

Lara B. Gerassi, MSW, LCSW, Ph.D. (*she/her*)
1350 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706
Email: gerassi@wisc.edu

EDUCATION

- 2013-2017** **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Social Work**
Washington University in St. Louis
Brown School of Social Work
- 2009-2010** **Master of Social Work (MSW)**
Washington University in St. Louis
Brown School of Social Work
- 2005-2009** **Bachelor of Social Work (BSW); Minor in Sociology**
New York University
Silver School of Social Work

CURRENT POSITION

- 2017-Present **Assistant Professor**, School of Social Work.
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Academic Affiliations

- 2020-Present **Faculty Council**, Sexual Violence Research Initiative; Center for
Research on Gender & Women; University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2017-Present **Director of Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Research**
4W Initiative: Women & Wellbeing in Wisconsin & the World
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2017-Present **Faculty Affiliate**, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies;
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2017-Present **Faculty Affiliate**, Center for Violence Injury and Prevention, Brown
School of Social Work; Washington University in St. Louis

BOOK

- Gerassi, L. & Nichols, A.** (2017). *Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Prevention, Advocacy, and Trauma-Informed Practice*. New York, NY: Springer.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

(Indicates *graduate student, ^undergraduate student, +master/bachelor-level practitioner)

In Press/Print:

- Gerassi, L.B. & *Pedersen, A.C.** (in press). Knowledge of and Practice with LGBTQ+ people at risk of sex trafficking: Perceptions (and Assumptions) from Social Service Providers in a Midwest Region. *Social Work Research*.

- Gerassi, L.B. & Nichols, A.J..** (2021). Social Work Education that Addresses Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: An Intersectional, Anti-Oppressive Framework. *Anti-Trafficking Review*.
- *Pedersen, A. & **Gerassi, L.B.**.(2021). Healthcare Providers' Perspectives on Relevance and Utility of Sex Trafficking Indicators. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*.
- Gerassi, L.B., *Klein, L.B., & ^Rosales, M.D.C.** (2021) Moving Toward Critical Consciousness and Anti-Oppressive Practice Approaches with People at Risk of Sex Trafficking: Perspectives from Social Service Providers. *Affilia*.
20. **Gerassi, L.B. & *Pedersen, A.C.** (2021). Have you ever traded sex for money or drugs?": Healthcare Providers' Perspectives on Sex Trafficking Risk Assessments in Clinics. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*. DOI: 10.1177/1355819621997478.
- Hudson, D., McCrary, S., Murugan, V., **Gerassi, L.B., & Proctor, E.K.** (2021). Documenting Behavioral Health Needs in an Urban Setting. *Frontiers in public Health*. DOI: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.493884
- Gerassi, L.B. & ^Esbensen, K.** (2020). Motivational Interviewing (MI) among providers in a Midwest region: Perceived use, applicability, and challenges to engagement with individuals at risk of sex trafficking. *Journal of Social Work*. DOI: 0.1177/1468017320919856
- Gerassi, L.B. & ^Skinkis, S.** (2020). An Intersectional Content Analysis of Inclusive Language and Imagery among Sex Trafficking Related Services. *Violence and Victims*. DOI: 10.1891/VV-D-18-00204
- Gerassi, L.B.** (2019). How Adult Women Who Trade Sex Navigate Social Services: A Grounded Theory Study. *Feminist Criminology*. DOI:10.1177/1557085119885444
15. **Gerassi, L.B.** (2019). Experiences of Racism and Racial Tensions among African American Women Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Practice: A Qualitative Study. *Violence Against Women*. DOI: 10.1177/1077801219835057
- Gerassi, L.B., Nichols, A.J., +Cox, A., ^Goldberg, K.K. ^Tang, C.** (2018). Examining Commonly Reported Sex Trafficking Indicators from Practitioners' Perspectives: Findings from a Pilot Study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. DOI: 10.1177/0886260518812813
- Gerassi, L.B., +Colegrove, A., +McPherson, D.K.**.(2018). Addressing Race, Racism, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Practice through an Action-Based Research Partnership. *Action Research*. 17:2, 220-236. DOI 10.1177/1476750318807545.
- Gerassi, L.B.** (2018). Barriers to Accessing Detox Facilities, Substance Use Treatment, and Residential Services among Women Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking. Special issue, "Health and Human Trafficking." *Behavioral Medicine*. 44:3, 199-208. DOI 10.1080/08964289.2017.1384360

