

# Tenesha Littleton, PhD, LCSW

The University of Alabama  
School of Social Work  
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## EDUCATION

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2021	T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Pennsylvania State University, Child Maltreatment Solutions Network
2020	PhD, School of Social Work, University of Georgia, Athens, GA Dissertation title: <i>The Relationship between Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Child Maltreatment Rates: A Geospatial Analysis</i>
2006	Master of Social Work, School of Social Work, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
2004	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA Honors: Cum Laude

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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2021-Present	Assistant Professor University of Alabama, School of Social Work, Tuscaloosa, AL
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## AREAS OF INTERESTS

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Child Maltreatment	Housing
Poverty & Inequality	Neighborhood Effects
Child and Family Social Policy	Parenting

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

1. Bae, J., Jennings, P.F., Hardeman, C., Kim, E., Lee, M., Littleton, T., & Saasa, S. (2019). Compassion satisfaction among social work practitioners: The role of work-life balance. *Journal of Social Service Research*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01488376.2019.1566195>

2. Campbell, R. D. & **Littleton, T.** (2018). Mental health counseling in the Black American church: Reflections and recommendations from counselors serving in a counseling ministry. *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*, 21(4), 336-352. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2018.1494704>.
3. **Littleton, T.**, Choi, Y.J., & McGarity, S.V. (2020). Psychological and social correlates of HIV stigma among people living with HIV. *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, 19(1), 74-89. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15381501.2019.1699486>
4. McPherson, J., Jennings, P.F., Arnold, B., **Littleton, T.**, & Lee, M. (2020). Creating global scholars: Experiential learning and reflection transform an international conference into a short-term study abroad. *Journal of Social Work Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2020.1770641>
5. Mowbray, O., Jennings, P.F., **Littleton, T.**, Grinnell-Davis, C., & O'Shields, J. (2018). Caregiver depression and trajectories of behavioral health among child welfare involved youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 79, 445-453. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.03.001>.
6. Saasa, S., Okech, D., Choi, Y.J., Nackerud, L. & **Littleton, T.** (2021). Social exclusion, mental health, and social well-being among African immigrants in the United States. *International Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872820963425>

### **Book Chapters**

1. **Littleton, T.**, Lee, M., & Cornelius, L. J. (2018). Analyzing the problem: Disparities in behavioral and mental health for people of color and Latinos. In C. Moniz and S. Gorin (Eds.), *Mental Health Care Policy and Practice. A Biopsychosocial Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Book Reviews**

1. **Littleton, T.** (2015). Review of the book *Working with Homeless and Vulnerable People: Basic Skills and Practice* by Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff. *Journal of Human Behavior and the Social Environment*, 26(6), 561-561. DOI: 10.1080/10911359.2015.1122430.

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## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/IN REVISION**

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1. Lee, M., Jennings-McGarity, P., **Littleton, T.**, & Caplan, M. (revise and resubmit). The teaching of social work history and the inclusion of African American contributors: Implications for social work educations. *Journal of Ethic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.
2. **Littleton, T.** & Jackson, Y. (under review). The stability of spiritual beliefs over time among youth in foster care. *Families in Society*.

3. Potter, M.H., **Littleton, T.**, & Font, S.A. (under review). State support policies and children's living arrangements. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

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### PENDING GRANT PROPOSALS

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- 2021                      Neighborhood Environment and Racial Inequality during Transition to Adulthood: Pathways through Childhood Adversity and Institutional Involvement.  
NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R21)  
Role: Co-Investigator

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### CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

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1. Jennings, P., McPherson, J., Arnold, B. H, Lee, M., & **Littleton, T.** (2018). Using an international conference to engage US social work doctoral students with sustainability and the SDGs. In *Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, And Social Development (SWSD) 2018: Abstract Book*, p. 2020. Dublin, IRL. Abstract available at [https://www.swsd2018.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SWSD2018\\_Abstract-Book.pdf](https://www.swsd2018.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SWSD2018_Abstract-Book.pdf)
2. Lee. M. & **Littleton, T.** (2017). Shifting paradigms: Approaches to ensure well-being among children in the United States. In L. Rihter and G. Berc (Eds.), *20th Biennial International Symposium of International Consortium for Social Development: Book of Abstracts*. Zagreb, Croatia: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Department of Social Work.
3. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., Lee, M., Arnold, B., & McPherson, J. (2017). The purpose and scope of postgraduate education in social work: Implications for the advancement of social development. In L. Rihter and G. Berc (Eds.), *20th Biennial International Symposium of International Consortium for Social Development: Book of Abstracts*. Zagreb, Croatia: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Department of Social Work.

