CURRICULUM VITAE HELEN CLANCY, MSW

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PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Exploring community resilience factors in disaster-affected neighborhoods

Community-engaged research and public impact scholarship

EDUCATION

August 2020-Present	Ph.D. Student Graduate College of Social Work *Expected Graduation Date: May 2025	University of Houston Houston, Texas
December 2021	Master of Social Work Graduate College of Social Work Phi Alpha Honor Society	University of Houston Houston, Texas
August 1998	Bachelor of Arts, English	Texas A&M University College Station, Texas

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

June-August 2021

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	Social Work Intern
	Conducted social work home health evaluations and home care
	assessments; connected clients and their families with community
	resources: supported launch of LGBT Council on Aging.

Bridge Solutions Home Health, Houston, Texas

January-August 2020 Humble Area Assistance Ministries, Humble, Texas

Social Work Intern

Connected clients and families with mental health and community resources. Supported multiple grants benefitting 72,460 individuals in the Humble region through research, writing, and multimedia creation. Performed client screenings; coordinated Meals on Wheels program, recruiting, training, and retaining community volunteers; conducted

pilot program funded by Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries to connect clients with work opportunities; supported Coalition for the Homeless' annual point-in-time count.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-2024 **University of Houston**, Houston, Texas

Research Assistant

Conducted in-person surveys in Harris County communities that have experienced disproportionate impacts from COVID-19 in the context of multiple natural disasters. Conducted data analysis and supported writing, editing, and design of evaluation report. Community survey was part of Healthy Minds Healthy Communities (HMHC) study to inform policies and community-based interventions.

2020-2023 Rice University, Houston, Texas

Consultant

Collaborated with research scientists at the Texas Policy Lab to produce white papers, executive summaries, research reports, website and social media content, and presentations to funders.

2021-2022 University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Research Assistant, Dr. Suzanne Pritzker

Supported writing and dissemination across two community-based participatory action research studies, Building civic engagement in the post-Harvey context: Exploring facilitators and barriers to civic activity in four hurricane-affected communities in Houston, and Exploring civic engagement during COVID-19. Supported research, development, writing, and editing of Take Action Greater Houston regional report on civic engagement for Houston in Action and Houston Endowment, in collaboration with Rice University and Texas Southern University research teams.

Harris County Department of Education, Houston, Texas

Project Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Caruthers

Designed and conducted qualitative exploratory program evaluation of out-of-school time service providers.

University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Research Assistant, Dr. Christina Miyawaki

Recruited caregiver/recipient dyads for Alzheimer's Associationfunded clinical trial on Life Review activity for older adults with

2022

2020-2021

early dementia and depressive symptoms. Performed pre- and post-intervention screenings, including cognitive (MoCA) assessments; adapted workflow to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. Monitored fidelity of implementation; met weekly with caregivers to offer guidance and support.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 1. Miyawaki, C., McClellan, A., Bouldin, E., Brohard, C., **Spencer, H.**, Tahija, N., & Kunik, M. (2023). Feasibility and Efficacy of Life Review Delivered by Virtually-Trained Family Caregivers. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 95(2):573-583. doi:10.3233/JAD-230371
- 2. Pritzker, S., Moreno, D. Nicotera, N., Saenz, R., Clancy, H., Avila, K., Ruiz, A., & Campos, S. (2024). Promoting good trouble: Latinx youth-driven change strategies for civic engagement and activism. Children and Youth Services Review, 164. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107807
- 3. Mollhagen, A., Clancy, H., & Pritzker, S. (Under review). When helpers are also survivors: a student-centered model for disaster preparedness in social work education.

