

Laura Curran, M.S.W., Ph.D.

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School of Social Work
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Education

- Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, May 2001

Graduate Certificate in Designated Emphasis Program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality, University of California at Berkeley, May 2001

Dissertation Topic: “The Construction of Dependency: Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) and Professional Social Work in Early Cold War America, 1946-1963”
- M.S.W. Columbia University, School of Social Work
Concentration in direct services to families and children
- B.A. Barnard College of Columbia University
Women Studies major, American History concentration

Postgraduate Center for Mental Health
Training program in psychotherapy

Academic Leadership Development

HERS Institute, Higher Education Leadership Development Program, Bryn Mawr, PA, July 2019.

CSWE Leadership Academy, Program Directors Training Academy, 2016-17.

Seminar Fellow, Department Executive Officers Seminar, Committee for Institutional Cooperation (The Big Ten Academic Alliance), IL, 2014

Academic Positions

Fall 2018-Present, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Rutgers University School of Social Work.

Located within a flagship, R1 state university, the Rutgers School of Social Work is a multi-site professional social work school offering four (BA, MSW, DSW, PhD) academic degree programs in multiple formats with a total enrollment of 2000 students.

Major responsibilities include

- Direct reports: Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Assistant Dean of Admissions, MSW and BASW Program Directors, Executive Director of Field Education, Assistant Dean of Part-Time Lecturer Development, Assessment Coordinator, campus coordinators (Newark and Camden) and course scheduling coordinators
- Lead implementation of RU SSW strategic plan in above offices
- Oversee assessment processes for BASW, MSW and DSW programs and CSWE compliance
- Develop and implement mentoring program for non-tenure track faculty and teaching development programming for all faculty.
- Lead integration of inclusive pedagogy model at SSW
- Lead implementation of enhanced licensing preparation initiative

Fall 2014-Summer 2018, Director MSW Program, School of Social Work, Rutgers University.

Selected Achievements include:

- Oversaw successful CSWE reaccreditation process and compliance
- Supervised directors of online and hybrid MSW programs during curricular and enrollment expansion
- Supervised director of MSW admissions (maintaining and exceeding targeted enrollment, development of merit awards,)
- Established community advisory committee.
- Led development of joint MSW/ MPP and MSW/MPH degrees

2012-2014, Founder and Director, Online MSW Programs, School of Social Work, Rutgers University.

2009-present, Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Social Work, Rutgers University

2002-2009, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Rutgers University

Fall 2001, Instructor, School of Social Work, Rutgers University

Peer Reviewed Publications

- Munch, S, McCoyd, J. & Curran, L. (in press). Medically high-risk pregnancy: Women's perceptions of their relationships with health care providers. *Social Work in Health Care*.
- McCoyd, J., Curran, L & Munch, S. (in press). "They say, 'If you don't relax... you're going to make something bad happen.'": Women's emotion management during medically high-risk pregnancy. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.
- Curran, L., Raymond Mayers-Sanchez, R., DiMarcantonio, L, & Fulghum, F. (2019). Schools of social work admissions policies regarding applicants with histories of criminal convictions. *Journal of Social Work Education*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/10437797.2019.1661903
- Mayers-Sanchez, R., Cuesta, L., Davis, R. & Curran, L. (2019). Developing a program for social work with Latino populations: A case study. *Social Work Education*, Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/02615479.2019.1660315
- Mayers-Sanchez, R., Schwartz, R., Curran, L. & Fulghum, F. (2019). Using a virtual agency to teach research. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 39(4/5), 477-488, doi: 10.1080/08841233.2019.1657219
- McCoyd, J. Munch, S. & Curran, L. (2018). On being a mother and patient: Dialectical struggles during medically high-risk pregnancy. *Infant Mental Health Journal*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1002/imhj.21744
- Curran, L., Mayers-Sanchez, R. & Fulghum, F. (2018). Employer hiring preferences in the human services. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance*, 42(1), 95-104. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23303131.2017.1375443>.
- Curran, L. McCoyd, J., Munch, S., & Wilkenfeld, B. (2017). Practicing maternal virtues prematurely: The phenomenology of maternal identity in medically complicated pregnancy. *Health Care for Women International*, 38(8), 813-832. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07399332.2017.1323904>
- Curran, L., Mayers-Sanchez, R. & Fulghum, F. (2017). Human service administrator perceptions of online MSW degree programs. 37(4) *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 385-401. Doi:[10.1080/08841233.2017.1342737](https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2017.1342737)

