

**Ceema Samimi, MSSW, MPA, Ph.D.**

Peter's Hall, room 185  
1404 Gortner Ave  
Falcon Heights, MN, 55108  
612-301-0039  
csamimi@umn.edu

---

## APPOINTMENTS

2020-Present      **Assistant Professor**, College of Education and Human Development,  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

---

## EDUCATION

2020      **Doctor of Philosophy**  
University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO  
Dissertation: Getting it Right: A Mixed-Methods Examination of  
Mitigating Racial Disparities in School Discipline

2015      **MPA, Public Policy & Administration**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY

2010      **MSSW, Policy Practice Concentration**  
Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY

2007      **BA, Political Science; minor in Ethnic Studies**  
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

2004      **AA, Liberal Arts**  
Community College of Denver, Denver, CO

---

## TEACHING INTERESTS

My teaching interests include using narrative and counter-storytelling to explore issues of race and oppression, examining the role of social work in disempowering and oppressing communities, interrogating power, and collaborating with communities to envision a socially just future.

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in employing critical and community-engaged methodologies to examine how youth are impacted by exclusion from systems. My research is heavily informed by anti-colonial and critical race frameworks; I am specifically concerned with how the policies and structures of youth-serving organizations include or exclude youth from decision making.

---

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

2021      Safe at school? Minnesotans' opinions of school police (SRO'S),  
University of Minnesota  
Principal Investigator

- 2021 Digital panopticon and youth regulation  
University of Minnesota  
Community Partner: Twin Cities Innovation Alliance
- 2020-present Pushed out at home: The impact of COVID-19 and systemic racism on distance learning, University of Minnesota  
Principal Investigator  
Funder: University of Minnesota

### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

---

- 2021 Grant-In-Aid, University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
Project: *Pushed Out at Home: The impact of COVID-19 and systemic racism on distance learning*  
\$37,633 awarded.
- 2019-2020 University of Denver Doctoral Dissertation Grant  
Office of Graduate Education  
\$5,000. Awarded.
- 2018-2019 University of Denver Office of Graduate Education, University of Denver  
Graduate Education Dissertation Fellowship,  
\$2,500. Awarded.
- 2018-2019 University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work  
University of Denver Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award  
\$750.00. Awarded.

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

**Samimi, C.**, DeHererra, C. (2020). Picando piedras: picking at the rocks of social justice under the nonprofit industrial complex. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*

Young, D. A., Garcia-Olp, M. C., & **Samimi, C.** (2020). Dismantling Gringismo in Education. *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis*, 9(1).

**Samimi, C.** & Sliva, S. M. (2019). It's Symbiotic: Exploring the facilitators and outcomes of a successful community-university research partnership. *Journal of Social Service Research*.

Sliva, S. M., & **Samimi, C.** (2018). Social Work and Prison Labor: A Restorative Model. *Social Work*. 63(2), 153-160

**Samimi, J.** (2010). Funding America's nonprofits: the nonprofit industrial complex's hold on social justice. *Columbia Social Work Review*. 10(1), 17-25

### **Under Review**

Garcia-Olp, M & **Samimi, C.** Decolonizing Mathematics Curriculum and Practice: Indigenous Knowledge has Always Been Mathematics Education. *Educational Studies*.

**Samimi, C.,** Jefferson, N., Flanagan, S., Anyon, Y. Intersections of disparity: A critical quantitative examination of dis/ability and gender in Black students' school discipline outcomes. *Educational Researcher*.

**Samimi, C.,** Han, T., Navvab, A., Sedivy, J., Anyon, Y. Restorative practices and exclusionary school discipline: An integrative review. *Contemporary Justice Review*

Wiley, K., Anyon, Y., **Samimi, C.,** Trujillo, M. Sent out or sent home: A Critical Race Theory perspective on racial disparities in school discipline across suspension types. *Race and Ethnicity in Education*.

### **In Preparation**

**Samimi, C.,** Flanagan, S., Jefferson, N., Chandrasekharan, N., Trujillo, M. Teachers have the greatest impact: Structural determinism and teacher decision making in school discipline. Target journal: *Urban Education*.

### **COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PUBLICATIONS**

---

Sliva, S., Han, T., **Samimi, C.,** Gollieb, K., & McCurdy, J. (2019). State of the State: Restorative Justice in Colorado. Community assessment for the Colorado Restorative Justice Council.

