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**JESSE J. HELTON**

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School of Social Work  
College of Public Health and Social Justice  
St. Louis University  
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**EDUCATION**

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| 2010 | Ph.D. | <b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b><br>School of Social Work<br><i>Concentration:</i> Human Development and Family Studies |
| 2004 | M.A.  | <b>University of New Hampshire</b><br>Department of Sociology  |
| 2002 | B.A.  | <b>Eureka College</b><br>Sociology and Psychology<br>Cum Laude   |

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS**

Child Abuse and Neglect; Disability and Health; Child Welfare; Research Methods; Statistics; Food Insecurity; Quantitative Methods; Mixed Methods; Social Welfare Policy

**ACADEMIC AND FACULTY APPOINTMENTS**

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|--------------|--|
| 2014-Present | <b>Assistant Professor</b><br>College of Public Health and Social Justice<br>School of Social Work<br>St. Louis University |
| 2011-2014    | <b>Research Assistant Professor</b><br>School of Social Work<br>University of Illinois                                     |
| 2010-2014    | <b>Research Specialist</b><br>Children and Family Research Center<br>University of Illinois                                |

**FUNDED RESEARCH**

- 2016-2017 Principal Investigator. *Food Insecurity and Child Welfare in Missouri*. Funded by the St. Louis University President's Research Fund. (\$50,000).
- 2015 Principal Investigator. *Family Mealtimes, Nutrition, and Emotional Regulation of Children with ADHD*. Funded by the Doerr Center for Social Justice Research and Education. (\$6,964)
- 2014-2016 Evaluator. *Mind-Body Well-Being Project*, Lutheran Family and Children Services of Missouri. Funded by the St. Louis County Children's Fund. (\$6,711)
- 2012-2014 Principal Investigator. *Healthy agencies, healthy kids*. Funded by the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). (\$17,102)
- 2011-2013 Principal Investigator. *"Fostering" health and nutrition: Targeting family-level risk factors for young foster children in substitute care*. Co-investigator Barb Fiese. Funded by The Christopher Family Foundation Food and Family Program. (\$60,000)
- 2010-2012 Co-Principal Investigator. *Evaluation of domestic battery, parental engagement, and juvenile sex offender programs*. Co-principal investigator Joseph P. Ryan. Funded by DuPage County Juvenile Probation and the MacArthur Foundation. (\$35,000)
- 2005-2008 Principal Investigator Mark Testa. *Evaluation of individual, familial, and community level factors related to secondary maltreatment*. Co-investigators Christina Bruhn and **Jesse J. Helton**. Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (\$84,816).

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**

\*denotes student collaborator

Accepted

**Helton, J. J.**, Schreiber, J. Wiley, J., & Schweitzer, R. (In press). Finding a routine that works: A mixed methods study of foster parents. *Child & Family Social Work*.

**Helton, J. J.** & \*Gochez-Kerr, T. (in press). Safe from harm? Youth reports of physical assault in child welfare placements. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

**Helton, J. J.**, \*Gochez-Kerr, T., & \*Gruber, E. (in press). Sexual abuse of children with learning disabilities. *Child Maltreatment*.

- Helton, J. J.**, Boutwell, B. B., & \*DiBernardo, M. (2017). The relative safety of paternal, maternal, and traditional foster care placements. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 70, 1-10.
- Helton, J. J.**, Schreiber, J. C., & Fiese, B. H. (2017). Foster Parents' Nutritional Strategies and Children's Well-Being. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, 4(2), 159-169.
- Helton, J. J.** (2016). Food neglect and maltreatment re-reports. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 71, 77-83.
- \*Gochez-Kerr, T. & **Helton, J. J.** (2016). Victimization of emerging adults with histories of child welfare: A national study. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*. doi:10.1007/s10560-016-0461-5
- Vaughn, M. G., Salas-Wright, C. P., Huang, J., Qian, Z., Terzis, L. D., & **Helton, J. J.** (2015). Adverse childhood experiences among immigrants to the United States. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 0886260515589568.
- Cross, T. P., Chuang, E., **Helton, J. J.**, & Lux, E. A. (2015). Criminal Investigations in Child Protective Services Cases An Empirical Analysis. *Child Maltreatment*, doi:1077559514562605.
- Helton, J.J.**, & Fiese, B. H. (2014). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Among Child Welfare–Involved Families. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 9(3), 409-417.
- Helton, J. J.**, & Liechty, J. M. (2014). Obesity prevalence among youth investigated for maltreatment in the United States. *Child abuse & neglect*, 38(4), 768-775.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.08.011>
- Helton, J.J.** & Bruhn, C. M. (2013). Prevalence of disabilities and abilities in children investigated for abuse and neglect. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 7(5), 480-495.
- Helton, J. J.** (2011). Children with behavioral, non-behavioral, and multiple disabilities and the risk of out-of-home placement disruption. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 35(11), 956-964.
- Helton, J.J.** & Cross, T.P. (2011). The relationship of child functioning to parental physical assault: Linear and curvilinear models. *Child Maltreatment*, 16(2), 126-136.
- Park, J. & **Helton, J.** (2010). Transitioning from informal to formal substitute care following maltreatment investigation. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32(7), 998-1003.
- Haight, W.L., Finet, D., Bamba, S., & **Helton, J.J.** (2009). The beliefs of resilient African-American adolescent mothers transitioning from foster care to independent living: A case-based analysis, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31(1), 53-62.
- Helton, J. J.** & Staudenmeier, W.J. (2002). Re-imagining being ‘straight’ in straight edge.

