

UTA School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER - SPECIAL EDITION

Revised Edition: 9/6/2024

Courtyard
conversations

A NEW SEMESTER
GUEST: DR. KIRK A. FOSTER



HOSTED BY JAELOON JACKSON
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



UTA
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
School of Social Work

**Watch the first episode of Season 3 of Courtyard Conversations
featuring Dean Kirk Foster**

Hosted by Jaelon Jackson and video edited by Douglas Gutierrez.

[CLICK TO WATCH COURTYARD CONVERSATIONS - SEASON 3, EPISODE 1](#)

New Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows



Dr. Andrea Germany, Social Work Assistant Professor of Practice.

Dr. Andrea Germany

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Andrea Germany is an Assistant Professor of Practice. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Germany was the Director of Field Education and a Social Work Instructor at Mississippi State University.

Education

- DSW, Tulane University, 2021
 - MSW, University of Southern Mississippi, 2002
 - BS, University of Southern Mississippi, 2000
Major: Family Studies
-



Dr. Joshua Awua, Social Work Postdoctoral Fellow.

Dr. Joshua Awua

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Joshua Awua is a Postdoctoral Fellow. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Awua earned a PhD from Texas Tech University. Dr. Awua is interested in addictions research.

Education

- PhD in Addictive Disorders and Recovery Studies, Texas Tech University, 2024
 - MSW, University of Cape Coast, 2018
Specialized in Clinical Health Psychology
 - BS, University of Cape Coast, 2013
Major: Psychology
-



Dr. Derek Falk, Social Work Postdoctoral Fellow.

Dr. Derek Falk

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Derek Falk is a Postdoctoral Fellow. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Falk was an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Falk is interested in Latino health research.

Education

- PhD in Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin, 2018
 - MSW, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012
 - MA in Spanish, University of Louisville, 2010
 - BA, University of Kentucky, 2001
Major: International Economics & Spanish
-



Mark Frazier, Social Work Assistant Professor of Practice.

Mark Frazier

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Mark Frazier is an Assistant Professor of Practice. Before accepting a position as a full-time faculty member, Mark served as an adjunct professor for the SSW starting spring 2020.

Education

- MSW, North Carolina Central University, 2017
 - BS, Shaw University, 2014
Major: Social Work
-



Dr. Tonya Hansel, Social Work Professor.

Dr. Tonya Hansel

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Dr. Tonya Hansel is a new Professor at the School of Social Work. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Hansel was a program director at Tulane University.

Education

- PhD, Tulane University, 2007
 - MSW, Tulane University, 2005
 - BSW, University of North Texas, 2000
-



Dr. Hanna Haran, Social Work Assistant Professor.

Dr. Hanna Haran

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Dr. Hanna Haran is an Assistant Professor. Dr. Haran earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Dr. Haran's research interests include economic justice among populations with histories of forced migration, the role of employment quality and wealth attainment processes on overall well-being, entrepreneurship and economic inclusion, workplace policies and economic mobility.

Education

- PhD in Social Work, Ohio State University, 2024
 - MSW, Ohio State University, 2022
 - MPP, Arizona State University, 2019
 - BS, University of Arizona, 2014
Major: Public Health
-



Dr. Melissa Lewis, Social Work Professor.

Dr. Melissa Lewis

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Melissa Lewis is a Professor. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Lewis was an Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Advancement and Professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health.

Education

- PhD in Psychology, North Dakota State University
 - MS, Montana State University-Billings
 - Major: Psychology
 - BS, Montana State University-Billings
Major: Psychology
-



Dr. Dana Litt, Social Work Professor.

Dr. Dana Litt

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Dana Litt is a Professor. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Litt was an Associate Professor and Program Director for MS and PhD in Public Health Sciences at the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health. Dr. Litt's research interest includes substance use prevention and health behaviors.

Education

- PhD, George Washington University, 2021 in Applied Social Psychology
 - BA, University of Miami, 2000
Major: Psychology
-



Dr. Jennifer O'Brien, Social Work Associate Professor.

Dr. Jennifer O'Brien

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Dr. Jennifer O'Brien is an associate professor and practitioner in the field of social work, with a specialized focus on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). She holds a PhD in Social Work and has extensive experience working with vulnerable populations, particularly children and adolescents who have been affected by exploitation and trafficking.

Education

- PhD, University of North Carolina, 2017 in Social Work
 - MSW, Smith College School for Social Work, 2010
 - BS, The University of Texas at Austin, 2006
Major: Psychology
-



Dr. Kathleen Preble, Social Work Associate Professor.

