

CARA M. ANTONACCIO

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EDUCATION

- 2018– **Boston College School of Social Work** · Chestnut Hill, MA
Doctoral candidate in the Research Program on Children and Adversity
Dissertation: A longitudinal mixed methods study of health and disability among conflict-affected youth in Sierra Leone (Dr. Theresa S. Betancourt, committee chair)
- 2016-18 **Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health** · Baltimore, MD
Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in Population, Family, and Reproductive Health
Focal areas in Child Health Epidemiology, Maternal Fetal and Perinatal Health
Thesis: Protection through projection - Etiology of violence against humanitarian health in war (Dr. Leonard Rubenstein, committee chair)
- 2012-16 **Pennsylvania State University** · University Park, PA
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Policy and Administration; *Minor* in Global Health
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in African Studies
Thesis: Exploring the social and demographic effects of gender-based violence in Eastern Congo (Dr. Frank Ahern, independent study advisor)
- 2015 **Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences** · Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Coursework in Midwifery, Mental Health Nursing
Practicum: Profiles of survivorship and experiences of pediatric cancer remission in Tanzania
- 2008-12 **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme** · New Jersey, USA
Higher-level diplomas in Biology, Psychology, English
Standard-level diplomas in Discrete Math, German, Environmental Systems and Societies
Thesis: Examining the public health implications of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Eastern Europe

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021– Introduction to Human Centered Design (UNAS1025) · *Teaching assistant* · Boston College
Assistant for two sections of a required introductory course on design thinking for the first cohort of undergraduate students in the undergraduate Engineering program at Boston College.
- Spring 2021 Introduction to Regression (SCWK 9960) · *Lab instructor* · Boston College School of Social Work
Designed and implemented a collaborative learning model to accompany the BCSSW's required first-year regression course for doctoral students. Held one-on-one tutoring sessions and weekly lab sessions to designed to facilitate mutual learning, confidence with statistics and research methods, and offer a space for collaborative science among BCSSW doctoral students.
- 2020-21 Social Science Research Methods (SCWK 7747) · *Tutor* · Boston College School of Social Work
Provided tutoring services for the required course on research methods and design, by appointment, for second-year Master of Social Work (MSW) students in the macro program.

- Fall 2020 **Program Evaluation (SCWK 8841) · Tutor** · Boston College School of Social Work
 Provided statistical and methodological consultations, by appointment, for second-year Master of Social Work (MSW) students in the clinical and macro programs.
- Spring 2020 **Social Innovation (SCWK 8889) · Teaching assistant** · Boston College School of Social Work
 Responsible for offering feedback and support to students as they design and propose social innovations to support the communities they serve in their field practice.
- 2014-15 **World Population Diversity (SOC 422) · Teaching assistant** · Pennsylvania State University
 Prepared course content, held monthly reviews, and evaluated the work of 40 students in a senior-level course in the Department of Demography (SOC 422: World Population Diversity).

RESEARCH, EMPLOYMENT & INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- Summer 2021 **Save the Children · Copenhagen, Denmark**
 Conducted a review of evidence-based mental health and psychosocial support programs for children associated with armed groups and forces (CAAFAG) across all layers of the IASC MHPSS Intervention Pyramid, with special attention to low-resource settings with limited providers of specialized MHPSS support, family supports, services, with a focus on areas where there is extreme vulnerability and include responses which support resilience and belonging in relation to prevention of re-recruitment and re-association.
- 2018– **Research Program on Children and Adversity · Boston College · Chestnut Hill, MA**
 Doctoral assistantship with Dr. Theresa Betancourt in the RPCA focuses on the health and developmental effects of armed conflict, post-conflict stressors, and approaches to strengthen humanitarian systems for war-affected youth with disabilities.
- 2020– **Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action · ACPHA, ‘the Alliance’**
 Active member of the Assessment, Measurement and Evidence (AME) Working Group of the Alliance, representing Research Program on Children and Adversity to guide the AME Working Group’s 2021-23 priorities; development of a proposal to create a human-centered toolkit to locate and communicate with children with disabilities and their caregivers, and to assess site-level threats to their protection in humanitarian emergencies.
- Oct. - Dec. 2019 **Managing Exits from Armed Conflict (MEAC) · United Nations University · New York, NY**
 Research consultant, reviewed and provided revisions on a template developed with War Child that is currently being used to conduct participatory research with former child soldiers and war-affected youth in Central African Republic.
- 2019– **YouthFORWARD: Capacity Building in Alternate Delivery Platforms and Implementation Models to Bring Evidence-Based Behavioral Interventions to Scale for Youth Facing Adversity**
 Graduate assistant to the NIMH U19 grant-funded, culturally-informed cognitive-based therapy intervention developed with the Government of Sierra Leone and local mental health providers for war-affected youth in West Africa.

