

# Michele Patak-Pietrafesa, MSW, PhD

## Curriculum Vitae

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### CURRENT POSITION

Clinical Assistant Professor & Practicum Education Coordinator (Schools)  
UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work  
Campus Box 3550  
325 Pittsboro Street, Room 335-F  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
[patak@unc.edu](mailto:patak@unc.edu)

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. College of Social Work, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (May 2023)  
Dissertation: “Unraveling Teacher Implicit Biases: The Role of Student Identities in Patterns of Stereotype Activation for Black and White Teachers.” Dissertation Advisor: Natasha K. Bowen, PhD.
- M.S.W. College of Social Work, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (May 2009)  
Specializations: School social work; Clinical social work with children, youth, and families
- B.A. Department of Psychology, State University of NY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (May 2005). Major: Psychology/Behavioral Neuroscience (B.A. with Research Distinction)

### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work Excellence in Teaching Award
- 2021 College of Social Work Doctoral Student Excellence in Teaching Award (\$1,500)
- 2019 Edward J. Ray Travel Award for Scholarship & Service, Ohio State University Graduate School, Columbus, Ohio (\$900)
- 2016 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Initiation, Ohio State University Graduate School, Columbus, Ohio

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Racial and Disability Equity in K-12 Education  
Special Education Policy  
Inclusive Classrooms & Special Education Services for Neurodiverse Youth  
Academic Achievement Gaps & School Discipline Disparities  
Implicit and Explicit Bias in Schools  
Culturally Responsive Pedagogy  
Intergroup Relations & Intergroup Dialogue  
Implementation Science (Social Network Analysis)  
Structural Equation Modeling

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

1. Yousefi Nooraie, R., Warren, K., Juckett, L. A., Cao, Q. A., Bunger, A., **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.** (2021). Individual- and group-level network-building interventions to address social isolation and loneliness: A scoping review with implications for COVID19. *PLoS ONE*, 16(6): e0253734. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.023734>
2. Bowen, N. K., Lucio, R., **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.**, & Bowen, G. L. (2020). The SSP 2020: The Revised School Success Profile. *Children and Schools*, 42(1), 19-28. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdz025>
3. **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.**, Stewart, A.E., Bowen, N.K., & Kelly, M. (2019). Too hard to find with too little time: What school social workers want in resources about evidence-based practice. *International Journal of School Social Work*, 4(1), 14-37. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2161-4148.1043>
4. Kagotho, N., Salim, N.N., **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.**, & Kyriakaki, S. (2019). Inheriting the family farm: Generational wealth transfers in rural Kenya. *Development Policy Review*, 00, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12457>
5. Kagotho, N., **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.**, Ssewamala, F. M., & Kirkbride, G. (2018). Assessing the association between depression and savings for Kenyan youth using a validated child depression inventory measure. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 62(1), S21-S28. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2017.11.002>
6. Kagotho, N., Ssewamala, F.M., **Patak-Pietrafesa, M.**, & Byansi, W. (2018). Testing the financial capability framework: Findings from YouthSave-Impact Study Kenya. *Social Work*, 63(1), 67-74. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swx056>
7. Reynolds, B., Dallery, J., Shroff, P., **Patak, M.**, & Leraas, K. (2008). A web-based contingency management program with adolescent smokers. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 41(4), 597-601. <https://doi.org/10.1901/jaba.2008.41-597>

