

Yvonne Smith, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
School of Social Work
David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics

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Education

- Ph.D. 2013
The University of Chicago
School of Social Service Administration, Chicago, Illinois
- A.M. 2006
The University of Chicago
School of Social Service Administration, Chicago, Illinois
- B.A. 1998
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio
Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Faculty Appointment

2014 to Present Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics
Syracuse University

Areas of Research and Scholarship

youth residential treatment
clinical decision-making and expertise
apprenticeship learning
psychotherapeutic process
ethnographic methods
animals in social work

Areas of Teaching Expertise

social work practice

evidence-based practice

common factors

human behavior in the social environment

human diversity

social work and human/animal interaction

qualitative methods

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles [Impact Factor/5-year Impact Factor]

Smith, Y., & Colletta, L. (2019). Intensive oversight of youth residential treatment: Staff perspectives on the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 91, 52-62. [2.899/3.583]

Bergen-Cico, D., **Smith, Y.**, Gooley, C. P., Hannon, K., Woodruff, R., Spicer, M., & Gump, B. (2018). Dog ownership and training reduces post-traumatic stress symptoms and increases self-compassion among veterans: Results of a longitudinal control study. *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*. [OnlineFirst, issue forthcoming] [1.498/1.799]

Smith, Y., Colletta, L., & Bender, A.E. (2018). Moral people or moral projects?: Worker altruism in youth residential treatment. *Culture, Medicine, & Psychiatry*, 43(1), 25-55. [.983/1.318]

Smith, Y., Colletta, L., Bender, A.E. (2017). Client violence against youth care workers: Findings of an exploratory study of workforce issues in residential treatment. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. [OnlineFirst, issue forthcoming]. [2.443/2.511]

Smith, Y. (2017) Beyond “common sense”: The role of local knowledge in youth residential treatment. *Social Work Research*, 41(4), 221-234. [1.0/1.509]

Smith, Y. (2017). “Sense” and sensitivity: Informal apprenticeship among youth care workers in a residential treatment center for children. *Child and Family Social Work*, 22, 1330-1337. [1.907/2.377]

Smith, Y., & Spitzmueller, M. C. (2016). Worker perspectives on contemporary milieu therapy: A cross-site ethnographic study. *Social Work Research*, 40(2), 105-116. [1.0/1.509]

Smith, Y. (2014). Making clinical decisions when ‘behavior has meaning’: An ethnographic study of expertise in a residential treatment center for children and adolescents. *Qualitative Social Work*, 13, 8-25. [1.0/1.372]

Smith, Y. (2014). Rethinking decision making: An ethnographic study of worker agency in crisis intervention. *Social Service Review*, 88(3), 407-442. [1.738/2.236]

Carr, E. S., & **Smith, Y.** (2014). The poetics of therapeutic practice: Motivational interviewing and the powers of pause. *Culture, Medicine, & Psychiatry*, 38, 83-114. [.983/1.318]

Elkin, I., Falconnier, L., **Smith, Y.**, Canada, K. E., Henderson, E., Brown, E. R., and McKay, B. M. (2014). Therapist responsiveness and patient engagement in therapy. *Psychotherapy Research*, 24(1), 52-66. [2.953/2.953]

Book Chapters

Smith, Y. & Golomb-Leavitt, A. (in press). Working with people who have lost a pet: Cultural perspectives on cross-species grief. In P. Erdman & L. Kogan (Eds.). *Pet Loss, Grief, and Therapeutic Interventions: Practitioners Navigating the Human-Animal Bond*. New York: Routledge.

Smith, Y. (2018). Pets and human diversity: Toward culturally competent, culturally humble psychotherapy. In L. Kogan & C. Blazina (Eds.) *Clinician's Guide to Treating Companion Animal Issues* (pp. 477-496). Cambridge, MA: Elsevier/Academic Press.

Book Review

Smith, Y. (2014). Doing race and emotion in an “aggressive” city. [Review of the book *Street Therapists: Race, Affect, and Neoliberal Personhood in Latino Newark*, by A. Y. Ramos-Zayas.] *Current Anthropology*, 55(3), 362-363. [2.326/3.386]

Manuscripts Under Review

Gillingham, P., & *Smith, Y.* Epistemological siblings: Seven reasons to teach ethnography in social work education. *British Journal of Social Work*. [1.746/2.220]

Manuscripts in Preparation

Mathias, J., Doering-White, J., **Smith, Y.**, & Hardesty, M. Situated causality: Results of three ethnographic studies of social work practice. *Social Work Research*.

Smith, Y. Youth care workers are first responders: A synthesis of findings from two ethnographic studies of front-line practice. [Residential Treatment for Children & Youth]

Smith, Y. Making sense of physical restraint: Youth care worker perspectives on coercive job tasks. [Child & Family Social work]

Smith, Y. A systemic approach to child and worker safety in youth residential treatment [Residential Treatment for Children and Youth]

Presentations

Invited Presentations

Smith, Y. (accepted). *Moral people or moral projects?: Worker altruism in youth residential treatment.* Keynote address to Sonoma State University, Department of Human Development Student Research Mini-Conference, Rohnert Park, CA.

