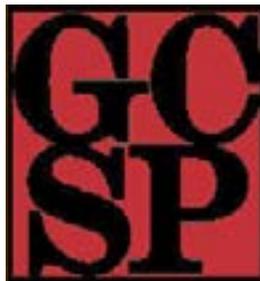


THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

GRADUATE CIVIC SCHOLARS

2017 - 2018 Program Directory



WELCOME!

Welcome 2017-18 Graduate Civic Scholars! The Graduate Civic Scholars Program (GCSP) is an innovative professional development opportunity for master's and doctoral students who are interested in community and public engagement and action-based research. GCSP provides opportunities for interdisciplinary research, involvement in social justice initiatives, and an enhanced understanding of the role of scholarship in addressing societal needs.

This year's competitive application process resulted in a cohort of 11 talented master's and doctoral students from a variety of disciplines across UofSC. We are happy to be your guides through the process of gaining first-hand experience with civic research and sharing with you key principles, concepts, and approaches to community-engaged research, teaching, and civic scholarship.

Wishing you all the best for an engaging, productive year!



Allison Marsh, PhD
Faculty Co-Director, GCSP
Associate Professor
History



Lucy Ingram, PhD
Faculty Co-Director, GCSP
Associate Professor
Health Promotion, Education, and
Behavior



JORDAN PAUL TJARKS BECK

Department: Education and Theatre & Dance

Degree Program: MAT

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

A myriad of reasons including, but not limited to: A fascination with civic partnerships, arts-based community cultural development, and art as a catalyst for exchange, dialogue, and community meaning making.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

Relationships with a diverse set of colleagues whose interdisciplinary perspective will deepen our collective work. A deeper understanding of civics and partnership. Mentorship from faculty. Skills, tools, and paradigms surrounding needs assessment, community partnership, project management, and project assessment.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

Interests in: Civic spaces, public art projects, the economics of the arts, critical pedagogy, theatre of the oppressed, outdoor education, game design, politics, education reform, organization development, leadership studies, family systems theory, qualitative research, ethnography, improvisation, and performance studies. I'm excited to allow my conception of my project grow and change as we work and learn together.

Key words describing your interests:

theatre-making, storytelling, arts-based research, and social and emotional development through art making



HEATHER BOWLING

Department: Social Work

Degree Program: MSW

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I applied to be a part of this program to participate in research and learn with people from all over campus who like building things as much as answering questions.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope to be able to spend my year running around with my hair on fire, excited by people, their ideas, and perspectives. I hope to be able to take a large project from start to launch.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

My proposed project is a partnership between USC Health Sciences, USC Aquatics, and Palmetto Health Pediatric Rehab to create a program for special needs children and their families to access family swim lessons. The research question is “Will working with families as a unit, providing modeling for parenting children with special needs, improve family functioning?”

Key words describing your interests:

systems, outliers, training, health behavior



DANIEL CASTELL

Department: Philosophy

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

The pursuit of wisdom--indeed, the love of wisdom--may be one of life's most rewarding pursuits. Hopefully, full-time philosophers can share its fruits and joy with a larger audience.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

My personal goals involve not only evangelizing for philosophic reflection but also to establish a two-way discussion on the nature and uses of wisdom.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

The program seeks to take discussions of wisdom out into the public square to mutually inform academic inquiry and everyday practices.

Key words describing your interests:

philosophy, wisdom, practical reason, folk wisdom



ARIEL DOMLYN

Department: Clinical-Community Psychology

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

While I intend to build my career around civic scholarship, and much of my experience is heavily informed by publicly engaged scholarship, I have never embarked on a new project of my own design. I'm looking to build skills in public engagement, applied scholarship, and translating ideas across disciplines. I look forward to the support and skill-building that I expect the program will provide. I applied to the Graduate Civic Scholars Program with the expectation that the experience will push my ideas further and help me to build an effective project benefiting local citizens.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I'm excited to engage with researchers and students across the university through the Graduate Civic Scholars Program and by participating in the program hope to contribute meaningful and productive research. My background traverses the health, social, and physical sciences, thus I find interdisciplinary collaboration essential to my personal and professional development. I expect the diverse backgrounds and specialties of other Civic Scholars will provide useful feedback to create an impactful, multidimensional, and interdisciplinary product from a year participating in the program.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

