

# AYLA GELSINGER, MSW

Doctoral Student

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## ACADEMIC HISTORY

Community Psychology PhD University of Illinois Chicago	August 2023 – May 2028*
Master of Social Work Columbia University	September 2021 – May 2023
B.A. Psychology & Communication Studies University of Nevada, Las Vegas	August 2017 – May 2021

## PUBLICATIONS

Gelsinger, A. S. (2020). A critical analysis of the body positive movement on Instagram: How does it really impact body image? *Spectra Undergraduate Research Journal*, 1(1), 35-43.

## PRESENTATIONS

Bailey, C., Gelsinger, A., Kronos, A., Rieger, A., & Samuels, H. (2024, November). "What are we here for?" Insights and imaginings from violence researchers in training. Workshop presented at the 2024 Annual Midwest Ecological Regional Conference, Chicago, IL.

Gelsinger, A. S. (2023, November 18-21). Beyond mandatory reporting. Accepted for presentation at the 2023 annual Beyond the Bars Conference, New York, NY.

Pennington, N. & Gelsinger, A. S. (2021, November 18-21). Relational and individual resilience of college students during COVID-19. Accepted for presentation at the 2021 annual National Communication Association Convention, Seattle, WA.

Gelsinger, A. S., Odents, O. Z., Bjelica, F., Ayele, F. A., & Barchard, K. A. (2021, March 5-6). Testing R package lava's ability to estimate correlations between partially observed variables. [Poster Presentation].

Gelsinger, A. S. (2020, November 16<sup>th</sup>). A critical analysis of the body positivity movement on Instagram: Is it really positive for body image? [Symposium]. Undergraduate Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV, United States.

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

Beyond the Bars Fellow Columbia University Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Barbara Grodd Scholarship Columbia University Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

Best Manuscript Award Office of Undergraduate Research 2021

UNLV Service Award Office of Community Engagement 2021

Best Podium Presentation UNLV Research Symposium 2020

Student of the Year Scholarship Silver State Service Dogs 2020

Graduate Rebel Advantage UNLV Fall 2020 – Spring 2021  
Study Abroad Scholarship USAC Fall 2018

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant** | Gender Justice Initiative August 2023 – Current  
PI: Dr. Jessica Shaw

Project: “Examining the SANE and TeleSANE Patient Experience: An Evaluation and Tool Development.” Funded by Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women.

- Conducting interviews with survivors of sexual assault
- Administering surveys over the phone with survivors
- Transcribing interviews with survivors
- Analyzing interviews with stakeholders to support the development of a patient survey and interview guide

**Independent Researcher** | Columbia School of Social Work August 2022 – August 2023  
Advisor: Dr. Susan Witte

Project: The impact of mandated reporting on survivors of childhood sexual assault

- Submitting an IRB proposal
- Participant recruitment with community organizations
- Developing a qualitative interview guide
- Conducting interviews and transcribing and analyzing data
- Creating a qualitative coding manual

**Research Assistant** | Action Lab for Social Justice August 2021 – August 2023  
Advisors: Dr. Ovita Williams & Dr. Susan Witte

Project: The impact of the Decolonizing Social Work course on MSW students of color

- Developing thoughtful focus group questions
- Disseminating preliminary surveys to identify participants
- Co-facilitating focus groups and thematically coding interview data
- Presenting findings to Deans at the Columbia School of Social Work
- Redeveloping course curriculum based on findings alongside a team of professors, faculty, and students
- Writing a manuscript for publication on the methodology used in this research

Project: Experiences of student activists at the Columbia School of Social Work

- Hosting oral history interviews with student activists
- Archiving and activating the experiences shared during interviews

**Independent Researcher** | University of Nevada, Las Vegas August 2019 – August 2021  
Advisors: Dr. Carlos Flores & Dr. Natalie Pennington

Project: A critical analysis of the body positive movement on Instagram

- Qualitatively coded 300 Instagram posts
- Utilized a critical, feminist research approach
- Practiced constant comparative analysis

Project: Examining presentations of self and the creation of meaning on social media

- Developed an interview guide and interviewed participants
- Thematically analyzed over 10 hours of interviews
- Created a qualitative codebook based on emergent themes

**Research Assistant** | Interactive Measurement Group August 2020 – August 2021  
Advisor: Dr. Kimberly Barchard

Project: R package lava's ability to estimate correlations between partially observed variables

- Simulated data analysis
- Wrote an APA formatted paper alongside a team of students and professors
- Participated in a rigorous feedback process for five different manuscripts
- Provided thorough feedback on a manuscript to prepare for submission to a journal
- Developed a poster presentation and submitted for presentation

**Research Assistant** | Baby and Child Rebel Lab

August 2020 – August 2021

Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Rennels

Project: How can we reduce racism? A mixed method study of factors that influence attitudes towards social change

- Collected survey data
- Qualitatively coded over 400 participant responses
- Created a coding manual based on emergent themes
- Conducted an internal reliability test and inspecting inter-item correlations

