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University of California, Berkeley

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The National Association of Social Workers (NASW),  
California Chapter for its generous contribution to this  
conference. NASW has worked closely with CalSWEC since its  
founding and continues as an important member of the  
CalSWEC consortium.

*The Title IV-E Student Day Conference is funded by CalSWEC,  
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CalSWEC is the nation's largest coalition  
of social work educators and practitioners.*



## TITLE IV-E STUDENT DAY 2014



FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2014

THE MISSION INN HOTEL & SPA  
RIVERSIDE, CA

## Welcome from the Student Day Coordinators

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*"For a community to be whole and healthy,  
it must be based on people's love and concern for each other."*

—Millard Fuller

The Title IV-E Student Day Planning Committee welcomes you to this year's Student Day Conference. We are so thankful that you are able to join us today by participating in this important learning opportunity. The theme for this year's Student Day conference is *Progressive Social Work Practice: Emerging Issues in Our Communities*, a theme we hope expresses what we as social work students and practitioners embrace as we engage in our work as researchers, clinicians, administrators, and organizers.

We would like to thank all the Title IV-E Student Representatives who gathered over the last several months from 21 universities throughout California. Together we worked as a team to create a theme, develop informative and creative workshops, find exhibitors, and collect donations in hopes of making this event as fruitful as possible. We would like to thank CalSWEC and the Project Coordinators for their direction, support, and generosity in providing us with this opportunity. We also appreciate the support of the many presenters, exhibitors, and donors who have been so gracious with their talent, time, and resources. With everyone's hard work, patience, and dedication, we have arrived at this day and are in store for a wonderful event.

This year's Student Day Conference will provide training on current practices and policies in child welfare while also providing an opportunity for you to network with current and future child welfare practitioners. As social workers, it is integral that we engage in dialogue with one another and produce enriching collaborations to better serve our clients. It is our sincerest hope that each of you finds enrichment and inspiration in this experience as well.

Thank you,  
Deanna Navarro, *California State University, East Bay*  
Julian G. Garza, *California State University, Fresno*  
Laura Flores, *California State University, Fresno*  
Bre Ramsey, *Humboldt State University*  
Nicole Chavarria, *California State University, San Bernardino*  
*Student Day Coordinators and MSW Candidates, 2014*

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## Title IV-E Alumni Panel

### Description

The Alumni Panel is designed as an opportunity for future Title IV-E alumni to ask questions of alumni who have been in the child welfare field for some years. The panelists practice in different areas of child welfare and will share with students the different paths and opportunities available as Title IV-E alum.

### Presenters:

- **Nicole Stiving, M.S.W., ASW**, Emergency Response, Social Worker III, Department of Children and Family Services of San Mateo County, has been an Emergency Response Social Worker for San Mateo County for a year and a half. She will be transferring to a Family Maintenance/Family Reunification Social Worker position in the upcoming months. In addition, Ms. Stiving is completing her supervision hours to obtain a License of Clinical Social Work. She is a 2012 Title IV-E graduate of California State University, Sacramento
- **Kimberly Giardina, M.S.W.**, Protective Services Program Manager, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services, is currently a Protective Services Program Manager. In her current role, she will be leading San Diego's implementation of the Title IV-E waiver along with managing multiple other special projects. She received her MSW in 2004 from San Diego State University. She has spent most of her 14-year career in child welfare with San Diego County, working in multiple child welfare programs, including investigations, family reunification, family maintenance, permanency planning, voluntary services, family preservation, placement, and quality assurance.

Ms. Giardina was involved in redesigning the delivery of child welfare with the Neighborhoods for Kids program in the East Region of San Diego County. As a manager, she oversaw that region for two and a half years and was part of the implementation process for Safety Organized Practice in San Diego. During this last year, Ms. Giardina worked as a Practice Consultant for the Public Child Welfare Training Academy, providing training and coaching to child welfare staff in Southern California.

*neurodecolonization*, a conceptual framework which he created, that uses mindfulness research to facilitate an examination of the ways in which the human brain is affected by the negative effects of colonization and how traditional, Indigenous cultural activities can positively change neural networks and enable individuals to overcome the traumas associated with colonialism.

