


Ari S. Gzesh

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice 2025
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare, awarded with distinction

Dissertation: *“Let's care for our bodies, let's care for each other”: Transmasculine strategies for navigating stigma, health communication, and collective care*

Committee: *Dr. Abigail Ross (chair), Dr. Sarah Wood, Dr. Stephen Bonett, Dr. Sharon Ravitch, Dr. Dana Prince*

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine anticipated May, 2026
Certificate in Implementation Science

Columbia University of New York School of Social Work 2019
Master of Science in Social Work
Advanced Clinical Practice with specialization in Family, Youth & Children

Bryn Mawr College 2012
Bachelor of Arts
History of Art Major and English Minor, focus in Gender and Sexuality Studies, graduated with honors

RESEARCH INTERESTS

transgender health, LGBTQ+ health disparities, HIV prevention, substance use, harm reduction, mutual aid, intersectionality, critical health literacy, medical mistrust, structural stigma, queer kinship, social support, gender-affirming care, moral distress, health communication, qualitative methods, community engagement

PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC POSITION

Tenure-track Assistant Professor August, 2025
Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College - CUNY, New York, NY

GRANT FUNDING & TRAINING AWARDS

Research Funding

Understanding Psychosocial and Behavioral Constructs Related to PrEP Interest Among Trans-Masculine People Assigned Female at Birth, funded through the Penn Mental Health AIDS Research Center (PMHARC), an NIH-funded program (P30 MH 097488). Total Support: \$30,000.
Role: Principal Investigator.

Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative Summer Scholarship, in partnership with the Penn Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics. 2024. Total Support: \$6,375. Role: Principal Investigator.

Leonard Davis Institute LGBTQ+ Research Proposal Award, Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health & Penn Medicine Center for Evidence-Based Practice (CEP). 2023. Total Support: \$6,375. Role: Principal Investigator.

Examining Attitudes Towards the Measurement, Collection, Storage, and Use of Data about Gender Identity in Children, Adolescents, and Their Caregivers, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Health Systems and Policy Small Grants Awards. 2022. Total Support: \$20,000. Role: Co-Investigator.

Training Awards

“Stronger Together: Stakeholder-Engaged Research Summer Institute in HIV Prevention, Testing, and Treatment,” UCLA CDU Center for AIDS Research Summer Institute, 2025. Total Support: \$1,000.

Marymount Fellowship, nominated by faculty at School of Social Policy & Practice, selected from applicant pool across twelve graduate schools by University of Pennsylvania faculty committee, 2022-24. Total Support: \$5,000 per year.

Summer Innovation Institute on Collaborative Design & Co-Creation for Health Scholarship, Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative and Penn Nursing, 2024. Total Support: \$1,500.

Leadership Education in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Training Award in System Dynamics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 2023. Total Support: \$2,700.

Graduate Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, UPenn Center for Teaching, Learning, & Innovation, 2023-24. Total Support: \$6,500 per year.

Leadership Education in Adolescent and Young Adult Health Fellowship, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 2022-24. Total Support: \$9,882 per year.

Other Funding & Awards

Hunter Travel Award. Hunter College CUNY. 2025. Total Support: \$1,500.

Words of Healing for our Younger Selves, 1st Place, Journal of Adolescent Health Intersection Contest. 2023. Total Support: \$500.

Leboy-Davies Award, Honorable Mention, University of Pennsylvania Center for Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies. 2023. Total Support: \$500.

Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grant, Facing History and Ourselves. 2017. Total Support: \$2,500.

Fulbright-Hays Seminar Through the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California Berkeley. 2016. Total Support: \$80,059.

Innovation Award, Teach for America. 2015-2016. Total Support: \$10,000.

Civic Engagement Office Praxis Grant, Bryn Mawr College. 2012. Total Support: \$5,000.

Hepburn Center Summer Funding Grant, Bryn Mawr College. 2011. Total Support: \$7,000.

CARE National Conference Ambassador, Bryn Mawr College. 2011. Total Support: \$600.

Center for Peace & Global Citizenship Internship Funding, Haverford College. 2010. Total Support: \$6,500.

Stories That Live Grant, Holocaust Storytelling Fellowship. 2009-2010. Total Support: \$2,000.

Applications in Process or Not Awarded

Improving Implementation of the PrEP Cascade in Primary Care for Adolescents in Pennsylvania (under review). University of Pennsylvania Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), an NIH-funded program (P30 AI 045008). Total Award: \$50,000; Hunter subcontract allocation: pending. Role: Co-Principal Investigator.

Who's Your Daddy? How Queer Elders Influence Future Orientation and Harm Reduction Practices Among Transmasculine People (under review). CUNY PSC Tier 1. Total Award: \$7,000. Role: Principal Investigator.

