

University of Connecticut
School of Social Work
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Hartford, CT 06103

Caitlin Elsaesser, Ph.D., LICSW, MAT

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2015-present Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
University of Connecticut

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2015, University of Chicago
School of Social Service Administration, Chicago, IL

AM (MSW) 2012, University of Chicago, *Master of Social Work*
School of Social Service Administration, Chicago, IL

Certificate 2007, Salt Institute of Documentary Studies
Portland, Maine

MAT 2006, Dominican University
School of Education, Lake Forest, IL

BA 2004, Carleton College
Department of English Literature, Northfield, MN

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adolescent wellbeing | Youth participatory action research | Community-based participatory research | Violence exposure and trauma | Role of technology in youth violence | Mindfulness-based approaches to wellbeing | Community, school, and family contexts of development

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

2017 – present Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Massachusetts

2015 – 2017 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Illinois

2012 – 2015 Licensed Social Worker, Illinois

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*denotes doctoral student

+denotes community partner

Elsaesser, C. M., Patton, D, Weinstein, E., Santiago, J. +, Clarke, A+, Eschmann, R. (2021). Small becomes big, fast: Adolescent perceptions of how social media features escalate internet banging to offline violence. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Elsaesser, C. M., Katz, C., Feely, M. & Tredinnick, L.* (2020). Early child abuse and the effects of subsequent witnessed violence: Results from a national high risk sample of adolescents. *Children and Adolescent Social Work*. Advance online publication.

Elsaesser, C. M., Patton, D, Kelly, A., Santiago, J. +, Clarke, A+. (2020). Avoiding social media fights: Strategies youth leverage to navigate conflict in a digital era. *Journal of Community Psychology*. Advance online publication.

Elsaesser, C. M., Bellas, A.*. (2020). Teaching a mental health diagnosis course online: Lessons learned from a case study. *Advances in Social Work and Welfare Education*. 21(2), 50-61.

Elsaesser, C. M., Kennedy, T. & Tredinnick, L.* (2020). The role of relationship proximity to witnessed community violence and youth outcomes. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 48(2), 562-575.

Elsaesser, C. M., Gorman-Smith, D., Henry, D., Schoeny, M. (2020). The longitudinal relation between community violence exposure and academic engagement during adolescence: Exploring families' protective role. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(17-18), 3264-3285.

Das, A., Macbeth, J., **Elsaesser, C. M.** (2019). Online school conflicts: Expanding the scope of restorative practices with a virtual peace room. *Contemporary Justice Review: Issues in Criminal, Social, and Restorative Justice*, 22(4), 351-370.

Katz, C., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Klodnick, V., & Khare, A. (2019). Mentoring matters: An innovative approach to infusing mentorship in a social work doctoral program. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 55(2), 306-313.

Patton, D., Leonard, P., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Eschmann, R., Patel, S., Crosby, S. (2019). What's a threat on social media? How black and Latino Chicago young men define and navigate threats online. *Youth and Society*, 51(6), 756-772.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2018). The longitudinal relations between dimensions of community violence exposure and developmental outcomes among adolescent ethnic minority males. *Psychology of Violence*, 8(4), 409-417.

