



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The days are growing longer and sunnier, the birds are coming back, and the grass is greening up. I've been particularly eager for spring this year. While there wasn't a lot of snow, ours was a long, tough winter. We're all still collectively reeling from the loss of lives and sense of safety following the February 13, 2023 mass shooting here at MSU.

In the Consortium, we came together as a community to learn, listen, and act—viewing the national town hall on anti-trans legislation and social work education while writing our legislators about intersecting threats to our health, safety, and wellbeing as a result of gun violence, attacks on transgender rights, and political attempts to silence accurate, comprehensive education. While spring isn't a magical healing salve, it does offer the promise of new growth and important reminders about nature's resilience and tenacity.

We've also been buoyed over these past several months through insightful talks from leaders in SGM health and wellbeing research from across the country. This semester, we've hosted research lectures, trainings, and workshops featuring Ashley Currier, Dana Prince, and Brandon Andrew Robinson. You can read more about them and the focus of their work in this newsletter. Our recent spring social gathering at Strange Matter was also energizing and it was wonderful to connect with so many of you.

### Inside this issue:

- Presentations
- Invited Talks
- Courses
- Service Achievements
- Awards & Grants
- Publications
- Member Transitions
- Events & Engagement
- Spotlights & Social Media
- Donate!

We've also seeded new graduate student research projects, awarded excellence in SGM health faculty member research, launched a podcast and exciting new research collaborations—many of which cross academic institutions, are community-engaged, and interdisciplinary—and have begun planning a 2024 research convening focusing on “Unequal Care: Trans Medicine and Health in Dangerous Times.”

(continued on p. 3)





## SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS

Congrats to Dr. Carla A. Pfeffer, who was appointed to the Haslett Public School District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Leadership Team. Dr. Pfeffer also was named Editor in Chief of the interdisciplinary journal, *Fat Studies*. But that's not all for Dr. Pfeffer! She served as an invited grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation's Sociology Program, was nominated to run for Chair of the largest section of the American Sociological Association (Sex and Gender), and selected as a 2023-24 MSU Community-Engaged Research Fellow.



Congratulations to school of Criminal Justice PhD student and Consortium member, Vincent Liu, who was elected to be an Executive Counselor of the American Society of Criminology's Division on Queer Criminology (DQC). Vincent Liu also helped organize four thematic panels on queer criminology for the 2023 American Society of Criminology annual conference (to be held in November in Philadelphia, PA).

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR Cont.

We hope you will consider submitting a paper on this theme to the special issue of *Social Science and Medicine* that some of our members are guest editing; you can find that call in this newsletter. As spring is often a time of great change, we also honor and celebrate new members of our Consortium, as well as those who are off to new adventures, in our newsletter section on member transitions.

As you contemplate your plans for the summer and take in the crisp, fresh air of spring, I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of the Consortium for Sexual and Gender Minority Health community!



# Congratulations!

## Grant Recipient:

Congratulations to Consortium Faculty Member, Ning Hsieh, on being awarded a National Institutes of Health grant. The NIH grant is a two-year RO3 study funded at \$100,000. Dr. Hsieh will use these funds to support their research project, "Understanding Primary Care Utilization and Barriers to Care among Sexual and Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations." This project focuses on primary care disparities among sexual and gender minorities. Dr. Hsieh says the findings will lead to a better understanding of the particular challenges to care faced by specific socially-disadvantaged populations, as well as enhance their access, quality, and equality of care. The study will influence evidence-based interventions in clinical practices and public health policies to address health disparities and inequities at the intersection of sexual orientation and race/ethnicity.



**Ning Hsieh**

(any human pronouns)

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology





## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Hines, Sally, White, Francis R., Pearce, Ruth, Riggs, Damien W., & Pfeffer, Carla A. (in press).  
“Embodied Experiences of Trans Pregnancy.” *Body & Society*.

