

Jonah P. DeChants, MSSP, Doctoral Candidate

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EDUCATION

University of Denver

Graduate School of Social Work

Doctor of Philosophy, August, 2019 (expected)

Dissertation: *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A Grounded Theory Exploration of Queer and Trans Young Adults Navigating Family Rejection and Housing Instability*

Committee: Kimberly Bender, PhD (chair), Yoli Anyon, PhD, Karen Albright, PhD, Jama Shelton, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

School of Social Policy and Practice

Master of Science in Social Policy, August, 2013

Concentration: Policy analysis, Gender and sexuality

Kalamazoo College

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, June, 2009

Majors: Political science, French language and culture

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- LGBTQ youth homelessness
- Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness
- Youth participatory action research methods (YPAR)

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Social policy
- Research methods
- Critical multiculturalism
- Social work theory
- LGBTQ communities

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Wilson, J., Bender, K., & **DeChants, J.** (In press). Beyond the classroom: The impact of a university-based civic hackathon addressing homelessness. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Kennedy, H., **DeChants, J.**, Bender, K., Anyon Y. (2019). A systematic review of environmental outcomes associated with youth participatory action research. *American Journal of Community Psychology* 63:208–226.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12321>

Barman-Adhikari, A., **DeChants, J.**, Brydon, D., Portillo-Perez, A., & Bender, K., (2019). On the fringes: How youth experiencing homelessness conceptualize social and economic inequality- A Photovoice study. *Journal of Community Psychology* 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22164>.

Anyon, Y., Roscoe, J., Bender, K., Kennedy, H., **DeChants, J.**, Begun, S., Amoresano, C., & Crawley, K. (2019). Reconciling adaptation and fidelity: Implications for scaling up high quality youth voice programs. *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 40(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-019-00535-6>.

Shelton, J., **DeChants, J.**, Bender, K., Hsu, H., Santa Maria, D., Petering, R., Ferguson, K., Narendorf, S., & Barman-Adhikari, A. (2018). Homelessness and housing experiences among LGBTQ youth and young adults: An intersectional examination across seven U.S. cities. *CityScape* 20(3) 9-33.

Walls, N.E., Kattari, S.K., & **DeChants, J.** (2018). Transmasculine parenting spectrum: Beyond a gendered fatherhood. *Social Work Research*.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svy020>.

Anyon, Y., Bender, K., Kennedy, H., & **DeChants, J.** (2018). A systematic review of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) in the United States: Youth outcomes, methodologies, and future directions. *Health Education and Behavior* 46(6). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1090198118769357>.

DeChants, J., Kennedy, H., & Anyon, Y. (2018). Beyond the tipping point: Modifying the five C's to empower transgender and gender expansive youth. *Youth Voice Journal*, 8, 44-45.

Bender, K., Begun, S., Dunn, K., Mackay, E., & **DeChants, J.** (2018). Homeless youths' interest in social action via Photovoice. *Journal of Community Practice* 26(1):107-120. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2017.1413027>.

Bender, K., Barman-Adhikari, A., **DeChants, J.**, Haffejee, B., Anyon, Y., Begun, S., Portillo, A., & Dunn, K. (2017). Asking for Change: Feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary outcomes of a manualized Photovoice intervention with youth experiencing homelessness. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 81, 379-389. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.08.028>.

Kattari, S.K., Barman-Adhikari, A., **DeChants, J.**, & Rice, E. (2017). Social networks and sexual risk factor differences between cisgender heterosexual and cisgender LGBQ homeless youth. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social*

Services, 29(2), 182-200. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538720.2017.1296800>.

DeChants, J. (2015). Name and gender marker change policies as barriers to legal transition. *The LGBTQ Policy Journal at the Harvard Kennedy School*, 5.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Bender, K., Wilson, J., Adelman, E., **DeChants, J.**, & Rutherford, M. A human-centered design seminar on youth homelessness: Course design, student growth and idea development. *Journal of Social Work Education*. [Under review].

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

DeChants, J., Bender, K., & Begun, S. Boredom, barriers, and stereotypes: Understanding homeless youths' motivations and obstacles through Photovoice.

DeChants, J., Alvarez, A.R.G., Altschul, I. On the margins: Modeling risks of homelessness among transgender youth.