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### REPORTS

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Ellett, A.J., Ellett, C.D., Ellis, J.I., Rugutt, J.K., Jennings, P.F., & **Littleton, T.** (2017). Evaluation of the Georgia DFCS Employee Selection Protocol Final Project Report. Atlanta, GA: Georgia Department of Family and Children Services.

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### PRESENTATIONS

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#### Referred

1. **Littleton, T.** (2021, January). *The relationship between affordable housing and neighborhood child maltreatment rates: A geospatial analysis*. An oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Virtual.

2. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., Lee, M., & Caplan, M. (2019, October). *Beyond inclusion: Strategies for centering anti-oppressive social work history in course content*. An oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
3. **Littleton, T.** (2019; February). *Coping, trauma, and service utilization as predictors of arrest among youth experiencing childhood maltreatment*. A poster presentation at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
4. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., Ellet, A., & Ellet, C. (2019; January). *A statewide mixed methods study of a child welfare employee selection protocol: Implications for policy and practice*. A poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
5. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., Saturday, J., & Ellett, A. (2018; November). *A mixed-methods implementation study for selecting child welfare professionals*. An oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL.
6. Jennings, P., McPherson, J., Arnold, B. H, Lee, M., & **Littleton, T.** (2018, July). *Using an international conference to engage US social work doctoral students with sustainability and the SDGs*. Poster presentation at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development (SWSD), Dublin, IRL.
7. **Littleton, T.** (2018; January). *Coping, trauma, and service utilization as predictors of arrest among youth experiencing childhood maltreatment*. A poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
8. **Littleton, T.** & Miller, S.E. (2018; January). *A trauma-informed conceptual framework for understanding adjustment to special needs adoption*. A poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
9. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., Lee, M., Arnold, B. & McPherson, J. (2017; July). *The purpose and scope of post-graduate education in social work: Implications for the advancement of social development*. An oral presentation at the Biennale International Consortium for Social Development, Zagreb, Croatia.
10. Lee, M. & **Littleton, T.** (2017; July). *Shifting paradigms: Approaches to ensure well-being among children in the United States*. An oral presentation at the Biennale International Consortium for Social Development, Zagreb, Croatia.
11. Choi, Y.J. & **Littleton, T.** (2017; October). *Psychological and social correlates of HIV stigma among people living with HIV*. An oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX.

12. Lee, M. & **Littleton, T.** (2017; October). *Teaching social development and social investments as policy strategies to promote child well-being*. An oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX.
13. **Littleton, T.**, Jennings, P.F., & Lee, M. (2016; November). *The inclusion of African American voices in the teaching of social work history*. A poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
14. **Littleton, T.** (2016; April). *Effective clinical practice with children adopted from the foster care system*. A poster presentation at the University of Memphis Social Work Symposium, Memphis, TN.

### **Invited**

1. **Littleton, T.**, Otolara, T., & Mois, G. (2019; March). *When I research here*. Accepted Students Day. Invited panelist. Student Panel, School of Social Work, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
2. **Littleton, T.**, Izlar, J., Otolara, T., Rai, A. (2018; August). *The Ph.D. experience from students' perspectives*. Invited panelist. Student Panel, School of Social Work, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
3. Jennings, P.F. & **Littleton, T.** (December 2016). *Incorporating inclusive history in social work education*. Invited speaker. Voices of Social Justice Podcast [https://kaltura.uga.edu/media/t/1\\_k873mikb/65915401](https://kaltura.uga.edu/media/t/1_k873mikb/65915401); Center for Social Justice, Athens, GA.

