

Nathanael J. Okpych

University of Connecticut School of Social Work
38 Prospect Street | Hartford, CT 06103
nathanael.okpych@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, 2017
- M.S.** University of Chicago, Department of Public Health Science, Biostatistics and Epidemiology (Master of Science for Clinical Professionals), 2016
- M.S.W.** Rutgers University, Social Work, 2011
Concentration: Nonprofit and Public Management
- M.A.** Duquesne University, Clinical Psychology, 2005
- B.A.** Rutgers University–New Brunswick, 2002
Major: Psychology Minor: Philosophy

FACULTY APPOINTMENT

2017 to present Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
University of Connecticut

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Postsecondary education outcomes and interventions for youth with foster care histories
Social support and social networks
Mental health
Quantitative methods and survey analysis

TEACHING INTERESTS

Research methods and statistical analysis
Human behavior in the social environment
Risk and resilience
Psychosocial interventions with children, adolescents, and families

RESEARCH FUNDING

University of Connecticut's Scholarship Facilitation Fund. How Campus Support Programs for Students with Foster Care Histories Adapt to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Jun 2020 – present. (\$2,000).

California Wellness Foundation. California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaYOUTH). PI: Mark Courtney. Co-PI and Project Director: Nathanael Okpych. Jun 2020 – May 2021. (UConn portion: \$26,000).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation & University of Wisconsin-Madison's Institute for Research on Poverty. Connected After Care: The Roles of Child Welfare Policy and Programs in Postsecondary Education and Employment among Youth Formerly in Foster Care. PI: Jennifer Geiger. Co-PI: Nathanael Okpych. Jan 2020 – Dec 2020. \$25,000 (UConn portion: \$12,500).

Western Michigan University. The Social Network Connections Study of College Students with Foster Care Histories. PI: Lori Gray. Co-PI: Nathanael Okpych. Aug 2019 – Jul 2020. \$9,950 (UConn portion: \$3,500).

Reissa Foundation and Walter S. Johnson Foundation. California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaYOUTH). PI: Mark Courtney. Co-PI and Project Director: Nathanael Okpych. Jul 2018 – Jun 2020. (UConn portion: \$80,402).

University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Dean's Incentive Award. Seed funding for "Investigating Social Networks of Foster Care Youth Enrolled in College." PI: Nathanael Okpych. Jun 2018-Jul 2019 (\$3,961)

Walter S. Johnson Foundation. California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaYOUTH). PI: Mark Courtney. Co-PI and Project Director: Nathanael Okpych. Jul 2017 – Jun 2018. (UConn portion: \$25,000).

Walter S. Johnson Foundation/Whittier Trust. Consultation on the California College Pathways Research Project. PI: Mark Courtney. Co-PI: Nathanael Okpych. 2016 – present. (\$20,000).

Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. Dissertation funding. (\$60,000).

National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation. Dissertation funding. Principal Investigator: Nathanael Okpych. (\$27,500). Stipend deferred due to duplicative funding from the Doris Duke award.

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect at Cornell University. NYTD data analysis project. Principal Investigator: Nathanael Okpych. Cost of room, board, and attendance at 2014 summer research institute (approx. \$2,000).

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Article of the Year for best article published in *Journal of Public Child Welfare* in 2020: "The Relationship between Extended Foster Care and College Outcomes for Foster Care Alumni"
- 2017 Council on Social Work Education (CWSE) Transforming Child Welfare Dissertation Award

