

## Research Practicum (SOCW 780) Timeline

**2021-2022**

By When	Activity	Who/How
Friday, July 16th	Student Applications / Interest Statements do to Research Practicum Faculty	Students will be asked to apply or express interest about the specific projects to the faculty adviser directly via email (contact information is included on the research project information form)
Friday, July 30th	Selected students identified and RP form with learning objectives completed and submitted to the Chair of the Research Sequence	Faculty advisers select student they want to work with from those who applied; complete RP application form with students; send those completed forms to the Chair of Research Sequence
Friday, August 6th	Chair of Research Sequence approves RP	Chair of Research Sequence approves forms and send them to the ADAA & Registrar offices
Thursday, September 9th	Research Practicum Begins	The SSW Registrar's Office will enroll the approved students in SOCW 780 and students will begin working on the project as directed by faculty as early as 9/9/21
<i>Sunday, October 31st</i>	Last day to drop SOCW 780 without record	Student can request to be dropped from the practicum by contacting the SSW Registrar's Office
<i>Monday, February 28th</i>	Last day to drop SOCW 780 with a W recorded	Student can request to be withdrawn (W on transcript) from the practicum by contacting the SSW Registrar's Office.

## Project Summary

This study's goal is to explore and document experiences of discrimination, or lack thereof, among Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in psychoanalytic professional organizations. There is significant reason to believe that discrimination, including and especially racial discrimination, is a problem in psychoanalytic professional organizations (PPOs). In recent years, complaints of racial discrimination in PPOs have been increasingly visible, and calls for a reckoning with racism in psychoanalysis ever louder. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in psychoanalysis are making their complaints and concerns known.

To date, there has not been an empirical investigation of BIPOC's experiences of discrimination in PPOs, despite the numerous anecdotal claims of discrimination that have been made public in recent years. The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) formed the Holmes Commission in 2020 to explore the issue of racism in psychoanalysis, but its efforts are intended to be advisory to APsaA institutes. There remains a critical gap in the empirical literature regarding BIPOC's experiences of discrimination, or lack thereof, in PPOs such as APsaA, AAPCSW, and psychodynamically-oriented graduate training programs.

This study will employ the methodology of thematic analysis for the analysis of interview transcripts of self-identified BIPOC currently or previously involved with PPOs. Thematic analysis is a well-established qualitative methodology that is well-suited to exploratory studies of phenomena that have not previously been extensively explored. In this case, emergent themes from interview data will allow for thick description and analysis of participants' experiences, triangulation with the existing literature, and the surfacing of salient themes that might guide policy analysis and intervention in PPOs and beyond. The researchers will pay close attention to all aspects of qualitative methodology, including data accuracy, trustworthiness, and self-reflexivity.

In addition to the PI, Carter J. Carter, Ph.D, LICSW, an adjunct associate professor at SSW, the research team will consist of racially diverse consultants and graduate research assistants. The principle consultant is Pratyusha Tummala-Narra, Ph.D; Rory Crath, Ph.D, of SSW, is also consulting on the project and will work with the PI to support students in fulfilling their research practicum learning objectives. *We are seeking 4 research assistants for the 2021-2022 academic year.*

## Learning Activities & Outcomes

1. Students will learn about the process of recruitment of research study participants.
2. Students will undergo training on how to conduct semi-structured qualitative interviews using an interview guide.
3. Students will be trained in and conduct initial outreach to participants.
4. Students will conduct at least 3-4 interviews, with the option to conduct more as needed by separate arrangement.
5. Students will receive training in appropriate basic transcription of audio recordings, and will create transcripts of each interview they conduct. This will include training on appropriate ethical creation and storage of recordings and transcripts, consistent with Smith IRB requirements.
6. Students will learn how to approach the research process from an antiracism perspective, and how to participate in a collaborative research team.

## **Research Practicum –2021-2022**

### **GPS Group Peer Support Program Evaluation**

Faculty: Peggy O'Neill, PhD

I am collaborating with GPS Group Peer Support, a local organization that is contracted by the MA Department of Health Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) to provide GPS model training for program staff, including peer coaches, recovery counselors and clinicians across addiction and recovery services in the state of Massachusetts. Human service workers from across the country also are participating in the training coming from a range of related fields including perinatal health and mental health, supported by other funding sources. The data collection component of the program evaluation is underway and will be completed by the end of 2021. The Research Practicum will begin in January 2022.

The Research Practicum opportunities available include:

- Learning about the scope of the project from research and community service perspectives
- Organizing and cleaning quantitative data
- Initial data analysis (quantitative data analysis)
- Conducting literature reviews
- Support the preparation of presentations and manuscripts for publication

Time commitments are beyond field hours and will require regular check-ins with the research advisor. Much of the work will be done independently.

We are also embarking on a research project studying the effects of GPS Group Peer Support programs for postpartum mothers experiencing emotional challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. There may be additional opportunities for Research Practicum students to work on this project as well.