- Gerassi, L.B., Fabbre, V., +Howard, A.S., Edmond, T.E., & Nichols, A.J. (2018).** How sex trading identities shape experiences of service provision: insights from adult women with lived experiences and service providers. *Journal of Human Trafficking*. DOI 10.1080/23322705.2018.1447198
10. **Nichols, A., Gerassi, L.B., & *Snider, K.. (2018).** What's in a Name? Benefits and Challenges of Anti-Trafficking Language from Social Service Provider Perspective. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4:1, 73-85, DOI: 10.1080/23322705.2018.1423448
- Gerassi, L.B. & Nichols, A. (2017).** Heterogeneous perspectives in coalitions and community-based responses to sex trafficking and commercial sex. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 44 (1). DOI 10.1080/01488376.2017.1401028
- Gerassi, L.B., Edmond, T.E., Fabbre, V., +Howard, A., & Nichols, A.J. (2017).** Disclosing sex trading histories to providers: Barriers and facilitators to navigation of social services among women impacted by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. DOI 10.1177/0886260517746130
- Gerassi, L.B., Nichols, A., & ^Michelson, E. (2017).** Lessons Learned: Benefits and Challenges in Interagency Coalitions Addressing Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(4), 285-302. DOI: 10.1080/23322705.2016.1260345
- Gerassi, L.B., Jonson-Reid, M., Plax, K., & +Kaushik, G. (2016).** Trading sex for compensation: Findings from a STI clinic sample. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma*. DOI: 10.1080/10926771.2016.1223245
5. **Gerassi, L., Edmond, T., & Nichols, A. (2016).** Design strategies from sexual exploitation and sex work studies among women and girls: Methodological considerations in a hidden and vulnerable population. *Action research*, 15(2), 161-176. DOI 10.1177/1476750316630387
- Gerassi, L., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. (2015).** Sexually transmitted infections in a sample of at-risk youth: Roles of mental health and trauma histories. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 9 (3), 209-216. DOI: 10.1007/s40653-015-0074-8
- Gerassi, L. (2015).** A heated debate: Theoretical perspectives of sexual exploitation and sex work. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 42 (4), 79-100.
- Garwood, S., **Gerassi, L., Jonson-Reid, M., Plax, K., & Drake, B. (2015).** More than just poverty: Child abuse reports and teen pregnancy. *Journal of Adolescent Medicine*, 57 (2), 164-168. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2015.05.004>
1. **Gerassi, L. (2015).** From exploitation to industry: A review of domestic sex trafficking, exploitation and sex work among women and girls. *Journal of Human Behavior in Social Environment*, 25 (6), 591-605. DOI:10.1080/10911359.2014.991055

Under Review/In Revision:

Gerassi, L.B., *Cheng, S.Y., *Muentner, L. & *Benson, M. (in revision). Sex Trading among School-Involved High School Youth: Characteristics from a Representative Sample of a Metropolitan Area in the Midwest.

Gerassi, L.B., Lowe, S. & Walsh, K. (in revision) University Students who Report Trading Sex in Exchange for Money or Other Compensation: Findings from a Public University Sample.

Nichols, A.J. & Gerassi, L.B., *Gilbert, K. & *Taylor, E. (in revision) Provider Challenges in Responding to Retrafficking of Juvenile Justice-Involved Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Survivors.

Gerassi, L.B., *Cruys, S.C., ^Hendry, N. & ^Rosales, M.D.C. (under review). How Do Providers Assess Young People for Risk of Sex Trafficking? Observed Indicators, Follow-Up, and Assessment Questions from a Web-Based Survey

BOOK CHAPTERS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Gerassi, L. & *Howard, A. (2019). Risk of Sex Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation in LGBTQ+ Relationships: Case Examples & Implications. In E.C. Heil & A.J. Nichols (Eds.), *Broadening the Scope of Human Trafficking Research: A Reader*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Gerassi, L. & *Howard, A. (2018). How do we help? A clinical and empirical review of challenges to service provision for sexually exploited clients. In A.J. Nichols, T.E. Edmond, & E. Heil (Eds.), *Social Work Practice with Survivors of Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Gerassi, L. (2016). Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), a cognitive behavioral treatment, in trauma-care: Potential treatment for trafficked and exploited individuals. In A. Nichols (Au.). *Sex Trafficking in the United States: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