- Curran, L. & Abrams, L. (2011). Maternal identity negotiations among low-income women with postpartum depression. *Qualitative Health Research*, 21(3), 373-85.
- Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2009). "And you're telling me not to stress?" A grounded theory study of postpartum depression symptoms among low-income mothers. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 33(3), 351-362.
- Abrams, L., Doring, K. & Curran, L. (2009). Barriers to service use for postpartum depression symptoms among low-income ethnic minority mothers in the U.S. *Qualitative Health Research*, 19(4), 535-551.
- Curran, L. (2008). Longing to "belong:" Foster children in mid-century Philadelphia (1946-1963). *Journal of Social History*, 42(2), 425-445.
- Curran, L. & Pfeiffer, S. (2008). "You can't tie and untie love that fast:" Family preservation and reunification in midcentury Philadelphia. *Social Service Review*, 82(1), 62-91.
- Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2007). Not just a middle-affliction: Crafting a social work research agenda on postpartum depression. *Health & Social Work*, 32(4), 289-296.
- Curran, L. (2006). Feminine women, hard workers: Foster motherhood in midcentury America (1946-1963). *Journal of Family History*, 31(4), 386-412.
- Curran, L. (2005). Social work's revised maternalism: Mothers, workers, and welfare in early cold war America, 1946-1963. *Journal of Women's History*, 17(1), 112-136.
- Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2004). Between women: Gender and social work in historical perspective. *Social Service Review*, 78(3), 429-447.
- Curran, L. (2003). The culture of race, class, and poverty: The emergence of a cultural discourse in early cold war social work (1946-1963). *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 30(3), 15-38.
- Lee, R. & Curran, L. (2003). Serving the "hard-to-serve": The use of clinical knowledge in welfare reform. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 30(3), 59-78.
- Curran, L. (2003). Social work and fathers: Child support and fathering programs. *Social Work*, 48(2), 219-227.

Curran, L. (2002). The psychology of poverty: Professional social work and Aid to Dependent Children in postwar America, 1946-1963. *Social Service Review*, 76(3), 365-386.

Curran, L. & Abrams, L. (2000). Making men into dads: Fatherhood, the state, and welfare reform. *Gender & Society*, 14(5), 662-678.

Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2000). Wayward girls and virtuous women: Social workers and Female juvenile delinquency in the progressive era. *AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work*, 15(1), 49-64.

Peer Reviewed Publications Under Review

Schwartz, R., Curran, L. & Diksies, M. (revise and resubmit). Online social work education and the disinhibition effect

Curran, L., Mayers-Sanchez, R.S., DiMarcantonio, L., & Morales, C. (revise and resubmit). Behavioral Health and MSW Applicants.

Other Publications

Curran, L., Mayers-Sanchez, R. & Fulghum, F. (in press). Human service administrator perceptions of online MSW degree programs) In P. Kurzman. & M. Littlefield. (Eds.). *Online and Distance Social Work Education: Current Practice and Future Trends* (2020). New York & London: Routledge.

Mayers-Sanchez, R., Schwartz, R., Curran, L. & Fulghum, F. (in press). Using a virtual agency to teach research (chpts). In P. Kurzman & M. Littlefield (Eds.) *Online and Distance Social Work Education: Current Practice and Future Trends* (2020). New York & London: Routledge.

Curran, L. (2016). Review of the book *Fostering on the Farm: Child Placement in the Rural Midwest* by Megan Birk. *Social Service Review*. 90(1), 170–173.

Curran, L. (2014). Review of the book *Redefining rape: Sexual violence in the era of suffrage and segregation* by Estelle Freedman. *Affilia*. 29(3), 374-375.

Curran, L. (2011). Review of the book *Historical research* by Elizabeth Danto. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. 31(4), 472-474.

Curran, L (2008). Review of the book *Wives without husbands: Marriage, desertion & welfare in New York, 1900-1935* by Anna Igra. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 35(4).

