

Ceema Samimi, MSSW, MPA, Ph.D.

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APPOINTMENTS

2020-Present **Assistant Professor**, College of Education and Human Development,
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

EDUCATION

2020 **Doctor of Philosophy**
University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO
Dissertation: Getting it Right: A Mixed-Methods Examination of
Mitigating Racial Disparities in School Discipline

2015 **MPA, Public Policy & Administration**
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY

2012 **MSSW, Policy Practice Concentration**
Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY

2007 **BA, Political Science; minor in Ethnic Studies**
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

2005 **Certificate, Philanthropy & Voluntary Studies**
Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

2004 **AA, Liberal Arts**
Community College of Denver, Denver, CO

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in employing critical and community-engaged methodologies to examine how youth are impacted by exclusion from systems. My research is heavily informed by a post-colonial and critical race frameworks; I am specifically concerned with how the policies and structures of youth-serving organizations include or exclude youth from decision making.

TEACHING INTERESTS

My teaching interests include teaching courses on social welfare policy, community and multicultural practice, advocacy, research methods, restorative practices, and community organizing.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2016-2020 Impact of Victim-Offender Dialogue on Victims of Serious Crimes: A
Longitudinal Cohort-Control Study, University of Denver Graduate
School of Social Work

Research Coordinator

Funder: National Institute of Justice

PI: Dr. Shannon Sliva

- Engage with community partners to implement participatory research approaches
- Facilitate logistics of interviewer training, study enrollment, data collection, and managing study materials
- Assist with preparing materials for ethics committee/IRB
- Analyze qualitative data

2017-2019

Butler Institute for Families, University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work

Research Assistant

- Qualitative data analysis and survey development, other research tasks

2015

Prisoner Reentry Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Research Fellow

- Coordinate Permanent Exclusions working group, a participatory research collaboration between community agencies and the university
- Organize working group planning retreats and collect data from community members
- Develop report on permanent exclusions in New York City Housing Authority

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019-2020

National Institute of Justice, University of Denver
Graduate Research Fellowship in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Up to \$35,000, not awarded

2019-2020

Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation, University of Denver
Doctoral Dissertation Grant, \$5,000 awarded

2018-2019

University of Denver Office of Graduate Education, University of Denver
Graduate Education Dissertation Fellowship, \$2,500 awarded

2018-2019

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver
Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award, \$750.00 awarded

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Samimi, C., DeHererra, C. (2020). Picando piedras: picking at the rocks of social justice under the nonprofit industrial complex. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*

Young, D. A., Garcia-Olp, M. C., & **Samimi, C.** (2020). Dismantling Gringismo in Education. *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis*, 9(1).

Samimi, C. & Sliva, S. M. (2019). It's Symbiotic: Exploring the facilitators and outcomes of a successful community-university research partnership. *Journal of Social Service Research*.

Sliva, S. M., & **Samimi, C.** (2018). Social Work and Prison Labor: A Restorative Model. *Social Work*. 63(2), 153-160

Samimi, J. (2010). Funding America's nonprofits: the nonprofit industrial complex's hold on social justice. *Columbia Social Work Review*. 10(1), 17-25

Under Review

Garcia-Olp, M & **Samimi, C.** Decolonizing Mathematics Curriculum and Practice: Indigenous Knowledge has Always Been Mathematics Education. *Educational Studies*..

Wiley, K., Anyon, Y., **Samimi, C.**, Trujillo, M. Sent out or sent home: A Critical Race Theory perspective on racial disparities in school discipline across suspension types. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Samimi, C., Han, T., Navvab, A., Sedivy, J., Anyon, Y. Restorative practices and exclusionary school discipline: An integrative review. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*

In Preparation

Samimi, C. & Fulginiti, A. Communities of practice: An examination of relationships between restorative justice practitioners using social network methods

Samimi, C. "There are still more Black boys in the office:" Educators' perspectives on racial discipline disparities after restorative justice implementation. Target journal: *Equity & Excellence in Education*

Samimi, C., Jefferson, N., Flanagan, S., Anyon, Y. Intersections of disparity: A critical quantitative examination of race, ability, and gender in school discipline. Target journal: *Educational Researcher*

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PUBLICATIONS

Sliva, S., Han, T., **Samimi, C.**, Gollieb, K., & McCurdy, J. (2019). State of the State: Restorative Justice in Colorado. Community assessment for the Colorado Restorative Justice Council.

