

# University of Kentucky College of Social Work

2018-2019

## PhD Candidates on the Job Market

We are delighted to present the University of Kentucky College of Social Work PhD Program candidates on the academic job market for this year. Our PhD candidates represent scholars who will be some of the leading researchers in social work. They include individuals with excellence in the classroom who are prepared to teach the next generation of social workers and conduct research on some of the most pressing social problems we as a society face. Our candidates' interests include suicide, stigma, military and veterans, forensic social work, health disparities, and substance misuse.

Enclosed you will find the UK COSW candidates currently seeking faculty positions at research-intensive universities. We highlight our future social work leaders in terms of their substantive interests, overall research programs, and scholarly productivity. We extend an invitation to the search committees of your respective institutions to review these outstanding PhD candidates.

### [LEARN MORE »](#)

Please contact these candidates directly or email us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Cerel, PhD

[julie.cerel@uky.edu](mailto:julie.cerel@uky.edu)

Director of Doctoral Programs  
College of Social Work

Ann Vail, PhD

[ann.vail@uky.edu](mailto:ann.vail@uky.edu)

Interim Dean  
College of Social Work





**Amy Brown**

**Email:**

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**Athena Kheibari**

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**Grant Victor**

**Email:**

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# Amy Brown

**Area of research interest:** Military and Veteran mental health and suicide outcomes, specifically treatment seeking and access to care

**Dissertation chair:** [Dr. Cerel](#)

**Dissertation:** National Guard Soldiers with Suicide Ideation: Treatment Seeking and Stigma, Mental Health Outcomes, and Trauma History: A Three-Paper Dissertation

## **Current Employment:**

RCS Counselor, Social Worker (GS-11), Full Time, Lexington Vet Center

**Military Experience:** 31L/31R Radio/Switch Operator, Specialist (E-4) (2000-2004), Iowa Army National Guard, Cedar Rapids, IA

## **Email:**

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## **Publications:**

- Miller, J., Donohue-Dioh, J., & **Brown, A.** (2018). Using Concept Mapping to develop a statewide kinship care coalition: A case study. *Journal of Community Practice*, 26(2), 1-22.
- **Brown, A.**, Joshi, M. (2014). Intimate partner violence among female service members and veterans: Information and resources available through military and non-military websites. *Social Work in Health Care*, 53(8), 714-738.

## **Teaching Experience**

- SW 580 Topical Seminar in Social Work: Substance Misuse (online) Independent Instructor, Undergraduate and Graduate, University of Kentucky
- SW 322-401 Social Work and Social Welfare (face-to-face) Independent Instructor, Undergraduate, University of Kentucky (3 sections)



# Amy Brown (continued)

## Select Presentations:

- **Brown, A., & Cerel J.** (2018, April). Comorbid traumatic death exposure and suicide exposure: Impact on mental health and suicide outcomes. Poster presented at the 51st American Association of Suicidology Conference, Washington, D.C.
- **Brown, A., & Cerel J.** (2017, April). Exposure to traumatic death in military veterans: Associations with suicide and mental health outcomes. Poster presented at the 50th American Association of Suicidology Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- **Brown, A., Chen, J., Coates, E., Davila, E., Schonfeld, L.** (2014, August) Veterans' reintegration experiences: Basic and military specific demographics. Poster presented at the 122nd Annual American Psychological Association Convention, Washington, D.C.
- **Brown, A., Joshi, M.** (2013, January) Intimate partner violence among female veterans and Active Duty service members. Presented at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) National Conference, San Diego, California.

**MSW, University of South Florida**



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# Athena Kheibari

**Area of research interest:** Understanding the underlying causes of stigma, particularly related to suicide, and factors associated with suicide stigma.

**Dissertation chair:** [Dr. Julie Cerel](#)

**Mentor:** [Dr. Julie Cerel](#); [Dr. Jay Miller](#)

**Working title of dissertation:** Terror Management Theory and Suicide Attitudes

## Publications:

- **Kheibari, A.**, Cerel, J., & Sanford, R. (2018). Attitudes about suicide ideation among suicide loss survivors: A vignette study. *Psychological Reports*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0033294118795882>
- Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.**, Staton-Tindall, M. & Oser, C. (2018). Appalachian women's use of substance abuse treatment: Examining the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations. *Journal of Social Work Practice in Addictions*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2018.1450264>
- **Kheibari, A.**, Victor, G., Gutti, S. S., Gutti, S. N., Rao, S., Kitzman, P., & Dignan, M. (2018). Smoking and stroke in Appalachian Kentucky. *Journal of Neurology and Neurobiology*, 1(1), 1-4. doi:10.31487/j.NNB.2018.10.006
- Miller, J., Benner, K., Kheibari, A., & Washington, E. (2017). Conceptualizing on-campus support programs for collegiate foster youth and alumni: A plan for action. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 83, 57-67.  
doi:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2017.10.028

## Grant Funding:

- College of Social Work Pilot Funding Award (04/01/2018). Project title: Suicide Attitudes from a Terror Management Theory Perspective (Amount \$2,120).  
Role: PI