**Samimi, C.** (2018, March 6). Safety, Guns, and Social Work: Stop Militarizing Schools and Start Supporting Students. Smart Justice. <https://medium.com/smart-justice/safety-guns-and-social-work-stop-militarizing-schools-and-start-supporting-students-b64c4dc0a79e>

Columbia University School of Social Work Class "Advanced Community Organizing: Developing Popular Education Training on Research for Organizing". (2011). Research for Organizing Toolkit. <https://www.researchfororganizing.org/>

**Samimi, J.** (2005). Supporting Academic Freedom. Free Voices. Volume 2, (4)

**Samimi, J.,** & Karmol, S., (2002). Being Young Is Not a Crime. The Torch.

### **PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS**

---

Joseph, A., Bookster, B., **Samimi, C.**, Toidc, J., & Fernandez, C. (2021, January). *Restoring What? Critical Social Work at the Nexus of Discipline and Justice in Schools*. Society for Social Work Research. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.**, Han, T., Sliva, S. (2021, January) *Victims Aren't Alone: The Intersections of Community, Research, and Policy in Victim Offender Dialogue*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual.

Anyon, Y., Trujillo, M., **Samimi, C.** *Disparities by Race and Disability across Discipline Outcomes: Multilevel Correlates of In- and Out-of-School Suspension*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual.

Joseph, A., **Samimi, C.**, Stuart McQueen, S. (2020, November). *Restorative Schools, Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline* Panel presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Professional Meeting. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2020, January). *Predicting Punishment: Using Propensity Score Matching to Predict Who Receives Restorative Practices*. Paper presented as part of symposia *School Discipline Disparities and Just Discipline Futures: Examining and Disrupting Systematic Exclusion* at the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C.

Alamillo, X, Trujillo, M, Colon, L, **Samimi, C.** (2020, January). *Latinx Adult Perspectives on How Ethnic Identity Is Constructed from Birth to Adolescence in the United States: A Phenomenological Study*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C.

**Samimi, C.** & Sliva, S. (2019, October). *Using Circles in Social Work Pedagogy*. Workshop presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Professional Meeting. Denver, CO.

Sliva, S.M., Golieb, K., **Samimi, C.**, Han, T., & Armour, M. (2019, June). *Implementation Matters: Minding the Gap Between the Idea and Enactment of Restorative Justice*. Panel presentation at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference, Denver, CO.

**Samimi, C.** & Deherrera, C. (2019, May). *Self-Care Will Not Be Funded: Working for Social Justice Within the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Poster presented at the University of Denver Research Showcase. Denver, CO

**Samimi, C.** & Deherrera, C. (2019, April). *Social Justice or Conscious Laundering: How Activists Navigate the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Paper presentation at the 6th Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference at Millersville University. Lancaster, PA

**Samimi, C.** (2019, January). *Implementing Restorative Practices in Colorado Schools*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.

**Samimi, C.,** Navvab, A., Han, T., Sedivy, J. & Anyon, Y. (2019, January). *Restorative Practices and Exclusionary School Discipline: A Systematic Review*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.

**Samimi, C.** (2018, November) *It's all about relationships! Exploring outcomes in university-community partnerships*. Paper presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Professional Meeting. Orlando, FL

**Samimi, C. & Sharp, R.** (2018, October). *Restorative circle practice for transforming conflict*. Workshop presented at the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation Conference. Denver, CO

**Samimi, C. & Thomas, A.** (2018, January) *Strategies of Survival for Critically Conscious Graduate Students*. Workshop presented at the University of Denver Diversity Summit, Denver, CO.

**Samimi, C. & Garcia-Olp., M.** (2017, April). *Remodeling the Master's House: Education, Colonization, and Identity*. Presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO

**Samimi, C.** (2017, April). *Moving Mountains: Resistance Among Social Justice Activists Working Under the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. Presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, CO

Sliva, S.M. & **Samimi, C.** (2017, June). *Building academic and community partnerships to improve evidence for restorative justice*. Panel presentation at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference, Oakland, CA.

**Samimi, C.** (2016, October). *From Colonial Institutions to Shifting Paradigms: Can Restorative Justice Transform the School to Prison Pipeline?* Roundtable discussion presented at Occupying the Academy: Being, thinking, and doing decolonization Symposium, Denver, CO.

**Samimi, J. & Dano, S.** (2004). *Putting Youth for HOPE Programs to Work*. Workshop presented at AIDS Alliance VOICES Conference. Washington, D.C.

**Samimi, J. & Garcia, J.** (2004). *The Next Step; Creating an HIV Prevention Network with Youth*. Workshop presented at Let's Talk...About HIV Conference. Toronto, CA.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Samimi, C.** (2021, October) *Decolonizing the Social Work Curriculum*. Invited speaker at the school of social work field institute. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2021, October). *Love and Relationality: A conversation on public-engaged scholarships*. Invited speaker at the School of Social Work Research Colloquium. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2021, October) *The School to Prison Pipeline*. Invited speaker at the Adult Forum. St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church. Saint Paul, MN.