Community coalitions are productive entities for improving the health and well-being of a population. In South Carolina the population is aging, and the number of individuals over age 60 will double within the next thirty years. I plan to investigate the existence of multi-sector coalitions working on issues of aging in the state. If a coalition is identified, I'd like to use principles of community psychology and public health to evaluate its functioning and productivity. If no coalition is identified, I plan to survey academic scholars, local business leaders, and non-profit workers to gauge their interest in creating a collaborative coalition for the betterment of the community.

Key words describing your interests:

health, organizational dynamics, aging, implementation science, social norms



MONIQUE GARVIN

Department: Political Science

Degree Program: MPA

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I applied to be a part of the Graduate Civic Scholars Program to join dozens of other graduate scholars who have committed their scholarship and service to community civic engagement with various projects to support community efforts. I, too, would like to continue the progress toward change by piloting a community research project to help transform the scholarly gain of South Carolina communities. My work as an educator has fueled my passion for children and educational inequity in South Carolina. I believe that GCSP will impact my ability to serve, by providing me with the scholarly guidance and support that I need to move my project forward and bring my vision into fruition.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope this program will expand my knowledge and capacity for original research that will have a theoretical and practical impact on the South Carolina community. Furthermore, I look forward to the opportunity to build my academic and social network for interdisciplinary scholarship and research amongst the USC community. I look forward to exchanging knowledge and support between my fellow graduate scholars while building relationships with like-minded researchers.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

My proposed project will work to fight educational inequity by researching and implementing the most effective curriculum and best practices for a new charter school in South Carolina. The data collected will establish goals of providing urban/low-income communities with school choice and a greater student achievement.

Key words describing your interests:

volunteering, reading, traveling, music, cooking



JILLIAN HINDERLITER

Department: History

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I applied to be part of the Graduate Civil Scholars program because I am drawn to the interdisciplinary nature of the program and the possibility of collaborating with other graduate students on community-oriented scholarship. Since joining the USC community, I have not had many opportunities to work closely with scholars outside of the Department of History. As an undergraduate student in Boston, I was very much involved with the Jewish Studies program, and we designed a wide range of programs for public and academic audiences. This brand of interdisciplinary study and outreach helped me refine who I hoped to be as a scholar and community member. I hope that joining the Graduate Civic Scholars cohort will give me another opportunity to think outside of my own disciplinary boundaries and traditions.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope the Graduate Civic Scholar program will help me learn about how disciplines outside of the humanities communicate with diverse public audiences. I have a background in museum outreach and education, and I would like to interweave my public history skills with approaches used by other educators. Ideally, I will also be able to share my experiences with my cohort, and together we can refine our approach to public-facing scholarship and programming. I also hope to build relationships with other young scholars here at USC, and I hope we can see each other as resources in the future for projects or initiatives. I would also like to use the project portion of my experience to move my dissertation forward in a meaningful and productive way.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

My proposed Civic Scholars project is an oral history project, which would expand upon my earlier work interviewing Jewish feminist health activists in the Boston and New York. I hope to expand my project and include Southern narratives and perspectives. These perspectives might require me to reconsider my conclusions thus far or they could underscore the trends I saw in the Northeast. I am open to either result. Ideally, I will be able to find Jewish South Carolinians who were, or currently are, women's health activists. I am interested in the ways Jewish American women participated in and contributed to the women's health movement, as well as any connections they might see between their sense of Jewishness and their own activism. I hope this project will contribute a number of interviews to my dissertation research and expand the geographical scope of my work.

