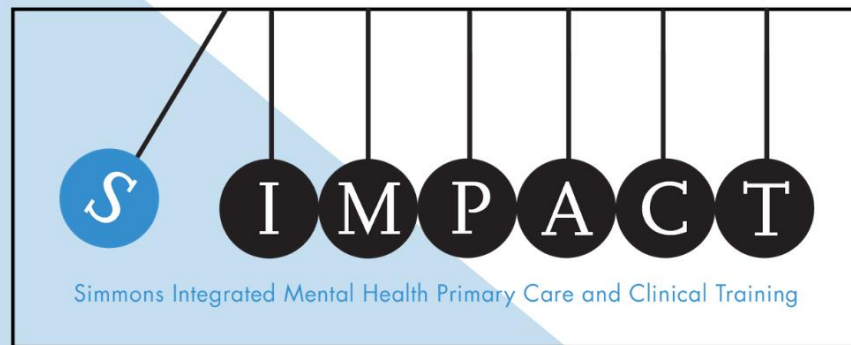


# SIMPACT GRADUATE CATALOGUE 2019-2020



# Class of 2020 SIMPACT Scholars

## SIMPACT

Margaret Begen  
Carmen Benjamin  
Sharalis Canales  
Karen Cedant  
Ceshada Chambers  
Peter Crowley  
Liz D'Amelio  
Sasha Dias  
Emerson Fang  
Meredith Hanson-Tymon  
Tanejah Jones  
Melissa Jules  
Porscha Kazmeirczak  
Rich Kleiman  
Dan Klein  
Jeannette LaPlant  
Shannon Lawton  
Sasha Medina  
Danielle Mitchell  
Shanell Nunez  
Caitriona O'Grady  
Jimmy Phillion  
Genevieve Spears  
Julie Upadhyay  
Jenny Valdez  
Adam Valsahagun  
Viana Vargas  
Brittany Zigmont

## SIMPACT-SUD

Jannice Adorno  
Emma Dreyfus  
Bernadine Gates  
Melissa Getz  
Mia Griffin  
Trenton Robertson Henrich  
Krystal Ketler  
Lauren Morton  
Chantelle Romero  
April Rowell  
Tia Strong  
Edith Velez-Ruiz

## SIMPACT- SOWEP

Kelsey Beer  
Margaret Brady  
Christina Debonis  
Jocelyn Ferraro  
Nehemie Jones  
Shawna Little  
Kayla Pena  
Brianna Pierre  
Max Roberts  
Olivia Shea  
Bianca Simeone  
Lauren Sullivan  
Melissa De Leon  
Lily Dolyak  
Aileen Gummow  
Jacqueline Jimenez-  
Maldonado  
April Keegan  
Breana Marchwinski  
Stacey Perlman  
Ashley Roberge  
Briana Swindle  
Meredith White-Goode  
Emily Wiersma

**SIMPACT** is a specialized training program that aims to increase the number of social workers with competencies in interprofessional, integrated behavioral health in primary care who pursue careers in clinical work with vulnerable populations in urban and rural medically underserved areas. One of the goals of the SIMPACT Scholars Program is to ensure participation of students from diverse backgrounds (racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, and class), from sexual and gender minorities, from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds, and from linguistic minorities.

**SIMPACT-SUD** expands and enhances the mission of SIMPACT by training clinical social work students, faculty, and field supervisors in the implementation, teaching, and delivery of interprofessional behavioral health services with a specialized focus on opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders.

**SIMPACT-SOWEP** aims to improve the preparation of clinical social work students, faculty, staff, and field supervisors in the implementation, teaching, and delivery of mental health, OUD, and other SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Specifically, SIMPACT-SOWEP seeks to improve access to evidence-informed opioid use and substance use services across a range of community-based settings located in high need, high demand areas.

