

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PHD GRADUATES AND DISSERTATIONS*

Christopher Strickland, PhD (2025, May). *Dissertation Defense: Catalyzing Resistance: A Systematic Thematic Analysis of Critical Consciousness Development in Anti-Oppressive Social Movement Spaces*. Committee members: **June Hopps**, Rebecca Matthew, Maurice Daniels.

Fahmida Afroz, PhD (2025, May). *Exploring the Impact of Parent-Child Separation on Child Trafficking Vulnerability: A Three-Study Dissertation*. Committee members: **David Okech**, Anna Cody, Lydia Aletraris, Nathan Hansen.

Jay O'Shields, PhD (2024, August). *Childhood Maltreatment, Inflammation, and Major Depressive Symptoms: Longitudinal Analyses Exploring the Effects of Maltreatment Type and the Influence of Sex and Gender*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Amy Baldwin, Javier Boyas, Rachel Fusco.

Oluwayomi Paseda, PhD (2024, May). *I'M A PERSON BEYOND MY PAST": AN INTERPRETIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF BLACK WOMEN REENTRY AFTER INCARCERATION*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Michael Robinson, Sarah Shannon, Luis R. Alvarez-Hernandez.

Brian Graves, PhD (2024, May). *Co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders among criminal justice-involved adults: Trajectories, positive coping strategies, and service utilization profiles*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Lydia Aletraris, Sarah Shannon.

Mariam Fatehi, PhD (2024, May). *Adverse Childhood Experience and Caregiver Relationship Quality: Risk and Protective Factors among Emerging Adults for Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Michael Robinson, Rachel Fusco.

Hyesu Yeo, PhD (2023, May). *Employment Transition Trends among Older Workers in Job Search Activities, Job Availability, and Workforce Development Program Participation in the United States: A Three-Study Dissertation*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Mary Caplan, Christina Matz, Anthony Mallon.

Caroline Sharkey, PhD (2023, May). *Digital storytelling and fostering collective efficacy: Arts-based youth participatory action research and constructing community*: **Jennifer Elkins**, Rachel Fusco, Y. Joon Choi, Kevin Burke.

Megan Lee, PhD (2023, May). *The role of race and income on African American youth participation in out-of-school time programs*: **June Hopps**, Rebecca Matthew, Deryl Bailey.

Barbara Arnold, PhD (2023, May). *Trauma and the body: A phenomenological study of practitioners' experiences using somatic approaches to treat trauma*: **Jennifer Elkins**, Kate Morrissey-Stahl, Rachel Fusco.

Elisa Childs, PhD (2022, December). *Patient-centered medical homes: How the federally supported model impacts older adults' access to care in rural Georgia*: **Orion Mowbray**, Javier Boyas, Ed Risler, Michael Robinson.

Katherine F. Gower, PhD (2022, May). *Exploring an online adaptation of reflective structured dialogue*: **Llewellyn Cornelius**, Mary Ager, Janette Hill, Raytheon Rawls.

Tatiana Villarreal-Otálora, PhD (2021, December). *Latinx caregivers as a locus for adolescent suicide prevention: A mixed method dissertation*. Committee members: **Jane McPherson**, Javier Boyas, Jeremy Gibbs.

George Mois, PhD (2021, December). *Understanding the role of embodiment across communication technologies in facilitating social connectivity and addressing loneliness*. Committee members: **Jenay Beer**, Tiffany Washington, Kerstin Emerson

Joel Izlar, PhD (2021, December). *If we just plant the seed": Community technology centers, community organization, and ecosocial justice*. Committee members: **Y. Joon Choi**, Shari Miller, Rebecca Matthew.

Luis R. Alvarez-Hernandez, PhD (2021, August). *A Latina feminism phenomenological study of the lived experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming individuals generating change in the southern US*. Committee members: **Rebecca Matthew**, Mary Caplan, J. Maria Bermudez.

Shena Leverett Brown, PhD (2020, December). *Racism by any other name: The lived experiences of Black social work practitioners and racial microaggressions*. Committee members: **Shari Miller**, Rosalyn Campbell, Zoe Johnson.

Tenesha Littleton, PhD (2020, August). *The relationship between affordable housing and neighborhood child maltreatment rates: A geospatial analysis*. Committee members: **Y. Joon Choi**, Llewellyn Cornelius, Orion Mowbray, Bridget Freisthler.

Jana Pruett Covington, PhD (2020, May). *The Affordable Care Act's early impacts on treatment for substance use disorders*. Committee members: **Brian Bride**, David Okech, Paul Roman.

Sunwoo Lee, PhD (2020, May). *The dynamics of social exclusion among immigrants to the United States: Public attitudes toward immigrants, immigrants' exclusion experiences, and the rescission of DACA*. Committee members: **Mary Caplan**, David Okech, Jane McPherson, Javier Boyas.

Abha Rai, PhD (2020, May). *Perceptions, prevalence and help-seeking resources of domestic violence among South Asian immigrants in the United States*. Committee members: **Y. Joon Choi**, Orion Mowbray, Jennifer Elkins.