AI Companions and Adolescent Well-Being: Understanding Chatbot Use Among LGBTQ+ Youth (not awarded). HopeLab Foundation. Total Support: \$10,000. Role: Co-Principal Investigator.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts Published & In Press

1. Rider-Longmaid, E., Lett, E., **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Dowshen, N. (in press). Learning in the Shadow of Legislation: The Impact of Anti-Transgender Legislation on Adolescent Medicine Fellows' Training Experiences and Future Practice. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
2. **Gzesh, A.**, Truel, J. S., Adams, D. R., Zabotka, L., Malone, S., & Nolan, N. S. (2025). Understanding the role of street medicine in harm reduction: A case study of Street Medicine St. Louis. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 22(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-025-01313-w>.
3. **Gzesh, A. S.**, Prince, D., Jelinek, S. K., Hillier, A., Kattari, S. K., Shelton, J., & Paceley, M. S. (2024). "Death threats and despair": A conceptual model delineating moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 9, 100867. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.100867>.
4. **Gzesh, A. S.**, Jelinek, S. K., & Arrington Sanders, R. (2024). Rainbow resilience: Addressing the mental health needs of sexual- and gender-diverse youth. *Contemporary Pediatrics*, 40(02).
5. DelFerro, J., Whelihan, J., Min, J., Powell, M., DiFiore, G., **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., Schwartz, K. T. G., Davis, M., Jones, J. D., Fiks, A. G., Jenssen, B. P., & Wood, S. (2024). The role of family support in moderating mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth in primary care. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 178(9), 914-922. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.1956>
6. Kynn, J., Boyke, H., McCarthy, S., & **Gzesh, A. S.** (2024). Structural vulnerabilities and over-criminalization of LGBTQ+ youth in the California justice system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 107586. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107586>
7. Jelinek, S. K., **Gzesh, A. S.**, & Whelihan, J. T., Jr (2024). Queer-affirming mentorship: a catalyst for change and a challenge to power structures. *Academic medicine: journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, 99(6), e17–e18. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0000000000005536>
8. **Gzesh, A. S.** (2023). Words of healing for our younger selves. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.04.020>
9. Grishow-Schade, L., Hillier, A., **Gzesh, A. S.**, & Thompson, M. G. (2023). Breadcrumbs for family:

How gender nonconforming, non-binary, and transgender adults give and receive gender messages. *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/27703371.2023.2208046>

10. **Gzesh, A.** (2022). Queering kinship: Biopolitics, the death function, and transcendent capacity. *NEOS* 14 (2).
11. Bozak, C. & **Gzesh, A.** (2022). Teaching tool: Queering kinship: Biopolitics, the death function, and transcendent capacity. *NEOS* 14 (2).
12. Greeson, J.K.P., **Gzesh, A.S.**, Wasch, S., Jaffee, S.R, Ciluffo, K. (2022) “Just being there, like a shoulder to lean on”: Resilience and mental health among older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-022-00498-7>.
13. Nagy, A., Lyons, A., Arendt, A., **Gzesh, S.** (2022). Research socialization in participatory projects: a trans-Atlantic exchange between the US and Europe. Forschungssozialisation(en) in partizipativen Projekten: Ein transatlantischer Austausch zwischen den USA und Europa. Beitrag in „*Widersprüche*“ Heft 166.

Book Chapters and Other Publications

1. **Gzesh, A.**, Kattari, S., Juarez, N., & Meyer, M. (2024). A (very brief) history of disability and sexuality policy. In S. Kattari (Ed) *Exploring Sexuality and Disability: A guide for human service professionals* (pp. 13–27). New York, NY: Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003308331-3.
2. **Gzesh, A.** (2023). Invited foreword. Published in *Rosine 2.0: Futures and Histories of Collective Care*. Swarthmore College Libraries.

Manuscripts Under Review & In Revision

1. Ghabrial, M., **Gzesh, A.**, Reisner, S., Meyer, I., Herman, J., Korkodilos, R., & Katz-Wise, S. (under review). An intersectional investigation of mental and physical health inequities among transgender and nonbinary young adults: Application of decision tree methodology.
2. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Mayer, L., Hawkins, L., & Dowshen, N. (under review). Inclusivity and affirmation: insights from patient and family experience surveys from a large pediatric health system.
3. Christensen, M. C., Kattari, S. K., Korpak, A. K., Gzesh, A., Lacombe-Duncan, A., Morehead, E., Harrop, E., Gardener, H., Crate, H., Leitch, J., Reeder, K. G., Wernick, L. J., Chen, M., Hafen, Q., Polasek, Q., Singh, R. C. B., Luxmikanthan, S., & Ferguson, Z. (in revision). Queering and Transing social work: Imagining queer and trans futures.
4. Jelinek, S., DelFerro, D., Whelihan, J., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (in revision). Inclusion & privacy in practice: examination of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and confidentiality concerns among LGBTQ+ adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network.
5. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (in revision). Navigating murky waters: A case report on ethical dilemmas and moral distress in communicating and documenting sexual orientation and gender identity in adolescents.