- Elsaesser, C. M.**, Heath, R., Kim, J. B. & Bouris, A. M. (2018). The long-term influence of social support on academic engagement among Latino adolescents: Analysis of between-person and within-person effects among Mexican and other Latino youth. *Youth and Society*, 50(8), 1123-1144.
- Elsaesser, C. M.**, Russell, B., Ohannessian, C. M., Patton, D. U. (2017). Parenting in a digital age: A review of parents' role in preventing adolescent cyberbullying. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 35, 62-72.
- Voisin, D., Harty, J., Kim, H. K., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Takahashi, L. (2016). Assessing the relationship between parental influences and well-being among low income African American adolescents in Chicago. *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 46(2), 223-242.
- Elsaesser, C. M.**, Hong, J. & Voisin, D. (2016). Violence exposure and bullying among African American adolescents: Examining the protective role of academic engagement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 70, 394-402.
- Patton, D., Eschmann, R., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Bocanegro, E. (2016). Sticks, stones, and Facebook accounts: What violence outreach workers know about social media and urban-based gang violence in Chicago. *Computers and Human Behavior*, 65, 591-600.
- Voisin, D., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Kim, D, Patel, S., & Cantara, A. (2016). The relationship between family stress and behavioral health among African American adolescents. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 25(7), 2201-2210.
- Bouris, A. B., Everett, B., Heath, R., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Neilands, T. B. (2015). Effects of victimization and violence on suicidal ideation and behaviors among sexual minority and heterosexual adolescents. *LGBT Health*, 3(2), 153-161.
- Elsaesser, C. M.** & Voisin, D. (2014). Correlates of polyvictimization among African American youth: An exploratory study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(17), 3022-3042.
- Voisin, D. & **Elsaesser, C. M.** (2014). Brief report: The protective effects of school engagement for African American adolescent males. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 21(4), 573-576.
- Voisin, D. & **Elsaesser, C. M.** (2013). Pathways from polyvictimization to youth problem behaviors: The critical role of school engagement. *International Journal of Higher Education*, 2(4), 15-30.
- Elsaesser, C. M.**, Gorman-Smith, D. & Henry, D. (2012). The role of the school environment in relational aggression and victimization. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 42(2), 235-249.

FUNDING

CURRENT FUNDING

- 2020 – 2022 National Center for Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control
K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
Mentors: Kim Gans, Sherry Pagoto, Maury Nation, Bonnie Duran
*Preventing Youth Violence through Technology Enhanced Street
Outreach: A Community Engaged Approach*
\$250,000
- 2021 – 2023 University of Connecticut
Scholarship Facilitation Fund
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
*The UConn-Hartford Youth Council: Enhancing Health Equity through
Authentic Youth Participation*
\$2,000
- 2017 – 2021 University of Connecticut
Research Excellence Program
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
*Understanding Social Media Conflict among Youth Living in
Neighborhoods with High Rates of Gun Violence*
\$50,000

COMPLETED FUNDING

- 2017 – 2021 InCHIP, University of Connecticut
Junior Faculty Seed Grant
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
*Understanding Social Media Conflict among Youth Living in
Neighborhoods with High Rates of Gun Violence*
\$7,500
- 2017 – 2018 School of Social Work, University of Connecticut
Dean's Award
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
*Understanding Social Media Conflict among Youth Living in
Neighborhoods with High Rates of Gun Violence*
\$4,000
- 2017 – 2018 University of Connecticut
Scholarship Facilitation Fund
PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
*Advancing Knowledge of the Consequences of Youth Violence
Exposure*
\$2,000

2016 – 2017 InCHIP, University of Connecticut
 Junior Faculty Summer Stipend
 PI: Caitlin Elsaesser
Exposure to Multiple Forms of Victimization and Substance Use: An Integrative Approach
 \$2,500

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

PEER REVIEWED

Vasquez-Reyes, M., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Patton, D., Smith-Lee, J., Santiago, J. (2021). Girls and Young Women's Perceptions on the Role of Gender and Social Media Conflict Implicated in Violence. Paper presented at ResilienceCon.

Elsaesser, C. M., Santiago, J., Clarke, A. (2020). *Small things get bit so fast: The role of social media in youth violence*. ResilienceCon, Nashville, TN (accepted for presentation, conference canceled)

Lloyd, M., Parekh, R., & **Elsaesser, C. M.** (2020). *Do older adult foster parents reduce length of stay for White children and children of color with substance removals: A national longitudinal study*. Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Elsaesser, C. M., Patton, D, Kelly, A., Santiago, J., Clarke, A. (2019). *Avoiding social media fights: Strategies youth leverage to navigate conflict in a digital era*. Paper presented at ResilienceCon.

Elsaesser, C. M., Katz, C. & Mordecai, L. (2019). *Previous exposure to child maltreatment and the effects of subsequent witnessed violence: Results from a national high risk sample*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Elsaesser, C. M., Kennedy, T. & Mordecai, L. (2017). *The role of relationship proximity to witnessed community violence and youth outcomes*. Poster presented at the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR).

Elsaesser, C. M. & Santiago, J. (2017). *A model for integrating community and school-based violence prevention approaches*. Paper presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.