Riggs, Damien W., Hines, Sally, Pearce, Ruth, Pfeffer, Carla A., & White, Francis R. (in press).  
“Spuncles’, Uncles, and Fathers: Transmasculine People’s Accounts of Sperm Donors and Their Relationships to Children.” In Deborah Dempsey & Fiona Kelly (eds.), *Donor-linked Families in the Digital Age*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Pearce, Ruth, Hines, Sally, White, Francis R., Pfeffer, Carla A., and Ruspini, Elisabetta. (in press).  
“If a Man Gives Birth, He’s the Father – The Experiences of Trans Parents. In *The Conversation on Gender Diversity*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Riggs, Damien W., Pearce, Ruth, Hines, Sally, Pfeffer, Carla A., and White, Francis Ray. (in press)  
“Whiteness in Research on Trans/Masculine and Non-Binary People and Reproduction: Two Parallel Stories.” In Shirley Anne Tate, Catrin Lundström, Suvi Keskinen, and Rikke Andreassen (eds.), *Handbook on New Critical Race and Whiteness Theory*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

Riggs, Damien W., Pfeffer, Carla A., White, Francis R., Hines, S., & Pearce, R. (2023). “Men, Trans/Masculine and Non-Binary People’s Views About Pregnancy.” In Jane Usher (ed.), *Trans Reproductive and Sexual Health: Justice, Embodiment and Agency* (pp. 156-174). New York: Routledge.

Kynn, Jamie, Kattari, Leo, & Pfeffer, Carla A. (in press) “Queer.” In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Pfeffer, Carla A., & Kynn, Jamie. (in press) “Transgender People and Division of Labor.” In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Pfeffer, Carla A., & Kynn, Jamie. (in press) “Transgender Sexualities.” In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.



## Member Transitions and New Adventures

- Cathy Liu will be leaving MSU Sociology in Fall 2023, after 15 years on the MSU faculty and as one of the founding members of the Consortium. While she will be greatly missed, a huge congratulations to her as she will be serving as the Director of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University.
- Associate Professor in the School of Crimina Criminal Justice, Dr. Christina DeJong, will be retiring from MSU in 2023 and will be deeply missed here at MSU.
- School of Social Work PhD student, Haley Hill, left MSU in spring 2023 and we're missing their voice, insights, and energy.



- Congratulations to Amanda Osuna who is defending her dissertation in April 2023 and will be graduating over the summer. She has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Tampa for Fall 2023.
- Congratulations to Dr. Lucas Prieto on the successful defense of his dissertation, "Internalized Gay Ageism and Sexual Health among Older Gay Men," in February 2023. Dr. Prieto is graduating this May and has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA for Fall 2023.



Consortium undergraduate research assistant, Brooke Bandy, will be graduating MSU this Spring with a double major in Psychology and Public Policy and a minor in Leadership of Organizations. Brooke will be attending graduate school at Wayne State University to earn her Masters in Social Work with an emphasis on interpersonal practice and sexuality and gender studies. Brooke is very sad to be leaving the Consortium and MSU but hopes to work with the Consortium in the future!



## New Publications Cont.

Pfeffer, Carla A., & Bentley, Sterling. (in press) "Stealth (Transgender Passing)." In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Pfeffer, Carla A., White, Francis R., & Riggs, Damien W. (in press) "Masculinities and Pregnancy." In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Pfeffer, Carla A., Jones, Kierra B., & Pearce, Ruth. (in press) "Transgender Parenting." In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Holloway, Brendon T.; Hostetter, C. Riley; Morris, Karaya; Kynn, Jax; and Kilby, Maximillion (2023) ""We're All We Have": Envisioning the Future of Mutual Aid from Queer and Trans Perspectives," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 50: Iss. 1, Article 9.

Kynn, Jax, Boyke, Hannah, and Holloway, Brendon T. (in press). We'll Make Our Own Space: Making LGBTQ+ Spaces Accessible. In Kattari, S. K. (Ed.), *Exploring Sexuality and Disability: A Guide for Human Service Professionals*. Routledge.

