

Gio Iacono, PhD, MSW, RSW

GIO IACONO

University of Connecticut | School of Social Work

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EDUCATION

- 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

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

RESEARCH GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

- 2023 **Iacono, G (Co-PI) & Elsaesser, C. (Co-PI).** Socially Engaged Mindfulness.
Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — Seed
Grant. (\$10,000).

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- 2023 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Scholarship Facilitation Fund. (\$1,500).
- 2022 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Socially Engaged Mindfulness. Student Health and Wellness. (\$2,000).
- 2021 **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. Office of the Vice President for Research, UConn — Research Excellence Program. (\$50,000).
- 2021 **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. Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — Seed Grant. (\$15,000).
- 2021 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. Dean’s Incentive Award – School of Social Work, UConn. (\$4,000).
- 2020 **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. Mind & Life Institute – Varela Grant. (\$20,000).
- 2020 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. Office of the Vice President for Research, UConn — Scholarship Facilitation Fund. (\$2,500).
- 2020 **Iacono, G (PI)**. Tuned In! — A mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn — InCHIP Grant Development Summer Stipends for New Investigators. (\$2,000).
- 2020 Summer Research Institute Scholarship. Mind & Life Institute. (\$800.00).
- 2019 – 2020 Ontario Graduate Scholarship. 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).

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- 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).
- 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).

HONORS

- 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

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Borel, C., Horton, E., Olson, H., ... & Bietsch, B. (2023). Community-based participatory action research with LGBTQIA+ youth during the COVID-19 pandemic: Reflections from a collaborative autoethnography. *Qualitative Social Work*, 14733250231194783.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Smith, J., Lin, H., Bietsch, B., Watson, R. J. (in press). An exploratory analysis of overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth. *Journal of Social Work in Mental Health*.

Iacono, G. & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (in press). Marginalized social identities and locations in middle adulthood: A critical theoretical approach. In *Multidimensional Human Behavior in the Complex Social Environment*. Cognella

Iacono, G., Loveland, E. K., & Craig, S. L. (in press). 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.

Iacono, G., Craig, S. L., Brennan, D. J., Loveland, E. K., & Crowder, R. (2023). Exploring a self-compassion intervention with LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 1-24.

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.

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*, 1-16.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Iacono, G. (2017). A call for self-compassion in social work education. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 37*(5), 454-476.

Iacono, G. (2017). Epistemic Injustice: Uncovering knowledge of bisexual realities in social work. *Advances in Social Work, 18*(2), 563-582.

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

Iacono, G., Loveland, E., Fendrich, M., Kim, D., Russell, B., Park, C., & Hutchinson, M.. An exploration of COVID-19 and work-related stress: The role of age and sexual orientation (under review). *Children & Youth Services Review.*

Iacono, G. & Loveland, E. K. (under review). Fostering critical relational teaching in social work education: Lessons learned during COVID-19 and beyond. *Journal of Social Work Education.*

Iacono, G., Elsaesser, C., & Courts, D. (under review). "My resistance melts away": The role of mindfulness in supporting YPAR researchers' efforts to share power with youth co-researchers. *American Journal of Community Psychology.*

Iacono, G., Holle, L., & Aguilar, J. (under review). Unpacking neutrality discourse in social work: exploring twitter responses to anti-trans legislation. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work.*

Bietsch, B., **Iacono, G.**, & Holle, L. (under review). Re-constructing the obesity "epidemic": Dismantling the dominant discourse through social advocacy and empowerment. *Social Work Public Health.*

Craig, S. L., Leung, V. Y., Hui, J., Austin, A., **Iacono, G.**, Pascoe, R., Pang, N. & Dillon, F. (under review). LGBTQ+ Affirmative CBT: Longitudinal Outcomes and Processes of Change. *BMC Psychology*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Iacono, G. (in preparation). Promoting mental health and coping among LGBTQIA+ youth during COVID-19: A pilot study of an affirmative mindfulness-based group intervention.

