

Kristen T. MacKenzie, M.S.W.

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **May 2021 (expected) University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**
Dissertation Chair: Shaun M. Eack, Ph.D.
Committee: Catherine Greeno, Ph.D.
 Christina E. Newhill, Ph.D.
 Carla A. Mazefsky, Ph.D.
Dissertation Title: *“National Characteristics of Obtaining a First Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Sociodemographic Correlates and Relationship to Quality of Pediatric Care”*
- M.S.W. **August 2017, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**
Concentration: Direct Practice in Mental Health
- B.S. **May 2011, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO**
Major: Psychology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Across the Lifespan
ASD Diagnosis and Access to Treatment
Caregiving and Burden
Family Support
Mental Health Policy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Present ***Clinical Interventionist***
Principle Investigator: Carla A. Mazefsky, Ph.D.
Center for Excellence in Autism Research, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- Administer Emotion Awareness and Skills Enhancement (EASE) intervention as part of an acceptability and feasibility pilot project to adapt the EASE intervention for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and co-occurring Intellectual Disability (ASD-ID). Collect treatment and fidelity data and contribute to development of intervention manual.

2014-2015

Clinical Research Coordinator

Principle Investigator: Carla. A. Mazefsky, Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, John Merck Inpatient Program, Pittsburgh, PA

Led the implementation of a complex research protocol and structured it to fit within the confines of a hospital inpatient unit. Coordinated with all unit staff: physicians, social workers, psychologists, registered nurses, and milieu therapists, to identify eligible participants and administer measures and clinical assessments. Administered Leiter-3 to all participants and oversaw all ADOS administrations. Assisted in collection of blood samples from participants and nuclear family members, accompanying the individuals during all draws, and overseeing safe shipment of each sample. Reported enrollment and data progress reports to research team weekly and monitored entry of all study data

2010 – 2011

Research Assistant

Principle Investigator: Matthew Rhodes, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology, Fort Collins, CO

Guided participants through consent, cognitive research experiments, and debriefing. Entered experimental data and demographic information and ran basic statistical analyses. Recruited participants with call lists to recruit participants. Participated in weekly supervision.

PUBLICATIONS

MacKenzie, K. T., Mazefsky, C. A., Minshew, N. J., & Eack, S. M. (2019). Family perspectives on social-cognitive impairment in verbal individuals with autism spectrum disorder. *Families in Society*. 100(4), 442-452. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389419852865>

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

MacKenzie, K.T. & Eack, S.M. (2020). Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Parents of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (JADD)*

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

MacKenzie, K.T. & Eack, S.M., Cognitive, Behavioral, and Social Contributors of Quality of Life for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

MacKenzie, K.T. & Eack, S.M., The Process of Obtaining a First Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Findings from a National Study.

MacKenzie, K.T. & Eack, S.M., National Characteristics of Obtaining a First Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Sociodemographic Correlates and Relationship to Quality of Pediatric Care.

Huerta, C, Petracchi, H, & **MacKenzie, K.T.**, Preparing Social Work Doctoral Students for Teaching: Current State of the Art.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

MacKenzie, K.T. & Eack, S.M (2019) *Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Parents of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Meta-Analysis*. Poster presented at Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) in San Francisco, CA and International Association for Autism Research (INSAR) in Montreal, Quebec.

Huerta, C, Petracchi, H, & **MacKenzie, K.** (2019) *Preparing Social Work Doctoral Students for Teaching: Current State of the Art*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Denver, CO.

Huerta, C, Petracchi, H, & **MacKenzie, K.** (2018) *Assistant Professors Pedagogical Training: The Next Generations Preparation to Serve the Profession*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Orlando, FL.

MacKenzie, K.T., Mazefsky, C.A., Minshew, N.J., & Eack, S.M. (2017). *Family Perspectives on Social-Cognitive Impairment in Verbal Individuals with Autism*. Poster presented at Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington DC.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Human Behavior in the Social Environment
Research Methods
Policy Analysis
Mental Health Policy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019 ***Teaching Fellow***
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Course: *Introduction to Social Work Research*

Served as primary instructor for 3-hour lecture on research methods in social work for 23 diverse third- and fourth-year undergraduate students. Prepared weekly lectures that were active and engaging and developed assignments and assessments that mapped onto course objectives. Offered weekly office hours for one-on-one student support and instruction.

Spring 2019 **Teaching Assistant**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Course: *Policy Analysis*

Provided support to 24 diverse undergraduate students. Gave 4 guest lectures across 6 weeks of class. Maintained attendance records, completed the majority of assignment grading, and served as primary contact for student questions.

Fall 2018 **Teaching Assistant**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Course: *Social Work with Groups*

Provided support to 19 diverse undergraduate students. Gave 1 guest lecture and contributed to general pedagogical enhancement of course assignments. Responsible for grading all weekly reaction papers and providing personal feedback on student writing.

