

Leah P. Cheatham, PhD, JD, MSW

The University of Alabama • School of Social Work
3007 Little Hall • Box 870314 • Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487
(205) 348-4655 • lpcheatham@ua.edu

EDUCATION

- 2010-2016 **Doctor of Philosophy, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL
Dissertation Title: “Aging Out” of Foster Care with Disabilities:
Predictors of Educational Attainment and Employment.
Dissertation Chair: Karen Randolph, PhD
- 2005-2008 **Juris Doctor, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**
Yeshiva University, New York, NY
Concentration on Human Rights & Constitutional Law
- 2003-2005 **Master of Social Work, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL
Concentration on Social Policy & Administration
- 2001-2003 **Bachelor of Science, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL
Major: Psychology (*Minor:* Sociology)

CERTIFICATES

- Fall 2012 **Certificate in Measurement and Statistics**
College of Education, Florida State University
- Summer 2012 **Certificate in Teaching from the Program for Instructional Excellence**
The Graduate School, Florida State University

FUNDING

- 2017-2019 **University of Alabama Research Grants Committee** (\$6,000)
Evaluation of Alabama REACH: A Campus-based Support Program for Foster Youth
- 2014-2016 **Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being** (\$56,666)
Doris Duke Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- 2014-2016 **Mark and Lulu Hamilton DeGraff Scholarship** (\$2,000)
College of Social Work, Florida State University (dissertation funding)
- 2015 **Joyce Harper Laidlaw Scholarship** (\$1,000)
College of Social Work, Florida State University (dissertation funding)
- 2011 **Walter W. Hudson Doctoral Scholarship** (\$2,000)
College of Social Work, Florida State University
(Funding for continued doctoral research in the area of measurement)

AWARDS & HONORS

2016	Journal of Social Work Education – Best Quantitative Article: <i>Honorable Mention</i>
2016	CSWE – CDPD Disability Manuscript Award: <i>Honorable Mention</i>
2016-Present	Phi Kappa Phi
2015	Nominee for The Florida State University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
2014-Present	Member of the Fellow’s Society, Florida State University
2014	Doctoral Student of the Year, College of Social Work, Florida State University
2005-2008	Cardozo Grant Recipient
2003-Present	Phi Beta Kappa
2001	Florida Bright Futures Scholar (Merit-based Full Academic Scholarship)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017-2019	Evaluation of Alabama REACH , University of Alabama <i>Principal Investigator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixed-methods evaluation of a campus-based support program for foster youth
2015	Able Trust Program Evaluation , Florida State University <i>Co-Principal Investigator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed survey instrument and conducted phone interviews with recent graduates of an employment-preparedness program for people with disabilities
2012-2014	Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program Evaluation , Florida State University <i>Project Researcher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted interviews with key stakeholders in a program for former foster youth• Analyzed qualitative data through Qualtrics software and structured writings
2012-2013	Volunteer FL Evaluation , Florida State University <i>Project Manager</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed a team conducting bi-annual data collection and reporting• Organized focus groups with key stakeholders to update evaluation methods
2010-2013	College of Social Work , Florida State University <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted Dr. Melissa Radey with research, data analysis, and writing
2003	FCAT Study, Florida Center for Reading & Research , Tallahassee, FL <i>Program Researcher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted in-school interviews with Tallahassee-area middle-school students
2002-2003	Lonigan Literacy Project , Florida State University <i>Program Researcher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted interviews with pre-school students to support head-start research