# Elizabeth D'Amelio

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## SIMPACT

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker in May 2020, Psychological First Aid Certified

## Work Experience

Elizabeth has clinical experience working individually and in group settings with survivors of torture and young adults engaged in job training. Prior to earning her MSW, she has worked internationally on gender-focused education and public health initiatives.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Elizabeth conducted assessments, provided case management and individual therapy for survivors of torture. She designed and facilitated women's group for female-identifying survivors of torture from Uganda.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Elizabeth supported young adults with complex psycho-social histories through individual counseling. She also facilitated groups related to gender identity and substance use.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

English, Spanish language skills

## Future Goals

Elizabeth intends to continue working in global mental health spaces both clinically and in programming.

# Meredith Michaela Hansen

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## SIMPACT

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Theater (2 Majors)- UMass Amherst, 2008

**Licensure** Eligible to take the Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW-MA) in May 2019.

## Work Experience

Prior to graduate school, Meredith has worked in a variety of roles within the healthcare field for nearly a decade. She previously oversaw front office operations as a Support Operations Supervisor at Spaulding Cambridge Outpatient Center and collaborated with community health centers on data initiatives as Manager of Health Informatics while working for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

At Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital- Meredith completed four months of her advanced year internship providing bio-psychosocial assessments for patients admitted inpatient with co-occurring mental health and medical diagnoses as well as participating in daily interdisciplinary rounds. At Brigham and Women's Hospital, she completed four months of her advanced year internship providing weekly 60-minute individual therapy for 2 post-transplant recipients as well as providing bio-psychosocial assessments for inpatient renal transplant recipients and donors.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Meredith supported nine students (ages 6-11) with attaining their Individual Education Plan goals through weekly one-on-one individual therapy sessions. Additionally, she co- led seven small social skills groups (2-4 students) and collaborated with student families and teachers to help support learning goals.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Technological skills include Word, Powerpoint, and Excel.

## Future Goals

Meredith aspires to enhance her growing knowledge of working in partnership within an interdisciplinary care team to provide patient-centered care for adults.

# Porscha Kazmierczak

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## SIMPACT

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Directing and Women's Studies - University of Michigan, 2012

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW-MA) in May 2020

## Work Experience

Porscha developed and coordinated curriculum for a partnership program between Eastern Michigan University and Alternatives for Girls in Detroit to engage high-risk and homeless girls build interpersonal and professional skills through drama. Prior to that, she worked as an executive assistant in Namibia with children in an underserved community to provide consistent class instruction while providing one-on-one assessments of physical and mental barriers to student learning.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Porscha provided counseling and emotional support to women and families throughout pregnancy and after the postpartum period at Massachusetts General Hospital's inpatient Obstetrics unit. Engaging in rapid rapport-building, she conducted assessments of patient needs, adjustment, social and/or financial concerns, personal safety, access to resources/supports, mental illness, substance use, and risk for postpartum anxiety or depression.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Porscha managed individual case load with clients living with a range of mental and physical diagnoses at Bay Cove Human Services. She also engaged in research, outreach and collaboration with Harbor Health Clinic to introduce a sex education workshop into a group home for adults with schizophrenia.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Porscha is fluent in English and Brazilian Portuguese, with some basic Spanish and French. Technical skills include Epic, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Google platforms.

## Future Goals

Porscha aspires to grow her knowledge and skill set in integrated health care settings and is looking for opportunities to work in collaborative and team-based environments, ideally with a focus on women's health and wellness.

# Breana Marchwinski

breana.marchwinski@gmail.com | 321-320-1350

## **SIMPACT-SOWEP**

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Art History - Boston College, 2014

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW-MA) in May 2020

## **Work Experience**

Prior to attending graduate school, Breana's work experience includes various roles at a suicide prevention hotline, both providing direct service on the phone, text, and chat lines as well as in volunteer training and support. She additionally has both work and volunteer experience in research, particularly in the fields of learning psychology, eating disorders/body image, and youth/adolescent mental health.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Breana worked as part of an interdisciplinary team within a transplant program at a hospital, conducting psychosocial assessments, co-facilitating a group, and conducting follow-up with patients as indicated. Additionally, within the context of a student-led evening clinic focusing on chronic disease management and urgent care she assessed and intervened around concerns such as mental health, resource needs, motivation, suicide assessment, and coping while working collaboratively with other members of the medical team.

