

# Making Research Public: Research as Advocacy

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Together 4 Action Conference  
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# Jennie Bunsom, aunt accused of killing 7-year-old Jordan Vong, appears in Denver court



**BY:** [Robert Garrison](#)

**POSTED:** 3:05 PM, Aug 16, 2018

**UPDATED:** 3:14 PM, Aug 16, 2018



#METOO



STOP  
ASIAN  
HATE



I'M SORRY  
I HAVE  
HURTLED YOU

BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER

SPREAD  
LOVE

# How should researchers talk about science to the public?

**After receiving recognition for her work in bringing science to a wider audience, Anne Osterrieder discusses how researchers and academics can make their work more accessible**

## **WHY I DON'T CARE ABOUT OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH—AND WHY YOU SHOULD**

Open access to research papers doesn't mean much to researchers, but the government hopes it'll serve a greater good.

**MICHAEL WHITE** · UPDATED: JUN 14, 2017 · ORIGINAL: JAN 31, 2014

## Making Our Ideas More Accessible

To improve our reach, academics must make our writings both more available and public-friendlier, writes Nathan Jurgenson.

By **Nathan Jurgenson** // May 11, 2012

9 COMMENTS 

# Training in Psychology



Scientist-practitioner



Practitioner-scholar



Clinical scientist

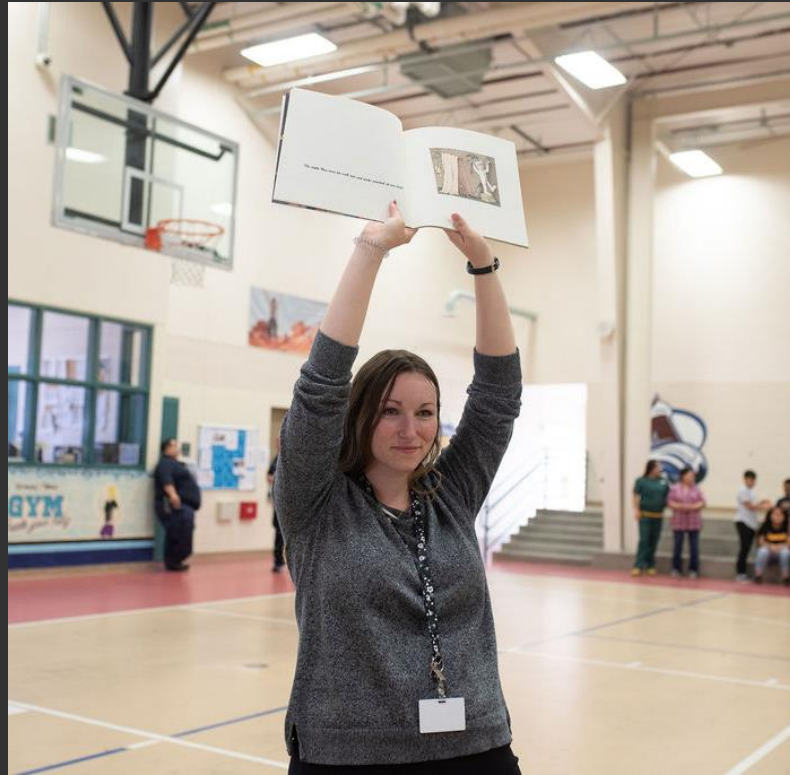
Scientist-Practitioner-Advocate



# CHANGING SYSTEMS: DU PRISON ARTS INITIATIVE

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# PUBLIC IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP

*Public impact scholarship is a relatively new concept that has been discussed in other disciplines, such as economics (McGoldrick & Peterson, 2009), sociology (Bridger & Alter, 2010), and social work (Sliva et al., 2019).*

## SPECIAL SECTION

### Introduction to the Special Section on Public Impact Scholarship in Social Work: A Conceptual Review and Call to Action

**Shannon M. Sliva** *University of Denver*

**Jennifer C. Greenfield** *University of Denver*

**Kimberly Bender** *University of Denver*

**Stacey Freedenthal** *University of Denver*

**ABSTRACT** This article advances a longstanding dialogue on the relationship between academic scholarship and public life. Focusing on contributions from social work, we articulate a framework for conceptualizing public impact scholarship as characterized by intentional efforts to create social change through the translation and dissemination of research to nonacademic audiences. We offer examples of social work scholarship that meet this definition, and we distinguish public impact scholarship from related approaches such as community-engaged scholarship. We also describe the importance of public impact scholarship for social work and explore several tensions associated with this type of scholarship, including time and technical constraints, risks and rewards, measurement challenges, and institutional barriers. This article introduces a special section that further addresses the relationship between public impact scholarship and other forms of engaged scholarship, provides illuminating examples of public impact scholarship by social workers, and suggests roles for social work leaders in supporting and promoting this work.