Current:

2021-2022: *How do Young People with Lived Experiences of Housing Instability and Sex Trading Become Young Professionals?*

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (\$42,316)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

2020-2022: *Preparing Practitioners to Identify and Address Sex Trafficking in Northeast Wisconsin*

Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment (\$105,000)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

Past:

2020-2021: *Youths' Perspectives on Sex Trafficking Assessment Strategies*

Morgridge Center for Public Service Community-Based Research Grant (\$5,000)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

2020-2021: *Partnering to Enhance Services for Survivors: An Evaluability Assessment and Formal Evaluation of Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program*

National Institute of Justice Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons (\$390,522)

PI: Rebecca Macy, Ph.D., L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families, UNC-Chapel Hill

Role: **Expert Advisory Group Member**

2019-2020: *Barriers to Identifying Potentially Sex Trafficked Patients: A Collective Case Study at Planned Parenthood in Wisconsin*

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (\$40,697)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

2018-2019: *Responding to Suspected and Confirmed Cases of Sex Trafficked Children & Youth*

Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment Seed Grant (\$4,000)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

2018-2019: *Barriers to Identifying Potentially Sex Trafficked Patients: An Exploratory Case Study at Planned Parenthood (PP) in Madison*

4W Innovation Award (\$2,500)

Role: **Principal Investigator**

2016-2017: *Barriers and facilitators to social services among women involved in commercial sexual exploitation*

Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation (\$7,250)

Dissertation Committee: Tonya Edmond, Ph.D. (Chair), Renee Cunningham-Williams, Ph.D., Melissa Jonson-Reid, Ph.D., Vanessa Fabbre, Ph.D., Andrea Nichols, Ph.D.

Role: **Principal Investigator** (Dissertation Study)

2015-2016: *Human Trafficking in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area: Obtaining Quantitative Data*

Washington University Public Health Cubed Seed Initiative (\$20,000)

Co-PIs: Rumi Price, Ph.D. and Tonya Edmond, Ph.D., Co-PIs

Role: **Key Personnel**

Pending:

Understanding the Intersecting Realities and Complex Healthcare Needs of Black, American Indian and Hispanic/Latinx cisgender Women who Trade Sex and are Involved in Substance Misuse in Midwestern Urban Metropolitan Environments

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

PIs: Lucy Mkandawire-Valhmu, Ph.D
Role: **Co-Investigator**

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Morgridge Community-Engaged Fellowship, Morgridge Center for Public Service
September 2018-May 2019

TranSTAR T32 Doctoral Fellowship, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Spring 2014-Fall 2016. PI: Dr. Cunningham-Williams, PI [DA015035]

Doctoral Student Affiliate, Center for Violence and Injury Prevention at
Washington University in St. Louis
Fall 2013-May 2016. PI: Dr. Jonson-Reid [CDC 1R49CE001510-01]

Brown School Doctoral Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis
Fall 2013 & Spring 2017

Whitney M. Young Fellowship for Commitment to Improving Race Relations,
Washington University in St. Louis
Fall 2009- Fall 2010

Undergraduate Scholarship, Silver School of Social Work at New York University
Fall 2005- Fall 2009

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

International:

Gerassi, L.B., *Cruys, S.C., ^Hendry, N. & ^Rosales, M.D.C.. (September 2021). Social Service Providers' Use of Assessment Questions and Perceived Sex Trafficking Indicators: Findings from a Survey of Social Service Providers. Oral presentation, *International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference*: delivered virtually due to COVID-19.

Gerassi, L.B. (September 2020). Sex Trading Prevalence and Associated Characteristics in a Representative Sample of High School Students. Oral presentation, *International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference*: delivered virtually due to COVID-19.

Gerassi, L.B. & *Pedersen. (September 2020). Addressing patients' sex trafficking risk in a high-risk healthcare setting: Findings from a collective case study in the Midwest. Oral presentation, *International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference*: delivered virtually due to COVID-19.

National:

***Pederson, A. & Gerassi, L.B.** (June 2021). Knowledge of and Practice with LGBTQ+ people at risk of sex trafficking: Perceptions (and Assumptions) from Social Service

Providers in a Midwest Region. Oral presentation, LGBTQ Research Symposium, Center for LGBTQ+ Research and Advocacy.