Helen Taylor Yates, PhD (2019, December). *Evaluating the solution focused wellness for HIV (SFWH) intervention for women*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Tiffany Washington, Rebecca Matthew.

Dana R. Dillard, PhD (2019, August). *"You're probably the first person that's asked me": Retrospective narratives of adults whose sibling experienced a burn injury*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Y. Joon Choi, Jori Hall.

Yolanda Machado-Escudero, PhD (2019, August). *Detentions and deportations in Georgia: implications for Latina migrants, their families, and communities*. Committee members: **June Gary Hopps**, Rebecca Matthew, Maria Bermudez.

Christi P. Hardeman, PhD (2019, August). *Loneliness and self-efficacy: An online mindfulness-based stress reduction intervention for older adults with cardiovascular disease*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Tiffany Washington, Rebecca Matthew

Eunhye Kim, PhD (2019, August). *Community leaders' understanding of depression and its influence on utilization of mental health services: An exploratory study*. Committee members: **Tiffany Washington**, Rosalyn Campbell, Kerstin Emerson.

Porter F. Jennings, PhD (2019, May). *The impact of adverse childhood experiences on adult mental health court involvement: A qualitative exploration*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Edwin Risler, Jennifer Elkins.

Amanda D. Ham, PhD (2019, May). *A purposefully designed American deaf community: A qualitative study of "space" and "place"*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Anna Scheyett, Betsy Vonk, Brian Leffler.

Junghee Bae, PhD (2019, May). *The commercial activity of nonprofit human service organizations: Latent class growth analysis approach*. Committee members: **Mary Caplan**, Kristina Jaskyte, Orion Mowbray, Anthony Mallon, Janelle Kerlin.

Lindsey R. Disney, PhD (2019, May). *A multi-method dissertation: Exploring the intersections of immigrants and refugees; employment, unemployment and underemployment; and mental health*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Orion Mowbray, Jane McPherson.

Trasie A. Topple, PhD (2018, December). *Adversity and attachment in early childhood education: A group-randomized trial of the Circle of Security Classroom approach in a Head Start Center*. Committee members: **Betsy Vonk**, Jennifer Elkins, Orion Mowbray.

Leslie H. Ring, PhD (2018, August). *Poker for nothing and chips for free: An exploratory investigation of adult freeroll poker players*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Larry Nackerud, Y. Joon Choi.

Sara E. Skinner, PhD (2018, August). *A qualitative case study of child sexual abuse in a military community*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Llewellyn Cornelius, Y. Joon Choi.

Stephen V. McGarity, PhD (2018, May). *Financial capability and asset-building for people with disabilities: Implications for policy and social work practice*. Committee members: **David Okech**, Edwin Risler, Mary Caplan, Thomas Clees.

Giselle M. Balfour, PhD (2018, May). *Lifeline: A qualitative analysis of the intervention and reintegration experiences of human trafficking survivors and at-risk women in Ghana*. Committee members: **David Okech**, Jennifer Elkins, Jane McPherson, Joseph Hermanowicz.

Gregory L. Purser, PhD (2018, May). *Older adult substance use: An assessment of current trends, treatments, and outcomes*. Committee members: **Orion Mowbray**, Tiffany Washington, Michael Robinson.

Sherinah K. Saasa, PhD (2018, May). *Social exclusion and African immigrants in the United States*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, David Okech, Y. Joon Choi.

Xiaochuan Wang, PhD (2018, May). *Mental health and service utilization among Asian Americans: An analysis of influencing factors using U.S. national representative data*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Y. Joon Choi, Pengheng Ji.

Brian W. Simmons, PhD (2017, December). *Coming out Mormon: An examination of religious orientation, spiritual trauma, and PTSD among Mormon and ex-Mormon LGBTQQA adults*. Committee members: **Shari Miller**, Brian Bride, Mary Caplan.

R. Lee Phillips, PhD (2017, August). *Quality of life among hemodialysis patients: Evaluating the KDQOL-36 and its utility in clinical practice*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Tiffany Washington, Matthew Smith.

Jessica Nobile, PhD (2017, August). *Young African American women in a college town: Stories of strength*. Committee members: **June Hopps**, Tony Lowe, Rosalyn Campbell.

Nicole A. Corley, PhD (2017, August). *Shifting the discourse: An exploration of academic success among African American students from single mother homes*. Committee members: **Patricia Reeves**, Jennifer Elkins, Kathleen deMarrais, Deryl Bailey.

Irang Kim, PhD (2017, August). *Parental experiences of Korean-American immigrant parents of sons or daughters having developmental disabilities: Stress and coping*. Committee members: **Betsy Vonk**, Shari Miller, Y. Joon Choi.

Kimberly Y. Hoyt, PhD (2017, May). *Foster care, public good, and privatization: A comparative secondary analysis of child welfare performance outcomes*. Committee members: **Michael Holosko**, Harold Briggs, Llewellyn Cornelius, Larry Nackerud.

Lauren A. Ricciardelli, PhD (2017, May). *A multi-methods analysis for understanding the intersection of intellectual disability, capital punishment, and social inclusion: Implications for policy, practice, and research in social work*. Committee members: **Kristina Jaskyte Bahr**, Betsy Vonk, Kevin Ayres, Alexander Kaufman.