8. Reynolds, B., Penfold, R.B., & **Patak, M.** (2008). Dimensions of impulsive behavior in adolescents: Laboratory behavioral assessments. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 16(2), 124-131. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1064-1297.16.2.124>
9. **Patak, M.**, & Reynolds, B. (2007). Question-based assessments of delay discounting: Do respondents spontaneously incorporate uncertainty into their valuations for delayed rewards? *Addictive Behaviors*, 32(2), 351-357. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2006.03.034>
10. Reynolds, B., **Patak, M.**, & Shroff, P. (2007). Adolescent smokers rate delayed rewards as less certain than adolescent nonsmokers. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 90(2-3), 301-303. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2007.04.008>
11. Reynolds, B., **Patak, M.**, Shroff, P., Penfold, R. B., Melanko, S., & Duhig, A. M. (2007). Laboratory and self-report assessments of impulsive behavior in adolescent daily smokers and nonsmokers. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 15(3), 264-271. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/1064-1297.15.3.264>
12. Acheson, A., Farrar, A. M., **Patak, M.**, Hausknecht, K.A., Kieres, A. K., Choi, S., de Wit, H., & Richards, J. B. (2006). Nucleus accumbens lesions decrease sensitivity to rapid changes in the delay to reinforcement. *Behavioral Brain Research*, 173(2), 217-228. [doi: 10.1016/j.bbr.2006.06.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2006.06.024)

**Other Publications** (\* indicates student co-author)

- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (July 2020). *School social work and racial justice: Stand up, speak up, because silence is deadly*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/school-social-work-racial-justice-stand-up-speak-up-because-silence-is-deadly/>
- Trerotola, A.\* & Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (May 2020). *SSW research brief: Animal-assisted therapy for child sexual abuse*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/animal-assisted-therapy-for-child-sexual-abuse-a-sswn-research-brief/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (January 2020). *SSW research brief: What do school social workers want online?* School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/what-do-ssw-want-online-a-sswn-open-access-research-brief/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (June 2018). *SSW research brief: The effect of zero tolerance laws on exclusionary discipline*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/ssw-research-brief-the-effect-of-zero-tolerance-laws-on-exclusionary-discipline/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (May 2018). *SSW research brief: Combating student anxiety in schools*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/ssw-research-brief-combating-student-anxiety-in-schools/>

- Kim, M.\* & Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (April 2018). *SSW research brief: Child-centered play therapy in schools*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/ssw-research-brief-child-centered-play-therapy-in-schools/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (December 2017). *SSW research brief: What can student perception surveys tell us about teaching?* School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/ssw-research-brief-what-can-student-perception-surveys-tell-us-about-teaching/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (November 2017). *SSW research brief: What schools need to know about fostering school belonging*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/4373-2/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (May 2017). *SSW research brief: Building family engagement with “Cultural Brokering”*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/building-family-engagement-cultural-brokering/>
- Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (March 2017). *SSW research brief: Discrimination in special education*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/discrimination-special-education/>
- Stewart, A. E. & Patak-Pietrafesa, M. (March 2017). *SSW research brief: Collective action for childhood mental health*. School Social Work Network. <https://schoolsocialwork.net/collective-action-childhood-mental-health/>

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Presentations

- Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Guest Lecture for SOWO 758: Differential Diagnosis of Mental Health Disorders, UNC Chapel Hill. Annual invitation for fall semester course sections, Fall 2021 – Present.
- Diversity Series: Spreading anti-racist practice to others in the workplace. Union Institute & University, Online, Summer 2021.
- Diversity Series: Developing professional anti-racist practices in the workplace. Union Institute & University, Online, August 11, 2020.
- Race, school discipline, and the school-to-prison pipeline. Ohio State University College of Social Work, School Social Work Specialization, Columbus, OH, October 17, 2018.
- School Social Work Briefs: Bringing research to the front lines. Panel presentation at the Annual School Social Work Association of America Conference – Inaugural School Social Work Special Interest Group Research Forum, Columbus, OH, March 2018.

Evidence based practices in school social work: From assessment to selecting interventions to evaluation. Columbus City Schools, Columbus, OH, October 20, 2017.

Advocacy as a State of Mind: A Multi-Tiered Philosophy for the School Social Worker. Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA) Annual Leadership & Planning Retreat, Ohio Dominican University Columbus, OH, August 2017.

Comprehensive Diagnosis of Adult ADHD. Holistic Consultation LLC, Columbus, OH, July 12, 2016.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) across the lifespan: How myths, ignorance and un-intentional bias are robbing our students of their potential. Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA) Annual Conference, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH, February 18, 2016.

