

Curriculum Vitae

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Breana Alysse (McHugh) Bietsch, MSW, LGSW

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School of Social Work
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Hartford, CT 06103

Education

Ph.D. Student, University of Connecticut, 2020-Present
Social Work

M.S.W., Rutgers University, 2012-2014
Social Work; Certificate in Aging

B.A., Rider University, 2008-2012
Psychology; Health Administration

Publications

Bietsch, B. (2022) Second Time Overlooked in Crisis: Examining How HIV/AIDS Health Policies in the United States Connect with Policy Implications Today for Aging LGBTQ Adults During the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*. 7(3). 246-255.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Borel, C., Horton, E., Olson, H., Craig, S., **Bietsch, B.**, (2023) Conducting youth community-based participatory action research in the COVID-19 era. *Qualitative Social Work*. 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14733250231194783>.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Smith, J., Hsiu-Ju, L., **Bietsch, B.**, and Watson, R. (2023). An exploratory analysis of overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 1-21.

Bietsch, B. (under review) Early attachments and childhood trauma: Effects on the mental and physical health outcomes of LGBTQ older adults 65+ and possible mediating therapeutic interventions. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*.

Bietsch, B., Iacono, G., Holle, L. (under review) Re-constructing the Obesity 'Epidemic': Dismantling the Dominant Discourse Through Social Advocacy and Empowerment. *International Journal of Social Work Values & Ethics*

Presentations

- Iacono, G., Holle, L., Loveland, E., **Bietsch, B.**, Craig, S., Smith, J., Horton, E. (2024). Community-Based Participatory Action Research with Lgbtqia+ Youth in the Time of COVID-19: Findings from a Collaborative Autoethnography. [Oral Presentation] Society for Social Work Research (SWWR), Washington, DC.
- Iacono, G., Holle, H., Smith, J., Lin, H. PhD, **Bietsch, B.**, Watson, R. (2024). Understanding Overeating Patterns Among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth: An Exploratory Analysis of Factors. [Poster Presentation] Society for Social Work Research (SWWR), Washington, DC.
- Bietsch, B.** (2023). Meeting Diverse Needs: Sexual and Gender Minority Populations' in Gerontology Social Work Education [Oral Presentation] Counsel on Social Work Education (CSWE), Atlanta, GA.
- Bietsch, B.**, Parekh, R., Kurz, B. (2023). Staying Connected During Isolation: An Intergenerational Approach to Social Work Field Education [Oral Presentation] Counsel on Social Work Education (CSWE), Atlanta, GA.
- Bietsch, B.** (2022) Social Work Practice with LGBT Older Adults [Oral Presentation] Social Work Awareness Month: Office on Aging 2022, Hartford, CT.
- Iacono, G., **Bietsch, B.** (2021). Exploring Mental Health Practice and Policy Approaches Among Vulnerable Young and Older LGBTQ+ Communities [Oral Presentation] Rainbow Symposium 2021, Hartford, CT.
- Bietsch, B.** (2021). A Web-Based and Phone Intergenerational Intervention Using Reminiscence and Life Review Therapy To Decrease Loneliness Among Older Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic [Oral Presentation] International Center for Life Story Innovation and Practice Conference (ICLIP) 2021, Hartford, CT.

Honors and Awards

AGESW Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program, 2021-2022

Scholars in Aging Seed Funding Program, 2023-2024, Awarded \$4,000 for Dissertation and Aging Research

Teaching Experience

Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Masters Level, UCONN, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, In Person

Special Populations, Masters Level, UCONN, Summer 2023, In Person

Micro Practice, Masters Level, UCONN, Fall 2023, Synchronous- Online

Analysis of Social Welfare Policy and Social Delivery Systems, Spring 2024 – Synchronous-Online

Employment

University of Connecticut, School of Social Work, 2020-Current
Graduate Research Assistant and Adjunct Professor

Home Instead Senior Care, Tolland, Connecticut, 2017-2019
Family and Community Liaison

Blair Manor, Enfield, Connecticut, 2017-2017
Director Social Services

Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Alexandria, Virginia, 2016-2017
Social Worker

Hospice of Charles Country, Waldorf, Maryland, 2015-2016
Medical Social Worker

Jewish Family and Children Services of Mercer County, Princeton, New Jersey, 2014-2015
Senior Services Care Manager

Jewish Family Service, Somerville, New Jersey, 2012-2014
Intern

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2012-2014
Research Assistant

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center, Bridgewater, New Jersey,
2012-2013
Intern

Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, 2011-2012
Research Assistant

Research Projects

Social Isolation and Loneliness and Intergeneration Program (S.L.I.P.), Fall '20- Spring '21

This program connects MSW and BSW students who are in their social work internships with older adults in the community who face increased isolation due to COVID-19. My responsibilities on this project include recruitment, matching participants with students, conducting pre and post-test interviews, conducting qualitative interviews with employees at community agencies that work with participants, assisting with student training, cleaning data, and conducting data analysis.

Tuned In!, Fall '21- Spring –'22

Tuned In! is a mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. The program is an 8-week long group intervention that teaches sexual and gender minority youth coping skills in a way that affirms their identities. My responsibilities on this project were as the project coordinator. I assisted the primary investigator in all recruitment, onboarding, and retention of the participants. I assisted in developing the training for the facilitators that delivered the mindfulness-based intervention. I implemented all the surveys via the survey server Qualtrics, including a pre-screener, pretest, and posttest survey to collect data for the intervention. Other tasks involved follow up with participants, facilitators, community supporters, and general coordination of the program.

Research Interest

Older Adults
Health Disparities
Healthcare policy
Medical Social Work
Social Isolation and Loneliness
LGBTQ+ populations

Community Involvement

Services and Advocacy for GBLT Elders (SAGE) Connect Volunteer , 2022- Present

Additional Skills and Qualifications

Technological Skills:

SPSS, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, NVivo, Qualtrics Survey

Licensed Graduate Social Worker in Connecticut (LGSW)

References

Gio Iacono, Assistant Professor School of Social Work
University of Connecticut
(959) 200-3624, gio.iacono@uconn.edu

Rupal Parekh, Assistant Professor School of Social Work
School of Social Work
University of Connecticut
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Cristina Wilson, Professor School of Social Work
School of Social Work
University of Connecticut
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