Iacono, G., Okumu, M., Sharma, B.B., & Smalls, E. (in preparation). Exploring self-compassion and resilience among Ugandan sexual and gender minority youth.

O'Leary, **Iacono, G.**, & Woodford, M. (in preparation). LGBTQIA+ student access to campus mental health and medical health services.

Okumu, M., Sharma, B. B., **Iacono, G.**, & Smalls, E. (in preparation). Positive youth development: Testing the self-compassion scale among Ugandan youth.

REPORTS, PEER REVIEWED

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

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut, School of Social Work

2023 — **Course Instructor.** SOWK 3502 Social Work Practice with Groups (Undergraduate). Fall 2023

2023 — **Course Instructor.** 5394-H71 – Independent Study (Graduate: Summer 2023; Undergraduate: Fall 2023)

2021 — **Course Instructor.** BASC 5300 Human Oppression: The African-American and Puerto Rican Perspective. (Graduate). Spring 2023; Fall 2022; Spring 2022; Spring 2021

2020 — **Course Instructor.** IGFP 5302 Advanced Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families: Theoretical Approaches (Graduate) Fall 2023; Fall 2022; Fall 2021; Fall 2020

2020 — **Academic and Field Advisor.** BSW, MSW, and PhD students

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- 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.
 - 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

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)
- 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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021 — **Principal Investigator, University of Connecticut**
Tuned In! — A Mindfulness-Based Affirmative Program to Virtually Address the Mental Health Needs of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth. Varela Grant, Research Excellence Program, InCHIP Seed Grant.

- **Research Objectives:** To explore the effectiveness of Tuned In! (Affirmative Mindfulness-Based Intervention), an online

community-based coping skills group intervention for sexual and gender minority youth.

2018 — 2020

Research Collaborator, McGill University.

Toward a Model of Mental Health Practice and Therapeutic Approaches for Sexual and Gender Minority Forced Migrants Acculturating into Canadian Society (PI: Dr. Sarilee Kahn).

- **Research Objectives:** To explore and describe the skills, knowledge, and values most important to mental health providers serving LGBTQ+ forced migrants seeking mental health treatment; to develop a preliminary theoretical model of practice and approaches for serving mental health needs of sexual/gender identity acculturation for sexual and gender minority (SGM) migrants who are settling in Canada.
- **Responsibilities:** Assist in outreach and recruitment of participants; data entry and cleaning; data coding and analysis (qualitative and quantitative); community dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports and presentations.

2016 — 2020

Research Collaborator, University of Toronto.

LGBTQ Social Work Student Narratives: Identifying Advocacy Strategies to Enhance LGBTQ Inclusion (PI: Dr. Alex C. Wagaman).

- **Research Objectives:** To identify advocacy strategies that are working for LGBTQ social work students across North America in enhancing LGBTQ inclusion in their programs; to inform the development of a student-designed LGBTQ advocacy toolkit that will support students in social work programs.
- **Responsibilities:** Coordinate study activities; develop measures for data collection; participant recruitment; conduct focus groups; data entry and cleaning; data coding and analysis; community dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports and presentations.

2016 — 2020

Clinical Evaluation Specialist, University of Toronto.

Project Youth AFFIRM, Public Health Agency of Canada HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund (PI: Dr. Shelley L. Craig).

- **Research Objectives:** To explore the effectiveness of AFFIRM (Affirmative Coping Skills Training) across Ontario, a community-based affirmative coping skills group intervention for sexual and gender minority youth.
- **Responsibilities:** Coordinate all study activities; conduct literature reviews; study design and develop ethics protocols; participating in

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hiring and training; clinical supervision to intervention facilitators; participating in managing research assistants; assist in the development of funding proposals; participate in developing measures and surveys for online data collection; give feedback related to online and social media branding and outreach; participant recruitment; conduct interventions; participate in data entry and cleaning, as well as data coding and analysis (qualitative and quantitative); community dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports and presentations.

- Complete supplementary institutional research board protocols for two intervention sites: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and St. Joseph's Health Centre.

