

COHORT 2020



**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Dear SSW community,

I'm delighted to introduce our incoming PhD Program Cohort of 2020! These students have diverse life experiences and research interests, including health promotion and mental health research in indigenous and immigrant communities, overrepresentation of Black youth and families in child welfare and criminal justice systems, and behavioral health and program development for trauma and suicide prevention.

I'm sure you all are curious about who the students are and their backgrounds. Attached is a booklet for you to learn more about them. Many thanks to Brooks Callison who took the majority of the student photos you will see. To create their bios, we asked the students to answer the following questions:

1. What do you hope to accomplish during your first year at UW?
2. What are your research interests?
3. What are you looking forward to do/explore in Seattle?

At the bottom of each student's bio are clickable links to the student's UW email and their LinkedIn profile. We are exploring new ways to help our students connect with one another and expand their scholarly networks. We value your assistance in creating a connection for each student via LinkedIn as one of our new efforts.

This year our cohort is starting their doctoral career in our new virtual, Covid-19 reality. We want to encourage you to reach out via email, LinkedIn or some other fashion to connect with these new students. All have taken the risk to start their doctoral studies during a period of profound disruption in our usual ways of connecting and communicating. Three just moved to Seattle in the past weeks to join us. Let them know your favorite social distancing activities in their new home, and help them begin to see avenues of connection!

Many thanks,



Taryn Lindhorst, PhD, LCSW

Behar Endowed Professor of Oncology and Palliative Social Work

Director, Center for Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work

Director, Doctoral Program in Social Welfare University of Washington, School of Social Work

Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

pronouns: she/hers



Santino Camacho

Santino (Tino) Camacho is a Queer CHamoru scholar from the island of Guåhan (Guam). He'll be returning to UW as a triple dawg. In his first year, he is excited to continue the work he has been doing over the summer with Dr. Michael Spencer and the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute to create a model for COVID-19 Economic Recovery for and in collaboration with WA Pacific Islander communities. He also hopes to continue to support and work with the WA Pacific Islander COVID-19 Taskforce and UTOPIA Seattle in his first year. Having lived in Seattle for 6 years, Tino looks forward to showing his new cohort mates from outside of Seattle around the city.

Tino's research interests include the development of culturally rooted/adapted health promotion interventions for Queer, Transgender and other Indigenous Pacific Islanders; the use of indigenous methodologies and community-based research methods in the collection and use of QTPI and Indigenous Pacific Islanders' health data; and the practice of CHamoru and Pasifika ethics and praxis in conducting scientific research of health disparities of Indigenous communities.

While accomplishing his Master's in Public Health at the UW, Tino worked with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services to establish Title X sexual and reproductive health services at their Northern Community Health Center. His thesis work used community-based participatory research principles to ascertain the health concerns and needs of Queer and Transgender Pacific Islanders in the greater Puget Sound Area.

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[LinkedIn](#)



Joanna La Torre

Joanna La Torre (she/they) is a cis gender / queer multi-ethnic Filipinx scholar activist from occupied Ohlone territory in California's Bay Area. She is excited to join Indigenous research and communities at the University of Washington (UW). Mx. La Torre completed their clinical hours as the country entered shelter in place in March, and is excited to announce that they passed the licensure exam in September.

Mx. La Torre's research focuses on the movements of decolonizing Filipinx's, disproportionate mental / health burdens of queers and people of color, and community-driven healing initiatives. Joanna's clinical practice centers on work with children and families, particularly teens and young adults, and she has worked within child welfare, carceral, and medical settings. In her most recent role at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, Joanna has enjoyed supporting youth that are transgender, commercially sexually exploited, as well as those chronically impacted by racist policies.

Joanna is looking forward to hiking and enjoying the beautiful landscapes in and around Seattle and trying all the various micro coffee roasteries. She is very excited to meet and form relationships with the incredible scholars in the UW community.

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Ashley Lizarraga

Ashley Lizarraga (she/her) is a Black radical social worker, scholar, educator, and activist. She's interested in the overrepresentation and disproportionality of Black children, youth, and families in the child welfare and criminal justice systems. More particularly, Ashley is interested in examining the experiences and outcomes of Black individuals with child welfare and criminal justice involvement.

Ms. Lizarraga has spent her professional and educational career advocating for youth and parents directly affected by foster care and mass incarceration. Ashley incorporates a social justice framework and trauma-informed approach to provide support to the clients and communities she works collaboratively with. Ms. Lizarraga just finished her first teaching appointment as faculty at Occidental College Upward Bound, where she taught a course on "Social Justice and the Intersectionality of Racism, Oppression, Power, and Privilege for Black, Indigenous, People of Color."

During her first year at UW, Ashley hopes to connect with the community of scholars and expand her social, professional, and academic networks. She also plans on expanding her clinical skills and experiences to earn hours for clinical licensure in WA state.



Sarah Porter

Sarah Porter (she/her) identifies as a cisgender female and multiethnic first-generation American from Madison, Wisconsin. During her program, Sarah aims to expand her methods training in order to build her capacity in translational research and advocacy-driven program development. Ms. Porter is excited to join UW's Forefront Center of Excellence focusing on innovative suicide prevention program implementation, with a focus on marginalized college populations.

Sarah's primary research passions include suicide prevention, implementation science, and amplifying effective collaborative practices between frontline mental health providers and national resources. She recently left Washington, DC where she worked for two years as a Federal contractor supporting Executive Orders focusing on national suicide prevention efforts for Veterans and the communities where they live and thrive. Before that, Sarah worked in academia and national nonprofit mental health organizations.

Sarah is excited to meet and develop new relationships at UW, both within and beyond the School of Social Welfare. She hopes to use available time outside of the program to explore the natural beauty that Washington state has to offer. Sarah is also looking forward to dabbling in Seattle's glass-blowing scene.

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Hannah Scheuer

Hannah Scheuer (she/her) is a white cisgender clinical and academic social worker who received her MSW from Portland State University in 2018. Her research interests include preventive behavioral intervention research targeting risky behavior in youth and the development of scalable pragmatic intervention models to promote adolescent health in diverse populations.

While pursuing her MSW, Hannah worked for the Translational Research for Adolescent Change Lab providing intervention sessions for youth engaging in heavy alcohol use. After completing her MSW, Hannah worked as the social worker in the Trauma Survivors Outcomes and Support research program. In this role she delivered evidenced based behavioral therapy and recruited/trained peer interventionists with the goal of reducing emergency department readmissions, PTSD and depression symptoms, and high risk behavior associated with recurrent injury in traumatic injury survivors.

During her first year as a UW doctoral student, Hannah hopes to be pushed out of her comfort zone and challenged both academically and personally. She plans to engage with her community both within and outside of UW and foster meaningful connections with her peers, professors, colleagues, and mentors. As a current resident of Seattle, Hannah is looking forward to taking in Seattle as a UW student and is eager to explore the city with fellow graduate students. She will also continue to foster her current friendships, enjoy hikes with her husband and two dogs, and continue training as a competitive equestrian.

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