

John R. Gyourko

Curriculum Vitae

Richmond, VA 23227

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EDUCATION

- 2020— **PhD** Social Welfare
University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice
Faculty advisor: Dr. Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP
- 2020 **MSW** Clinical Practice concentration
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
- 2008 **BS** Psychology
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, College of Science

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- ❖ Tracking, remediating, and preventing identity theft / fraud victimization of child welfare-involved youth and caregivers.
- ❖ Financial behaviors (e.g., credit utilization; asset development) of foster care alumni.
- ❖ Post-care functioning and outcomes in key developmental domains (e.g., housing stability; educational attainment; employment; social capital; behavioral health) during early adulthood.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Apr 2020 **MSW Student of the Year**
National Association of Social Workers, Virginia Chapter
Competitively selected to receive annual statewide award for academic achievement and student leadership.
- Apr 2020 **Elaine Rothenberg Social Work Award**
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
Competitively selected to receive annual MSW student award for academic, community, and professional achievements.
- Apr 2020 **Service & Leadership Award**
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
Competitively selected to receive annual award for student leadership and university service.
- Apr 2007 **Undergraduate Literary Contest**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Awarded second prize for short fiction.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

Summer 2021 **Exploratory Spatial Analysis of Foster Youth Identity Theft Victimization**
Role: Principal Investigator
Funding Mechanism: Penn SP2 PhD Student Research Fellowship; \$6,100

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Barth, R. P., Jonson-Reid, M., Greeson, J. K., Drake, B., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Shaw, T. V., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2020). Outcomes following child welfare services: What are they and do they differ for Black children? *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 14(5), 477-499.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2020.1814541>

Manuscripts In Revision, Under Review, & In Preparation

1. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Ortiz, A. J., Coleman, D., Cancel, S., & Finck, K. (*in revision*). ‘One hundred and ninety-four got licensed by Monday’: Application of design thinking for foster care innovation and transformation in Rhode Island.
2. Barth, R. P., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Greeson, J. K. P., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (*under review*). Misconceptions to consider prior to effectively re-designing child welfare services.
3. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (*in preparation*). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic: Material and financial well-being by race, ethnicity, gender identity, and foster care status.
4. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Cage, J., Kabulsky, J., & Parente, M. (*in preparation*). Credit checks for youth in foster care: Detecting, addressing, and preventing child identity theft.

Research Reports, Policy Briefs, & Other Publications

1. Greeson, J., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & **Gyourko, J. R.** (2020). *The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19* [Research report]. Philadelphia, PA: Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania. Available at https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Foster-Youth-COVID-19-FINAL_Corrected.pdf
2. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2020). *Youth Exit Survey Initiative: Feedback from youth exiting Virginia’s foster care system* [Research report]. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019). *Identity protection and financial literacy programming for youth in foster care* [Issue brief]. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
4. **Gyourko, J. R.** & Moore-Jones, L. (2019). *Credit security freezes for children and youth in foster care: Policy and practice guidebook*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
5. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Moore-Jones, L. (2018). *Annual credit checks for youth in foster care* [Policy brief]. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Posters

1. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2021, January). *The experiences of older youth in foster care and aged out of foster care during COVID-19*. Poster presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. Abstract available at <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2021/webprogram/Paper42255.html>
2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Cage, J. (2020, January). *Credit checks for youth in foster care: Detecting, addressing, and preventing child identity theft*. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. Abstract available at <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2020/webprogram/Paper39553.html>
3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & King, H. (2019, April.) *Is counseling integral to buprenorphine-assisted opioid addiction treatment? Examining counseling participation and treatment retention at a Richmond, Virginia clinic*. Poster presented at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work Student Research Symposium, Richmond, VA. Available at <https://t.co/yFULW6RajU?amp=1>
4. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Oder, R. (2008, April). *Factors in virtual reality performance: The role of external stimuli in video games*. Poster presented at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate and Prospective Graduate Student Symposium, Blacksburg, VA.