2018 — 2020

Research Assistant, University of Toronto.

International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR): Leveraging Information and Communication Technologies to Negotiate Gender and Sexual Minority Youth Identity and Wellbeing within Diverse Global Contexts (PI: Dr. Shelley L. Craig).

Responsibilities: Participate in the Canadian Regional Network and related studies (recruitment), coordinating and facilitating a Youth Panel.

2015 — 2018

Quality Care Coordinator, Casey House Hospital.

(Research Director, Dr. Soo Chan Carusone).

- **Research Objectives:** Promote excellence in care and services by capturing the client experience from admission to post hospital discharge, as well as in community and clinical programming.
- **Responsibilities:** Conduct semi-structured interviews with clients about their experiences with hospital and community programs. Actively participate in identifying and recommending changes to improve the client care experience; data entry, cleaning, coding and analysis; community knowledge dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports, teaching and presentations.
- Liaise with staff to facilitate client-centred improvements to care; help facilitate preparation for upcoming transitions and expansion of the hospital by integrating the client voice into service decisions. Develop processes in new and existing programs for data collection and knowledge mobilization.

2014 — 2016

Research Coordinator, University of Toronto.

(PI: Dr. Shelley L. Craig).

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- **Research Objectives:** To identify the ways in which the needs of LGBTQ+ student communities are met by social work departments in universities across North America; To explore the relevance of social work education to the development of resilience for LGBTQ+ populations from the perspective of these key stakeholders.
- **Responsibilities:** Conduct literature reviews; study design; assist in the development of funding proposals; develop measures and surveys for online data collection; participant recruitment; data entry and cleaning; data coding and analysis; community dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports and presentations.

2014 — 2015

Research Coordinator, University of Toronto.

Cruising Counts: Examining Online and App-based Sexual Health Outreach for Gay/Bisexual/MSM in Ontario (PI: Dr. David J. Brennan).

- **Research Objectives:** To examine the ways in which AIDS service organizations and public health groups across Ontario utilize online and app-based outreach to promote sexual health among young gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM).
- **Responsibilities:** Develop study design and literature reviews; assist in the development of funding proposals; develop measures and surveys for online data collection; participant recruitment; conduct interventions; data entry and cleaning; data coding and analysis; community dissemination; writing up of findings; preparing reports and presentations.

2011 — 2012

Mental Health Quality Improvement Member, South East Toronto Family Health Team.

- **Research Objectives and Responsibilities:** As per Ontario Ministry of Health standards, conducted measurement of quality improvement indicators, ensured quality mental health services and programs were maintained through the use of pre-post measures such as Burns Anxiety Inventory, depression scales such as PHQ9, and surveys. Mental Health Program evaluations and statistics submitted to funding bodies and stakeholders for research purposes and to ensure ongoing delivery of programs and services at the clinic.

2010 — 2011

Research Coordinator, First Step to Home Project, WoodGreen Community Services.

- **Research Objectives and Responsibilities:** Pilot study to determine effectiveness of the First Step to Home pilot program, which is designed to help homeless older adults (55+) who have mental health and/or substance use issues. Activities included: Recruitment of participants, planning of program and research plan, participation in meetings with stakeholders and government ethics approval representatives, participation in program evaluation, completing statistics and reports, and disseminating research outcomes.
- **Outcome:** In recent evaluations, participants of the First Step to Home program have reported greater psychological and physical well-being, feeling safer and more in control of their environment, feeling an increased sense of belonging, social connection and engagement in community.

2009 — 2010

Research and Education Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity Mexico City.

- **Research Objectives and Responsibilities:** Working under the Education and Research Department Manager, assisted in developing community workshops, research reports (e.g., Best Practices on Community development, Political Organization, and Conflict Resolution), educational material and presentations for various Mexican communities.

2009 — 2010

Research Interviewer, Street Needs Assessment, City of Toronto.

