

## GIO IACONO

University of Connecticut | School of Social Work  
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### EDUCATION

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- 2019                    **Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work (PhD)**  
University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work  
Toronto, Ontario
- 2009                    **Master of Social Work** (Specialization in mental health and health)  
University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work  
Toronto, Ontario
- 2008                    **Honors Bachelor of Social Work, Minor in Psychology, Dean's List**  
Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), School of  
Social Work  
Toronto, Ontario
- 2002                    **Hospitality & Tourism Administration**  
Centennial College  
Toronto, Ontario

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- 2026                    Associate Professor, School of Social Work (August 2026)  
University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT
- 2020 –                    Assistant Professor, School of Social Work  
University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT.
- 2020 –                    *Faculty Affiliate*, Collaboratory on School and Child Health, UConn
- 2020 –                    *Faculty Affiliate*, Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and  
Policy, UConn

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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LGBTQIA+ youth and young adult mental health | Community-based participatory action research |  
Critical consciousness | Holistic mind-body connection | Mindfulness-based approaches to well-being  
| Social work curriculum development | Culturally responsive interventions | Healing centered  
engagement | Anti-racist education |

### RESEARCH GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

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**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2026 **Iacono, G (PI)**, Lussier-Smith, L. (Co-PI), Pacey, M. (Co-I), Craig, S.L. (Co-I), Watson, R.J. (Co-I). Tuned In! In-Person Adaptation: A Community Pilot Study of an Affirmative Mindfulness Intervention to Improve Mental Health Outcomes Among Sexual and Gender Diverse Young People (SGDY). Funder: UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy — Seed Grant. (\$15,000).
- 2026 **Iacono, G (PI)**, Lussier-Smith, L. (Co-PI), Pacey, M. (Co-I), Craig, S.L. (Co-I), Watson, R.J. (Co-I). Tuned In! In-Person Adaptation: A Community Pilot Study of an Affirmative Mindfulness Intervention to Improve Mental Health Outcomes Among Sexual and Gender Diverse Young People (SGDY). Funder: UConn School of Social Work. Dean's Incentive-Large Grant Award. (\$10,000).
- 2026 **Iacono, G. (PI)**. Tuned In! Community-Led Adaptation: Engaging Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth in Affirmative Mindfulness Intervention Design. Funder: UConn Office of the Vice President for Research — Scholarship Facilitation Fund (\$2,000).
- 2026 **Iacono, G & Elsaesser, C.** Socially Engaged Mindfulness for Medical Students. Funder: UConn School of Social Work — Research & Scholarship Development Fund Award (\$1,080).
- 2026 **Iacono, G & Carolan, K.** Exploring social workers' readiness to practice with LGBTQIA+ clients. Funder: UConn School of Social Work — Research & Scholarship Development Fund Award (\$2,000.00)
- 2025 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI)**. Socially engaged mindfulness for medical students: Inner transformation to support outer change. Funder: Trust for the Meditation Process — Mindfulness Grant. (\$5,000).
- 2025 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI)**, Elsaesser, C (Co-PI), Lester-Hariat, R (Co-I), & Roman-Hampton, V (Co-I). Social Work Practice in Schools. Funder: Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaboration (\$200,000).
- 2025 **Iacono, G & Pacey, M.** Trans Families and Gender Affirming Care. Funder: UConn School of Social Work — Research & Scholarship Development Fund Award. (\$2,000.00)
- 2025 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Pacey, M.S (Co-PI)**. Collaborator: \*Evans, S. Exploring the individual, familial, and community stress and mental health of transgender youth and their parents during a hostile sociopolitical climate. Funder: UConn School of Social Work. Dean's Incentive-Large Grant Award. (\$10,349.30).
- 2025 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI)**. Socially engaged mindfulness for social work students: Inner transformation to support outer change. Funder: Trust for the Meditation Process — Mindfulness Grant. (\$5,000).

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2024 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Pacey, M. (Co-PI), McGeough, B., & Prince, D.** Understanding and addressing impacts of state legislation banning gender affirming mental health care in the U.S.: A Pilot study of mental health professionals and advocates.  
Funder: UConn SSW Dean's Incentive Award — Research Teams Development Program (\$5,000).
- 2023 — **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI).** Socially engaged mindfulness for social work students: Inner transformation to support outer change.  
Funder: Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — Seed Grant. (\$10,000).
- 2024 - 2025 **Iacono, G. (PI)** Hemera Contemplative Fellowship.  
Funder: Insight Meditation Society (\$925).
- 2023 - 2024 Phillips, J., (Co-PI), **Iacono, G (Co-PI)**, & Carolan, K. (2023). Exploring social workers' readiness to practice in emerging areas.  
Funder: UConn OVPR, Scholarship Facilitation Fund grant. (\$2,500)
- 2023 – 2024 **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Elsaesser (Co-PI).** Socially engaged mindfulness: Inner transformation to support outer transformation.  
Funder: Scholarship Facilitation Fund. (\$2,500).
- 2021– 2024 **Iacono, G (PI)**, Watson, R.J., & Craig, S.L. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth.  
Funder: Office of the Vice President for Research, UConn — Research Excellence Program. (\$50,000).
- 2021– 2024 **Iacono, G (PI)**, Alexander, L., Watson, R.J., & Craig, S.L. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth.  
Funder: Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — Seed Grant. (\$15,000).
- 2022 – 2023 **Iacono, G (Co-PI)**, Elsaesser, C (Co-PI) & Werkmeister Rozas, L (Co-PI). Socially engaged mindfulness for BSW students.  
Funder: UConn, Student Health and Wellness. (\$2,000).
- 2021– 2023 **Iacono, G (PI).** Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth.  
Funder: UConn, Dean's Incentive Award – School of Social Work, UConn. (\$4,000).
- 2020 – 2023 **Iacono, G (PI).**, Craig, S.L., & Watson, R.J. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth.  
Funder: Mind & Life Institute – Varela Grant. (\$20,000).

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2020 – 2022 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. Funder: Office of the Vice President for Research, UConn — Scholarship Facilitation Fund. (\$2,500).
- 2021 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. Funder: Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — Grant Development Summer Stipends for New Investigators. (\$2,000).
- 2020 Summer Research Institute Scholarship. Mind & Life Institute. (\$800.00).
- 2019 – 2020 Ontario Government. *“Developing an integrated mindfulness and affirmative intervention for LGBTQ+ youth: The LGBTQ+ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project.”* (\$20,000.00).
- 2016 – 2020 Diversity Scholarship. Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. (\$6,000.00).
- 2018 – 2019 Marion C. Soloway Scholarship. University of Toronto. (\$4,161.25).
- 2016 – 2019 University of Toronto Graduate Student Union Research Conference Bursary. University of Toronto. (\$2,000.00).
- 2014 – 2019 School of Graduate Studies Doctoral Research Fellowship. University of Toronto. Competitive multi-year doctoral funding. University of Toronto. (\$60,660.00).
- 2014 – 2019 Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Conference Grants. University of Toronto. (\$2,000.00).
- 2019 Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Doctoral Student Award. (\$750.00).
- 2018 – 2019 Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW) Professional Development Fund. (\$1,000.00).
- 2015 – 2018 Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Ontario Government. *“Developing an integrated mindfulness and affirmative intervention for LGBTQ+ youth: The LGBTQ+ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project.”* (\$41,500.00).
- 2018 SPARC Program Grant. International Association for Social Work with Groups. (\$1,000.00).
- 2018 Rainbow Grant. Community One Foundation. (\$1,500.00).
- 2018 Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Grant. CPA SOGII (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues) (\$400.00).

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2018                      Doctoral Candidacy Grant. University of Toronto. (\$1,500.00).
- 2018                      Mindful Society Scholarship. (\$600.00).
- 2017 – 2018             School of Graduate Studies Summer Bursary. University of Toronto. (\$198.60).
- 2016 – 2017             Dr. Norma C. Lang Award. University of Toronto. (\$1,000.00).
- 2017                      Research Matching Program Award. University of Toronto. (\$4,480.00).
- 2017                      Routledge Florence W. Vigilante Award: Best Article. A Call for Self-Compassion in Social Work Education. G. Iacono. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 2017. (\$500.00).
- 2017                      School of Graduate Studies Research Conference Grant Scholarship. University of Toronto. (\$1,000.00).
- 2017                      CUPE Award. Toronto Metropolitan University. (\$500.00).
- 2016                      Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Award. University of Toronto (\$1,000.00).
- 2015 – 2016             Marion C. Soloway Scholarship. University of Toronto. (\$4,000.00).
- 2014 – 2015             Royal Bank of Canada Graduate Fellowship in Applied Social Work Research. “*Stakeholder perspectives in learning resilience.*” (\$15, 000.00).
- 2008 – 2009             Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Scholarship Grant. University of Toronto. (\$6,000.00).
- 2007 – 2008             The Russell Jolliffe Award for Excellence in Social Work Practice. Toronto Metropolitan University. (\$4,000.00).

**RESEARCH GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER REVIEW**

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- 2026                      **Iacono, G (Co-PI)**, Werkmeister Rozas, L. (Co-PI), Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI), Raheim, S. (Co-I), Proulx, J. Listening to the Earth: Adapting a Mindfulness-Based Intervention to Cultivate Ecological Wisdom for First-Year Undergraduate Students. Funder: UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy — Pilot Studies in Human & Planetary Health. (submitted 4/2026, \$40,000).
- 2026                      **Iacono, G (Co-PI)**, Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI), Werkmeister Rozas, L. (Co-PI). Relational Practice for a Divided World: A Mindful Nonviolent Communication Program for Future Social Workers. Funder: Mental Research Institute. (submitted 4/2026, \$24,519).

- 2026 **Iacono, G (PI)**, Pacey, M. (Co-I), Craig, S.L. (Co-I), Watson, R.J. (Co-I). *Tuned In!: An LGBTQIA+-Affirming Mindfulness Intervention to Improve Educational Outcomes and Mental Health for Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth*. Spencer Foundation, Education Grant: Large (submitted 2/2026, \$460,255). **Invited to submit a full proposal** (fewer than 45% of preproposals advanced to this stage). Due 7/7/2026.
- 2025 Craig, S. L. (PI), **Iacono, G. (Co-I)**. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada Federal Grant): Partnership Grants Stage 1. Digital threats, digital resilience, and belonging: Partnering for sexual and gender diverse youth and young adult safety, privacy and wellbeing in the age of artificial intelligence and global hostility. (submitted 2/2026, \$2,500,000).

