

Melissa Renee Jenkins, PhD, MSW

Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill *Aug. 2018—Dec. 2023*

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

Dissertation: *Sex Trafficking Prevention Education for Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Promising Practices*
(Dr. Cynthia Fraga Rizo – Chair)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill *May 2017—May 2018*

Master of Social Work

Concentration: *Community, Management, and Policy Practice*

Meredith College *Aug. 2013—May 2017*

Bachelor of Social Work (*Magna Cum Laude*)

Minor in Statistics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NICHD T32 Postdoctoral Trainee *Dec. 2023 — present*

University of Wisconsin-Madison Waisman Center

Administrative Assistant *Fall 2023*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, SciMed GRS Program

Research Consultant *Fall 2021*

Prevention Now

Research Assistant *2019 – 2021*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

Research Assistant *2019 —2020*

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Research Assistant *Spring 2018*

Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy

Social Work Field Practicum (MSW) *2017—2018*

Project NO REST

Social Work Field Practicum (BSW) *Spring 2017*

Triangle Down Syndrome Network

ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Morse Scholars Society, Waisman Center, University of *2024— present*

Wisconsin-Madison

Belfer-Aptman Scholars Award , Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention & Treatment	2022-2023
Dissertation Completion Fellowship , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2022-2023
Outstanding Doctoral Student in Social Work Award , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2022
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Diversity Scholarship , University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	Summer 2019
North Carolina Excellence Fellowship , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2018-2019
Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2017-2018
Judge Edwin S. Preston Jr. and Dr. Dorothy K. Preston Scholarship in Statistics , Meredith College	2016
Class of 1953 Merit Heritage Scholarship , Meredith College	2013-2017

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

19. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Hickey, E.J., Greenlee, J.L., Piro-Gambetti, B., Brothers, C.E., Yoon, D.M., Fleming, V.L., Schworer, E.K., Handen, B.L., Hom, C.L., Bodde, A.E., Ptomey, L.T., & Hartley, S.L. (in preparation). Adverse childhood events and quality of life in adults with Down syndrome: Indirect effect of psychological symptoms.
18. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Rizo, C.F., Ansong, D., Hume, K., & Dababnah, S. (revise & resubmit). Organizational coordination informing sex trafficking prevention for youth with disabilities: A social network analysis study. *Research on Social Work Practice*.
17. Hickey, E.J., Greenlee, J.L., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Schworer, E.K., Brothers, C.E., Hom, C.L., Handen, B.L., & Hartley, S.L. (under review). Stressful life experiences and mental health symptoms in adults with Down syndrome. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.
16. Piro-Gambetti, B., Schworer, E.K., Dasoo, M.Y., Brothers, C.E., **Jenkins, M.**, Handen, B., Hom, C.L., Christian, B., Andersen, H., & Hartley, S.L. (under review). Benefit of social engagement for healthy aging in Down syndrome. *Disability and Health Journal*.
15. Huynh, T., Greenlee, J.L., Dasoo, M., **Jenkins, M.**, Piro-Gambetti, B., & Hartley, S.L. (2025). Parent dyadic coping and parent-child relationship quality in families of autistic children. *Research in Autism*, 128, Article e202695. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.reia.2025.202695>
14. Schworer, E.K., Zammit, M.D., Handen, B.L., Piro-Gambetti, B., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Brothers, C., Okonkwo, O.C., Hom, C.L., Ances, B.M., Christian, B.T., & Hartley, S.L. (2025). Lifestyle composite and resilience to Alzheimer's disease pathology in Down syndrome.

Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities, 38(4), Article e70109.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.70109>

13. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Fleming, V.L., Schworer, E.K., Dong, Y., Tudorascu, D., Handen, B., & Hartley, S.L. (2025). Role of leisure and sleep in promoting daily physical activity in adults with Down syndrome. *Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine*, 13(1), Article e2521418. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21642850.2025.2521418>
12. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Peven, J.C., Kubic L., Handen, B.L., Krinsky-McHale S.J., Hom, C.L., Lee, A., Tudorascu, D.L., McLachlan, M., Zammit, M., Minhas, D., Luo, W., Laymon, C., Lee, J.H., Lott, I., Cohen A., Ances, B.M., Diana Rosa, H., Lai, F.,..., & the Alzheimer Biomarker Consortium - Down syndrome (2025). Behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's disease progression in Down syndrome. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 17. Article 19. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11689-025-09604-w>
11. Lippold, M.A., Hall, W., Williams, D.Y., **Jenkins, M.**, Dawes, H., & Mills-Koonce, R. (2025). Parenting and queer youth mental health and substance use: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Adolescent Research Review*, 10, 145-168. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40894-024-00232-4>
10. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Radtke, S.R., Rizo, C.F., Dababnah, S., Hume, K., & Alam, I.Z. (2024). Sex trafficking prevention for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Service provider perspectives. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 11(1), 20-37. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2024.2426939>
9. Lippold, M. A., **Jenkins, M.**, Ehrlich, K. B., Lee, S., & Almeida, D. M. (2024). Youth daily stressors predict their parents' wellbeing. *Communications Psychology*, 2(1), 55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s44271-024-00107-3>
8. Lippold, M. A., Jensen, M., Chase, G. E., Wyman, K., **Jenkins, M. R.**, Mohanty, S., & Bodenmann, G. (2024). Parent strategies to help emerging adults manage stress are associated with their mental health: A dyadic coping perspective. *Family Process*, 63(4), 1964-1981. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12991>
7. Lesak, A. M., Rizo, C. F., Franchino-Olsen, H., **Jenkins, M.**, Winslow, H., Klein, LB., Martin, S. L., Macy, R. J., Colbert, R., Croft, C., & Dunkerton, C. (2023). Experts' recommendations on educating youth about sex trafficking. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(4), 446-460. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2021.1951552>
6. Eisensmith, S., Deck, P.G., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Harris Britt, A., Kainz, K., & Ansong, D. (2022). Attending to attention: A systematic review of attention and reading. *International Journal of School Social Work*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.4148/2161-4148.1064>
5. Lesak, A. M., Rizo, C. F., Franchino-Olsen, H., **Jenkins, M. R.**, Winslow, H., Martin, S. L., Macy, R. J., Colbert, R., Croft, C., & Dunkerton, C. (2022). A response to Edwards, Kulig, and Diamond-Welch (2022). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 10(4), 650-655. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2022.2078595>
4. **Jenkins, M. R.**, Ansong, D., Banks, A., & Dangleben, T. D. (2022). Regional trends and the role of school support staff in suspensions of students with disabilities. *Children and*

Youth Services Review, 141, Article e106622.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106622>

3. Zuckerman, R., **Jenkins, M.**, Albritton, A., Taylor, E., & Lippold, M. (2022). Challenging anti Black racism in HBSE: Using critical race theory to interrogate traditional developmental paradigms. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 42(2-3), 190-206.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2022.2069203>
2. Franchino-Olsen, H., **Jenkins, M.R.**, Rizo, C.F., Croft, C., Colbert, R., & Martin, S.L. (2021). Online violence education in the era of COVID-19. *School Social Work Journal*, 46(1), 29-50. <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iassw/sswj/2021/00000046/00000001>
1. Lombardi, B.N., Jensen, T.M., Parisi, A.B., **Jenkins, M.**, & Bledsoe, S.E. (2021). The relationship between a lifetime history of sexual victimization and perinatal depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(1), 139-155.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380211021611>

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Jenkins, M.R.**, Levine, A.S., & Tuell, J.S. (2023). Youth and parents with disabilities: A critical examination of child welfare practice. In R.W. Denby & C. Ingram (Eds.), *Child and Family Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice. Volume II: Approaches to Child and Family Protection: Core Opportunities and Challenges in Child- and Family-Serving Systems*. Child Welfare League of America.

REFEREED ORAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

20. **Jenkins, M.R.**, & Antall, K. (accepted). Human trafficking protections for individuals with disabilities: A legislative review. Poster for Society for Social Work Research 2026 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
19. **Jenkins, M.R.** (accepted). Sex trafficking of youth with developmental disabilities: Opportunities for prevention and policy development. Presentation for Council on Social Work Education 2025 Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
18. **Jenkins, M.R.** Pacheco, L., Parlier, M., Schlegel, K.A. (accepted). At a crossroads: Pathways for positive intimate relationships among individuals with developmental disabilities. Panel session for Council on Social Work Education 2025 Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
17. **Jenkins, M.R.**, Fleming, V.L., Schworer, E.K., Dong, Y., Tudorascu, D., Handen, B., & Hartley, S.L. (2025, April). *Role of leisure and sleep in promoting daily physical activity in adults with Down syndrome*. Poster presented for Gatlinburg Conference, San Diego, CA.
16. **Jenkins, M.R.** (2024, April). *Coordination between sectors relevant to sex trafficking prevention for youth with disabilities: A social network analysis study*. Paper presented for the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research Conference, Chapel Hill, N.C.

