

PAJARITA CHARLES

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Social Work
Ph.D. student, anticipated graduation - August 2007

Columbia University, New York, NY
Masters of Social Work - May 2001
Masters of Public Administration - May 2001

State University of New York at Stony Brook
Bachelors of Arts in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary - May 1994

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Family Structure
- Child and Family Wellbeing
- Poverty and Inequality
- Family and Social Policy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

School of Social Work, UNC at Chapel Hill

Sept. 2004 – present – *Research Assistant: CareerStart.* Principal investigator: Dennis Orthner, Ph.D. School based intervention research project to improve educational, behavioral, and social outcomes for at-risk middle school students. Responsibilities include program development, implementation, monitoring, data collection, and analysis.

May 2005 - Aug. 2005 – *Research Consultant.* Intercoder reliability consultant on qualitative study of access to mental health services for middle school children identified as behaviorally-emotionally disabled.

Jan. 2004 – May 2005 – *Research Assistant: Building Couple Relationships among Low-Income Families.* Principal investigator: Dennis Orthner, Ph.D. Project to develop strategies to strengthen and stabilize relationships among unwed, low-income parents in North Carolina.

Activities included literature review, review of model programs, focus group analysis, and dissemination of findings.

Sept. 2003 – *Research Assistant: Work First (TANF) Research Project*. Principal investigator: Dean F. Duncan, Ph.D. Activities included literature review and report writing on several topics including child-only TANF cases, 60-month lifetime limit, and the relationship between welfare receipt and end-of-grade testing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School of Social Work, UNC at Chapel Hill

Sept. 2006 *Practical Illustrations Using EndNote*. Professor: Dennis Orthner. Conducted workshop on the use of EndNote software.

Jan. 2006 - *Teaching Assistant: Evaluation of Social Interventions*. Professor: Michal Grinstein-Weiss, Ph.D. Assisted with preparation of course material and examinations, teaching of research labs, and grading of assignments.

Sept. 2005 – *Teaching Practicum: Foundations of Social Welfare*. Professor: Susan Parish, Ph.D.
Dec. 2005 Prepared and taught 4 three-hour lectures, developed examination questions, participated in grading of assignments.

PUBLICATIONS

Charles, P. & Perreira, K. M. (in press). Correlates of intimate partner violence during pregnancy and 1-year post-partum. *Journal of Family Violence*.

Grinstein-Weiss, M., Curley, J., & **Charles, P.** (2007). Asset building in rural communities: The experience of individual development accounts. *Rural Sociology*, 72(1).

Charles, P., Orthner, D., Jones, A., & Mancini, D. (2006). Poverty and couple relationships: Implications for welfare policy. *Marriage and Family Review*, 39, 27-52.

Charles, P. (2006, January 31). Time to strengthen unmarried couples. (Letter to the editor). *Philanthropy Journal*. Available from <http://www.philanthropyjournal.org/page15214.cfm>

Charles, P., & Harris, K. M. (2005). Book review of *Promises I can keep: Why poor women put motherhood before marriage* by Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas. *Social Forces*, 84, 1304-1305.

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Akos, P., Orthner, D., **Charles, P.**, & Cooley, V. Teacher perspectives on integrating career education in middle school. School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Grinstein-Weiss, M., **Charles, P.**, Lee, J., & Zhan, M. Asset building among African American single mothers. School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Orthner, D., Akos, P., **Charles, P.**, & Cooley, V. CareerStart: Support for a middle school dropout prevention program. School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Orthner, D. Akos, P., Cooley, V., & **Charles, P.** Measuring organizational learning in schools: Development and validation of a revised organizational learning capacity assessment instrument. School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

PRESENTATIONS

Charles, P. (presenter) & Perreira, K. M. (March, 2006). *Intimate partner violence during pregnancy and 1-year post-partum*. 2006 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Los Angeles, CA.

Charles, P. (presenter), Orthner, D., & Jones, A. (January, 2006). *Poverty and couple relationships: Implications for welfare policy*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Tenth Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Charles, P. (May, 2005). *Strong couples-strong children: Building a community strategy*. Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina Spring 2005 Regional Meeting, Hickory, NC.

Duncan, D. F. & **Charles, P.** (co-presenter) (October, 2004). *Who is leaving TANF due to the five-year time limit?* Twenty-Sixth Annual APPAM Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity Building Program Review

June 2005 *Off-site Grant Reviewer*. Conducted narrative reviews of at-risk youth program proposals for HHS, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services.

Association to Benefit Children, New York, NY

Jan. 2002 – *Director of Development*. Responsible for fundraising activities including cultivation and solicitation of corporate, foundation and individual gifts, grant writing, event planning, prospect research, management of donor information system, and design and copy of web and print material.

May 2001 – *Director of Program Development*. Provided managerial oversight, program development, and technical assistance to education, family support, job training/employment, and homelessness prevention programs. Wrote proposals for city, state and federal grants, monitored contracts, and assisted with program evaluation projects and budget analyses. Collaborated on program evaluation project for job training and employment readiness program for homeless adults. Tasks included development of outcome measures, designing measurement instruments, monitoring data collection processes, and analyzing outcome data.

