

# Amanda Spishak-Thomas

Columbia School of Social Work  
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## Education

- 09/2018 – Present      Columbia School of Social Work, New York, NY  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Social Policy and Policy Analysis, Economics concentration
- 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)

## Honors & Awards

- 2018-2022      **Doctoral Fellowship**, Columbia School of Social Work, (\$29,000 annually)
- 2019-2022      **Doctoral Summer Research Funding**, Columbia School of Social Work (\$7,500 annually)
- 2019-2022      **Doctoral Student Travel Grant**, Columbia School of Social Work (\$1,000 annually)

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Kaplan, D. B., Silverstone, B., Chan, K., **Spishak-Thomas, A.** (accepted for publication as of Dec. 2021). NASW's Supervisory Leaders in Aging: One-year practice change outcomes of an innovative training program for social work supervisors. *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*.

## Under Review

Eliason, E., **Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Steenland, M. "Association of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions with Postpartum Contraceptive Use and Early Postpartum Pregnancy"

## Working Papers

**Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Eliason, E. "Reasons Underlying Family Planning Actions in the Postpartum Period"

## Works in Progress

**Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Eliason, E. "Exploring Preconception Family Planning Use and Pregnancy Intention among Women with a Live Birth"

**Spishak-Thomas, A.**, Allen, H. "Grave Robbers: The Impact of the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program on Intergenerational Transfers of Wealth and Property among America's Working Families"

**Spishak-Thomas, A.** "American Women's Access to Health Insurance through Midlife"

**Spishak-Thomas, A.** "Effects of Medicaid Title XIX on Reproductive Health for Low-Income Women"

## Conferences and Presentations

\*presented by coauthor

**Spishak-Thomas, A.,** Allen, H. Grave Robbers: The Impact of the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program on Intergenerational Transfers of Wealth and Property among America's Working Families. 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 – Present

### Doctoral Research Assistant

Columbia School of Social Work

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

PIs: Julien Teitler, Nancy Reichman

2018 – Present

### 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 and University Service

### Instructor of Record

05/2021 – 07/2021      Columbia School of Social Work  
**Instructor of Record** – 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

### Abstract Reviewer

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

### 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**

2021 – Present     **Bargaining Committee Representative**, Student Workers of Columbia-UAW Local 2110

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

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

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

2018 – Present     **Health Care Working Group**, Student Workers of Columbia-UAW Local 2110

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

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

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