- **Research Objectives and Responsibilities:** Conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with individuals who are homeless, investigating their service and program needs.
- **Outcome:** The results of the Street Needs Assessment were used to bring enhancements to Streets to Homes services; changes to grant funding applications; allocation of 20% of federal homelessness funding to address Indigenous homelessness; and increases in funding to the drop-in sector to improve quality and accessibility of service.

2006 — 2007

Principal Investigator, Community Development Project, McEwan Housing & Support Services.

- **Research Objectives and Responsibilities:** Utilizing a community-based participatory action research approach, investigated the efficacy of the psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) model and services in the context of the residential setting at McEwan Housing & Support Services.

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- **Responsibilities:** Conducted qualitative in-depth interviews with McEwan service users; worked with service users to analyze data; developed a group process and a report to identify the PSR model's strengths, weaknesses, and current outcomes in the residential setting; facilitated a community forum to disseminate findings and to plan for new residential programming.
- **Outcome:** Service users' feedback and recommendations were incorporated into McEwan programming and services; new social programs and a service user peer-led committee were initiated to enhance the service users' health and well-being.

INVITED SPEAKER

- 2023 Iacono, G. (2023, Feb., 27). 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.
- 2023 Iacono, G. (2023, Jan. 26). Imposter phenomenon in academia. [Oral presentation]. First year doctoral seminar. UConn School of Social Work.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, Oct. 14). Use of self and engagement in social work practice. MSW Practice Course. [Oral presentation]. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, Sept. 29). Purposive sampling. [Oral presentation]. Doctoral Course: SSW 6410 Research I: Research Design and Knowledge Generation. UConn School of Social Work.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, May, 12). Social Work Practice With LGBTQIA+ Populations. Guest lecturer. Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, Hochschule Düsseldorf/ University of Applied Sciences: Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, Apr., 20). COVID-19 Monthly Webinar: COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Mental Health. Hispanic Health Council. Hartford, CT.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, Mar., 7). 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.
- 2022 Iacono, G. (2022, Jan., 27). Imposter Phenomenon in Academia. UConn School of Social Work. First Year Doctoral Seminar.
- 2021 Iacono, G. (2021, Dec., 9). Adapt & Evaluate Community-Based Participatory Intervention Research. Prince Edward Island Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, Online. Canada.

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- 2021 Iacono, G. & Bietsch, B. (2021, Oct., 12). Exploring Mental Health Practice And Policy Approaches Among Vulnerable Young And Older LGBTQ+ Communities. [Oral presentation]. Rainbow Symposium 2021, Storrs, CT, United States.
- 2021 Iacono, G. (2021, Oct., 8). Use of Self and Engagement in Social Work Practice. MSW Practice Course. Wilfred Laurier University, Online. Canada.
- 2021 Iacono, G. (2021, Sept., 30). Purposive Sampling. UConn School of Social Work Doctoral Course: SSW 6410 Research I: Research Design and Knowledge Generation
- 2021 Iacono, G. (2021, Apr. 6). Symposium on Stress and Mental Health Research. Collaboration between the UConn Collaboratory on School and Child Health and the UConn Public Health House.
- 2021 Iacono, G., & Pascoe, R. (2021, Mar. 20). 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.
- 2020 Iacono, G. & Pascoe, R. (2020, Nov. 27). 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.
- 2020 Iacono, G. (2020, Nov. 30) Gen Silent Movie and Discussion Event. AARP.
- 2020 Iacono, G. & Carolan, K. (2020, Oct., 22). Faculty Research Presentation. UConn School of Social Work Doctoral Seminar.
- 2020 Iacono, G. (2020, Mar. 12) Supporting the Mental Health of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Populations. ECHO Ontario Mental Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.
- 2019 Iacono, G. (2019, Sept. 5). 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
- 2019 Iacono, G. & Frey, C. (2019, April 1). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. Covenant House.
- 2018 Iacono, G. & Chhina, C. (2018, Nov. 19). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. David Kelley Services, Family Service Toronto.
- 2018 Iacono, G. & Chhina, C. (2018, Sept. 14). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. The 519.
- 2018 Iacono, G. (2018, Aug. 9). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. East Metro Youth Services.
- 2018 Iacono, G. (2018, Mar. 12). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. Sherbourne Health.