Smith, Y. (2018, July). Beyond deliberative decision-making in residential treatment: Mobilizing ethical and effective practice during crisis intervention. Workshop presented at the Decisions, Assessment, Risk & Evidence in Social Work 5th International Symposium, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Smith, Y. (2018, June). *Representing local perspectives through ethnography: The bench, the trench, and the translational research process.* Keynote address to the University of Queensland School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Social Work Research Week, Brisbane, Australia.

Smith, Y. (2018, June). *Contextually responsive decision-making in youth residential treatment.* Keynote address to the University of Queensland School of Social Work, Practices Day, Brisbane, Australia.

Smith, Y. (2017, October). *Youth care workers as altruists?: "Superheroes," "good people," and "giving back" in residential treatment.* Paper presented at the Workshop of Scholars in Anthropology and Social Work.

Smith, Y. (2016, October). *Crisis and agency: Making good enough decisions in residential treatment.* Paper presented at the International Conference on Judgment and Decision-Making in Social Work, Mainz, Germany.

Smith, Y. (2016, August). *Youth care workers as first responders: Making decisions when time is short and the stakes are high.* Webinar presented in conjunction with the Community Technical Assistance Center of New York, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research to 282 registered participants.

Caldwell, P., Colella, A., & **Smith, Y.** (2015, October). *Animals in children's lives: Opportunities for growth and healing*. Panel presentation at the Wheler Conference: On Children, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

Smith, Y. (2012, April). *Using social theory in the study of clinical decision-making*. Presentation to Social Psychological Foundations of Individual Change, a Doctoral Course at the School of Social Service Administration. Instructor: Jeanne Marsh, Ph.D., Chicago, IL.

Smith, Y. (2012, January). The hermeneutic of "behavior has meaning": An ethnographic study of clinical decision-making in a residential treatment center for children. Paper presented at the School of Social Service Administration Doctoral Theory Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Carr, E. S., **Smith, Y.**, & Brennan, M. (2011, March). *Commodity, spirit, genre: The travels of Motivational Interviewing*. Paper presented at the School of Social Service Administration Doctoral Theory Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Smith, Y. (2011, February). *Agency in crisis: Stories of agency in therapeutic crisis intervention training and practice*. Paper presented at University of Chicago Workshop on U.S. Locations—An interdisciplinary work group on the ethnographic study of sites in the United States, Chicago, IL.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings—Oral Presentations

Smith, Y. (accepted). *Culturally humble, culturally competent practice and human-animal interaction*. To be presented at American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Smith, Y. (January, 2019). Discussant. *Constructing boundaries: Using ethnography to study the organization-environment dialectic*. Symposium presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.

Gillingham, P., & **Smith, Y.** (July, 2018). *Legitimizing ethnography for social work research and practice*. Paper presented by P. Gillingham at the Ethnography Symposium, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Smith, Y. (April, 2018). *Contextually responsive decision-making in youth residential treatment*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the European Social Work Research Association, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mathias, J. & **Smith, Y.** (January, 2018). *Ethnographic approaches to causal explanation in social work*. Symposium presented at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

Smith, Y. & Colletta, L. (January, 2018). *"The worst part of my job": Client violence against youth care workers as a cause of staff turnover*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

Smith, Y., & Myers, P. (March, 2015). *Youth care workers as first responders: Making decisions when time is short and the stakes are high*. Paper presented at the annual conference of American Association of Children's Residential Centers, Savannah, GA.

Smith, Y., & Spitzmueller, M. (January, 2015). *Worker perspectives on Contemporary Milieu Therapy: A cross-site ethnographic study of mental health practice*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.

Smith, Y. (2013, January). *"Sense" and sensitivity: The development of clinical expertise in a residential treatment center for children*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.

Smith, Y. (2012, January). The hermeneutic of "behavior has meaning": An ethnographic study of clinical decision-making in a residential treatment center for children. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

Smith, Y. (2012, January). "Decision-making" in crisis intervention: Results of an ethnographic study of mental health workers in a residential treatment center for children. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

Smith, Y., & Spitzmueller, M. (2012, January). *Mining the gaps: Using ethnographic methods to study the interface of policy, administration, and clinical social work practice*. Symposium presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

Carr, E.S., & **Smith, Y.** (2010, January). Conversation analysis and Motivational Interviewing: A new method for understanding the sociolinguistic features of skillful MI practice. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.

Grants

Grants Received

Yenawine Institute for Corporate-Community Partnerships

David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University

Principal Investigator

Hiring, training, and retaining competent direct care workers in youth residential treatment: An ethnographic study of workforce issues in a high-stress field.

2016-2018

\$17,399

David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University

Faculty Seed Grant

Principal Investigator

Hiring, training, and retaining competent direct care workers in youth residential treatment: An ethnographic study of workforce issues in a high-stress field.