Sept. 2000 – *Social Work Intern*. Wrote federal and state grant proposals for job training, youth development, and technology programs. Assisted with the implementation of East Harlem family literacy program and co-coordinated AmeriCorps*VISTA program providing supervision to volunteers and technical assistance to program staff. Provided group therapy to homeless and at-risk adolescent girls.

New York City Human Resources Administration, Office of Resource Development, New York, NY
May – Aug. 2000 *Policy Analyst Intern*. Conducted research and wrote reports on the needs of at-risk urban youth and the tracking of former TANF recipients. Research included literature review, interviews with HRA staff and community-based organizations, and analysis of HRA data.

Manhattan Psychiatric Center Department of Social Work, Wards Island, NY

Sept. 1998 – *Social Work Intern*. Provided individual and group therapeutic services to adult forensic, May 1999 severely mentally ill patients. Treatment included psychosocial assessments and use of cognitive-behavioral and motivational interviewing techniques.

Office of New York State Assemblyman Steven Englebright, East Setauket, NY

Sept. 1993 – *Policy Intern*. Conducted research and wrote background documents for two legislative May 1994 bills regarding minor's access to tobacco and the effects of lead on waterfowl. Participated in campaign activities and corresponded with constituents.

Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, NY

June 1991 – *Intern*. Conducted research on children's environmental hazards including pesticides, Aug. 1993 insecticides, and lead poisoning. Interfaced with membership, participated in community advocacy efforts, and wrote for the *M & O Newsletter*.

QUANTITATIVE & METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

Sept. 2006 Psychology of Survey Response
The Odum Institute, UNC at Chapel Hill

June 2006 Multilevel Modeling in SAS
Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
UNC at Chapel Hill

March 2006 Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis
The Odum Institute, UNC at Chapel Hill

Sept. 2005 Using Focus Groups in Health Behavior and Intervention Research
School of Social Work, UNC at Chapel Hill

June 2005 Latent Trajectory/Growth Curve Analysis
Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
UNC at Chapel Hill

- March 2005 STATA Short Course
The Odum Institute, UNC at Chapel Hill
- March 2005 LISREL Short Course
The Odum Institute, UNC at Chapel Hill
- July 2004 Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Summer Data Workshop
Columbia University, New York, NY
(*Competitive selection process; received travel award*)
- June 2004 Rigorous and Relevant: Methods in Social Work Research, Meta-Analysis and HLM
Software
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, Washington, DC
- Sept. 2003 SAS Short Course
The Odum Institute, UNC at Chapel Hill

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Outstanding Doctoral Student in Social Work Award 2005-2006
- Blue Ribbon Award for Poster Presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America
- Finalist for The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, February, 2006
- Graduate School Transportation Grant, UNC at Chapel Hill, October 2004
- Public Affairs Fellowship at School of International and Public Affairs for academic excellence and commitment to public service. Fall 2000 and Spring 2001
- Dean's List, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Spring - Fall 1990; Fall 1991 - Fall 1994

ACTIVITIES

The Arc of Orange County, Chapel Hill, NC

- Oct. 2004- *Board of Directors, Member* – Provide organizational oversight and fundraising
Oct. 2006 expertise.

School of Social Work, UNC at Chapel Hill

- Sept. 2004- *Mentor* - Provide mentorship to doctoral student in Peer Pairing Program.
present

Orange County Literacy Council, Chapel Hill, NC

- June 2004 – *Tutor* - Provided one-on-one reading and math tutoring to adult learner working toward
May 2005 GED.

Doctoral Program Committee, School of Social Work, UNC at Chapel Hill

- Sept. 2004 – *Doctoral Student Representative* - Participated in doctoral program planning and
June 2005 curricular decision making processes.

Association to Benefit Children, New York, NY

Sept. – Dec. 2001 *Volunteer* - Provided therapeutic childcare, crisis counseling, and mental health support to children and families affected by the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster.

Habitat for Humanity, Bronx, NY

April 2001 *Volunteer* - Coordinated volunteer day for students at School of International and Public Affairs and assisted with renovation tasks on home for a low-income family.

Coalition for the Homeless, New York, NY

Jan. 2000 *Volunteer* - Distributed food from Coalition vans to homeless persons in Manhattan.

Monfort House, Port Jefferson, NY

Sept. – Dec. 1998 *Volunteer* - Supervised youth living in temporary foster care group home.

Response of Suffolk County, Stony Brook, NY

June 1997 – *Counselor* - Provided emergency hotline crisis interventions to persons with mental illness and individuals facing suicidal risk. Trained new volunteers in hotline techniques and protocol.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/LICENSURE

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- National Association of Social Workers
- Population Association of America
- Society for Social Work and Research
- State of New York, Certified Social Worker, ID#064984-1