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring/Fall 2018 **Adv. Social Welfare Policy – SW 501-923**, University of Alabama
- Spring 2017-2018 **Research Practicum - SW 628**, University of Alabama
- Fall 2017-2018 **Research Methods I - SW 620**, University of Alabama
- Fall 2016-2017 **Social Welfare Policy - SW 500**, University of Alabama
- Spring 2014 **Intro to Social Work - SOW 3201**, Florida State University
- Fall 2013 **Social Policies & Programs - SOW4232**, Florida State University
- Summer 2013 **Measurements - SOW4414**, Florida State University
- Spring 2013-2015 **Practice Evaluation - SOW5432**, Florida State University
Online Mentor — Professor: Dr. Neil Abell
Nominated for FSU's *Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016-Present **School of Social Work – University of Alabama**, Tuscaloosa, AL
Assistant Professor
- 2013-2014 **Dept. of Children & Families Pre-service Training**, University of South Florida
Lead Instructional Designer, Children's Legal Services
- 2007-2013 **System Solutions for Children**, Pensacola, FL
Child Welfare Program/Data Analyst
- 2009-2010 **Center for Entitlement Reform**, Emory University
Project Coordinator
- 2007 **Fifteenth Judicial Circuit**, Palm Beach County, FL
Judicial Intern, Family Law
- 2005 **Office of Community Services/Homeless Outreach**, Miami Beach, FL
Intern/Hired Case Manager
- 2004 **Terrence Higgins Trust – Lighthouse West**, London, UK
Intern (Intake, Assessment, & Administration)
- 2002 **Buddy Dyer for Florida Attorney General**, Orlando, FL
Intern/Hired Campaign Field Manager

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

Shah, A., Jeffries, S., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Creel, M., Nelson-Gardell, D., ... Hasenbein, W. C. (In press). *Partnering with parents: Reviewing the evidence for MI in child welfare.*

Babic, M. M., Tkalec, S., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018). Right to education for children with disabilities from the earliest age. *Croatian Journal of Education, 20*, 233–263.

Schelbe, L., Randolph, K. A., Yelick, A., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Groton, D. B. (2018). Systems theory as a framework for examining a college campus-based support program for the former foster youth. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work, 15*(3), 277–295.

Randolph, K. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Keller-Weiss, U., & Williams, J. M. (2018). Exposure to parent and peer alcohol use and the risk of drinking onset and escalation among adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 35*(2), 97–106.

Kim, H., Abell, N., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Paek, I. (2017). Development and initial validation of the Attitudes toward Education for Older Adults (AEOA) Scale. *Educational Gerontology, 43*, 341–355.

Cheatham, L. P., Abell, N., & Kim, H. (2015). Development and validation of the social worker's attitudes toward disabilities scale. *Journal of Social Work Education, 51*, 379–397.

McPherson, J., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2015). Evaluating human rights impact in social work education: The Million Bones example. *Journal of Social Work Education, 51*, 47–57.

Radey, M., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2013). Do single mothers take their fair share? FAFSA completion among aid-eligible female students. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education, 6*, 261–275.

Cheatham, L. P. (2012). Effects of Internet use on well-being among adults with physical disabilities: A review. *Disability & Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology, 7*, 181–188.

Manuscripts Under Review / in Progress

Laklija, M., Babic, M. M., & **Cheatham, L. P.** *Institutionalization of Children with Disabilities in Croatia: Social Workers' Perspectives.* Manuscript under review.

Cheatham, L. P., & Randolph, K. *Education and Employment Transitions among Young Adults with Disabilities: Comparisons by Disability Status, Type and Severity.* Manuscript under review.

Cheatham, L. P., Randolph, K. A., Boltz, L. *Youth aging out of foster care: A portrait of youth with disabilities.* Manuscript in preparation.

PUBLICATIONS (continued...)

Technical Reports

Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Williams, J. M. (2015, July). *Evaluation of employment and other outcomes among Floridians with disabilities*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University.

Randolph, K., Ross-Donaldson, S., Schelbe, L., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Groton, D., Millsap, K., & Yelick, A. (2015, January). *Stakeholder interview report: Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University.

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Presentations

Cheatham, L. P., Randolph, K. A. (2018, January). *Aging Out of Foster Care with Disabilities: Predictors of Educational Attainment and Employment*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.

Meadows, J., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, January). *Military Families with Members with Special Health Needs*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.

Li, Q., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, January). *Association Between Health Risk Factors and Weapon Carrying Behaviors Among School-Aged Children*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.

Meadows, J., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Bugella, N. (2017, November). *Development of a Social Work Disability Curriculum: A Community-driven Approach*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.