Harner, V., **DeChants, J.**, & Ashley, F. Gender Modality as a Category of Analysis to Advance the Social Work Grand Challenges.

BOOK CHAPTERS

DeChants, J., Grant, J.M. & Kattari, S. K. Conducting community based participatory research with transgender and non-binary communities. In S. Kattari, E. Walls, L. Kattari, K., Kinney (Eds.) *Social Work and Health Care with Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals and Communities*. [Under review].

DeChants, J., Bender, K., & Stone, K. (2019). Incorporating youth voice into services for young people experiencing homelessness. In H. Larkin, A. Aykanian & C. Streeter (Eds.) *Homelessness intervention and prevention in social work*. New York City, NY: Springer.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

DeChants, J. (2016). *Parent concerns about teen health and well-being and reactions to the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey: results and recommendations from focus groups with parents in four counties*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment.

Kattari, S.K., Whitfield, D.L., **DeChants, J.**, & Alvarez, A.R.G. (2016). *Barriers to health faced by transgender and non-binary Black and minority ethnic people*. United Kingdom: Race Equity Foundation. Available at: <http://www.better-health.org.uk/briefings/barriers-health-faced-transgender-and-non-binary-black-and-minority-ethnic-people>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants Submitted

Shelton, J. (PI) and **DeChants, J.** (2018). Innovative Solutions to LGBTQ Youth Homelessness: A National YPAR Project. Annie E. Casey Foundation. \$150,000. (*Status: in progress*).

DeChants, J. (2018). Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A Grounded Theory Exploration of Queer and Trans Young Adults Navigating Family Rejection and Housing Instability. Roy Scrivner Memorial Research Grant. American Psychological Association. (*Status: unfunded*).

DeChants, J. (2018). Doctoral Fellows Award. Society for Social Work Research. (*Status: unfunded*).

Fellowships

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2018-2019
Enid O. Cox Doctoral Dissertation Research Stipend, \$18,000,
Competitive fellowship granted to an outstanding doctoral student to support the completion of dissertation research

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2017-2018
Susan S. Manning Pre-Doctoral Assistantship, \$16,000
Assistantship is awarded annually to a student who has a focus on qualitative methodologies or gender-related issues.

University of Denver, Office of Graduate Studies,
Competitive Doctoral Fellowship for Inclusive Excellence, 2016-2017, \$3,000
Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship, 2015-2016, \$4,500
Dissertation Fellowship, 2019, \$2,500

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2015-2017
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, \$16,000 per year (plus full tuition waiver)

Awards

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, 2018
Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award, \$1,500

University of Denver, Center for Multicultural Excellence, 2016
Master of (Gr)Advocacy Award for LGBTQIA Advocacy

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, 2013

Elected Commencement Speaker by the MSSP Class of 2013

Kalamazoo College, 2008-2009

Elton W. Ham Scholarship for independent research, \$500

E. Bruce Baxter Memorial Prize in Political Science

Alliance Française Prize

Scholarships

American Academy of Social Work, Grand Challenge to End Homelessness, 2017
Social Work Student and Early Career Travel Scholarship, \$400

The Public Science Project, City University of New York, 2017
Institute Scholarship, \$450

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, 2012
Dean's Merit Award, \$4,000

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, 2012
School of Policy and Practice Award, \$2,000

Kalamazoo College, 2005-2009
Merit Scholarship, \$13,000, per year

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver

Adjunct Faculty

- SOWK 4132: Power, Privilege and Oppression from a Critical Multicultural Perspective, 3 credits (Summer, 2017, Spring 2018 online)

Teaching Assistantships

- SOWK 4120: Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice, 3 credits (Winter, 2017). Lead instructor: Dr. Jennifer Greenfield
- SOWK 4007: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice, 3 credits (Winter, 2017). Lead instructor: Dr. Ramona Beltrán
- SOWK 4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Theory and Practice, 3 credits (Fall, 2016). Lead instructor: Dr. Leslie Hasche.

Metropolitan State University, Department of Genders and Sexualities

Guest Lecturer

- Course: Introduction to Transgender Studies (Fall, 2016). Lead instructor: Shanna Kattari, MEd.

Department of Theater, University of Denver

Guest Lecturer

- Course: Gender Play: Gender Identity and Performance (Fall, 2016, 2018).