### **RESEARCH GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS (NOT FUNDED)**

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- 2026 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Pacey, M., Watson, R.J., Craig, S.L. Scaling Up *Tuned In!: An Affirmative Mindfulness Intervention to Reduce Mental Health Inequities Among Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth (SGDY)*. William T. Grant (submitted 2/2026, \$500,000, not funded)
- 2025 **Iacono, G (PI)**. A Community-Based Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of *Tuned In!: An Affirmative Mindfulness-Based Mental Health Intervention for Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth*. American Psychological Foundation (submitted 11/2025, \$50,000, not funded)
- 2025 **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Pacey, M.S (Co-PI)**. Arts for healing and resistance among transgender and gender expansive young people: A community-based participatory research project. OVPR UConn Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Research Initiative (submitted 2/2025, \$20,000, not funded).
- 2024 **Iacono, G. (mPI)**, Wu, E. (Co-I), Elsaesser, C. (Co-I), & Watson, R. J (Co-I). *Tuned In!: An affirmative mindfulness-based intervention for LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults*. NIH NCCIH: R34, PAR-24-084 (Submitted 10/2024, \$724,000. Awaiting reviewer feedback: scored February 2025. Score: 35).
- 2024 Pacey, M. S. (mPI), Watson, R. J. (mPI), Puhl, R. (Co-I), **Iacono, G. (Co-I)**, Mereish, E. (Co-I), & Eaton, L. (Co-I). Identifying multi-level mechanisms through which eating disorder disparities develop and persist among multiply marginalized transgender youth. NIH NIMH: R01, PAR-24-077 (submitted 6/2024, \$4,023,781.00, not funded).
- 2023 **Iacono, G. (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI)**. Mind & Life PEACE Grant. (Submitted December 2023, \$100,000, not funded).
- 2023 Holle, L. (Co-PI) & **Iacono, G. (Co-PI)**. National Eating Disorders Association, Feeding Hope Grant. (Submitted September 2023, \$10,000, not funded).

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2023 **Iacono, G. (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI).** Trust for Meditation grant. (Submitted March 2023, \$5,000, not funded).
- 2022 **Iacono, G. (PI).** UCLA Williams Institute, LGBTQ & Racial Justice Small Grants Program (Submitted October 2022, \$7,500, not funded).
- 2020 Craig, S.L. (PI) & **Iacono, G. (Co-I).** Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Operating Grant - COVID-19 Mental Health & Substance Use Service Needs and Delivery. "Adapting an affirmative group cognitive behavioural intervention to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth: AFFIRM Online. (Submitted September 2020, \$200,000, not funded).
- 2020 **Iacono, G. (PI).** UConn InCHIP, Seed Grant. (Submitted October 2020, \$15,000, not funded).
- 2020 **Iacono, G. (PI).** UConn OVPR, COVID-19 Rapid Start Funding Program (Submitted November 2020, \$50,000, not funded).

**HONORS**

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- 2026 **American Journal of Community Psychology: Most Cited Article.** My resistance melts away": The role of mindfulness in supporting participatory researchers' efforts to share power with youth co-researchers.
- 2022 **Journal of Social Work Education: Best Qualitative Article.** Interrupting Hetero- and Cisnormativity in Social Work Programs: LGBTQ+ Student Strategies for Increasing Inclusion, 2022.
- 2019 **World Professional Association for Transgender Health.** Selected Recommendations: An Affirmative Mindfulness Approach for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth Mental Health. G. Iacono. Clinical Social Work Journal, 2019.
- 2018 **SPARC Program Award. International Association for Social Work with Groups** Awarded based on innovative research.
- 2018 **Rainbow Grant Award. Community One Foundation.** Awarded based new and innovative research that has a positive impact on the LGBTTIQQ2S community in the Greater Toronto Area.
- 2017 **Routledge Florence W. Vigilante Award: Best Article.** A Call for Self-Compassion in Social Work Education. G. Iacono. Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 2017.
- 2016 **Diversity Scholarship Award. Canadian Housing Federation of Canada.** Awarded on the basis of a strong commitment to diversity research, education and community involvement.
- 2008 **Dean's List. Toronto Metropolitan University.**

2007      **The Russell Jolliffe Award for Excellence in Social Work Practice. Toronto Metropolitan University.** Awarded to one individual based on demonstrated excellence in social work practice.

**PUBLICATIONS, PEER REVIEWED**

(\*denotes student, \*\*denotes community partner, \*\*\*denotes co-first author)

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1. Paceley, M.S. \*Evans, S., Hamor, L. , Green, S., \*Marshall, E., **Iacono, G.**, Riquino, M.R. (2026). Systemic issues impacting crisis intervention services for LGBTQ+ communities in the Midwest U.S. *Social Work in Public Health*.
2. **Iacono, G.**, \*Holle, L., \*Mortley, C., & Lin, H.-J. (2026). Tuned In!: 12-month longitudinal outcomes of an affirmative mindfulness intervention for sexual and gender diverse youth and young adults. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 399, Article 120895. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2025.120895>
3. **Iacono, G.**, \*Harrinton, K., Lawrence, S.E., Learman, J., Manuel, J., \*Meehan, Q., \*Muro, P., \*Roman-Hampton, V., Singh, S., Werkmeister-Rozas, L. & Three Anonymous Authors (2026). Critical hope and resistance through collective poetic inquiry: A resistance to federal attacks on queer and trans communities by scholar-advocates. *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking. Special Section: The First 90 Days*.
4. Elsaesser, C., **Iacono, G.**, \*Roman-Hampton, V., Werkmeister Rozas, L., & \*MacDonald, S. (2026). Co-Designing a Socially Engaged Mindfulness Intervention for Social Work Students: A Participatory Research Note. *Families in Society*, 10443894251406079.
5. Paceley, M. S., Lawrence, S., \*Evans, S., Watson, R. J., **Iacono, G.**, \*Muro, P., & Wilson, L. (2026). LGBTQ+ Familial Acceptance as a Moderator Between Weight-Based Victimization and Disordered Eating Behaviors Among LGBTQ+ Youth. *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/27703371.2026.2614416Article>
6. **Iacono, G.**, \*Harrington, K., \*Stevens, L., \*Roman-Hampton, V., Phillips, J., Paceley, M.S & \*Carolan, K. (in press). A national survey of social workers' preparedness to practice with LGBTQIA+ populations. *Social Work*.
7. \*Roman-Hampton, V. & **Iacono, G.** (in press). Unrecognized Truths: The Impact of Epistemic Injustice on LGBTQIA+ Communities.
8. Aguilar, J., \*Mortley, C., & **Iacono, G.** (in press). Ethics and the Other: Sexual/Sexuality and Gender Identities, Politics, and Ability - LGBTQIA+, Trauma; Violence, and Gender Transition.
9. Elsaesser, C., Chang, D., Proulx, J., **Iacono, G.**, & Wong, Y.L.R. (2026). Leveraging inner transformation for social transformation: Examining the role of mindfulness and contemplative practices in supporting justice. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 96(2), 119-128.
10. \*Goldsborough, E. J., \*Loveland, E. K., Phillips, J. D., & **Iacono, G.** (2026). Examining the Bidirectional Relationship Between Food Insecurity and Cigarette Smoking: Evidence from a Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 08901171261429792.

11. **Iacono, G.** (2025). Tuned In! An affirmative mindfulness intervention for sexual and gender diverse young people. *International Journal of LGBTQ+ Youth Studies*, 22(3), 512-537.
12. **Iacono, G.**, \*Evans, S., Werkmeister Rozas, L., & Garran, A. M. (2025). Towards a socially engaged mindfulness pedagogical approach to anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work education. *Social Work Education*, 1-20.
13. **Iacono, G.**, & Loveland, E. K. (2025). Fostering critical relational teaching in social work education: Reflections on shifting pedagogy to address the current college mental health crisis. *Advances in Social Work*, 25(1).
14. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E. K., Fendrich, M., Kim, D., Russell, B. S., Park, C. L., & Hutchinson, M. (2025). The impact of age and sexual orientation on work-related changes and stress early in the pandemic. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 172, 108213.
15. Craig, S. L., \*\*Leung, V. W., \*\*Hui, J. A., **Iacono, G.**, \*Pascoe, R. V., Dillon, F., Austin, A., \*\*Pang, N., \*\*Dobinson, C., & Brooks, A. S. (2025). LGBTQ + affirmative CBT: A hierarchical linear model of longitudinal outcomes and mechanisms of change. *BMC Psychology*, 13(1).
16. **Iacono, G.**, \*Holle, L. M., \*Loveland, E. K., Wu, E., \*Pan, C., \*Haggerty, T., Craig, S. L., Watson, R. J., \*Smith, J., & \*Bietsch, B. (2025). Supporting Sexual and Gender Diverse Young People: Exploring the Potential Benefit of the Tuned In! Intervention. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 42(6), 713-728.
17. **Iacono, G.**, Elsaesser, C., & \*Dominique Courts, C. L. (2024). “My resistance melts away”: The role of mindfulness in supporting participatory researchers' efforts to share power with youth co-researchers. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 74(3-4), 236-248.
18. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S. L., Brennan, D. J., \*Loveland, E. K., & Crowder, R. (2024). Exploring a self-compassion intervention with LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 1-24.
19. **Iacono, G.**, \*Holle, L., \*Loveland, E., \*\*Borel, C., \*Horton, E., \*\*Olson, H., ... & \*Bietsch, B. (2024). Community-based participatory action research with LGBTQIA+ youth during the COVID-19 pandemic: Reflections from a collaborative autoethnography. *Qualitative Social Work*, 23(6), 970-989.
20. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Smith, J., Lin, H. J., Bietsch, B., & Watson, R. J. (2023). An exploratory analysis of overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 21(6), 736-756.
21. **Iacono, G.** & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (2023). Marginalized social identities and locations in middle adulthood: A critical theoretical approach. In *Multidimensional Human Behavior in the Complex Social Environment*. Cognella.
22. **Iacono, G.**, \*Loveland, E. K., & Craig, S. L. (2023). Breaking down barriers to mental health supports for LGBTQ+ youth through group work. In J. Currin-McCulloch and G. Tully

(Eds.) *2019/2020 Proceedings of the International Association for Social Work with Groups*.  
Whiting Birch.