Puckett, J. A., Dyar, C., Maroney, M. R., Mustanski, B., & Newcomb, M. E. (2023). Daily experiences of minority stress and mental health in transgender and gender-diverse individuals. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*. Advance online publication.

Puckett, J. A., Aboussouan, A. B., Ralston, A. L., Mustanski, B., & Newcomb, M. E. (2023). Systems of cissexism and the daily production of stress for transgender and gender diverse people. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 24, 113-126. DOI: 10.1080/26895269.2021.1937437

DuBois, L. Z., SturtzSreetharan, C, MacFife, B., Puckett, J. A., Jagielski, A., Dunn, T., Anderson, T., Hope, D. A., Mocarski, R., Juster, R.P. (2022). Trans and gender diverse people's experience wearing face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from data across 4 states in the USA. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. Advance online publication.

Haimson, O. L., & Marathe, M. (2023). Uncovering Personal Histories: A Technology-Mediated Approach to Eliciting Reflection on Identity Transitions. *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*, 30(2).





# Congratulations!

## College of Social Science 2023

## Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award

The Consortium is thrilled to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Heather McCauley on receiving the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award from Michigan State University's College of Social Science. This recognition is a testament to Dr. McCauley's hard work, dedication, and outstanding contributions to teaching in Social Work.

As a faculty and Consortium member, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to educating and mentoring students. Her innovative approaches to teaching and research have undoubtedly inspired countless individuals, and her contributions to the field of social work have helped make a positive impact on society.

Dr. McCauley's remarkable achievements have not gone unnoticed and this award is well-deserved recognition of her excellence in social work teaching and mentorship.



**Heather McCauley**

(she/her)

**Associate Professor**  
**School of Social Work**



# Consortium for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Newsletter

## SPRING 2023 CONSORTIUM SEED GRANTS & RESEARCH AWARDS



### Faculty Research Awardee

Dr. Jae Puckett has been awarded the Spring 2023 Faculty Research Award for their article, “Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals’ Daily Experiences of Rumination,” published in *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*



### Student Seed Grant Awardee

Caitlin Edwards has been awarded the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seed Grant for her proposal, “Adapting Emotionally Focused Therapy to Meet the Needs of LGBTQ+ Relationships.”



### Student Seed Grant Awardee

Leo Kattari has been awarded the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seed Grant for their proposal, “Motivators for Transgender and Gender Diverse Related Activism and Policy Action in the United States.”



### Student Seed Grant Awardee

Yuan Xiong has been awarded the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seed Grant for her proposal, “A Qualitative Study of Social Determinants of Health among Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People in China.”

Thanks so much to Deirdre Shires (Chair), Andrea Kelley, Ning Hsieh, and Jax Kynn for serving as proposal reviewers in Spring 2023!



College of Social Science  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



School of Social Work  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



## CONSORTIUM SPEAKER SERIES

SPONSORED BY:



CONSORTIUM FOR  
**SEXUAL & GENDER  
MINORITY HEALTH**

# ASHLEY CURRIER

**"Missing Mobilizations: Explaining the  
Invisibility of Anti-Carceral Sexual  
Violence Organizing in Southern Africa"**



**KELLOGG AUDITORIUM  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

Dr. Ashley Currier (she/her) is Professor and Head of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Currier's research focuses on gender and sexual diversity politics in southern and West Africa, including feminist, HIV/AIDS, human rights, LGBTQ rights, prisoner rights, and sex worker rights activism and politicized homophobia.

Carceral sexual violence is a social problem that exists in an interstice between social movements in different southern African countries. Few social movement organizations in southern Africa take up carceral sexual violence as an issue. Instead, activist organizations typically address sexual violence that happens outside of carceral contexts. In this way, prison walls lock survivors of carceral sexual violence out of representation in diverse social movements. This presentation, drawing on original archival and qualitative field research in Malawi and Namibia, approaches carceral sexual violence as an unpopular social problem that creates interconnected dilemmas for activists in different southern African social movements to theorize "missing mobilizations" against carceral sexual violence in the region. This lecture is free and open to the public.