- 2016 Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE)'s Student Award for Social Work Research, for best article published by a doctoral student: "Does education pay for youth formerly in foster care? Comparison of employment outcomes with a national sample"
- 2015 Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for best article published in *Social Service Review* in 2014: "A historical analysis of evidence-based practice in social work: The unfinished journey toward an empirically-grounded profession"
- 2011 Dean's Recognition Award, Outstanding Student in Nonprofit and Public Management, Rutgers University School of Social Work
- 2011 Phi Alpha Social Work Honors Society (inducted)
- 2010 Rutgers University Hall Director of the Year
- 2001 Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society (inducted)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Okpych, N. J.**, Feely, M., Lester-Harriat, R., Berthold, S. M., & Urcinas, N. (accepted). Triumphs and travails of building a fully online social work field evaluation system. *Field Educator*.
- Geiger, J. M. & **Okpych, N. J.** (2021). Connected after care: Youth characteristics, policy, and programs associated with postsecondary education and employment for youth with foster care histories. *Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595211034763>
- Okpych, N. J.** & Gray, Lori. (2021). Ties that bond and bridge: Exploring social capital among college students with foster care histories using a novel social network instrument (FC-Connects). *Innovative Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10755-021-09553-x>
- Park, S., Powers, J., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. (2020). Predictors of youths' participation in their transitional independent living plan (TILP) development: Calling for collaborative case plan decision-making processes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 115. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2020.105051>
- Munson, M., Katz, C. C., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. (2020). Mental health management among older youth with child welfare experiences: Service utilization and preparedness. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.02.017>
- Okpych, N. J.**, Park., S., Sayed, S., & Courtney, M. E. (2020). The roles of campus-support programs (CSPs) and Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) on college persistence for youth with foster care histories. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2020.104891>
- Okpych, N. J.** & Courtney, M. E. (2020). The relationship between extended foster care and college outcomes for foster care alumni. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 14(2), 254-276. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2019.1608888>
- Prince, D., Vidal, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Connell, C. M. (2019). Effects of individual risk and state housing factors on adverse outcomes in a national sample of youth transitioning out of foster care. *Journal of Adolescence*, 74, 33-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2019.05.004>

- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2019).** Longitudinal analyses of educational outcomes for youth transitioning out of care in the U.S.: Trends and influential factors. *Oxford Review of Education*, 45(1), 461-480. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03054985.2019.1592747>
- Park, K., **Okpych, N. J., & Courtney, M. E. (2019).** Psychotropic medication use and perceptions about medication effects among transition-age foster youth: Analysis of data from a longitudinal study in California. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 36, 583-597. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-019-00605-y>
- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2018).** Barriers to degree completion for college students with foster care histories: Results from a 10-year longitudinal study. *Journal of College Student Retention*, 23(1), 28-54. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1521025118791776>
- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2018).** The role of avoidant attachment on college persistence and college completion for older youth in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 90, 106-117. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.05.014>
- Okpych, N. J., Feng, H., Park, K., Courtney, M. E., & Torres-García, A. (2018).** Living situations and social support in the era of extended foster care: A view from the U.S. *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 9(1), 6-29. <http://dx.doi.org/10.14301/lcs.v9i1.449>
- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2017).** Who goes to college? Social capital and other predictors of college entry for foster care youth. *Journal of the Society for Social Work Research*, 8(4), 563-593. <https://doi.org/10.1086/694897>
- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2017).** Characteristics of foster care history as risk factors for psychiatric disorders among youth in care. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 88(3), 269-281. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000259>
- Okpych, N. J. (2016).** A Historical perspective on the future of innovation in social work. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 27(2), 150-153. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731516658355>
- Traube, D. E., Begun, S., **Okpych, N. J.,** Choy-Brown, M. (2016). Catalyzing innovation in social work research. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 27(2), 134-138. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731516659140>
- Okpych, N. J. (2015).** Receipt of independent living services among older youth in foster care: An analysis of national data from the U.S. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 51, 74-86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.01.021>
- Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2014).** Does education pay for youth formerly in foster care? Comparison of employment outcomes with a national sample. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 43, 18-28. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2014.04.013>
- Okpych, N. J. & Yu, J. L. H. (2014).** Rhyme and reason of practice paradigms: Authors' reply to Anne E. Fortune's 'How quickly we forget.'" *Social Service Review*, 88(2), 223-233. <https://doi.org/10.1086/677847>
- Okpych, N. J. & Yu, J. L. H. (2014).** A historical analysis of evidence-based practice in social work: The unfinished journey toward an empirically-grounded profession. *Social Service Review*, 88(1), 3-58. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/674969>

Okpych, N. J. (2012). Policy framework supporting youth aging-out of foster care through college: Review and recommendations. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34(7), 1390-1396. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2012.02.013>

Longhofer, J., Floersch, J., & **Okpych, N. J.** (2011). Foster youth and psychotropic treatment: Where next? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(2), 395-404. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.10.006>

BOOK

Okpych, N. J. (2021). *Climbing a broken ladder: Contributors of college success for youth in foster care*. Rutgers University Press.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Okpych, N. J. & Feely, M. (2020). Evidence-based practice in child welfare. In M. Hanna, R. Fong, N. Rolock, & R. McRoy (Eds.) *Introduction to child welfare: Building a culturally responsive, multisystemic, evidence-based approach* (pp.51-80). Cognella Press.