15. **Jenkins, M.**, Waters, A., Welch, M., Metz, J., Chávez, E., Echeverry, C., & Van Deinse, T., (2023, May). *Using community-engaged mixed-methods research to understand service needs of victims of crime*. Poster presented for the National Institute of Justice National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
14. Lippold, M., Jensen, M., Chase, G., Wyman, K., **Jenkins, M.**, & Bodenmann, G. (2023, March). *Parent strategies to help emerging adults manage stress are associated with emerging adult well-being*. Poster presented for the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
13. **Jenkins, M.**, Baca-Atlas, S., & Fraga-Rizo, C. (2023, March). *Prevalence and prevention of sexual violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking among youth with IDD*. Paper presented for the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
12. Lippold, M., **Jenkins, M.**, Ehrlich, K., Lee, S., Wyman, K., & Almeida, D. (2023, January). *Daily child stressors predict parent negative affect and cortisol*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
11. Lippold, M., Hall, W., Mills-Koonce, R., Williams, D., **Jenkins, M.**, Dawes, H., & Gouchoe Hanas, K. (2023, January). *The relationships between parenting and mental health and substance use outcomes among queer children and adolescents: A systematic review*. Poster presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
10. **Jenkins, M.**, & Eisensmith, S. (2022, January). *Using hierarchical logistic regression to examine the impact of disability-risk and student-teacher racial similarity on special education service identification*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference [Online].
9. Zuckerman, R., Taylor, E., **Jenkins, M.**, & Albritton, T. (2021, November). *Unsettling whiteness in HBSE: Using Critical Race Theory to promote critical conversations*. Panel presentation for Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL.
8. Dawes, H., **Jenkins, M.**, Smith, Q., Albritton, T., & VanDeinse, T. (2021, November). *An anti-racist teaching practicum for doctoral students: Student and faculty perspectives*. Panel presentation for Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL.
7. **Jenkins, M.**, & Lanier, P. (2021, January). *A citation network analysis of school social work and special education journals: The current research landscape*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference [Online].
6. **Jenkins, M.** (2021, January). *Using structural equation modeling to examine effects of school and family support on childhood ADHD and meaningful work outcomes in young*

adulthood. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference [Online].

5. **Jenkins, M.**, Baca-Atlas, S., Smith, Q., & Villodas, M. (2020, January). *Interventions for treating trauma among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD): A systematic review*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
4. **Jenkins, M.**, Ansong, D., Rabiner, S., Smith, Q., & Villodas, M. (2020, January). *Spatial mapping of national trends in school discipline among White and Non-White Students with disabilities*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
3. Smith, Q., Villodas, M., & **Jenkins, M.** (2020, January). *Exploring the roles of racial identity and racial socialization on perceived discrimination, stress, and self-esteem for African American adolescents*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
2. Villodas, M., Smith, Q., **Jenkins, M.**, & Bledsoe, S. (2020, January). *Emerging adult's perspectives on community engagement, the transition to adulthood, and decision making: A qualitative study of the 'forgotten Half'*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
1. Villodas, M., Smith, Q., **Jenkins, M.**, & Kainz, K. (2020, January). *Predictors of civic involvement in young adulthood*. Paper presented for the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

3. *Trauma-informed Practice with Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. (2024, October). Clemson University, Office of Research and Organizational Development Caring Connections Conference [Online]. Co-presenter: Kim Schlegel.
2. *An Introduction to Evaluation*. (2022, July). Interfaith America [Online].
1. *Tools for Approaching Sustainable Evaluation through Curiosity*. (2022, May). Interfaith America [Online]. Co-presenter: Yasmeen Khayr.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Teaching Assistant. Evaluation of Social Work Interventions. | <i>Spring 2022</i> |
| Instructor. Evaluation of Social Work Interventions. | <i>Spring 2021</i> |
| Instructor. Human Development in Context I: Infancy to Adolescence (Teaching Practicum). | <i>Fall 2020</i> |

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Waisman Center Ethics and Professional Development Seminar	<i>2024—present</i>
Delta Program Research Mentor Training	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Grant Writing, Department of Human Development & Family Studies	<i>Spring 2024</i>
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	
Certificate in Survey Science, Odum Institute for Research in Social Science	<i>2021—2023</i>
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	<i>Summer 2019</i>

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Ad-Hoc Conference Abstract Reviewer

*The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research;
Council on Social Work Education*

Ad-Hoc Journal Reviewer

Children; International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities; Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities; Journal of Human Trafficking; Violence Against Women

Ad-Hoc Fellowship Reviewer

Grand Challenges for Social Work Doctoral Fellows

Gender-based Violence Communications Committee Chair

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Injury Prevention Research Center	<i>2019—2020</i>
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Student Representative, Doctoral Program Committee

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work	<i>2018—2019</i>
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Professional Memberships

Council on Social Work Education
Society for Social Work and Research