**Samimi, C.** (2020, October). *Addressing Social and Racial Inequality Through Research* series, panelist on the Children, Youth and Families panel. University of Minnesota School of Social Work. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2021, April). *Developing an anti-racist research program*. Invited speaker at Roger Salters Institute. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2021, April). Neoliberalism, the nonprofit industrial complex, and the role of social work. Guest speaker in the School of Social Work, University of Washington. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2020, October). Restorative justice for conflict resolution. Guest speaker in the Community Dialogue and Conflict Management program, San Francisco University. Virtual.

**Samimi, C.** (2019, February). *Focusing Our Inquiry: Researching Climate Justice, Economic Justice and Immigration Topics*. Invited speaker at CU INVST research series. Boulder, CO.

**Samimi, C.** (2017, April). *Neoliberalism, Autonomous Movements, and Activist Survival*. Invited speaker at the New Leaders Council. Denver, CO

**Samimi, C.** (2016, September) *Nonprofit Industry, Community Organizing, and Post-Capitalist Vision*. Guest lecturer at the Department of Political Science, University of Colorado. Denver, CO.

**Samimi-Luu, J.** (2015, October) *Homeless Youth & Federal Response*. Invited panelist at National Homeless Youth Awareness month event hosted by Administration of Children and Families. Denver, CO

**Samimi-Luu, J.** (2013) *Working with Systems-Involved Students*. Invited speaker at Auraria Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Community College of Denver. Denver, CO

**Samimi-Luu, J.** (2013, July) *Assessing for Risk: Substance Abuse and Suicidality*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

**Samimi-Luu, J.** (2013, May) *Evidence-Based Treatment for Juvenile Offenders*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

**Samimi-Luu, J.** (2013, March) *Adolescent Practice with Pregnant and Parenting Youth*. Invited speaker at The Legal Aid Society. New York, NY

## **CLASSROOM AND FIELD TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

2020-Present

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN**

Assistant Professor

- Fall 2021 Social Work Macro Practice
- Spring 2020-2021 Youthwork in Schools
- Fall 2020 Urban Youth and Youth Issues

2015-2020

**University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO**

Adjunct Faculty

- Winter 2020 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice
- Winter 2020 Power, Privilege, and Oppression (online)
- Fall 2019 Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice
- Summer 2019 (2 sections, online), Fall 2018: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice (online)
- Spring 2019: Leadership and Supervision Skills
- Winter 2019: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice
- Winter 2019: Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice (Developed course)
- Fall 2018: Professional Development Seminar
- Spring 2016: Applied Practice Evaluation Research
- Winter 2016: Social Welfare Policy
- Winter 2016: Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs
- Autumn 2015: Clinical Social Work Skills

Teaching Practicums

- Spring 2018: Restorative Approaches in Social Work with Dr. Shannon Sliva
- Winter 2018: Community Organizing and Empowerment Theory with Dr. Ramona Beltran

Field Instructor

- Fall 2015-Spring 2016 - 2nd Year MSW - Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice)
- Fall 2015-Spring 2016 - 1st Year MSW- Direct Practice
- Winter 2014 - Spring 2015 - Advanced Standing MSW – Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice

2015-2017

**Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO**

Affiliate Faculty – Department of Social Work

- Fall 2017: Applied Practice Evaluation I (online)
- Fall 2017: Philosophy of Social Work
- Spring 2017: Applied Practice Evaluation II
- Fall 2016: Applied Practice Evaluation I

Affiliate Faculty – Department of Human Services

- Spring 2016: Research Methods and Program Evaluation (Developed course)
- Spring 2016: Homelessness and Community Response (Developed course)
- Fall 2015: Research Methods for Human Services

Field Instructor

- Fall 2017-Spring 2018 – 1st year MSW – generalist practice

2013-2015

**Columbia University School of Social Work**

Adjunct Lecturer

- Spring 2015: Foundations of Social Work Practice, accelerated program
- Fall 2014: Foundations of Social Work Practice

Teaching Associate

- Spring 2014: Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Spring 2014: Advanced Research Methods
- Fall 2013: Program Evaluation in Social Services

2013-2014

**New York University, NY, NY**

Field Instructor

- Fall 2013-Spring 2015 - 1st Year MSW – Direct Practice

2012-2014

**College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY**

Field Instructor

- Fall 2013-Spring 2014 - Junior Year BSW – Direct Practice
- Fall 2012-Spring 2013 - Senior Year BSW – Direct Practice

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2015-2016

**Student Rights Hotline Coordinator**, Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, Denver, CO: Oversee a team of interns, volunteers, and staff working with students experiencing school push-out within the context of stopping the school-to-prison pipeline

2014-2015

**Social Worker**, Center for Urban Community Services, New York, NY: Oversaw activities and provided crisis management at permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless adults.