Image: Ashley Currier event. Pictured in image left to right: Heather McCauley (Social Work), Carla A. Pfeffer (Social Work), Ashley Currier, Anne Hughes (Social Work), Deirdre Shires (Social Work), and Robin Miller (Psychology)





CONSORTIUM SPEAKER SERIES

**CHANGING HUMAN SERVICE  
SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT SEXUAL  
AND GENDER MINORITY  
YOUTH (SGMY) THRIVING**

**Dr. Dana M. Prince, PhD, MPH**



In this talk, Dr. Prince will share insights and findings from her federally funded research with diverse stakeholders, including child welfare and juvenile court, SGMY with lived experience in these systems, and SGMY-serving community based agencies, to transform systems and support SGMY thriving.

**Dr. Prince** (she/her) is Associate Professor in the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). Her research to develop, test, and evaluate multi-level interventions for sexual and gender minority youth involved in public systems has been funded by NIH-NIMHD, ACF, and internal mechanisms at CWRU. Dr. Prince is a queer femme researcher dedicated to advancing equity and justice for sexual and gender minority youth (SGMY) involved in public systems.

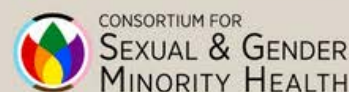


**Date: March 16th**

**Time: 4-5pm**

**Location: 221 Baker Hall**

Attend In person or online via Zoom  
This event is free & open to all



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CONSORTIUM SPEAKER SERIES

# A Values-Based Approach to Grant Writing Workshop

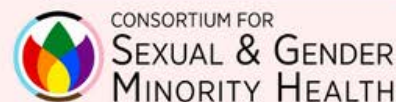
**Dana M. Prince**, PhD, MPH (she/her) is an Associate Professor at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University



## What you'll learn:

- The 'art' of grant writing, especially for federal mechanisms, often focuses on the procedural steps to take, e.g. investigate what other types of research in your area have been funded and by whom; review successful proposals from colleagues; reach out early to the program officer; establish a timeline and 'daily writing practice.'
- While important, the procedural knowledge does not address the relationship of you (the researcher) to your scholarship or your values in research.
- Learn an alternative approach to thinking about grant writing; as a process of identifying and grounding in your own authentic relationship with your work, your values, and your future vision.
- Writing research grants from a values-based perspective builds confidence and motivation for the writing process.

Friday, March  
17th 3pm-5pm  
221 Baker Hall  
Attend in person or  
online via the QR Code  
below



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## CONSORTIUM SPEAKER SERIES

### Aunties, Aunts, and Tías:

#### The Forgotten Queer Figure Supporting & Housing LGBTQ Youth



**Dr. Brandon Andrew Robinson** (they/them) is Chair and Associate Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of California, Riverside. They are the author of *Coming Out to the Streets: LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness* and the coauthor of *Race & Sexuality*. Currently, Dr. Robinson is working on the Family, Housing, and Me Project with co-PI Amy Stone (Trinity University). Dr. Robinson is also working on their next book project *Trans Jouissance: Gender Liberation and the Abolition of Sexual Identities*.



LGBTQ youth disproportionately make up the population of youth experiencing housing instability, and studies and programs addressing this issue often overfocus on parental rejection as the cause of the LGBTQ youth's housing instability. By only focusing on parents, this previous work misses how non-parental relatives may provide support, housing stability, and safety for LGBTQ youth. Based on an ongoing mixed methods longitudinal study with 83 LGBTQ youth in South Texas and the Inland Empire of California, this talk intervenes by moving beyond the parent-child relationship to examining how aunts' supportive practices shape LGBTQ youth's experiences of housing stability and sense of safety. Notably, critical aunty studies has theorized the aunt as a queer figure that disrupts notions of the nuclear family. The findings in this study empirically demonstrate how LGBTQ-supportive auntying practices – such as educating other family members about LGBTQ people, using correct pronouns and names, and taking in and housing an LGBTQ sibling – actively challenge cisheteronormativity in the natal home. These supportive auntying practices can serve as a stopgap from LGBTQ youth ending up on the streets or in shelters. This study moves forward, then, sociological research on family processes and social support by not focusing on parent-child relationships or LGBTQ “families of choice” to instead examining how the roles and practices of aunts and auntying can support LGBTQ youth, disrupt cisheteronormativity in the family, and prevent LGBTQ youth from becoming unhoused.