**Presenter: Dr. Michael Yellow Bird**

Dr. Michael Yellow Bird is a citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara. He is Professor and the Director of Graduate Education in the Department of Social Work at Humboldt State University. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and the co-editor of four books: *For Indigenous Eyes Only: The Decolonization Handbook*, 2005 (with Dr. Waziyatawin); *For Indigenous Minds Only: A Decolonization Handbook* (2012); *Indigenous Social Work around the World: towards Culturally Relevant Education and Practice*, 2008, 2010 (with Professors Mel Gray and John Coates); and *Decolonizing Social Work* (2013).

Dr. Yellow Bird's teaching, writing, research, and community work focus on social work with Indigenous Peoples, decolonizing social work, neurodecolonization (employing mainstream and traditional Indigenous mindfulness practices in tribal communities to promote health and well being).

## Teen Pregnancy/ Foster Youth

**Description**

In this workshop, the presenter will share her experience collaborating with DCFS to improve services and outcomes for pregnant and parenting teens living in foster care. A major goal of the program is to reduce the intergenerational cycle of entry into the child welfare system. The workshop will also discuss procedures, resources and legislative knowledge that all social workers should have to better advocate for this at-risk population.

**Presenters: Barbara Facher, M.S.W.**

Barbara Facher is a social worker at The Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles. Since 2001, she has served as the group's Health Care Social Worker. She works collaboratively with the Department of Children and Family Services to improve services and outcomes for pregnant and parenting teens living in foster care and to reduce the inter-generational cycle of entry into the child welfare system. Ms. Facher holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a MSW from San Francisco State University.

## Job Prep and Hiring Skills

**Description**

This workshop is intended for those who were unable to attend one of the regional Job Prep workshops during the previous academic year. It will cover the county hiring process, interview tips, written and oral examinations, among other things, to assist graduates in their job search.

**Presenter: Donna Thoreson, M.S.W.**

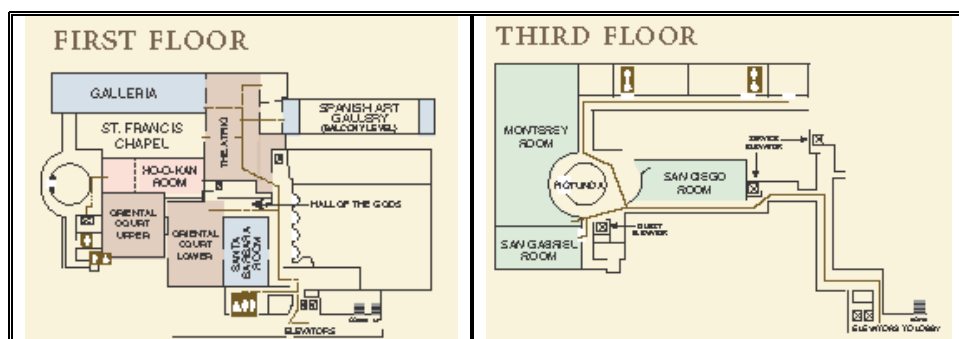
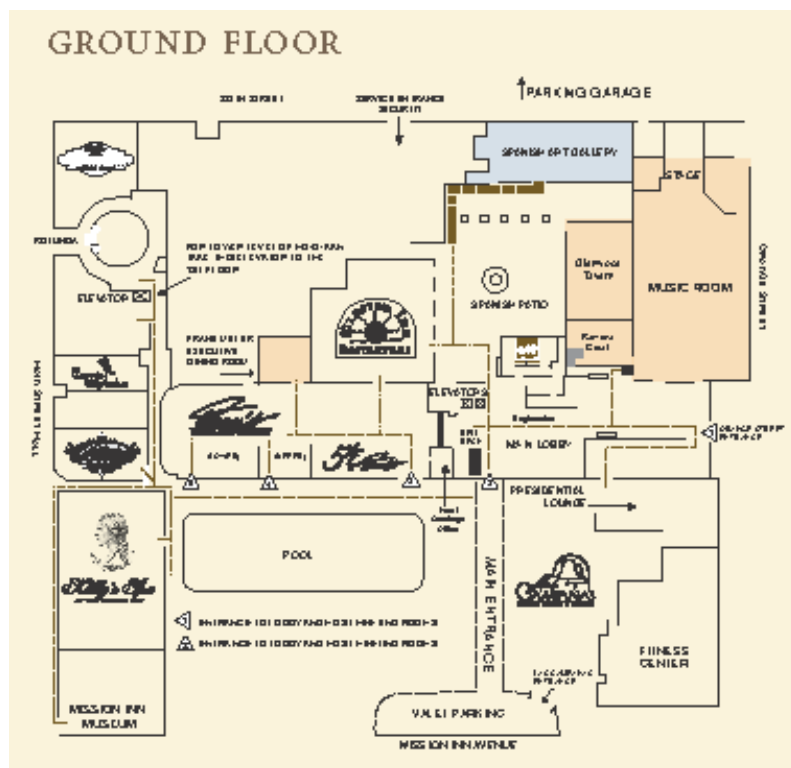
Donna Thoreson has 20 years of experience as a child welfare worker and supervisor in Contra Costa County. As a field instructor for the Intern Unit there for the past 10 years, she has trained over 95 IV-E second-year grad students from various Bay Area universities. Prior to Contra Costa, Ms. Thoreson spent 11 years in Butte County in CETA, GAIN as an Employment and Training Specialist, and child welfare social worker. A 1996 Title IV-E MSW graduate of UC Berkeley, she taught graduate social work courses and worked as a Field Liaison at CSU, East Bay during 2005–2009.