Manuscripts In Preparation

1. **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Ross, A. “We’re not even in the picture”: Transmasculine critiques and reimaginings of PrEP marketing.
2. **Gzesh, A.** “Reddit is my doctor”: The role of social networks and social media in accessing and

appraising health information among transmasculine individuals.

3. **Gzesh, A.** “You grate your teeth and bite your tongue”: The role of stigma in engendering medical mistrust among transmasculine people.
4. **Gzesh, A.** “Either we’re killed or we die by suicide”: Exploring the relationship between future orientation and uptake of harm reduction.
5. Sanders, R., Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Dowshen, N., Wirtz, A., Mariño Clyne, & Galai, N. Disparities in HIV prevention: a study of PrEP awareness and usage in gender-minority adolescents and young adults.
6. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Whelihan, J., DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Arrington Sanders, R. Understanding predictors of PrEP interest among sexually active adolescents in a large primary care network.
7. Prince, D., Roberts, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Schuler, M., & Munson, M. Peer support services for sexual and gender minority youth with behavioral health needs: a scoping review.
8. **Gzesh, A.**, Prince, D., Paceley, M., & Shelton, J. From gate-keeping to safeguarding: Recommendations for navigational capacity-building in accessing gender-affirming care.
9. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., & Hughes, L. Between oath and legislation: navigating bioethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation.
10. Paceley, M., Roman-Hampton, V., Meehan, Q., Bishop, M., Evans, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Kynn, J., Fish, J., & Ianoco, G. “Being a safe place at home”: the impact of the current sociopolitical climate on TGE youth and parents and parental strategies to mitigate harm.
11. Evans, S., Meehan, Q., Paceley, M.S., **Gzesh, A.**, Jen, S., & Carolan, K. Queer and Trans Disabled Imagined Futures as Resistance to a Hostile Sociopolitical Climate: An Arts-Based Disability, Sexual, and Gender Justice Study.
12. **Gzesh, A.**, and Reeder, K. Transgender and nonbinary youth and access to medical care. In S. Kattari (Ed) Social Work and Health Care Practice with Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals and Communities. New York, NY: Routledge.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

1. **Gzesh A.** (2025, November). Holding the Line or Holding the Client? Navigating Moral Distress in Restrictive Care Environments. Invited presentation at the Interprofessional Collaboration and Ethical Decision-Making Symposium, Cabrini-Hunter Fellowship Program. New York, NY.
2. **Gzesh A.** (2025, May). Stigma, Mental Health, and HIV Prevention: Syndemic Forces Shaping Transmasculine Health. Invited presentation at the University of Pennsylvania Mental Health and AIDS Research Center. Philadelphia, PA.
3. **Gzesh A.** (2025, February). Structural Stigma, Anticipated Stigma, and Medical Mistrust among Transmasculine People: Implications for HIV Prevention and Coordinated Care. Invited presentation to the City of Philadelphia HIV Integrated Planning Council. Philadelphia, PA.
4. **Gzesh A.** (2025, January). Understanding psychosocial and behavioral constructs related to PrEP interest among trans-masculine people assigned female at birth. Invited presentation at the NIMH Joint Seminar Series. Virtual.
5. Halem, J., **Gzesh, A.**, Flores, D., Hillier, A. & Bassett, D. (2024, March). “New perspectives on gender and sexuality in medicine and science.” Invited panelist at University of Pennsylvania’s Center for

Research in Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies 50th Anniversary Symposium. Philadelphia, PA.

6. **Gzesh, A.** & Jelinek, S. (2024, January). QCARE Lab: LGBTQ+ Collaborative for Advocacy, Research, and Education. Invited presentation at the National Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Conference. Virtual.
7. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, April). Intentional affirmation: public health considerations for visibility, confidentiality, and support of LGBTQ+ youth and their families. Invited presentation to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Harrisburg, PA.
8. **Gzesh, A.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., Ciluffo, K., & Jaffee, S. (2022, May). Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and resiliency of older youth in and aged out of foster care. Invited presentation at the FC2C Statewide Network Quarterly Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
9. **Gzesh, A.**, Eskridge, S., Briere, X. (2020, October). Creating safe and affirming systems of care for LGBTQ children, youth, and families. Invited presentation at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Conference. Virtual.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

