

## Melody A. Huslage, MSSW

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b>	Social Work. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN Graduate certificate: Women, Gender, and Sexuality studies Dissertation title: <i>Sex Integration and Transgender Inclusion: The College Student-Athlete Perspective</i>	<i>expected 2023</i>
<b>MSSW</b>	Social Work. The University of Texas at Austin, TX	2016
<b>BS</b>	Computer Science. Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1999

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Diversity, equity, and inclusion; reproductive justice; immigrant and refugee communities; international social work; gender-based violence

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Co-Principal Investigator** 01/2022 - Present  
*Identifying Vulnerabilities and Inequality Related to Information Sources Among Prospective Mexican and Central American Immigrants*  
Co-PI: Dr. Mary Held, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Funded: Summer Graduate Research Assistantship Funding, UTK-Office of Research, Innovation, & Economic Development, \$4,500

- Responsibilities include contributing to grant proposal, assisting with online survey, and literature review.

**Principal Investigator** 06/2021 - Present  
*An Exploratory Study of the Formation of the Australian Women's Professional Baseball League*  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Courtney Cronley  
Funded: W.K. McClure Scholarship Fund for the Study of World Affairs, \$5,000

- Responsibilities include IRB application, grant proposal, and pilot study qualitative interviews.

**Co-Principal Investigator** 06/2020 - Present  
*Understanding Social Work Practitioner Perspectives of the Research-Practice Gap*

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mary Held, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Responsibilities include literature review, development of a CEU 1-credit course, survey development, and IRB application.

**Consultant**

04/2020 - Present

PI: Dr. Adrienne Baldwin-White, University of Georgia

- Consultant to a multi-university, multi-disciplinary project examining innovative technical interventions in sexual assault prevention education. Responsibilities include utilizing open-source programming platforms (e.g., Twine, Text-It) to develop technical solutions.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

09/2019 - Present

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Courtney Cronley, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Responsibilities include literature reviews, quantitative data collection, qualitative interviews, collaboration on articles for publication, and submission of abstracts for CSWE and SSWR.

**Research Assistant**

01/2016 - Present

*Clinicians' Evaluations of Somatic Experiencing as an Effective Intervention for Trauma Survivors and Implications for Trauma-Informed Practice*

PI: Dr. Sapana Donde, Research Associate with the University of Texas at Austin.

- Responsibilities include interview transcription, qualitative data analysis utilizing grounded theory, and literature reviews.

**Co-Principal Investigator**

11/2020 - 05/2022

*A Study of Stressors and Resilience during COVID-19 and Trump*

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Mary Held, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Funded: Student Faculty Research Award, UTK-The Graduate School, \$5,000

- Responsibilities include survey development, completion of IRB application, manuscript writing and leadership, statistical data analysis, and assisting with writing of additional manuscripts.

**Co-Principal Investigator**

08/2020 - 05/2021

*Increasing Computer Science Skills and Academic Self-Efficacy among Girls to Address Social Issues that Matter to Women*

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Courtney Cronley, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Funded: Social Justice Innovation Initiative, UTK-College of Social Work, \$15,000

- Responsibilities include project management, supervision of two graduate students, grant management, data collection, survey creation, grant writing, community engaged research, and manuscript writing for publication.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

01/2015 - 05/2016

Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, University of Texas at Austin

- Responsibilities include quantitative data analysis, data collection, survey creation utilizing Qualtrics, and in-person community collaboration for projects examining human trafficking and sexual assault prevalence.

**Research Assistant**

01/2007 - 06/2007

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Responsibilities include background research for project examining the educational resources of children at a refugee camp located outside of Athens, Greece.

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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**Published**

1. Held, M. L., Rai, A., **Huslage, M.**, & Ayalew, Y. (2022). An examination of risk and protective factors on the mental health of first- and second-generation immigrant adults during an exclusionary policy context in the United States. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, 19*(3), 331-355. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26408066.2022.2041519>
2. Scoresby, K., Wallis, D., **Huslage, M.**, & Chaffin, K. M. (2022). Turn on the CC: Increase inclusion for all your students. *Journal of Social Work Education, 1*-10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2022.2062510>
3. **Huslage, M.**, Rai, A., & Held, M. (2021). Building partnerships and trust: Brief note on research with vulnerable immigrant communities. *Families in Society*. Online ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894211034776>