Courtney, M. E. & **Okpych, N. J.** (2019). Postsecondary educational attainment of young people leaving care in the USA: Implications for policy and practice. In P. McNamara (Ed.) *Education in out-of-home care: International perspectives on policy, practice, and research* (pp. 239-253). Springer.

Okpych, N. J. & Courtney, M. E. (2014). Relationship between adult outcomes of young people making the transition to adulthood from out-of-home care and prior residential care. In J. K. Whittaker, J. Fernandez del Valle, & L. Holmes (Eds.) *Therapeutic residential care for children and youth: Exploring evidence-informed international practice* (pp. 173-188). Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Yu, J. L. H. and **Okpych, N. J.** (2013). A global perspective on the current state of abnormal psychology: Trends, influences, and tensions. In T. G. Plante (Ed.) *Abnormal psychology across the ages* (Vol. 3, pp. 243-261). Praeger.

REPORTS

Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Park S. (Ethan). (2021). *Report from CalYOUTH: Findings on the relationships between extended foster care and youths' outcomes at age 23*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, Harty, J., Feng, H., Park, S., Powers, J., Nadon, M., Ditto, D. J., & Park, K. (2020). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of youth at age 23*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Powers, J., Park, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. (2020). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Foster youths' roles and satisfaction related to the planning of their transitions to independent adulthood*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

- Park, K., Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Nador, M. (2020). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Trends in justice system involvement from ages 17 to 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Feng, H., Courtney, M. E., & **Okpych, N. J.** (2020). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Youth characteristics and predominant placement type between age 18 and 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Feng, H., Harty, J., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. (2020). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Predictors of Homelessness at Age 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Park, S., & Courtney, M. E. (2019). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Early findings on the impact of extended foster care on foster youths' postsecondary education enrollment and persistence*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., Park, S., & **Okpych, N. J.** (2019). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Associations between county-level factors and youths' extended foster care participation*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Torrés-Garcia, A., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. (2019). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Youths' and child welfare workers' perceptions of youths' educational preparedness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, Park, S. (2018). *Report from CalYOUTH: Findings on the relationship between extended foster care and youth's outcomes at age 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Park, K., Feng, H., Torrés-Garcia, A., & Courtney, M. E. (2018). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Differences in social support at age 19 by extended foster care status and placement type*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, Park, K., Harty, J., Feng, H., & Torrés-Garcia, A. 2018. *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of youth at age 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., Pergamit, M., McDaniel, M., McDonald, E., Giesen, L., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Zinn, A. (2017). *Planning a next-generation evaluation agenda for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. OPRE report #2017-96*. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Park, K., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: The use of psychotropic medications over time among foster youth transitioning to adulthood*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Courtney, M. E., & Dennis, K. (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Predictors of high school completion and college entry at ages 19/20*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., Harty, J., Kindle, B., Dennis, K., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Torres Garcia, A. (2017). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of youth at age 19: Los Angeles County report*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

- Courtney, M. E., Park, S., & **Okpych, N. J.** (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Factors associated with youth remaining in foster care as young adults*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E. & **Okpych, N. J.** (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Early findings on the relationship between extended foster care and youths' outcomes at age 19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, Charles, P., Mikell, D., Stevenson, B., Park., K., Kindle, B., Harty, J., & Feng, H. (2016). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of youth at age 19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., **Okpych, N. J.**, Mikell, D., Stevenson, B., Park., K., Harty, J., Feng, H., & Kindle, B. (2016). *CalYOUTH survey of young adults' child welfare workers*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E. & **Okpych, N. J.** (2015). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Early findings on extended foster care and legal permanency*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Okpych, N. J.** and Courtney, M. E. (2015). *Youth and caseworker perspectives on older adolescents in California foster care: Youths' education status and services*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., Charles, P., **Okpych, N. J.**, Napolitano, L., & Halsted, K. (2014). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of foster youth at age 17*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Courtney, M. E., Charles, P., **Okpych, N. J.**, and Halsted, K. (2014). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Caseworker survey*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Okpych, N. J.**, Park, S., & Courtney, M. E. September 2021. European Scientific Association on Residential & Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF). "Policies and Programs that Support Persistence in Postsecondary Education." Virtual international conference.
- Munson, M., Cary Katz, C., **Okpych, N. J.**, Courtney, M. E. September 2021. European Scientific Association on Residential & Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF). "Predictors of Mental Health Service Use and Preparedness to Manage One's Mental Health." Virtual international conference.
- Courtney, M. E., Park, S., Powers, J., & **Okpych, N. J.** September 2021. European Scientific Association on Residential & Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF). "Examining Predictors of Care Leavers' Participation in their Case-Level Decision-Making." Virtual international conference.
- Geiger, J. & **Okpych, N.J.** January 2021. Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference. "Connected After Care: The Role of Youth Characteristics, Policy, and