- 2018 Iacono, G. (2018, Feb. 4). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. St Joseph's Health Centre.
- 2018 Iacono, G. & McInroy, L. (2018, Jan. 17). AFFIRM Program and Evaluation. Hamilton Family Health Team.
- 2017 Iacono, G. (2017, Nov. 25). LGBTQ+ Youth Affirmative Mindfulness Project. Invited speaker. Toronto District School Board.
- 2016 Iacono, G. (2016, Sept. 20). Addressing Student Mental Health. Invited speaker, panel presentation for the student body at Centennial College.
- 2010 Iacono, G. (2010, Sept. 5). Qu(e)rying Religion Panel Event. Presented on Social Work and LGBTQ+ communities, and LGBTQ+ program development.

PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Iacono, G., Holle, L., & Aguilar, J. (accepted). *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.

Iacono, G., Loveland, E., & Craig, S.L. (2023). *Breaking down barriers to mental health supports for LGBTQIA+ youth through group work*. [Paper presentation]. 2023 International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry. Illinois, United States.

Iacono, G. & Carolan, K., Loveland, E., & Lester-Harriat, R. (2023). *Cultivating peer support in social work education during the COVID-19 pandemic*. [Paper presentation]. 2023 International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry. Illinois, United States.

Iacono, G., Elsaesser, C., Roman-Hampton, V., Werkmeister Rozas, L., Nieman, P., *Pan, C., & *Churchill, A. (under review). *Bridging the gap: A community-based participatory approach to developing a socially engaged mindfulness curriculum for BSW students*. Paper presentation at the 2024 Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Iacono, G., Elsaesser, C., & Singh, S. (under review). *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.

Iacono, G., Craig, S.L., & Loveland, E. (under review). *The role of self-compassion in promoting LGBTQIA+ youth psychological well-being*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Craig, S.L., Leung, V., Hui, J., Dillon, F., Austin, A., Pascoe, R., **Iacono, G.,** & Pang, N. (under review). *Affirmative CBT: Longitudinal change processes for sexual and gender minority youth*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Iacono, G. (under review). *Promoting mental health and coping among LGBTQIA+ youth during COVID-19: A pilot study of an affirmative mindfulness-based group intervention*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Iacono, G., Loveland, E., Fendrich, M., Kim, D., Russell, B., & Park, C. (under review). *Exploring Stress and Age among LGBTQ+ individuals during COVID-19*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Borel, C., Horton, E., Olson, H., Craig, S.L., & Bietsch, B. (under review). *Conducting youth community-based participatory action research in the COVID-19 era*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Smith, J., Lin, H., Bietsch, B., Watson, R. J. (under review). *Understanding overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth: An exploratory analysis of factors*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Smith, J., & Aguilar, J. (under review). *Unpacking neutrality discourse in social work: exploring twitter responses to anti-trans legislation*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Elsaesser, C. M., **Iacono, G.,** & Courts, D. (2022). *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.

Iacono, G. & Loveland, E. (2022). *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.

Iacono, G. & Loveland, E., & Watson, R.J. (2022). *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.

Iacono, G. & Loveland, E., & Watson, R.J. (2022) *Exploring the relationship between binge eating, coping and stress among LGBTQIA+ youth*. Paper presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.

Iacono, G., Loveland, E., & Craig, S.L. (2022). *Finding pleasure and power from within: the role of self-compassion in promoting LGBTQ+ youth psychological well-being*. [Paper presentation]. LGBTQ Research Symposium. Online.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Craig, S.L., Eaton, A.D., Leung, V., **Iacono, G.**, Dillon, F., Pang, N., Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2020). *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.

Craig, S.L., **Iacono, G.**, Eaton, A.D., Pang, N., Frey, C., Austin, A., Leung, V., & Dillon, F. (2020). *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.