- Curran, L. (2003). Foster care. In P. Fass (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of children and childhood: In history and society* (Vol. 2). New York: Macmillan Reference.
- Curran, L. (2003). Orphan Trains. In P. Fass (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of children and childhood: In history and society* (Vol. 2). New York: Macmillan Reference.
- Curran, L. (2003). *Caring for cold war children: Child protection, family poverty, and professional social work in mid-century America.*(Working paper). Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University.

Selected Conference Presentations

- McCoyd, J.L.M., Curran, L., & Munch, S. (2019, July). ‘If you cry, you’re going to have a crybaby’: Anxiety and (feared) fetal outcomes during medically high-risk pregnancy. Poster presented at the 9th International Conference on Health and Mental Health, York, England.
- McCoyd, J.L.M., Curran, L. & Munch, S. (2019, Jan.). “They say, ‘If you don’t relax,...you’re going to make something bad happen””: Emotion management and medically high-risk pregnancy. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Society for Social Work Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Curran, L., Sanchez-Mayers, R, & DiMarcantonio, L. (2018, Oct). MSW admissions and criminal justice involved applicants. Paper presented at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Orlando, FL
- Diksies, M. & Curran, L. (2018, Oct). Campus free speech debates: Implications for social work education. Workshop facilitated at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Orlando, FL
- Munch, S., McCoyd, J. L. M., Curran, L., & Harmon, C. (2018, May). Shining light on communications between women with medically high-risk pregnancy and their perinatal health care team. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers, Long Beach, CA.
- Curran, L., McCoyd, J.L.M. & Munch, S. (2017, January). Developing maternal identity during medically complicated pregnancy: Practicing maternal virtues prematurely. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.

- McCoyd, J.L.M. & Curran, L. (2016, June). Fetal bodies: The tensions and problems of desired pregnancies and abortion. Paper presented at the abortion and reproductive rights colloquium at IFHHCAR, Rutgers-New Brunswick.
- Curran, L. McCoyd, J. & Munch, S. (2016, May). 'By any means possible': Development of maternal identity while hospitalized for medically complicated pregnancy. Paper presented at the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers 40th Annual Conference, H.O.P.E.: Honoring our Perinatal Experience, Providence, RI.
- Curran, L. McCoyd, J. & Munch, S. (2016, January). 'Slap in the Face after Slap in the Face:' The Phenomenology of Medically Complicated Pregnancy. Poster presented at the 20th Annual Conference for the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, DC.
- Schwartz, R., Curran, L. & Diksies, M. (2016, Oct). Managing faculty-student interactions in a virtual context. Workshop facilitated at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- Curran, L., Sanchez-Mayers, R., Fulghrum, F. (2015, Oct). Social work administrators' perceptions of online degree programs Paper presented at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Denver, Co.
- Schwartz, R. & Curran, L. (2015, Oct). Facing attrition head on: Talking about attrition in online MSW programs. Paper presented at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Denver, Co.
- Lamar, M. Schwartz, R. & Curran, L. (2015, Oct). Field agency perceptions of online program and students. Paper presented at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Denver, Co.
- McCoyd, J.L.M., Munch, S., & Curran, L. (2015, May). Overwhelmed and Confused: How social workers may respond to women's needs during Medically Complicated Pregnancy. Presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Curran, L. (2014, June). Advances in foster care in the 1920s and 1930s. Paper presented at the Third International Conference on Practice Research. Silberman School of Social Work. NY, NY.
- Curran, L. & Schwartz, R. (2014, Oct). *Developing an online MSW program: A case study*. Paper presented at Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Tampa, FL.

- Curran, L. (2013, June). The Development of the U.S. Foster Care System in the 1920s and 1930s: The Voluntary and Public Sectors. Invited Speaker. Department of Social Security, Renmin University, Beijing China.
- Curran, L. (2013, June). The Development of the U.S. Foster Care System in the 1920s and 1930s: The Voluntary and Public Sectors. Invited Speaker. Paper presented at the Conference on Social Policy and Social Work Research. Nanki University, Tianjin, China.
- Curran, L. (2011, June). "Problem Children:" US Foster Care in the 1920s. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of children and Youth. NY, NY.
- Curran, L. (2011, November). *The Legacy of Foster Care in the U.S., 1924-1930*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association. Boston, MA.
- Curran, L. & Abrams, L. (2010 January). *Maternal Identity Negotiations among Low-Income Women with Postpartum Depression*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Curran, L. (2010 January). *Historicizing Social Work Research*. Symposium organizer. Symposium held at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2009, January). *A situated analysis of postpartum depression among mothers living in poverty*. Paper presented at annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Abrams, L. & Curran, L. (2008, January) "*Not the right help for me:*" *Barriers to service use for postpartum depression symptoms among low-income ethnic minority mothers*. Paper presented at annual meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.
- Curran, L. (2007, October). *Where's home: Foster children's experience of family preservation in mid-century America*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's annual program meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Abrams, L. S., & Curran, L. (2004, August). *Relations of reform: Women, gender, and social work in historical perspective*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco, CA
- Curran, L. (2002, October). *Cold war welfare: Mothers, children, and child protective services*