THIS ZOOM WEBINAR IS FREE & OPEN TO ALL



FRIDAY,  
APRIL 14TH, 2023  
1:00PM - 2:00PM



CONSORTIUM FOR  
SEXUAL & GENDER  
MINORITY HEALTH

SCAN ME!  
FOR WEBINAR LINK





## Spring Social Event

The Consortium was very happy to host an extremely successful Spring Social event at Strange Matter Coffee.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to our spring social event hosted by Strange Matter Coffee in Lansing. Your presence made this event a truly special and memorable one.

We hope you had a great time connecting with others, enjoying the delicious food and drinks, and soaking up the warm and welcoming atmosphere. We are grateful to Strange Matter Coffee for providing such a fantastic venue and for their support of our efforts to promote LGBTQ+ health equity.

We were thrilled to see so many students, faculty, and friends of the Consortium for Sexual and Gender Minority Health come together to share experiences, network, and build community. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to meet new people who share our passion for advancing the health and well-being of the queer community.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to attend our spring social event. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.



## Presentations

Carla A. Pfeffer delivered a talk, “Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming (TGNC) Pregnancy and the Importance of Social and Healthcare Worker Support and Education,” (paper co-authored by Sally Hines, Ruth Pearce, Damien W. Riggs, Elisabetta Ruspini, and Francis Ray White) at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, Arizona. January, 2023.

Carla A. Pfeffer had a talk, “Understanding and Preventing Domestic Violence: Insights from a Study with Trans Birth Parents,” (paper co-authored with Ruth Pearce, Sally Hines, Damien W. Riggs, and Francis Ray White) accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health, Killarney, Ireland. April, 2023.

## Invited Talks

Carla A. Pfeffer will be an invited panelist (focusing on reproductive health and justice) for the Duke University Sexual and Gender Minority Wellness Program's annual symposium in September 2023

Carla A. Pfeffer gave a guest lecture on “Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) Pregnancy: The Importance of Healthcare Provider Support and Education” to Stacy Smith's Sex, Gender, and Sexuality class in the Department of Sociology.

## SGM Health-Related Courses

Carla A. Pfeffer will be teaching SW 491:738 - Queering Social Work: LBGTQIA+ Community & Social Justice during the Summer I (May 15-June 29) semester. The course is fully online, asynchronous, and open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