## **Foundation Year Clinical Internship**

Breana provided individual and group counseling in the context of a psychiatric day treatment program for adults with serious mental health concerns including depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and trauma. She conducted assessments, collaborated with clients on treatment goals, worked with other members of the clients' treatment teams, and utilized a range of interventions based on identified needs of clients.

## **Future Goals**

Breana hopes to continue developing and utilizing her skills within a healthcare environment, primarily working with adults and/or adolescents. She has continued interest in areas including integrated behavioral health, substance use, depression and anxiety, chronic illness, eating disorders, and trauma-informed care.

# Shanell Nunez

s.nunez012@gmail.com

## SIMPACT

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Science in Social Work - Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2019

**Licensure** Certified in CANS Assessment, Certificate of Achievement in Mental Health, Certificate of Achievement in Drugs and Alcohol. I will be eligible to become a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) in August 2020.

## Work Experience

Shanell worked as an assistant to the vice president of a non-profit community center assisting in the development and evaluation of programs for members of the community. He also often supported and participated in ongoing development activities for children and families living below poverty within the community.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Shanell's advanced year internship was placed at an outpatient behavioral health center within a community health clinic providing counseling and case management to clients. This placement allowed him to become more involved within the medical field and has given Shanell the opportunity to work closely with professionals of other disciplines to provide the best care for clients.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

During Shanell's foundation year internship, he had the opportunity of developing an intergenerational program involving preparation of activities for seniors and toddlers to take part in together in order to enhance their mental health. He also worked with at-risk teenagers, ages 13-18, providing counseling, support, resources, and guidance so they may continue to function in their environments.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Fluent in Spanish and English, technical skills include Microsoft Office and Windows proficiency, adept in interpersonal skills with diverse demographics

## Future Goals

Shanell's future goals are to utilize educational achievements in order to help individuals and families in the community achieve better mental, physical, and emotional health. He is looking for social work opportunities within integrated health care settings providing team-based treatment to clients.



# Stacey Perlman

stacey.perlman@gmail.com

## SIMPACT- SOWEP

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020

**Licensure** CANS Assessment Certified, Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker in May 2020.

## Work Experience

Stacey is trained as a clinical social worker with experience providing case management services to families experiencing homelessness and psychotherapy services to a diverse range of individuals and families in a low-income healthcare setting. Prior to social work, Stacey worked for nearly nine years in fundraising and as a writer for international nonprofits, bringing a unique global perspective to her training as a clinician.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Stacey provided psychotherapy to a diverse range of individuals and families in a low-income, outpatient healthcare setting, focusing on anxiety, depression, grief, panic attacks, eating disorders, PTSD, and substance use. Managing a caseload of 6-10 patients, she refined her skills in building rapport and implementing techniques from a variety of modalities ranging from mindfulness to psychodynamic, cognitive behavioral, structural family, and solution-focused theories.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Stacey managed four cases of families experiencing homelessness who were placed in the organization's Community Based Shelter Program. She gained invaluable skills in navigating complex systems including housing authorities, the Department of Transitional Assistance, and childcare vouchers; providing tailored support to each client; and connecting clients to resources and services to help them gain stability as they searched for housing.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Stacey is fluent in English. Technological skills include the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office); database management, including EPIC and ETO; and PC and Mac.

## Future Goals

Stacey aspires to continue her practice in psychotherapy while deepening her knowledge around the healthcare system to eventually advocate for improving policies and systems within the healthcare industry, particularly increasing access to mental health services – like psychotherapy – for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

# Max Roberts

exmroberts86@gmail.com | 203-494-5397

## SIMPACT-SOWEP

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy - Colgate University, 2012

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW-MA) in May 2020, MAP Certified, CPR Certified

## Work Experience

Max has worked in a variety of settings including in-home work in the community with dual diagnosis clients, group homes for the chronically mentally ill, and traditional, in-office therapy. He has had the opportunity to work with a diverse population of clients from many different socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Max is currently finishing up an advanced year internship in an outpatient methadone maintenance therapy clinic where he is the counselor for 12 clients who he sees weekly for an hour of therapy and case management. Max works with an interdisciplinary team to provide the best care coordination possible for the clients while helping them navigate their recovery journeys.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Max was a life coach/case manager for clients with mental illness and/or substance abuse and he would meet with the clients in the community. He implemented treatment plans, taught life skills, and worked with an interdisciplinary team to provide wrap around behavioral health care to the clients.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Max is technologically proficient with a variety of programs like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## Future Goals

Max aspires to be an outpatient mental health clinician seeing clients with a variety of mental health and substance issues in a traditional therapy setting. He also aspires to work in non-profit spaces providing equity to disadvantaged people in his community.