J. Lloyd Allen, PhD (2017, May). *Parent-child communications among a sample of self-identified out gay males: A qualitative inquiry*. Committee members: **Michael Holosko**, Shari Miller, Jennifer Elkins, Orion Mowbray.

Katherine J. Crawford, PhD (2016, December). *Innovative social service collaboration: Investigating the collective impact efforts and trauma-informed care practices of the Athens Resource Center for Hope (ARCH)*. Committee members: **Brian E. Bride**, Y. Joon Choi, Jennifer Elkins.

Jennifer L. Benford, PhD (2016, August). *Pre-teen students' perceptions of dating and teen dating violence: A qualitative study*. Committee members: **Shari Miller**, Pamela Orpinas, Trina Salm Ward.

Brendan G. Beal, PhD (2016, May). *The internet, technology, and social work education*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, David Okech, Jennifer Elkins.

Stephen M. Young, PhD (2016, May). *Barriers to ethical decision-making for HIV/AIDS treatment providers around the globe*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, David Okech, Rebecca Matthew.

Jun Hoe Kim, PhD (2016, May). *Comparative case study of resource structures (information and service) for Korean American women's breast cancer screenings in Atlanta and Chicago metropolitan areas*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Y. Joon Choi, David Okech, Edwin Risler.

Adam E. Quinn, PhD (2016, May). *Factors related to alcohol-use disorders and perceptions of treatment need among baby boomers across the life course: Implications for social work theory, research, and practice*. Committee Members: **Orion Mowbray**, Larry Nackerud, Tiffany Washington.

Jaewon Lee, PhD (2015, July). *Analysis of perceptions of successful aging among older Korean immigrants and the role of resilience and acculturation as predictors*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, David Okech, Kerstin Gerst Emerson.

Marianna L. Colvin, PhD (2015, July). *Mapping the interorganizational landscape of child welfare prevention and service delivery: A network analysis*. Committee Members: **Alberta Ellett, Shari Miller (co-chairs)**, Larry Nackerud, Orion Mowbray.

Soonok An, PhD (2015, July). *An analysis of TANF application and assessment processes under the family violence option*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Michael Holosko, Mary Caplan, Joan Prittie.

Melinda W. Moore, PhD (2014, August). *Women in ethnic conflict: A critical ethnography of female combatants in the provisional Irish Republican Army*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Michelle Carney, Diane Napier, Ed Risler.

Debra R. Lubar, PhD (2013, December). *Food policy to prevent harm or improve health*. Committee Members: **Michelle Mohr Carney**, Anne Haddix, Michael Holosko, Larry Nackerud.

Tamara E. Hurst, PhD (2013, December). *Childhood emotional maltreatment and prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children: A mixed methods study*. Committee Members: **Michael Holosko**, Larry Nackerud, Michelle Carney, Alberta Ellett.

Kerri J. Steele, PhD (2013, May). *The evolution of employment and training programs for the homeless: An evaluation of a community outreach response to the one-stop career model*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Larry Nackerud, David Okech.

Junghyun Kim, PhD (2013, May). *Factors in productive aging of East Asian immigrants in the United States: An exploratory study of productive aging attributes*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Edwin Risler, Kerstin Gerst-Emerson, David Okech.

Hyejung Oh, PhD (2013, May). *Intimate partner violence among Asian women in interracial relationship: An investigation of risk factors using U.S. national representative data*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Brian Bride, Betsy Vonk.

Dione M. King, PhD (2012, December). *The role of adolescent risk factors in the development of a predictive model for female perpetration of teen dating violence*. Committee Members: **Schnavia Hatcher, Brian Bride**, Edwin Risler, David Okech.

Sung Ae Kwon, PhD (2012, December). *Gerontological social workers and end-of-life care in South Korea: An exploratory study*. Committee Members: **Stacey Kolomer, Edwin Risler**, Anne Glass, Nancy Rothenberg.

Jaegoo Lee, PhD (2012, August). *Cultural and racial socialization in international transracial adoption: Development and initial validation of the hypothesized model*. Committee Members: **Betsy Vonk**, Alberta Ellett, Ed Risler, Josie Crolley-Simic.

Carol B. Laws, PhD (2012, August). *Credentialing as a predictor of staff retention in supports for aging adults with developmental disabilities*. Committee Members: **Stacey Kolomer**, Brian Bride, Edwin Risler, Zolinda Stoneman.

Jacquelyn J. Lee, PhD (2012, August). *Social work practice with trauma survivors: Investigating risk and protective factors for secondary traumatic stress in a national sample of social work practitioners*. Committee Members: **Brian Bride**, Stacey Kolomer, Shari Miller.

Meredith L. Tetloff, PhD (2012, August). *Contributions, challenges, and contradictions: Assessing the role of the professional community organizer within collaborative problem-solving*. Committee Members: **Michelle Mohr Carney**, Thomas P. Holland, Michael J. Holosko, Mel Garber.

Sarah A. Himmelheber, PhD (2012, May). *Harnessing waste, building success: An ethnographic case study of the Campus Kitchens Project*. Committee Members: **Patricia Reeves**, Shari Miller, Amy Trauger, Cecilia Herles.