in mid-century America. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, St. Louis, MO.

Curran, L. (2002, February). *Women, work, and welfare: Social work, maternalism in early cold war America*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's annual program meeting, Nashville, TN.

Curran, L. (2001, November). *Representations of race, portraits of poverty: The emergence of a cultural discourse in postwar social work, 1946-1963*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL.

Curran, L. (2000, June). *Gender and social welfare policy: A pedagogical model*. Paper presented at the Politics, Policy, and Social Change meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Curran, L. & Abrams, L. (2000, February). *Fatherhood, the state, and welfare reform: Implications for gender equality*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's annual program meeting, New York, NY.

Teaching Experience

Courses taught at Rutgers University

Social Welfare Policy and Services I, (Historical foundations of US social welfare policy), Undergraduate and Graduate course, taught online and in classroom

Social Welfare Policy and Services II (Contemporary policy issues, analysis, and policy practice), Undergraduate course

Social Work Practice I, (Introduction to social work micro practice), Graduate course

Social Work Practice II, (Introduction to social work macro practice), Graduate course

Women's Issues, Graduate course, taught online and in classroom

Conceptual Foundations of Social Work and Social Welfare (U.S. social welfare policy in comparative perspective), Doctoral course

'*Mama Mia!: Conceptions and Constructions of Motherhood.*' (Byrne Seminar, Undergraduate Seminar for Rutgers University First Year Students)

Courses taught at University of California at Berkeley (Graduate Student Instructor):

Introduction to Social Work Practice. Undergraduate course

Introduction to Social Policy. Undergraduate course

The History of Childhood. Reader for joint undergraduate social welfare and history course.

Grants

Grant Recipient, Principal Investigator, Policy Practice in Field Education Initiative, Council on Social Work Education, 2016-17, \$11,786.25

Grant Recipient, Co-Investigator, “Medically Complicated Pregnancy and Maternal Experience and Development,” Rutgers University Research Council, 2012-2014, \$3900

Grant Recipient, Principal Investigator, Rutgers University Research Council, “The historical evolution of American foster care, 1925-1963,” 2009-2010, \$300 (to support photocopying of archival materials)

Grant Recipient, Principal Investigator, Rutgers University Research Council, “Factors Influencing Service Use for Postpartum Depression,” 2006-2007. \$1,500

Grant Recipient, Principal Investigator, The Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund Faculty Grant Award, “Children in crisis: Foster care in mid-century America,” 2004-2006. This competitive award provided \$17,083 in support.

Grant Recipient, Principal Investigator, Rutgers University Research Council, “Child protection in early cold war America,” 2002-2003. \$3000

Student Mentoring Activities

Supervised Research Assistantships at Rutgers University:

2002-present, supervise social work graduate students for non-credit research assistantship, including development of literature review, subject recruitment, data collection (qualitative interviewing), and human subject protection training.

2009-2013, mentor undergraduate students through Rutgers University Arresty Center for undergraduate training in research, supervise literature review, data collection and beginning data analysis.

2004-2006, doctoral candidate, history department Rutgers University, non-credit research assistantship, supervised data collection and analysis.

Doctoral Committees

Shukla, Shrivridhi (2018). A phenomenological inquiry of women living with HIV caring for family members living with HIV in India: Pathways through authoritative knowledge and self-efficacy towards resilience.

Gold, Sarah. (2018). Housing assistance and children's educational attainment: A longitudinal study.