- Programs in Postsecondary Education and Employment among Youth with Foster Care Histories.” Virtual national conference.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Courtney, M. E., & Park, S. January 2021. Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference. “Effectiveness of Campus-Based Support Programs (CSPs) on College Persistence for Transition-Age Youth in California Foster Care.” Virtual national conference.
- Feng, H., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. January 2021. Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference. “Youth Characteristics and Predominant Placement Type between Age 18 and 21.” Virtual national conference.
- Powers, J., Park, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. January 2021. Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference. “Correlates of Youth-Worker Co-Production of Transitional Independent Living Plans in Extended Foster Care at Age 19.” Virtual national conference.
- Okpych, N.J.**, & Geiger, J. January 2021. U.S. Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation and University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Institute for Research on Poverty. “Youth Employment: Connecting Research and Policy.” Virtual federal event.
- Powers, J., Park, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. November 2020. Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). “Predictors of Young Adults’ Roles in Co-producing their Transitional Independent Living Plans at Age 19.” Virtual national conference.
- Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. October 2020. California Child Welfare Director’s Association Conference. “Relationships between extended foster care and youths’ outcomes at age 23.” Virtual state conference.
- Courtney, M. E., & **Okpych, N. J.** October 2020. California Child Welfare Director’s Association Conference. “CalYOUTH: Trends in outcomes over time.” Virtual state conference.
- Park, S., Harty, J. S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. October 2020. California Child Welfare Director’s Association Conference. “Variation between counties in their practice and services context.” Virtual state conference.
- Powers, J., Park, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. March 2020. Accepted to present the paper at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence. “Policy and practice implications of transition-age foster youths’ participation in decisions made about their care and futures.” San Diego, CA.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Park, S., Sayed, S., & Courtney, M. E. January 2020. Society for Social Work and Research 24th Annual Conference. “The Role of Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) and Campus-Support Programs (CPSs) on Postsecondary Education Persistence for Foster Youth.” Washington, D.C.
- Powers, J., Park, S., **Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. Society for Social Work and Research 24th Annual Conference. “Examining Transition-Age Foster Youths Participation in Case-Level Decision-Making: Predictors of Youth Roles in Their Independent Living Plan Development.” Washington, D.C.

- Okpych, N. J.,** Kappie, L., & Granillo, L. October 2019. California College Pathways Blueprints for Success Conference. "CalYOUTH Study: The roles that extended foster care, Chafee grants, and campus support programs play in college persistence." Los Angeles, CA.
- Feely, M., **Okpych, N. J.,** & Urcinas, N. October 2019. Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting. "Triumphs and travails of building a fully online field evaluation system." Denver, CO.
- Okpych, N. J.,** Sayed, S., & Courtney, M. E. August 2019. National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit. "College outcomes and experiences at age 21 for young people in foster care." Washington, D.C.
- Okpych, N. J.,** Sayed, S., & Courtney, M. E. January 2019. Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference. "Crossing the finish line: Predictors of college completion by age 30 among foster care youth." San Francisco, CA.
- Feng, H., Harty, J., **Okpych, N. J.,** & Courtney, M. E. January 2019. Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference. "Predictors of homelessness for older foster youth at age 19." San Francisco, CA.
- Munson, M., Cary-Katz, C., **Okpych, N. J.,** & Courtney, M. E. January 2019. Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference. "Mental health management among 17-year-olds in the child welfare system in California." San Francisco, CA.
- Okpych, N. J.** November 2018. Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting. "How avoidant attachment affects foster care youths' college success." Orlando, FL.
- Okpych, N. J.,** Courtney, M. E., & Torres-Garcia, A. October 2018. European Scientific Association on Residential & Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF). "Predictors of college entry and academic preparedness among young people in California foster care." Porto, Portugal.
- Okpych, N. J.** April 2018. American Education Research Association Annual Conference. "Succeeding alone: Avoidant attachment decreases persistence and completion for college students with foster care histories." New York City, NY.
- Okpych, N. J.,** Torres-Garcia, A., & Courtney, M. E.. January 2018. Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Conference. "Predictors of college entry and academic preparedness among young people in California foster care." Washington, D.C.
- Harty, Justin, **Okpych, N. J.,** & Courtney, M. E. January 2018. Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Conference. "Influences of extended foster care on early adult outcomes." Washington, D.C.
- Okpych, N. J.,** Torres-Garcia, A., Kappe, L., & Granillo, L. October 2017. California College Pathways Blueprints for Success Conference. "CalYOUTH Survey: Findings to improve higher education access and outcomes." Los Angeles, CA.
- Kindle, B., **Okpych, N. J.,** & Courtney, M. E. January 2017. Society for Social Work and Research 21st Annual Conference. "Are youth connected?: Engagement in education and employment among foster youth." New Orleans, LA.