2015

\$5,000

Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation

Doctoral Dissertation Grant

2010

\$5,000

Grant Proposals Under Review

Human-Animal Bond Research Institute

Biopsychosocial Effects of Mounted and Unmounted Equine Assisted Therapy on Children and Adults

Principal Investigator

Co-Investigator: Aviva Vincent

2019 (under review)

\$50,986

Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence (CUSE) Grant Program

Toward Sustainable Youth Care Work: A Pilot Study of an Intervention to Build Resilience and Reduce Turnover in a Vulnerable Workforce

Principal Investigator

Co-Investigators: Jennifer Genovese, Nancy Mudrick, Kamala Ramadoss, & Matthew Spitzmueller

2019 (under review)

\$29,758

Research Experience

Principal Investigator

Hiring, training, and retaining competent direct care workers in youth residential treatment: An ethnographic study of workforce issues in a high-stress field.

June 2015 to present

Funded by: David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University, Faculty Seed Grant; Yenawine Institute for Corporate-Community Partnerships

Work to date: Completed extensive protocol for human subjects protection, conducted ongoing informed consent process, conducted 65 interviews and 490 hours of participant observation with participating community organization, completed follow-up presentations of findings to participants maintaining a positive relationship with the organization, completed data analysis for three of four anticipated publications

Principal Investigator

Learning how to act: An ethnographic study of worker agency and expertise in a residential treatment center for children

September 2009 to 2014

The University of Chicago

School of Social Service Administration

Funded by: The Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation—Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Research Assistant

Disseminating motivational interviewing across social work domains: An ethnographic study of MI training and implementation

September 2008 to May 2011

The University of Chicago

School of Social Service Administration

Principal Investigator: E. Summerson Carr, Ph.D.

Funded by: The Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation—Faculty Research Grant;

The Center for Health Administration Studies

Research Assistant

Scripting addiction: The politics of therapeutic talk and American sobriety

June 2007 to September 2009

The University of Chicago

School of Social Service Administration

Principal Investigator: E. Summerson Carr, Ph.D.

Research Assistant

Therapist responsiveness project

June 2006 to October 2007

The University of Chicago

School of Social Service Administration

Principal Investigator: Irene Elkin, Ph.D.

Research and Production Assistant

Naloxone: Opiate overdose prevention/intervention

Chicago Recovery Alliance

Chicago, Illinois

March 2003 to March 2004

Teaching Experience

Instructor

2014 to present

Syracuse University

David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics

School of Social Work

SWK 328: Human Diversity in Social Context (undergraduate)

SWK 403/603: Social Work and the Human-Animal Bond (undergraduate/graduate)

SWK 626: Persons in Social Context (graduate)

WGS/SWK 628: Human Diversity in Social Context (graduate)

SWK 743: Advanced Integrated Social Work Practice (graduate)

Instructor

Community Ethnography (graduate)

The University of Chicago

School of Social Service Administration

March 2012 to May 2012

Service

University Service

BSSW Committee, 2014-present

Faculty Search Committee 2016-present (4 full-time positions)

Advanced Integrated Social Work Practice Concentration Committee, 2014-present

Animals in Social Work Curriculum Development Group, 2015-present

Falk College Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 2018-present

Small group facilitator—Falk College faculty diversity training, 2018

Interview and voiceover for Falk College video productions, 2017

Faculty Advisor to the Syracuse University English Equestrian Team, 2018-present

External Service

Contributing Editor: Social Work (2019-present)

Consulting Editor: Social Work Research (2018-present)

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Child and Youth Services

Children and Youth Services Review

Ethos

Human Animal Interaction Bulletin—Section 13, Division 17 of the American Psychological Association

Qualitative Social Work

Social Service Review

Social Work Research

Therapeutic Horsemanship Volunteer

From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. 2014

Awards

Syracuse University School of Social Work Faculty Member of the Year
2014-2015

Syracuse University School of Social Work Graduate Assistant Awarded
2014-2019

The co-authored article, Elkin, I., Falconnier, L., **Smith, Y.**, Canada, K. E., Henderson, E., Brown, E. R., and McKay, B. M. (2014). Therapist responsiveness and patient engagement in therapy. *Psychotherapy Research*, 24(1), 52-66, was among the top three most downloaded papers published in *Psychotherapy Research* in 2014 and has been included in a Routledge Behavioral Sciences collection of the most downloaded articles of that year.

Social Work Practice Experience

Illinois LCSW #149016559—Status: inactive

Individual and Family Therapist

National Youth Advocate Program

Matteson, Illinois

August 2011 to October 2013

Dormitory Counselor

The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School—Transitional Living Center

Chicago, Illinois

November 2005 to June 2008

Social Work Intern II

Chicago House and Social Service Agency

Chicago, Illinois

June 2005 to October 2005

Social Work Intern I

Chicago House and Social Service Agency—Supportive Living Program

Chicago, Illinois

October 2004 to June 2005

Professional Affiliations

National Association of Social Workers

Society for Social Work and Research

Scholars Across Anthropology and Social Work

American Association of University Professors