## Student Day 2013–2014 Planning Committees

| Welcome/<br>Registration | Exhibitor/ Raffle | Media/ Alumni    | Workshop          |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Nicole Chavarria         | Bre Ramsey        | Deanna Navarro   | Laura Flores      |
| Jahara Tinsley           | Anacani Rocha     | Daniella Galaviz | Julian G. Garza   |
| LaMarr Mills             | Grecia Sanchez    | Amber King       | Carly Kohler      |
| Sandra Gutierrez         | Cynthia Freeman   | Rhonda Holmes    | Victor Lecha III  |
| Judy Yuen                | Tina Furmanski    | Aracelei Iniquez | Chris Blankenship |
| Alaynnase (Sy) Yi        | Ken Park          | Michael Pacia    | Yaneth Godoy      |
| Melissa Martel           | Stephanie Rush    | Kristin Erikson  | Cynthia Fajardo   |
| Pamela Castillo          |                   | Daniella Galaviz | Kyle Miller       |
| Sandra Espino            |                   | Amber King       | Christina Maciel  |
| Garardo Torres           |                   | Rhonda Holmes    |                   |
| Helen Salazar            |                   |                  |                   |
| Nguyen Phan              |                   |                  |                   |
| Ranecia Cormier          |                   |                  |                   |
| Chris Carlay             |                   |                  |                   |

| Exhibitor |
|-----------|
| NASW      |

## The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa



- **Maggie Armistead, M.S.W.**, faculty lecturer/Title IV-E field liaison, has worked in field education with the Title IV-E Child Welfare Program for 10 years in the Department of Social Work Education at Fresno State. She earned her BA in Psychology in 1986 and MSW in 1997. Ms. Armistead has practiced in the public child welfare system for 12 years. She provides leadership in the Immigration Community Partnership and serves as liaison with the Mexican Consulate. She additionally teaches practice courses and provides field liaison services to Fresno County Department of Social Services and community benefit organizations.
- **Ida Ruiz, M.S.W. Student, Title IV-E Student Intern at Mexican Consulate**, has worked with Fresno County Department of Social Services for the last seven years. She completed her BA in Social Work in 2005. She is currently enrolled in the CSU, Fresno Social Work graduate program. She is completing her internship with the Mexican Consulate and is the immigration liaison for Fresno County Department of Social Services.