*Contemporary Drug Problems*, 29(2), 445-473.

### **PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS**

Cross, T.P., Goulet, B.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2015). What will happen to this child if I report? What we know about pathways to different outcomes following reporting of child maltreatment. In B. Mathews and D. Bross (Eds.) *Mandatory reporting laws and the identification of severe child abuse and neglect*. New York: Springer.

Testa, M., Bruhn, C. & **Helton, J.** (2009). Comparative safety, stability, and continuity of children's placements in informal and formal substitute care arrangements." In M.B. Webb, Dowd, K., B.J. Harden, J. Landsverk, & M.F. Testa (Eds.). *Child welfare and child well-being: New perspectives from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being* (pp. 159-191). New York: Oxford University Press.

### **RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Helton, J.J.** (2015). Evaluation of Mind-Body Well-Being Program. Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. *St. Louis County Children's Service Fund*.

Cross, T.P. & **Helton, J.J.** (2014). Child well-being. *Conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois: 2014 Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Helton, J. J.** & Cross, T.P. (2013). *The well-being of Illinois children in substantiated investigation Wave 2 Report: Results from the Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2013). Child well-being. *Conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois: 2013 Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Helton, J.** (2013). *Physical health of maltreated infants and toddlers in Illinois*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Helton, J.** & Cross, T. (2013). *The development of Illinois children age zero to three in substantiated child maltreatment investigations: A widening gap for many children*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Helton, J. J.**, & Diaz, A. (2012). *The need for food: Families served by child welfare in Illinois*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J. J.** (2012). *The well-being of Illinois children in substantiated investigation: Baseline results from the Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2012). Child well-being. *Conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois: 2010 Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2012). *Concurrent criminal and child protective services investigations*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Lyons, S., Cross, T., & **Helton, J.** (2012). *The well-being of Illinois infants and toddlers in substantiated child maltreatment cases*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Helton, J.J.** (2011). *Unhealthy weight among maltreated children in Illinois*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2010). Child well-being. *Conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois: 2009 Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Helton, J.J.** & Ryan, J.P. (2010). *A ten-year analysis of juvenile arrests in DuPage county: A report on domestic battery*. Research brief for the *Illinois Models for Change Initiative, MacArthur Foundation*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Helton, J. J.** & Ryan, J. P. (2010). *The effect of mental health screening and service utilization on the risk of probation violation for minority youth in the Cook County juvenile justice system*. Research brief for the *Illinois Models for Change Initiative, MacArthur Foundation*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Cross, T.P., & **Helton, J.J.** (2010). *Enrollment in early childhood education programs for young children involved with child welfare*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Hartnett, M. A., Bruhn, C., **Helton, J. J.**, Fuller, T., & Steiner, L. (2009). *Illinois Child Well-being study: Year 2 Final Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Kirkover, H., Moore, A., Scheetz, G., & **Helton, J.** (Sept, 2017). Experiences of Food Insecurity. Poster presented at the annual Food and Nutrition Conference, Chicago, IL.

Schreiber, J., Wiley, J., Schweitzer, R., **Helton, J.** (May, 2017). Foster Parent Routines. Paper presented at the International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.

Bidwell, L., **Helton, J.J.**, Watkins, D.C., & Gioia, D. (November, 2016). Mixed Methods in Social Work: Enhancing Education, Research and Practice. Workshop presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

**Helton, J.J.**, Cross, T.P., & \*Gochez-Kerr, T.H. (January, 2016). Food Neglect and Infant Language Acquisition: A National Study of Maltreated Children. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 20<sup>th</sup> Annual conference, Washington DC.

**Helton, J.J.** & Cross, T.P. (July, 2015). Maltreatment type and physical health problems in infancy. Poster presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 2015 Colloquium, Boston, MA.

**Helton, J.J.** & Liechty, J.M. (January, 2013). Obesity prevalence among US children and adolescents investigated for maltreatment. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.

**Helton, J.J.** & Cross, T.P. (January, 2013). Children with chronic health conditions in foster care: Differences in health care service utilization by placement. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.

Cross, T., **Helton, J.J.**, & Chuang, E. (January, 2013). Frequency and predictors of concurrent child protection and criminal investigations in child maltreatment cases. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.

Bentley, K., Smith, D., **Helton, J.J.**, & Campbell, R. (January, 2013). Doctoral student panel and luncheon: Job search and early career development. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.