Dr. Kathleen Preble

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Kathleen Preble is an Associate Professor. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Preble was an Assistant Professor at University of Missouri. Dr. Preble's research includes human trafficking, international and domestic exploitation, sex work, and gender-based violence.

Education

- PhD in Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington, 2016
 - MSW, The University of Texas at Arlington, 2005
 - BA, Ohio Univeristy, 1999
Major: Political Science
-



Dr. Yao Wang, Social Work Assistant Professor.

Dr. Yao Wang

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Yao Wang is an Assistant Professor. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Wang earned a PhD in Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Education

- PhD in Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore, 2024
 - MSW, The Ohio State University, 2017
 - BA, Shanghai International Studies University, 2015
- Major: Japanese Language
-



Dr. Weiwon Zeng, Social Work Assistant Professor.

Dr. Weiwon Zeng

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Weiwon Zeng is an Assistant Professor. Before coming to the SSW, Dr. Zeng was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Brandeis University.

Education

- PhD in Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin, 2023
 - MSW, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2020
 - BSW, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2012
-

Promotions effective September 1



Dr. Darlene Hunter, Social Work Associate Professor of Practice.

Dr. Darlene Hunter

Dr. Darlene Hunter has been promoted to Associate Professor of Practice.



Karen Magruder, Social Work Associate Professor of Practice.

Karen Magruder

Karen Magruder has been promoted to Associate Professor of Practice.



Dr. De'An Roper, Social Work Associate Professor of Practice.

Dr. De'An Roper

Dr. De'An Roper has been promoted to Associate Professor of Practice.



Dr. Allison Tomlinson, Social Work Associate Professor of Practice.

Dr. Allison Tomlinson

Dr. Allison Tomlinson has been promoted to Associate Professor of Practice.



Dr. Catherine LaBrenz, Social Work Associate Professor with Tenure.

Dr. Catherine LaBrenz

Dr. Catherine LaBrenz has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.



Dr. Kathy Lee, Social Work Associate Professor with Tenure.

Dr. Kathy Lee

Dr. Kathy Lee has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.



Dr. Micki Washburn, Social Work Associate Professor with Tenure.

Dr. Micki Washburn

Dr. Micki Washburn has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.



Dr. Diane Mitschke, Social Work Full Professor

Dr. Diane Mitschke

Dr. Diane Mitschke has been promoted to Full Professor.



Dr. Eusebius Small, Social Work Full Professor

Dr. Eusebius Small

Dr. Eusebius Small has been promoted to Full Professor.

New Staff to SSW



Cleondria Marable, MSW Academic Advisor III

Cleondria Marable

New Members and Recent Changes to the SSW Leadership Team



Dr. Holli Slater, Social Work Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives.

Dr. Holli Slater

Dr. Holli Slater is the new Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the School of Social Work. Welcome back to the School of Social Work.



Dr. Tonya Hansel, Social Work Associate Dean for Research.

Dr. Tonya Hansel

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

Dr. Tonya Hansel is the new Associate Dean for Research at the School of Social Work.



Dr. Anne Nordberg, Social Work Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Associate Professor.

Dr. Anne Nordberg

Dr. Anne Nordberg is now the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the School of Social Work.



Dr. Regina Praetorius, Social Work Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Professor

Dr. Regina Praetorius

Dr. Regina Praetorius is now the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the School of Social Work.



Karen Magruder, Social Work Associate Professor of Practice.

Karen Magruder

Karen Magruder is now the Director of the DSW Program at the School of Social Work.



Tracy Orwig, Social Work Director of Interprofessional Education and Associate Professor of Practice.

Tracy Orwig

Tracy Orwig is now the Director of Interprofessional Education at the School of Social Work.



Dr. Allison Tomlinson, Social Work MSW Program Director and Associate Professor of Practice.

Dr. Allison Tomlinson

Allison Tomlinson is now the MSW Program Director at the School of Social Work.



Dr. Darlene Hunter, Social Work BSW/BSSUT Program Director and Associate Professor of Practice.

Dr. Darlene Hunter

Darlene Hunter is now the BSW/BSSUT Program Director at the School of Social Work.



Christian Wommack, Director for SSW Development

Christian Wommack

Christian Wommack is the new Director for Development at the School of Social Work.



Dr. Lee Banda, Social Work College Business Officer, Academic Resource Planning

Dr. Lee Banda

Lee Banda is the new College Business Officer, Academic Resource Planning at the School of Social Work.

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Contact the School of Social Work

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