Sara M. Kintzle, PhD (2012, May). *Secondary traumatic stress in military healthcare providers: An examination of empathy and emotional separation as moderating variables*. Committee Members: **Brian Bride**, Stacey Kolomer, Schnavia Hatcher, Jeffrey Yarvis.

Elizabeth A. Gowdy, PhD (2011, December). *Impact of monetary sanctions on impoverished criminal defendants, their family, and the community*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Michelle Mohr Carney, Jerome Schiele.

Omar T. Sims, PhD (2011, August). *An epidemiologic longitudinal analysis on the management of neuropsychiatric side effects with Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) during hepatitis C antiviral therapy on a cohort of chronic hepatitis C patients: implications for sustained virological responses and quality of life*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Brian Bride, Christopher Whalen.

Marcela Y. Mellinger, PhD (2011, May). *Advocacy participation, structure, and strategy among nonprofit human service organizations*. Committee members: **Stacey Kolomer**, Brian Bride, Shari Miller.

John R. Barner, PhD (2011, May). *Life or death decisions: Measuring jury instruction impact on imposition of the death penalty*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Elizabeth Beck, Michelle Carney, Ed Risler.

Latrice P. Rollins, PhD (2010). *Exploring the experiences of African-American women who provide direct services to African American nonresidential fathers*. Committee members: **June Gary Hopps**, Cheryl Dozier, Tony Lowe.

David L. Whitters, PhD (2010). *A historical analysis of the initial five years of recovery consultants of Atlanta, Inc.: A faith-based, peer-led addiction recovery and HIV prevention program*. Committee Members: **Cheryl D. Dozier**, Maurice C. Daniels, Ezemenari Obasi, Denise N. A. Bacchus.

Natalie D. Pope, PhD (2010). *Female caregivers' perspectives and plans for their own aging*. Committee members: **Stacey Kolomer**, Betsy Vonk, Anne Glass, Judith Preissle.

Josphine Chaumba, PhD (2009). *The effects of social capital on the integration of Zimbabwean immigrants into the United States*. Committee members: **Larry Nackerud**, Judith Preissle, Kevin DeWeaver.

Crystal M. Anderson, PhD (2009). *Wounded warriors: Predictors of treatment outcome for male veterans with combat-related posttraumatic stress disorder*. Committee members: **Cheryl D. Dozier**, Patricia Reeves, Larry Nackerud, Ezemenari Obasi.

Deborah L. Phillips, PhD (2009). *Georgia's care of a grandchild act: History and analysis*. Committee members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Betsy Vonk, Stacey Kolomer.

Sun Young Yoo, PhD (2009). *Immigrant Parental Stress Inventory (IPSI): Development and initial validation*. Committee members: **Betsy Vonk**, Alberta Ellett, Brian Bride.

Stephen H. King, Jr., PhD (2009). *The development and initial validation of the Empathy Scale for Social Workers: The ESSW*. Committee members: **Michael J. Holosko**, Larry Nackerud, Patricia Reeves, Ed Risler.

Byungdeok Kang, PhD (2009). *Congregational social services: Leader's perceptions and experiences*. Committee members: **Thomas P. Holland**, Michelle M. Carney, Brian E. Bride.

Kareema J. Gray, PhD (2009). *Unsung heroes: An examination of 19th century African American social welfare pioneers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. Committee members: **June Gary Hopps**, Cheryl Dozier, Tony Lowe.

***Committee chairs listed in bold**

Updated 7/31/25

Sandra Y. H. Espanoza, PhD (2009). *Living with HIV/AIDS: Exploring Latino women's narratives*. Committee members: **Patricia Reeves**, Brian Bride, Thomas Herbert, Pamela Voekel.

Karen Y. Watkins, PhD (2008). *An analysis of stressors, mediators and health outcomes among African-American caregivers of older adults with chronic illness*. Committee members: **Rufus Larkin, Larry Nackerud**, Stacey Kolomer, Ed Risler.

Michael Nathan Humble, PhD (2008). *Evolution of a virus: Exploring changes on social work research on HIV/AIDS*. Committee members: **Brian Bride**, Patricia Reeves, Stacey Kolomer.

Denise L. Levy, PhD (2008). *Gay, lesbian, and queer individuals with a Christian upbringing: Exploring the process of resolving conflict between sexual identity and religious beliefs*. Committee members: **Patricia M. Reeves**, Corey W. Johnson, Sharan B. Merriam, Nancy R. Williams.

Angela G. Montagno, PhD (2007). *Trauma in street children and those at risk of the street in Mexico City: An exploratory study of exposure, severity, and risk factors*. Committee members: **Brian E. Bride**, Larry Nackerud, Nancy Williams.

Hilary L. Copp, PhD (2007). *Using virtual reality to investigate cross-cue reactivity and environmental cues in nicotine dependent problem drinkers*. Committee members: **Patrick Bordnick**, Betsy Vonk, Brian Bride.