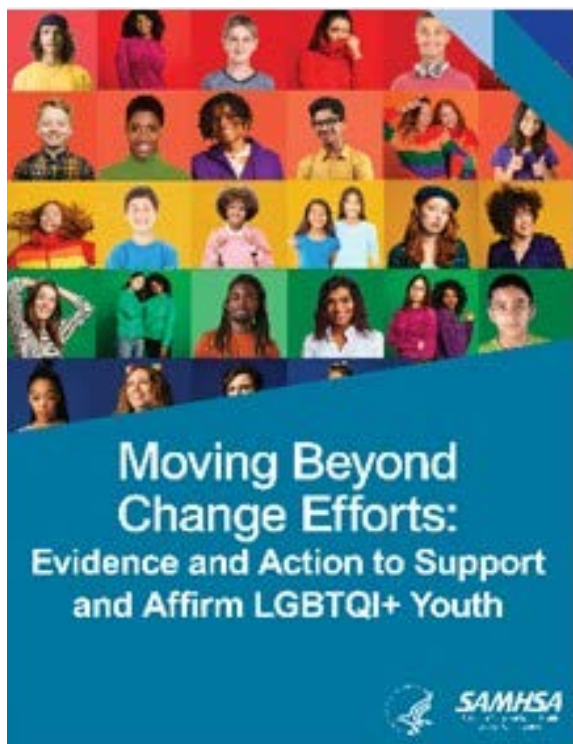




## **MOVING BEYOND CHANGE EFFORTS**

In wonderful and eagerly-anticipated news, *Moving Beyond Change Efforts: Evidence and Action to Support and Affirm LGBTQI+ Youth* was released March 31st – on Transgender Day of Visibility. It's now available on SAMHSA's website [here](#).

The White House Fact Sheet issued March 31st, 2023 highlights the report and provides a direct link to it within the 3rd paragraph: FACT SHEET: [White House Honors Transgender Day of Visibility](#) | The White House. The professional expertise of an expert consensus panel collaborated in developing the report (including our own Robin Miller, who provided the evidence reviews on conversion therapy for it and its predecessor version and that are summarized in the report).

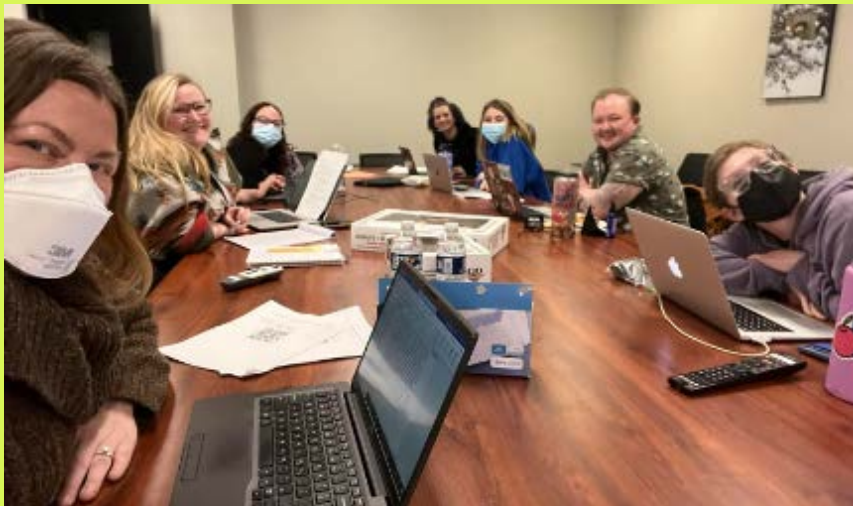


- Provides an updated evidence-based roadmap for supporting and affirming LGBTQI+ youth.
- Comprehensively reviews key scientific studies, guidelines from major medical and other professional associations, and implications for clinical care.
- Offers guidance and highlights resources for health care providers, educators, families, community leaders, and others – to reduce behavioral health inequities facing LGBTQI+ youth and their families.
- Explores policy levers and future research areas that can improve the behavioral health of LGBTQI+ youth.



# Community Engagement

The Consortium was very happy to cosponsor a Town Hall on Anti-Trans Policies & Social Work Education. This photo features faculty and students writing their legislators. Pictured left to right: Dr Carla A. Pfeffer, Amanda Patty, Julia McClellan, Victoria Hay, Rachel Wishop, Sterling Bentley, and Jax Kynn (not pictured: Ryann Kaplan).



Dr. Jae Puckett and graduate student Kalei Glozier gave a presentation at the Allen Neighborhood Center in February 2023 on "Discrimination and Policy Issues Impacting Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals."



Graduate student Kalei Glozier and Trans-ience lab member Kye Campbell-Fox gave a training on pronouns and basics of trans inclusivity to employees at Turner Construction in Altoona, Iowa on January 20, 2023.

