

Brita A. Bookser

University of California, Berkeley

School of Social Welfare

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EDUCATION

PhD University of California, Berkeley

May 2022 (*expected*); ABD May 2020

School of Social Welfare

Dissertation

Tricycles and Trapdoors: A Mixed-Method Study of Exclusionary Discipline in Preschools

Chair

Erin M. Kerrison, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare*

Committee

Susan I. Stone, Ph.D., *Professor, Associate Dean, & Catherine Mary and Eileen Clare Hutto Chair for Social Services in Public Education*

Zeus Leonardo, Ph.D., *Professor & Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education*

Tina K. Sacks, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare*

MA Mills College

May 2014

School of Education

Infant Mental Health

Master's Thesis Chairs: Carol George, Ph.D.; Linda Perez, Ph.D.

BS California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo

June 2012

College of Liberal Arts

Psychology, concentration in Counseling & Family Psychology

PUBLICATIONS

- 1 **Bookser, B. A.**, Ruiz, M., Olu-Odumosu, A., Kim, M., Jarvis, S. N., & Okonofua, J. A. (2021). Context matters for preschool discipline: Effects of distance learning and pandemic fears. *School Psychology, 36*(5), 325-334. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/spq0000452>
- 2 Gutierrez, J., Hightower, B., **Bookser, B. A.**, & Lemley, B. (2015, March). Preschool-centered design: Creating and selecting websites to suit the cognitive development of preschoolers. In *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education*

International Conference 2015 (pp. 1483-1487). Chesapeake, VA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).

- 3 **Bookser, B. A.** (2014). Food for thought: Early childhood food refusal, maternal caregiving, and child sensory processing. Retrieved from ProQuest. (1557392).

Under Review & In Preparation

- 4 **Bookser, B. A.** (in-prep). Enough already: Toward womanist anti-carceral praxis in education.
- 5 **Bookser, B. A.** (in-prep). Trapdoors in the system: Dimensions of extra-exclusionary discipline in early childhood education.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2020 – 2022	Marcus Foster Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education (\$50,000)
2021	Berkeley Connect Bridge Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division (\$5,000)
2020 – 2021	Berkeley Connect Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division (\$25,000)
2020	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Fellowship (\$3,500)
2019 – 2020	UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education, Center for Cities + Schools, Graduate Student Leadership Fellowship (\$2,500)
2017 – 2020	School of Social Welfare Gift Funding (\$28,000/academic year)
2017 – 2020	UC Berkeley Office for Graduate Diversity, GiGS Mentor Award (\$500/term)
2019	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Fellowship (\$3,000)
2019	Haas Institute for a Fair & Inclusive Society, Othering & Belonging Conference Attendance Scholarship (\$330)
2018	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Fellowship (\$3,300)
2013 – 2014	Mills College Graduate Education Scholarship (\$9,500)
2012 – 2013	Mills College Graduate Education Scholarship (\$5,600)
2012	Cal Poly Academic Senate Faculty/Staff Scholar Award
2009 – 2012	Cal Poly Dean's Honors List (Fall 2009, Winter 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2011, Winter 2012, Spring 2012)

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Conferences

- 1 Joseph, A., **Bookser, B. A.**, Samimi, C., Todic, J., & Fernandez, C. (2021, January). Restoring what? Critical social work at the nexus of discipline and justice in schools. Roundtable presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

