

Amanda Spishak-Thomas

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Current Appointment

07/2023 – Present **Medicaid Research Scholar**
Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Education

05/2023 **Columbia School of Social Work, New York, NY**
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Concentration: Social Policy and Policy Analysis, Economics

Dissertation Title: Grave Robbers: Medicaid Estate Recovery and its (Un)intended Consequences on Low-Income Families

Dissertation Committee Members: Heidi Allen (Sponsor), Jane Waldfogel (Chair), Julien Teitler, Sarah Cohodes, Emma Sandoe

10/2020 **Columbia School of Social Work, New York, NY**
Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

05/2013 **Columbia School of Social Work, New York, NY**
Master of Science in Social Work (M.S.S.W.) – Advanced Clinical Practice, Health, Mental Health, & Disabilities

06/2012 **Seattle University, Seattle, WA**
Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) – Departmental Honors & Nonprofit Leadership, *Magna Cum Laude*

Professional Licensure

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of California (license #73927)

Fellowships and Honors

2022-2023 **Horowitz Foundation Award**, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (\$7,500)
2022-2023 **Ruth Fizedale Dissertation Support Program**, Columbia School of Social Work (\$5,000)
2022 **Student Award for Leadership and Service**, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work, (\$1,500)
2018-2023 **Doctoral Fellowship**, Columbia School of Social Work, (\$32,000 annually)
2019-2022 **Doctoral Summer Research Funding**, Columbia School of Social Work (\$7,500 annually)
2019-2023 **Doctoral Student Travel Grant**, Columbia School of Social Work (\$1,000 annually)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Eliason, E., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Steenland, M. (2022). Association of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions with Postpartum Contraceptive Use and Early Postpartum Pregnancy. *Contraception*, 113, 42-48.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2022.02.012>

Kaplan, D. B., Silverstone, B., Chan, K., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Herman, C., Zlotnik, J. L. (2022). NASW's Supervisory Leaders in Aging: One-year practice change outcomes of an innovative training program for social work supervisors. *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02701960.2022.2028260>

Working Papers

Spishak-Thomas, A. “The Association of Medicaid Estate Recovery with Homeownership and Medicaid Enrollment”

Spishak-Thomas, A. “Medicaid Enrollment and Intergenerational Transfers of Wealth among Older Adults”

Spishak-Thomas, A., Sandoe, E. “Understanding Medicaid Estate Recovery: The Experience of North Carolina”

Works in Progress

Allen, H., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Liu, C., Underhill, K., & Daw, J. “When the Bough Breaks: Financial Burdens in the Postpartum Period by Insurance Type”

Spishak-Thomas, A. Slopen, M., Allen, H., Daw, J., Underhill, K. “The Role of State PFML Policies in Determining Length and Composition of Parental Leave”

Invited and Peer-Reviewed Presentations

Allen, H., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Liu, C., Underhill, K., & Daw, J. When the Bough Breaks: Financial Burdens in the Postpartum Period by Insurance Type. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA, 2023.

Spishak-Thomas, A. Toppenberg, L., Sonsteng-Person, M., Lob, S., & Bonilla, P. Can’t Fight Poverty in Poverty: Organizing for Equity in Social Work. Roundtable. Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ, 2023.

Spishak-Thomas, A. Grave Robbers: Medicaid Estate Recovery and Wealth Disparities in Intergenerational Financial Health. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, D.C., 2022.

Spishak-Thomas, A., Allen, H. The Association of the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program with Homeownership. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Austin, TX, 2022.

Eliason, E., **Spishak-Thomas, A.** Impacts of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions on Closely Spaced Pregnancies and Postpartum Contraceptive Use. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Austin, TX, 2022.

Eliason, E., **Spishak-Thomas, A.** Association Between Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions and Breastfeeding among Low-Income Women. Poster Presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2021 (online).

Spishak-Thomas, A., Aivadyan, C. 'So many disincentives to take care of ourselves': A Photovoice study on graduate student workers' health care experiences. Poster Presentation. Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA, 2021 (online).

Spishak-Thomas, A., Slopen, M. Making Work Pay (the Rent): Does the Earned Income Tax Credit Affect Housing Mobility among Low Income Workers. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, D.C., 2020 (online).

Kaplan, D., Silverstone, B., Chan, K., **Spishak-Thomas, A.** NASW’s Supervisory Leaders in Aging: One-year Practice Change Outcomes of an Innovative Training Program for Social Work Supervisors. Gerontological Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, 2020 (online).

