

Melissa Jenkins, MSW

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Research Interests

- Trauma-informed Interventions for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Social Support for Caregivers and Individuals with Disabilities
- School Social Work in Special Education
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Identification and Service Coordination

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC; August 2018—Present

- Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work
Chapel Hill, NC; May 2017—May 2018
- Master of Social Work with a concentration in Community, Management, and Policy Practice

Meredith College

Raleigh, NC; August 2013—May 2017

- Bachelor of Social Work, *Magna Cum Laude*, GPA: 3.8/4.0
- Minor in Statistics

Research and Evaluation Experience

Kinship Navigator Project

Chapel Hill, NC, August 2020—present

Research assistant for Dr. David Ansong and Dr. Kanisha Brevard. Identifying caregiver needs to determine the feasibility of adapting an existing Kinship Navigator service model to fit the local context and capacity of North Carolina Departments of Social Services. This includes collecting data on the number, type, and cost of personnel, materials, services, and other resources identified during the feasibility phase of the NC Kinship Navigator Program.

Teach2Reach (T2R) Project

Chapel Hill, NC, October 2019—present

Research assistant for Dr. Cindy Fraga-Rizo. Reviewing sex trafficking prevention curriculum for at-risk youth and training school personnel employed in alternative schools and residential programs to deliver lessons.

Advanced Statistical Methods

Chapel Hill, NC, May 2020—August 2020

Research assistant for Dr. Din Chen. Used secondary data to conduct multilevel models (MLM) in R to test relationships between demographic variables and outcomes (e.g., academic achievement, health, etc.) among youth and college students; analyses informed MLM course lecture and book for performing regression analyses in R.

Shared Reading Comprehension (SHARC) Project

Chapel Hill, NC, October 2019—August 2020

Research assistant for Dr. Nancy McInyre and Dr. Sallie Nowell. Implemented components of Collaborative Strategic Reading (CSR) project to improve reading comprehension among middle school students with autism, including data collection and intervention support.

Thinking for a Change (T4C) Project

Chapel Hill, NC, May 2019 --August 2019

Research assistant for Dr. Amy Wilson. Collected baseline data from incarcerated women to determine the effectiveness of T4C intervention. Assisted with data entry.

Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy

Durham, NC, February 2018 --May 2018

Research assistant for Dr. Christina Christopoulos. Assessed social-emotional skills of children selected to participate in two Incredible Years educational programs. Collected data to determine if children in the intervention group made larger improvements than children in the comparison group.

Status of Girls in North Carolina

Raleigh, NC, May 2016 --May 2017

Research assistant for Dr. Amie Hess. Analyzed available datasets to illustrate the reciprocity of societal structures and girls' experiences in the areas of education, health, leadership, and economic opportunity. Used statistical program R to analyze school administrators' responses about LGBTQ inclusive policies and presented findings at a regional conference.

Professional Experience

Instructor. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, SOWO 810 Evaluations of Social Work Interventions.

Chapel Hill, NC, January 2021--April 2021

Instructor. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, SOWO 500 Human Development in Context I: Infancy to Adolescence (Teaching Practicum).

Chapel Hill, NC, August 2020--November 2020

Data Analyst. North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement.

Raleigh, NC, August 2018--November 2018

Graduate Assistant. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Summer Bridge Program.

Chapel Hill, NC, May 2018 --August 2018

Social Work Intern. Project NO REST.

Chapel Hill, NC, June 2017--May 2018

Social Work Intern. Triangle Down Syndrome Network.

Raleigh, NC, January 2017--May 2017

Student Worker. Department of Social Work, Meredith College.

Raleigh, NC, August 2015--May 2017

Student Worker. Office of the Chaplain, Meredith College.

Raleigh, NC, August 2015--May 2017

Leadership and Service

Student Representative. Doctoral Program Committee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work.