- 2 Kerrison, E. M., **Bookser, B. A.**, Kornblatt, L., & Epps, D. (2020, April*). On display: A review of the pedagogies, practices, and politics in prison-based education. Paper presented at the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison Conference, San Quentin, CA.
- 3 **Bookser, B. A.**, & Stone, S. I. (2020, January). Expulsion in early schooling: Unpacking disparities and predictors in California’s public elementary schools. Paper presented in Symposium, “School discipline disparities and just discipline futures: Examining and disrupting systematic exclusion,” at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. *Chair: Brita A. Bookser; Discussant: James P. Huguley, Ph.D.*
- 4 **Bookser, B. A.** (2019, January). Examining structural and contextual factors that predict high expulsion rates in California schools. Paper presented in Symposium, “From the school-to-prison pipeline and back: Examining the role of alternative schools,” at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2019 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. *Chair: Charles Lea, Ph.D.; Discussant: Ron Avi Astor, Ph.D.*
- 5 Stone, S. I., & **Bookser, B. A.** (2019, January). Identifying levers to disrupt school expulsion: An exploration of school and district factors. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 6 **Bookser, B. A.** (2018, October). Alternative schools and the occupation of the expulsion-prison nexus. Paper presented on the “Precursors to Prison” panel at the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison Conference, San Quentin, CA.
- 7 Hupert, N., Gerard, S., Christensen, C., Adair, A., Rosenfeld, D., & **Bookser, B. A.** (2017, June). Can computers and tablets be used in developmentally appropriate ways in early learning settings? Examples from research where digital media supported children’s learning. Session delivered at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 8 **Bookser, B. A.**, Gerard, S., Gutierrez, J., Hightower, B., & Sharifnia, E. (2016, July). Supporting early childhood learning opportunities at home with texting. Poster presented at The Administration for Children and Families: National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC, formerly known as Head Start’s National Research Conference on Early Childhood), Washington, D.C.
- 9 Gerard, S., **Bookser, B. A.**, & Gutierrez, J. (2015, November). Texting home: Increasing connections between home and school for preschoolers via SMS messages. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

* Postponed due to COVID-19

- 10 Gutierrez, J., Hightower, B., **Bookser, B. A.**, & Lemley, B. (2015, March). Preschool-centered design: Creating and selecting websites to suit the cognitive development of preschoolers. Poster presented at the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SIITE) International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Invited Presentations

- 1 **Bookser, B. A.** (2020, December). “Fits and the tantrums: Training early care and education professionals to afford children full humanity.” Presentation for the Institute for Research on Labor and Economics, Berkeley, CA.
- 2 **Bookser, B. A.** (2020, November). “Child care, early education, and social policy for the next generation: A retrospective, a presidential election, and a global pandemic.” Guest Lecture for Social Welfare Policy (SOC WEL 112), Berkeley, CA.
- 3 **Bookser, B. A.** (2019, December). “Harnessing the positive potential of dual enrollment opportunities in SCUSD high schools.” Fellowship report to the Center for Cities+Schools at the Graduate School of Education, Berkeley, CA.
- 4 **Bookser, B. A.** (2018, December). “Contextualizing school discipline in California: School structure and composition.” Presentation at Getting into Graduate School (GiGS) Mentoring Program, Berkeley, CA.
- 5 **Bookser, B. A.** (2017, December). “Preventing preschool expulsion through mental health consultation: Directions and obligations for future research.” Presentation at Getting into Graduate School (GiGS) Mentoring Program, Berkeley, CA.
- 6 **Bookser, B. A.** (2017, December). “Paths to the Ph.D. in Social Welfare.” Panel presentation at Berkeley Connect Mentoring Program, Berkeley, CA.
- 7 **Bookser, B. A.** (2014, April). “Preventing expulsion through therapeutic shadowing and mental health consultation: Sensory processing interventions and the home-preschool connection.” Presentation at the UCSF Infant-Parent Program Evaluation & Research Group, San Francisco, CA.
- 8 **Bookser, B. A.** (2014, February). “Intergenerational family and community traumas manifesting in the preschool setting: Case study and modalities for therapeutic intervention.” Presentation at the UCSF Infant-Parent Program Evaluation & Research Group, San Francisco, CA.
- 9 **Bookser, B. A.** (2014). Early childhood food refusal, maternal caregiving, and child sensory processing. Poster presented at the Mills College Annual Research Symposium, Oakland, CA.
- 10 **Bookser, B. A.** (2014). Food for thought: Early childhood food refusal, maternal caregiving, and child sensory processing. Presentation at the Mills College School of Education Annual Master’s Thesis Research Conference, Oakland, CA.