## Trauma Informed Practice

### Description

Child traumatic stress refers to the physical and emotional responses of a child to threatening events. Trauma may overwhelm a child's capacity to cope and may evoke intense emotional and physical reactions that impair the psychological sense of safety. This workshop will present how trauma affects children and families, and ways to integrate trauma awareness and care into social work practice.

### Presenters

- **Wandalyne Lane, M.A.**, got her first job at age 13 as a Recreation leader for the City of Ontario. She earned her Associate's degree in Liberal Arts, Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science, and first Master's degree in Human Behavior. She also obtained a second Master's, in Psychology with a Marriage Family Therapist emphasis. Ms. Lane has worked as a child care worker, social worker, recruitment technician, and wraparound clinical manager and currently is program coordinator in a mentoring program. Due to many transitions in her life, she chose to help as many people as she could, saying, "Know that life is not easy, but you can do it." Ms. Lane also obtained a second Associate's degree, in Theology. Ms. Lane worked with at-risk children, youth, and families for the past 24 years. She says, "I am not done yet, too many people to help."
- **Steven Hale, M.S.W.**, received his Bachelor's in psychology in 2002 from the University of California, Riverside, where he was the Head Bio-Feedback Technician in the university's counseling center and worked as a Research Assistant for Laurence D. Rosenblum, Ph.D., in the Ecological Acoustics Laboratory. The research by the team there, of which Mr. Hale was a member, was published in the *Journal of Perception and Psychophysics* in 2006. He worked for eight years in residential programs for SED boys before returning to school in 2008 to complete his MSW at Azusa Pacific University in 2010. Since completing his MSW, Mr. Hale has worked as a clinician for youth affected by trauma and as Case Manager and Program Coordinator for the IYRT mentoring program at Valley Star Community Services. He is a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, and a former Fellow of the Center for Children's Rights.

## Decolonizing Social Work and Healing through Neurodecolonization

### Description

This workshop will present how the results of neuroscientific research can be applied to decolonizing social work interventions to enhance human well-being. The presenter will focus on

## Immigration

### Description

This workshop will introduce the issues and barriers affecting undocumented children and families, with a focus on the benefits of California's Reuniting Immigrant Families Act (SB 1064), a model being replicated in other states that improves child welfare services to this population. Panelists will present both macro and micro perspectives, explaining the implementation of a MOU between the Fresno County Department of Social Services and the Mexican Consulate in Fresno. They will also present resources that social workers need to be aware of when engaging this population and using a foreign consulate.

### Presenters

- **Consul Santiago Cortes Alcocer, Mexican Consulate in Fresno**, received his graduate degree in international relationships from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM) and has a political science certificate from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) Aix-en-Provence. He is a member of the Mexican Foreign Service and currently the Consul for the Protection Department at the Mexican Consulate in Fresno. Mr. Cortes Alcocer worked as a political adviser in the New Zealand Embassy in Mexico and as a research assistant at the Investigative Center "Sobre America Del Norte" at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in the International Department Studies at ITAM. He collaborated with the Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA) of the United Nations in Syria and is a member of the youth program of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI).
- **Anita Ruiz, M.P.A.**, is the Social Work Supervisor for the County of Fresno, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)/Child Welfare Division. For eight years she was the Immigration Liaison responsible for completing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications on behalf of emancipating Juvenile Court dependents. She developed the position to be more active in the child welfare system, assisting with incorporating parents and relatives abroad to participate in the system through formal organizations such as the Mexican Consulate and DIF and by forging Skype visitation into family reunification services and the Team Decision Making meetings. Informally Ms. Ruiz developed a working relationship with the local Mexican Consulate. Ms. Ruiz founded and co-chaired the Central Valley Immigration Social Work Network and developed a Policy and Procedure Guide for Social Workers to bridge the gaps of service for the immigrant community served by child welfare. A member of the Migration and Child Welfare National Network and a member of the California Partners for Permanency court process workgroup addressing disparities and disproportionality in Child Welfare, Ms. Ruiz also served as an Adult Ally for the County of Fresno State Youth Council Ambassador.
- **Ilze Earner, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter Colleg, specializes in family and children's services. Dr. Earner received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and an MSW from California State University, Fresno. In 1999 she founded the Immigrants and Child Welfare Project providing consulting, technical assistance, and training on issues related to foreign-born populations and child welfare. Through her research, training and speaking engagements, Dr. Earner has been instrumental in raising awareness about the special needs of immigrant families, children, and youth. She co-edited a special edition of the *Journal of Child Welfare*, "Immigrant and Refugee Families and Public Child Welfare" (*Child Welfare League of America, September 2005*), with Dr. Hilda Rivera and recently co-edited a special issue of "Protecting Children" (*American Humane Society, 2008*) with Dr. Alan Dettlaff. Dr. Earner is a consultant with the National Resource Center for Family Connections and Permanency, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Adolescent Services Resource Network in New York State (ASRN). From 2000–2007 she sat on the New York City Administration for Children's Services Sub-Committee on Immigrant Issues.

