

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**LIMOR SMITH, MSW, MS, PhD Candidate**

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### EDUCATION

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<b>PhD in Social Work</b> 2020 – 2025 expected graduation	University of Houston, Houston, Texas Graduate College of Social Work
<b>Master of Social Work</b> 2020	University of Houston, Houston, Texas Graduate College of Social Work
<b>Master of Science</b> 2000	University of Miami, Miami, Florida Clinical Psychology
<b>Honors Bachelor of Arts</b> 1997	University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas Major and Special Honors: Psychology, Minor: Sociology

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Developing evidence-based interventions for the reduction of self-stigma among young adults with serious mental health conditions through increased participation in identity exploration and self-sufficiency.
- Investigating the influence of self-stigma on developmental, mental health, and life outcomes for emerging adults
- Examining achievement attitudes, mindset, social support, disclosure, and peer support as resilience resources for individuals with self-stigma
- Examining the integration of identity and diagnosis in diagnosed young adults across time
- Exploring the fluctuation and management of mental health, self-stigma, and resilience during young adulthood
- Increasing self-stigma resilience through psychoeducation and contact interventions with recently diagnosed young adults

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2018 – present

Affiliate and Research Assistant, Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation in Treatment Engagement and Service (The MH-RITES Research Center)

Summer 2022 Research Internship

Research Assistant, UT Health McGovern School of Medicine, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Supervisor: Dr. Thomas D. Meyer, Director Psychological Intervention & Research Program on Mood Spectrum Disorders

- Analyzed a secondary data set on adults with bipolar disorder and health locus of control
- Performed data analysis
- Prepared manuscript for publication

## RESEARCH

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2024

Principal Investigator, Dissertation Proposal Defended (March, 2024): “Self-Stigma in Emerging Adults with Serious Mental Health Conditions: Developmental Processes and Mental Health Outcomes”

- Recruiting 500 participants with SMI
- SEM using M-Plus
- Creating a developmental model of self-stigma in emerging adults

Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

Dissertation Chair: Robin E. Gearing, PhD

Committee: Patrick W. Corrigan, PsyD, Morris, S. B., Mak, W.W.S., Narendorf, S. C., & Soares, J. C.

2018 – present

Co-Investigator, “Enhancing and Improving Treatment Engagement in Jewish Houstonians for Mental Health and Suicide Treatment and Services”

This project assessed attitudes towards mental illness, mental health treatment engagement, and pathways to formal and informal mental health care in the Houston, Texas Jewish community.

Activities:

- Helped select measures
- Worked on literature review
- Developed sections of the IRB proposal
- Assisted in the development of the grant proposal
- Assisted in securing grant funds

- Developed and communicated with Advisory Board
- Developed contacts and communicated with gatekeepers
- Supervised research assistants
- Assisted with input of measures into Qualtrics
- Administered surveys on computer tablets
- Qualitative Coding
- Assisted in data cleaning and coding
- Presented multiple posters on research findings
- Oral presentations on findings at multiple research conferences
- Co-presenter for presentations of results in the community
- Co-author on two published journal articles for Jewish Mental Health Study
- First author on mood disorder stigma manuscript (in press)

PI: Dr. Robin E. Gearing. (\$70,000) Award period: September 2018 to August 2020, Stanford & Joan Alexander Foundation and Harness Creek.

Co-Investigator, “Enhancing and Improving Treatment Engagement in Jewish, Orthodox, and Arab individuals for Mental Health and Suicide Treatment and Services”

This project assessed attitudes towards mental illness, mental health treatment engagement, and pathways to formal and informal mental health care in the Houston, Texas Jewish community.

Activities:

- Worked on literature review
- Developed sections of the IRB proposal
- Assisted in the development of the grant proposal
- Assisted in securing grant funds

PI: Dr. Robin E. Gearing (\$40,000) Award period: September 2020 to August 2025, Stanford & Joan Alexander Foundation.

2000

Principal Investigator, Master’s Thesis: “Sexual Behavior in Late Adolescent Girls: Role of Past Depression, Alcohol Use, and Sensation Seeking”

- Conceptualized master’s thesis, designed study methodology, trained and supervised a research team comprised of undergraduate R.A’s, and analyzed and interpreted data using SPSS.

Clinical Psychology Department, University of Miami  
Thesis Chair: Annette M. LaGreca, Ph.D.

Committee: Sheri L. Johnson, Ph.D., & Maria I. Fernandez, Ph.D.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Smith, L.**, Brewer, K. B., Carr, L. C., Roe, D., & Gearing, R. E. (2024). Mood disorder public stigma in Jewish communities in the United States. *Journal of Religion and Health*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-024-02146-w>

**Smith, L.**, Brewer, K., Gearing, R. E., Carr, L.C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (2022). Bipolar stigma in Jewish Communities in the United States. *European Journal of Psychiatry, Special Issue: Abstracts of the 30<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychiatry*, 65, S110-S111.