Fall 2017 **Guest Lecturer**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Course: *Human Behavior in the Social Environment*

Developed and delivered a lecture to BASW students about the impact of socioeconomic status on human behavior. Students were able to identify poverty prevalence and racial, ethnic, gender, and age disparities and critically analyze existing poverty measures and their inclusiveness. Students also described the micro, mezzo, and macro impacts of poverty and low SES on individuals at various stages of the life course.

Spring 2011 **Undergraduate Instructor**
Colorado State University, Department of Psychology
Course: *Controversial Issues in Psychology*

Served as primary instructor for a discussion class on controversial topics in psychology for 8 first-year psychology majors. Responsible for facilitating discussions, writing lesson plans, teaching APA writing style, grading papers, and holding weekly office hours.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2020-Present **Clinical Interventionist**
Center for Excellence in Autism Research, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Work on pilot research project to adapt the existing EASE (Emotion Awareness and Skills Enhancement) intervention for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability. Teach clients mindfulness exercises in an effort to improve emotional awareness and emotion regulation. Facilitate weekly intervention sessions with clients, in-person or virtually, using a multimodal teaching approach, providing individualized therapy with added parent involvement and community practice sessions.

- 2018-2019 ***Social Work Multidisciplinary Team Member***
Children's Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- Contributed to a multidisciplinary team within the LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Related Disorders) clinic supporting diverse families of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Collaborated with families to identify primary concerns and establish family goals. Provided relevant service recommendations and resource connections to support families as they worked toward their goals.
- 2017 ***Intern Autism Specialist***
Wesley Spectrum Services, Cranberry, PA
- Co-facilitated intakes for Wesley Spectrum's diagnostic evaluation and service planning program. Contributed to interdisciplinary diagnostic team to determine appropriate mental health diagnoses and service prescriptions. Developed quick-reference support materials for parents whose children participated in the diagnostic evaluation process. Co-facilitated social skills groups for children with ASD aged 3-6. Implemented individualized behavior programming for children in groups and provided parents with psychoeducation to support implementation of behavior programming at home
- 2015-2016 ***Intern Family Liaison***
Pressley Ridge School for Autism, Pittsburgh, PA
- Coordinated communication of progress, concerns, and other pertinent info between families and school staff. Co-facilitated home visits, family meetings, and parent observations at the school. Supported families on tours of vocational facilities for individuals special needs transitioning from high school. Participated in all IEP, intake, and classroom staff meetings. Developed a transition service resource for the agency's family liaisons with information on transition and vocational programs in the counties served by the school.
- 2012-2014 ***High School Program Manager***
Alexander Leigh Center for Autism, Crystal Lake, IL
- Collaborated to create ABA-based behavior intervention plans for students in a high school day treatment program. Analyzed and monitored student behavior and facilitated behavioral interventions as necessary. Co-developed the school's first high school program and transitional curriculum focusing on independence, vocational skills, and community integration. Implemented new community integration program, facilitating community outings with individualized programming and support for students.

2011-2012 ***ABA Skills Coach***
Alexander Leigh Center for Autism, Crystal Lake, IL

Led students through the school day, providing intensive ABA therapy with a focus on communication, sensory regulation, life skills, socialization, and academics. Implemented student-specific behavior intervention plans and ran IEP programs. Led groups and peer play activities to teach social awareness.

2011 ***Intern Counselor***
Turning Point Residential Treatment, Fort Collins, CO

Assisted staff in treatment of male adolescents at high risk for delinquent behavior. Provided all aspects of client care including supervision, behavior management, and one-on-one care to specific clients. Treatment was implemented according to Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) guidelines. Wrote client incident reports, daily behavior reports, and weekly drug and alcohol reports.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018-2019 **Fellow**
LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Related Disorders), Children's Hospital, University of Pittsburgh

2017 **Achievement in Pedagogy**
University of Pittsburgh Teaching Center

2016 **Merit Scholarship Award**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020 **Founding Member, Anti-Racist Doctoral Program Student Committee**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA

2018-2019 **Vice President, Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)**
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA

2016-2019 **Founding Member, Coalition for Engaged Social Work**
Pittsburgh, PA

METHODS AND STATISTICAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

Qualitative

Course: *Advanced Applied Qualitative Analysis*
Learning Sciences and Policy Program, University of Pittsburgh

Software: *nVivo*

Quantitative

Course: *Applied Regression*
Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

Course: *Applied Research Design*
Department of Psychology in Education, University of Pittsburgh

Course: *Multivariate Analysis*
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Course: *Inferential Statistics*
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Software: *R, Excel*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (JADD)
Families in Society

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)