

COHORT 2021



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Dear SSW community,

I'm delighted to introduce our incoming PhD Program cohort of 2021! These students have diverse life experiences and research interests, including health promotion and mental health research in indigenous communities, working in tribal communities, and issues of health equity in the lives of older adults.

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 student photos. To create their bios, we asked the students to answer the following questions:

- Could you tell us a bit about your background (Your degrees, research interests, current support system)?
- What are you most excited about the PhD program?
- What are you most excited about Seattle, UW, and/or SSW?

Although we are officially back in-person at the UW, the realities of Covid-19 mean that gathering together in larger groups is still risky. For that reason, we want to encourage you to reach out via email 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



Tess Abrahamson-Richards

Tess (she/her) is a citizen of the Spokane Tribe, the United States, and England. She received her BA from Seattle University and MPH here at the UW in Health Services/Maternal and Child Health. Her primary research interests are in the overlapping domains of maternal behavioral health promotion and early childhood service delivery within American Indian communities. Much of her professional experience has been in home visiting service delivery, research, and evaluation. For the past 5 years, Tess has worked on a multisite study partnering with 17 tribal home visiting programs throughout the nation to better understand what supports successful and effective early childhood program implementation in Native communities. Tess lives in northeast Seattle with her husband, who is a teacher, and their two children.

In the PhD program, Tess is most excited about the opportunity to immerse herself in learning and further developing her research competencies. Engaging in social welfare theory and honing her methodological expertise are of particular interest. She is also excited to connect with other students and faculty mentors. There is so much to take advantage of during the program!

Tess is excited to return to the fun and collegial environment of the SSW (she worked at IWRI as a masters student and for two years thereafter) and especially to the chance to get to be in person with others again. She is extraordinarily grateful that the stars have aligned such that she can pursue her studies at a national hub for Indigenous research while continuing to live here in Seattle.

Email

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Matthew Frank

Matthew Frank is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Shiprock, New Mexico. Matthew has his MSW and MPH from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. His research interests are on racial and ethnic health disparities and the role of social determinants of health, particularly how socioeconomic position and social context affect health and health disparities in Native Americans. Matthew's support system includes his partner and younger brother (who starts at a tribal college this coming fall in the PNW), and his rez dog, Macey.

What makes Matthew most excited about the program is making new colleagues and friends, especially within the School of Social Work. Matthew is also excited about learning more about quantitative data analysis and continues grant writing (yes, believe it) to support their scholarship.

Although Matthew is excited about UW and being part of the SSW family, he is most excited about being part of the Seattle community. He is hoping it will be a source of inspiration and fellowship - whether it is personal, professional, or academically.

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Kilohana Haitsuka

Welina! 'O Kilohana ko'u inoa. Ua noho au i Anahola ma Kaua'i a Manokalanipō. He wahine Hawai'i au. He mo'opuna au. He kaikamahine au. He kaikuahine au. 'O kēia nā mea waiwai i ku'u pu'uwai.

Kilohana Haitsuka is the proud product of Kānaka Maoli from Anahola, Kaua'i and Japanese settlers from Kāne'ōhe, O'ahu. She loves her community, and their needs and voices will always be at the forefront of her work. Her research is culturally guided and grounded in Indigenous research methodologies that advocate for community participation and respectful engagement.

She recently completed her work at Hā Kūpuna, the National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders. She is also happy to be continuing her work with the wonderful team from Maui Ola Mālamalama at Papa Ola Lōkahi. To Kilohana, joining the PhD program at UW can be described as a koho 'ia. She is grateful to begin working with Kumu Michael Spencer and other Indigenous Pacific Islander researchers, including her soon-to-be hoa hana.

She is excited to build pilina in a new place and absorb all that it has to offer. E ho'omau aku i kō kākou mana'o ma nā kapua'i o ka mana'o'i'o o nā kūpuna.

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Brittany Jones

Brittany (she/her) is a white cisgender LCSW who received her MSW in 2008. She has spent the intervening time working primarily with older adults as a nonprofit clinician and research assistant at Georgia State University. Her research interests build on these experiences. Brittany wants to focus on developing interventions that target the social isolation and loneliness of older adults at the intersection of oppressions, particularly those with dementias or physical disabilities. She would also like to study models of housing and long-term care for this population.

Brittany is excited about working with colleagues and faculty at UW and looks forward to engaging with the SSW community to foster meaningful connections and collaborations. Brittany knows she will be challenged in the PhD program and hopes to grow not just as a student and researcher, but as a person actively challenging her privilege and living out her social justice values.

In January of 2021 Brittany, her spouse, and their dog relocated from Atlanta to Seattle. They have been thriving in an environment with wonderful access to mountains, bodies of water, and biking trails. She anticipates many future outdoor adventures in the region!

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Natalie Turner

Natalie Turner (she/her) is a white, cisgender Licensed Master of Social Work from Poughkeepsie, NY. She moved to Albany, NY in 2013 to pursue her education in Social Work. She received her BSW in 2017 and MSW in 2018 from the University at Albany, School of Social Welfare. Her research interests include health disparities and service use disparities among older adults. She has worked the last few years at a specialty outpatient neurology clinic for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their family members/caregivers, providing individual services and also developing and implementing health provider education and training. She has additional experience with program evaluation for a New York State veterans peer support program and serving as an adjunct professor at Maria College.

During her program, Natalie aims to grow her skills as a researcher with a focus on older adults and health disparities. While very familiar with aging programs and policies in New York State, Natalie is looking forward to learning about aging services in Washington. As a social worker who loves math, Natalie is very excited about improving her skills in data analysis.

Natalie was born and raised in upstate New York, and so is absolutely thrilled about exploring the Pacific Northwest and the city of Seattle. She has heard so much about the beauty of campus, the city, and the surrounding nature. Natalie is looking forward to exploring the city and going on hikes. She is always willing to try new restaurants and participate in events. She is excited to be part of the UW and Seattle community and looks forward to growing these relationships.

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