## Student Day 2014 Conference Schedule

**8:00–8:45 am**

*Breakfast | Music Room  
Registration*

**8:45–9:15 am**

*The following all take place in the Music Room:*

- Welcome: 2013–2014 Student Day Coordinators
- Introduction of 2014–2015 Student Day Coordinators
- Remarks by Chris Mathias, Director, Title IV-E Stipend Program, CalSWEC, and Julie Griffin, NASW—California Chapter

**9:15–10:00 am**

Keynote Speaker: Estella F. Saldivar, *M.S.W.*

**10:10–11:10 am—Workshop Session 1**

1. Transgendered Youth: Demystifying the "T" in LGBT+
2. Human Trafficking—Commercial Exploitation of Children
3. Disproportionality in California's Public Child Protection System
4. Immigration

San Diego | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Monterey | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Music Room | Ground Floor

Santa Barbara | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**11:20 am–12:20 pm—Workshop Session 2**

1. Transgendered Youth: Demystifying the "T" in LGBT+
2. Human Trafficking—Commercial Exploitation of Children
3. Trauma Informed Practice
4. Decolonizing Social Work and Healing through Neurodecolonization

San Diego | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Monterey | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Music Room | Ground Floor

Santa Barbara | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**12:20–1:30 pm—Lunch/Raffle | Music Room**

**1:40–2:40 pm—Workshop Session 3**

1. Teen Pregnancy/Foster Youth
2. Job Prep and Hiring Skills
3. Trauma Informed Practice
4. Decolonizing Social Work and Healing through Neurodecolonization

Monterey | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

San Diego | 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Music Room | Ground Floor

Santa Barbara | 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**2:50–3:30 pm**

Title IV-E Alumni Panel | Music Room

**3:30–4:00 pm**

Reconvene | Music Room

**4:10–5:30 pm**

Reception—Sponsored by NASW | Oriental Courtyard

## Speakers

### **Estella F. Saldivar, M.S.W.** *Reflections of the Past—Who am I today?*

Ms. Estella F. Salivar, a Title IV-E graduate of Fresno State, will discuss her life's experiences and how they have influenced her to become the individual and professional she is today. She will also discuss the importance of continuing to be positive change agents within the field of social work to enhance the lives of others and provide effective social work practice with individuals, children, families, and communities.

Ms. Saldivar earned her BSW in 1994 from California State University, Fresno. While an undergraduate, she was president of the social work student organization TR-Trabajadores de La Raza. Ms. Saldivar went on to receive her MSW from Fresno State in 1996. Right after graduation, she was hired as a social worker in a male adolescent group home. Subsequently, she was a social worker for three years with Stanislaus County in Modesto, where she worked in family reunification, family preservation, and in a program named "Families in Partnership," where she served with a multi-disciplinary team.

Returning to Fresno, Ms. Saldivar served as a family social worker in a hospital setting and worked with families with HIV/AIDS. She also became a field base trainer with the Central California Training Academy, mentoring county social workers and conducting home visits with social workers to enhance their skills in working with families.

