

John R. Gyourko

Curriculum Vitae

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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 children, youth, and caregivers.
- ❖ Financial capabilities (e.g., credit utilization, asset development) of foster care youth and alumni.
- ❖ Risk and protective factors influencing key developmental outcomes (e.g., educational attainment, employment, health, housing stability) of current and former foster youth.
- ❖ Policies and practices to support older adolescents during the transition to adulthood.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 **Summer Research Institute**
National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN)
Competitively selected to participate in NDACAN's 2023 Summer Research Institute event.
- 2022 **Hal Levin Award**
University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2)
Annual PhD student award for meritorious scholarship. [\$1,500]
- 2022 **Field Research Scholar**
University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work
Competitively selected for appointment as a Field Research Scholar with the University of Calgary's *Transforming the Field Education Landscape* (TFEL) project. Honorarium sponsored by TFEL in partnership with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. [\$500]

- 2022 **President Gutmann Leadership Award**
University of Pennsylvania, Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
Individual grant to support the presentation and dissemination of original research.
[\$600]
- 2020 **MSW Student of the Year**
National Association of Social Workers, Virginia chapter
Annual statewide award for distinguished achievement in a Master of Social Work
degree program.
- 2020 **Elaine Rothenberg Social Work Award**
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
Annual MSW program award for outstanding academic achievement.
- 2020 **Service and Leadership Award**
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
Annual MSW program award for distinguished leadership and service in the School
of Social Work.
- 2007 **Undergraduate Literary Contest**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Awarded prize for best short fiction.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

- 2022-2023 **Evaluation of Agape Children’s Ministry’s Field Counseling Program to
Prevent Family Separation in Kenya**
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP)
Funding mechanism: Christian Alliance for Orphans [\$10,000]
- 2021 **Annual Credit Checks for Adolescent Youth in Foster Care: Modeling
Outcomes With Binary Logistic Regression**
Role: Principal Investigator
Funding mechanism: PhD Summer Research Fellowship, School of Social Policy
& Practice, University of Pennsylvania [\$6,100]

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Drake, B., Jones, D., Kim, H., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Garcia, A., Barth, R., Font, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Berrick, J. D., Greeson, J. K. P., Cook, V., Kohl, P. L., & Jonson-Reid, M. (2023). Racial/ethnic differences in Child Protective Services reporting, substantiation, and placement, with comparison to non-CPS risks and outcomes: 2005—2019. *Child Maltreatment*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231167320>

2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2022). Annual credit checks for adolescent youth in foster care: Factors associated with identity fraud victimization. *Child Maltreatment*, 28(2), 372-383. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595221101504>
3. Berrick, J. D., Barth, R., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2022). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services: A response to commentaries. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 542-552. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221095497>
4. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2022). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic: Material and financial well-being by foster care status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and race. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 92(3), 334-348. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000615>
5. Barth, R., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2021). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 483-498. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315211050000>
6. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Ortiz, A. J., Coleman, D., & Cancel, S. (2021). ‘One hundred and ninety-four got licensed by Monday’: Application of design thinking for foster care innovation and transformation in Rhode Island. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 128, 106166. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106166>
7. Barth, R., Jonson-Reid, M., Greeson, J. K. P., 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 Under Review

1. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (under review). Predictors of identity fraud victimization among a population-based cohort of adolescent youth in foster care.
2. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. S. (under review). Reintegration of street-connected children and youth in Kenya: Evaluation of Agape Children’s Ministry’s Family Strengthening Program.
3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & Gzesh, S. (under review). The experiences of older foster care youth during COVID-19: Associations between depression, technology, and perceived social support.

Manuscripts In Preparation

1. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Vasquez, N., Mack, L., & Barth, R. (in preparation). ‘Lived experience’ in foster care research: A systematic scoping review.
2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Silver, J. (in preparation). ‘We shouldn’t have to struggle this hard to help others’:

Student perspectives on challenges and barriers in social work education.

3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (in preparation). Evaluating the impact of identity protection services for children and youth in foster care: What reduces risk of fraud victimization?
4. Garcia, A., Greeson, J. K. P., Barth, R., Berrick, J. D., Drake, B., Font, S. A., Kohl, T., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Cook, V. (in preparation). The day after abolition: Considering implications for child safety and permanence.
5. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (in preparation). Attitudes and beliefs of service providers, caregivers, and children involved in Agape Children's Ministry's Family Strengthening Program in Kenya.

