

AHEC-SSW Training Partnership Consultant Information Sheet

Name: Anderson Al Wazni (Andy)

Position/Title: PhD Student; UNC Chapel Hill School for Social Work

Work Address:

UNC Chapel Hill, School for Social Work
Doctoral Program
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Education/Degrees:

BA Religious Studies, BA Interdisciplinary Studies, MSW, PhD Social Work (currently enrolled)
Social Work Health Futures Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Portland State University (current)

Academic Experience:

Andy received two BA degrees from NCSU in Religious Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies, which took her around the world to immerse herself in different cultures and languages. She received the a CAORC Scholarship through the U.S. State Department to study Bangla language at the International University of Bangladesh, the Woodenfish Scholarship where she studied in a Zen Buddhist monastery in Taiwan, and the International School for Jain Studies in India Scholarship. Following graduation, she was inspired to commit to social welfare policy work in an international context and received her MSW at Smith College. During this period, she wrote a thesis on Muslim women’s relationship to feminist identity and body image which was published by the NASW in their Social Work journal. In the fall of 2019, Andy began her doctoral studies in social work at UNC Chapel Hill where she examines the intersection of climate change, violent conflict, and disease spread. Her particular focus is understanding the role of water and sanitation within humanitarian settings and water-borne epidemics that contribute to higher mortality rates in women and children. Andy is also a Social Work Health Futures Fellow, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Portland State University. This experimental lab brings professionals across the country to engage futures thinking in the field of social work to advance policy, field standards, and direct practice approaches.

Brief Summary of Work Experience:

Andy has been a professional public speaker and educator since graduating from Smith College with her MSW in 2014. Her work includes conducting continuing education seminars on the topic of Islamophobia in professional “helping” disciplines, such as social work, public health policy, and medicine. In addition to conducting workshops on this topic, Andy is an adjunct faculty with Smith College MSW where she teaches a ten-week course on public welfare policy.

Specialization/Research Areas:

- Climate change and social impacts (e.g. conflict, displacement)
- Anti-Muslim bias in professional spheres and education
- Social Welfare policy related to above-mentioned topics

Available for presentations on the following topics:

- Islamophobia in social work, education, and policy; also extends past social work discipline to medicine, public health policy, and general education
- Feminism within Muslim communities and Muslim women’s identity
- Climate change: intersection with Islamophobia, intersection with conflict and displacement/refugees