1. Rider-Longmaid, E., Lett, E., **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Dowshen, N. (accepted for March, 2026). Under pressure: How anti-transgender legislation impacts the future of adolescent medicine and gender-affirming care. Oral presentation at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Conference. Seattle, WA.
2. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Arrington Sanders, R. (accepted for March, 2026). Structural vulnerabilities, not perceived risk, drive PrEP uptake in Black and Latinx transgender and nonbinary youth. Poster at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Conference. Seattle, WA.
3. **Gzesh, A.** (accepted for January, 2026). From mistrust to mutual aid: how transmasculine people navigate health information in the face of exclusion. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.
4. **Gzesh, A.** (accepted for January, 2026). Shape-shifting, mistrust, and medical trauma: how structural and intersectional stigma impact health engagement among transmasculine individuals. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.
5. **Gzesh, A.** (September, 2025). The “trans grapevine”: mutual aid and health information sharing in transmasculine communities. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.
6. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, & Arrington-Sanders, R. (September, 2025). Social context, risk perception, and PrEP uptake among Black and Latinx transgender and nonbinary adolescents. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.
7. **Gzesh, A.** (September, 2025). Misdiagnosed, misgendered, mistrusted: stigma and medical trauma in transmasculine healthcare. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.
8. Rider-Longmaid, E., Lett, E., **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Dowshen, N. (September, 2025). Training on thin ice: how anti-transgender laws are shaping the future of gender-affirming care in adolescent medicine. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.
9. **Gzesh, A.**, & Jelinek, S. (September, 2025). From tokenization to transformation: transmasculine responses to PrEP marketing. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.
10. **Gzesh, A.** (September, 2025). Performative pathology and clinical co-conspirators: how transmasculine

people navigate medical harm. Oral presentation at the USPATH Scientific Symposium. Santa Ana, New Mexico.

11. **Gzesh, A.**, Rider-Longmaid, E., Jelinek, S., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., & Hughes, L. (April, 2025). Between Oath and Legislation: Navigating bioethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation. Poster at the Pediatric Academic Society. Honolulu, Hawaii.
12. Jelinek, SK, **Gzesh, A.**, Whelihan, JT, DiFiore, G, Powell, M, Fiks, AG, Jenssen, BP & Arrington-Sanders, R. (April, 2025). Assessing the PrEP Gap: interest and eligibility among sexually active adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Society. Honolulu, Hawaii.
13. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DelFerro, J., Whelihan, JT., DelFerro, J., Wood, S., & Dowshen, N. (April, 2025). Balancing autonomy and privacy: Innovative video elicitation to understand adolescent perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection and Use in Healthcare. Poster at the Pediatric Academic Society. Honolulu, Hawaii.
14. Jelinek, SK, **Gzesh, AS**, Whelihan, JT, DiFiore, G, Powell, M, Fiks, AG, Jenssen, BP & Arrington-Sanders, R. (March, 2025). Exploring the PrEP interest-eligibility gap among sexually active adolescents in a large primary care network. Poster at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.
15. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DelFerro, J., Whelihan, JT., DelFerro, J., Wood, S., & Dowshen, N. (March, 2025). Navigating adolescent autonomy and privacy: adolescent perspectives on the collection, storage, and use of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data. Poster at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.
16. **Gzesh A.** (January, 2025). Understanding psychosocial and behavioral constructs related to PrEP interest among trans-masculine people assigned female at birth. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
17. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., & Hughes, L. (January, 2025). Bioethics, biopower, and gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
18. Smith, E. K., **Gzesh, A.**, Kattari, K. S., Gartner, R.G., Harner, V., & Cuneo, J. (January, 2025). Trans-affirming care: the role of social work research and practice. Roundtable at the Society for Social Work Research. Seattle, Washington.
19. Jelinek, SK, **Gzesh, AS**, Whelihan, JT, DiFiore, G, Powell, M, Fiks, AG, Jenssen, BP and Arrington-Sanders, R. (October, 2024). Exploring the PrEP interest-eligibility gap among sexually active adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Poster at the Penn Center for AIDS Research Scientific Symposium. Philadelphia, PA.
20. **Gzesh A.** & Jelinek SK. (October, 2024). Leveraging group model building to delineate moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Workshop at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
21. **Gzesh A.** & Jelinek SK. (October, 2024). Resilience under fire: Conceptualizing moral distress of pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Poster at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
22. Jewell, T., Roblee, C., Wolfe, A., Wille, L., Klooster, D., Sphinx, H., Villavisanis, D., Abrahams, J., **Gzesh A.**, Pacquer, MJ & Votto, J. (October, 2024). A year in review: Growth of the GLMA Health Professionals in Training Curriculum Reform Committee. Oral presentation at the GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.
23. Jelinek, S. & **Gzesh A.** (October, 2024). Visibility vs. vulnerability: assessing comfort in discussing health information among trans/gender-diverse adolescents. Oral presentation at GLMA Annual

Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Charlotte, North Carolina.