Lead instructor: Anne Penner

Department of Political Science, Kalamazoo College

Teaching Assistant

- Course: Feminist Political Theories (Spring, 2011). Lead instructor: Dr. Jennifer Einspahr

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project SAFE (Safety Awareness for Empowerment)

NIDA-R15 039 0355 01

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Project Coordinator, June, 2017 – present

Research Assistant, June, 2016 – June, 2017

PIs: Dr. Kimberly Bender, Dr. Anne DePrince

- Coordinate a longitudinal, randomized control trial of a mindfulness-based intervention aimed at helping homeless youth assess and minimize risk.
- Supervise team of four MSW research assistants in data collection.
- Liaise with partner agency to facilitate participant recruitment and data collection.

Asking for Change 2.0: Integrating a PhotoVoice Intervention into Services in a Youth Shelter

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

PI: Jonah DeChants, January, 2017 – May, 2017

- Designed and implemented study to examine how shelter staff experience and facilitate a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) project in the context of their case management roles.

Homelessness Hackathon: Using Human-Centered Design to Educate about Homelessness

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Co-PI's: Jennifer Wilson, Dr. Kimberly Bender, Jonah DeChants, January, 2017 – May, 2017

- Planned and evaluated a one-day “hackathon” event where participants learned about homelessness in Denver and used human-centered design to develop and test potential solutions to housing-related policy or service problems.

Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Project Coordinator, June, 2016 – September, 2016

PIs: Dr. Kimberly Bender and Dr. Anamika Barman-Adhikari

- Coordinated the collection of 200 surveys and 20 qualitative interviews with homeless young adults at three sites across Denver.

Investigating Parental Impressions of the Colorado Healthy Kids Survey

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Youth and Young Adult Outreach Specialist, May, 2016 – June, 2016

Supervisor: Leo Kattari, MSW

- Authored report on parental attitudes towards the *Colorado Health Kids Survey* for state agency and other audiences.

Asking for Change: Feasibility of a PhotoVoice Intervention with Youth Experiencing Homelessness

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Research Assistant, September, 2015- June, 2016

PI's: Dr. Kimberly Bender and Dr. Anamika Barman-Adhikari

- Implemented study of a PhotoVoice intervention at a youth shelter.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Philadelphia Department of Human Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PUSH Project Manager, February, 2014 - August, 2015

- Managed all activities relating to a planning grant from the Children's Bureau addressing the risk of homelessness among youth and young adults aging out of foster care.
- Supervised the administrative elements of a randomized-control trial of the CARES Natural Mentoring (PI: Dr. Johanna Greeson) intervention with non-minor dependents.

LGBT Center at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Student Historian, September, 2012 - August, 2013

- Planned, created, and maintained a digital archive of historical sources documenting the Center's work in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community at the University.

The People's Emergency Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Policy Associate, May, 2013 - August, 2013

- Conducted policy analysis (quantitative analysis, literature reviews, survey development) on family homelessness.
- Coordinated advocacy to educate officials on housing issues.

Seeding Change, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Poverty to Peace Coordinator / AmeriCops VISTA Member, August, 2009 – August, 2011

- Recruited and trained more than two hundred adults and college students in program implementation and group facilitation techniques.
- Organized and administered all program evaluation procedures: wrote surveys, led focus groups, and conducted data analysis.
- Wrote and implemented a curriculum on LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender, and questioning) issues for high school students.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Kennedy, H. & **DeChants, J.** (2019, January). *A systematic review of the environmental outcomes associated with YPAR in the US*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

DeChants, J., Kennedy, H., & Anyon, Y. (2018, November). *Using Positive Youth Development to empower transgender and gender expansive youth*. Paper presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Barman-Adhikari, A., Bender, K., Haffejee, B., **DeChants, J.**, & Ambler, C. (2018, January). *If you woke up tomorrow: Answers to the 'miracle question' among young people experiencing homelessness*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C

DeChants, J., Alvarez., A. R. G., & Altschul, I. (2018, January). *On the margins: Modeling risks of homelessness among transgender youth*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C

DeChants, J., Kennedy, H., Anyon, Y., & Bender, K., (2018, January). *A systematic review of Youth Participatory Action Research studies*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C