23. Craig, S. L., \*Pascoe, R. V., **Iacono, G.**, \*\*Pang, N., & \*\*Pearson, A. (2023). Assessing the fidelity of an affirmative cognitive behavioral group intervention. *Research on Social Work Practice, 33*(4), 375-389.
24. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S. L., \*\*Crowder, R., Brennan, D. J., \*Loveland, E. K. (2022). A qualitative study of the LGBTQ+ youth affirmative mindfulness program for sexual and gender minority youth. *Mindfulness, 13*, 222–237.
25. Craig, S. L., **Iacono, G.**, McInroy, L., \*\*Kirkland, A., \*Pascoe, R., & Kourgiantakis, T. (2022). Demonstrating LGBTQ+ Affirmative Practice in Groups: Developing Competence through Simulation-Based Learning. *Clinical Social Work Journal, 50*(3), 297-307.
26. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S. L., & \*Pascoe, R. (2021). Critical reflections and reflexivity on responding to the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in a global pandemic. *Qualitative Social Work, 20*(1-2), 479-486.
27. Craig, S. L., **Iacono, G.**, \*Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2021). Adapting clinical skills to telehealth: Applications of affirmative cognitive-behavioral therapy with LGBTQ+ youth. *Clinical Social Work Journal, 1*-13.
28. Craig, S. L., **Iacono, G.**, Austin, A., Eaton, A. D., \*\*Pang, N., \*\*Leung, V. W., & \*\*Frey, C. J. (2021). The role of facilitator training in intervention delivery: Preparing clinicians to deliver AFFIRMative group cognitive behavioral therapy to sexual and gender minority youth. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 33*(1), 56-77.
29. Craig, S. L., Eaton, A. D., \*\*Leung, V. W., **Iacono, G.**, \*\*Pang, N., Dillon, F., ... & \*\*Dobinson, C. (2021). Efficacy of affirmative cognitive behavioural group therapy for sexual and gender minority adolescents and young adults in community settings in Ontario, Canada. *BMC psychology, 9*(1), 1-15.
30. Craig, S. L., \*\*Leung, V. W., \*Pascoe, R., \*\*Pang, N., **Iacono, G.**, Austin, A., & Dillon, F. (2021). AFFIRM Online: Utilising an affirmative cognitive-behavioural digital intervention to improve mental health, access, and engagement among LGBTQA+ youth and young adults. *International journal of environmental research and public health, 18*(4), 1541.
31. Craig, S. L., McInroy, L. B., Goulden, A., Eaton, A. D., Kourgiantakis, T., Bogo, M., **Iacono, G.** ... & Small, M. (2021). The health social work competency rating scale: development of a tool for education and practice. *Social Work Education, 40*(7), 928-941.
32. Wagaman, M. A., Alessi, E. J., Goffnett, J., Watts, K. J., **Iacono, G.**, Thomas, D. S., ... & Craig, S. L. (2021). Interrupting hetero-and cisnormativity in social work programs: LGBTQ+ student strategies for increasing inclusion. *Journal of Social Work Education, 57*(2), 342-356.
33. Craig, S. L., **Iacono, G.**, & \*Pascoe, R. (2020). The delivery of technology-mediated affirmative cognitive behavioural therapy groups to LGBTQ+ youth during a pandemic: A practice innovation. *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health, 39* (3), 79-83.

34. **Iacono, G.** (2019). An affirmative mindfulness approach for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth mental health. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 47(2), 156-166.
35. Craig, S. L., McInroy, L. B., Eaton, A. D., **Iacono, G.**, \*\*Leung, V. W., Austin, A., & \*\*Dobinson, C. (2019). An affirmative coping skills intervention to improve the mental and sexual health of sexual and gender minority youth (Project Youth AFFIRM): protocol for an implementation study. *JMIR research protocols*, 8(6), e13462.
36. **Iacono, G.** (2017). A call for self-compassion in social work education. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 37(5), 454-476.
37. **Iacono, G.** (2017). Epistemic Injustice: Uncovering knowledge of bisexual realities in social work. *Advances in Social Work*, 18(2), 563-582.
38. Craig, S. L., **Iacono, G.**, Pacey, M. S., Dentato, M. P., & \*\*Boyle, K. E. (2017). Intersecting sexual, gender, and professional identities among social work students: The importance of identity integration. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 53(3), 466-479.

#### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & REVISION**

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1. **Iacono, G.**, Muro, P., Evans, S., Roman-Hampton, V., McGeough, B., Thigpen, K., Meehan, Q., Gzesh, A., Perry, K., Prince, D.M., Greenwood, M., & Pacey, M. S., (under review) Exploring mental health providers' support of transgender and gender expansive youths' mental health in the context of threats to gender affirming care. Innovations in research on LGBTQ+ youth mental health: A special issue in honor of Dr. Jeremy T. Goldbach in *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.
2. Pacey, M. S., Roman-Hampton, V., Harrington, K., Meehan, Q., Evans, S., Bishop, M., Gzesh, A., Kynn, J., Fish, J. N., Tucker, T., Perry, K., & **Iacono, G.** (under review). Loving fiercely: A grounded theory model of parental processes to mitigate harm to transgender youth caused by the anti-trans sociopolitical climate. Innovations in research on LGBTQ+ youth mental health: A special issue in honor of Dr. Jeremy T. Goldbach in *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.
3. Singh, S., **Iacono, G.**, Pacey, M.S., Poteat, P., & Yoshikawa, H. (under review). The indispensability of intersectionality and resisting fragmentation in building capacity for critical action among LGBTQIA+ children and youth. *Journal of Social Issues*.
4. Harrington, K.Y., Su, Z., Phillips, J.D., Carolan, K., & **Iacono, G.** (under review). Social worker preparedness to work with far-right clients *Social Work*.
5. \*Bietsch, B., **Iacono, G.**, & \*Holle, L. (revise & resubmit). Re-constructing the obesity "epidemic": Dismantling the dominant discourse through social advocacy and empowerment. *International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*.
6. Pacey, M.S., \*Evans, S., Lawrence, S., Watson, R.J., \*Muro, P., Eaton, L., **Iacono, G.**, & Puhl, R. (under review). Disordered eating behaviors among LGBTQ+ youth: An exploration of the

intersections of sexuality, gender, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. *Social Science and Medicine*.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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1. **Iacono, G.**, Roman-Hampton, V., Pacey, M.S, Phillips, J., Carolan, K., \*Zhenrong, S., \*Harrington, K., & \*Holle, L. (in preparation). Preparing social workers for affirmative practice with diverse LGBTQIA+ populations: Recommendations for MSW Programs. *Journal of Social Work Education*.
2. **Iacono, G.**, Pacey, M. S., Harrington, K. Y., Lawrence, S. E., Learman, J., Manuel, J., Meehan, Q., Muro, P., Roman-Hampton, V., Singh, S., Weeks, A., & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (in preparation). Poetic inquiry and arts-based praxis in the academy: Resisting the hostile anti-trans political climate in the U.S. as social work scholars.  
Authors 1-2 are co-first authors  
Authors 3-12 are co-second authors, listed alphabetically  
Abstract accepted for chapter in edited book: *Artivism + Advocacy and the Arts, a volume for Critical Praxes in Arts-Based Social Work*. Routledge. Due August 1, 2026
3. **Iacono, G.** (in preparation). Designing and implementing the Tuned In! facilitator training: A preliminary report on preparing community clinicians to deliver affirmative mindfulness-based interventions for LGBTQIA+ young people. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.

## REPORTS, PEER REVIEWED

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**Iacono, G.** & Scholl, J. (2018). *Psychotherapy and Speech Therapy: Partners in developing stronger communication skills for adults*. Toronto Adult Speech Clinic.

## PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Iacono, G.**, Muro, P., Holle, L., Mortley, C., Pacey, M., & Lin, H.-J. (2026, October). *Tuned In!: 12-Month Longitudinal Outcomes of a Virtual Affirmative Mindfulness Intervention for Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth and Young Adults*, International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience Beyond Limits Conference. Toronto, Canada.
2. **Iacono, G.**, Muro, P., Roman-Hampton, V., Audia, C., Holle, L., Harrington, K., Su, Z., Pacey, M., Phillips, J., & Carolan, K. (2026, October). *Are Social Workers Prepared? A U.S. National Survey of Social Workers' Preparedness for Affirmative Practice with 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth*, International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience Beyond Limits Conference. Toronto, Canada.
3. Evans, S., Pacey, M., & **Iacono, G.** (2026, September). *Loving Fiercely: Parental Processes in Mitigating Harm to Transgender Youth Caused by the Anti-Trans Sociopolitical Climate*, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Seattle, Washington.
4. Evans, S., **Iacono, G.**, & Pacey, M (2026, September). *Mental Health Providers' Support of Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth's Mental Health in the Wake of Threats to Gender-*

*Affirming Care*, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Seattle, Washington.