PUBLIC IMPACT

Op-eds (editorial support and placement)

- 1. Pritzker, S., Durrani, A., & Hafizi, N. (2023, Sept. 25). The danger of a single Election Day narrative. *Democracy Docket*. https://www.democracydocket.com/opinion/the-danger-of-a-single-election-day-narrative/
- Ellis, R. (2024, Jan. 14). MLK would have supported Harris County's guaranteed income program. Houston Chronicle.
 https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/guaranteed-income-martin-luther-king-18605525.php
- 3. Tubbs, M., & Ellis, R. (2024, Feb. 24) Guaranteed income is the 'solution to poverty' we need across America. *The Hill*. https://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/4485290-guaranteed-income-is-the-solution-to-poverty-we-need-across-america/
- Ortega Hogue, C., Stephens, S., & Trevino, M. (2024, July 26). One way to make Houston more resilient? Citizenship. *Houston Chronicle*. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/citizenship-help-houston-immigration-19597556.php

Castaneda-Lauver, A. (2024, Nov. 1). 10% of eligible U.S. voters are immigrants. We share one value: patriotism. *Houston Chronicle*.
 https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/immigrants-eligible-vote-u-s-election-19877643.php

Podcasts (speaking)

- 6. Wilson, M. (2022, June 1). The influence school connectedness has on students' performance. *Harris County Department of Education's Making After-school Cool Podcast*.
- 7. Wilson, M. (2022, Oct. 4). OST professionals' reflections during COVID-19. *Harris County Department of Education's Making After-school Cool Podcast*.

Public-facing reports (writing, editing, and design)

8. Marschall, M., Pritzker, S., Clancy, H., Hartley, J., Rollins, T., Smith, K., Powell, U., Becerra, E., Martinez, M., Barker, R., Bhakta, K., Gupta, S., Joyce, M., Naqvi, K., Sethi, A., & Viswanathan S. (2024, Dec. 10). *Battlegrounds for access: Civic engagement in the Greater Houston region*. https://cdn.craft.cloud/9807c73b-dfcb-40c5-bae5-839ed2320c9e/assets/Battlegrounds-for-Access-Take-Action-Greater-Houston-FINAL.pdf

GRANT EXPERIENCE

2023-2024	American Rescue Plan Act. "Evaluation of The Harris Center Community Initiated Mental Health and Resiliency Care." Award: \$680,000. Co-Principal Investigator: Sarah Narendorf, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant
2022-2023	Houston Endowment. Take Action Houston 2. Award: \$235,000 Principal Investigator: Melissa Marschall, Ph.D.; Co-Principal Investigator: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant
2021-2022	AmeriCorps. Exploring civic engagement during COVID-19. Award: \$116,960.16. PI: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant
2021-2022	AmeriCorps. Building civic engagement in the post-Harvey context: Exploring facilitators and barriers to civic activity in four hurricane-affected communities in Houston. Award: \$225,346.29. PI: Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.; co-PI: Denae King, Ph.D. Role on Grant: Research Assistant

2020

Alzheimer's Association. Caregiver-provided life review (C-PLR) for persons living with dementia in care facilities. Award: \$150,000. PI:

Christina Miyawaki, Ph.D.

Role on Grant: Research Assistant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

March 2025 University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Guest Lecturer

Course: Advanced Social Policy

September 2021 University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Guest Lecturer

Course: Social Work in the Policy Environment

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

2017 Leadership ISD Civic Voices of Houston fellow

2015 Center for Houston's Future Civic Leadership fellow

2013-2014 Houston Education Research Consortium

(HERC)/Kinder Institute for Urban Research advisory

committee

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

2025

Mollhagen, A., Clancy, H., & Pritzker, S. (January 2025). *Preparing, reacting, and adapting: Prioritizing social work students as natural disasters compound.* Hurricane Resilience
Research Institute 2025 Climate Health Frontiers Symposium: AI and Data for Mitigation,
Adaptation, and Resilience, Houston, Texas.

2024

Pritzker, S., Clancy, H. (October 2024). "Battlegrounds for access": Community-engaged policy research to advance political justice. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 70th Annual Program Meeting (APM)–It's Time to Act: Indigenous Knowledge Sovereignty and Environmental Justice, Kansas City, Missouri.

