



Code: Jenkins_A

APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2025-26

FALL/WINTER

Name and Title: Dr. Jenny Jenkins (supervised by doctoral student Norah Jesseca Perlman)

Lab Website: NA

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Interventions Across the Foster Care System: A Scoping Review and Meta-Analysis of Supports for Children, Families, Caregivers, and Workers

NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE: 2

PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION (circle one option and describe):

☐ IN PERSON ☐ REMOTE (ONLINE) ☒ HYBRID/FLEXIBLE

Please describe:

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

Families involved in the foster care system represent some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. These families are likely to have a history of poverty, intergenerational trauma, substance abuse, all of which are leading drivers to child welfare involvement. Children removed from their homes are more likely to suffer from mental health problems, obtain poorer educational and employment outcomes, and more likely to be incarcerated as adults. Foster parents also struggle with the new addition of a child – especially one not known to them who may have a traumatic background, and dealing with authorities.

Previous reviews have largely focused on child mental and physical health in care, barriers and facilitators to health care, prevalence of conditions in foster care, and lived experiences. To our knowledge, a review of different interventions delivered to all involved in the system has not been done. As such, we are conducting a scoping review and meta analyses to explore what interventions exist for biological parents and families, children, foster families, and workers, and to see which are most effective in relation to promoting enhanced child outcomes.



DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

The students will be tasked with familiarizing themselves with the existing literature, study screening and data extraction. Study titles and abstracts will be reviewed to determine their eligibility to be included in the review. Of those that are eligible, students will be asked to complete a full text review and extract relevant information, including authors, year of publication, country, intervention characteristics and related outcomes.

In doing these tasks, the students will learn the process of conducting a scoping review and meta-analysis. They will also develop skills in conducting efficient and thorough literature reviews, identifying relevant studies, and data extraction and management strategies. Through data extraction, they will learn to critically evaluate research findings, including the strengths and limitations of individual studies. They will develop skills in assessing study quality, validity, and reliability, and understand the importance of considering potential biases. Depending on the scope of their involvement, the research assistant may gain exposure to basic statistical analysis techniques

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):

Ideally, the students should have prior research experience.

DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS:

The exact date and time of the fall and winter lab meetings are not yet decided, however, they take place every two weeks for 2 hours.