**Revise and Resubmit**

1. **Huslage, M.**, Ely, G. E., Nugent, W., Auerbach, S., & Agbemenu, K. Reproductive autonomy in Appalachia: An investigation into perceived contraceptive coercion. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
2. **Huslage, M.**, Cronley, C., Roark, E. M., & Scoresby, K. How to spend the newly dedicated public transportation funding: Exploring transportation access among individuals experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness*.
3. Jones, A., **Huslage, M.**, Dalton, M., & Seay, O. "Any reason is valid:" How an unexpected abortion disclosure is met by an online community. *Social Work in Public Health*.
4. Parrott, K., **Huslage, M.**, & Cronley, C. Educational equity: A scoping review of the state of literature exploring educational outcomes and correlates for children experiencing homelessness. *Children and Youth Services Review*.
5. Held, M. L., First, J., & **Huslage, M.** Effects of COVID-19, discrimination, and social support on Latinx adult mental health. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.
6. Held, M. L., First, J., **Huslage, M.**, & Holzer, M. Policy stress and social support: Mental health impacts for Latinx adults in the southeast. *Social Science & Medicine*.
7. Cook Heffron, L., Held, M. L., & **Huslage, M.** Immigration in social work education: Students' knowledge and perceptions of risk of detention & deportation. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

8. Rai, A., Held, M. L., **Huslage, M.**, & Tuti, A. A review of immigrant experiences during Trump administration and COVID-19: Differences by race. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.

### **Under Review**

1. **Huslage, M.**, Held, M., & Rai, A. Assessing mental health vulnerability among first and second generation immigrants during the Trump administration. *American Journal of Community Psychology*.
2. **Huslage, M.**, Pless, J., & Baldwin-White, A. "Then what should I do?": Exploring beliefs regarding healthy relationships through game-based decision making. *Violence Against Women*.
3. Naseh, M., Potocky, M., **Huslage, M.**, Burke, S. L., & Stuart, P. H. A multidimensional framework for refugee poverty in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*.
4. Cronley, C., Fields, N., Roark, E., **Huslage, M.**, Robinson, S., & Mattingly, S. Characterizing transportation behaviors and barriers among survivors of intimate partner violence using mobile daily diaries: A proof-of-concept case study. *The Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS, REPORTS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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1. Harrison, G., & **Huslage, M.** (under revision). The curious case of Karen Carney: The argument for equity over equality in curbing the online abuse of women in sports media. In K. Boyle, & S. Boyle (Eds.). *The Routledge Companion to Gender, Media & Violence*. Routledge.
2. Busch-Armendariz, N., Olaya-Rodriguez, D., Kammer-Kerwisk, M., Wachter, K., Sulley, C., Anderson, K., & **Huslage, M.** (2015). *Texas Statewide Sexual Assault Prevalence Study*. <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/32721>

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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1. Held, M., Rai, A., & **Huslage, M.** (pending 2022, August). Exploring the mental health of immigrants and refugees in relation to migration policies as part of the Trump-era, In *Migration Policies as Social Determinants of Health in the United States*. Panel presentation at the 19th conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). (virtual)
2. **Huslage, M.** & Ely, G. E. (2022, May). *An investigation into women's experiences of pressure regarding contraceptive choice*. Poster presentation at the 16th European Society of Contraceptive and Reproductive Health. Ghent, Belgium.
3. Harrison, G., & **Huslage, M.** (2022, April). *The curious case of Karen Carney: Toward a nuanced approach to curbing the online harassment of women in sports media*. North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. Montreal, QC, CA.