*Muentner, L., *Cheng, S.Y., & Gerassi, L.B. (January 2021). Sex Trafficking Risk in a Representative Sample of High School Students: Prevalence and Associated Characteristics of Youth who Trade Sex. Oral Presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. To be delivered virtually due to COVID-19.

Gerassi, L.B. & *Pedersen. (April 2020). Knowledge of and Practice with LGBTQ+ people at risk of sex trafficking: Perceptions (and Assumptions) from Social Service Providers in a Midwest Region. Oral presentation, 4W Conference: Resistance and Reimagination: Gender, Change, and the Arts Conference. Madison, WI. *Event cancelled due to COVID-19*.

Gerassi, L.B. & Skinkis, S (January 2020). Toward Inclusive Social Services for Trafficked Individuals: A Content Analysis. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, DC.

Gerassi, L.B. (January 2020). Examining Commonly Reported Sex Trafficking Indicators from Practitioners' Perspectives: A Pilot Study. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, DC.

Gerassi, L.B. (April 2018). Barriers and Facilitators to Social Services Among Women Involved in Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Poster presentation, *4W Summit on Women, Gender, and Wellbeing*. Madison, WI.

Gerassi, L. (January 2018). Barriers to Accessing Detox Facilities, Substance Use Treatment, and Residential Services among Women Impacted By Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking. Oral presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, D.C.

Gerassi, L. (January 2018). How Do I Fit? Understanding Barriers and Facilitators to Social Services Among Women Involved in Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, D.C.

Gerassi, L. & Nichols, A. (January 2017). Benefits, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from Coalitions Organizing Against Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

Gerassi, L. & Nichols, A. (November 2016). Lessons learned: Benefits and Challenges in Community-Based Responses to Sex Trafficking/Exploitation. Oral Presentation, *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Conference*. Atlanta, GA.

Gerassi, L. & Nichols, A. (January 2016). Coalition Heterogeneity in Community Based Responses to Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sex. *Grand Challenges of the*

American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Initiative. Invited poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, DC.

Gerassi, L. & Edmond, T. (January 2016). Practitioner Perceptions of Evidenced-Based Treatments and Barriers to Implementation in Rape Crisis Centers. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Washington, DC.

Gerassi, L. & Auslander, W. (January 2015). Systematic Review of Interventions for Women with Trauma and Substance Abuse: Potential Treatment for Sexually Trafficked Women. Poster presentation, *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. New Orleans, LA.

RESEARCH REPORTS & BOOK REVIEWS

Gerassi, L. (2015). [Review of the book *Negotiating Sex Work: Unintended Consequences of Policy and Activism* edited by Showden and Majic]. *American Society of Criminology Division of Women and Crime*. Retrieved from http://www.hts.gatech.edu/dwc/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=19&Itemid=70.

Proctor, E., McCrary, S., Hudson, D., Bobmeyer, S., Cooper, B., **Gerassi, L.**, Luke, D., Mueller, N., Murugan, V., Purnell, J. (2015). *Saint Louis Adult Behavioral Health Needs Assessment*. Prepared for the Saint Louis Mental Health Board.

Gerassi, L., Colegrove, A., & Elliot, K. (2014). *Definitions & Criteria for Human Trafficking among Local Organizations*. Prepared for Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation (CATE).

AWARDS, HONORS & KEYNOTES

Exceptional Mentorship Award (June 2021). Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Keynote Speaker (April 2020). Spring Symposium, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Event cancelled due to COVID-19*.

Nominee for Social Work Commencement Speaker (Spring 2018). University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Founder's Award Recipient for Commitment to Academics (May 2009). New York University.

Dean's List Award (Fall 2005-Spring 2009). New York University.

TEACHING

Sex Trafficking & Social Work. Elective course, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Spring 2020, Spring 2021

Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups. Graduate foundational course, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Race & Ethnicity- Diversity, Oppression and Social Justice in Social Work. Graduate foundational course, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Spring 2018

Human Trafficking. Elective course, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Fall 2017

Social Justice and Human Diversity. Graduate foundational course, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis.
Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Select Invited Guest Lectures:

Gerassi, L.B. (April 2020). “*Knowledge of and Practice with LGBTQ+ people at risk of sex trafficking: Considerations for Social Work Practice.*” Presentation given to Social Work with LGBTQ+ People, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Gerassi, L.B. (February, 2018). “*Introduction to Sex Trafficking: Considerations for Social Work Practice.*” Presentation given to Field Seminar Course, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Gerassi, L.B. (February 2018). “*Community-Based Responses to Sex Trafficking: Interagency Collaboration Barriers and Potential Solutions.*” Presentation given to Sex Trafficking Course, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis.