Youth Smoking Cessation in Appalachian Ohio. Appalachia Community Cancer Network, Columbus, OH, May 11, 2010.

### **Refereed Presentations**

**Patak-Pietrafesa, M.,** Bowen, N. K., Lucio, R. (March 24, 2021). Assessing social-environmental risk & protective factors with the (free) School Success Profile (SSP) 2020. Workshop presented at the 23rd Annual National School Social Work Conference, Online.

**Patak-Pietrafesa, M.** (January 18, 2020). Role of narrowband symptom measures in diagnostic assessment of adult ADHD. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Washington, DC.

**Patak-Pietrafesa, M.,** Bowen, N. K., Kelly, M. S. (April 5, 2019). Evaluating practice: A practitioner friendly way to demonstrate intervention effectiveness in school social work practice. Workshop presented at the 22nd Annual National School Social Work Conference, Orlando, FL.

**Patak-Pietrafesa, M.,** Stewart, A., Bowen, N., & Kelly, M. (January 22, 2019). Evidence based practice use by school social workers: An inside perspective. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research 23rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**Patak-Pietrafesa, M. &** Stewart, A. (October 12, 2017). Implicit Bias in Schools. Workshop presented at the 50th Annual Midwest School Social Work Conference, Cleveland, OH.

**Patak, M.,** Shroff, P., Melanko, S., Leraas, K., & Reynolds, B. (June 19, 2007). Delay discounting is related to treatment outcomes for adolescent cigarette smoking. Sixty-

Ninth Annual Meeting of The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Quebec City, Canada.

**Patak, M.,** Shroff, P., & Reynolds, B. (June 6, 2006). Delay discounting and teen smoking. Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting of The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Scottsdale, AZ.

**Patak, M.R,** Hausknecht, K.A, Acheson, A., Gancarz, A.M., Choi, S., DeWit, H., Richards, J.B. (November 5, 2005). Effects of nucleus accumbens lesions on behavioral inhibition and sustained attention in rats. Thirty-fifth Annual Society for Neuroscience Convention, Washington, DC.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

MSW Generalist Practicum I (SOWO 520) – 2 sections; Fall 2021 - Present

MSW Generalist Practicum II (SOWO 522) – 2 sections; Spring 2022 - Present

MSW Pre-Specialization Practicum I (SOWO 522) – 1 section; Summer 2022 - Present

MSW Specialization Practicum I (SOWO 820) – 1 section; Fall 2021 - Present

MSW Specialization Practicum II (SOWO 822) – 1 section; Spring 2022 - Present

MSW Generalist Field Seminar I (SOWO 523) – 2 sections; Fall 2021 - Present

MSW Generalist Field Seminar II (SOWO 524) – 2 sections; Spring 2022 - Present

Implementing Evidence-Informed Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (SOWO 740) – 1 section; Spring 2022 - Present

Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation (SOWO 510) – 1 section; Spring 2023 - Present

### **Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio**

Research and Statistics for Social Work Interventions (BSW, Online asynchronous, Spring 2020 - 2021)

Research and Statistics for Understanding Social Work Problems and Diverse Populations (BSW, In-person & Online synchronous, Fall 2019 – 2020)

Teaching Assistant: Preparing for Field Education (MSW, Online asynchronous, Fall 2017)

Guest Lecturer: Social Work Practice in Schools (MSW, In-person, 2015 – 2017)

Clinical Internship Field Instructor (MSW, In-person, 2014 – 2016)

### **Completed Training and Education in Teaching & Learning**

- 2018            Fundamentals of Teaching Adults Online  
Department of Workforce Development & Education, College of Education & Human Ecology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 2018            Multicultural and Global Perspectives on Teaching & Learning  
Department of Teaching & Learning, College of Education & Human Ecology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 2018            Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism in Education  
Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education & Human Ecology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 2017            Inclusive Education  
Department of Teaching & Learning, College of Education & Human Ecology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 2017            Social Work Education – Pedagogy, Skills, Opportunities and Challenges  
College of Social Work, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