<https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2022.312>

Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., **Smith, L.**, Carr, L. C., & Roe, D. (2023). Mental health public stigma in U.S. Jewish communities. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 211(2), 131-140.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1097/NMD.0000000000001578>

Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., **Smith, L.**, Carr, L. C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (2022). Suicide stigma in Jewish communities in the United States. *Stigma and Health*, 7(3), 251-259.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000400>

Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., Leung, P., Cheung, M., Olson, L., & **Smith, L.** (2020). Guidelines for culturally adapting mental health interventions in China. *China Journal of Social Work*, 1-19.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17525098.2020.1792646>

Gearing, R. E., Washburn, M., Brewer, K. B., Kovach, J. V., Mandiberg, J. M., Borja, S., Barthelemy, J., Savani, S., **Smith, L.**, Robinson, A., & Gardner, J. (2022). Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation in Treatment Engagement and Service (MH-RITES Center) at the University of Houston. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221120023>

Stark, K.D., Vaughn, C., Doxey, M., & **Luss, L.** (1999). Depressive disorders. In R. T.

Ammerman, M. Herson, C. G. Last (Eds.), *Handbook of Prescriptive Treatments for Children and Adolescents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, (pp. 114-140). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

## PUBLICATIONS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

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**Smith, L.**, Hautzinger, M., & Meyer, T. D. (manuscript in preparation). Health locus of control and illness perceptions among adults with bipolar disorder.

**Smith, L.,** Olson, L., Gearing, R.E. (manuscript in preparation). Importance of pilot studies for social work research and intervention development.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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2024 **Smith, L.,** Gearing, R. G., Brewer, K. B., Carr, L.C., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (June, 2024). *Suicide stigma in Jewish communities in the United States*. Oral paper presentation at World Psychiatric Association Together Against Stigma Conference (WPA-TAS 2024), Reykjavik, Iceland.

2024 **Smith, L.,** Gearing, R. G., Brewer, K. B., & Carr, L.C. (June, 2024). *Assessing public stigma toward mood disorders within the United States Jewish Community: The influence of age and gender*. Oral paper presentation at World Psychiatric Association Together Against Stigma Conference (WPA-TAS 2024), Reykjavik, Iceland.

2024 Gearing, R. G., Washburn, M., Brewer, K. B., Torres, L. R., de la Cruz, P. I., Yu, M., Giraldo-Santiago, N., Cabrera, A. & **Smith, L.** (June, 2024). *Comparing Suicide Related Stigma Among Mexican-Americans and Mexicans*. Oral paper presentation at World Psychiatric Association Together Against Stigma Conference (WPA-TAS 2024), Reykjavik, Iceland.

2024 Gearing, R. G., Boateng, D. K., Asante, R. K. B., Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Fogel, S., Carr, L.C., Savani, S., Robinson, A., Robbins, S., & **Smith, L.** (June, 2024). *Examining how Individual Perceptions, Beliefs about the Etiology, and Personal Responsibility Influence Suicide Stigma in Ghana*. Oral paper presentation at World Psychiatric Association Together Against Stigma Conference (WPA-TAS 2024), Reykjavik, Iceland

2023 **Smith, L.,** Hautzinger, M., & Meyer, T. D. (December, 2023). *Are health locus of control and illness perceptions among individuals with bipolar disorder associated?* Poster presentation at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for Affective Disorders (ISAD 2023), Milan, Italy.

2023 **Smith, L.,** Robertson, A., J., Jacobsen, A., & Gearing, R. E. (October, 2023). *Suicide stigma and discrimination in U.S. Jewish communities*. Electronic poster presentation at 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2023), Atlanta, GA.

2023 **Smith, L.,** Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., Carr, L. C., & Roe, D. (January 2023). *Mood Disorder Public Stigma in U.S. Jewish Communities*. Oral paper presentation at 27<sup>th</sup>

Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR 2023), Phoenix, Arizona.