MEDIA & PRESS

- 1 McReynolds, L. (2017, June). Kids, parents spend summer learning at library. *Herald-Citizen*, <http://herald-citizen.com/stories/kids-parents-spend-summer-learning-at-library,21651>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1 Pasnik, S., Llorente, C., Hupert, N., & Moorthy, S. (2016). *Reflections on the Ready To Learn Initiative, 2010 to 2015: How a Federal Program in Partnership with Public Media Supported Young Children's Equitable Learning During a Time of Great Change*. New York, NY, & Menlo Park, CA: Education Development Center, Inc., & SRI International. <http://cct.edc.org/sites/cct.edc.org/files/ms-resources/edc-sri-rtl-reflections-report-2010-2015.pdf>
- 2 Pasnik, S., Moorthy, S., Llorente, C., Hupert, N., Dominguez, X., & Silander, M. (2015). *Supporting Parent-Child Experiences with PEG+CAT Early Math Concepts: Report to the CPB-PBS Ready to Learn Initiative*. New York, NY & Menlo Park, CA: Education Development Center & SRI International. <http://cct.edc.org/sites/cct.edc.org/files/ms-resources/edc-sri-rtl-peg-math-study-report-2015.pdf>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early care and education equity
Educational access, inclusion, and quality
Anti-racist and liberatory pedagogies
Early education and child care policy
Mixed-method research

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – 2022 **Marcus Foster Education Institute**
Research Fellow, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education
Community-Based Research for Systems-Change and Educational Equity
Community Partner: Black Cultural Zone, Oakland, CA
Supervisor: Moonhawk Kim, Ph.D.
- 2020 – 2021 **UC Berkeley Department of Psychology**
Researcher
Classroom Discipline Perspectives – Preschool Project
Supervisor: Jason A. Okonofua, Ph.D.
- 2020 – 2021 **UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**
Graduate Student Researcher

Exclusion/Inclusion and the Early Education Workforce
Supervisor: Erin M. Kerrison, Ph.D.

- 2019 – 2020 **Sacramento City Unified School District**
Graduate Fellow
Center for Cities+Schools, Graduate School of Education
College & Career Pathways: Dual Enrollment Research
Supervisor: Deborah McKoy, Ph.D.
- 2019 **KQED Public Media for Northern California**
Graduate Fellow
Education Division
KQED Learn Qualitative Research & Evaluation
Supervisor: Denise Sauerteig
- 2019 **California Arts Council**
Graduate Student Researcher
Arts in Corrections Needs Assessment & Evaluation
Supervisor: Erin M. Kerrison, Ph.D.
- 2018 **Mack Center on Nonprofit Management in the Human Services**
Graduate Student Researcher
Nonprofit-Public Sector Contracts Qualitative Research
Supervisor: Sarah Carnochan, Ph.D.
- 2018 **UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare**
Graduate Student Researcher
Exclusionary Discipline in California Public Schools
Supervisor: Susan I. Stone, Ph.D.
- 2014 – 2017 **SRI International, Education Division**
Research Analyst II
Center for Technology in Learning
Supervisors: Carlin Llorente & Ximena Dominguez, Ph.D.
Core Projects
- Apple and ConnectED
- Ready to Learn Initiative
- Next Generation Preschool Science
- SunBay Digital Mathematics
- Connected Learning Research Network
- 2012 **Mills College School of Education**
Graduate Research Assistant
Maternal Attachment Representation Study
Supervisor: Carol George, Ph.D.
- 2009 **Cal Poly Department of Kinesiology**
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Undergraduate Nutrition Habits Study
Supervisor: Ann Yelmokas McDermott, Ph.D.

TEACHING INTERESTS

The social context of education
Early childhood
The carceral-educational landscape
Critical theories
Research methods