From 2009–2011, Ms. Saldivar directed a foster family agency. Since 2011, she has been a field liaison/instructor with the Title IV E BASW Program. In this role, she also provides academic counseling to students and is a lecturer for Social Work 20: Introduction to Social Work. In addition, Ms. Saldivar is a past president of the Latino Social Work Network of California and the Latino Social Work Network of Fresno.

## Workshops

### **Transgendered Youth: Demystifying the "T" in LGBT+**

#### Description

This workshop will present the issues that confront Transgendered foster youth while in the care of public child welfare and will provide information regarding the culture and identity of a Transgendered individual. The presenter will provide the audience with thorough information regarding Transgendered youth and the role their sexual identity plays while in the care of public child welfare.

#### Presenter: Dakota M. Draconi, M.S.W.

Dakota Draconi earned an MSW with Distinction from Fresno State in 2012, as well as the Student Affairs Graduate Dean's Medal. In 2008, she earned a BA in Women's Studies, also from Fresno State. She is a member of the National Coalition Building Institute International Fresno State Affiliate Team, a Peer Counselor with Fresno State's Violence Prevention Project, a Cultural Broker for Fresno County specializing in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT+) community, and a Certified Domestic Violence Crisis Counselor with Marjaree Mason Center.

Ms. Draconi is an out and proud member of the LGBT+ community who has been conducting guest lectures, workshops, and trainings on a variety of topics since 1999. She served for two years as president of United Student Pride, an LGBT+ organization at Fresno State. She also served for three years as a member of the Board of Directors for Central California Alliance, a social philanthropic LGBT+ organization. Through her own experiences, as well as her education in the fields of Women's

Studies and Social Work, Ms. Draconi has developed a deep passion for, and commitment to, activism and advocacy on behalf of the LGBT+ community.

### **Human Trafficking— Commercial Exploitation of Children**

#### Description

Exploited children are sexually exploited for profit, victims of a modern form of slavery. Many such children have previously left home due to neglect or physical abuse. This workshop will debunk the common myths of human trafficking and explore the lives of commercially exploited children. In addition, the workshop will present methods of control used by perpetrators and discuss engagement strategies and interventions.

#### Presenter: Brianne Baker

Brianne Baker is currently a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of California. She started her journey working with autistic clients during her undergraduate years at Claremont McKenna College. She went on to receive her MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco. In the last 13 years Ms. Baker has participated in and developed several mental health and wraparound programs in Santa Clara County, reaching the highest risk children in the community. In the last two years, Ms. Baker worked with a special collaborative team that included a non-profit, Department of Family and Children Services, local law enforcement, and mental health services to address the needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in the community. As such she has delivered many trainings and workshops to social workers, therapists, law enforcement, CASA workers, and mental health professionals in an effort to bring together our community support systems to address this high-risk population. Her other work has included residential care, therapeutic behavioral services, trauma-focused work with children and their families and DV batterers groups.

### **Disproportionality in California's Public Child Protection System**

#### Description

Race and ethnicity is widely viewed as a marker for a complex interaction of economic, social, political, and environmental factors that influence the health of individuals and communities. In this workshop, participants will examine differences in children's risk of child protection involvement by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic indicators, and maternal nativity. Using population-based data from California, this workshop will describe and discuss possible explanations for racial/ethnic disparities in the rates of reports received by CPS, as well as disparities in rates of substantiation and entries to foster care. Additionally, participants will be introduced to county-specific racial disparity indices published on the UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators site.

#### Presenter: Emily Putnam-Hornstein, M.S.W., Ph.D.

Emily Putnam is an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work and Director of the Children's Data Network, an agency, university, and community collaborative focused on the linkage of administrative data to inform children's policies and programs. She also maintains a research appointment at the UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, a long-standing child welfare data and research collaboration with the California Department of Social Services. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein's current research focuses on the application of epidemiological methods to generate population-level understandings of non-fatal and fatal child abuse and neglect. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein graduated from Yale University with a BA in Psychology, received her MSW from Columbia University, and earned her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley. Prior to returning to graduate school, she worked as a child welfare caseworker in New York City.