- 2022 **Smith, L.**, (November, 2022). *Adaptive Illness Perceptions for Bipolar Disorder*. Interactive workshop presentation at 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting of Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2022), Anaheim, California.
- 2022 **Smith, L. L.**, Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., Carr, L. C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (May 2022). *Bipolar Stigma in Jewish Communities in the United States*. Oral presentation and e-poster at 30<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychiatry, Online (EPA 2022).
- 2022 **Smith, L. L.**, Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., Carr, L. C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (August 2022). *Public Stigma for Mood Disorders in Jewish Communities*. E-Poster at 22<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Psychiatry, Bangkok & Online (WPA 2022).
- 2022 **Smith, L. L.**, Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., Carr, L. C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (June 2022). *How Does Stigma Toward Bipolar Disorder Compare to Stigma Toward Depressive Disorder in U.S. Jewish Communities?* E-Poster at Virtual 2022 ISBD Experience (ISBD 2022).
- 2021 Olson, L., **Smith, L.**, Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K., Leung, P., & Cheung, M. (March 2021). *Guidelines for Culturally Adapting Mental Health Interventions*. Oral & poster presentation at Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development (SWESD 2020), Rimini, Italy (virtual congress).
- 2021 Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., **Smith, L.**, Robinson, A., Clark, D., & Manning, K. (January 2021). *Examining Attitudes Toward Mental Health Treatment Among Jewish Adults*. Oral presentation presented at for 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (virtual conference).
- 2020 Brewer, K. B., Gearing, R. E., **Smith, L.**, Robinson, A., Clark, D., & Manning, K. (November 2020). *Mental Health Stigma in the Jewish Community: Examining the Intersection of Denomination, Gender, and Spirituality*. Oral and poster presentation presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Stigma (virtual conference).
- 2019 **Smith, L.** & Gearing, R.E. (July 2019). *Translating and Adapting Mental Health Evidence-Based Interventions into Culturally and Ethnically Specific Communities*. Oral Presentation presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, York, England.
- 2000 **Luss, L.**, La Greca, A. M., Johnson, S. L., & Fernandez, M. I. (2000). *Depression, alcohol use, and sexual behavior in college-age women*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

- 2000 **Luss, L.**, La Greca, A. M., Johnson, S.L., & Fernandez, M. I. (2000). *Past depression as a predictor of current sexual behavior in late adolescent girls*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescents, Chicago.
- 1998 **Luss, L.** & Stark, K. D. (1998). *Social behavior of currently depressed, remitted depressed, and nondepressed adolescents*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- **Smith, L.** Mental Health Research Innovation Treatment Engagement Service (MH-RITES) Research Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **PhD student research grant for Mental Health Advancement \$2,000 (November, 2022)**.
- **Smith, L.**, Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., Carr, L. C., Clark, D., Robinson, A., & Roe, D. (2022) *How Does Stigma Toward Bipolar Disorder Compare to Stigma Toward Depressive Disorder in U.S. Jewish Communities?* **Best Poster Award at the Virtual 2022 ISBD Experience (ISBD 2022)**.
- **Smith, L.** (2018). *What is the most effective intervention to reduce public stigma of mental illness among adults?* **First Place Award Research Poster Showcase at the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston**.
- University of Houston Research Assistant for Mental Health Research Innovation Treatment Engagement Service (MH-RITES), 2018 – present
- University of Miami Full Academic Scholarship and Stipend, Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistics and Introduction to Psychology, 1997-1999.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 *Guest Lecturer on Applying for Grants*  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Course: Grant Writing
- 2024 & 2022 *Guest Lecturer on Mental Illness Stigma Among Clients and Practice Implications*  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Course: Mental Health Advanced Practice in Social Work Program (MHAPS Program), a Focused Learning Opportunity Concentration

- 2021 *Guest Lecturer on Qualitative Research*  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Course: SOCW 6305: Research and Knowledge Building in Social Work Practice
- 2020 *Guest Lecturer on Qualitative Research*  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Course: SOCW 6305: Research and Knowledge Building in Social Work Practice
- 1999 *Guest Lecturer on Depressive Disorders*  
Psychology Department, University of Miami  
Course: PSYC101: Introduction to Psychology

## TRAININGS

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- 2023 Honest, Open, Proud facilitator training. Honest Open Proud conference: Reducing self-stigma through selective disclosure, Ulm, Germany, October 2023
- 2024 Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program at the University of Michigan, Session I. Courses: (1) Structural equation modeling; (2) Regression analysis II: Linear models.

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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| Therapist, 2005      | Clinical Practicum, VA Houston<br>Veterans Trauma Survivors Group<br>Supervisor: Darlene Witcher, Ph.D.  |
| Therapist, 2003-2004 | Rice University Counseling Center<br>Clinical practicum, Serving university students<br>Brown bag lunch presenter on: Dating 101<br>Supervisor: Michael Winters, Ph.D. |
| Therapist, 1999      | Psychological Services Center<br><i>Group Treatment: Coping with Depression Course</i><br>University of Miami<br>Supervisor: Sheri L. Johnson, Ph.D.                   |
| Therapist, 1998-1999 | Psychological Services Community Center<br>University of Miami   |



Psychoeducational assessments and therapy with children  
Supervisor: Neena Malik, Ph.D.

Therapist, 1997-1998

Pflugerville Middle School  
University of Texas at Austin  
Clinical Practicum, Group therapy with adolescents  
Supervisor: Kevin D. Stark, Ph.D.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

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2017 - 2021	Board of Trustees Member, Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston, Texas
2015 - 2019	Board of Directors Member, Mental Health America, Houston, Houston, Texas
2018	Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
2022	Board Member, Phi Alpha Honor Society at University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work
2022- present	Mental Health Research Innovation Treatment Engagement Service Center (MH-RITES) Research Center Affiliate at University of Houston
2022- present	Student member Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
2023- present	President, Phi Alpha Honor Society at University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work