Stein, Jill. (2018). Does industry sector matter? An examination of the relationship between industry-based employment, job availability, and recidivism

Honors and Awards

Phi Alpha Honor Society Faculty Inductee, 2010, Rutgers University School of Social Work

Seminar Fellow, The Center for Research on Women, Rutgers University, 2002-2003

Finalist, Soroptimist International, Founder Region Dissertation Fellowship, 2000

Completed Qualifying Exams Towards Ph.D. with Distinction, University of California at Berkeley, 1999

Regents Intern Fellow, University of California at Berkeley, 1996-2000

Cum Laude, Barnard College, 1990

Service to the Rutgers University Community

Rutgers University Level Service

Rutgers University Teaching Evaluation Council, Member 2019-present

Rutgers University Assessment Committee, Member, 2018-present

Rutgers University, New Brunswick Scheduling Working Group, 2018-present

Rutgers University Vice Chancellor's Academic Review Committee, Member, 2017-present

Rutgers University Technology and Teaching Committee, Member, 2014-16

Selected School of Social Work Service

Academic Leadership Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Member 2016-2018, Chair, 2018-present

Outcome Assessment Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Member, 2007-2008, 2009, 2014-2018, Chair 2018-present

Curriculum Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Chair 2014-2018, Member 2018-present

Teaching Evaluation Working Group, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Member 2019
Dean's Advisory Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Member, 2007-2008, 2013-present

Departmental Promotions and Review Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, peer review committee for promotion and tenure, Member 2009-present.

Departmental Promotions and Review Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, peer review committee for non-tenure track faculty, Member, 2016-present.

MSW Admissions Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Chair, 2014-2018

Faculty Search Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Member 2006-2007, 2014, 2015, Member, Chair 2016

Academic Restructuring Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, Chair 2014-2015

Member, Rules and Procedures Committee, Rutgers University School of Social Work, 2005

Lead Teacher, Social Welfare Policy and Services 1, Rutgers University School of Social Work, 2010-2018

Lead Teacher, Social Work Practice I, Rutgers University School of Social Work, 2008, 2009

Service to the Professional Community

Site Visitor, Council on Social Work Education, Fall 2019.

Member, Public Policy Committee, Mental Health Association of New Jersey, 2018-present

Abstract reviewer for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Abstract reviewer for Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Manuscript reviewer for peer reviewed journals and academic presses, 2002-present, including

Social Service Review

Journal of Marriage and the Family,

Families in Society

Affilia: The Journal of Women in Social Work

Sociological Forum

Gender & Society

Qualitative Health Review

Qualitative Social Work

Columbia University Press

Social Science and Medicine

Professional Practice Experience

Social Worker, The Family Stress Center, Concord, CA, 2000-2001

- Part-time counselor at counseling center serving child services involved families.
- Presenting problems include child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and psychiatric disabilities.

Social Worker, Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency, Oakland, CA, 1999

- Part-time social worker in community-based organization serving adults with psychiatric disabilities and chemical dependencies.
- Provided group counseling to program residents.

Social Worker, Talbot Perkins Children's Services, New York, NY, 1995-1996

- Social worker in child welfare prevention program primarily serving female-headed households.
- Presenting problems included child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, psychiatric disabilities, developmental disabilities, and AIDS/HIV related issues.

Psychotherapist, Postgraduate Center, New York, NY, 1995-1996

- Provided individual psychotherapy.
- Presenting problems included sexual abuse, domestic violence, depression, and anxiety.

Social Work Intern, Center for Families in Crisis, Brooklyn, NY, 1994-1995

- Acted as primary therapist for children, adolescents, and adults.
- Presenting problems included substance abuse, sexual abuse, depression, and anxiety.

Assistant Supervisor, Community Access, New York, NY, 1992-1994

- Assistant supervisor for supportive living program for individuals with psychiatric disabilities and chemical dependencies.
- Provided individual and group clinical supervision to staff and oversaw all administrative functions of program.

Team Leader, Community Access, New York, NY, 1991-1992

- Coordinated client services.
- Acted as liaison between staff and management.

Case Manager, Community Access, New York, NY, 1991

- Provided supportive counseling, ADL assistance, and crisis intervention for adults with psychiatric disabilities and chemical dependencies.

Professional Affiliations

Society for Social Work and Research
National Association of Social Workers
Council on Social Work Education

References Available Upon Request