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# Athena Kheibari (continued)

## Select Presentations:

- **Kheibari, A.**, Cerel, J., Brown, A., & Williams, S. (2018, April). Are suicide attitudes different in suicide attempt survivors? Poster presented at the 51st Annual American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.
- **Kheibari, A.**, & Victor, G. (2017, November). Existential terror, social injustice, and the death penalty. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology 73rd Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.**, Staton-Tindall, M. & Oser, C. (2017, June). Appalachian women's use of substance abuse treatment: Examining the behavioral model for vulnerable populations. Poster presented at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- Miller, J., Benner, K., & **Kheibari, A.** (2017, March). Identifying collegiate supports for foster youth and alumni: A plan for action. Paper presented at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Miller, J., Benner, K., & **Kheibari, A.** (2016, November). Conceptualizing support programs for collegiate foster youth: A plan for academic administrators. Poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 62nd Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- **Kheibari, A.** & Victor, G. (2016, June). The role of terror management theory and social injustice in capital punishment. Oral presentation at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- **Kheibari, A.**, Sanford, R., Frey, L., & Cerel, J. (2016, April). Personal experience with stigma in adults bereaved by suicide and suicide attempt survivors: A qualitative study. Poster presented at the 49th Annual American Association of Suicidology, Chicago, IL.  
doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.23214.82248
- **Kheibari, A.**, Sanford, R., Frey, L., & Cerel, J. (2016, January). Exploring attitudes toward suicide in adults bereaved by suicide and suicide attempt survivors. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Washington, D.C.  
doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.10107.62243





# Grant Victor

**Area of research interest:** overlapping problems with substance use in four key areas: (1) examining disparities in overall behavioral health, including substance use among under-served populations; (2) how barriers to treatment access affects under-served populations; (3) the roles of forensic social work with behavioral health problems in the criminal justice system; and (4) policy implications of findings.

**Dissertation chair:** [Dr. Flaherty](#)

**Working title of dissertation:** Examining the Drugs/Violence Nexus among Incarcerated Rural Women.

## Publications:

- Kheibari, A., **Victor, G.**, Gutti, S.S., Gutti, S.N., Rao, S., Kitzman, P., Dignan, M. (2018) Smoking and Stroke in Appalachian Kentucky. *Journal of Neurology and Neurobiology*, 1(1), 1-4. doi:10.31487/j.NNB.2018.10.006
- Walker, R., Clark, J., Monahan, E., Shechet, A., Kheibari, A., **Victor, G.** (2018). Developmental impairments in moral competence as mitigation in capital cases. *Journal of Behavioral Science and Law*, 36(4). doi:10.1002/bsl.2353
- **Victor, G.**, Kheibari, A., Staton-Tindall, M., Oser, C. (2017). Examining Appalachian women's utilization of substance abuse treatment: An application of Vulnerable Behavioral Model for Health Services. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 18 (2). doi:10.1080/1533256X.2018.1450264
- **Victor, G. A.**, Walker, R., Cole, J., & Logan, T. K. (2017). Opioid analgesics and heroin: Examining drug misuse trends among a sample of drug treatment clients in Kentucky. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 461-6. doi:10.1016/j.drugpo.2017.01.008
- Snell-Rood, C., Staton-Tindall, M., & **Victor, G.** (2016). Incarcerated women's relationship-based strategies to avoid drug use after community re-entry. *Women & Health*, 56(7), 843-858. doi:10.1080/03630242.2015.1118732

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# Grant Victor (continued)

## Ongoing grants

- University of Kentucky Pilot Grant Research Award, Victor (PI) 5/1/2018-5/1/2019 Examining the lived experiences of the opioid crisis: A phenomenological approach to understanding heroin-initiation among opioid analgesic misusers \$3,000. Role: PI
- Kentucky State Police (PI) 01/01/2018-01/01/2020 COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program, \$842,366. Role: Consultant
- Kentucky State Police (PI) 01/01/2018-01/01/2020 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Task Force Program Kentucky State \$1,430,943. Role: Consultant

## Select Presentations:

- A statewide alternative sentencing program: Description, outcomes, and return on investment, National Organization of Forensic Social Work Annual Conference, June 14, 2018, New Orleans, LA.
- Existential terror, social injustice and the death penalty, Paper Presentation, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 16, 2017, Philadelphia, PA.
- Applying the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations: Correlates of substance use treatment utilization among Appalachian women, College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 13, 2017, Montreal, Quebec.
- Opioid analgesics and heroin: Examining drug abuse trends among drug treatment clients in Kentucky, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Journal of Science), February 18, 2017, Boston, MA. \*Awarded Best Student Poster
- Opioid analgesics and heroin: Examining drug abuse trends among drug treatment clients in Kentucky, American Association of Behavioral Social Science, February 26, 2017, Las Vegas, NV.
- Examining independent correlates of injection drug use among incarcerated rural women, National Organization of Forensic Social Work, June 16, 2016, New Orleans, LA.