Research Reports, Policy Briefs, & Other Publications

1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2022). *Voices from the frontline: Local Department of Social Services worker perspectives on Virginia's credit freeze mandate for children and youth in foster care* [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
2. Greeson, J. K. P., 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]. Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania.
https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Foster-Youth-COVID-19-FINAL_Corrected.pdf
3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2021). *Voices of young people aging out of Virginia's foster care system: Summary findings from the Youth Exit Survey, July 2019—December 2020* [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
4. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019). *Identity protection and financial literacy programming for adolescent youth in foster care* [Issue brief]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
5. **Gyourko, J. R.** & Moore-Jones, L. (2019). *Credit security freezes for children and youth in foster care: Policy and practice guidebook*. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
6. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Moore-Jones, L. (2018). *Annual credit checks for youth in foster care* [Policy brief]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers & Posters

1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, October). *Social work student perspectives on the challenges, costs, and ethics of field education*. Paper accepted for presentation at the 69th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

2. **Gyourko, J. R., & Greeson, J. K. P.** (2023, January). *Factors associated with identity fraud victimization of adolescent youth in foster care*. Paper presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper50162.html>
3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, January). *Credit freezes as protective interventions for children in foster care: Exploring child welfare workers' experiences with implementation*. Poster presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper51200.html>
4. 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 [virtual conference event]. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2021/webprogram/Paper42255.html>
5. **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. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2020/webprogram/Paper39553.html>
6. **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. <https://t.co/yFULW6RajU?amp=1>
7. **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, Symposia, & Workshops

1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, May). *'We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others': Student perspectives on the challenges, costs, and ethics of social work education*. Invited presentation for the Transforming the Field Education Landscape (TFEL) project, University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work [virtual event].
2. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, March). *'We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others': Student perspectives on challenges and barriers in social work education*. Invited presentation for the Board of Directors Meeting, National Association of Social Workers (Pennsylvania Chapter), Mechanicsburg, PA.
3. **Gyourko, J. R., Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S.** (2022, January). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19: Health and social connectedness. In E. Aparicio (Chair), *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth in and transitioning from foster care*. Symposium paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. <https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2022/webprogram/Session12566.html>
4. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, October). *Supporting successful transitions from foster care to adulthood:*

Credit checks, credit freezes, and the Youth Exit Survey. Invited presentation for the Independent Living Services Annual Training event, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA.

5. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, June). *Virginia's 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.
6. **Gyourko, J. R., & Moore-Jones, L.** (2019, February). *Piloting the Youth Exit Survey instrument.* Invited presentation for the Piedmont Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Roanoke, VA.
7. **Gyourko, J. R., & Moore-Jones, L.** (2018, September). *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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022–present

Student Perspectives on Challenges and Barriers in Social Work Education

Role: Principal Investigator

In collaboration with the National Association of Social Workers (Pennsylvania chapter), leads a cross-sectional, mixed-methods survey study examining the costs and challenges that students attribute to their pursuit of social work degrees, with special emphasis on field practicum. Uses parametric and nonparametric methods to test bivariate associations between study variables. Uses multivariable and ordinal logistic regression to model relationships between degree- and field-related challenges and participants' sociodemographic characteristics. Conducts thematic and summative content analyses to explore participants' responses to open-ended survey items.

2022–present

Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Field Counseling Program to Prevent Family Separation in Kenya

Role: Co-Investigator

In collaboration with Dr. Johanna Greeson (PI), performs varied data analytics and project administration tasks for an intervention evaluation study funded by the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Center on Applied Research For Vulnerable Children and Families. Conducts paired-samples *t*-tests, hierarchical linear regression, and thematic and summative content analyses to assess family preservation practices used by non-governmental organizations in Kenya. Engages with an international cadre of stakeholders including frontline practitioners, social services agency leaders, and CAFO researchers to generate and disseminate study findings.

2020–present

The experiences of current and former foster care youth during COVID-19

Role: Co-Investigator

In collaboration with Dr. Johanna Greeson and an interdisciplinary team of scholars at Penn's Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, analyzes response data from a cross-sectional survey of young adults in or aged out of foster

care during COVID-19. Employs bivariate tests of association, binary logistic regression, and thematic analysis to examine respondents' self-reported financial and material circumstances, physical/mental health, and social and emotional experiences during the initial months of the pandemic.

2018–present

Identity theft and fraud victimization of foster care youth in Virginia

Role: Principal Investigator

Investigates the prevalence, incidence, and demographic correlates of identity fraud victimization experienced by adolescent youth in foster care. Partners with state government stakeholders to access and analyze multisource datasets. Uses spatial analytics and machine learning methods to identify factors impacting the likelihood of fraud victimization among a population-based cohort of foster care youth.

2018–present

Youth Exit Survey initiative

Role: Co-Investigator

Administers a web-based survey to gather feedback from young people aging out of foster care in Virginia. Developed and piloted the survey instrument in collaboration with stakeholders including foster care youth, frontline social workers, local agency leaders, and policy advocates. Facilitates ongoing data collection in partnership with local child welfare agencies. Analyzes response data to explore participants' foster care experiences, social and familial relationships, and 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 and the Virginia General Assembly.

2021

***Think of Us* microcash grant applications: Youth voice report**

Role: Consultant

In collaboration with project leader Sixto Cancel (*Think of Us*) and a diverse team of researchers, advocates, and youth stakeholders, analyzed data from financial assistance applications submitted in November 2020 by current and former foster care youth in the United States ($N = 27,342$). Conducted bivariate tests of association to examine respondents' sociodemographic characteristics and the financial, material, and health challenges that respondents attributed to COVID-19. Synthesized research findings to promote the equitable and effective allocation of pandemic relief funds by state child welfare agencies.