## Trans-ience

The Transgender Stress and Resilience Research Team



## #LGBTWellness Roundup

### Podcast features Dr. Jae Puckett



Consortium member, Dr. Jae Puckett, was the guest in a podcast episode of LGBTWellness Roundup. They spoke about a range of topics related to mental health and the LGBTQ+ community. Here's a brief summary of some of the key points discussed:

- Dr. Puckett emphasized the importance of acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges that LGBTQ+ individuals face in society, such as discrimination, stigma, and microaggressions. These experiences can contribute to higher rates of mental health issues among the LGBTQ+ community.
- The discussion also touched on the intersectionality of identity, and how LGBTQ+ individuals who hold multiple marginalized identities (such as being a person of color and a transgender person) may face even more challenges in terms of mental health and well-being.
- Dr. Puckett shared some practical tips and strategies for LGBTQ+ individuals to prioritize their mental health, such as finding supportive communities, practicing self-care, and seeking professional help when needed.
- The conversation also covered the importance of mental health professionals being knowledgeable and culturally competent in working with LGBTQ+ clients, and how therapy can be a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ individuals to process their experiences and challenges.

Overall, the episode highlighted the importance of promoting mental health and well-being within the LGBTQ+ community, and the need for mental health professionals to be supportive and informed allies for this population. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).





## Advocacy in Action - Advocacy Day

The Advocacy in Action event was hosted by the MSU School of Social Work on April 20th, 2023, and featured several Consortium members. The event included various talks, panels, and activities focused on social justice and advocacy, as well as a book raffle and advocacy tables.

Some of the notable speakers included Duane Breijak, LMSW-Macro, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Michigan Chapter, who discussed legislative priorities for the social work field in Michigan and ways to get involved in advocacy efforts, and Dr. Heather McCauley, Associate Professor at the MSU School of Social Work and Consortium member, who presented on SPARK Research for Social Change, an interdisciplinary research group aimed at ending violence in all its forms.

Leo Kattari, MSW, PhD Candidate at the MSU School of Social Work and Consortium member, led an interactive workshop on advocacy through storytelling, and Dr. Anne Hughes, Consortium co-founder and member and Director of the MSU School of Social Work, provided closing remarks.



Consortium member Sterling Bentley and Polina Naumova, both MSW Candidates, were part of the 2023 Campaign School Participant Panel, and Dr. Anna Maria Santiago, Professor of Community Practice, discussed the role of the activist social work scholar in advocating for social justice in vulnerable and marginalized communities.



# Congratulations!

## Outstanding Article Award

Dr. stef shuster, assistant professor in sociology at MSU, has won the Outstanding Paper Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Theory Division for their paper, "Reducing the Joy Deficit in Sociology: A Study of Transgender Joy." The paper, written with Dr. Laurel Westbrook, Professor of Sociology at Grand Valley State University, focuses on the experiences of joy among transgender and people, an area of research that has been largely overlooked in sociology.

Joy is an important aspect of trans people's experience and understanding and celebrating joy can be a critical tool for reducing social stigma and promoting social acceptance. Dr. shuster's research has important implications for the field of sociology, which has traditionally focused on negative experiences of marginalized groups, and for advocacy efforts aimed at promoting trans people's rights and wellbeing. Learn more about Dr. shuster's award-winning paper and research [here!](#)



stef shuster  
(they/them)

**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Sociology**





# Black History Month Spotlight

Although work on Black SGM health and wellbeing should be highlighted every day, the MSU Consortium for SGM Health celebrates Black History Month. We took time throughout the month of February to highlight the work of Consortium members in this area.



**Dr. LeConté  
J. Dill**  
she/her

Dr. Dill is a broadly-published and nationally-recognized expert on the health and wellbeing of urban Black girls, femmes, and youth of color and her research has been disseminated across both scholarly and public venues.



Learn more about Dr. Dill and all of her amazing work on her website here.



**Dr. Kas  
Anderson-  
Carpenter**  
he/him

Dr. Anderson-Carpenter's work focuses on conditions in which we live, grow, work, and play and how these have a profound effect on our health and wellbeing.