Cheatham, L. P. (2017, October). *Promoting Well-being Among Youth Aging Out of Foster Care with Disabilities: Using Data to Inform Practice*. Presentation at the 16th Annual Fall Social Work Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Ruggiano, N., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Simon, C. E. (2017, April). *Finding our voice: Empowering Effective Social Justice Advocacy in Social Work*. Presentation at the National Association for Social Work – Alabama Chapter Annual Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Cheatham, L. P., Randolph, K. A. (2017, January). *Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: A Portrait of Youth with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.

Cheatham, L. P., & Yelick, A. (2016, November). *Attitudes toward Disability in Social Work: Implications for Education and Practice*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Presentations (continued...)

Busso, D., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Gjertson, L., Marsh, E., & Matone, M. (2016, June). *Concurrence of Disability and Childbirth among Women with a Childhood History of Maltreatment or Foster Care*. Poster presented at the 24th annual colloquium on the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, New Orleans, LA.

Yelick, A., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Randolph, K. A. (2014, October). *Program Evaluation of a Community College Support Program for Former Foster Youths*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.

Groton, D., Yelick, A., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2014, October). *Strategy for Incorporating Qualitative Data Analysis Software into Research Studies*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.

Cheatham, L. P., Randolph, K. (2014, January). *The Impact of Disability on Young Adults' Transition to Adulthood*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.

Cheatham, L. P., Radey, M. (2014, January). *Computer and Internet Technologies: Effects on Well-Being for Young Adults With Physical Disabilities*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.

Radey, M., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2014, January). *Do Single Mothers Claim Their Share? FAFSA Completion Among Aid-Eligible Female Students*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.

Kim, H., Abell, N., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2013, June). *Development and Initial Validation of the Attitudes toward Education for Older Adults (AEOA) Scale*. Paper presented at the 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Seoul, Korea.

Cheatham, L. P., Abell, N., & Kim, H. (2013, January). *Development and Initial Validation of the Attitudes Toward Disabilities in Social Work (ADSW) Scale*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.

Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Williams, J., & Weiss, U. (2013, January). *Exposure to Parent and Peer Alcohol Use and the Risk of Drinking Onset and Escalation Among Adolescents*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.

McPherson, J., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Oswald, K. (2013, January). *Evaluating Human Rights Impact in Social Work Education: The Million Bones Example*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.

Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Weiss, U. (2012, November). *The Relative Risk of Parent and Peer Alcohol Use on Underage Drinking*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington, D.C.

Invited Presentations

Cheatham, L. P. (2017, March). *Youth Aging Out with Disabilities: National Prevalence Estimates and Preliminary Outcome Data*. Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Cheatham, L. P. (2016, April). *Youth Aging Out with Disabilities: Identifying State-level Characteristics Relevant to Successful Transitions*. Research presented at the Doris Duke Fellowship Mid-year Meeting, Duke University, Durham, NC.

Cheatham, L. P. (2015, March). *Youth Aging Out with Disabilities: Identifying State-level Characteristics Relevant to Successful Transitions*. Research presented at the Doris Duke Fellowship Mid-year Meeting, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

Cheatham, L. P., & Randolph, K. (2012, March). *The Impact of Disability on Young Adults' Transitions to Adulthood*. Poster presented at the Florida State University College of Social Work Research Showcase, Tallahassee, FL.

SERVICE

University of Alabama

2018-2019 Faculty Senator
2018-2019 Academic Affairs Committee Member

University of Alabama – School of Social Work

2017-2019 PhD Committee Member
2016-2019 MSW Committee Member and Delegate/Alternate to the Executive Committee
2017-2019 Diversity Committee Member
2017-2018 Faculty and Staff Enrichment Committee Member
2016-2018 President 4 Pillars, Pillar 3 Committee Member
2016-2017 Dean’s Advisory Committee Member

Doris Duke Foundation & Chapin Hall (University of Chicago)

2016-2018 Member of Research Agenda/Sustainability Workgroup
2016-2018 Fellow Mentor, Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Wellbeing

Florida State University – College of Social Work

2012-2013 Grievance Officer, Graduate Assistants United
2012-2013 President, Doctoral Student Organization
2010-2012 Secretary, Doctoral Student Organization

Academic Peer Review Service

2017 Children & Youth Services Review
Sage Open
2018 Disability & Rehabilitation

Community Service

2008 Guardian ad Litem, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County, FL