Key words describing your interests:

health activism, Jewish studies, women's health movement, identity, oral history



SARAH KING

Department: Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior

Degree Program: MPH

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I decided to apply to the GCSP because I saw this as a wonderful opportunity to gain experience and expertise in public engagement and action-based research outside of what is taught in a traditional graduate curriculum. I feel this program will teach me how to work efficiently and effectively with members of a large population so that one day I can offer guidance in performing research to identify health disparities within a population and improve the health status of a community as a public health practitioner. I felt that this would be a great program to meet other UofSC graduate students and collaborate on projects that could benefit all academic areas. I believe that each student within the GCSP will be able to contribute new ideas that others in the program can learn from and use in our own professional careers.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope to establish networking opportunities and connections with some of the local community leaders and learn from their personal experience the skills it takes to engage members of the public for a cause or action. I would like to build lasting partnerships and friendships with some of the other fellow Graduate Civic Scholars that will go beyond the program and into our own professional careers as well. Lastly, I want to learn how I can optimize research and community resources to address societal needs so that every member of the community may benefit from the desired change instead of selected individuals within a population.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

I have recently conducted a walkability assessment of the university and am now looking to enhance the research project by connecting with both university and city leaders to improve some of the areas of campus that may hinder one's ability to walk and be physically active. I really would like to establish partnerships among members of the university, such as Facilities, Outdoor Recreation, and Healthy Carolina, to work together and improve the walkability of the campus. If a partnerships is established among university members, I would potentially like to seek the interest of City of Columbia representatives to see whether city intersections can be improved for pedestrians throughout UofSC's campus, and possibly perform a similar walkability study in parts of the downtown area.

Key words describing your interests:

walkability, physical activity, built environment



TIM MONREAL

Department: Foundations of Education

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I hope my scholarship and my career will focus on research for and with communities rather than on communities. Therefore, learning how to develop, enact, and complete such projects in the public interest are reasons I applied to this program.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope that this program will aid me in identifying key resources and institutional supports for community based research. Additionally, I am excited to draw upon the experience of program facilitators and the collective knowledge of my fellow scholars. Finally, I expect the program to give me a rough set of deadlines and guidelines to turn my inspiration into action.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

Odem and Lacy (2009) wrote, “In towns, cities, and suburbs throughout the SE one now finds Mexican panaderías, tiendas, and restaurants, Spanish language newspapers and radio programs, Latino nightclubs, and December processions in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe” (p. ix). Some scholars have named this increase in Latinx to the Southeast as the “New Latino Diaspora” or the “New Latino South.” My hope is to launch a participatory collective of K-12 Latinx South Carolina educators so that we may support each other, learn from our experiences, document our history, and improve education for Latinx youth in South Carolina.

Key words describing your interests:

Latinx Education in the US South, immigration in US South, critical spatial analysis and geography, qualitative methods, social studies, and ethnic studies education



LORELEI PHILLIP

Department: Communication Sciences & Disorders

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

I applied for the GCSP because I have always had an interest in community involvement and public engaged scholarship. Not only that, I had the opportunity while completing my master's degree to be part of a similar multidisciplinary program and really enjoyed it. I find it important for those who engage in scholarly work to not only share it with community, but also make the community an invested partner whenever possible. While it can sometimes be difficult to initiate and build those relationships, this program is a way to make a good start.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I hope to be able to collaborate with and get feedback from others who have a variety of interests and could provide a different perspective on what I am doing. I also hope that this program serves as a bridge for helping me implement a project that can positively impact the community. Ideally, my project would be the foundation for some of my future goals — something upon which I could build and use to create positive change for even more individuals as it grows.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

My project is focused on individuals living with aphasia, a language disorder that commonly occurs after stroke. This disorder may cause them to have difficulty speaking or understanding what others say, and oftentimes these deficits persist years after the stroke. As a result, their social networks and other sources of social support may become quite restricted. The goal of my project is to provide regularly scheduled opportunities for social interaction and volunteer work with other people with aphasia, as well as unfamiliar community members. The hope is that this type of involvement may not only provide an opportunity for them to translate the communication skills they have learned in therapy to a more natural setting, but I also hope that it would help to improve feelings of community and self-worth, broaden their social networks, and bring awareness of the disorder to the larger community.