5. **Iacono, G.**, Li, G., Yin, P., & Huang, Y. (2026, August). *Community-Based Mental Health Interventions for Sexual and Gender Diverse Young People*. Symposium at Society for Research on Child Development: Special Topic Meeting: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Childhood and Adolescence: A Global Forum on Development, Health, and Rights. Utrecht, The Netherlands.
6. **Iacono, G.**, Muro, P., McGeough, B., Evans, S., Prince, D.M., Roman-Hampton, V., Gzesh, A., Meehan, Q., Pacey, M. S., Perry, K., & Greenwood, E. (2026, August). *Mental Health Providers' Support of Transgender Youth Amid Restrictions on Gender-Affirming Care in the USA*. [Paper Presentation]. Society for Research on Child Development: Special Topic Meeting: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Childhood and Adolescence: A Global Forum on Development, Health, and Rights. Utrecht, The Netherlands.
7. Evans, S., Meehan, Q., Pacey, M. S., **Iacono, G.**, Roman-Hampton, V., Bishop, M., Gzesh, A., Kynn, J., & Fish, J.N. (2026, August). *Anti-Trans Attacks from the State: Impacts and Parental Strategies to Mitigate Harm for TGE Youth*. {Paper Presentation. Society for Research on Child Development: Special Topic Meeting: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Childhood and Adolescence: A Global Forum on Development, Health, and Rights. Utrecht, The Netherlands.
8. **Iacono G.** & \*Pan C. (2025). *Implementing 'Tuned In!': An Affirmative Mindfulness-Based Intervention to Enhance Mental Health, Embodied Cognition, and Intersubjectivity in LGBTQIA+ Young People Amidst Anti-LGBTQIA+ Political Attacks*. Oral presentation at the 46th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA, United States.
9. **Iacono, G.** & Elsaesser, C. (2025). *My resistance melts away: The role of mindfulness in supporting YPAR researchers' efforts to share power with youth co-researchers*. Paper presentation at the 2025 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.
10. **Iacono, G.**, Evans, S., Loveland, E., Holle, L., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2025, January). Exploring the use of a critical mindfulness pedagogy to sustain difficult dialogue in social work education. Paper presentation at the 2025 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.
11. **Iacono, G.**, Evans, S., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Haggerty, T., & Pan, C. (2025, January). Enhancing affirmative practice for LGBTQIA+ youth amidst the current anti-LGBTQIA+ political climate. Paper presentation at the 2025 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.
12. Elsaesser, C., **Iacono, G.**, Roman-Hampton, V., & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (2025, January). *A community-based participatory approach to developing a socially engaged mindfulness intervention for social work students*. Symposium presentation at the 2025 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.
13. Goldsborough, E. J., Loveland, E. K., Phillips, J. D., & **Iacono, G.** (2025 January). *Exploring the bidirectional relationship between food insecurity and smoking: A cross-lagged panel analysis* [Poster presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research 29th Annual Conference, Seattle,

WA, United States.

14. **Iacono, G.**, Haggerty, T., Loveland, E., Elsaesser, C., Roman-Hampton, V., Werkmeister Rozas, L., Holle, L., & Pan, C. (2024, October). A community-based participatory approach to developing a socially engaged mindfulness curriculum for BSW students. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Kansas City, MO, United States.
15. **Iacono, G.**, Evans, S., Loveland, E., Holle, L., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2024, October). Enhancing affirmative practice pedagogy amidst anti-LGBTQIA+ political climate to support LGBTQIA+ youth. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Kansas City, MO, United States.
16. **Iacono, G.**, Evans, S., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2024, October). Towards a critical mindfulness pedagogical approach to social work anti-racist and anti-oppressive education. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Kansas City, MO, United States.
17. Kattari, L., Pacey, M.S., Jenkins, T., Kynn, J., Christensen, C., Klein, LB, McGeough, B., **Iacono, G.**, Dodd, SJ. (2024, October). Using arts and storytelling to center trans people's experiences in a hostile sociopolitical climate. Panel presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Kansas City, MO, United States.
18. **Iacono, G.**, Pan, C., Haggerty, T., Evans, S., Loveland, E., & Holle, L. (2024, June). Unpacking neutrality in social work education: Exploring X responses to anti-trans legislation. Paper presentation at 2024 LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
19. **Iacono, G.**, Pan, C., Haggerty, T., Evans, S., Loveland, E., & Holle, L. (2024, June). Cultivating joy and empowerment among LGBTQIA+ youth amidst current anti-LGBTQIA+ political attacks. Paper presentation at 2024 LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
20. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Evans, S., Loveland, E., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2024, June). Understanding overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth: An exploratory analysis of factors. Paper presentation at 2024 LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
21. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., Evans, S., Holle, L., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2024, June). Fostering joy and finding community: Findings from a collaborative autoethnography with LGBTQIA+ youth community based participatory action research. Paper presentation at 2024 LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
22. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., Evans, S., Holle, L., Pan, C., & Haggerty, T. (2024, June). CBPAR autoethnography on group intervention process. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Association for Social Work with Groups Symposium. Madrid, Spain.
23. **Iacono, G.**, Haggerty, T., Roman-Hampton, V., Werkmeister Rozas, L., Elsaesser, C., MacDonald, S., Nieman, P., & Qureshi, R. (2024, June). Bridging the gap: A community-based participatory approach to developing group-based socially engaged mindfulness curriculum for BSW students. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Association for Social Work with Groups Symposium. Madrid, Spain.

24. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., Holle, L., Pan, C., Evans, S., & Haggerty, T. (2024, June). Fostering mental well-being and empowerment in LGBTQIA+ youth amidst current anti-LGBTQIA+ political attacks: A pilot study of an affirmative mindfulness-based group intervention. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Association for Social Work with Groups Symposium. Madrid, Spain.
25. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Loveland, E., Evans, S., & Pan, C. (2024, June). Fostering mental health, embodied cognition, and intersubjectivity in LGBTQIA+ youth amid current anti-LGBTQIA+ political attacks. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Society for Contemplative Research. Padova, Italy.
26. **Iacono, G.**, Roman-Hampton, V., Haggerty, T., Elsaesser, C., Werkmeister Rozas, L., MacDonald, S., Nieman, P., & Qureshi, R. (2024, June). Creating a socially engaged mindfulness-based intervention: Enhancing social work students' capacity for wellbeing and social action. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Society for Contemplative Research. Padova, Italy.
27. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Loveland, E., Evans, S., & Pan, C. (2024 June). Towards a critical mindfulness pedagogical approach to anti-racist and anti-oppressive education. Paper presentation at the 2024 International Society for Contemplative Research. Padova, Italy.
28. **Iacono, G.**, Elsaesser, C., Churchill, A., Pan, C., Haggerty, T., Roman-Hampton, V., Werkmeister Rozas, L., Nieman, P. (2024, March). A community-based participatory approach to developing group-based socially engaged mindfulness curriculum for BSW students. Paper presentation at the 2024 The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference. New Orleans, LA. United States.
29. **Iacono, G.** (2024, January). Promoting mental health and coping among LGBTQIA+ youth during COVID-19: A pilot study of an affirmative mindfulness-based group intervention. Paper presentation at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC., United States.
30. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., Fendrich, M., Kim, D., Russell, B., & Park, C. (2024, January). Exploring Stress and Age among LGBQ+ individuals during COVID-19. Paper presentation at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC., United States.
31. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Loveland, E., Borel, C., Horton, E., Olson, H., Craig, S.L., & Bietsch, B. (2024, January). Conducting youth community-based participatory action research in the COVID-19 era. Paper presentation at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC., United States.
32. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Smith, J., Lin, H., Bietsch, B., Watson, R. J. (2024, January). Understanding overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth: An exploratory analysis of factors. Poster presentation at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC., United States.

33. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., Smith, J., & Aguilar, J. (2024, January). Unpacking neutrality discourse in social work: exploring twitter responses to anti-trans legislation. Poster presentation at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC., United States.
34. **Iacono, G.**, Holle, L., & Aguilar, J. (2023, October). *Unpacking neutrality discourse in social work: exploring twitter responses to anti-trans legislation*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, United States.
35. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., & Craig, S.L. (2023, May). *Breaking down barriers to mental health supports for LGBTQIA+ youth through group work*. [Paper presentation]. 2023 International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry. Illinois, United States.
36. **Iacono, G.** & Carolan, K., Loveland, E., & Lester-Harriat, R. (2023, May). *Cultivating peer support in social work education during the COVID-19 pandemic*. [Paper presentation]. 2023 International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry. Illinois, United States.
37. **Iacono, G.**, Elsaesser, C., & Singh, S. (2024, January). Integrating participatory methods with intervention science: Unlocking community power to co-create health solutions. Symposium at the 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.
38. Craig, S.L., Leung, V., Hui, J., Dillon, F., Austin, A., Pascoe, R., **Iacono, G.**, & Pang, N. (2024, January). *Affirmative CBT: Longitudinal change processes for sexual and gender minority youth*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
39. Elsaesser, C. M., **Iacono, G.**, & Courts, D. (2022, June). *Trauma informed mindfulness as a support for adult facilitators of youth participatory action research*. [Poster presentation]. Mind and Life Summer Research Institute. New York, NY United States.
40. Iacono, G. & **Loveland, E.** (2022, October). *The importance of critical relational teaching in social work education during the covid-19 era*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Anaheim, CA, United States.
41. **Iacono, G.** & Loveland, E., & Watson, R.J. (2022, June). *Movement as an avenue to joy: Examining physical activity and stress in sexual and gender minority youth from an intersectional lens*. Paper presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
42. **Iacono, G.** & Loveland, E., & Watson, R.J. (2022, June) *Exploring the relationship between binge eating, coping and stress among LGBTQIA+ youth*. Paper presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
43. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., & Craig, S.L. (2022, June). *Finding pleasure and power from within: the role of self-compassion in promoting LGBTQ+ youth psychological well-being*. [Paper presentation]. LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.
44. **Iacono, G.**, Loveland, E., Fendrich, M., Russell, B., Park, C., & Hutchinson, M. (2022, January). *Exploring work-related needs of sexual minority (LGBQ+) individuals during COVID-19*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.