# Briana Swindle

briana.swindle@gmail.com

## **SIMPACT- SOWEP**

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - University of Massachusetts Boston, 2015

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2020

## **Work Experience**

Briana has worked in homeless services in the city of Boston since 2012 in a myriad of direct service roles. These roles include being the Assistant Manager of the Food Program at Rosie's Place and the Supervisor of the Clothing Program at St. Francis House. Briana also worked as per diem relief staff with the Boston Public Health Commission homeless shelters, participated in the Homeless Census, and has volunteered at several organizations dedicated to human services.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Briana interned at the Bay Cove Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST); BEST is an emergency psychiatric service team that provides evaluations to assess for safety and risk in the community. At BEST, Briana conducted biopsychosocial assessments, suicide assessments, and mental status exams in a number of environments. Briana worked in crisis interventions, made referrals for treatment, worked collaboratively with hospitals and placement settings to provide follow up treatment, presented cases to providers and teams, worked with insurances to gain authorization and provide follow up for purposes of billing and continued treatment, and was able to conduct crisis evaluations in a number of environments such as hospitals, schools, homes, and at the Urgent Care Center located at BEST.

## **Foundation Year Clinical Internship**

Briana's foundation year internship was located at the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP); TPP provides homelessness prevention support for low income and disabled tenants in the Greater Boston area, as well as providing housing support to both tenants and landlords by being located directly in the Edward Brooke Courthouse, adjacent to Boston Housing Court. She provided support to tenants by conducting weekly home visits, created treatment plans, conducted assessments, worked alongside landlords, property managers, and attorneys, and made referrals as needed.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Briana is fluent in English and speaks and reads minimal Spanish. She also has multiple years' experience using Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.

## **Future Goals**

Briana aspires to continue working in homeless services in the greater Boston area, to continue building on her ability to provide and advocate for harm reduction techniques, services, and programs for those struggling with substance use, and to continue to provide trauma-informed and person-centered care in a wide variety of ways.

# Adam Sergio Valsahagun

adamvalsahagun@gmail.com

## SIMPACT

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2020

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW-MA) in May 2020

## Work Experience

Prior to social work, Adam Valsahagun worked in the nonprofit field, through Generation Citizen, a MA organization advocating for civics education in public schools at the school and state level. Here, Adam was a program assistant and volunteer trainer, providing services such as program analysis and evaluation, and training young adults from local universities who volunteered in public schools across Boston.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Adam provided individual therapy to adults in the primary care setting of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, working with an array of patients with diverse backgrounds and medical needs, and as part of an interdisciplinary medical team. He also assisted in facilitating support groups around CBT approaches for depression and anxiety, and psycho-education groups for patients with diabetes. Adam provided assessments for patients within Cognitive Neurology in areas of memory loss, impairment, and neurological pre-surgical status.

## Foundation Year Clinical Internship

Adam provided one-on-one community resource counseling and case management to patients and families at Codman Square Health Center. Work focused primarily on securing resources around the social determinants of health, including employment, education, food, and transportation.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Adam is fluent in Spanish. His technological skills include Epic software, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and social media/advertising platforms, like Mailchimp and Salesforce.

## Future Goals

Adam aspires to continue growing his career within the integrated healthcare setting, and is searching for social work opportunities in a team-based setting providing outpatient services to adults (18 and over) and families in the areas of individual/family therapy, cognitive neurology assessments, substance use disorder rehabilitation support, and chronic illness management (HIV, diabetes, Parkinson's).