Samimi, C. (2018, March 6). Safety, Guns, and Social Work: Stop Militarizing Schools and Start Supporting Students. Smart Justice. <https://medium.com/smart-justice/safety-guns-and-social-work-stop-militarizing-schools-and-start-supporting-students-b64c4dc0a79e>

Columbia University School of Social Work Class “Advanced Community Organizing: Developing Popular Education Training on Research for Organizing”. (2011). Research for Organizing Toolkit. <https://www.researchfororganizing.org/>

Samimi, J. (2005). Supporting Academic Freedom. Free Voices. Volume 2, (4)

Samimi, J., & Karmol, S., (2002). Being Young Is Not a Crime. The Torch.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Joseph, A., Bookster, B., **Samimi, C.**, Toidc, J., & Fernandez, C. (2021, January). *Restoring What? Critical Social Work at the Nexus of Discipline and Justice in Schools*. Society for Social Work Research. Virtual.

Samimi, C., Han, T., Sliva, S. (2021, January) *Victims Aren't Alone: The Intersections of Community, Research, and Policy in Victim Offender Dialogue*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual.

Anyon, Y., Trujillo, M., **Samimi, C.** *Disparities by Race and Disability across Discipline Outcomes: Multilevel Correlates of In- and Out-of-School Suspension*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual.

Joseph, A., **Samimi, C.**, Stuart McQueen, S. (2020, November). *Restorative Schools, Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline* Panel presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Professional Meeting. Virtual.

Samimi, C. (2020, January). *Predicting Punishment: Using Propensity Score Matching to Predict Who Receives Restorative Practices*. Paper presented as part of symposia *School Discipline Disparities and Just Discipline Futures: Examining and Disrupting Systematic Exclusion* at the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C.

Alamillo, X, Trujillo, M, Colon, L, **Samimi, C.** (2020, January). *Latinx Adult Perspectives on How Ethnic Identity Is Constructed from Birth to Adolescence in the United States: A Phenomenological Study*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C.

Sliva, S.M., Golieb, K., **Samimi, C.**, Han, T., & Armour, M. (2019, June). *Implementation Matters: Minding the Gap Between the Idea and Enactment of Restorative Justice*. Panel presentation at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference, Denver, CO.

Samimi, C. & Deherrera, C. (2019, May). *Self-Care Will Not Be Funded: Working for Social Justice Within the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Poster presented at the University of Denver Research Showcase. Denver, CO

Samimi, C. & Deherrera, C. (2019, April). *Social Justice or Conscious Laundering: How Activists Navigate the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Paper presentation at the 6th Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference at Millersville University. Lancaster, PA

Samimi, C. (2019, January). *Implementing Restorative Practices in Colorado Schools*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.

Samimi, C., Navvab, A., Han, T., Sedivy, J. & Anyon, Y. (2019, January). *Restorative Practices and Exclusionary School Discipline: A Systematic Review*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.

Samimi, C. (2018, November) *It's all about relationships! Exploring outcomes in university-community partnerships*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Professional Meeting. Orlando, FL

Samimi, C. & Sharp, R. (2018, October). *Restorative circle practice for transforming conflict*. Workshop presented at the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation Conference. Denver, CO

Samimi, C. & Thomas, A. (2018, January) *Strategies of Survival for Critically Conscious Graduate Students*. Workshop presented at the University of Denver Diversity Summit, Denver, CO.

Samimi, C. & Garcia-Olp., M. (2017, April). *Remodeling the Master's House: Education, Colonization, and Identity*. Presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO

Samimi, C. (2017, April). *Moving Mountains: Resistance Among Social Justice Activists Working Under the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO

Sliva, S.M. & **Samimi, C.** (2017, June). *Building academic and community partnerships to improve evidence for restorative justice*. Panel presentation at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference, Oakland, CA.

Samimi, C. (2016, October). *From Colonial Institutions to Shifting Paradigms: Can Restorative Justice Transform the School to Prison Pipeline?* Roundtable discussion presented at Occupying the Academy: Being, thinking, and doing decolonization Symposium, Denver, CO.

Samimi, J. & Dano, S. (2004). *Putting Youth for HOPE Programs to Work*. Workshop presented at AIDS Alliance VOICES Conference. Washington, D.C.

Samimi, J. & Garcia, J. (2004). *The Next Step; Creating an HIV Prevention Network with Youth*. Workshop presented at Let's Talk...About HIV Conference. Toronto, CA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Samimi, C. (2019, February). *Focusing Our Inquiry: Researching Climate Justice, Economic Justice and Immigration Topics*. Invited speaker at CU INVST research series. Boulder, CO.

Samimi, C. (2017, April). *Neoliberalism, Autonomous Movements, and Activist Survival*. Invited speaker at the New Leaders Council. Denver, CO

Samimi, C. (2016, September) *Nonprofit Industry, Community Organizing, and Post-Capitalist Vision*. Guest lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Colorado. Denver, CO.