45. **Iacono, G.** & Bietsch, B. (2022, January). *Exploring the intersections of minority stress and resilience among sexual and gender minority youth of color*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.
46. Bietsch, B. & **Iacono, G.** (2022, January). *Binge eating as a coping mechanism for LGBTQ+ teens dealing with stress: Exercise as a moderator*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.
47. **Iacono, G.** & Bietsch, B. (2021, October). *Exploring mental health practice and policy approaches among vulnerable young and older LGBTQ+ communities* [Oral presentation]. Rainbow Symposium 2021, Storrs, CT, United States.
48. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., & Pascoe, R. (2021, October). *Teaching LGBTQ+ Affirmative practice: Developing competence in MSW students through simulation-based learning*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Orlando, FL, United States.
49. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., Pang, N., Eaton, A.D., & Leung, V. (2021, January). *Implementation fidelity for community-based affirmative cognitive-behavioral interventions for sexual and gender minority youth*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, United States.
50. Craig, S.L., Eaton, A.D., Leung, V., **Iacono, G.**, Dillon, F., Pang, N., Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2021, January). *An affirmative coping skills intervention to improve mental and sexual health of sexual and gender minority youth (Youth AFFIRM): Interim results of a stepped wedge trial*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, United States.
51. **Iacono, G.**, & Pascoe, R. (2020, October). *Navigating tensions in intervention training, implementation and evaluation*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Denver, CO, United States.
52. Pascoe, R. & **Iacono, G.** (2020, October). *Teaching trauma-informed LGBTQ+ youth group facilitation competencies with social workers and students*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Denver, CO, United States.
53. Craig, S.L., Eaton, A.D., Leung, V., **Iacono, G.**, Dillon, F., Pang, N., Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2020, June). *An affirmative coping skills intervention (AFFIRM) for sexual and gender minority youth: Interim results of an implementation trial*. Paper presentation at the SOGII (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues) Canadian Psychological Association Conference. Prague, Czech Republic.
54. **Iacono, G.** (2020, June). *An affirmative MBI for LGBTQ+ youth to enhance well-being and prosociality*. [Poster presentation]. Mind & Life Summer Research Institute, 2020. Virtual. United States.
55. Craig, S.L., Eaton, A.D., Leung, V., **Iacono, G.**, Dillon, F., Pang, N., Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2020, April). *An affirmative coping skills intervention to improve mental & sexual health of*

*sexual & gender minority youth (AFFIRM): Interim results of an implementation study.* Paper presentation at the 29th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research. Virtual. Canada.

56. Craig, S.L., **Iacono, G.**, Eaton, A.D., Pang, N., Frey, C., Austin, A., Leung, V., & Dillon, F. (2020, April). *Building community capacity in affirmative cognitive behavioural therapy for sexual and gender minority youth: Effectiveness of AFFIRM facilitator training.* Paper presentation at the 29th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research. Virtual. Canada.
57. **Iacono, G.**, Sharma, B., Okumu, M., Wabire, C.J., Mukhwana, F., Kibirige, K., & Small, E. (2020, January). *Structural validation of the Self-Compassion Scale with adolescents and young people in central Uganda.* Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.
58. **Iacono, G.**, & Craig, S.L. (2020, January). *Utilizing mindfulness therapeutic approaches with sexual and gender minority youth to address mental health.* Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.
59. Craig, S.L., **Iacono, G.**, Austin, A., Eaton, A.D., Pang, N., & Leung, V. (2020, January). *Delivering empirically-supported interventions to sexual and gender minority youth: Evaluating the effectiveness of Affirm Facilitator Training.* Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC, United States.
60. **Iacono, G.** & Crowder, R. (2019, October). *Promoting self-care and enhancing learning among social work students through self-compassion approaches.* Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Denver, CO, United States.
61. Okumu, M., Sharma, B., & **Iacono, G.** (2019, October) *Positive youth development: Testing the self-compassion scale among Ugandan youth.* Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Denver, CO, United States.
62. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., Brennan, D. J., & Crowder, R (2019, July). *Conducting mental health research for change: Addressing LGBTQ+ youth mental health through mindfulness.* Paper presentation at the 7th Annual LGBTQ Research Symposium: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on LGBTQ Research in the Social Sciences. Champaign, IL, United States.
63. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., Brennan, D. J., & Crowder, R (2019, June). *Breaking down barriers to mental health supports for LGBTQ+ youth through group work.* Paper presentation at the 41st International Association for Social Work with Groups Symposium. New York City, NY, United States.
64. Craig, S.L., Dentato, M.P., Eaton, A.D., & **Iacono, G.** (2019, June). *Leveraging the power of groups for LGBTQ+ youth: Developing and sustaining local and international community collaborations.* Paper presentation at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium of the International Association for Social Work with Groups. New York City, NY, United States.
65. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., Crowder, R., & Brennan, D. J. (2019, May). *The LGBTQ+ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project.* Paper presentation at the 20th Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

66. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., McInroy, L., & Austin, A. (2019, January). *Addressing anti-LGBTQ violence within North American social work programs*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, United States.
67. Craig, S.L., McInroy, L., Goulden, A., & **Iacono, G.** (2019, January). *Engaging the senses: Triangulating qualitative data analysis using transcripts, audio, and video*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, United States.
68. Wagaman, A., Alessi, E., Thomas, D., Watts, J., **Iacono, G.** (2018, October). *LGBTQ+ social work student narratives: Identifying advocacy strategies to enhance LGBTQ+ inclusion*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Orlando, FL, United States.
69. Craig, S.L., Eaton, A., McInroy, L., **Iacono, G.** (2018, October). *Practicing alliance: A model of teaching diversity and inclusion in social work*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Orlando, FL, United States.
70. **Iacono, G.** & Craig, S.L. (2018, July). *Belonging and working together: The LGBTQ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project*. Paper presentation at the 19th Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference. Toronto, ON, Canada.
71. **Iacono, G.** (2018, June). *The LGBTQ+ youth affirmative mindfulness project*. Paper presentation at the SOGII (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues) Canadian Psychological Association Conference. Montreal, QC, Canada.
72. **Iacono, G.** (2018, June). *The LGBTQ+ Youth affirmative mindfulness project*. Symposium presented at the International Congress of Applied Psychology "Psychology: Connecting Science to Solutions" Conference. Montreal, QC, Canada.
73. **Iacono, G.** (2018, April). *The LGBTQ+ youth affirmative mindfulness project*. Poster presentation at A Mindful Society Conference. Toronto, ON, Canada.
74. **Iacono, G.** & Paton, C. (2017, October). *Creative and equitable opportunities: Development of a social work PhD peer support group*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Dallas, TX, United States.
75. Craig, S.L., **Iacono, G.**, McInroy, L., Dentato, M., Pacey, M., Austin, A., & Alessi, E. (2017, October). *Towards diversity: Intersection of LGBTQ and professional identities among social work students*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference. Dallas, TX, United States.
76. **Iacono, G.**, Craig, S.L., & Austin, A. (2017, April) *Connecting people in need to care: Promoting mental health and coping skills among sexual and gender minority youth - A pilot community-based affirmative cognitive-behavioural group intervention*. Paper presentation at the 18th Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference. Ottawa, ON, Canada.
77. **Iacono, G.** (2016, June). *Transforming the classroom: A call for self-compassion in social work education*. Paper presentation at the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Conference. Toronto, ON, Canada.

78. **Iacono, G.** & Craig, S.L. (2016, June). *Epistemic injustice: Towards uncovering knowledge of bisexual realities in social work*. Paper presentation at the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Conference. Toronto, ON, Canada.
79. Craig, S.L., Huang, Y., Austin, A., & **Iacono, G.** (2016, January). *Promoting healthy coping skills among sexual and gender minority youth: A pilot affirmative cognitive-behavioural group intervention*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA, United States.

## **INVITED SPEAKER**

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1. **Iacono, G.** (2026, January). *Imposter phenomenon in academia*. [Oral presentation]. First year doctoral seminar. UConn School of Social Work.
2. **Iacono, G.** (2026, September). *Leading discussions and engaging students*. [Oral presentation]. SSW 6405. The Use of Theory in Social Work Research. UConn School of Social Work.
3. **Iacono, G.** (2025, June). Planning Committee Member and Panelist [Oral Presentation]. ESPN Pride and Mental Health Event.
4. **Iacono, G.** (2025, April). *Supporting and Advocating for Transgender Communities in the Current Context: A Panel Discussion for Social Work and Beyond* [Oral Presentation – Moderator].
5. **Iacono, G.** (2025, March). *Community-based participatory action research with LGBTQIA+ young people*. [Oral presentation]. SSW 6414: Research V: Qualitative Research Methods.
6. **Iacono, G.** (2024, October). *Imposter phenomenon in academia*. [Oral presentation]. First year doctoral seminar. UConn School of Social Work.
7. **Iacono, G.** (2024, July). *Cultivating empowerment and resilience in LGBTQIA+ youth amidst current anti-LGBTQIA+ political climate*. [Oral presentation]. Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity, UConn School of Social Work Innovations Institute, National SOGIE Center.
8. **Iacono, G.** (2024, April). *Fostering mental well-being and empowerment in LGBTQIA+ youth amidst current anti-LGBTQIA+ political attacks*. [Oral presentation]. UConn Rainbow Center “Out to Lunch” Series.
9. **Iacono, G.** (2024, March). *Working with substance use and trauma*. [Oral presentation]. Graduate Course: SK659 Addictions: Assessment and Treatment. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.
10. **Iacono, G.** (2024, February). *Fostering well-being among LGBTQIA+ youth*. [Oral presentation]. Office of Research & Scholarship Speaker Series. UConn School of Social Work.
11. **Iacono, G.** (2024, January). *Imposter phenomenon in academia*. [Oral presentation]. First year doctoral seminar. UConn School of Social Work.
12. **Iacono, G.** (2023, November). *Trauma and grief*. [Oral presentation]. Graduate Course: SK651 Advanced Practice with individuals. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.

13. **Iacono, G.** (2023, October). *Celebrating LGBTQIA+ resiliency*. [Panel presentation]. #ThisIsAmerica Series. UConn Foundation and School of Social Work.
14. **Iacono, G.** (2023, September). *Purposive sampling*. [Oral presentation]. Doctoral Course: SSW 6410 Research I: Research Design and Knowledge Generation. UConn School of Social Work.
15. **Iacono, G.** (2023, September). *Culturally adapted interventions for LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults*. [Oral presentation]. Brown Bag lunch series: Equitable and culturally responsive practices in psychology. University of Rhode Island Department of Psychology.
16. **Iacono, G.** (2023, February). *Let's talk about LGBTQ+ mental health*. [Oral presentation]. Educational event hosted by Dr. Lisa Werkmeister Rozas for German Social Work students. UConn School of Social Work.
17. **Iacono, G.** (2023, January). *Imposter phenomenon in academia*. [Oral presentation]. First year doctoral seminar. UConn School of Social Work.
18. **Iacono, G.** (2022, October). *Use of self and engagement in social work practice*. [Oral presentation]. MSW Practice Course. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.
19. **Iacono, G.** (2022, September). *Purposive sampling*. [Oral presentation]. Doctoral Course: SSW 6410 Research I: Research Design and Knowledge Generation. UConn School of Social Work.
20. **Iacono, G.** (2022, May). *Social Work Practice With LGBTQIA+ Populations*. Guest lecturer. Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, Hochschule Düsseldorf/ University of Applied Sciences: Düsseldorf, Germany.
21. **Iacono, G.** (2022, April). *COVID-19 Monthly Webinar: COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Mental Health*. Hispanic Health Council. Hartford, CT.
22. **Iacono, G.** (2022, March). *Let's Talk About LGBTQ+ Mental Health*. [Oral presentation]. Educational event hosted by Dr. Lisa Werkmeister Rozas for German Social Work students. UConn School of Social Work.
23. **Iacono, G.** (2022, January). *Imposter Phenomenon in Academia*. UConn School of Social Work. First Year Doctoral Seminar.
24. **Iacono, G.** (2021, December). *Adapt & Evaluate Community-Based Participatory Intervention Research*. Prince Edward Island Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, Online. Canada.
25. **Iacono, G. & Bietsch, B.** (2021, October). *Exploring Mental Health Practice And Policy Approaches Among Vulnerable Young And Older LGBTQ+ Communities*. [Oral presentation]. Rainbow Symposium 2021, Storrs, CT, United States.
26. **Iacono, G.** (2021, October). *Use of Self and Engagement in Social Work Practice*. MSW Practice Course. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.