2010-2014

**Forensic Social Worker**, The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY: Worked in the New York City Family Court to provide training and support to attorneys on child welfare and juvenile justice cases. Provided expert testimony, conducted biopsychosocial assessments, composed affidavits, and submitted mitigation reports to the court.



- 2007-2008 **Youth Services Coordinator**, Volunteers of America, Denver, CO: Supervised AmeriCorps members and volunteers; oversaw daily programming and activities of Bannock Youth Center; maintained program files and waiting list; HUD & RHYA reporting.
- 2002-2005 **HIV Treatment & Prevention Counselor**, The Children's Hospital Denver, CO: Provided direct service to HIV positive and at-risk youth; developed a network of organizations to conduct testing and counseling of youth in the community.
- 2001-2002 **Street Outreach Counselor**, Urban Peak, Denver, CO: Engaged youth living on the streets in low-barrier interventions; conducted risk assessment and provided harm reduction interventions; conducted point-in-time survey and participated in community coalitions and work groups.
- 2001-2002 **Youth Development Coordinator**, Casey Family Programs Community Building Initiative, Denver, CO; Supervised youth leadership team and provided training in restorative justice techniques; Oversaw implementation of restorative justice practices in partner agencies; Facilitated focus groups and conducted surveys, reporting results of program evaluation to Advisory Board

### **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

---

- 2020-2021 Member,
- 2020-Present **Member**, Undergraduate curriculum committee, University of Minnesota School of Social Work
- 2020-Present **Member**, Community practice curriculum committee, University of Minnesota School of Social Work
- 2017-2019 **Elected Member**, Committee on Inclusive Excellence, University of Denver
- 2016-2017 **Invited Member**, Doctoral Leadership Board, University of Denver School of Social Work
- 2016 **Abstract Reviewer**, Higher Education Diversity Summit, Metropolitan State University
- 2014-2015 **Student Representative**, Graduate Studies Committee, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

- 2014-2015      **Facilitator**, Professional Development & Self-Awareness Student Orientation, Columbia University School of Social Work
- 2014            **Co-Author** of Teaching Assistant Handbook and Teaching Assistant Rules of Conduct with Dean of Students, Columbia University School of Social Work

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

---

- 2020-Present      **Ad-hoc reviewer**, *SN Social Sciences*
- 2020-Present      **Ad-hoc reviewer**, *Advances in Social Work*
- 2019                **Lead Volunteer Coordinator**, Society for Social Work and Research
- 2018                **Deputy Volunteer Coordinator**, Society for Social Work and Research
- 2014                **Reviewer**, Fisher-Cummings Washington Fellows Program

### **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

---

- 2021-Present      **Volunteer**, Mediation and Restorative Services
- 2020-Present      **Volunteer**, Women's Prison Book Project
- 2018-Present      **Co-Chair**, Youth Preconference Committee, National Association for Community and Restorative Justice Conference
- 2017-2020        **Member**, Restorative Practices Advisory Committee, The Conflict Center
- 2016-2018        **Board Chair**, Café Cultura
- 2016-2018        **Board Member**, Conejos Clean Water
- 2015-2016        **Giving Project Member**, Chinook Fund
- 2012-2014        **Volunteer** English teacher, Chinatown YMCA
- 2005-2008        **Board Member**, Colorado Anti-Violence Program
- 2006-2007        **Mentor**, YESS Institute
- 2005-2007        **President**, Indigenous Support Network
- 2005-2007        **Member**, Chancellor's Scholars and Leaders, University of Colorado
- 2004-2005        **G.I. Rights Hotline Volunteer**, American Friends Service Committee

2001-2002            **Mediator**, Victim Offender Reconciliation Project

2000-2001            **Intake Volunteer**, Denver ACLU

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

2018-Present        Association for Community Organization & Social Action (ACOSA)

2017-Present        National Association for Community and Restorative Justice

2015-Present        Society for Social Work and Research

2015-Present        Council on Social Work Education

2015-Present        Council on Undergraduate Research

### **HONORS & AWARDS**

---

2019                    Race Matters: A Comparative Analysis of Global Access & Equity in Higher Education. Selected & Funded for International Institute at The Hague, Netherlands, University of Denver

2018                    Student Ignite! Education Policy Competition Finalist, University of Denver

2007                    Outstanding Undergraduate, University of Colorado Denver

2006                    Truman Scholarship Finalist, University of Colorado Denver

### **TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS**

---

2019                    Community Based Participatory Research for Health: Indigenous and Critical Methodologies, University of New Mexico

2015                    Certified Emotional Intelligence Practitioner, International Society of Emotional Intelligence Training

2013                    Seminar in Field Instruction, (SIFI), New York University

2012                    Evidence Based Mental Health Interventions for Child Abuse, New York Foundling

2012                    Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Medical University of South Carolina