- 2017-18 **HealthRight International** · Kampala, Uganda
 Provided technical support for a stepped-up care model of mental health care for pregnant women and new mothers in conflict-affected regions of northern and eastern Uganda. Used respondent survey data and program implementation documents to understand and report the day-to-day experiences of war-affected women and mothers.
- 2017 **Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict** · New York, NY
 Research intern supporting work on a report of the scope and effects on children of violence against humanitarian health actors in South Sudan and conflict-affected communities, globally.
- June - Sept. 2018 **Department of Mental Health** · Johns Hopkins School of Public Health · Baltimore, MD
 Research consultant on a systematic review of prospective measures for means of verification with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. Review focused on measures that are cross-culturally and contextually relevant to assess MHPSS and disorders in disaster-affected populations.
- 2017 **Global Early Adolescent Study** · Baltimore, MD
 Consultant to the GEAS, a partnership between the World Health Organization and JHSPH's Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health; conducted a desk review examining gender roles, norms, attitudes, and behaviors among adolescents in Malawi and Indonesia, to illustrate how socialization in early adolescence influences life course health risks.
- 2015-16 **Stress, Health, and Daily Experiences (SHADE) Lab** · Pennsylvania State University
 Research assistant with Dr. Joshua Smyth and the Stress Health and Daily Experiences lab sought to examine the health effects of social exclusion among individuals with personality disorders; prepared web-based research tools, administered experimental protocol with study participants, prepared stress biomarker data for analysis.
- 2015 **Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences** · Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 Research on barriers and facilitators of reducing the case fatality rate of pediatric cancers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Investigated areas for future research and strategies to confront the emerging demand for culturally-relevant resources about late effects for pediatric cancer survivors. Attended courses in midwifery and nursing, assisted with mental health assessments of community members in Dodoma led by Muhimbili University nursing students.
- 2015 **Advisor to the Dean** · College of Health and Human Development
 As liaison between students and the Dean of the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State University, advised on topics and issues raised by students and faculty.
- 2012-14 **Biobehavioral Neuroimmunomodulation Lab** · Pennsylvania State University
 Clinical research assistant focusing on stress, neuroendocrine/immune function, and addictive behaviors. Responsible for conducting trials with study participants, processing blood and saliva samples, and recording biomarker levels in human and animal participants.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2021 Catalyst Fellow with the Center for Social Innovation (Boston College School of Social Work)
 2018 Global Health Established Field Placement (\$3,500; Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health)

- 2017 Maternal & Child Health Grant (\$50,000; JHSPH Dept of Population, Family, & Reproductive Health)
- 2017 Master's Scholarship (\$15,000; JHSPH Dept of Population, Family, & Reproductive Health)
- 2017 Dellinger Fund Scholarship (\$25,000; JHSPH Dept of Population, Family, & Reproductive Health)
- 2016 Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Scholarship
- 2015 National Children's Cancer Foundation *Beyond the Cure* Scholarship
- 2014 Will Ferrell Cancer for College Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Antonaccio, C. M., Pham, P., Vinck, P., Brennan, R. T., Collet, K., & Betancourt, T. S. (Accepted).

Fear, Distress, and Perceived Risk Shape Stigma Toward Ebola Survivors: A Prospective Longitudinal Study in Sierra Leone. *BMC Public Health*.

Frounfelker, R., Islam, N., Falcone, J., Farrar, J., Ra, C., Antonaccio, C. M., Enelemah, N., & Betancourt, T. S. (2020). Living through war: Mental health of children and youth in conflict-affected areas. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 101(911), 481-506.

Antonaccio, C. M. (2020). On trauma, resilience, and survival: Lessons from fifteen years of pediatric cancer and remission. *JAMA Oncology*, 6(12), 1866-1867.

Betancourt, T.S., Hansen, N., Farrar, J., Borg, R.C., Callands, T., Desrosiers, A., Antonaccio, C. M., Williams, M., Bangura, J. and Brennan, R. T. (2020). Youth Functioning & Organizational Success for West African Regional Development (Youth FORWARD): Study Protocol. *Psychiatric Services*, appi-ps.

Barnhart, D. A., Farrar, J., Murray, S. M., Brennan, R. T., Antonaccio, C. M., Sezibera, V., Ingabire, C., Godfroid, K., Bazubagira, S., Uwimana, O. and Kamurase, A. (2020). Lay-worker Delivered Home Visiting Promotes Early Childhood Development and Reduces Violence in Rwanda: A Randomized Pilot. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 1-14.

Betancourt, T. S., Thomson, D. L., Brennan, R. T., Antonaccio, C. M., Gilman, S. E., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2020). Stigma and acceptance of Sierra Leone's child soldiers: a prospective longitudinal study of adult mental health and social functioning. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 59(6), 715-726.

Presentations:

Testing the Feasibility and Acceptability of a Collaborative Team Approach for implementing an Evidence-Based Group Mental Health Intervention in a Fragile Setting
Annual research meeting of Academy Health (13 Sept 2020; Boston, MA) On qualitative findings from a collaborative team-based model to implement mental health services for war-affected youth in Sierra Leone.

Meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings (25-26 Sept 2018; Geneva, Switzerland)

Presented recommendations to the IASC on standard means of verification suitable for measuring key domains of mental health and psychosocial support (functioning, subjective well-being, distress and disorder, coping, social behavior, and social connectedness) in humanitarian populations.