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## **AWARDS**

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2020	Postdoctoral training fellowship NICHD, T32 Training Program in Child Maltreatment Science Awarded to Pennsylvania State University, Child Maltreatment Solutions Network
2019	Graduate Education Advancement Board Fellowship, University of Georgia, Graduate School, \$2500
2019	Haruv Institute PhD International Workshop on Child Maltreatment, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, \$1200
2018	Summer Dissertation Proposal Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty, Howard University Center on Race and Wealth, \$1000
2018	Freshman College Summer Experience Graduate Assistantship, University of Georgia, Division of Academic Enhancement, \$1750
2017	PhD Student of the Year, University of Georgia, School of Social Work
2016—2019	Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, \$60,000
2016	Program for Research on Black Americans Training Workshop, University of Michigan, School of Social Work, \$1000
2015—2016	Dean's Research Assistantship Award, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, \$40,000

2015

University of Georgia Gateway to Graduate School Award, \$5000

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### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2017

**Research Assistant.** *Evaluation of the Georgia DFCS Employee Selection Protocol.* Principal Investigators: Alberta Ellet, PhD & Chad Ellet, PhD, University of Georgia, School of Social Work.

- Evaluated hiring protocols of state child welfare agency to determine if retention and turnover improved; Conducted focus groups; analyzed qualitative and survey data

2016—2017

**Graduate Research Assistant.** *Disparities in behavioral and mental health for people of color and Latinos.* Principal Investigator: Llewellyn Cornelius, PhD, LCSW, University of Georgia, School of Social Work.

- Conducted a scoping review of the literature on mental health disparities among people of color
- Analyzed federal policies and their efficacy and limitations in reducing behavioral and mental health disparities

2015—2016

**Graduate Research Assistant.** *Psychological and social correlates of HIV stigma among people living with HIV.* Principal Investigator: Y. Joon Choi, PhD, MSW, MA, University of Georgia, School of Social Work.

- Spearheaded research project examining data collected from a community-based agency; Managed and cleaned large data set; developed research questions and conducted data analysis

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### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor,** SOWK 510: Human Behavior in Social Environments I, University of Alabama, School of Social Work, Fall Semester, 2021

**Instructor,** SOWK 5845: Practicum in Social Work II, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Spring Semester, 2020.

**Instructor,** SOWK 5846: Integrative Seminar II in Generalist Social Work Practice, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Spring Semester, 2020.

**Instructor,** SOWK 5835: Practicum in Social Work I, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Fall Semester, 2019.

**Instructor,** SOWK 5836: Integrative Seminar I in Generalist Social Work Practice, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Fall Semester, 2019.

**Instructor**, SOWK 5845: Practicum in Social Work II, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Spring Semester, 2019.

**Instructor**, SOWK 5846: Integrative Seminar II in Generalist Social Work Practice, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Spring Semester, 2019.

**Instructor**, SOWK 5835: Practicum in Social Work I, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Fall Semester, 2018.

**Instructor**, SOWK 5836: Integrative Seminar I in Generalist Social Work Practice, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Fall Semester, 2018.

**Teaching Assistant**, UNIV 1201S: Learning for Success at the University, University of Georgia, Division of Academic Enhancement, Summer Semester, 2018.

**Co-Instructor**, SOWK 7222: Assessment and Psychopathology, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, Spring Semester 2017. Supervised by Orion Mowbray, PhD.

**Guest Lecturer**, “Social policy for vulnerable children and families.” HDF5 8040: Developmental Psychopathology in Family Systems, University of Georgia, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, March, 2017.

**Guest Lecturer**, “Historical Foundations and Future Directions for Child Welfare Policy.” SOWK 6011: Social Welfare Policy, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, March 2017.

**Guest Lecturer**, “Historical Foundations and Future Directions for Child Welfare Policy.” SOWK 6011: Social Welfare Policy and the Social Work Profession, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, November 2016.