27. **Iacono, G.** (2021, September). *Purposive Sampling*. UConn School of Social Work Doctoral Course: SSW 6410 Research I: Research Design and Knowledge Generation
28. **Iacono, G.** (2021, April). *Symposium on Stress and Mental Health Research*. Collaboration between the UConn Collaboratory on School and Child Health and the UConn Public Health House.
29. **Iacono, G., & Pascoe, R.** (2021, March). *Risks and Benefits of Offering Online Groups*. Einladung Online-Methododenwerkstatt "It's up to you, groupwork, groupwork!": Deutsches Chapter der International Association for Social Work with Groups, Online. Germany.
30. **Iacono, G. & Pascoe, R.** (2020, November). *Practice Skills for Facilitating Social Work Groups Online: An Interactive Workshop and Discussion of Learnings from an Online AFFIRM Group*. The Ontario Groupwork Chapter (OGC) of the International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG), Online. Canada.
31. **Iacono, G.** (2020, November) Gen Silent Movie and Discussion Event. AARP.
32. **Iacono, G. & Carolan, K.** (2020, October). Faculty Research Presentation. UConn School of Social Work Doctoral Seminar.
33. **Iacono, G.** (2020, March) *Supporting the Mental Health of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Populations*. ECHO Ontario Mental Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.
34. **Iacono, G.** (2019, September). *Social Work with 2SLGBTQ+ Communities: From Micro to Macro-Level Practice*. University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Introduction to Social Work Conference for Incoming MSW Students
35. **Iacono, G. & Frey, C.** (2019, April). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. Covenant House.
36. **Iacono, G. & Chhina, C.** (2018, November). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. David Kelley Services, Family Service Toronto.
37. **Iacono, G. & Chhina, C.** (2018, September). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. The 519.
38. **Iacono, G.** (2018, August). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. East Metro Youth Services.
39. **Iacono, G.** (2018, March). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. Sherbourne Health.
40. **Iacono, G.** (2018, February). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. St Joseph's Health Centre.
41. **Iacono, G. & McInroy, L.** (2018, January). *AFFIRM Program and Evaluation*. Hamilton Family Health Team.
42. **Iacono, G.** (2017, November). *LGBTQ+ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project*. Invited speaker. Toronto District School Board.
43. **Iacono, G.** (2016, September). *Addressing Student Mental Health*. Invited speaker, panel presentation for the student body at Centennial College.

44. **Iacono, G.** (2010, September). *Qu(e)rying Religion Panel Event*. Presented on Social Work and LGBTQ+ communities, and LGBTQ+ program development.

## **ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Connecticut, School of Social Work**

- 2026 — **Course Instructor.** SSW 6414: Research V: Qualitative Research Methods. (Graduate: Doctoral). Spring 2026
- 2026 — **Course Instructor.** IGFP 5301: Practice with Individual, Groups, and Families (Graduate). Spring 2026
- 2024 — **Co-Course Instructor.** SSW 5424: Introduction to Engaged Mindfulness (Graduate). Fall 2025; Fall 2024
- 2023 — **Course Instructor.** SOWK 3502 Social Work Practice with Groups (Undergraduate). Fall 2024; Fall 2023
- 2023 — **Course Instructor.** 5394-H71 – Independent Study (Graduate: Spring 2026; Spring 2025; Fall 2024; Summer 2023; Undergraduate: Fall 2023)
- 2021 — **Course Instructor.** BASC 5300 Human Oppression: The African-American and Puerto Rican Perspective. (Graduate: MSW). Spring 2025; Spring 2024; Spring 2023; Fall 2022; Spring 2022; Spring 2021
- 2020 — **Course Instructor.** IGFP 5302 Advanced Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families: Theoretical Approaches (Graduate: MSW). Fall 2024; Fall 2023; Fall 2022; Fall 2021; Fall 2020
- 2020 — **Academic and Practicum Advisor.** BSW, MSW, and PhD students

### **University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work**

- 2017 — 2019 **Course Instructor.** SWK 4107 Foundations of Social Work: Knowledge, Theory, and Values that Inform Practice. (Graduate) Fall 2019; Fall 2018; Fall 2017
- 2015 — 2018 **Guest Instructor/Evaluator.** Simulation-Based Learning in Social Work Education. (Graduate) Fall 2018; Fall 2017; Fall 2016; Fall 2015
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) for Master of Social Work (MSW) students. Evaluated MSW students' competence (i.e., standardized scale) in assessment and intervention skills utilizing standardized client practice scenarios.

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- Support and provide instruction in Practice Fridays (simulated clinical social work scenarios) to MSW students.
- Provide administrative support and mentorship to students participating in the OSCEs within the MSW program.

2017 **Guest Instructor/Evaluator.** Simulation-Based Learning. SWK 4632 Advanced Social Work Practice in Health. (Graduate) Fall 2017

2017 **Guest Instructor.** SWK 4803 Special Topics in Mental Health: Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Populations. (Graduate) Summer 2017

**Toronto Metropolitan University, Centre for Studies in Community Health, Faculty of Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies Program**

2018 **Course Instructor.** SWP402 Social Policy and Social Inclusion. (Undergraduate) Winter 2018

2017 **Course Instructor.** SWP 538 Social Work Research. (Undergraduate) Fall 2017

2017 **Course Instructor.** CINT 917 Community Development. (Undergraduate) Spring 2017; Summer 2017

**Centennial College, School of Community Health Studies**

2016 — 2018 **Course Instructor.** SSWR 302 Community Development. (College) Fall 2016; Fall 2017; Fall 2018

2017 — 2018 **Course Instructor.** SSWR 202 Group Dynamics for Social Service Work. (College) Winter 2017; Summer 2017; Winter 2018

2016 — 2018 **Course Instructor and Field Supervisor.** SSWR 402 Advanced Field Placement. (College) Fall 2016; Winter 2017; Summer 2017; Fall 2017; Winter 2018

**CLINICAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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2018 — 2020 **University of Toronto, Affirmative Research Council (ARC)**

- Affirmative CBT: Clinical Strategies, Implementation and Evaluation. Toronto.
- Deliver clinical intervention training to clinical and community practitioners with Dr. Shelley L. Craig.

2014 — 2015 **Sherbourne Health**

- Taught psycho-educational classes to clients and service users of the health centre (e.g., concurrent disorders, stress management)

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- Provided in-service staff presentations on mental health and the role of social work.

2011 — 2012

**South East Toronto Family Health Team**

- Taught psycho-educational classes to patients of the clinic (e.g., stress, emotional eating)
- Provided in-service staff presentations on mental health and the role of social work.

2010 — 2011

**WoodGreen Community Services**

- Provided seminars for Immigrant Services clients who were interested in studying social work in Canada.
- Provided in-service staff training on mental health topics (e.g. compulsive hoarding).

2008 — 2009

**Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

- Taught psycho-educational classes for clients of the Minimum-Secure Rehabilitation Unit to prepare for reintegration into the community.
- Provided in-service staff training on the role of social work and mental health topics.

**SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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**School Level Service**

***Service to University of Connecticut, School of Social Work***

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2026 – present | QT-RISE Research Lab, Co-Founder and Co-Director  |
| 2026 – present | Course Lead, IGFP 5301: Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families   |
| 2026           | Co-Organizer, Day of Mindfulness School Event   |
| 2025 – present | Co-Chair, Queer & Trans Research Group  |
| 2025 – present | Member, SSW Qualitative Research Group (in process)   |
| 2025 – present | Course Lead, IGFP 5301: Practice with Individuals, Groups and Families  |
| 2024 – present | Member, Doctoral Committee  |
| 2024 – present | Mentor, SSW Graduate Student Organization   |
| 2024 – present | Teacher and Co-organizer, SSW Mindfulness Practice Student Groups.<br>Offered each semester (e.g., Mindfulness Winters/Summers). Along with Dr. Elsaesser, offer mindfulness practice groups for student mental health support. |
| 2023 – present | Facilitator, Weekly Mindful Writing Group, sponsored through SSW Office of Research and Scholarship.  |
| 2023 – present | Course Lead, SOWK 3502 Social Work with Groups  |
| 2020 – present | Member, BSW Committee   |
| 2020 – present | Member, MSW Individuals, Groups and Families Concentration Committee  |
| 2020 – present | Reviewer, PhD, MSW, BSW Admission Application   |
| 2020 – present | Informal mentorship to SSW LGBTQIA+ BSW, MSW, PhD social work students  |
| 2020 – present | Support UConn PhD, MSW, BSW students with reference letters for employment and applying to graduate school.   |

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2020 – present Reviewer, UConn grant applications for colleagues and School grants (e.g., Nancy Humphrey’s Scholarship, Scholars in Aging, Dean’s Incentive Award)
- 2025 Co-organizer, Poetic Inquiry Workshop
- 2025 Organizer, MSW Forum on Understanding and Navigating Complex Times (March Practicum Seminar). Co-organized MSW student event and moderated chat and Q&A segment.
- 2023 — 2025 Course Lead, IGFP 5302: Advanced Practice with Individuals, Groups and Families
- 2022 — 2024 Office of Research & Scholarship Advisory Council
- 2022 — 2024 Diversity Equity and Inclusion/Anti-Racism Change Team
- 2021 — 2022 Diversity Equity and Inclusion/Anti-Racism Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