- Okpych, N. J.** & Courtney, M. E. January 2017. Society for Social Work and Research 21st Annual Conference. "Factors associated with youth remaining in foster care as young adults." New Orleans, LA.
- Prince, D., Connell, C., Vidal, S., & **Okpych, N. J.** January 2017. Society for Social Work and Research 21st Annual Conference. "Factors influencing homelessness among youth aging out of foster care, and the relationship of homelessness to other wellbeing outcomes: Findings from the National Youth in Transitions Database." New Orleans, LA.
- Okpych, N. J.** & Courtney, M. E. January 2016. Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference. "Looking back and forward; Identifying foster care placement history classes and assessing later mental health." Washington, DC.
- Okpych, N. J.** & Courtney, M. E. January 2016. Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference. "The role of social support in promoting access to college for older youth in foster care." Washington, DC.
- Courtney, M. E. & **Okpych, N. J.** January 2016. Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference. "Early evidence of the influence of extending foster care to young adults on exits to legal permanency." Washington, DC.
- Charles, P., Courtney, M. E., & **Okpych, N. J.** January 2016. Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference. "Getting locked up: The correlates of incarceration among transition-age youth in foster care." Washington, DC.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Kappe, L., & Nash, N. October 2015. California College Pathways Blueprints for Success Conference. "CalYOUTH in the Loop: Survey findings to improve policy and programs for extended foster care." Los Angeles, CA.
- Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. January 2015. Society for Social Work and Research 19th Annual Conference. "The ties that bind: Support and strain in social networks of older adolescents in foster care." New Orleans, LA.
- Courtney, M. E., Charles, P., & **Okpych, N. J.** January 2015. Society for Social Work and Research 19th Annual Conference. "Caseworker perceptions of challenges to implementing extended foster care." Washington, DC.
- Okpych, N. J.**, & Courtney, M. E. January 2014. Society for Social Work and Research 18th Annual Conference. "Does education pay for older youth in foster care? Results from Waves 4 and 5 of the Midwest Study." San Antonio, TX.
- Okpych, N. J.**, Courtney, M. E., & Hook, J. L. January 2013. Society for Social Work and Research 17th Annual Conference. "Educational attainment during the transition to adulthood for foster youth." San Diego, CA.
- Okpych, N. J.** May 2011. National Association of Social Work New Jersey annual conference. "Next steps in developing relevant psychotropic prescription parameters for the foster care population." Atlantic City, NJ.

STATISTICAL WORKSHOP

Choi, Y. & **Okpych, N. J.** January 2020. Society for Social Work and Research 24th Annual Conference. "Research Methods Workshop: Handling Missing Data." Washington, D.C.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

Okpych, N. J. & Geiger, J. May 2021. Embark Georgia Leadership Conference. "Promoting College Persistence for Students with Foster Care Backgrounds: The Role of Campus Support Programs." Workshop presenter.

Okpych, N. J. May 2021. Florida Positive Pathways Annual Conference. "Research findings on policies and programs that support college students with foster care histories." Keynote speaker.

Geiger, J. & **Okpych, N. J.** April 2021. National Research Collaborative for Foster Alumni and Higher Education. "Connected After Care: The Role of Youth Characteristics, Policies, and Programs in Postsecondary Education and Employment Outcomes for Youth with Foster Care Histories." National webinar.