2018–2020

Open Social Work project: *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work*

Roles: Student advisor and copy editor [\$500 honorarium]

In collaboration with project leader Dr. M. DeCarlo (La Salle 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. <https://pressbooks.rampages.us/msw-research>

2006–2007

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

- 2023 **Teaching Assistantship**, *Criminal Justice Data Analytics*
Selected to serve as teaching assistant to Dr. Greg Ridgeway (Professor of Statistics and Data Science; Professor and Chair of Criminology) for the Fall 2023 semester.
- 2023 **Guest lecturer**, *Advanced Social Work Practice II*
Engaged with MSW students to facilitate group discussions on the planning and implementation of program evaluation research in nonprofit agency settings.
- 2023 **Guest lecturer**, *Integrative Seminar in Child Welfare*
Delivered multimedia presentation and facilitated class discussion concerning the integration of stakeholder perspectives in child welfare policy, practice, and research. Lectured on the conduct and applications of scoping reviews in child welfare research.

SERVICE

Editorial Service for Professional Journals

- 2022–present Child Welfare (ad-hoc reviewer)
2022–present Families in Society (ad-hoc reviewer)

National Association of Social Workers—Pennsylvania Chapter

- 2022–present **Workforce Committee**
In partnership with clinical practitioners, policy advocates, and other NASW-PA affiliates, serves on committee dedicated to researching, engaging, and promoting the Pennsylvania social work workforce.

University of Pennsylvania

- 2021–2022 **School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) Student Government**
Appointed by the Doctoral Student Steering Committee to serve as PhD in Social Welfare cohort representative to the SP2 student government.
- 2021 **Bringing Science to Bear on Child Welfare Reforms**
Collaborated with scholars from Washington University in Saint Louis (Brown School) and the University of Kentucky (College of Social Work) to organize and

convene the *Bringing Science to Bear on Child Welfare Reforms* summit event. Served as co-host during panel discussions and breakout room sessions.

2021

Social Responsibility Advisory Committee

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

Virginia Commonwealth University

2019–2020

Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Committee

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

2019–2020

School Programs Committee

Helped draft and implement School of Social Work policy related to student affairs, admissions, and academic standards. Participated in meetings as a voting member.

2019

Grade Review Committee

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

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Professional Positions

2018–present

Youth Services Program Specialist

Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services, Richmond, VA

Administers credit monitoring and identity protection programming for children and youth in foster care. Collaborates with local departments of social services to administer surveys gathering feedback from young adults emancipating from foster care. Authors research reports, issue and policy briefs, and best practice guidebooks to support Independent Living service provision and transition planning for older youth.

2015–2018

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 the skills and support needs of individuals with disabilities.

- 2014–2015 **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. Periodically provided on-call crisis stabilization services, and arranged respite foster care as needed. 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; and mentored older youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood.
- 2011–2013 **Activities Counselor**
 Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA
 Supported child welfare- and justice system-involved adolescent males in a residential treatment facility. Planned and implemented psychoeducational interventions and recreational activities to support therapeutic milieu. Managed components of the facility budget.
- 2010–2011 **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.
- 2009–2011 **Flex Counselor**
 Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA
 Supported therapeutic milieu in a residential treatment facility for child welfare- and justice system-involved adolescent males. Delivered skills training interventions, supervised community outings, and mentored residents to support successful transitions to adulthood.
- 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 daily living activities, and maintained health and safety standards in congregate care facilities.
- 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).

Student Internships

- 2019–2020 **MSW Clinical Practice Intern**

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond, VA

Conducted literature reviews, synthesized research findings, and authored issue briefs to augment crisis stabilization programming and service delivery. Engaged with Community Service Board-involved children, adolescents, and families to provide case management and therapeutic mentoring services. Helped plan and conduct program evaluation research examining behavioral health outcomes of children receiving crisis stabilization services.

2018

MSW Generalist Practice Intern

Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA

Provided therapeutic mentoring and mental health support services for older youth in foster care. Conducted literature reviews and analyzed federal and state policy directives related to the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program, Chafee-funded (Independent Living) programs, and psychotropic medication prescribing practices for youth in foster care. Synthesized findings in policy and issue briefs. Created a compendium of evidence-based interventions to support local and state agency compliance with federal law.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2018

Youth Housing Stability Coalition

Engaged with adolescents and young adults, frontline social workers, and policymakers in focus groups to explore youth homelessness in the Richmond, VA area. Actively participated in advocacy planning sessions.

2000–2008

Hartwood Foundation

Actively participated in political demonstrations and community events in Fairfax and Richmond, VA, to support civil rights advocacy for persons with disabilities.

2000–2008

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

2022–present

Member, Council on Social Work Education

2021–present

Member, American Psychological Association

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