***Service to University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work***

- 2017 — 2020 Member, Search Committee: Public Health Agency of Canada AFFIRM
- 2016 — 2020 Member, PhD Task Force Planning Committee
- 2014 — 2019 Member, University of Toronto Positive Space Committee
- 2017 — 2018 Member, Teaching Award Committee
- 2015 — 2018 Member, PhD Student Association
- 2014 — 2018 Member, LGBTQ+ Research Club
- 2008 — 2009 Member, LGBTQ+ Issues Planning Committee

**Service to University of Connecticut**

- 2025 – present Member, UConn Global – Mindfulness Spirituality Working Group; support forums and trainings.
- 2025 – present Planning Committee, SOGIECon, formerly True Colors conference. Flagship LGBTQ+ youth conference in CT - largest in the country). Sponsored by UConn. Responsibilities: Support in outreach and planning for SOGIECon events and workshops; support workshop presenters.
- 2021- present Member, UConn Rainbow Center. Responsibilities: Support in outreach and planning for LGBTQIA+ student initiatives. Mentorship to broader UConn LGBTQIA+ student community.
- 2020 – present Faculty Affiliate, Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH)
- 2020 – present Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP)
- 2020 – present Member, UConn Health Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network; support Urban Health/AHEC students
- 2021 – present Collaborator, UConn Rainbow Center; enhance LGBTQIA+ student support across regional campuses; planned service as UConn Hartford Campus liaison (upcoming 2025/26 AY)
- 2021 Panelist, UConn Public Health House/CSCH event (presenter on student stress and mental health; moderate breakout groups)

**Public and Community Service**

- 2025 Organizer and panel presenter, ESPN Pride and Mental Health Event.
- 2022 – present Member, Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance. Promote and advocate for equitable harm reduction practices and policies.
- 2020 – present Community volunteer, engage in various LGBTQIA+ initiatives and organizations across CT and New England as a representative of the UConn

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- SSW (e.g., New Haven, Middletown and Hartford Prides), acting as a community resource. I continue to work on establishing relationships with community members and organizations interested in supporting the well-being of LGBTQ+ populations. (e.g., Anchor Health, Q Plus, AARP, Hispanic Health Council, Compass Youth Collaborative, DCF, DMHAS, CT Trans Advocacy Coalition, Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective.
- 2022 Guest speaker, *Deliberation & discourse: Mental health*. Presentation on mental health strategies to high school students at Edwin O. Smith High School, Storrs, CT.
- 2022 Guest speaker, *COVID-19 monthly webinar: COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ mental health*. Hispanic Health Council. Hartford, CT.
- 2022 Community Research Advisory Board Member, Hispanic Health Council (HHC) in 2022.
- 2015– 2022 Member — Mindfulness Toronto Association
- 2017 – 2020 Member — Toronto Region Groupworkers’ Network
- 2010 – 2020 Member, Queer Ontario Advocacy Group
- 2007– 2011 Member and Mentor — Qu(e)rying Religion, University of Toronto
- 2009 Volunteer, International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada

**Service to the Profession – National and International**

***Editorial Service and Manuscript Review***

- Editorial Board Member, Clinical Social Work Journal
- Special Issue Editor, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry: *Justice Oriented Mindfulness Research*.(2024-2025)
- Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity
- Children and Youth Services Review
- Families in Society
- Mindfulness
- Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services
- Columbia University Press, Social Work
- Primary Health Care Research & Development
- International Journal of LGBTQ+ Youth Studies
- Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research
- Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science
- 2026 – present Volunteer, Society for Social Work Research Awards Committee
- 2024 – present Co-chair and co-host, annual LGBTQ+ Research Symposium.
- 2024 – present Member, National Anti-Trans Policy & Social Work Town Hall Series (developing programming for social work students/professionals).
- 2022 – present Member, International Association for Social Work with Groups Mutual Aid Action Team (an advocate working group for advancing social group work in social work education).
- 2022 – present Mentor, SSWR Coffee with a Scholar Program.
- 2017 – present Member, International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG)
- 2017 – present Member, Society for Social Work Research
- 2016 – present Support BSW and MSW students with reference letters and applying to graduate school

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

- 2025 Co-organizer and moderator (with Dr. Pacey), community panel:  
“Supporting and Advocating for Transgender Communities During the Current  
Context: A Panel Discussion for Social Work and Beyond.”
- 2017 – 2022 Member, Affirmative Research Collaborative (SGDY research and training).
- 2017 – 2020 Member, International Association of Applied Psychology
- 2016 – 2020 Member, Canadian Association for Social Work Education
- 2016 – 2020 Mentor, University of Toronto PhD Buddy Program
- 2016 – 2020 Founder and Facilitator, Provincial (Ontario) Social Work PhD Peer Support  
Group

**Graduate and Undergraduate Advising, Mentorship and Research Supervision**

- 2026 Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Laura Stevens, Simmons  
University
- 2026 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Defense Examiner, Spencer Evans
- 2025 Interim Dissertation Chair, Craig Mortley
- 2024 – present Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Craig Mortley
- 2023 – present Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Leah Holle
- 2025 Doctoral Comprehensive Defense Examiner, Spencer Evans
- 2025 Doctoral Dissertation Defense Examiner: Breana Bietsch
- 2025 Doctoral Dissertation Defense Examiner, Alberto Cifuentes Jr.
- 2025 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Examiner: Laura Moynihan

***Independent Study***

- Spring 2026—Patrick Muro (Teaching Practicum: SSW 6400. Social Work Doctoral Program  
Independent Study)
- Spring 2025—Hannah Pfeffer, MSW Student (Research)
- Summer 2024—Fernando Valenzuela, MSW Student
- Summer 2023—Geraldine Bryant, BSW Student

**Additional Mentoring Experiences**

**PhD Student Advising**

***Academic Advisor:***

- Taylor Tucker, UConn SSW 2026 – present (Fall 2026)
- Kacey Thigpen, UConn SSW 2025 - present
- Spencer Evans, UConn SSW 2023 - 2025
- Leah Holle, UConn SSW 2022 - 2024

***Dissertation Committee:***

- Craig Mortley, UConn SSW – Interim Chair 2025 - 2026
- Laura Stevens, Simmons University SSW – Committee Member 2025 - present
- Vivien Roman Hampton, UConn SSW – Committee Member 2025 - present
- Leah Holle, UConn SSW – Committee Member 2022 - 2026

**Graduate Research Assistant Supervision and Mentoring**

- Patrick Muro (UConn SSW) 2025 - present
- Katherine Haley (UConn SSW) 2025 - present
- John Campanelli (UConn SSW) 2025 - present

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Craig Mortley (UConn SSW)	2024 - present
Spencer Evans (UConn SSW)	2024 - present
Shekh Farid (UConn SSW)	2024 - 2025
Tyler Haggerty (UConn SSW)	2023 - 2025
Sadie MacDonald (UConn SSW)	2023 - 2025
Leah Holle (UConn SSW)	2021 - 2025
Cindy Pan (UConn, Public Health)	2023 - 2024
Maxwell Switz (UConn SSW)	2022 - 2024
Emily Loveland (UConn SSW)	2020 - 2024
Jamie Smith (UConn SSW)	2022 - 2023
Breana Bietsch (UConn SSW)	2021 - 2022

**Undergraduate Student Research**

Christine Audia	2026 - present
Grace Bridges	2026 - present
Rafay Quereshi	2023 - 2024
Jamisha Rodriguez	2022 - 2023
Tyler Haggerty	2022 - 2023

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

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2026	Grown Between Two Worlds podcast: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@GrownBetweenWorlds">https://www.youtube.com/@GrownBetweenWorlds</a>
2026	Mindfulness Voyage podcast: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80pEn7Jm_Mg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80pEn7Jm_Mg</a>
2025	Finding Presence: Using Mindfulness to Transform Social Work Education at UConn Covered by UConn Today: <a href="https://today.uconn.edu/2025/10/finding-presence-using-mindfulness-to-transform-social-work-education-at-uconn/">https://today.uconn.edu/2025/10/finding-presence-using-mindfulness-to-transform-social-work-education-at-uconn/</a>
2025	Finding Presence: Using Mindfulness to Transform Social Work Education at UConn Covered by CSWE Compass Newsletter, November 6, 2025
2023	“UConn researcher is ‘tuned in’ to the LGBTQ+ youth mental health crisis.” Research covered by NPR, WSHU’s Stony Brook University: <a href="https://www.wshu.org/connecticut-news/2023-10-19/uconn-program-lgbtq-youth-mental-health-crisis">https://www.wshu.org/connecticut-news/2023-10-19/uconn-program-lgbtq-youth-mental-health-crisis</a>
2023	“Study finds benefits to mindfulness intervention for LGBTQIA+ youth.” <a href="https://socialwork.uconn.edu/2023/09/20/gio-iacono-studies-mindfulness-intervention-for-lgbtqia-youth/">https://socialwork.uconn.edu/2023/09/20/gio-iacono-studies-mindfulness-intervention-for-lgbtqia-youth/</a>
2023	“Celebrating LGBTQIA+ resiliency. #ThisIsAmerica, UConn (panel presentation).” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zce4WzZzuYs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zce4WzZzuYs</a>
2023	“Research Impact Newsletter.” Research covered by SSW Office of Research & Scholarship. <a href="https://mailchi.mp/uconn/uconn-ssw-research-impact-newsletter-fall-2023">https://mailchi.mp/uconn/uconn-ssw-research-impact-newsletter-fall-2023</a>