Learn more about Dr. Anderson-Carpenter and all of his amazing work here.

## Invited Talks Cont.

Jae Puckett is an invited speaker for the 70th annual Nebraska Symposium on motivation: In our GRIT, our Glory: Gender Resilience, Integration, and Transformation. Their specific presentation will be on resilience in trans and nonbinary communities.

Jae Puckett will be giving a UMass Boston Clinical Psychology Colloquium presentation on April 11th, 2023 titled, "Wondering if it'll Ever be Safe to Move Home: Sociopolitical Contexts and Mental Health in Transgender and Gender Diverse Communities."



## MSU Today Coverage of Dr. Jae Puckett's Article

MSU Today published coverage of an article written by Dr. Jae Puckett. Dr. Puckett is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University, and co-director of the Trans-ience Lab, which is an interdisciplinary research group that focuses on the experiences and needs of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Dr. Puckett and the Trans-ience lab have outlined six recommendations for reducing healthcare barriers faced by transgender patients. The recommendations are based on a study that surveyed over 300 transgender and gender-diverse individuals in Michigan about their experiences with healthcare providers.

The study found that many transgender individuals faced barriers to healthcare, including discrimination, lack of knowledge and training among healthcare providers, and lack of access to gender-affirming care. The lab's involvement in the study suggests that the six recommendations are informed by a rigorous and interdisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing the healthcare barriers faced by transgender individuals. By implementing these six recommendations, the researchers hope to improve the quality of care for transgender patients and reduce these barriers.

You can read MSU Today's full coverage of the article [here](#).

## The Six Recommendations

### Trans-ience

The Transgender Stress and Resilience Research Team

- Training for healthcare providers: Healthcare providers should receive comprehensive training on transgender health issues and cultural competency.
- Access to gender-affirming care: Transgender patients should have access to gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy and surgery, when medically necessary.
- Insurance coverage: Insurance policies should cover gender-affirming care and other healthcare needs of transgender patients.
- Nondiscrimination policies: Healthcare facilities should have nondiscrimination policies that explicitly protect transgender patients from discrimination.
- Transgender representation: Healthcare facilities should hire transgender individuals and include them in decision-making processes.
- Community partnerships: Healthcare facilities should partner with local transgender communities to better understand their needs and provide more effective care.





## PODCAST IN PROGRESS

The Consortium is making a podcast! We want to share the incredible work that our students and faculty do, and we need YOUR help.

Each episode will feature a Consortium member (or two!) or a guest whose work focuses on SGM health; it will be less of an “interview” and more of a discussion about your work or interests that you are passionate about.

If you want to tell someone about how interesting and important your work is, even if it is in the nascent stages, you are a great candidate to be an episode guest.



Jax Kynn is engineering, recording, and editing the episodes and they will provide guidance and support throughout the process. Reach out to Jax ([kynnjami@msu.edu](mailto:kynnjami@msu.edu)) if you want to learn more or volunteer! Guests are always welcome to bring a friend or colleague



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# Thank You for Your Support!

At the MSU Consortium for Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Health is to create a world where all sexual and gender minority communities thrive. Your funds will help promote the wellbeing of sexual and gender minorities across the lifespan by supporting Consortium faculty and students as they engage in research, teaching, and community collaborations related to SGM health issues.

Our goals include:

- Conducting research to identify and address health disparities among sexual and gender minority populations: The consortium aims to advance understanding of the unique health needs and challenges faced by sexual and gender minority populations and to develop interventions to reduce health disparities.
- Educating healthcare providers, researchers, and the public on sexual and gender minority health: The CSGMH provides training and educational resources to healthcare providers, researchers, and community members to improve their understanding of sexual and gender minority health issues and promote cultural competency.
- Advocating for policies that support sexual and gender minority health: The consortium works to raise awareness of sexual and gender minority health disparities and to advocate for policies that promote equity and access to healthcare for sexual and gender minority populations.

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