Amy C. Traylor, PhD (2007). *Exploring cue reactivity in nicotine dependent young adults using virtual reality with expanded olfactory cues*. Committee members: **Patrick Bordnick**, Betsy Vonk, Brian Bride.

Sung Hyun Yun, PhD (2007). *The development and examination of the psychometric properties of the Intimate Violence Responsibility Scale (IVRS)*. Committee members: **Betsy Vonk**, Alberta Ellett, Seock Ho-Kim, Julia Perilla.

Terri D. Wingate Lewinson, PhD (2007). *Extended-stay hotel as home: An exploratory study*. Committee members: **June Gary Hopps**, Maurice Daniels, Patricia Reeves.

Carol S. Collard, PhD (2007). *Supportive housing: It's efficacy as intervention for low-income adults coping with substance addiction recovery*. Committee members: **Rufus Larkin**, Larry Nackerud, Kevin DeWeaver.

Aisha K. Tucker-Brown, PhD (2007). *An exploration of factors that influence sexual decision making among young black women*. Committee members: **Patricia Reeves**, Larry Nackerud, Juanita Johnson-Bailey.

Joan R. Funk, PhD (2007). *Practitioners' views of continuing education: An empirical examination of social workers across the United States*. Committee members: **Margaret Robinson**, Betsy Vonk, Kristina Jaskyte.

Jane S. Wimmer, PhD (2007). *Experiences of attachment therapy: A follow-up study of adoptive mothers*. Committee members: **Betsy Vonk**, Alberta Ellett, Patricia Reeves.

Leon Banks, PhD (2007). *Georgia Senate Bill 440: An examination of determining factors of youth who are waived to superior court and the effectiveness of juvenile waivers as a deterrent to recidivism*. Committee members: **Edwin Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Schnavia Smith Hatcher.

Sandra R. Murphy, PhD (2006). *A comparison study of federally funded social work education programs for child welfare workers in Georgia*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Larry Nackerud, Alberta Ellett.

Irene S. McClatchey, PhD (2006). *The effects of trauma focused grief interventions with parentally bereaved children*. Committee Members: **Betsy Vonk**, Brian Bride, Gregory Palardy.

Carol F. Rossiter, PhD (2006). *A mezzo-level intervention for the socio-legal problems of an aging population*. Committee Members: **Stacey Kolomer**, Maurice Daniels, Edwin Risler.

Hyoungh Yong Kim, PhD (2006). *Assessing the role of social capital in the community development field: A multi-level analysis*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Thomas Holland, Kristina Jaskyte

Ottive L. Breedlove, PhD (2006). *Coping in the shadows of welfare reform: How poor women make ends meet*. Committee Members: **Patricia Reeves**, Larry Nackerud, Edwin Risler.

Min Hong Lee, PhD (2006). *The impact of caregiver stressors, resources, and perceptions on potential elder abuse: Applying the ABCX model*. Committee Members: **Stacey Kolomer**, Nancy Kropf, Edwin Risler.

Bryce D. Smith, PhD (2006). *Evaluation of an HIV prevention intervention: The effect of internalized homophobia on outcomes*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Nancy Kropf, Edwin Risler, Miriam Sabin.

Tonya M. Westbrook, PhD (2006). *Development and initial validation of the child welfare organizational culture scale*. Committee Members: **Alberta Ellett**, **Kevin DeWeaver**, Larry Nackerud, Stacey Kolomer.

Josie Crolley-Simic, PhD (2006). *Racial socialization experiences of white parents who transracially adopt*. Committee Members: **Betsy Vonk**, Edwin Risler, Larry Nackerud.

Alice Boateng, PhD (2006). *Social capital of Liberian refugee women in Ghana: A mixed methods study*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Rufus Larkin, Diana Napier.

Amaris Baraka, PhD (2006). *My girls and spirituality: African American Female adolescents with voice*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Rufus Larkin, Judith Preissle.

Alicia A. Simmons, PhD (2005). *Differences between grandparent foster caregivers, other relatives and non-relative foster caregivers and predictors of their relationships with the children in their care*. Committee Members: **Alberta Ellett**, Larry Nackerud, Nancy Kropf.

Sarah E. Twill, PhD (2005). *The Kidsnet program: An evaluation of the effectiveness of system care services for youth with severe emotional disturbances*. Committee Members: **Edwin A. Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Michelle Carney, Denise Green.

Christopher D. Jones, PhD (2005). *Residential treatment for sexually abusive youth: An assessment of change in functional impairment and sexual interest*. Committee Members: **Edwin A. Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Stephanie Bohon

Dhira D. Crunkilton, PhD (2005). *Multiple perspectives on implementation of the internet-based journey mapping evaluation tool*. Committee Members: **Margaret Robinson**, Nancy P. Kropf, Brian E. Bride.

John B. Doherty, PhD (2005). *Measuring veterans' psychosocial status in the context of general self-efficacy*. Committee Members: **Nancy Kropf**, Kevin DeWeaver, Stacey Kolomer.

Thomas A. Artelt, PhD (2005). *A comparison of the academic performance of experienced versus inexperienced MSW's earning the social work doctorate*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Larry Nackerud, Edwin Risler.

