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.

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

Sincerely,
Julie Cerel, PhD
julie.cerel@uky.edu
Director of Doctoral Programs
College of Social Work

Ann Vail, PhD
ann.vail@uky.edu
Interim Dean
College of Social Work
Amy Brown  
Email: aebr256@uky.edu

Athena Kheibari  
Email: athena.kheibari@uky.edu

Grant Victor  
Email: grant.victor7@uky.edu
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

Publications:

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:


MSW, University of South Florida
**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:**


**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
Athena Kheibari (continued)

Select Presentations:

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:**


**Email:** grant.victor7@uky.edu
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.

MSW, University of Kentucky