Key words describing your interests:

aphasia, quality of life, recovery, stroke



SAMANTHA WEBER

Department: Exercise Science

Degree Program: PhD

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

The Graduate Civic Scholars Program gives the opportunity for students to take their ideas and make them realistic. My area of research is something close to my heart, and I want to take every opportunity available to expand mental health awareness to the community. Mental health is something that is often overlooked or deems athletes weak. It is vital to create and implement programs for student athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, and other athletic staff members. The Graduate Civic Scholars Program will not only give me additional resources for networking, but will allow me to work with other like-minded individuals to create the most optimal program for both our student athletes and those of the community.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with other faculty members, students, and individuals in the Columbia community. The Graduate Civic Scholars Program allows others to provide feedback for our project ideas and can help us shape the project to be beneficial for not only student athletes but the athletes in the community. I hope the program will provide me with resources to connect with people in the community, in addition to the University of South Carolina.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

In the athletics department, we are in the process of developing the USC Performance, health and wellness program. This program is being developed in the university system first, in hopes of providing support programs that encourage safe and positive mental health strategies to student athletes with the help of athletic trainers, dieticians, sport psychologists, and team physicians. We are hoping to make this program sustainable and transferable for other local college student athletes and the community. The Graduate Civic Scholars Program will not only help me integrate this program into the community with a small division of student athletes, but will also create a sustainable program that can be used to help screen athletes for mental illness. Ultimately I want to see this program have a screening process that can identify those at risk and provide them with information and correct help needed to maintain a healthy mind and body.

Key words describing your interests:

mental health, body image, performance, health, wellness



MARIA ZUBIZARRETA

Department: Epidemiology

Degree Program: MS

Why did you apply to be part of this program?

The Graduate Civic Scholars Program caught my attention because it is one of my ambitions to work in an interdisciplinary field as a career. I have hopes of working for an organization, agency, or foundation that brings together the people and resources needed to help solve some of the world's largest environmental health concerns. Adding a program to my graduate education that brings in community based engagement on top of my strong foundation and my understanding of the earth and environmental interactions will allow me to build a complete and holistic educational groundwork to be successful in the professional paths I desire, which bring teams together across different disciplines. The Graduate Civic Scholars Program will give me practice and experience working and collaborating with others from different academic departments, which is something I hope to continue doing in my career field.

What do you hope to get out of this program?

Being a part of the Graduate Civic Scholars Program will allow me to gain experience communicating and working with others from different disciplines. In addition, it will assist me with building a network of co-workers and peers that I will benefit from tremendously when I enter the work field. The Graduate Civic Scholars Program will give me the resources and experience I need to be successful and in line with my vision for a challenging, exciting, and rewarding career that combines research and service to the community. I hope to cultivate many of my interests that relate specifically to the priorities of the Graduate Civic Scholars Program including public policy and human health, environmental justice concerns, and engagement with the community to make a difference.

Provide a brief description of your proposed project or interests:

I have an interest in the linkage and interaction between the environment, pollution, and public health concerns. My proposed project is to work with Charleston Waterkeeper to help them develop ways to more effectively communicate information to the community about how to keep the water clean and why it is important. Participating in the Graduate Civic Scholars Program would help me with this project because I would be able to collaborate with students and mentors from other disciplines. This is a huge advantage of the program because this intersect between different academic areas of interest can allow for constructive feedback, discussion, and creativity with the projects being worked on. My project would incorporate not only scientific knowledge of how the environment and hydrology works but also strategies of getting information to the public, being creative, working with team members, and engaging the community.

Key words describing your interests:

environmental health, pollution, public health, community engagement

The Graduate School
University of South Carolina
901 Sumter St.
Suite 301
Columbia, SC 29208
gradapp@mailbox.sc.edu

803-777-4243
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



[GradSchoolAtUSC](#)

gradschool.sc.edu