Invited Presentations & Workshops

1. *Supporting successful transitions from care: Credit checks, credit freezes, and the Youth Exit Survey*. Invited presentation for the Virginia Department of Social Services Independent Living Services Annual Training, Richmond, VA, October 2019.
2. *Youth Exit Survey Initiative: Statewide launch and survey administration protocols*. Invited presentation for the Northern Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Warrenton, VA, June 2019.
3. *Pilot phase of the Youth Exit Survey*. Invited presentation for the Piedmont Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Roanoke, VA, February 2019.

4. *Youth Exit Survey design and implementation*. Invited panel presentation and workshop for the Central Region Independent Living Coordinators Committee Retreat, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA, September 2018.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2021-present **Think of Us microcash grant applications: Youth voice report**
Role: Consultant
- Analyzes response data from a national survey administered during the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with project leader Sixto Cancel (*Think of Us*) and a diverse team of university faculty, advocates, and youth stakeholders, examines relationships between sociodemographic variables and pandemic-related adversities reported by current and former foster youth ($N = 27,342$). Synthesizes research findings to inform the allocation of federal relief funds by state child welfare agencies.
- May 2020-present **The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19**
Role: Co-Investigator
- In collaboration with Dr. Johanna Greeson and the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, investigates the financial, material, physical/mental health, and social support needs and experiences of current and former foster youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-authors peer-reviewed journal articles, research reports, and research posters to disseminate findings from a national survey of older youth (ages 18 to 23) with foster care experience.
- Oct 2018-present **Tracking, remediating, and preventing child identity theft: Credit checks for youth in Virginia's foster care system**
Role: Principal Investigator
- Leverages statewide administrative data to examine prevalence, incidence, and remediation of fraudulent financial activities detected in foster youths' credit records. Collaborates with university and state government partners to investigate relationships between child and caregiver demographics, foster care case history, environmental and geospatial factors, and detected credit activity.
- Sept 2018-present **Youth Exit Survey Initiative**
Role: Co-Investigator
- Manages administration of Virginia's *Youth Exit Survey*, a voluntary, compensated, self-administered survey gathering feedback from youth aging out of Virginia's foster care system. Coordinated statewide implementation following an initial 6-month pilot phase. Facilitates ongoing survey administration and data collection in partnership with local child welfare agencies. Analyzes data to explore respondents' foster care experiences, social and familial relationships, and key developmental outcomes (e.g., housing, education, financial stability) in emerging adulthood. In compliance with directives from the state legislature,

produces semi-annual research reports for the Virginia Department of Social Services (Division of Family Services).

Dec 2018-Aug 2020 **Open Social Work project: *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work***

Roles: Student advisor; contributing author
\$500 honorarium recipient

In collaboration with project leader Dr. M. DeCarlo (Radford University) and an intercollegiate team of student and faculty contributors, created and reviewed content for *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work*, an open-source MSW-level academic textbook. Authored original content for an ancillary workbook with supplemental exercises. E-textbook available at <https://pressbooks.rampages.us/msw-research>.

Jan 2006-May 2007 **Center for Applied Behavior Systems**

Role: Undergraduate research assistant

Contributed to Virginia Tech doctoral student- and faculty-led research projects investigating pedestrian safety, alcohol consumption, and road signage in Blacksburg, VA. Recorded behavioral observations in the field, entered data, and trained fellow undergraduate research assistants.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University of Pennsylvania

Jan 2021-present **Social Responsibility Advisory Committee**

Engages with faculty, staff, and students to deliberate social and environmental justice issues surrounding university endowment investments and shareholder proxy votes. Provides proxy vote recommendations as requested by the Trustee Proxy Voting Subcommittee and/or the President.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Oct 2019-May 2020 **Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Committee**

Engaged with faculty and fellow student representatives to initiate, review, and approve MSW curriculum and academic program policies. Participated in meetings as a voting member.

Oct 2019-May 2020 **School Programs Committee**

Assisted with planning, reviewing, and overseeing implementation of School of Social Work policy related to student affairs, admissions, and academic standards. Participated in meetings as a voting member.