**Guest Lecturer**, “The Inclusion of African American Voices in the Teaching of Social Work History.” SOWK 6011: Social Welfare Policy and the Social Work Profession, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, October 2016.

**Guest Lecturer**, “Mental Health and Social Work”, SOWK 2154: The Profession of Social Work, University of Georgia, School of Social Work, April 2016.

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## PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

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2016

**Psychiatric Social Worker/PRN Social Worker**

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

- Completed comprehensive psychosocial assessments to identify strengths and potential barriers across the continuum of care. Identified appropriate level of care and referred for

psychiatric treatment. Assisted families in accessing resources to achieve and/or maintain stabilization and self-sufficiency. Assessed children and families for safety, abuse, and neglect concerns.

2014—2015

**Trainer**

ComPsych, Atlanta, GA

- Facilitated personal development and wellness seminars in the workplace as a part of EAP services.

2014—2015

**Behavioral Health Case Manager,**

Amerigroup Georgia Families 360°, Anthem, Inc., Atlanta, GA

- Provided care coordination services to youth adopted from the foster care system with complex behavioral and physical health needs. Developed individualized care plans. Facilitated family team meetings. Participated in behavioral health rounds and provided clinical recommendations regarding youth's treatment.

2013—2014

**Social Worker**

Anthem, Inc., Atlanta, GA

- Assisted participants to change self-efficacy behaviors and to locate and access formal and informal supports to improve their ability to manage their health. Provided telephonic health coaching and consultation to individuals to address psychosocial barriers to managing health conditions. Developed resource database.

2013—2014

**Therapist**

Jefferson Psychological Solutions, Atlanta, GA

- Provided individual and family therapy to children diagnosed with mental illness utilizing evidence based treatment models.

2012—2013; 2014

**Crisis Call Center Clinician**

Behavioral Health Link, Atlanta, GA

- Completed brief clinical screening and triage, determined appropriate level of care, and coordinated treatment linkage for individuals experiencing mental health/substance abuse/developmental disability crisis in a fast paced call center environment. Utilized Motivational Interviewing and collaborative problem solving to engage individuals in treatment linkage process. Conducted suicide risk assessments and implemented crisis intervention protocols.

2011—2012

**Mental Health Therapist**



Families Ties, Atlanta, GA

- Provided community based individual and family therapy to children and adolescents with mental illness and addressed issues related to symptom management, parenting, communication skills, problem solving, self-esteem, and anger management. Developed individualized treatment plans/MICPs/clinical authorizations. Utilized evidence based treatment models.

2008—2011

**Program Coordinator**

Communities In Schools of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

- Developed intervention programs that addressed the social and academic needs of at-risk students as a part of a national dropout prevention program. Served as a member of the school's Leadership Team and made recommendations regarding improving students' academic performance. Analyzed evaluation data to determine effectiveness of interventions.

2008—2014

**Part-time Adoption Specialist**

Families First, Atlanta, GA

- Wrote adoption home studies (biopsychosocial assessments) evaluating potential adoptive parents' ability to successfully parent special needs children. Provided post placement supervision services to adoptive families, which included completing monthly home visits, counseling parents, and writing monthly reports. Conducted presentations at community events to recruit foster and adoptive parents.

2006—2008

**Foster Care Case Manager**

Families First, Atlanta, GA

- Provided case management services to foster children ages 0-18 years old. Trained foster parents on topics such as child development and behavior management. Conducted annual evaluations of foster parents and made recommendations regarding their skills and continued retention within the foster care program.

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**SERVICE**

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2020	Children and Youth Services, Ad-hoc reviewer
2018	Child Welfare Journal, Ad-hoc reviewer
2017	Mentor, University of Georgia, Gateway to Graduate School
2016—2018	Volunteer, Society Social Work and Research Annual Conference

2016 Volunteer, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting  
2016—2017 Editorial Associate, Journal of Poverty  
2015—2017 Doctoral Program Student Representative (selected), University of Georgia, School of Social Work

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### **LICENSURE**

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2011—Present Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Georgia License No: CSW0004467

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### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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2016—Present Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)  
2015—Present Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)