24. **Gzesh A.**, Jelinek, S., Rider-Longmaid, E., Kidd, K., Hughto, J., Gamarel, K., Charlton, B., and Hughes, L. (September 2024). Between oath and legislation: Navigating bioethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care amidst anti-transgender legislation. Oral presentation at World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Scientific Symposium. Lisbon, Portugal.
25. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DelFerro, J., Whelihan, J.T., DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A.G., Jenssen, B.P., and Wood, S. (September 2024) Gender identity and privacy: assessing comfort and preferences in discussing sensitive health information among trans/gender-diverse and cisgender adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Oral presentation at World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Scientific Symposium. Lisbon, Portugal.
26. Jelinek, S., DelFerro, D., Whelihan, J., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (May, 2024). Examining attitudes towards the collection, storage, and use of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data among adolescents and their caregivers. Oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies Conference. Toronto, Canada.
27. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, DiFiore, G., Powell, M., Fiks, A., Jenssen, B., & Wood, S. (May, 2024). Inclusion & privacy in practice: examination of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and confidentiality concerns among LGBTQ+ adolescents in a large pediatric primary care network. Oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies Conference. Toronto, Canada.
28. **Gzesh, A.**, Jelinek, S., & Prince, D. (2024, April). "Death threats and despair" A conceptual model delineating moral distress experienced by pediatric gender-affirming care providers. Oral presentation at the Society for Research on Adolescents Annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
29. **Gzesh, A.**, Paceley, M., Kattari, S., Shelton, J., Prince, D., & Hillier, A. (2024, January). "I had to fight for this!" Implications for youth, caregivers, and providers amidst attacks on gender-affirming care. Roundtable facilitated at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
30. Prince, D., Roberts, S., **Gzesh, A.**, & Tyson, C. (2024, January). Peer support interventions for sexual and gender minority youth with behavioral health needs: A scoping review. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
31. **Gzesh, A.** (2024, January). "Transcendent Capacity": a strengths-based conceptual framework celebrating trans resistance and resilience. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
32. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Hawkins, L., Dowshen, N. (2023, November). "Giving agency over their health:" a content analysis of responses to a patient and family satisfaction survey regarding gender inclusivity in a large pediatric academic center. Oral presentation at USPATH Scientific Symposium on Transgender Health. Denver, Colorado.
33. Whelihan, J., Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, October). Do say gay: Talking with patients and families about sexual orientation and gender identity. Poster presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference. Washington, DC.
34. Jelinek, S., **Gzesh, A.**, Whelihan, J., Delferro, J. (2023, September). A step towards inclusion: assessing gender pronoun documentation during adolescent primary care visits. Poster presented at GLMA Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health. Virtual.
35. **Gzesh, A.** (2023, June). Who's your daddy? The need for queer elders. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
36. Grishow-Schade, L., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, June). Dropping breadcrumbs for family: A phenomenological study of GNBT young adults. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
37. Jelinek, S., Whelihan, J., Delferro, J., **Gzesh, A.** (2023, May). Respect and visibility: improving the

collection and documentation of gender pronouns during adolescent well visits. Poster presented at the Quality and Safety Symposium at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA.

38. **Gzesh, A.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Wasch, S., & Jaffee, S. (2023, January). "Just being there, like a shoulder to lean on." Resiliency and mental health among older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
39. **Gzesh, A.** (2022, June). Hate the sinner, love the sin: Discourse analysis in sex work and social work. Oral presentation at the LGBTQ Research Symposium. Virtual.
40. **Gzesh, A.** (2018, June). The Culture Keepers: YPAR, restorative justice, and Community Cultural Wealth. Oral presentation at the Leadership Public Schools Equity Symposium. Oakland, CA.
41. **Gzesh, A.** (2017, October). Literature of liminality: displacement, diaspora, and cultural dialogue. Oral presentation at the Fulbright-Hays Summit at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of California. Berkeley, CA.
42. **Gzesh, A.** (2017, June). Project Hearts Desire: Allied exploration for youth experiencing belonging uncertainty in schools. Oral presentation at the Leadership Public Schools Equity Symposium. Oakland, CA.
43. **Gzesh, A.** (2016, June). iLearn: Collective feedback tool for equitable engagement. Innovation Award Panel, at the Teach for America Bay Area EdTech Summit. San Francisco, CA.
44. **Gzesh, A.** (2016, March). Trauma transformed: School sites as conduits for healing, empowerment, and social cohesion. Oral presentation at the Comparative and International Education Society 60th Summit. Vancouver, Canada.