4. **Huslage, M.**, Jones, A., Dalton, M., & Seay, O. (2022, January). *'Any reason is valid:' How an unexpected online abortion disclosure is received*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
5. **Huslage, M.** & Ely, G. E. (2022, January). *Under pressure: Appalachian women's experiences of coercion around family planning*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
6. **Huslage, M.**, Rai, A., Lehman Held, M., & Naseh, M. (2022, January). *Identifying strategies to promote Trust and overcome barriers for successful research with immigrant and refugee communities*. Roundtable presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
7. Lehman Held, M., First, J., & **Huslage, M.** (2022, January). *Effects of COVID-19, discrimination, and social support on Latinx adult mental health*. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
8. Lehman Held, M., First, J., & **Huslage, M.** (2022, January). *Trump era policy-related stress, nativity, and social support: Mental health impacts for Latinx adults in the Southeast*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
9. **Huslage, M.**, Cronley, C., Coppola, S., & Parrott, K. (2021, November). *Addressing gender disparities in computer science through interdisciplinary and community partnership*. Poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
10. Held, M., Cook Heffron, L., **Huslage, M.** (2021, November). *Immigration in social work education: student knowledge and perception of risk of detention and deportation*. Oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
11. Cronley, C. & **Huslage, M.** (2021, June). *Social change or status quo –perpetuating racial and gender disparities in homelessness through the VI-SPDAT*. Paper presentation at the Society for Prevention Research 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. (virtual)
12. Scoresby, K., **Huslage, M.**, Wallis, D. (2021, June). *Caption it: How to caption educational spaces and why you should*. Oral presentation at Pellissippi State Community College Distance Learning Conference. Pellissippi, TN. (virtual)
13. Cronley, C., **Huslage, M.**, Roark, E., & Scoresby, K. (2021, January). *Testing the psychometric properties of a scale to measure transportation disadvantage among individuals experiencing homelessness*. Poster presentation at the Transportation Board Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. (virtual)
14. Lewis, C., **Huslage, M.**, & Berkeley, B. (2016). *Comparison of long-acting, reversible contraceptive use for low-income adolescent mothers in two intensive case management programs*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.

## AWARDS

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<b>Southeastern Conference (SEC) Emerging Scholars Program</b>	2022 - 2023
One of three PhD students selected university-wide for program providing professional development, networking, and mentoring	
<b>Excellence in Student Research Award</b>	2022
UTK - College of Social Work PhD student recipient of inaugural award recognizing outstanding research accomplishments	
<b>Jimmy and Ileen Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence Nominee</b>	2022
College of Social Work nominee for outstanding graduate student with high academic potential and achievement, leadership, and community involvement	
<b>Shipley-Swann Graduate School Fellowship</b>	2021 - 2022
UTK – The Graduate School, Amount \$5,000 Awarded to returning graduate students who demonstrate academic excellence and professional promise	
<b>Global Catalyst Student International Travel Grant</b>	2021
UTK - Center for Global Engagement, Amount \$1500	

## TEACHING

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<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> <i>Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families</i> (BSSW/SOWK313) University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Spring 2022 (in-person)
<b>Instructor:</b> <i>Social Work Research</i> (BSSW/SOWK410) University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Fall 2021 (in-person)
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> <i>Foundations of Social Work Research</i> (MSSW/SOWK519) University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Summer 2021 (online)
<b>Instructor:</b> <i>Social Justice and Anti-oppressive Practices</i> (MSSW/SOWK538) University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Spring 2021 (online)
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> <i>Social Work Research</i> (BSSW/SOWK410) University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Fall 2020 (online)

## PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

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<b>Program Management Intern</b>	2019
<i>Girls Empowerment Network, Austin, TX</i> Responsibilities included project management duties for yearly <i>We Are Girls</i> conference in Houston, TX, and <i>Girl Advocacy Day</i> at the Texas State Capital.	

**Conservatorship Caseworker** 2016 - 2018

*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, TX*

Provided case management services for children in the legal custody of the Department of Family and Protective Services. Worked collaboratively with families, legal parties, community service providers, educators, and medical professionals to address the needs of the child and family utilizing a strengths-based approach.

**ClubGen Volunteer Co-facilitator** 2014 - 2015

*Girls Empowerment Network, Austin, TX*

Volunteer co-facilitator with elementary school girls in an after-school club aimed at increasing self-efficacy.

**Hotline Counselor & Hospital Advocate** 2009 - 2011

*DC Rape Crisis Center, Washington, D.C.*

Responsibilities included accompanying sexual assault survivors during hospital admission and examination; and supporting the 24/7 crisis center hotline.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Information Management Technical Specialist** 2001 - 2013

*U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.*

Served as technical advisor on telecommunications systems and computer networks; supported U.S. embassies overseas on short duration trips and three overseas tours (i.e., Pakistan, Iraq, Greece).

**SERVICE**

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Committee for Equity and Inclusion, PhD Student Representative	2020 - Present
Ad Hoc Peer-Reviewer for <i>Perspectives on Social Work</i> journal	2022
Girls Who Code community partner	2020 - 2021
Antiracism Solutions Initiative, a collaboration between UTK-CSW, Knoxville Area Urban League and E Pluribus Unum	2020 - 2021

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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National Association of Social Workers  
Council on Social Work Education  
Society for Social Work and Research  
National Alliance of Social Workers in Sport  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
North American Society for Sociologists in Sport