**Helton, J.J.**, \*Gochez-Kerr, T., & Cross, T. (July, 2012). Does child disability increase or decrease the risk of victimization? Divergent results depending on level of functioning and type of disability. Paper presented at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

**Helton, J.J.** & Fiese, B. (June, 2012). Foster families and food assistance: Results from a National Study. Paper presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 2012 Colloquium, Chicago IL.

**Helton, J.J.** & Diaz, A. (June, 2012). Foster youth and obesity: Who is at risk? Poster presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 2012 Colloquium, Chicago IL.

**Helton, J.J.**, Schreiber, J., Fuller, T., & Kearney, K. (August, 2011), A mixed methods way of thinking. Paper presented at the 2011 National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, Washington, DC.

**Helton, J.J.** (May, 2011). Foster care and stigma in the United States: A qualitative analysis of lived experiences and state-level policies. Paper presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.

**Helton, J.J., & Ryan, J.** (March, 2011). The disproportional use of detention following a parental assault and the risk of re-offending. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO.

**Helton, J.J.** (January, 2011). Is unhealthy weight being overlooked in foster care? Comparing Body Mass Index of children in out-of-home care with national estimates. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, Tampa Bay, FL.

**Helton, J.J., & Cross, T.** (July, 2010). Level of child functionality and caregiver report of physical assault. Paper presented at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

**Helton, J.J.** (January, 2008). The relative stability of out-of-home placements and children with disabilities. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.

**Helton, J.J. & Bruhn, C.** (July, 2007). Early detection of a developmental disability, the provision of developmental services, and recurrence of maltreatment among a National Sample of Investigated Children. Paper presented at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

**Helton, J.J.** (July, 2007). Defining violence: Child maltreatment, corporal punishment, and the usefulness of mixed methods. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.

**Helton, J.J.** (June, 2007). Children with disabilities in the child welfare system: Introducing a new policy language. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Disability Studies, Seattle, WA.

**Helton, J.J., Testa, M., & Bruhn, C.** (January, 2007). The comparative safety, stability, and continuity of the living arrangements of children at elevated risk of abuse and neglect. Paper presented at the NSCAW Data Users Workshop, Administration for Children and Families, Washington, DC.

**Helton, J.J. & Staudenmeier, W.J.** (May, 2001). Re-imagining being 'straight' in straight edge. Paper presented at the conference, "Youth Cultures and Subcultures: Functions and Patterns of Drinking and Drug Use," hosted by the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs (SoRAD), Stockholm University, in Skarpo, Sweden.

### **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP**

Innovative Teaching Fellowship, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning (2014)

Summer Research Institute at the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University (2006)

### **PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

Obesity found to be higher in preschoolers suspected of being maltreated. (2013). University of Illinois News Bureau.

[http://news.illinois.edu/news/13/1009obesity\\_JesseHelton\\_JanetLiechty.html](http://news.illinois.edu/news/13/1009obesity_JesseHelton_JanetLiechty.html)

*Child abuse risk tied to type, degree of disability, study finds.* (2011). University of Illinois News Bureau. [http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0425abuse\\_JesseHelton.html](http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0425abuse_JesseHelton.html)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

St. Louis University    SWRK5787 Research Methods for Social Work Practice I  
                                  SWRK5788 Research Methods for Social Work Practice II  
                                  SWRK5764 Child and Family Services  
                                  SWRK5702 Social Welfare Policy

University of Illinois    SOCW225 Introduction to Statistics  
                                  SOCW410 Social Welfare Policy

Eureka College            SOC100 Introduction to Sociology

### **DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

#### **Chair**

Gochez-Kerr, T. (ABD). Physical abuse of children by parents: A target-congruent informed approach. Saint Louis University School of Social Work.

#### **Committee Member**

Schrieber, J. (completed May 2013). Religious socialization of maltreated youth and the impact of religiosity on their delinquency. University of Illinois School of Social Work

Chiu, Y.L. (completed May 2014). The developmental trajectories of delinquency among adolescent females. University of Illinois School of Social Work.

### **TRAININGS**



- Using Evidence Based Models in real Practice – American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 2015 Colloquium, Boston, MA.
- Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling – International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Pre-Conference Workshop, Portsmouth, NH
- Illinois Early Childhood Activity Program Workshop, Urbana, IL
- SAS Macro, SAS Training Center Chicago
- SAS programming I, SAS Training Center Chicago

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### National Committee

2015-present

*American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
Prevention Committee*

### Editorial Board

2015-present

*Journal Social Work Research*

2013-present

*Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*

### Ad Hoc Reviewer

*Pediatrics*

*American Journal of Preventative Medicine*

*Child Abuse & Neglect*

*Child Maltreatment*

*Children and Youth Services Review*

*Child Welfare*

*Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*

*Society for Social Work and Research*

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Board of Directors – Sola Gratia Farms (Community Supported Agriculture), Urbana IL

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- National Associate of Social Workers
- Society for Social Work and Research
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
- Society for Disability Studies
- Midwest Sociological Society