Samimi-Luu, J. (2015, October) *Homeless Youth & Federal Response*. Invited panelist at National Homeless Youth Awareness month event hosted by Administration of Children and Families. Denver, CO

Samimi-Luu, J. (2013) *Working with Systems-Involved Students*. Invited speaker at Auraria Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Community College of Denver. Denver, CO

Samimi-Luu, J. (2013, July) *Assessing for Risk: Substance Abuse and Suicidality*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

Samimi-Luu, J. (2013, May) *Evidence-Based Treatment for Juvenile Offenders*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

Samimi-Luu, J. (2013, March) *Adolescent Practice with Pregnant and Parenting Youth*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & COURSE DESIGN

2020-Present **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN**
 Assistant Professor

- Fall 2020 Urban Youth and Youth Issues
- Spring 2020-2021 Youthwork in Schools

2015-2020 **University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO**
 Adjunct Faculty

- Winter 2020 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice
- Winter 2020 Power, Privilege, and Oppression (online)

- Fall 2019 Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice
- Summer 2019 (2 sections), Fall 2018: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice (online)
- Spring 2019: Leadership and Supervision Skills
- Winter 2019: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice
- Winter 2019: Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice (Developed course)
- Fall 2018: Professional Development Seminar
- Spring 2016: Applied Practice Evaluation Research
- Winter 2016: Social Welfare Policy
- Winter 2016: Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs
- Autumn 2015: Clinical Social Work Skills

Teaching Practicums

- Spring 2018: Restorative Approaches in Social Work with Dr. Shannon Sliva
- Winter 2018: Community Organizing and Empowerment Theory with Dr. Ramona Beltran

Field Instructor

- Fall 2015-Spring 2016 - 2nd Year MSW - Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice)
- Fall 2015-Spring 2016 - 1st Year MSW- Direct Practice
- Winter 2014 - Spring 2015 - Advanced Standing MSW – Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice

2015-2017

Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO

Affiliate Faculty – Department of Social Work

- Fall 2017: Applied Practice Evaluation I (online)
- Fall 2017: Philosophy of Social Work
- Spring 2017: Applied Practice Evaluation II
- Fall 2016: Applied Practice Evaluation I

Affiliate Faculty – Department of Human Services

- Spring 2016: Research Methods and Program Evaluation (Developed course)
- Spring 2016: Homelessness and Community Response (Developed course)
- Fall 2015: Research Methods for Human Services

Field Instructor

- Fall 2017-Spring 2018 – 1st year MSW – generalist practice

2013-2015

Columbia University School of Social Work

Adjunct Lecturer

- Spring 2015: Foundations of Social Work Practice, accelerated program
 - Fall 2014: Foundations of Social Work Practice
- Teaching Associate
- Spring 2014: Human Behavior and the Social Environment
 - Spring 2014: Advanced Research Methods
 - Fall 2013: Program Evaluation in Social Services
- 2013-2014 **New York University, NY, NY**
Field Instructor
- Fall 2013-Spring 2015 - 1st Year MSW – Direct Practice
- 2012-2014 **College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY**
Field Instructor
- Fall 2013-Spring 2014 - Junior Year BSW – Direct Practice
 - Fall 2012-Spring 2013 - Senior Year BSW – Direct Practice

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015-2016 **Student Rights Hotline Coordinator**, Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, Denver, CO: Oversee a team of interns, volunteers, and staff working with students experiencing school push-out within the context of stopping the school-to-prison pipeline
- 2014-2015 **Social Worker**, Center for Urban Community Services, New York, NY: Oversaw activities and provided crisis management at permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless adults.
- 2010-2014 **Forensic Social Worker**, The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY: Worked in the New York City Family Court to provide training and support to attorneys on child welfare and juvenile justice cases. Provided expert testimony, conducted biopsychosocial assessments, composed affidavits, and submitted mitigation reports to the court.
- 2007-2008 **Youth Services Coordinator**, Volunteers of America, Denver, CO: Supervised AmeriCorps members and volunteers; oversaw daily programming and activities of Bannock Youth Center; maintained program files and waiting list; HUD & RHYA reporting.
- 2002-2005 **HIV Treatment & Prevention Counselor**, The Children's Hospital Denver, CO: Provided direct service to HIV positive and at-risk youth; developed a network of organizations to conduct testing and counseling of youth in the community.

