

# Curriculum Vitae

Updated September 2023

## Breana Alysse (McHugh) Bietsch, MSW

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### Education

Ph.D. Student, University of Connecticut, 2020-Present  
Social Work

M.S.W., Rutgers University, 2012-2014  
Social Work; Certificate in Aging

B.A., Rider University, 2008-2012  
Psychology; Health Administration

### Publications

**Bietsch, B.** (2022) Second Time Overlooked in Crisis: Examining How HIV/AIDS Health Policies in the United States Connect with Policy Implications Today for Aging LGBTQ Adults During the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*. 7(3). 246-255.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Loveland, E., Borel, C., Horton, E., Olson, H., Craig, S., **Bietsch, B.**, (2023) Conducting youth community-based participatory action research in the COVID-19 era. *Qualitative Social Work*. 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14733250231194783>.

Iacono, G., Holle, L., Smith, J., Hsiu-Ju, L., **Bietsch, B.**, and Watson, R. (2023). An exploratory analysis of overeating patterns among sexual and gender minority youth. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 1-21.

**Bietsch, B.** (under review) Early attachments and childhood trauma: Effects on the mental and physical health outcomes of LGBTQ older adults 65+ and possible mediating therapeutic interventions. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*.

### Presentations

**Bietsch, B.** (2022) Social Work Practice with LGBT Older Adults [Oral Presentation] Social Work Awareness Month: Office on Aging 2022, Hartford, CT.

Iacono, G., **Bietsch, B.** (2021). Exploring Mental Health Practice and Policy Approaches Among Vulnerable Young and Older LGBTQ+ Communities [Oral Presentation] Rainbow Symposium 2021, Hartford, CT.

**Bietsch, B.** (2021). A Web-Based and Phone Intergenerational Intervention Using Reminiscence and Life Review Therapy To Decrease Loneliness Among Older Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic [Oral Presentation] International Center for Life Story Innovation and Practice Conference (ICLIP) 2021, Hartford, CT.

## Honors and Awards

AGESW Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program, 2021-2022

Scholars in Aging Seed Funding Program, 2023-2024, Awarded \$4,000 for Dissertation and Aging Research

## Teaching Experience

Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Masters Level, UCONN, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

Special Populations, Masters Level, UCONN, Summer 2023

Micro Practice, Masters Level, UCONN, Fall 2023

## Employment

University of Connecticut, School of Social Work, 2020-Current  
Graduate Research Assistant

Home Instead Senior Care, Tolland, Connecticut, 2017-2019  
Family and Community Liaison

Blair Manor, Enfield, Connecticut, 2017-2017  
Director Social Services

Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Alexandria, Virginia, 2016-2017  
Social Worker

Hospice of Charles Country, Waldorf, Maryland, 2015-2016  
Medical Social Worker

Jewish Family and Children Services of Mercer County, Princeton, New Jersey, 2014-2015  
Senior Services Care Manager

Jewish Family Service, Somerville, New Jersey, 2012-2014  
Intern

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2012-2014  
Research Assistant

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 2012-2013  
Intern

Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, 2011-2012  
Research Assistant

## Research Projects

### **Social Isolation and Loneliness and Intergeneration Program (S.L.I.P.), Fall '20- Spring '21**

This program connects MSW and BSW students who are in their social work internships with older adults in the community who face increased isolation due to COVID-19. My responsibilities on this project include recruitment, matching participants with students, conducting pre and post-test interviews, conducting qualitative interviews with employees at community agencies that work with participants, assisting with student training, cleaning data, and conducting data analysis.

### **Tuned In!, Fall '21- Spring –'22**

Tuned In! is a mindfulness-based affirmative program to virtually address the mental health needs of sexual and gender minority youth. The program is an 8-week long group intervention that teaches sexual and gender minority youth coping skills in a way that affirms their identities. My responsibilities on this project were as the project coordinator. I assisted the primary investigator in all recruitment, onboarding, and retention of the participants. I assisted in developing the training for the facilitators that delivered the mindfulness-based intervention. I implemented all the surveys via the survey server Qualtrics, including a pre-screener, pretest, and posttest survey to collect data for the intervention. Other tasks involved follow up with participants, facilitators, community supporters, and general coordination of the program.

## Research Interest

Older Adults  
Health Disparities  
Healthcare policy  
Medical Social Work  
Social Isolation and Loneliness  
LGBTQ+ populations

## Community Involvement

Services and Advocacy for GBLT Elders (SAGE) Connect Volunteer , 2022- Present

## Additional Skills and Qualifications

Technological Skills:  
SPSS, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, NVivo, Qualtrics Survey  
Licensed Graduate Social Worker in Connecticut (LGSW)

## References

Gio Iacono, Assistant Professor School of Social Work  
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