- **Spencer, H.**, & Pritzker, S. (January 2024). *Getting fit to print: Driving dialogue through university-community partnerships*. Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference–Recentering & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science, Washington, D.C.
- **Spencer, H.**, Pritzker, S., Garrido, G., King, D., & Robbins, M. "Never in the loop": Information access emerges as shared concern in communities affected by hurricane, pandemic. Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference–Recentering & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science, Washington, D.C.

2023

- Pritzker, S., Becerra, E., Smith, K., **Spencer, H.** (June 2023). "Battlegrounds for access": Applying a regional lens to advance political justice and protect voting rights. Macro United Conference: Rising Together to Protect Our Rights, St. Louis, Missouri.
- **Spencer, H.** (January 2023). *Promoting equity in adolescent wellbeing among youth in alternative family structures: why context matters*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27th Annual Conference–Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Spencer, H., & Pritzker, S. (January 2023). Constructing meaning in a time of destruction: defining civic engagement in disaster-affected communities. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27th Annual Conference—Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Spencer, H.**, & Pritzker, S. (January 2023). *Civic engagement throughout the disaster lifecycle: Hurricane Harvey and resilience in the Houston area*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 27th Annual Conference–Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities + Building Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona.

2022

Spencer, H., & Tahija, N. (April 2022). *Physically safe but socially isolated: A challenging paradox in long-term care facilities during the pandemic*. The Southwestern Social Science Association 101st Annual Meeting–Global Pandemics and Dynamics of World Affairs: Politics, Economics, and Technology, San Antonio, Texas.

2021

Spencer, H., & Tahija, N. (November 2021). Lessons learned while recruiting long-term care facility residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 67th Annual Program Meeting (APM)–Leading Critical Conversations: Racial, Economic, & Environmental Justice, Orlando, Florida.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Clancy, H. (April 2024). Conceptualizing, writing, and pitching op-eds to stimulate policy change (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (November 2023). *Opting in to op-eds, part 3* (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (September 2023). *Opting in to op-eds, part 2* (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (July 2023). *Opting in to op-eds, part 1* (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.**, Sharmin, S., Silva, C., & Sundrani, A. (February 2023). *Program evaluation: Center for Pursuit Employment Services*, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (June 2022). *Twitter for researchers* (webinar). HEAR Lab, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (April 2022). *Building a Twitter platform for research* (webinar). Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.** (May 2018). Public board meeting, *Annual update on the HCDE communication and community enrichment division*. Houston, Texas.
- **Spencer, H.**, Colbert, J., Wimpelberg, R. (August 2016). *Panel discussion on public education*, Corporate Community Relations Council, Houston, Texas.
- Spencer, H. (July 2016). How to engage stakeholders. Council of the Great City Schools.
- **Spencer, H.** (July 2015). *Beyond the talking head: Learning the essentials of digital storytelling.* Council of the Great City Schools.

CERTIFICATIONS

May 2021-Present

CPR/AED and First Aid, National Safety Council.

September 2022 CITI Certification, Social, Behavioral, Educational Researchers.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2020	Coalition for the Homeless/The Way Home Volunteer, Houston, Texas
2020	Meals on Wheels Volunteer, volunteer trainer/coordinator, Houston, Texas
2018-2020	EMERGE Mentor, Houston, Texas

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Dissertation Award, Child & Family Center for Innovative Research (CFCIR)
2023	GCSW Travel Scholarship Fellow
2022	Phi Alpha Honor Society
2019	First Place (MSW cohort), Research poster presentation, Graduate College of Social Work.
2016	Excellence in Writing, National School Public Relations Association.
2016	Golden Achievement, National School Public Relations Association.
2012	Gold Medallion, National School Public Relations Association.
MEMBERSHIPS	

November 2022–2024	Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
March 2021–June 2022	Council on Social Work Education