Gerassi, L.B. et al. (December 2013). “*Social Work Practice with Groups & Communities: Lessons Learned.*” Presentation given to Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis.

Gerassi, L.B. et al. (June 2011, June 2012) “*Social Work Practice with Immigrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.*” Presentation given to Intimate Partner Violence Course, University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Teaching Trainings, Consultations, and Mentorship

Mentor (Fall 2020). *Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups Teaching Mentorship.*

Presenter (March 2020). “*Integrating Diverse Perspectives into Coursework.*” Presentation given to teaching faculty and staff, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Co-Presenter (February 2020). “*Considerations for Organizing a Course.*” Presentation given to doctoral students, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Consultant (January 2018). Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Curriculum for Child Abuse and Family Violence course. Xavier University School of Social Work.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journal and Conference Proposal Reviews

Manuscript Reviewer. Justice Quarterly; Qualitative Health Research; Affilia; Violence and Victims; Journal of Family Violence; Journal of Developmental Studies; Journal of Rural Mental Health; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Journal of Human Trafficking; Journal of Action Research; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Feminist Criminology; Journal of Child Sexual Abuse; Journal of Aggression, Conflict & Peace Research.

Conference Proposal Reviewer. Council on Social Work Education Conference (Violence Against Women and their Children Track); Society for Social Work Research (Violence against Women and Children Track).

In the Media

Science Vs Podcast (consult) on sex trafficking in the U.S. (2020).

Medium.com on human trafficking in the Midwest. Featured in: Guarino, M. (2018, January 17). Human trafficking in the Midwest: A dark business in the heartland. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/@markguarino10/human-trafficking-in-the-midwest-54ed9fba7a3>

The Cap Times on sex trafficking in Dane County. Featured in: Becker, A. (2017, December 06). 'There are people for sale here': Madison authorities struggle to support victims of sex trafficking. Retrieved from http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime-and-courts/there-are-people-for-sale-here-madison-authorities-struggle-to/article_a7582aed-f9c2-5007-b2ff-e79ba6efc18c.htm

PBS Frontline, consult for on sexual abuse in substance use treatment programs (November-December 2017).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Student Advising & Mentorship

Professional Development Advisor (Current). IMPACT Program in Boston (designed for postdocs and advanced pre-doctoral trainees build skills and professional networks).

Committee Member, Benjamin Eithun (Current). Identification of Children at Risk of Torture. Ph.D. Student in Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Committee Member, Sakara Wages (Current). Black Women's in Academia Experiences of Oppression. Ph.D. Student in Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Committee Member, Anna Pederson (Current). Clinical Decision Making with Sex Workers. Candidate for Ph.D. in Counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Committee Member, Lauren Vollinger (Current). Impact of sex industry experiences on social service engagement. Candidate for Ph.D. in Community Psychology at Michigan State University.

Committee Member, Michelle Turner (Current). Certified Nurse Midwives Integration in Wisconsin Hospitals. Candidate for Ph.D. in Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Committee Member, Christina Lepianka (Current). Understanding the health care needs of women who are sex trafficked in the United States. Candidate for Ph.D. in Nursing at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Committee Member, Emma Carpenter (Past). Queering Pregnancy: Understanding the Role of Queer Identity in Pregnancy Desires and Decisions. Candidate for Ph.D. in Social Welfare at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Student Supervision/Advising in Research

Current:

- CaroCruys, Ph.D. Student in Social Welfare
- Sakara Wages, Ph.D. Student in Social Welfare
- Maria Rosales, Undergraduate Research Scholar
- Nicole Hendry, 4W STREETS Undergraduate Research Intern

Past:

- Anna Pederson, Ph.D Student in Counseling Psychology
- Logan Knight, Ph.D. Student
- Stephanie Skinkis, MSW Student
- Karyn Esbensen, BA Student

Service to the University of Wisconsin- Madison

Presenter (December 2019). "Opportunities for Sex Trafficking Research Collaboration." Presentation given to School of Human Ecology.

