presentation]. American Evaluation Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Cody, A. Callands, T., & **Schroeder, E.** (2022, February 18). *Responding to Child Trafficking in Sierra Leone: A Qualitative Analysis Centering Survivors, Parents, Community Members and Professional Perspectives in Identifying Gaps in Policy and Service Initiatives*. [Oral Presentation]. Northern Colorado Human Trafficking Symposium. Virtual Presentation.

Pless, J., **Schroeder, E.,** & Choi, Y.J. (2022, January 12-16). *Sheltering during COVID-19: Domestic violence shelter workers' experiences during the early stages of the pandemic*. In **E. Schroeder** (Chair), *Equally essential: Findings of employee experiences and research processes during COVID-19*. [Symposium]. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Pasada, O., O'Shields, J. Sharkey, C., Strickland, C., & **Schroeder, E.** (2022, January 12-16). *Effects of COVID-19 related stress on non-teaching university support staff*. In **E. Schroeder** (Chair), *Equally essential: Findings of employee experiences and research processes during COVID-19*. [Symposium]. Society for Social Work Research Conference.

Washington, DC.

Schroeder, E. & Okech, D. (2021, November 2-5). *Assessing the Importance of Trafficking Survivors' Perception of Residential Services on Long-term Outcomes: A Hierarchical Regression Model*. [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. Virtual Conference.

Schroeder, E. & Okech, D. (2021, January). *Factors associated with physical and mental health outcomes among female trafficking survivors: A hierarchical regression model* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual Conference.

Wood, L., Backes, B., McGiffert, M., **Schroeder, E.** (2020, January). *Improving domestic violence service access and response: Learning from the Texas State Plan* [Oral Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Wood, L. Backes, B., McGiffert, M. Voyles, M., **Schroeder, E.**, Cantrell, A. (2019, April). *Enhancing access to justice: Improving system response to intimate partner violence* [Oral Presentation]. Conference on Crimes Against Women. Dallas, TX.

Flynn, D., **Schroeder, E.**, Chang, S., Dillefeld, S. (April, 2018). *Domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking: Intersectionality and building bridges* [Panel Presenter]. Freedom Network Conference. Washington, DC.

Schroeder, E., Nehme, J., Bernstein, B., Reed, B. (August, 2017). *Ask the experts: Understanding human trafficking through data & experience* [Panel Moderator]. Texas Council on Family Violence Statewide Conference. Austin, TX.

Schroeder, E. (April, 2017). *Mental Health & Trauma intersections when working with domestic violence survivors* [Oral Presentation]. Every Victim, Every Time Conference. Bryan, TX.

Voyles, M. & **Schroeder, E.** (September, 2016). *Mental Health & Trauma intersections when working with domestic violence survivors* [Oral Presentation]. Texas Homeless Network Annual Conference. Austin, TX.

Schroeder, E. (August, 2016). *Conflict resolution in domestic violence services* [Oral Presentation]. International Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Summit. San Diego, CA.

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia, Fall 2021

Special Topics: Human Trafficking: Causes, Consequences, and Current Interventions, Masters Level

- Developed first human trafficking focused class taught at University of Georgia, including selecting reading, creating assignments, and teaching weekly

University of Georgia, Spring 2021

Social Work Policy Practice, Masters Level

- Guest Lecturer, "Policy in State Legislatures: Simulation of how a bill becomes a law"

University of Georgia, Spring 2021

Special Topics: Financial Capability and Asset Building, Bachelors Level

- Teaching Assistant

University of Georgia, Spring 2020

Introduction to Social Work, Bachelors Level

- Guest Lecturer, "Policy Practice in Social Work"

University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2013

Human Behavior in Social Environment, Masters Level

- Teaching Assistant

Grants

Serving Child Labor Trafficking Survivors in Sierra Leone: What Works and Why?, US Fulbright Research Grant Program

Awarded April 2022

- Research grant for living expenses in conjunction with community-based participatory research dissertation project with World Hope International's Sierra Leone anti-trafficking intervention services

From research to action project: Using knowledge to accelerate progress in the elimination of child labour and forced labour, International Labour Organization

Awarded August 2021

- Nine-month seed grant, \$10,000 funding for community-based participatory action research study in Sierra Leone

Violence Against Women Act funding, Office of the Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Division

