



SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL WORK

2022-2023  
PH.D. PROGRAM

# Forthcoming Graduates



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Fall 2022

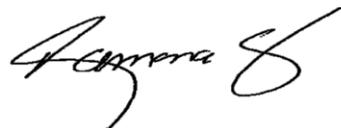
Dear Colleagues:

We are proud to introduce two outstanding soon-to-be Ph.D. social work graduates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Daniel and Melissa. **They are innovators on every level.** Each graduate is prepared for independent scholarship, with years of research experiences and mentorship from our faculty.

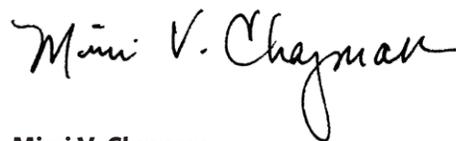
As you review their CVs and get to know their work, you'll note their excellent qualifications in publishing, grantsmanship, training, and teaching. Each is prepared to join your faculty and make immediate contributions, confronting the world's toughest challenges through their teaching, scholarship, and service.

Please contact us if you have questions we can answer — and contact these graduates if you are looking for dynamic new faculty members for your team!

With best wishes,



**Ramona Denby-Brinson**  
Dean, UNC School of Social Work



**Mimi V. Chapman**  
Associate Dean for Doctoral Education  
Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for  
Human Service Policy Information



## Daniel J. Gibbs, MSW, JD

▶ [dangibbs@live.unc.edu](mailto:dangibbs@live.unc.edu)

**TO VIEW A CV, PLEASE VISIT:**  
[go.unc.edu/DGibbs-CV](https://go.unc.edu/DGibbs-CV)

Daniel Gibbs is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work. His program of research seeks to understand and improve professional decision-making within child welfare and child mental health systems to promote positive and equitable outcomes for children and families. He has participated in and led projects that leverage innovative data science tools, high-quality interprofessional collaboration, and effective judicial procedures to promote better decisions. He hopes to produce knowledge and impact in this field through engaged research with agencies and practice communities. For his dissertation, Daniel is using Medicaid claims data and group model-building sessions with practitioners to understand foster youths' access to services and the decisions that impact access. He has also taught undergraduate and graduate social work courses on policy analysis and program evaluation. He received his JD and MSW degrees from the University of Georgia in 2015.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- ▶ Child welfare and mental health systems
- ▶ Professional decision-making
- ▶ Data science and social work practice
- ▶ Social work and the law
- ▶ Implementation and systems science



## Melissa Jenkins

▶ [melissajenkins95@gmail.com](mailto:melissajenkins95@gmail.com)

**TO VIEW A CV, PLEASE VISIT:**  
[go.unc.edu/MJenkins-CV](https://go.unc.edu/MJenkins-CV)

Melissa Jenkins is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Her overall program of research centers on designing and developing violence prevention and intervention programs for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Melissa has experience with conducting focus groups and administering standardized measures, and she is currently earning a certificate in survey methodology. She has worked with her advisor, Dr. Cynthia Fraga Rizo, on training school personnel to implement Teach2Reach, an evidence-informed program to teach students about sex trafficking and connect at-risk students with needed services. Melissa's teaching interests include courses on human behavior and the social environment, research methods and statistics, and disability justice and/or disability across the lifespan. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work from Meredith College and a Master of Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2018.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- ▶ Trauma-informed interventions for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ▶ Sex trafficking
- ▶ Interpersonal violence prevention education
- ▶ Child maltreatment



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL

If you have questions about our 2022-2023 Ph.D. graduates, please contact

**Mimi V. Chapman**  
Associate Dean for Doctoral Education  
Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for  
Human Service Policy Information  
[mimi@email.unc.edu](mailto:mimi@email.unc.edu)