Social Work

Contact: Doctoral Education Program Office
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Faculty

Dean
Mary McKernan McKay
Professor; Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean of the Brown School
PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago
Child mental health services; HIV prevention and care; poverty

Director, PhD Program in Social Work
Melissa Jonson-Reid
Ralph and Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work; Director, Center for Violence and Injury Prevention
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Education and child welfare services policy; child abuse and neglect; interagency service delivery systems; school social work

Professors
Wendy Auslander
Barbara A. Bailey Professor of Social Work
PhD, Washington University
Health behavior and health promotion; childhood abuse and adolescent risk behaviors; trauma treatment for adolescent girls; family, psychosocial, and behavioral issues in diabetes; HIV prevention; community participatory research; cultural and ethnic factors related to health; intervention research and evaluation

Ross C. Brownson
Bernard Becker Professor; Director, Prevention Research Center
PhD, Colorado State University
Chronic disease prevention through environmental and policy change; evidence-based public health; policy effects on physical activity and obesity; dissemination research

F. Brett Drake
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
Children born prenatally exposed to drugs; child protection and child protective practice

Tonya Edmond
Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
Associate Dean for Social Work
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
Violence against women; trauma-focused intervention research; evidence-based practice

Michal Grinstein-Weiss
Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor; Associate Dean for Policy Initiatives; Director, Envolve Center for Health Behavior Change
PhD, Brown School at Washington University
Public policy; economic & social mobility; asset building

Shenyang Guo
Frank J. Bruno Distinguished Professor of Social Work
Research; Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Affairs - Greater China
PhD, University of Michigan
Quantitative research methodology; program and practice evaluations; child welfare; child mental health

Debra Haire-Joshu
Joyce Wood Professor; Director, Center for Diabetes Translation Research; Director, Center for Obesity Prevention and Policy Research; Faculty Director, Envolve Center for Health Behavior Change
PhD, Saint Louis University
Health policy; preventing obesity and diabetes in underserved populations; transdisciplinary approaches to biomedical, behavioral, and public health research

Sean Joe
Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development
Associate Dean for Faculty and Research
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Role of religion in black suicidal behavior; salivary biomarker discovery for adolescent suicidal behavior; father-focused family-based interventions; preventing self-destructive behaviors in African-American adolescent males; racial inequality in adolescent development

Matthew W. Kreuter
Kahn Family Professor of Public Health; Senior Scientist, Health Communication Research Laboratory; Faculty Director, Envolve Center for Health Behavior Change
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Health communication; cancer prevention and control; integrating health and social services; health disparities
Carolyn Lesorogol (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/carolyn-lesorogol.aspx)
Associate Dean for Global Strategy and Programs
PhD, Washington University
International social development; capacity building and participatory development; institutional change; political economy; ethnographic research

Director, PhD Program in Public Health Sciences; Director, Center for Public Health Systems Science
PhD, University of Illinois
Evaluations of public health programs; tobacco control and prevention policy; community health interventions

Timothy McBride (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/timothy-mcbride.aspx)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Health policy; health economics; health insurance; Medicare and Medicaid policy; rural health care; health reform; Social Security and pensions; state health policy

Betty Bofinger Brown Distinguished Professor of Social Policy; Director, Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Productive and civic engagement in late life; social engagement in later life

Enola K. Proctor (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/enola-proctor.aspx)
Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor Emeritus; Director, Center for Mental Health Services Research
PhD, Washington University
Mental health services delivery; post-acute health and mental health community care; outcomes of clinical practice; evaluation of clinical social work

Mark Rank (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/mark-rank.aspx)
Herbert S. Hadley Professor of Social Welfare
PhD, University of Wisconsin
Poverty and economic inequality; social welfare; family; social policy; demography; life course

Rodrigo S. Reis (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/rodrigo-reis.aspx)
PhD, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil
Physical activity and public health, with particular interest in community interventions for promoting physical activity; effect of the built environment and community on health; active transportation and health

Michael Sherraden (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/michael-sherraden.aspx)
George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor; Director, Center for Social Development
PhD, University of Michigan
Asset building; civic engagement and civic service; productive aging; social policy; community development; youth development

Fred Ssewamala (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/fred-ssewamala.aspx)
William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor
PhD, Brown School at Washington University
Microfinance; Asset-based social programs; disadvantaged children; social and economic development policy; children and adolescent health

Vetta L. Sanders Thompson (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/vetta-sanders-thompson.aspx)
E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity
PhD, Duke University
Cultural competence; racial identity; disparities in health and mental health services; psychosocial implications of race and ethnicity in health communications; access to health services