Elsaesser, C. M., Mordecai, L. & Kennedy, T. (2017). *Exposure to multiple forms of victimization and adolescent health: An integrative approach*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Patton, D., Eschmann, R., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Bocanegro, E. (2017). *Sticks, stones, and Facebook accounts: What violence outreach workers know about social media and urban-based gang violence in Chicago*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Tan, K., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Gorman-Smith, D. (2017). *Longitudinal trajectories of multiple problem behaviors and substance use among African American males*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Ohanneissan, C., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, & Russell, B. (2016). *Parenting and adolescent technology use: An examination of gender differences*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting on Technology and Media in Children's Development.

Elsaesser, C. M., Russell, B., Ohanneissan, C. (2016). *Parental monitoring in a digital age: A review and implications for adolescent interpersonal violence & victimization online*. Paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations Conference.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2016). *The longitudinal relation between dimensions of community violence exposure and developmental outcomes among African American boys*. Paper presented at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference.

Elsaesser, C. M. & Voisin, D. (2016). *The relation between community violence exposure and bullying: The protective role of schools*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Elsaesser, C. M. & Gorman-Smith, D. (2016). *Patterns of community violence exposure and developmental outcomes*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Klodnick, V., Khare, A., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Katz, C. (2015). *Building doctoral student capacity through student and educator collaboration*. Panel discussion presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.

Elsaesser, C. M. & Gorman-Smith, D. (2015). *Academic functioning and violence exposure in adolescence: Exploring the protective role of families*. Paper presented as part of symposium on community violence. Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Khare, A., **Elsaesser, C. M.**, Katz, C., Klodnick, V., Darrow, J. (2015). *Building doctoral student capacity through student organization*. Roundtable presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

Elsaesser, C. M. & Gorman-Smith, D. (2014). *Patterns of community violence exposure and their relation to key young adult outcomes*. Paper presented as part of symposium on urban violence. Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2014). *Targeting emotion regulation and social skills to prevent the adverse impact of violence on school outcomes*. Poster presented at the Annual National School Social Work Conference.

Elsaesser, C. M., Bouris, A.M & Heath, R. (2012). *School engagement and social support: Variations among sub-ethnic Latino groups*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research.

INVITED

Elsaesser, C. M. & Lopez, D. (2019). *Community violence: Field informing research*. Presentation at the Correlates, Causes, and Solutions for Firearm Violence in America Conference.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2018). *Small things get big so fast: Youth descriptions of how social media conflict leads to violence*. Presentation at the Brown Bag Research Discussion University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2018). *Understanding aggressive social media interactions among youth living in violent neighborhoods*. Presentation at the annual Office of Research and Scholarship Exhibition, University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2018). *Bullying in a digital age: The role of parents in preventing online conflict*. Presentation at the Ronald and Nancy Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2016). *Violence and victimization in childhood and adolescence: An Overview*. Presentation to Annual Meeting of Field Instructors, University of Connecticut, School of Social Work.

Elsaesser, C. M. (2016). *Parental monitoring in a digital age: A review and implications for adolescent interpersonal violence & victimization online*. Annual Symposium on Community and School Violence, University of Connecticut, School of Social Work.

Elsaesser, C. M. & Gorman-Smith, D. (2014). *Trajectories of community violence exposure and student engagement over adolescence: A developmental perspective*. Doctoral Theory Workshop. School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2015	Research Fellow, Cornell Summer Research Institute National Data Archive on Child Abuse & Neglect
2011 – 2015	Doctoral Fellow, Pre-doctoral Training Fellowship Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education Award #R305B140048
2014	Recipient, Summer Dissertation Funding School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
2010 – 2011	Recipient, Doctoral Fellowship School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

TEACHING

TEACHING INTERESTS

Child and adolescent development | Human behavior in the social environment |
Research methodology | Social work practice and trauma | Social work practice with
children and adolescents

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-present	<i>Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut</i> <i>Master's Level Courses:</i> Field instructor Introduction to Research Methods Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents (online) Human Behavior in the Social Environment <i>Doctoral Level Courses</i> Statistics I
2013 – 2015	<i>Instructor, University of Chicago</i> <i>Master's Level Courses:</i> Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Theory and Practice Introduction to Research Methods

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POST MSW SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