Guest Committee Member (October -November 2019). Societal Aspects of Sexual Violence Cluster Faculty Hire Search Committee.

Presenter (February 2018). "Sex Trafficking: Research & Practice." Presentation given to the 4W Board of Directors.

Co-Panelist (February 2018). “Pathway to Graduate School and Academia.” Panel provided to the 4W EmpowerHour.

Senator/Alternate Senator (September 2017- May 2019/ September 2018-Present). Faculty Senate – University of Wisconsin- Madison.

Presenter (August 2017). “Sex Trafficking and Use of Data.” Presentation given to eLUCID Conference.

Service to the School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Advisor (September 2020-Present). Social Work Student Union.

Member (September 2020-Present). Curriculum Committee.

Member (September 2018-May 2020). Racial Injustice Conference Committee.

Guest Panelist (February 2018). “Navigating the Academic Job Market.” Ph.D. Student Seminar.

Presenter (January 2018). “How do I address racial tensions and experiences of racism among participants in practice? Toward an anti-oppressive practice model.” Workshop given at the Racial Injustice Conference.

Member (September 2017-May 2019). Committee on Diversity.
Diversity Dialogue Planning Subcommittee (September 2017-18).
Integrating Diversity into Teaching Subcommittee (September 2018-19).

Invited Member (December 2017-January 2018). Diversity Retreat Planning Committee.

Invited Speaker (November 2017). “Pathway to Practice & Research on Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.” Alumni Breakfast.

Organizer (September 2017-present). Community-Building Series for Junior Faculty.

Service to Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

Guest Panelist (March 2017). “Navigating the Academic Job Market.” Presentation given to the Brown School of Social Work.

Ph.D. Program Ambassador & Panelist (February 2017). “Student Panel Q & A.” Presentation at Brown School of Social Work.

Facilitator (August 2016). “Diversity Dialogue for Self-Awareness.” Training at Brown School of Social Work.

Co-Facilitator (August 2013; August 2010). “Diversity Dialogue for Self-Awareness.” Training at Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

National Service

Presenter (December 2020). “Sex Trading & Sex Trafficking Risk among LGBTQ+ Young People: Understanding Risk within the Context of Identity-Based Oppression and Resilience.” Virtual presentation given to the University of Southern California Center for LGBT Health Equity in Los Angeles, CA.

Presenter (December 2020). “Addressing Racism and Judgments about Sex Trading in Practice Settings.” Virtual presentation given to the Greater New Orleans HT Task Force Training in New Orleans, LA.

Presenter (September 2020). “Addressing Race and Racism in Sex Trafficking Research.” Online presentation given to the Human Trafficking Research and Data Advisory Roundtable in San Diego, CA.

Consultant (April 2020). National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women. Consultation on providing expert testimony for sex trafficking victim defense proceedings.

Presenter (July 2020). “Community-Engaged Approaches in Women’s Sex Trafficking Research.” Online presentation given to the Research Committee of Health Education Advocacy Linkage (HEAL).

Presenter & Work Group Session Facilitator (July 2018). “Trafficking Identification: Strengths, Challenges, & Next Steps in Community-Based Research and Practice” Human Trafficking in the Context of Migration: Research to Practice International Forum (Social Transformations to End Exploitation and Trafficking for Sex).

Consultant (January 2018). Human Trafficking Training for Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) Department of Defense SafeHelpline.

Wisconsin State-Wide Service

Consultant (April 2020-Present). Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative.

Consultant (August 2018). Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Executive Budget and Finance.

Consultant (October 2017-Present). Ongoing consultant work on evidence-based and evidence-informed practices in anti-human trafficking practice. Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services.

Member (November 2017-Present). Dane County Coordinated Community Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Select Wisconsin Community Presentations

Gerassi, L.B. (May 2021). *How to Providers Identify Sex Trafficking Indicators and Assess for Trafficking? Survey Findings*. Presentation given staff of Department of Health and Human Services in Outagamie County.

Gerassi, L.B. (May 2021). *Sex Trafficking Risk Assessments: Basics, Red Flags & Assessment Strategies*. Presentation given staff of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

Gerassi, L.B. (December 2020). "Addressing Racism and Judgments about Sex Trading in Practice Settings." Virtual presentation given to social service providers in Madison, WI.