Mary J. Kraus, PhD (2005). *The utility and application of the concept of empowerment in social work journals: A computer-assisted content analysis*. Committee Members: **Betsy Vonk**, Nancy R. Williams, Stephanie Swann.

Krista L. Barker, PhD (2005). *A mixed method approach to accessing the efficacy of a mindfulness-based stress reduction program*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Stephanie Swann, Richard Milford.

Jacquelyn I. Ellis, PhD (2005). *Continued development and validation of a theory-based measure of human caregiving for social work*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Alberta Ellett, Larry Nackerud, Nancy R. Williams.

Vanessa M. Robinson-Dooley, PhD (2005). *The subjective well-being of aging African American men*. Committee Members: **Nancy P. Kropf**, Kevin DeWeaver, Cheryl Dozier.

Roni S. Funk, PhD (2005). *Sexual harassment and disordered eating symptomatology in females: Objectification, silencing, and symbolic expression of self*. Committee Members: **Nancy Kropf**, Kevin DeWeaver, Stephanie Swann.

Lesla N. Hope, PhD (2005). *A secondary analysis of agency records exploring self-determination as it relates to gender and disability*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Nancy P. Kropf, Zolinda Stoneman, Jeanette Manders.

Douglas K. Jackson, PhD (2004). *Factors that are predictive of involvement of detained youth in adverse incidents*. Committee Members: **Thomas P. Holland**, Edwin Risler, Larry Nackerud, Dan Hall.

Susan M. Strickland, PhD (2004). *A comparative study of female sex offenders and female offenders: Exploring issues of personality, trauma, and cognitive distortions*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Edwin Risler, Betsy Vonk.

Carole G. Katz, PhD (2004). *Impact of sense of humor and other psychosocial variables on caregiver depression*. Committee Members: **Nancy P. Kropf**, Thomas P. Holland, Stacey Kolomer.

Christina A. Spivey, PhD (2004). *Same-sex couple adoptions: The relationship between beliefs, attitudes, external influences, and placement decisions*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Stephanie Swann, Nancy P. Kropf

Joann M. Thierry, PhD (2004). *Breast cancer screening among women aged 40 years and older who have physical disabilities*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Patricia Reeves, Margaret Robinson.

Scott E. Wilks, PhD (2004). *The relationship between prayer and resiliency among Alzheimer's caregivers*. Committee Members: **Betsy Vonk**, Nancy Kropf, Nancy R. Williams.

Roger L. Scott, PhD (2004). *Community treatment outcomes for persons with severe and persistent mental illness: A theory-driven evaluation of assertive community treatment*. Committee Members: **Thomas P. Holland**, Larry Nackerud, Ed Risler.

Kenneth R. Greene, PhD (2004). *Shared leadership in voluntary multiparty community collaboratives: Putting the pieces together*. Committee Members: **Thomas P. Holland**, Margaret Robinson, Edwin Risler, Alberta Ellett, Patricia Reeves.

Robert D. Weaver, PhD (2004). *Boom or bust: Analyzing the impact of economic climate on welfare reform in Georgia*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Alberta Ellett.

Jeffrey S. Yarvis, PhD (2004). *A comparison of depression and alcohol problems in Canadian peacekeepers and different levels of traumatic stress*. Committee Members: **Patrick Bordnick**, Betsy Vonk, Michele Lease.

Robin L. Dearing, PhD (2004). *Support groups for HIV+ women: An exploratory study*. Committee Members: **Bonnie Yegidis**, Nancy Kropf, Margaret Robinson.

Janice Tuck Callaway, PhD (2004). *Continuing education by schools of social work: Levels of involvement and future focus*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Edwin Risler, Nancy Kropf.

Eunkyung Yoon, PhD (2004). *A stress coping model for older Koreans: Effects of social support and religiosity on depression*. Committee Members: **Nancy Kropf**, Margaret Robinson, Stacey Kolomer.

Denise M. Green, PhD (2004). *Grady Health Systems community outreach services: A study of program efficacy*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Edwin Risler, Kevin DeWeaver.

Laura A. Lowe, PhD (2003). *Social work and forensic practice: An assessment of attitudes and experience*. Committee Members: **Edwin Risler**, Larry Nackerud, Stephanie Bohon.

Carlise C. Billings, PhD (2003). *The effects of the aggression and violence reduction training program on African-American adolescent males*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Bonnie Yegidis, Rufus Larkin.

Michael E. King, PhD (2003). *Creation and validation of the social work student self-appraisal inventory*. Committee Members: **Patrick Bordnick**, Kevin DeWeaver, Edwin Risler.

Tara S. G. Arnold, PhD (2003). *Evaluation of an innovative dual diagnosis program: Skyland Trail's Operation Prevention (STOP)*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Patricia Reeves, Edwin Risler.

Joy T. Nellisery, PhD (2002). *The Catholic priest: A witness to the seasons of life- an exploratory investigation of the perceptions and responses to spousal abuse*. Committee Members: **Margaret Robinson**, Patricia Reeves, Nancy Williams, David Kurtz.

Monica M. Alzate, PhD (2002). *The quality of life of single mothers on welfare in Georgia and the 1996 welfare reform*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Bonnie Yegidis, Nancy Kropf, David Kurtz, Stephanie Bohon.