- 2001-2002 **Street Outreach Counselor**, Urban Peak, Denver, CO: Engaged youth living on the streets in low-barrier interventions; conducted risk assessment and provided harm reduction interventions; conducted point-in-time survey and participated in community coalitions and work groups.
- 2001-2002 **Youth Development Coordinator**, Casey Family Programs Community Building Initiative, Denver, CO; Supervised youth leadership team and provided training in restorative justice techniques; Oversaw implementation of restorative justice practices in partner agencies; Facilitated focus groups and conducted surveys, reporting results of program evaluation to Advisory Board

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

- 2014-2015 **Tow Policy Advocacy Fellow**, Prisoner Reentry Institute, New York, NY; Coordinated NYCHA Permanent Exclusion Working Group; Researched permanent exclusion policies and reforms throughout the United States, Developed New York City Permanent Exclusion database, Composed policy report on permanent exclusions in New York City.
- 2009-2010 **Policy Intern**, Children’s Rights, New York, NY: Supported “The Long Road Home” study by assisting with document review, developing descriptive statistics, and creating data visualizations; composed chapter on participant demographics. Assisted with conducting interviews, qualitative coding, and composing literature review for “What Works in Child Welfare Reform” study.
- 2006-2006 **Life Skills Coach**, AmeriCorps, Denver, CO; Developed and implemented extensive life skills curriculum for homeless youth and youth living in transitional housing. Provided Wraparound case management.
- 2006 **Capacity Building Intern**, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Washington, D.C.; Created outreach plan to increase youth participation in mid-western region; conducted asset mapping of Ohio and Iowa.
- 2005-2006 **Fundraising Fellow**, Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, Denver, CO: Trained in grassroots fundraising and individual giving; Raised over \$6,000 in individual donations.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2020 **Panel Member**, Addressing Social and Racial Inequality Through Research series, on the Children, Youth and Families panel, University of Minnesota School of Social Work
- 2017-2019 **Elected Member**, Committee on Inclusive Excellence, University of Denver
- 2016-2017 **Invited Member**, Doctoral Leadership Board, University of Denver School of Social Work
- 2016 **Abstract Reviewer**, Higher Education Diversity Summit, Metropolitan State University
- 2014-2015 **Student Representative**, Graduate Studies Committee, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2014-2015 **Facilitator**, Professional Development & Self-Awareness Student Orientation, Columbia University School of Social Work
- 2014 **Co-Author** of Teaching Assistant Handbook and Teaching Assistant Rules of Conduct with Dean of Students, Columbia University School of Social Work

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2020-Present **Ad-hoc reviewer**, *SN Social Sciences*
- 2020-Present **Ad-hoc reviewer**, *Advances in Social Work*
- 2019 **Lead Volunteer Coordinator**, Society for Social Work and Research
- 2018 **Deputy Volunteer Coordinator**, Society for Social Work and Research
- 2014 **Reviewer**, Fisher-Cummings Washington Fellows Program

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 2020-Present **Volunteer**, Women's Prison Book Project
- 2018-Present **Co-Chair**, Youth Preconference Committee, National Association for Community and Restorative Justice Conference
- 2017-2020 **Member**, Restorative Practices Advisory Committee, The Conflict Center
- 2016-2018 **Board Chair**, Café Cultura
- 2016-2018 **Board Member**, Conejos Clean Water
- 2015-2016 **Giving Project Member**, Chinook Fund

2012-2014	Volunteer English teacher, Chinatown YMCA
2005-2008	Board Member , Colorado Anti-Violence Program
2006-2007	Mentor , YESS Institute
2005-2007	President , Indigenous Support Network
2005-2007	Member , Chancellor's Scholars and Leaders, University of Colorado
2004-2005	G.I. Rights Hotline Volunteer , American Friends Service Committee
2001-2002	Mediator , Victim Offender Reconciliation Project
2000-2001	Intake Volunteer , Denver ACLU

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2018-Present	Association for Community Organization & Social Action (ACOSA)
2017-Present	National Association for Community and Restorative Justice
2015-Present	Society for Social Work and Research
2015-Present	Council on Social Work Education
2015-Present	Council on Undergraduate Research

HONORS & AWARDS

2019	Race Matters: A Comparative Analysis of Global Access & Equity in Higher Education. Selected & Funded for International Institute at The Hague, Netherlands, University of Denver
2018	Student Ignite! Education Policy Competition Finalist, University of Denver
2007	Outstanding Undergraduate, University of Colorado Denver
2006	Truman Scholarship Finalist, University of Colorado Denver

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

2019	Community Based Participatory Research for Health: Indigenous and Critical Methodologies, University of New Mexico
2015	Certified Emotional Intelligence Practitioner, International Society of Emotional Intelligence Training

- 2013 Seminar in Field Instruction, (SIFI), New York University
- 2012 Evidence Based Mental Health Interventions for Child Abuse, New York Foundling
- 2012 Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Medical University of South Carolina