FELLOWSHIPS

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Fellow, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia 2022 – 2024

- Accepted into competitive federally funded interdisciplinary training program encompassing core competencies of medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Integrated bio-behavioral, bio-psychological and social determinants concepts through public health and policy frameworks, explicit focus on health disparities and equity; co-authored peer-reviewed proposals and publications
- Developed, enhanced, and improved evidence-based, patient-centered, family-involved, culturally responsive, community-based care plans and practices for adolescents with specialized needs
- Created Individualized Training Plan and Leadership Project in collaboration with attending physicians and research scientists at the Gender Clinic, Adolescent Initiative, Center for AIDS Research, Adolescent Specialty Clinic

Graduate Fellow in Teaching Excellence, UPenn Center for Teaching & Learning 2023 – 2024

- Nominated by department for collaborative fellowship encompassing twelve UPenn graduate schools
- Facilitated nine monthly intra and inter-discipline teaching workshops on inclusive and equitable didactic approaches
- Conducted >10 teaching consultations and observations of Penn graduate and postdoc students

Fellow, SexGen Lab, UPenn School of Social Policy & Practice 2023 – 2025

- Developed research tools to better capture mechanisms of gender and sexuality inequities to inform equity efforts, including Reconceptualizing Gender and Health Project
- Informed dissemination and translation of research to effectively communicate expertise to various audiences, including clinical, policy, and intellectual communities

Associate Fellow, UPenn Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics

2022 – 2025

- Spent >75 hours per year related to LDI's mission through collaboration, participation, and community engagement
- Attended policy seminars and conferences, Perelman School of Medicine health services workshops

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH & PROGRAM EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder, Q+CARE: LGBTQ+ Collaborative for Advocacy, Research, and Education 2024 – present

- Conduct pioneering mixed methods research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) that promotes well being of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults
- Leverage health informatics and implementation science to promote equity and access to gender-affirming care
- Partner with CHOP Adolescent Medicine attending physicians and fellows, mentor residents and medical students
- Discern best practices to balance visibility and confidentiality of sexual orientation and gender identity information, disseminate findings through crafting clinical decision-making tools, pathways, and electronic medical records

Research Assistant, Center for Guaranteed Income Research, UPenn

Philadelphia, PA 2022 – 2025

- Assist with qualitative and quantitative data collection (ethnography, oral history), qualitative analysis, and co-authorship of peer reviewed manuscripts on asset building, cash-transfers, and economic justice and mobility
- Co-author interview guide for West Hollywood Pilot for Guaranteed Income (low-income LGBTQ+ older adults)

Project Evaluator, Rosine 2.0

Swarthmore, PA 2022 - 2023

- Wrote invited foreword for book publication; served on advisory council for participatory exhibition
- Evaluated extent to which the final project aligns with objectives of exploring how harm reduction and mutual aid seek to reduce stigma and increase community health and social cohesion in marginalized communities
- Co-authored Institutional Review Board application; assisted in community-based participatory action research project on harm reduction modalities

Student Intern, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research

Philadelphia, PA 2021 – 2022

- Co-authored research reports, academic conference presentations, and peer-reviewed journal articles to disseminate topical findings pertaining to child welfare
- Participated in monthly interdisciplinary forum exploring abolitionist movement in child welfare

Program Manager and Clinician, Larkin Street Youth Services

San Francisco, CA 2020 – 2021

- Evaluated organizational practices for serving LGBTQ+ youth across various housing sites, focusing on comparison of two engagement centers; utilized cluster analysis from intakes and youth feedback, conducted focus group with Youth Advisory Board, and presented findings and recommendations to Core Leadership
- Authored Behavioral Health reference for therapists and case managers, guiding best practices for non-pathologizing and liberatory documentation; integrated clinical imperatives while maintaining anti-racist framework
- Co-crafted staff survey in service of Strategic Plan, incorporating tenets of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Scholar, Fulbright-Hays, UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Morocco, Summer 2017

- Conducted socio-cultural ethnographic field research on impact of Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab Spring on inter-communal and minority-majority relations, utilizing material culture and sacred objects as tools for storytelling

- Developed programming with Moroccan counterparts, focused on cultural competence and narrative healing

WASC Accreditation Project Lead, Leadership Public Schools *San Jose & Hayward, CA 2013 – 2018*