Sung Seek Moon, PhD (2002). *Multicultural/Multimodal/Multisystems (MULTI-CMS) approach for immigrant families: Structural equation modeling of adolescent perception of conflict with parents*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Larry Nackerud, Margaret Robinson, Nancy Kropf, Seock-Ho Kim.

***Committee chairs listed in bold**

Updated 7/31/25

John W. Gilford, PhD (2002). *Modeling change in behavioral and emotional symptoms of serious emotional disturbance in children and adolescents: A two-level growth curve analysis*.

Committee Members: **Thomas Holland**, Bruce Thyer, Larry Nackerud, Maurice Daniels, Cheryl Davenport Dozier.

Hyunji Lee, PhD (2002). *Experience of caregiving daughters-in-law in South Korea*. Committee Members: **Margaret Robinson**, Larry Nackerud, Kevin DeWeaver, Adam Davey, Seock-Ho Kim.

Miriam E. Sabin, PhD (2002). *The Guatemalan refugees twenty years later: mental health in Mayan communities in Chiapas, Mexico*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Bonnie Yegidis, Tom Holland, Stacey Kolomer, Elois Ann Berlin.

Michael K. Sullivan, PhD (2001). *Barriers to employment: The effect of TANF status and earned income*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Bruce Thyer, Kevin DeWeaver, Ed Risler, Alberta Ellett.

Elizabeth E. Brown, PhD (2001). *Conceptualization of a model to build cohesion in multi-ethnic neighborhoods*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Jim Gaudin, Margaret Robinson, David Kurtz, Milton Lopes.

Brian E. Bride, PhD (2001). *Psychometric properties of the Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale*. Committee Members: **Margaret Robinson**, Bonnie Yegidis, Larry Nackerud, Tom Holland, Nancy Williams.

Bhuvana Sukumar, PhD (2001). *Social interaction, residential satisfaction, and subjective well-being among residents of congregate and non-congregate public housing*. Committee Members: **Ray MacNair**, Nancy Kropf, David Boyle, David Levine, Katheryn Davis.

Jill S. Harvan, PhD (2001). *The relationship between child, family, and treatment variables and family functioning among abusive and neglectful families*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Bonnie Yegidis, Nancy Kropf, Larry Nackerud, Jim Gaudin.

Raymond J. Waller, PhD (2000). *A correlation study of the impact of discrimination on disposition during hospital emergency services contacts*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Bruce Thyer, Larry Nackerud, Jeff Koob, Katheryn David.

Laura J. Pankow, PhD (2000). *Evaluating a multi-disciplinary rehabilitation program for older adults with visual impairment*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Larry Nackerud, David Kurtz, Ray MacNair, Daniel Hall.

Shannon H. Perry, PhD (2000). *Seeking sex sense: Evaluation of adolescent pregnancy prevention programming*. Committee Members: **Larry Nackerud**, Cheryl Dozier, Maurice Daniels, Katheryn Davis, Lily McNair.

***Committee chairs listed in bold**

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Su Lun Ko, PhD (2000). *Working with East and Southeast Asian battered women*. Committee Members: **David Kurtz**, Bonnie Yegidis, Margaret Robinson, Alicia Isaac, and Judith Priessle.

Frederick P. Brooks, PhD (2000). *Children and welfare reform: Comparing well-being in a sample of working poor and welfare poor children in Georgia*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Bonnie Yegidis, Larry Nackerud, Claire Hamilton, David Kurtz, Marty Markward.

Christopher R. Larrison, PhD (1999). *A comparison of top-down and bottom-up community development interventions in rural Mexico: Practical and theoretical implications for community development programs*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, David Kurtz, Larry Nackerud, John O'Looney, and Hans Park.

Gwyn C. Jones, PhD (1999). *Predictive factors affecting health care access and service utilization for persons with disabilities: Implications for social work practice, policy development, and education*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Nancy Kropf, David Boyle, Larry Nackerud, and Tom Holland.

John P. Shields, PhD (1999). *Evaluating the effects of Georgia Bill 100 on psychiatric hospitalization: A time series analysis*. Committee Members: **Bonnie Yegidis**, Bruce Thyer, Larry Nackerud, Barbara Rittner, Lynn Seymour.

Tracy Carpenter-Aeby, PhD (1999). *An evaluation of psychosocial and educational outcomes in an alternative educational program*. Committee Members: **Bonnie Yegidis**, Kevin DeWeaver, David Kurtz, Bruce Thyer, and Earl Ginter.

Nancy C. Aldridge, PhD (1999). *Evaluating treatment for sex offenders: A pretest-posttest and follow-up study*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, David Kurtz, Bruce Thyer, Alicia Isaac, and Larry Nackerud.

Randy Niederman, PhD (1999). *The conceptualization of a model of spirituality*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Jim Gaudin, Katheryn Davis, Marty Markward, and Larry Nackerud.

Lisa P. Baker, PhD (1998). *Social work intervention to increase compliance with home apnea monitoring*. Committee Members: **Jim Gaudin**, Kevin DeWeaver, Larry Nackerud, Bruce Thyer, and Margaret Robinson.