- 2012 – 2015 **Licensed Social Worker**, Neighborhood Homes, Chicago, IL
- Provided long and short-term therapy and case management services to low-income older adults. Conducted in-home needs assessments, safety checks, and psycho-educational workshops on Medicare, advance directives, and health care. Received weekly individual supervision with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.
- 2013 – 2015 **Therapist**, Horizons for Youth, Chicago, IL
- Provided weekly therapy for adolescent youth enrolled in scholarship program for low-income highly talented students.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2011 **Grant Consultant**, Association House, Chicago, IL
- Association House of Chicago is a social service agency providing clinical and supportive services to low-income individuals. As a consultant, led writing and research for grants that secured \$300,000 in federal funds for programs.
- 2009 – 2010 **Immigration Administrator**, Association House, Chicago, IL
- Supervised case management for approximately 150 clients, communicating in Spanish daily. Prepared immigration applications for mostly Latino clients. Facilitated connection between local schools and Spanish speaking parents. Spearheaded 7 citizenship workshops, recruiting and managing 20 volunteers, serving 50 immigrants at each event, doubling applications over previous year. Collected and tracked data for federal and state grants and wrote monthly and quarterly reports. Managed 3 employees.
- 2010 **Americorps Director**, Association House of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Supervised ten Americorps members: monitored performance, set goals, ensured members program requirements. Created and implemented systems to collect data and ensure progress toward grant goals. Recruited 90 applicants for the 2010-11 Americorps program, a 200% increase in previous year's application pool.
- 2008 – 2009 **Teacher**, Noble Street College Prep High School, Chicago, IL

Taught high school Reading and English in charter school serving low-income students. Communicated weekly with students' families about performance and behavior. Worked with social worker to provide additional student supports.

2005 – 2007

Teacher (Teach for America), Northtown Academy, Chicago, IL

Taught high school English & Writing in a charter school serving low-income youth. Founded a student women's rights group and counseled students on academic and personal choices.

SERVICE, VOLUNTEERISM & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2016 – present *Board Member*, COMPASS Youth Collaborative, Hartford, CT
 2017 *Appointed Member*, Mental Health Task Force Member, Hartford, CT
 2016 – 2018 *Advisory Board Member*, Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System
 2015 – 2017 *Coalition Member*, Hartford Together, Hartford, CT
 2009 *Volunteer*, TRAMA, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Service to the School of Social Work

2020 *Committee Member*, Search Committee (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs hire)
 2019 – present *Committee Member*, Educational Review Committee
 2019 – present *Chair*, Research Curriculum Design Committee
 2015 – present *Committee Member*, Research Curriculum Design Committee
 2016 – 2020 *Committee Member*, Faculty Advisory Committee to the Dean
 2018 *Co-Chair*, Flexible Learning Committee
 2017 – 2018 *Co-Chair*, Planning Committee, Symposium on Violence
 2016 *Committee Member*, Planning Committee, Symposium on Violence
 2016 *Committee Member*, Search Committee (two Assistant Professor hires)
 2012 – 2013 *President*, Doctoral Student Association (University of Chicago)
 2012 – 2013 *Representative*, Doctoral Student Association (University of Chicago)

Service to the University

2018 *Committee Member*, Committee to Reappoint the Dean

Doctoral Mentorship

2020 – present *Dissertation Committee Member*, Maritza Vasquez Reyes
 2017 – 2020 *Dissertation Committee Member*, Lorin Mordecai

National*Manuscript
Review*

Journal of Research on Adolescence
 Children and Youth Services Review
 Journal of Youth and Adolescence
 Journal of Interpersonal Violence
 Society for Social Work and Research
 Journal of Community Psychology

2017-present

Grant Reviewer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 Administration (SAMHSA)

ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS TRAININGS

Multiple Regression Analysis (University of Chicago)

Hierarchical Linear Modeling (Stephen Raudenbush at the University of Chicago)

Longitudinal Structural Equation Modeling (Todd Little at Texas Tech University)
Software: SPSS, Excel, MPLUS

ADVANCED CERTIFICATIONS

Mindfulness Teaching Training ([iBme](#))

Completing year-long training in teaching socially engaged mindfulness to youth.

Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

Individual intervention to reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder for youth exposed trauma.

Think First Training

14-hour training on school-based group behavioral intervention developed to equip high school students with anger management skills.

Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools

School-based group and individual intervention to reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and behavioral problems for youth exposed trauma.