Awarded September 2015

- Two-year grant, \$100,000 funding for Victim Services Coordinator position in Karnes County, Texas

ConocoPhillips Community Giving Award

Awarded December 2015

- One-time corporate gift, \$1000 funding for Victim Services program Karnes County

Practice Experience

Project Family, May 2020 - December 2021

Clinical Therapist

- Provided trauma-informed weekly therapy to caseload of 14 clients
- Specialized in trauma and gender-based violence using diverse modalities including sensorimotor therapy, motivational interviewing, mindfulness, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and narrative therapy

Texas Council on Family Violence, May 2015 - July 2019

Public Policy Coordinator, Austin, Texas

- Coordinated 15-person research team, mixed-methods design, and implementation of the latest version of the Texas State Plan on family violence to understand accessibility of services for domestic violence survivors in Texas
- Conducted data collection with mixed-method interviews as part of a national study led by Michigan State University on the efficacy of housing models for survivors of domestic violence
- Led an initiative to create a model intake process for entry into domestic violence and sexual assault services in the state of Texas including creating new forms that conform to funder regulations, creating trauma-informed best practices around the intake process, and providing webinar and program training on the subject
- Created standardized protocol for Trauma-Informed Assessment Program to evaluate domestic violence programs, recommend best practices, and facilitate staff sessions to negotiate change
- Implemented a three-step Rules Reduction process at eight sites to increase survivor-centered advocacy

in shelters throughout the state including facilitating staff and survivor focus groups to increase voluntary service models

- Worked to pass bills ensuring continued funding for Texas domestic violence programs, privileged communication protections for advocates, and enhanced safety protections for survivors as part of the 85th Texas Legislative Session
- Developed and presented in-depth trainings around Mental Health & Trauma, Trauma Informed Conflict Resolution, Motivational Interviewing, Serving Human Trafficking Survivors in a Domestic Violence Program, and Federal Regulations for domestic violence and sexual assault programs

Karnes County Attorney's Office, May 2014 – May 2015

Victim Services Coordinator & Consultant, Karnes County, Texas

- Advocated and implemented creation of new Victim Services department in Karnes County to assist crime victims that interacted with the County Attorney, County Judge, and Sheriff's Office
- Administered budgeting of the new department and secured state and private grant funding
- Established policies and protocols, assessment forms, victim referral procedures, and administrative support documents for department
- Created collaborations between all law enforcement agencies within the County, nearest Child Advocacy Center, local women's shelter, and other social services to establish a continuum of care for victims
- Facilitated new, client-centered process for obtaining Protective Orders through the County Attorney's Office to lay the foundation for the first Protective Order issues in the county in 5 years
- Implemented a countywide Needs Assessment for available services and continuing needs of domestic violence survivors in Karnes County

International Justice Mission, January - May 2015

Aftercare Intern, Washington, DC.

- Produced an extensive literature review on current best practices and tools for determining psychological, physical, and social outcomes for clients across IJM's case types
- Collaborated with field offices in India to provide training materials for culturally competent social work providers on interventions for labor trafficking survivors

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, August 2013-May 2014

Advocate Intern, San Marcos, TX

- Provided trauma-informed counseling, case management, and crisis intervention to victims of abuse and sexual assault
- Provided hospital and court accompaniment for sexual assault and domestic violence victims
- Designed and implemented response for identifying victims of human trafficking through everyday casework and hotline calls

Bloom Health Program, June 2010-June 2011

Co-founder, Goa, India

- Developed a holistic health weekly program through community collaboration that focused on 27 women's physical and communal health

Service

Divas Who Win, Anti-trafficking organization

- Board Member 2023-2024, Vice President
- Board Member 2022-2023, Secretary

Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach

- Inaugural Strategic Planning Committee

Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Member 2021-2022

- Partner-level appointee, “Examining Domestic Adult Sex Trafficking” Working Group Member

African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery

- Program Manager Hiring Committee

Journal Reviewer

- Journal on Poverty and Social Justice
- SAGE Open

Social Work Licensure & Membership

Licensed Master of Social Work

- Georgia License - # *MSW010211*
- Texas License - # *61680*

Member in Good Standing

- International Federation of Social Workers

Certification in Complex Trauma Treatment

- Evergreen Certifications, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional Level II