Gerassi, L.B. (March 2020). "*Understanding Challenges in Addressing Children and Youth at Risk of Sex Trafficking*." Presentation given to Department of Human Services in Appleton, WI.

Gerassi, L.B. (July 2018). "*Addressing Sex Trafficking in Social Work Practice for Child Protective Services & Youth Justice Social Workers*." Presentation given to Outagamie County Youth and Family Services.

Gerassi, L.B. (May 2018). *Sex Trafficking: Indicators, Questions, & Next Steps*. Presentation given to Ho Chunk Nation Behavioral Health.

Sabe Phyu, M., Loerzel, E., Araceli, A., & **Gerassi, L.B.** (April 2018). *Indigenous Women Confronting Exploitation Locally and Globally*. Moderated plenary panel discussion (open to the public) at *4W Summit on Women, Gender, and Wellbeing*, Madison, WI.

Gerassi, L.B. (January 2018). "Addressing Sex Trafficking in Social Work Practice." All-day training given to Community Care Resources, Middleton, WI.

Missouri State-Wide Service

Executive Committee Member (June 2014-May 2017). Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation (CATE), St. Louis, MO.

Executive Committee Member (July 2011-June 2014). Rescue & Restore Anti-Trafficking Coalition, St. Louis, MO.

Founder and Chairperson (Aug. 2011-June 2013). Human Trafficking Committee of the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network (SLEVAWN), St. Louis, MO.

Co-chairperson (Feb. 2010-June 2013). Women Speaking Other Languages than English (WomenSOLE) Task Force of St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network (SLEVAWN), St. Louis, MO.

Missouri Community Presentations

- Gerassi, L.B.** (May 2017). "How do I fit? Sexually exploited women's navigation of addiction treatment and related services." St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network, St. Louis, MO.
- Gerassi, L. & Nichols, A.** (February 2016). "Heterogeneous Perspectives in Coalitions and Community Based Responses to Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sex." Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation (CATE), St. Louis, MO.
- Nichols, A, Gerassi, L., Howard, A., & Colegrove, A.** (April 2015). "Sex Trafficking and Exploitation: Policies, Perspectives, and Future Directions." Brown School Policy Forum, Washington University in St. Louis. MO.
- Gerassi, L., Elliot, K., & Colegrove, A.** (November 2014). "Definitions & Criteria for Human Trafficking among our Organizations." Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation (CATE), St. Louis, MO.
- Gerassi, L.** (April 2012). "Advanced Economic Advocacy: Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence." Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV), Jefferson City, MO.
- Gerassi, L. & Fallon, L.** (Nov. 2011). "Recognizing Human Trafficking at Our Organizations: Intersection Between Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence." Presentation at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM), St. Louis, MO.
- Gerassi, L.** (April & May 2011). "Furthering Diversity Work: Improving Intimate Partner Violence Services for Immigrants and Refugees." Presentation at Kathy J. Weinman Shelter and Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments (ALIVE), St. Louis, MO.
- Cortes, N., Gerassi, L., Kim, J.E., Mahajan, G., & Ravi, K.** (December 2010) "The Search for Safety: Women Seeking Asylum on the Grounds of Gender-Based Violence in the United States." Presentation at Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.
- Gerassi, L.** (April & May 2010). "Cultural Competency: An Introduction to Working with Immigrants and Refugees" Presentation at Women's Safe House, Lydia's House, Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW), St. Martha's Hall, St. Louis, MO.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), State of Missouri (2013- Present).
Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW), State of Missouri (2011- 2013).

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

January 2011-
June 2013 *Program Facilitator*
 Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW), St. Louis, MO

January 2010-
August 2010 *Multilingual Access Project (MAP) Evaluator*
 Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW), St. Louis, MO

January 2008-
May 2009 *Case Manager*
 African Services Committee (ASC), Harlem, NY

June 2008-
August 2008 *School Foods Project Tri-lingual Outreach Worker*
 New York State Department of Education, New York, NY

September 2007-
December 2007 *Advocate*
 Courtroom Advocates Project, Brooklyn, NY

LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS

Native English
Fluent French
Proficient Spanish
Basic Italian

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars (2020-Present)
Council on Social Work Education (2015-Present)
Society for Social Work and Research (2013-Present)
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (2010-2017)
Saint Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network (2010-2017)
American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime (2015-2016)