**KEYWORDS:** public impact scholarship, engaged scholarship, applied research

doi: 10.1086/706112

Public impact scholarship “compels us to consider the ways we can connect to and involve the public with our research in its creation, dissemination, and application...It might also mean writing for practitioner or policy venues and magazines outside the traditional academic journals (Kezar et al., 2018, p. 5).”

**Table 1**

*Mechanisms and Examples of Public Impact Scholarship*

Mechanism of Public Impact Scholarship	Examples of Social Workers' Public Impact Scholarship
Websites	SchoolSocialWork.net (Kelly, Carchedi, & Patak-Pietrafesa, n.d.)
Blogs	<i>Teaching and Learning in Social Work: Exploring Ways to Enhance Life-Long Learning for Clinical Practice</i> (Hitchcock, n.d.)
Twitter accounts	@NewSocialWorker ( <a href="https://twitter.com/newsocialworker">https://twitter.com/newsocialworker</a> ), @OfficialMacroSW #MacroSW Twitter chats ( <a href="https://twitter.com/OfficialMacroSW">https://twitter.com/OfficialMacroSW</a> )
Facebook pages	Congressional Research Institute for Social Work–CRISP ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CRISPInc.org/">https://www.facebook.com/CRISPInc.org/</a> )
Practice tools	<i>Addressing Alcohol's Role in Campus Sexual Assault: A Toolkit by and for Prevention Specialists</i> (Klein, Rizzo, Cherry, & Woofter, 2018)
Podcasts	<i>Doin' the Work: Frontline Stories of Social Change</i> (Cohen, n.d.)
Webinars	<i>Developing Cultural Humility in Social Work Practice</i> (Bullock & Colón, 2017)
Op-eds	“Our Research on Paid-Family Leave Shows It'd Pay Off for Colorado” (Greenfield, 2019)
Public reports	<i>Social Mobility: The Necessary Focus of St. Louis Investment in Black Males</i> (Joe & Motley, 2019)
Books for practitioners	<i>Coming Out, Coming Home: Helping Families Adjust to a Gay or Lesbian Child</i> (LaSala, 2010)
Books for the general public	<i>I Still Love You: Nine Things Troubled Kids Need From Their Parents</i> (Ungar, 2015)
TED Talks	“The Power of Vulnerability” (Brown, 2010)
YouTube videos	<i>Holistic Arts-Based Group Work With Children</i> (Cheu, 2009)

OPINION > OPINION COLUMNISTS

## The murder of Jordan Vong and why teens shouldn't be tried as adults

In the last 15 years, the Supreme Court has made several decisions which have changed the way courts treat juveniles who have offended



By **APRYL ALEXANDER** | Guest Commentary

August 22, 2018 at 12:12 pm





**CFSY** @theCFSY · Aug 24

The murder of Jordan Vong and why teens shouldn't be tried as adults [dpo.st/2BD8RUB](#) via [@denverpost](#)



**The murder of Jordan Vong and why teens shouldn't be tried as adults**

The news was hard to comprehend: 16-year-old Jennie Bunsom was confessing to the murder of her nephew, 7-year-old Jordan Vong.

[denverpost.com](#)

# Colorado Matters

[CPR INTERVIEW](#)  
[LINK](#)

cpr.org

**APRYL ALEXANDER**

CLINICAL ASST. PROFESSOR: DU GRAD SCHOOL OF PSY.



**360**



10:11 57°

[LINK](#)



# Introducing the 2018 Public Impact Fellows

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Announcement • April 19, 2018



Research-to-Policy  
— Collaboration —

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT |

# Public Impact Scholarship

Kezar et al. (2018) note that public scholarship “compels us to consider the ways we can connect to and involve the public with our research in its creation, dissemination, and application...It might also mean writing for practitioner or policy venues and magazines outside the traditional academic journals (p. 5).”



THE COLORADO SUN  
OPINION PAGE

OPINION

## Opinion: Let's find ways to protect students without placing them at additional risk

Apryl Alexander

MAY 26, 2019 5:00AM MDT



“In my work with adolescents, one thing is clear: we could’ve prevented so many of these cases of sexual violence if only these kids had been properly educated on sexual consent.”

APRYL ALEXANDER

TEDx MileHigh  
= independently organized TED event



APRYL ALEXANDER  
CLINICAL ASST. PROFESSOR, DU GRAD SCHOOL OF PSY

360

10:11 57°

# Practitioner-Scholar-Advocate

Our clients' "presenting problems are rooted in a sociocultural context of oppression and unjust distribution of resources and opportunities" (Mallinckrodt et al., 2014, p. 303).