I am seeing up to two research practicum students to work with me and the GPS team.

If interested, please contact Professor Peggy O'Neill at [poneill@smith.edu](mailto:poneill@smith.edu)

## Research Practicum Opportunity Centering on Social Justice

We are working on an intervention research project that explores undergraduate students' experiences of conversations about social justice. Undergraduate student volunteers from three undergraduate colleges/university signed up for a six-session group on having more meaningful conversations about social justice issues such as racism, gender oppressions, ableism and classism, among other forces of power and oppression. We collected data on how participants changed over the course of the training and how they experienced and responded to conversations where they learned how to analyze how power is operating in the dialogue they were having. Well above 50% percent of our participants in the groups are students of color, representing a diverse range of identities.

We are in the final phase of data analysis, an interesting time to join the project. Students will have the opportunity to engage in later stage qualitative analysis, and may contribute to preparing manuscripts reporting findings from the research project (qualitative and quantitative).

We have two research practicum opportunities available that students can participate in remotely that may involve aspects of the areas below:

1. Qualitative Data Analysis-We are continuing to build a team of students with diverse identities to participate in analyzing transcripts and reflective narratives from social justice conversations conducted through this project. Students will develop skills in qualitative data analysis including using qualitative software, developing, sorting and conceptualizing relevant themes in the data. Students would need to be available for a limited number of training and peer debriefing meetings (outside of your placement hours).
2. Quantitative Data Analysis-Students interested in quantitative analysis would spend time learning about and describing study measures, developing deep familiarity with the findings, and developing ways to visualize and present the results. Students can work largely independently on a weekly basis. Students will need to be available for periodic check-ins with their research advisor.
3. Preparing material for manuscripts- There is an opportunity for students to conduct thorough literature reviews examining relevant areas of focus – conceptual, theoretical, and empirical. Students interested in this option may also serve on either of the other data analysis teams. We can negotiate tasks based on your availability and interests.

If interested contact: Professors Peggy O'Neill [poneill@smith.edu](mailto:poneill@smith.edu) or Annemarie Gockel; [agockel@smith.edu](mailto:agockel@smith.edu)

1. **Name:** Loren Cahill
  
2. **Nature of the Project :** I am interested in working with research assistants and Black Feminist collectives to co-construct a Black Feminist human geography project. Students should apply if they are interested in co-creating a community-curated qualitative digital atlas that will map safe spaces for Black women and girls transnationally. Research assistants who join this project will have an opportunity to radically assemble story maps that archive historic and contemporary physical and virtual spaces that are imbued with love created for and by Blackgirls nationally and throughout the African Diaspora. They will have the opportunity to recruit and identify participants, develop questions and facilitate interviews, and creatively share data in the format of videos, mapping, and critical ethnographic analysis. Over the course of their research practicum, research assistants will chronicle Black women's and girls' stories, places they choose to gather and qualitatively trace how they practice love and freedom. Students should only apply if they are willing to critically examine how the unique gifts of others, and their own, lend to the collaborative processes of community-based and participatory research. The ultimate goal is that students leave the practicum experience with a deeper understanding of how histories, lives and structures result from Black feminist interventions seeking to advance justice.
  
3. **Possible Roles for Students on the Project:** Organization Identification and Recruitment, Protocol Development, Codebook Development, Virtual Participant Observation, Facilitating Zoom Oral Histories/Interviews/Focus Groups, Transcription of Interviews/Focus Groups, Coding of Transcripts, Meeting Facilitation & Agenda Making, Video Production and Editing, Qualitative GIS Mapping, Archival Research, CoAuthoring Literature Review/Articles/Blogs, Website Development, Action Planning and Implementation
  
4. **Number of Students :** 1

Action	Description
Organization Identification and Recruitment	Make a list of salient organizations to research and help recruit participants
Protocol Development	Develop a list of Oral History, Interview, and/or Focus Group Questions
Codebook Development	Develop a list of salient codes and themes as well as corresponding definitions
Virtual Participant Observation	Attend organizational meetings and take field notes on the experience
Zoom Oral Histories/Interviews/Focus Groups	Facilitate Oral History, Interview, and/or Focus Group Questions based off of protocol
Transcription of Oral Histories/Interviews/Focus Groups	Produce transcripts of Oral Histories, Interviews, and/or Focus Groups
Coding of Transcripts	Categorize excerpts from transcripts according to themes and patterns
Meeting Facilitation & Agenda Making	Lead discussion and produce agendas for participatory meetings
Video Production and Editing	Collect visuals and edit audio footage
Qualitative GiS Mapping	Create Story Maps for Identified Spaces on ARCGIS
Archival Research	Research, summarize and contextualize historically relevant events and figures
Co-Authoring Literature Review/Articles/Blogs	Research, summarize and contextualize salient theory, praxis and analysis
Website Development	Update new content to the research <a href="#">website</a>
Action Planning and Implementation	Listen to interventions and ideas given by community and work collaboratively with them to co-create action