Oct 2019 **Grade Review Committee**

Participated in ad-hoc meetings to deliberate School of Social Work student grade appeals.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Professional Positions

- Aug 2018-present **Youth Services Program Specialist**
Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services,
Richmond, VA
In partnership with local departments of social services, administers the statewide Youth Exit Survey to gather feedback from youth aging out of Virginia's foster care system. Administers credit monitoring and credit security freeze mandates for children/youth in foster care. Authors best practice guidelines, research reports, and policy briefs to support effective Independent Living services and transition planning for older youth.
- Sept 2015-May 2018 **Employer Relations Coordinator**
ServiceSource Inc., Oakton, VA
Led networking and partnership development for a nonprofit grant initiative with a mission to expand career opportunities for people with disabilities. Increased total number of employer partnerships by more than 500% during tenure. Negotiated customized employment opportunities matching individual skills and support needs.
- May 2014-July 2015 **Family and Youth Specialist**
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth, Las Vegas, NV
Managed a caseload of children and adolescents in foster care. Leveraged network of resource family contacts to preserve intact sibling group placements. Arranged respite foster care as needed. Supervised family visitation sessions and conducted home visits. Attended court proceedings, child and family team meetings, and education plan meetings. Provided psychosocial rehabilitation services and Independent Living skills training. Developed and implemented permanency and transition plans. Mentored older youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Periodically provided on-call crisis stabilization services.
- Jan 2011-June 2013 **Activities Counselor**
Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA
Supported child welfare- and justice system-involved male adolescents in a residential treatment facility. Planned and implemented psychoeducational and skill-building interventions. Planned and supervised recreational activities to support therapeutic milieu. Managed monthly activities budget.
- Jan 2010-Jan 2011 **Mental Health Clinician**
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke, VA
Provided intensive in-home services to support adolescents with mental health and substance use disorders. Developed and pursued treatment goals in

collaboration with case managers, therapists, clients, and families.

Oct 2009-Jan 2011

Flex Counselor

Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA

Supported therapeutic milieu in a residential treatment facility for child welfare- and justice system-involved male adolescents. Supervised community outings. Delivered skills training interventions and mentored residents to support successful transitions to adulthood.

Feb-Dec 2009

Relief Counselor

Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke, VA

Provided on-call residential support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Administered medications, assisted with activities of daily living, and maintained health and safety standards in congregate care facilities.

May-Aug 2008

Area Supervisor

Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, VA

Supervised 35 staffers and coordinated programming at six elementary school-based summer day camp program sites. Trained staff and volunteers, managed program budget, and coordinated weekly field trips for approximately 300 children (ages 6 to 13). Partnered with school and county government officials to enhance programming. Facilitated activity integration for children with developmental disabilities.

Student Internships

Aug 2019-May 2020

MSW Clinical Practice Intern

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond, VA

Planned and conducted quantitative research to explore relationships between demographic attributes, mental health diagnoses, and behavioral health outcomes among children receiving crisis stabilization services. Conducted literature reviews and wrote issue briefs to augment crisis stabilization program planning. Engaged with Community Service Board-involved children, adolescents, and families to provide case management and therapeutic mentoring services.

May-Aug 2018

MSW Generalist Practice Intern

Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA

Reviewed literature and analyzed federal and state policy directives related to the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program, Chafee (Independent Living) Programs, and psychotropic medication prescribing practices for youth in foster care. Summarized findings in policy and issue briefs. Created a compendium of evidence-based interventions to support local and state agency compliance with federal law. Assisted with developing and administering electronic surveys to solicit feedback from child welfare workers. Provided therapeutic mentoring and mental health support services for older youth

in foster care.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- June-July 2018 **Youth Housing Stability Coalition**
Engaged with youth, advocates, and community stakeholders in focus groups to explore youth homelessness in the Richmond, VA area.
- Jan 2000-Aug 2008 **Hartwood Foundation**
Actively participated in political demonstrations and community events in Fairfax and Richmond, VA, to support civil rights advocacy for persons with disabilities.
- Jan 2000-Aug 2008 **Central Fairfax Services**
Engaged with participants and administrators at nonprofit day support program sites in Fairfax, VA. Facilitated recreational and vocational training activities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2020-present **Member**, International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care
2019-present **Member**, Society for Social Work and Research
2019-present **Member**, National Association of Social Workers
2018-present **Member**, Phi Alpha social work honor society
2008-present **Member**, Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society