Craig, S.L., Eaton, A.D., Leung, V., **Iacono, G.**, Dillon, F., Pang, N., Pascoe, R., & Austin, A. (2020). *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.

Iacono, G. (2020). *An affirmative MBI for LGBTQ+ youth to enhance well-being and prosociality*. [Poster presentation]. Mind & Life Summer Research Institute, 2020. Virtual. United States.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 41st Annual Symposium of the International Association for Social Work with Groups. New York City, NY, United States.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Iacono, G. (2018, April). *The LGBTQ+ youth affirmative mindfulness project*. Poster presentation at A Mindful Society Conference. Toronto, ON, Canada.

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.

Craig, S.L., **Iacono, G.**, McInroy, L., Dentato, M., Paceley, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

School of Social Work, University of Connecticut

- 2022 — Office Of Research & Scholarship Advisory Committee
- 2022 — Diversity Equity and Inclusion/Anti-Racism Change Team
- 2020 — BSW Committee
- 2020 — Individuals, Groups and Families Concentration Committee
- 2020 — MSW Admissions Committee
- 2020 — BSW Admissions Committee
- 2021 — 2022 Diversity Equity and Inclusion/Anti-Racism Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

- 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
- 2017 — 2018 Member — PhD Student Association
- 2008 — 2009 Member — LGBTQ+ Issues Planning Committee

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- 2023 — Manuscript Reviewer, Families in Society
- 2023 — Special Issue Editor, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry: *Call for Papers: Justice Oriented Mindfulness Research*.
- 2021 — Editorial Board Member, Clinical Social Work Journal
- 2020 — Mentorship to UConn LGBTQIA+ students (BSW, MSW, PhD)
- 2020 — Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services
- 2019 — Manuscript Reviewer, Columbia University Press, Social Work
- 2018 — Manuscript Reviewer, Primary Health Care Research & Development

- 2019 — Manuscript Reviewer, Clinical Social Work Journal
- 2018 — Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of LGBT Youth
- 2017 — Member — International Association of Applied Psychology
- 2017 — Member — International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG)
- 2017 — Member — Society for Social Work Research
- 2017 — Member — Toronto Region Groupworkers' Network
- 2016 — Support BSW and MSW students with reference letters and applying to graduate school
- 2016 — Member — Canadian Association for Social Work Education
- 2015 — Member — Mindfulness Toronto Association
- 2010 — Member — Queer Ontario
- 2009 — Support and participation in various community forums and events (e.g., International AIDS Conference; AIDS Committee of Toronto forums; mental health awareness and anti-stigma events; bullying awareness events)
- 2016 — Mentor — University of Toronto PhD Buddy Program
- 2016 — Founder — Provincial (Ontario) Social Work PhD Peer Support Group
- 2007 — Member and Mentor — Qu(e)rying Religion (University of Toronto)

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 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

- 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 #compassionatecommunitites 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

- 2015 — 2020 **Psychotherapist, Private Practice.**
- Conduct psychotherapy, 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 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.**

Gio Iacono, PhD, MSW, RSW

- 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

Gio Iacono, PhD, MSW, RSW

- 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

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- **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
- **Applied Specialization in Mindfulness Meditation Certificate** (In progress). Projected completion date: Feb. 2020. University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2017 — Present
- **Mindfulness of Feelings.** University of Toronto Continuing Education, 2019
- **The Treating Trauma Master Series.** The National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine, 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
- **Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.** Beck Institute, 2017
- **Dialectical Behaviour Therapy.** EBT3, 2017
- **Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Teens (MBSR-T).** Biegel, G., 2016
- **Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certification.** Crisis Prevention Institute, 2003; 2015
- **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

Gio Iacono, PhD, MSW, RSW

- **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
- **Registered Clinical Social Worker (Ontario).** 2008
- **HIV/AIDS 101 for Community Educators.** Working in Diversity- Toronto Public Health, 2006