Okpych, N. J. January 2020. Social Work's Research Brown Bag. "Programs to Support College Persistence for Students with Foster Care Histories: The Roles of Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) and Campus-Support Programs (CPSs)." Hartford, CT: University of Connecticut School.

Okpych, N. J. & Park, E. November 2019. National Research Collaborative for Foster Alumni and Higher Education. "Early evidence from CalYOUTH: The roles of EFC, ETVs, and CSPs on postsecondary education outcomes for foster youth." National webinar.

Okpych, N. J. & Park, E. August 2019. Children's Data Network Research Brownbag. "The California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Extended foster care, college support programs, and educational training voucher's impact on post-secondary education outcomes." Los Angeles: University of Southern California.

Okpych, N. J. March 2018. Best Practices Best Fit webinar series, Fostering Success Michigan. "The Role of Attachment Style in College Persistence and Completion for Foster Care Youth."

Okpych, N. J. October 2017. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting: Child Welfare Track. "Summary of Dissertation Findings from 'Make or Break: College-going and College-leaving among Youth in Foster Care'." Dallas, TX.

Okpych, N. J. July 2017. Roundtable on Doctoral Education in Social Work. One of three doctoral students selected to participate in a three-day event. Participated in panel on fulfilling the need for the social work scientific workforce. Bainbridge Island, Seattle, WA.

Okpych, N. J. May 2016. Testimony to the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care on Meeting the Needs of Older Foster Youth. "Research findings from the CalYOUTH Project." Sacramento, CA.

Okpych, N. J. & Kindle, B. May 2016. Fostering Futures: A Forum on the CalYOUTH Study Findings. "Connected or not? Youths' connections to positive social institutions." Los Angeles, CA.

- Okpych, N. J.** Mar 2016. National Academy of Education, 2016 Dissertation Fellows Meeting. "College Persistence and Completion among Foster Care Youth." Washington, D.C.
- Okpych, N. J.** Mar 2016. Best Practices Best Fit webinar series, Fostering Success Michigan. "Promoting Access to College for Older Youth in Foster Care: Receipt of Education Independent Living Services and the Role of Social Support."
- Okpych, N. J.** Oct 2015. National Academy of Education, 2015 Dissertation Fellows Meeting. "Make or Break: Predictors of College Persistence among Foster Care Youth." Washington, D.C.
- Okpych, N. J.** Sep 2015. California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), Evidence-Informed Webinar Series. "CalYOUTH: Early Findings from the Youth Survey, Child Welfare Worker Survey, and Administrative Data Analysis."
- Okpych, N. J.** Aug 2015. Institute for Research on Poverty. Invited discussant for Leah Gjertson's paper "Economic Strain, Parenting, and Child Maltreatment of Former Foster Youth: Evidence from the ADD Health and NLSY97." University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Okpych, N. J.** Jul 2015. Roundtable on Innovation in Social Work Research. One of 12 doctoral students/junior faculty selected to participate in a three-day roundtable convened by University of Southern California. Presented short paper on innovation in social work practice. Bainbridge Island, Seattle, WA.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

PI. How Campus Support Programs for Students with Foster Care Histories Adapt to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Jun 2020 – present.

Co-PI. Connected After Care: The Roles of Child Welfare Policy and Programs in Postsecondary Education and Employment among Youth Formerly in Foster Care. PI: Jennifer Geiger, Ph.D. Jan 2020 – present.

Co-PI. The Social Network Connections Study of College Students with Foster Care Histories. PI: Lori Gray, Ph.D. July 2019-present.

Co-PI and Project Director. California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH). School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago. PI: M. E. Courtney, Ph.D. Aug 2015–present.

Evaluator, Rising Scholars (formerly First Star) for foster youth, University of Connecticut, Apr 2018– June 2020.

Consultant, California College Pathways Research Project, John Burton Advocates for Youth and Educational Results Partnership. Sep 2016–present.

Doctoral Research Assistant, CalYOUTH Study. School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago. PI: M. E. Courtney, Ph.D. Sep 2012–Jul 2015.

Subcontracted Evaluator, Catholic Big Sisters Big Brothers. New York City. PI: P. Charles. Nov 2013–Mar 2014.

Doctoral Research Assistant, Midwest Evaluation on the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth Transitioning from Care. School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago. PI: M. E. Courtney. Jan 2012–May 2013.