- 2023      **“The Social Work Speaks Out project is helping social work schools create more positive learning environments for LGBTQ+ students”**  
Research covered by University of Toronto: <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/news/the-social-work-speaks-out-project-is-helping-social-work-schools-create-more-positive-learning-environments-for-lgbtq-students/>
- 2022      **“A mindfulness-based intervention for LGBTQIA+ youth”**  
Research covered by UConn SSW Office of Research & Scholarship: [https://mcusercontent.com/4213352cdf13f87b10cc9646f/files/288483ab-b0e3-d979-6a59-86d7193658dc/ORS\\_Winter\\_Newsletter\\_2022\\_2.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/4213352cdf13f87b10cc9646f/files/288483ab-b0e3-d979-6a59-86d7193658dc/ORS_Winter_Newsletter_2022_2.pdf)
- 2021      **“UConn researcher adapting mindfulness program for LGBTQIA+ youth for online use”**  
Research covered by UConn Today: <https://today.uconn.edu/2021/08/uconn-researcher-adapting-mindfulness-program-for-lgbtqia-youth-for-online-use/>
- 2021      **“How mindfulness can support LGBTQ+ youth”**  
Research covered by Mindful Magazine: <https://www.mindful.org/how-mindfulness-can-support-lgbtq-youth/>
- 2021      **Faculty affiliate interview**  
Collaboratory on School and Child Health: <https://csch.uconn.edu/2021/09/13/affiliate-profile-gio-iacono/>
- 2021      **“With 2020 Mind & Life Varela grant funding, will generate insights & help develop a national strategy for fostering #compassionatecommunities and #personalwellbeing among sexual and gender minority youth in the US.”**  
Research covered by Mind & Life: <https://twitter.com/mindandlife/status/1366384009845108736>
- 2020      **“Meet UConn School of Social Work’s new faculty”**  
Program of research featured on UConn Today: <https://today.uconn.edu/2020/09/meet-new-faculty/2021>

## **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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- 2015 — 2020      **Psychotherapist, Private Practice.**
- Conducted psychotherapy (assessment and treatment), consultation and education (youth, adults, seniors)
  - Individual, couple, family, and group therapy
- 2015 — 2018      **Mentor, Supporting Our Youth, Toronto.**
- Provided support, mentorship and counselling to LGBTQ+ youth through Sherbourne Health Supporting Our Youth (SOY) program
- 2012 — 2016      **Social Worker, Government of Nunavut, Cape Dorset.**
- Provided interdisciplinary support services and child protection services- intake and assessment, investigations, counselling services, case

**Gio Iacono, PhD, LMSW, RSW**

management, crisis intervention, educational and preventive services, advocacy, and referral to individuals (children, youth, adults, older adults), families, and remote northern communities

2014 — 2015

**Mental Health Counsellor, Urban Health Team, Sherbourne Health, Toronto.**

- Provided clinical assessment and counselling services to individuals (youth, adults, seniors), couples, families, and groups
- Collaborative interdisciplinary program planning, implementation and evaluation
- Advocacy, referral, consultation, teaching, and measurement of quality improvement indicators

2013

**Case Manager, Australian Red Cross, Melbourne and Sydney.**

- Provided intensive case management support to asylum seekers and refugees, including families
- Conducted comprehensive assessments, plan and engage key services required by a client and monitor their cost and effectiveness, execute client care plan
- Housing support, outreach, crisis intervention, counselling, teaching, referral, consultation, and measurement of quality improvement indicators

2010 — 2013

**Mental Health Counsellor, The 519 (LGBTQ+ Community Centre), Toronto.**

- Provided clinical assessment and counselling services to individuals (youth, adults, seniors), couples, families, and groups
- Advocacy, referral, consultation, teaching, and measurement of quality improvement indicators

2011 — 2012

**Clinical Social Worker, South East Toronto Family Health Team, Toronto.**

- Provided clinical assessment and counselling services to individuals (youth, adults, seniors), couples, families, and groups
- Collaborative interdisciplinary program planning, implementation and evaluation
- Involvement in Memory Clinic: interdisciplinary assessment for dementia and related difficulties, provided social work and counselling services to members of the Memory Clinic

2010 — 2011

**Social Worker, WoodGreen Community Services, Toronto.**

- Provided individual & group counselling, and case management services to individuals with substance use and mental health issues from a harm reduction and mental health recovery approach
- Ongoing clinical assessment, crisis intervention, conflict resolution, housing support, programming, outreach, education, community and staff clinical consultation, supervision of peer workers/students
- Participated in Walk-in Counselling Service team; community partnership development; peer programming; participation in program research/evaluation, complete statistics and reports

- 2006 — 2010      **Group Facilitator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto.**
- **Rainbow Services:** Facilitated clinical substance support groups for LGBTQ+ clients with mental health and/or substance use issues, used affirmative-based, motivational, substance relapse prevention approaches
  - **General Psychiatry Unit/Medium Secure Forensic Unit:** Provided recreational therapy groups, engaged in social support to clients (one to one and group)
- 2010      **Group Facilitator, Sherbourne Health, Toronto.**
- Facilitated 'Fluid', a therapeutic and educational group for pansexual, bisexual, questioning youth; explored topics such as sexual/gender identity, sex/relationships, biphobia; utilized therapeutic arts-based activities
- 2006 — 2010      **Case Manager and Residential Worker, McEwan Housing & Support Services, Toronto.**
- Supported individuals (and their families) living with HIV, with mental health and/or substance issues; conducted intensive case management, therapeutic counselling, education, and advocacy
  - Maintained operation of property, health/safety of clients, crisis work, administration of program
- 2008 — 2009      **MSW Intern, Law & Mental Health Program- Inpatient Minimum Secure Rehabilitation Unit, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto.**
- Provided interdisciplinary forensic psychiatric services, counselling, and risk management to clients with mental health issues and admitted under the Criminal Code of Canada; conducted psychosocial assessments, treatment planning, discharge planning, and family support
  - Created and facilitated educational and treatment groups; covered inpatient unit for social work supervisor
- 2007 — 2008      **BSW Intern, Counselling & Disability Services, York University, Toronto.**
- Performed ongoing intake, clinical assessments, long-and short-term counselling, psycho-education, emergency crisis intervention, and case management with student body at York University
- 2004 — 2005      **Support Worker, Ontario Ministry of Community Family and Children's Services, Toronto.**
- Provided relief and support to youth with disabilities and families; one to one mentoring; assisted with community facilitation and education, personal development, and activities of daily living
- 2003 — 2004      **Support Worker, Community Living York South, Markham.**
- Provided individual and group support services to youth, adults, and seniors with disabilities in semi-independent living settings; acquired emergency training (e.g., seizures and choking). Support provided around teaching activities of daily living, social outings, and leisurely activities

### Professional Licensure

- Licensed Social Worker (Connecticut, since 2023)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Ontario, since 2008)

### Key Certifications

- **Certified Mindfulness Teacher.** Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults (formerly KORU), 2024
- **Applied Specialization in Mindfulness Meditation Certificate.** University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2020
- **The Treating Trauma Master Series.** The National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine, 2019
- **Certification: Cognitive Behavior Therapy.** Beck Institute, 2017
- **Certification: Dialectical Behavior Therapy.** EBT3, 2017
- **Certified Mindfulness Teacher.** Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Teens (MBSR-T). Biegel, G., 2016
- **Certification: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certification.** Crisis Prevention Institute, 2003; 2015

### Key Trainings

- **Using Community-based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR) Approaches with Families with Young Children,** UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy (InCHIP), 2025
- **Design Smarter 2.0 Prompting Reflection Through AI Conversations,** UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2025
- **Supporting Graduate Students Through Inclusive Mentorship,** UConn Graduate School, 2025
- **Media Safety Training,** UConn Communications, 2025
- **Timely Topics series at The Graduate School: AI is Here to Stay...Now What? A Conversation (2-part series),** UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2025
- **Dialogue in the Classroom for Instructors: Strategies for Building Engagement and Empathy.** Democracy & Dialogues Initiative, a program of Dodd Human Rights Impact in collaboration with UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2025
- **Faculty Success Program.** National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity, 2022
- **NIH Bootcamp.** UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, 2021
- **Racial Sensitivity in Social Work Education Training.** Dr. Kenneth Hardy, 2019
- **Mindfulness of Feelings.** University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2019
- **Mindfulness-Based Narrative Inquiry.** University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2018
- **Teaching Mindfulness to Teens.** University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2017
- **AFFIRMative CBT for LGBTQ+ Populations.** Craig, S.L. University of Toronto, 2017
- **Meditation for Mindful Living and Clinical Practice.** Mount Sinai Hospital, 2016 – 2018
- **Standard First Aid/CPR/AED.** Canadian Red Cross, 2015
- **Bullying Prevention.** York Region District School Board, 2013
- **Supporting Refugee and Asylum Seekers.** Australian Red Cross, 2013
- **Mental Health and Buddhist Psychology: Integrating Theory and Practice.** Toronto Institute for Mindfulness, Meditation and Psychotherapy, 2012
- **Diabetes and Mental Health: Striking a Balance.** Toronto Central RCC, 2012
- **Eating Disorders Workshop.** St. Joseph's Health Centre, 2012

- **Mitigating & Eliminating Intrusive Thoughts/Flashbacks/Nightmares. Sick Kids**, 2012
- **Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Leader Certification.** Stanford University, 2012
- **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Antidotes.** Center for Cognitive Therapy, 2011
- **Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy.** University Health Network, 2011
- **Culturally-Adapted CBT.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2011
- **Craving Change Leader Certification (CBT group for disordered eating).** 2011
- **Narrative Practice w/ Children & Families.** Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, 2011
- **Obesity Management in Primary Care.** University of Guelph, 2011
- **Money Matters** (navigating govt./emp.-based income replacement options).Wellspring, 2011
- **Memory Clinic Training** (dementia-related clinical services), SE Family Health Team, 2011
- **Taming Hungry Ghosts-Combining Science/Compassion in Working w/Addictions.** Gabor Maté, 2010
- **Suicide Intervention/Crisis Intervention.** TAPE Education Services, 2011
- **HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop.** People with AIDS Foundation, 2011
- **Nature and Treatment of Compulsive Hoarding.** Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, 2010
- **Motivational Interviewing.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2010
- **LGBTQ Social Determinants of Health workshop.** Rainbow Health Ontario, 2010
- **Concurrent Disorders Capability.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2010
- **Law & Mental Health Forensics Workshop.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2009
- **Helping Families: Concurrent Disorders.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2008
- **Vicarious Trauma in Professionals.** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2008
- **HIV/AIDS 101 for Community Educators.** Working in Diversity- Toronto Public Health, 2006