Associate Professors

Derek Brown (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/derek-brown.aspx)
PhD, Duke University
Health economics; stated preference methods & health-related quality of life; child abuse and neglect; Medicaid

PhD, Wayne State University
Positive youth development; African Americans; academic achievement; mental health; religiosity

PhD, Brown School at Washington University
Racial/ethnic disparities in health and mental health care; implementation science; integration of physical and mental health services; mental health services

Renee M. Cunningham-Williams (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/renee-cunningham-williams.aspx)
Director, NIDA T32 (TranSTAR) Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Program
PhD, Washington University
Epidemiological, prevention, and intervention research; health and mental health disparities; pathological gambling and comorbidity; risk taking, substance use and antisocial behaviors; crisis intervention
Alexis Duncan (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/alexis-duncan.aspx)
PhD, Saint Louis University
Psychiatric epidemiology; obesity and eating disorders; substance use and related disorders; comorbidity; child abuse and neglect; behavior genetics

Amy A. Eyler (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/amy-eyler.aspx)
PhD, Oregon State University
Physical activity; childhood obesity; policies and preventative health

Patrick J. Fowler (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/patrick-fowler.aspx)
PhD, Wayne State University
Housing and homelessness; child maltreatment and child welfare system; developmental psychopathology; policy and program evaluation; prevention science; violence exposure

Ross Hammond (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Ross-Hammond.aspx)
Betty Bofinger Brown Associate Professor
PhD, University of Michigan
Modeling complex dynamics in social, economic, and public health systems; obesity etiology and prevention; food systems and food security; tobacco control

Jenine Harris (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/jenine-harris.aspx)
PhD, Saint Louis University
Dissemination research; social network analysis; social media; public health systems

Darrell Hudson (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/darrell-hudson.aspx)
PhD, University of Michigan
Health disparities; mental health; health behavior; health education; violence and injury prevention

Lora Iannotti (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/lora-iannotti.aspx)
Associate Dean for Public Health
PhD, Johns Hopkins University
Young child nutrition; micronutrient deficiencies; infectious diseases and poverty pathways; evaluation research

Kimberly Johnson (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/kimberly-johnson.aspx)
PhD, University of Minnesota
Epidemiology; human genetics; cancer

MSW, Syracuse University
International & national community economic development; urban issues; international, state, and regional planning; international social development; multicultural education

Patricia Kohl (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/patricia-kohl.aspx)
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Child welfare; evidence-based practice; engaging hard to reach populations in treatment; parent training

Von Nebbitt (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/von-nebbitt.aspx)
PhD, Brown School at Washington University
Urban African-American children and youth, with a primary research agenda of increasing empirical and theoretical knowledge of the effects of living in urban public housing

David A. Patterson (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/david-patterson.aspx)
PhD, University of Louisville
Alcohol and other drug treatment retention and effectiveness; implementation of evidence-based practices; Native American and Indigenous People’s health and wellness; underrepresented minority college success

Jason Purnell (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/jason-purnell.aspx)
PhD, Ohio State University
Health behavior; information and communication technologies; health disparities

Lindsay Stark
PhD, Columbia University
Violence prevention; child welfare; women's health

Jean-Francois Trani (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/jean-francois-trani.aspx)
PhD, Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, France
Mental health; disabilities; international social work

Assistant Professors

Ruopeng An (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Ruopeng-An.aspx)
PhD, Pardee RAND Graduate School
Environmental influences on diet and exercise; obesity prevention; social and economic determinants of health

Christine Ekenga (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/christine-ekenga.aspx)
PhD, New York University
Chronic disease epidemiology; cumulative risk assessment; environmental health; occupational health; disaster epidemiology and public health preparedness

Vanessa Fabbre (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/vanessa-fabbre.aspx)
PhD, University of Chicago
Aging and the life course; health and mental health; gender and sexuality; interpretive methodology
Tyriesa Howell (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Tyriesa-Howell.aspx)
PhD, Howard University
Sexual health; reproductive health; health interventions; racial disparities in health; social work education

Husain Lateef (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Husain-Lateef.aspx)
PhD, Arizona State University
African American youth; African-centered social work; culturally responsive practice; interprofessional practice (social work and law)

Sojung Park (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/sojung-park.aspx)
PhD, University of Michigan
Health and well-being of older adults; environmental gerontology; community-based long-term care; cross-national/cross-cultural studies

Deborah Salvo
PhD, Emory University
Physical activity and spatial epidemiology; obesity prevention and nutrition; chronic disease prevention; global health disparities