Doctoral Research Assistant, Planning a Next Generation Evaluation Agenda for the John H. Chafee Care Independence Program. Collaboration between the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation; Urban Institute; Chapin Hall; and the University of Chicago. Sep 2011–Mar 2012.

MSW Research Assistant, Next Steps in Foster Youth and Psychotropic Treatment. Department of Social Work, Rutgers University. PIs: J. Floresch & J. Longhofer. Sep 2009–Aug 2010.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, My Multiple Selves (MMS) self-concept inventory. Department of Psychology, Rutgers University. PI: R. Ashmore. Sep 2002–May 2003.

Undergraduate Student Researcher, Finding Abilities Project. Department of Psychology, Rutgers University. Advisor: M. Elias. Sep 2001–Apr 2002.

Henry Rutgers Scholar, The Ultimate Truth(s). Department of Psychology, Rutgers University. Advisor: G. Atwood. Sep 2001–Apr 2002.

TEACHING

University of Connecticut School of Social Work

Advanced Research: Collecting and Analyzing Data in Social Work Programs (Spring 2021)

Research Methods for Social Work Practice (Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

Multivariate Statistics II (PhD-level) (Spring 2020)

Advanced Research: Program Evaluation (Spring 2019)

Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Fall 2017)

Smith College School of Social Work

Adjunct Instructor for MSW Thesis projects (Fall 2014-Spring 2015, Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Teaching Assistant for doctoral statistics sequence:

Statistical Research Methods I (Fall 2013, Fall 2014)

Statistical Research Methods II (Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

Duquesne University Department of Psychology

Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2005, Spring 2006)

PROFSSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Building Director, Rutgers Department of Residence Life, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. Aug 2008–May 2011.

SAT and HSPA Instructor, Upward Bound, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Jun 2009–Jul 2009.

Care Coordinator, Starlight Community Services, Full Service Partnership Program, San Jose, CA. Feb 2007–Jul 2008.

SAT Instructor, Elite Education Institute, Cupertino, CA. Mar 2007–Jun 2008.

Middle School Teacher, Teach For America, Ocala Middle School, San Jose, CA. Jun 2006–Jan 2007.

M.A.-Level Clinician, Trinitas Hospital, Youth Enrichment Services Program at Elizabeth Public High School, Elizabeth, NJ. Nov 2005–Jun 2006.

Residential Counselor, East Mountain Youth Lodge, Carrier Clinic, Belle Mead, NJ. May 2001–Aug 2001, June 2002–Aug 2003.

Resident Assistant, Rutgers College Residence Life, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Sep 2000–May 2002.

INTERNSHIP AND PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

Masters Social Work Intern, Transitions For Youth, Center for Non-Profit Management and Governance, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Supervisors: Ronald Quincy, Ph.D. and Maria Paradiso, L.S.W. Sep 2010–Apr 2011.

Masters Social Work Intern, Office of the Senior Dean of Students, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Supervisors: Mark Schuster, Ph.D., and Michael Tolbert, L.S.W. Sep 2009–May 2010.

Doctoral Student Intern Group Therapist, Hill House Center. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Supervisor: Jessie Goicoichea, Ph.D. Jan 2005–Apr 2005.

Doctoral Student Intern Psychotherapist, Hill House Satellite Center, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Supervisor: Marcus Flurnoy, M.S.W. Aug 2004–May 2005.

Doctoral Student Psychotherapist, Psychology Clinic, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA. Supervisor: Jessie Goicoichea, Ph.D. Jan 2004–May 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member, Board of Directors, SUN Scholars, Hartford, CT, Nov 2020–present
Evaluator, Rising Scholars (formerly First Star), University of Connecticut. Apr 2018–Jun 2020.

Planning Committee Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Transition-age Foster Youth Special Interest Group. 2019–2020.

Reviewer, *Psychiatric Services*. 2020–present.

Reviewer, *Journal of the Society for Social Work Research*. 2013–present.

Reviewer, *Educational Researcher*. 2018–present.

Reviewer, *Social Service Review*. 2016–present.

Reviewer, *International Journal of Social Work*. 2015–present.

Reviewer, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. 2015–present.

Reviewer, *Children and Youth Services Review*. 2012–present.

Reviewer, *Society for Social Work and Research Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee*.
2017-2018.

Member, *International Research Network on Transition to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC)*.
2014–present.