Laura L. Myers, PhD (1998). *Attitudes and perceptions of well-being by former residents of a residential foster care facility: An exploratory study*. Committee Members: **Barbara Rittner**, Nancy Kropf, Bonnie Yegidis, Marty Markward, and Larry Nackerud.

Patricia G. Moseley, PhD (1998). *Stress reduction for family members of emergency room patients*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Nancy Kropf, Larry Nackerud, Katheryn Davis, and Ray Mills.

Rufus Larkin, PhD (1998). *The effect of behavioral group counseling on improving self-esteem, perceived self-control, and classroom behavior of elementary students*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Maurice Daniels, Geraldine Jackson-White, Kevin DeWeaver, and Larry Nackerud.

Edwin A. Risler, PhD (1998). *A preliminary validation study of the First Offender Risk Assessment Index (FORAI)*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, David Kurtz, Larry Nackerud, David Boyle, and Katheryn Davis.

Cynthia C. Tandy, PhD (1998). *An evaluation of a community substance abuse treatment center: Outpatient and intensive day treatment groups*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Tom Holland, Nancy Kropf, Larry Nackerud, and David Boyle.

Sherry M. Cummings, PhD (1998). *Discharge planning outcomes for hospitalized dementia patients*. Committee Members: **Nancy Kropf**, Kevin DeWeaver, Tom Holland, David Boyle, Geraldine Jackson-White.

Anne G. Hicks-Coolick, PhD (1997). *Conceptualization, testing, and refinement of a model of self-advocacy for college students with learning disabilities*. Committee Members: **David Kurtz**, Tom Holland, Kevin DeWeaver, Katie Thompson, Marty Markward.

Gerald W. Polk, PhD (1997). *Development and testing of an automated treatment planning system for clinicians in mental health*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Kevin DeWeaver, Nancy Kropf, Ray MacNair, and Ray Mills.

Danny R. Dixon, PhD (1997). *Double depression in male veterans: A descriptive and comparative study in a rural department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Kevin DeWeaver, Larry Nackerud, Margaret Robinson, and Bonnie Yegidis.

Sharman D. Colosetti, PhD (1997). *Effect of relaxation training alone and relaxation training paired with EMDR on incarcerated, battered women*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Nancy Kropf, Bruce Thyer, Margaret Robinson, and Lee Hyer.

Jan H. Ligon, PhD (1997). *Crisis psychiatric and substance abuse: Evaluation of a community program in an urban setting*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Kevin DeWeaver, Nancy Kropf, Jim Gaudin, and Paul Ammons.

M. Elizabeth Vonk, PhD (1996). *Evaluating the effectiveness of short-term treatment at a university counseling center*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Bonnie Yegidis, Tom Holland, Nancy Kropf, and Kevin DeWeaver.

Richard J. Vodde, PhD (1996). *The development of a measure to evaluate scorekeeping: A process of competitive social comparisons involving preoccupation with winning and other negative male role characteristics*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, David Kurtz, Allie Kilpatrick, Ray MacNair, and David Boyle.

Patrick S. Bordnick, PhD (1995). *Evaluating the relative efficacy of three aversion therapies designed to reduce craving among cocaine abusers*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Tom Holland, Charles Stewart, Larry Nackerud, and Nancy Kropf.

Carol M. Holzhalt, PhD (1995). *Direct practice skills in MSW foundation practicum: Development of indicators*. Committee Members: **Allie Kilpatrick**, Bruce Thyer, Kevin DeWeaver, Ray MacNair, and Marty Giddings.

MeYoung Ko Lee, PhD (1994). *A phenomenological study of clients' experience of narrative therapy*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Geraldine Jackson-White, Duncan Waite, Jim Gaudin, and Jean Kelly-Hall.

David P. Boyle, PhD (1994). *The effect of geriatric daycare on measures of depression and social support*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Allie Kilpatrick, Nancy Kropf, Bruce Thyer, David Levine, and David Kurtz.

Timothy B. Kelly, PhD (1994). *The appraisal process in stress and coping models: Fear of inheritability, knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and caregiver burden*. Committee Members: **Kevin DeWeaver**, Ruth Weber, Roberta Greene, Nancy Kropf, Tom Holland.

Donald R. Leslie, PhD (1994). *Board sense of empowerment and board effectiveness*. Committee Members: **Tom Holland**, Paul Gallant, Allie Kilpatrick, Kevin DeWeaver, and Ray MacNair.

Elizabeth J. Randall, PhD (1994). *Using guided dialog in the treatment of depression in women*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Charles Stewart, Nancy Kropf, Paul Gallant, and Tom Holland.

Richard D. Sutphen, PhD (1993). *The evaluation of a multisystemic treatment program for high risk juvenile delinquents*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, David Kurtz, Paul Gallant, Jim Parham, and Kevin DeWeaver.

Dorothy F. Carrillo, PhD (1993). *Advanced standing and regular standing MSW students: A comparison of foundation interview*. Committee Members: **Bruce Thyer**, Tom Holland, Katheryn Davis, Kevin DeWeaver, and Charles Stewart.