Allen, H., Zhang, Y., Eliason, E., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Frankel, C. Adverse Childhood Experiences and their Relationship with Depression among Adults in a Low-Income Uninsured Population. Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C., 2020.

Price E., Garg M., **Spishak-Thomas A.**, Crevensten H., Ranji, S. "Doctor, Your Patient Wants to Leave": Navigating Elopement Risk in Patients Who Lack Decision Making Capacity. Workshop at Society of Hospital Medicine National Meeting, Orlando, FL, 2018.

Research

2020 – 2023

Doctoral Research Assistant, Columbia World Projects

Amanda Spishak-Thomas • *Curriculum Vitae*, August 2023

Leveraging Medicaid in the “Fourth Trimester”: A Path to Averting Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in the U.S.

PIs: Heidi Allen, Jamie Daw, Kristen Underhill

2021	Doctoral Research Assistant , Columbia School of Social Work Elective Deliveries PIs: Julien Teitler, Nancy Reichman
2018 – 2021	Doctoral Research Assistant , Columbia School of Social Work The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Health of Adults without Dependent Children: A Randomized Controlled Trial PIs: Heidi Allen, Peter Meunnig
2019 – 2020	Doctoral Research Assistant , Columbia School of Social Work Evaluating the Health Effects of Insurance-Subsidized Health Foods at Walmart PI: Heidi Allen
2018 – 2020	Doctoral Research Assistant , Adelphi University Strengthening Social Work Leaderships and Gerontological Capacity on the Front Lines of Service to Older Adults PIs: Daniel Kaplan, Barbara Silverstone
Teaching Instructor 05/2021 – 07/2021	Columbia School of Social Work Instructor – Advocacy: Decolonizing Mezzo- and Macro-practice in Social Work
Guest Lecturer 11/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Guest Lecturer – Social Welfare Policy, “U.S. Health Policy”
11/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Guest Lecturer – Human Behavior in the Social Environment, “Social Ties, Social Support, and Behavior”
06/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Guest Lecturer – Program Evaluation in Social Services, “Dissemination and Sustainability”
07/2019	Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work Guest Lecturer – Seminar in Social Welfare Policy II: Health and Mental Health Systems, “Health Policy Advocacy and Political Social Work”
Teaching Associate 09/2020 – 12/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Teaching Associate – Human Behavior in the Social Environment
09/2020 – 12/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Teaching Associate – Social Welfare Policy
Teaching Assistant 01/2020 – 05/2020	Columbia School of Social Work Graduate Teaching Assistant – Seminar on Policy Practice II
Teaching Fellowships 06/2019 – 08/2019	Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Senior Teaching Mentor – Summer Health Profession Education Program (SHPEP)

Teaching Trainings

03/2019 – 06/2019 **Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning**
Inclusive Teaching Training

Review Experience

Conference Abstract Review

03/2021 Council on Social Work Education 67th Annual Program Meeting

Peer-Reviewed Journal Review

02/2023 Journal of Women's Health
03/2023 The Gerontologist
06/2023 Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved

Clinical Experience

01/2015 – 08/2018 **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, San Francisco, CA**
Inpatient Medical/Surgical and Oncology Social Worker

09/2013 – 01/2015 **CPMC Ray Dolby Brain Health Center, San Francisco, CA**
Family Care Specialist

09/2013 – 01/2015 **Alzheimer's Association, San Jose, CA**
Family Care Specialist

University Service and Policy Practice

2022 – Present **Brooklyn Community Board 6 Member**, New York City Community Board

2021 – 2022 **Bargaining Committee Representative**, Student Workers of Columbia-UAW Local 2710

2021 – 2023 **Social Work Representative**, Columbia University PhD Council

2020 – 2023 **Doctoral Student Peer Mentor**, Peer-to-Peer Doctoral Student Mentoring Program, Columbia School of Social Work

2020 – Present **Support Group Facilitator**, Alzheimer's Association of New York City

2020 – 2021 **Founding Member**, Doctoral Student Task Force, Columbia School of Social Work

2020 **Selected Student Representative**, Doctoral Program Orientation, Columbia School of Social Work

2019 – 2022 **Advocacy Collective**, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York

2019 **Political Boot Camp**, Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy

2018 – 2023 **Health Care Working Group**, Student Workers of Columbia-UAW Local 2710

2016 – 2017 **Leadership Development Institute**, San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs

2015 – 2018 **Support Group Facilitator**, Alzheimer's Association of Northern California/Northern Nevada