**Research Assistant** | Technology and Communication Lab

August 2020 – May 2021

Advisor: Dr. Natalie Pennington

Project: Political talk on Facebook: Investigating the role of interpersonal goals and cognitive engagement

- Coded open-response data into themes
- Worked with a group of researchers to analyze findings

Project: Relational resilience of college students during COVID-19

- Collected data via surveys and interviews
- Data transcription and analysis
- Coded data thematically

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**High School Teacher** | New Design High School

August 2022 – August 2023

New York, NY

- Running an innovative internship course to strengthen social-emotional learning
- Supporting the educational and emotional needs of twenty students
- Planning daily curriculum to meet learning objectives

**F.A.M. Counselor** | Community of Unity

August 2022 – August 2023

New York, NY

- Developing social-emotional curriculum for an after-school program
- Hosting weekly student lunches
- Planning monthly group engagement activities
- Coaching six students weekly in their academic and emotional needs
- Strengthening relationships with the community through event planning and outreach
- Cultivating partnerships with potential donors, partners, or sponsors

**Associate Editor** | Columbia Social Work Review

August 2022 – August 2023

New York, NY

- Working with a team to support MSW students in publishing their work
- Providing feedback on manuscripts to be published

**Social Work Intern** | Community of Unity

August 2021 – August 2022

New York, NY

- Provided consistent counseling and mentorship to 10 students each week
- Developed and executed programming for two groups of 9<sup>th</sup> grade social-emotional circles
- Led and participated in restorative justice circles with students, teachers, and faculty

## SERVICE

**Court Appointed Special Advocate** | 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court of Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

December 2019 – July 2021

- Advocated for the needs and desires of four children in the foster care system in family court
- Worked alongside a team of social workers, foster/biological parents, court officials, and health professionals

**Volunteer Hotline Advocate** | Rape Crisis Center  
Las Vegas, NV

July 2020 – July 2021

- Answered a 24-hour hotline for sexual assault survivors to provide them with support and resources
- Accompanied survivors to the hospital for post-assault examinations to encourage client safety and comfort
- Planned events for clients and community members
- Provided administrative and managerial support at the front desk

**Support Group Facilitator** | Adam's Place  
Las Vegas, NV

October 2020 – April 2021

- Facilitated groups of children aged 5 to 7 who were experiencing bereavement
- Supported children in processing the loss of a loved one through weekly group meetings
- Planned group activities, games, and discussions for young people

**Food Distributor and Volunteer Supervisor** | Hopelink of Southern Nevada  
Las Vegas, NV

August 2019 – May 2021

- Supervised and supported a team of volunteers in food distribution services
- Distributed food to community members

**Direct Care Advocate** | The Cupcake Girls  
Las Vegas, NV

August 2020 – January 2021

- Supported clients in developing and executing career, education, housing, and health goals
- Developed a resource list for clients based on their needs and assisted with initial contact
- Utilized harm-reduction techniques when developing safety plans alongside clients

## CLUB AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

**Organizer** | Mandated Reporters Against Mandated Reporting  
New York, NY

October 2022 – Present

- Facilitating a support and processing space for mandated reporters
- Hosting events to increase awareness about mandated reporting and the child welfare system
- Building a catalog of resources for mandated reporters

**Member** | First-Generation and Lower Socio-Economic Status Student Caucus  
Columbia School of Social Work

September 2021 – August 2023

- Collecting stories of first-generation students, professors, and faculty at CSSW
- Attending and planning first-generation roundtables with students, professors, and faculty

**Lambda Pi Eta President** | Communication Studies Honor Society  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

August 2019 – August 2021

- Trained and supported student leaders in accomplishing their responsibilities
- Managed the social media account that promoted events and spotlighted student achievement
- Hosted events and workshops that promoted member growth

- Developed a first-generation student mentorship program
- Promoted and supported student research
- Planned a virtual research symposium for Communication Studies students

**Club President** | Society for Service Dogs August 2020 – August 2021  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Increased engagement with the Las Vegas community
- Directed the leadership board
- Raised awareness about service dogs
- Hosted campus-wide events to reduce student burnout and stress

**Secretary** | National Communication Association Student Club August 2019 – August 2021  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Met with each member of the leadership board to develop a budget
- Presented a yearly budget to the student council and faculty budget committee

## CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

1-day Restorative and Transformative Justice Training   Columbia University Center for Justice	October 2022
5-day Oral History Workshop   Oral History Summer School	October 2022
40-hour Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy Training   TF-CBT Web	April 2022
15-hour Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Training   Silver State Service Dogs	August 2020
40-hour Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Trafficking Training   Las Vegas Rape Crisis Center	July 2020
15-hour Bereavement Training   Adam’s Place	October 2020
25-hour Gender-Based Violence Training   The Cupcake Girls	August 2020
40-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Training   CASA	February 2022

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Psychology | University of Illinois Chicago August 2023 – May 2024