Bender, K., **DeChants, J.**, Haffejee, B., & Begun, S. (2018, January). *"I Am the Empty Chair: Youths' perspectives on structural and personal barriers to equity discovered through a shelter Photovoice project*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

DeChants, J., Bender, K., Begun, S., Haffejee, B., & Mackay, E. (2017, January). *"Why Am I out Here?": Understanding homelessness identity among young adults*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

DeChants, J., Kattari, S.K., & Walls, N.E. (2017, January). *Transmasculine parenting: Beyond a gendered fatherhood*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Bender, K., Barman-Adhikari, A., Begun, S., **DeChants, J.**, Anyon, Y., Haffejee, B., Portillo, A., Mackay, E., Dunn, K., McCune, S. (2017, January). *Feasibility, acceptability and outcomes associated with a community-based Photovoice project with homeless youth*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Begun, S., Bender, K., Dunn, K., Mackay, E., **DeChants, J.** (2017, January). *Homeless youths' interest in social action via Photovoice*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Barman-Adhikari, A., Kattari, S.K., **DeChants, J.**, & Rice, E. (2017, January). *Differences in social support and normative network characteristics between heterosexual and LGBTQ cisgender homeless youth: Does it explain differential engagement in sexual risk behaviors?* Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Bender, K., Barman-Adhikari A., Begun, S., **DeChants, J.**, Anyon, Y., Haffejee, B., Portillo, A., Mackay, E., Dunn, K., McCune, S., Kennedy, K. (2016, November) *Asking for change: Discoveries from a community-based Photovoice project with homeless youth*. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

DeChants, J., Bender, K., Begun, S., & Haffejee, B. (2016, October) *“Technically homeless”*: Homelessness as a contested identity among young adults. Paper presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

DeChants, J. (2018, January). *What is gained*. Story presented as part of the Graduate School of Social Work and Speech/Act “Truth to Power: Stories for Social Justice” event. Denver, CO.

DeChants, J. & Kinnevy, S. (2015, June). *Using a Cross-System Database to Identify Youth at Risk of Homelessness*. Workshop at the One Child Many Hands Conference of The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice, and Research, Philadelphia, PA.

DeChants, J. (2015, February). *Youth homelessness and the PUSH project*. Panel presentation at the University of Delaware Homelessness Symposium, Newark, DE.

DeChants, J. (2014, November). *Overview of the Philadelphia PUSH Project*. Project presentation at the Youth At Risk of Homelessness (YARH) Grantee Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

DeChants, J. (2013, June). *LGBT Community at Penn: Past, Present & Future*. Panel presentation at the Penn Spectrum Alumni Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

DeChants, J. & Sykes, S. (2011, February). *From Inspiration to Action: How to Facilitate Transformative Youth-led Action*. Workshop at the Creating Change Conference of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, Minneapolis, MN.

DeChants, J. (2009, June). *How the EU gypped the Roma: A story of minority rights and non-discrimination law in Central and Eastern Europe*. Paper presentation at the Kalamazoo College Political Science Department Celebration, Kalamazoo MI.

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Research, Education, and Advocacy Co-Lab for Youth Stability and Thriving (REALYST),
Doctoral Co-Lab Member, 2017 – present

Sexuality, Relationships, Gender Research Collective (SRG)
Member, 2019 – present

Doctoral Student Committee,
Society for Social Work Research, *Member, 2017 – 2019*

Reviewer, Peer-Reviewed Journals (ad hoc)
The International Journal of Transgenderism
Journal of Adolescent Health
Sexuality & Culture

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Collaborative for Youth Voice and Leadership, Graduate School of Social Work
Steering Committee Member, 2017 – 2019

National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services
GSSW NCEHS Liaison, 2016 – 2019

Committee on Inclusive Excellence, Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver, *PhD Co-Representative, 2016 –2018*

West Coast Convening of Youth Homeless Service Providers
GSSW Convening Attendee, November, 2017

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

GLBT Center of Colorado, Denver, Colorado
Rainbow Alley Youth Drop In Volunteer, *2016 – 2019*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Council on Social Work Education, 2016 – present
Society for Social Work Research, 2016 – present

TRAINING

Speech/Act, Denver, CO
“Truth to Power Story Telling Training”, *January, 2018*

The Public Science Project, City University of New York, NYC, NY
“Critical Participatory Action Institute”, *May / June, 2017*