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **UC Berkeley Summer Bridge**
Mentor & Instructor
Bridge Connect (ESPM 98)
Faculty: G. Cristina Mora, Ph.D.
- 2020 – 2021 **Berkeley Connect in Social Welfare**
Mentor & Co-Instructor
Berkeley Connect (SOC WEL 98/198BC)
Faculty: Jill Duerr Berrick, Ph.D.
- 2017 – 2020 **UC Berkeley Office for Graduate Diversity**
Mentor
Getting into Graduate School (GiGS) Program
Program Director: Cynthia Ladd-Viti, Ph.D.
- 2020,
2019 **UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare**
Graduate Student Instructor
Social Welfare Policy (SOC WEL 112)
Faculty: Tina K. Sacks, Ph.D. (2020); Neil Gilbert, Ph.D. (2019)
- 2020 Course Reader
Social Work in Schools (SOC WEL 232)
Faculty: Susan I. Stone, Ph.D.
- 2019 Course Reader
Theories on Multilevel Practice in Social Work (SOC WEL 200)
Faculty: Paul Sterzing, Ph.D.
- 2018 Course Reader
Historical, Philosophical, & Intellectual Foundations of Social Work (SOC WEL 240)
Faculty: Eveline Chang
- 2019 **Northwestern University**

Teaching Assistant
San Francisco Field Study Practicum Analysis Seminar
Faculty: Dan A. Lewis, Ph.D.

- 2019 **UC Berkeley Department of Psychology**
Course Reader
Stress & Coping (PSYCH 6)
Instructor: Andres Martinez, Ph.D.
- 2012 – 2013 **Mills College Children’s School**
Preschool Teacher
Infant/toddler, 2-4-, & 3-5-year-old rooms
Supervisors: Linda Perez, Ph.D., & Josephine Lee
- 2011 – 2012 **Cal Poly Health Services**
Certified Peer Educator
Supervisor: Rojean Dominguez, Ph.D.
- 2011 – 2012 **Cal Poly Honors Program**
Teaching Assistant
Introduction to the Honors Program (HNRS 161, 162)
Supervisors: Tom Trice, Ph.D., & Sema Alptekin

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- 2013 – 2014 **UCSF Infant-Parent Program**
Early Intervention Clinical Placement
Supervisors: Leslie Baxter, Noel Bruton, & Linda Perez, Ph.D.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Academy

- 2021 – Present *Educational Researcher* – Peer Reviewer
- 2020 – Present Smart Decarceration Project, University of Chicago School of Social Service
Administration: Social Work & Criminal Justice Directory
- 2019 – Present Research-to-Policy Collaboration at the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research
Center, Pennsylvania State University – Member
- 2018 – Present Society for Social Work and Research – Member
- 2018 American Educational Research Association – Graduate Student Peer Reviewer
*Division K – Teaching and Teacher Education: Section 4, Multicultural, Inclusive, & Social
Justice Frameworks in PK-16+ Settings*
Division L – Education Policies and Politics: Section 8, Social Policy and Education
- 2018 Association for Children and Families, National Research Conference on Early
Childhood – Peer Reviewer

UC Berkeley

2020 – 2022 Equity, Diversity, & Empathy Navigation Sciences Lab (Jason Okonofua, Ph.D.)
2020 – 2022 Marcus Foster Fellows Cohort
2020 – 2021 Berkeley Connect Graduate Fellows Cohort
2018 – 2020 Doctoral Representative, School of Social Welfare
2018 – 2019 Doctoral Committee Student Representative (Elected), School of Social Welfare
2017 – 2018 Center for Prevention Research in Social Welfare Lab (Valerie Shapiro, Ph.D.)

Community

2021 Hearts for Paws Rescue – Volunteer
2014 – 2018 CUESA & the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market – Volunteer
2017 Big City Mountaineers – Youth Mentor
2016 826 Valencia – Afterschool Tutor

TECHNICAL SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Data Analysis & Management: Stata, R, SPSS, Qualtrics, QuickBase, Excel/Sheets
Early Childhood Assessment: ASQ, CLASS/ECERS, DRD
Peer Health Exchange: Certified Peer Health Educator

REFERENCES

Erin M. Kerrison, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley
Email: kerrison@berkeley.edu

Jill Duerr Berrick, Ph.D.

Zellerbach Family Foundation Professor
School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley
Email: dberrick@berkeley.edu

Susan I. Stone, Ph.D.

Professor, Associate Dean, & Catherine Mary and Eileen Clare Hutto Chair for Social Services in
Public Education
School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley
Email: sistone@berkeley.edu

Moonhawk Kim, Ph.D.

Director of Research-Practice Partnerships & Community Engagement
Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley
Email: moonhawk@berkeley.edu