- Pioneered instructional/assessment modalities with Gooru & Exit Ticket vis-à-vis idea formation and beta-testing
- Served as a member of Solidarity Advisory Council and adapted research-driven socio-emotional best practices to address the impact of racism on educational experience of students of color; implemented Leaders of Equity tools for planning and action, in coalition with FREE (Fellowship for Race and Equity in Education)
- Advised school action plan; gave key feedback on program elements as member of Instructional Leadership Team
- Utilized investigative process with key stakeholders (students, alumni, faculty, staff, Board of Directors, community partners); achieved the maximal 5-year accreditation granted at both school sites

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Behavioral Health Clinician, Larkin Street Youth Services *San Francisco, CA 2020 – 2021*

- Performed on-site behavioral health screening, clinical assessments, crisis intervention and support services; conducted street-level outreach and harm reduction interventions for homeless youth
- Acted as Program Manager during on-call rotation for nine transitional housing programs and three shelters
- Crafted community-based photo narrative entitled “Elegy for My Inner Child” which centered the experiences of transitional age LGBTQ+ youth, addressing the impact of developmental trauma through narrative therapy, using ‘testimonios’ and ethnography to showcase individual and collective healing within the community

Mental Health Therapist, Westcoast Children’s Clinic *Oakland, CA 2019 – 2020*

- Conducted community-based, trauma-informed psychotherapy, crisis intervention and stabilization to assess cognitive, emotional, and social functioning and needs for sexually exploited youth
- Provided mental health screening/assessment as children entered into or changed placement within the child welfare system

Intern, Oakland Unified School District *Oakland, CA 2018 – 2019*

- Provided counseling at Title I public elementary and high schools for children and families struggling with histories of trauma, forced migration, incarceration, housing instability, substance abuse, and domestic and community violence
- De-escalated student dysregulation through behavioral/therapeutic interventions in counseling-enriched Special Day Class for children with ADD/ADHD, ODD, emotional disturbance, and autism

Intern, Leadership Public Schools *Hayward, CA 2017 – 2018*

- Advocated for AB540 (undocumented) students on the “Dream Team” and fostered coalitional agency
- Designed and implemented “Project Hearts Desire,” a project pairing mentors with youth who lacked an identified caring adult for allied exploration of a mutual interest, modeled after CARE intervention
- Developed and spearheaded “Culture Keepers,” a Youth Participatory Action Research mental health initiative training student first-responders to address conflict utilizing peer-led restorative practices

Youth Advocate and Mentor, Windows for Peace NGO *Tel Aviv, Israel 2011*

- Designed and implemented project-based expressive arts healing for Israeli, Arab-Israeli, and Palestinian youth
- Empowered and educated through new media cultural programs designed to break down stereotypes

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Executive Board, LGBTQ Caucus of Students & Faculty in Social Work

2024 – present

- Elected Events Coordinator (two year term)
- Coordinate quarterly membership events, including job market panel, networking, journal clubs, conference events

Sub-committee Lead, GLMA Providers-in-Training Curricular Reform Committee

2023 – 2025

- Lead for “new ideas” subcommittee of GLMA Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality, project focused on collecting/storing/displaying sexual orientation and gender identity information in electronic medical records
- Assess the state of LGBTQ+ curricular inclusion across various healthcare disciplines
- Create a centralized resource for students seeking to create curricular change in their own institutions, including content and skill building resources

Undergraduate Research Mentor, Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics

2023 – 2025

- Mentored multiple undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in health equity research
- Procured funding for students through Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer, Various Academic Journals

2023 – present

- Provide timely and thorough feedback on manuscripts under review for publication in peer-reviewed journals, such as Affilia, Transgender Health, and Journal of Adolescent Health

Secretary of the Board of Directors, Pacific Center

2020 – 2021

- Identified strategic priorities to align with mission and purpose as third-oldest LGBTQ+ center in the US
- Contributed to national searches for executive leadership positions; provided direct support to interim leaders
- Facilitated Town Halls and listening tours; served as liaison between Board and clinical staff
- Initiated organizational assessment to infuse Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in systemic and clinical practices

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Lecturer, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy

Spring - Summer 2025

- Instructor of record for course PUBH 611 Health Equity, Communication, and Advocacy
- Mentor Master of Public Health students in Community Health program through semester-long advocacy projects

Graduate Fellow in Teaching Excellence, UPenn Center for Teaching, Learning & Innovation

2023 – 2024

- Nominated by department for collaborative fellowship encompassing twelve UPenn graduate schools
- Facilitated nine monthly intra and inter-discipline teaching workshops on inclusive and equitable didactic approaches
- Conducted >10 teaching consultations and observations of Penn graduate and postdoc students

Invited Lecturer, Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

2023 – present

- Case Conference: Housing instability amongst trans and gender-diverse adolescents and young adults
- Lecture: Commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents and young adults
- Lecture: System dynamics and implications for implementation science