# Impact



Lindsay Malloy, PhD  
*Why teens confess to crimes they  
didn't commit*  
+1.5 million views



Kimberly Gorgens, PhD, ABPP  
*The surprising connection  
between brain injury and crime*  
+3.4 million views

# Action- and Community- Engaged Research



## A Roadmap for Preventing and Responding to Trauma: Practical Guidance for Advancing Community-Engaged Research

Anne P. DePrince<sup>1</sup>, Apryl Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Joan M. Cook<sup>3</sup>, and Omar G. Gudiño<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Graduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver

<sup>3</sup> Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine

<sup>4</sup> Clinical Child Psychology Program, University of Kansas

**Objective:** Community-engaged research (CEnR) is an approach to inquiry that centers scientist-community partnerships characterized by mutuality and reciprocity, and is well-aligned with trauma-informed principles, such as trustworthiness, transparency, and fostering empowerment. **Method:** The current paper considers definitions and applications of CEnR, highlighting examples from the trauma literature, from the formulation of research questions to the dissemination of research findings. **Conclusion:** To realize CEnR's promise to contribute to innovation, scientific understanding, and increased impact in the trauma field will require a shift in training and institutions. Fortunately, a growing interest in advocacy, public psychology, and diversity, equity, and inclusion presents an opportunity for synergy. Practical guidance is offered for supporting CEnR by preparing students, investing in faculty, and building infrastructure.

# Shifting Research

In 2020, our research team couldn't continue with what we were doing.

Article

## Sick and Shut In: Incarceration During a Public Health Crisis

Journal of Humanistic Psychology  
2020, Vol. 60(5) 647–656  
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DOI: 10.1177/0022167820930556  
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Apryl A. Alexander<sup>1</sup> , Hailey Allo<sup>1</sup>,  
and Hannah Klukoff<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

COVID-19, the latest infectious coronavirus disease, was discovered in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has rapidly reached pandemic levels. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, including hand washing, covering coughs, and social/physical distancing, but what happens to those who are incarcerated? Over 1.4 million adults in the United States are currently incarcerated in state and federal prisons and over 80,000 individuals are incarcerated in local jails. Correctional settings are often deprived, overcrowded, and unsanitary environments, which do not lend themselves to the prevention, treatment, or recovery from illness. Incarcerated individuals are at a much higher risk to become infected due to a variety of factors, such as generally higher rates of chronic conditions than the community and overall lack of screening for certain illnesses. The present article discusses how smart decarceration tactics, such as compassionate release, offer options to compensate for overcrowding in correctional facilities and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Article

## Toward an Abolitionist Practice of Psychology: Reimagining Psychology's Relationship With the Criminal Justice System

Journal of Humanistic Psychology  
2021, Vol. 61(4) 451–469  
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DOI: 10.1177/00221678211015755  
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Hannah Klukoff<sup>1</sup> , Haleh Kanani<sup>1</sup>,  
Claire Gaglione<sup>1</sup> ,  
and Apryl Alexander<sup>1</sup> 

### Abstract

The social justice uprisings that have stemmed from several recent highly publicized murders of Black people by police have shed increasing light on the systems of oppression, inequity, and white supremacy that have been the backbone of the United States' policing and criminal justice systems since their inception. The American Psychological Association, along with many professional organizations across the subfields of psychology, has released its statement outlining how psychology must contribute to the eradication of systemic racism and white supremacy. In this article, we address the need for psychology and its subfields to acknowledge our complicity in certain systems of oppression, such as our ties to law enforcement and the police, our support of mental health reforms that merely increase the scope of a punitive criminal justice system, and our complicity in the harm done by our current immigration policies. We argue that the best way, in fact the only way, for the profession to move toward an antiracist psychological practice is to embrace an abolitionist framework so that we may reimagine our relationships with historically oppressive institutions and rebuild our

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DOI: 10.1089/vic.2020.0086

## The Same Dynamics, Different Tactics: Domestic Violence During COVID-19


Emma A. Sower, BS, and Apryl A. Alexander, PsyD



# Preparing the Next Generation

*Special Issue: Integration of Practice, Advocacy, and Research in Counseling Psychology*

## **Building a Climate for Advocacy Training in Professional Psychology**

The Counseling Psychologist  
2021, Vol. 49(7) 1070–1089  
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Apryl A. Alexander<sup>1</sup>  and Hailey Allo<sup>1</sup>

### **Abstract**

Counseling psychologists have been at the forefront of social justice and advocacy efforts in the discipline of psychology. Despite these foci, few graduate training programs in psychology offer formal courses or training in advocacy, social justice, and public policy. To develop and fill a pipeline of professionals involved in social justice and advocacy efforts, graduate training programs in psychology must expose and prepare students to these areas. The purpose of the current paper is to describe how faculty within the professional psychology program at the University of Denver incorporate advocacy, public policy, and social justice education and training into their program. We describe how the program climate and curriculum were created to meet these training needs.

# Thank you! Questions?

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