### **Teaching Competencies**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility	Theories of Lifespan Development
Stereotyping and Prejudice	Psychopathology & Differential Diagnosis
Judgement and Decision Making	Individual Therapy with Children & Young Adults
Research Methods & Statistics	Family Therapy
School Social Work	Group Therapy
Mental Health in Schools	
Trauma-Informed Classrooms	

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

ADMIN &    Owner and Mental Health Clinician (2018 – 2021)  
CLINICAL    Center for Neurodiversity & Success LLC, Columbus, OH

- RESEARCH Graduate Research Associate to Dr. Natasha Bowen (2016 – 2020)  
College of Social Work, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- RESEARCH Graduate Research Associate to Dr. Njeri Kagotho (2016 – 2017), College of  
Social Work, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- ADMIN & Assistant Director and Supervising Clinician (2013 – 2018)  
CLINICAL Holistic Consultation LLC, Columbus, OH
- CLINICAL School Social Worker (2013 – 2014)  
Columbus City Schools, Columbus, OH
- CLINICAL School Social Worker (2011 – 2013)  
Nationwide Children’s Behavioral Health School-Based Team, Columbus, OH
- RESEARCH Research Program Manager (2009 – 2011)  
Center for Biobehavioral Health, Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s  
Hospital, Columbus, OH
- RESEARCH Research Associate / Project Manager (2008 – 2009)  
Center for Injury Research & Policy, The Research Institute at Nationwide  
Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH
- RESEARCH Graduate Research Associate (2007 – 2008)  
College of Education & Human Ecology/College of Social Work, Ohio State  
University, Columbus, OH
- RESEARCH Lead Research Associate (2005 – 2007)  
Center for Biobehavioral Health, Research Institute at Columbus Children’s  
Hospital, Columbus, OH

## SERVICE

### Service to Profession

- 2017 – Present Ad-Hoc Reviewer, *School Mental Health*
- 2017 – Present Content Contributor, *School Social Work Network*  
([www.schoolsocialwork.net](http://www.schoolsocialwork.net))
- 2016 – 2018 Past-President & Communications Committee Director, Ohio School  
Social Work Association (OSSWA)
- 2015 – 2016 President, Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA)

2015 – 2015	State Delegate (Ohio), School Social Work Association of America Delegate Assembly & Legislative Institute
2014 – 2016	State Representative (Ohio), Midwest School Social Work Council
2013 – 2015	First Vice President & President-Elect, Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA)
2007 – 2009	Communications Committee Director, Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA)

### **Service to University**

2021 – Present	Lab School Employee Search Committee Member, UNC Chapel Hill School of Education
2021 – Present	Intergroup Dialogue (IGD) Workgroup Member, UNC Chapel Hill Office of Diversity & Inclusion

### **Service to Department**

2022 – Present	Committee on Students, UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work
2022 – Present	Scholarships Committee, UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work
2021 – Present	Recruitment and Admissions Committee Member, UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work
2016 – 2017	Student Representative, PhD Program Committee, Ohio State University College of Social Work

## **LICENSURE**

2015 – 2021	Social Work Training Supervision Designation (LE-00018815) Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board (8/10/2015 – 8/10/2021)
2013 – 2021	Licensed Independent Social Worker (I.1303088) Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board (8/10/2013 – 8/10/2021)
2013 – 2018	Ohio Department of Education Pupil Services: School Social Worker License # OH3175794

2011 – 2013 Licensed Social Worker (S.1100088)  
Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist  
Board

2017 – 2021 Certified Telebehavioral Health Practitioner  
Telebehavioral Health Institute Inc., 1876 Horse Creek Rd. Cheyenne,  
Wyoming, 82009 (08/01/2017 – 08/01/2021)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2007 – Present Member, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
2008 – Present Member, School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)  
2021 – Present Member, North Carolina School Social Work Association (NCSSWA)  
2014 – 2018 Member, Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA)  
2008 – 2022 Member, Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA)  
2016 – 2021 Student Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)