Teaching Assistant, UPenn Graduate School of Education

Fall 2023

- Co-taught Participatory Educational Research in Global Perspective: Theory and Practice
- Mentored Masters-level students engaging in youth participatory action research

Teaching Assistant, UPenn School of Social Policy and Practice*Spring 2023*

- Co-constructed syllabus for SWRK 701: Health and Mental Health Policy, including delineating key concepts and skills, and application of course objectives through written and oral discussions
- Facilitated small group interactive activities, provided feedback on completed assignments, crafted rubrics in accordance with demonstration of proficiency for Masters-level students

Teaching Assistant, UPenn School of Nursing*Spring 2023*

- Co-taught NURS 3420/5420: The Health of Sexual and Gender Diverse Individuals and Populations Across the Lifespan
- Provided support for primary instructor using structured, active, in-person pedagogical approaches

Invited Guest Lecturer, Various Graduate-level Courses*Fall 2022 - present*

- WGH 230 The Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, 2024
- HBSS 4113 Human Sexuality Education, Columbia University, 2024
- SASS 500 Special Topics LGBTQIA2S+ Health & Wellbeing, Case Western Reserve, 2024
- SWRK 803 History and Philosophy of Social Welfare, University of Pennsylvania, 2022-24
- EDUC 7464 Advanced Qualitative and Case Study Research, University of Pennsylvania, 2024
- EDUC 7460 Qualitative Research: Concepts, Methods, and Design, University of Pennsylvania, 2023
- PUBH 5700 Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Adolescent and Young Adult Health, 2023-24
- SWRK 7470 Social Policy and the LGBTQ Community, University of Pennsylvania, 2023
- NURS 3420/5420 The Health of Sexual and Gender Diverse Individuals and Populations Across the Lifespan, University of Pennsylvania, 2023

*Related Teaching Experience***Educational Consultant, Scholar Co***San Francisco, CA 2017 – present*

- Advise youth and families on all aspects of college access and narrative-building
- Utilize reflective practices to enhance students' competitiveness, support their educational/vocational goals, and help them develop executive functioning skills and practical strategies for purposeful learning

English Teacher, Course Facilitator: Leadership Public Schools*San Jose & Hayward, CA 2013 – 2018*

- Taught English in Title I high school serving 60% free or reduced lunch, 74% English Language Learners, 85% first generation, 9% undocumented students
- Achieved "Accomplished Teacher" designation through rigorous application process with portfolio review

Volunteer Humanities Instructor, San Quentin Prison*Marin, CA 2016 - 2018*

- Through the Prison University Project, provided student-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally-responsive education in humanities for incarcerated men at San Quentin Prison

Bay Area Regional Facilitator, Girls Leadership Institute*Bay Area, CA 2014 - 2016*

- Conducted weekly workshops for elementary-aged girls and their guardians on assertive self-expression, social-emotional intelligence, and leadership capabilities using theater-based Freirian model of kinesthetic learning

English Teacher, San Jose Unified School District*San Jose, CA 2012 - 2013*

- Taught English Language Arts and English Intervention classes to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade system-involved students who had been expelled from public schooling
- Differentiated instruction for students with special needs, including speech impairment, ADD/ADHD, ODD, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, and autism (approximately 68% of students had 504 plans or IEPs)

Lead Facilitator and Grant-Writer, BuildaBridge International*Philadelphia, PA, 2010-2012*

- Educated youth in transitional housing, using hope-infused, child-centered, trauma-informed arts-based model
- Secured continued \$75,000 grant from the Philadelphia School District

Co-Founder & Teacher, Tiger Pass School, Asian University for Women*Chittagong, Bangladesh 2010*

- Served 90 students (5-15 years of age) located in an impoverished "slum"
- Instructed >120 Access Academy students during their pre-university bridge program
- Designed three tiers of skill groupings; developed and launched curriculum and assessment metrics; trained university students to be teachers by utilizing a hierarchical structure modeled after BRAC schools

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Counsel on Social Work Education
- National Association of Social Workers
- Society for Social Work and Research
- Sexuality, Relationships, Gender Research Collective
- Gay & Lesbian Medical Association: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health
- Leadership Education in Adolescent Health
- Harvard SOGIE Health Equity Research Collaborative

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Cleared Secondary English Teaching Credential, State of California
- Red Cross Disaster Relief Mental Health First Responder
- American Teenager Project Ambassador
- Mind-Body Awareness Project Facilitator
- National Suicide Hotline Certified Counselor
- CSE-IT (Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool) Trainer
- Social Worker #NPI 1326604844, State of California