Chapel Hill, NC, August 2019—April 2020

President. Sisters United, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, January 2016—May 2017

Vice President. Meredith Better Together, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, September 2015—May 2017

Student Representative. Dean of Students Civil Communication Committee, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, August 2016—December 2016

Student Counselor. Summer Symposium for Multicultural Students, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, June 2016

Mentor. Sisters Supporting Sisters Mentorship Program, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, September 2014—April 2016

College Recruiter. Meredith College Hues Program, Meredith College.
Raleigh, NC, August 2013—May 2015

Honors and Awards

Fellowships

IFYC Interfaith Innovation Fellowship, 2021
North Carolina Excellence Fellowship, 2018-2019

Scholarships

Diversity Scholarship - ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at the University of Michigan, Summer 2019
Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship, 2017-2018
Judge Edwin S. Preston Jr. and Dr. Dorothy K. Preston Scholarship in Statistics, 2016
Helen Price Scholarship, 2015
Class of 1953 Merit Heritage Scholarship, 2013-2017
Impact Raleigh Award, 2013-2015

Recognitions

Student Organization Gold Star Award for Leadership (Sisters United), Spring 2017
Dean's List, Fall 2013, Spring and Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring and Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Pi Mu Epsilon, Mathematics Honor Society, inducted in 2017
Kappa Nu Sigma, Meredith College Scholastic Honor Society, inducted in 2017
Phi Alpha, Social Work Honor Society, inducted in 2015
Alpha Lambda Delta, Freshmen Honor Society, inducted in 2014

Publications

Al Wazni, A., Baca-Atlas, S., & **Jenkins, M.R.** (2020, August 24). Addressing racism within academia: a Q&A with UNC-Chapel Hill PhD of social work students. *Oxford University Press Blog*. <https://blog.oup.com/2020/08/addressing-racism-within-academia-a-qa-with-unc-chapel-hill-phd-of-social-work-students/>

- Eisensmith, S., Deck, P., & **Jenkins, M.R.** (Under review). Attending to attention: A systematic review of attention and reading.
- Franchino-Olsen, H., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Rizo, C.F., Croft, C., Colbert, R., & Martin, S.L. (Under review). Online violence education in the era of COVID-19.
- Hess, A., Jaen, Z., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Jones, K., Ligon, H., Parker, A., Rodriguez, C., Rodriguez, M., Ruffin, C., Sills, K., Hudgins, T., & Moore, R. (2017). *The status of girls in North Carolina 2017*. Meredith College. <https://www.meredith.edu/college-research/the-status-of-girls>
- Jenkins, M.R.**, Ansong, D., Banks, A., & Dangleben, T. (Under review). Regional trends and the role of school support staff in suspensions of students with disabilities.
- Lesak, A.M., Rizo, C.F., Franchino-Olsen, H., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Winslow, H., Klein, L.B., Martin, S.L., Macy, R.J., Colbert, R., Croft, C., & Dunkerton, C. (Under review). Recommendations for educating youth about sex trafficking.
- Lombardi, B., Jensen, T., Parisi, A., **Jenkins, M.R.**, & Bledsoe, S. (Under review). The relationship between a lifetime history of sexual victimization and perinatal depression: a systematic review and meta-analysis.
- Villados, M., Kainz, K., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Gibbs, D., & Forte, A. (Under review). Pathways towards increased civic involvement among young adults.

Conference Presentations

“A Citation Network Analysis of School Social Work and Special Education Journals: The Current Research Landscape.” Society for Social Work and Research 2021 Conference, San Francisco, CA.

“Using Structural Equation Modeling to Examine Effects of School and Family Support on Childhood ADHD and Meaningful Work Outcomes in Young Adulthood.” Society for Social Work and Research 2021 Conference, San Francisco, CA.

“Interventions for Treating Trauma among Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD): A Systematic Review.” Society for Social Work and Research 2020 Conference, Washington, D.C.

“Spatial Mapping of National Trends in School Discipline among White and Non-White Students with Disabilities.” Society for Social Work and Research 2020 Conference, Washington, D.C.

“Ally, Bully or Bystander? The Role of Schools in Supporting Sexual Minority Youth.” Southern Sociological Society 80th Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC. Co-presenter: Dr. Amie Hess

Panels and Speaking Engagements

Refugee Wellness: An Interfaith Perspective (Panel Moderator)

10/13/20 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC

Child Welfare Regional Meeting (Speaker)

7/26/19 Robeson County Department of Social Services, Lumberton, NC

Professional Affiliations

National Association of Social Workers