

## Julia Lesnick

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### EDUCATION

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#### University of California- Los Angeles, CA

Combined MSW-PhD in Social Welfare

(MSW 2023, PhD anticipated 2028)

- Advisor: Laura Abrams, PhD, MSW

#### Cornell University, College of Human Ecology, Ithaca NY

Bachelor of Science with High Distinction

May 2018

- Advisor: Jane Mendle, PhD
- Major: Human Development (with honors), Minor: Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Honor's Thesis: Rejection Thoughts and Relationship Outcomes: Exploring Rejection Sensitivity in Girls' Relationships

### PUBLICATIONS (Peer Review)

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1. **Lesnick, J.**, Abrams, L. S., & Barnert, E. S. (2023). Youth justice at a crossroads: Twenty-first century progressive reforms and lessons to inform the path forward. *Social Service Review*, 97(4), 000-000.
2. **Lesnick, J.**, Abrams, L., Barnert, E., & Angel, K. (Revise and Resubmit). Credible messenger mentoring to promote the health of youth involved in the juvenile legal system: A narrative review. Invited submission, Life Course Health Development Special Issue, *Current Problems in Pediatric & Adolescent Health Care*.
3. **Lesnick, J.**, Abrams, L., Angel, K. & Barnert, E. (In Preparation). Visioning the future of youth justice; A focus group study with youth, family, staff, and expert stakeholders.
4. Maguire-Jack, K., Steinman, K. J., **Lesnick, J.**, Solomon, A., West, K., Roush, K., ... Cunningham, N. (2022). Implementing Triple P during the COVID-19 pandemic with families at risk for substance use. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 105636.
5. **Lesnick, J.** & Mendle, J. (2021). Rejection sensitivity and negative urgency: A proposed framework of intersecting risk for peer stress. *Developmental Review*, 62, 100998. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dr.2021.100998>
6. Agans, J. P., Rosenthal, E., **Lesnick, J.**, Sloan, M., Connor, S., Majano, R., Chicas, V., Davis, T., Coyle, S., & Tifft, M. (2021). Research-practice partnerships as community-engaged learning: Lessons learned from a collaborative project with youth development programs. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 13(2), Article 5.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

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1. Abrams, L. & **Lesnick, J.** (Under Review). Juveniles in custody. Invited submission. *Routledge Resources Online, Criminology*.

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Lesnick, J. (Organizer)**, Abrams, L., Washington, D., Kolivoski, K., & Lea, C. (2023, January). *Youth justice at a crossroads: A discussion of visions for the next horizon*. Roundtable organizer and moderator at the Society for Social Work Research Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
2. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J., & McKone, K. P. (2018, April) *The impact of pubertal timing on rejection thoughts and relationship outcomes*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Adolescence Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
3. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J., & McKone, K. P. (2017, April) *Rejection sensitivity mediates the association between negative urgency and peer relationships*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Conference, Austin, TX.
4. Agans, J., & **Lesnick, J.**, (2017, October). *Positive, innovative solutions to youth development: STEM, civic engagement, and healthy living*. Invited undergraduate presenter for University Spotlight on Human Ecology- Cornell Trustee Council Annual Meeting, Ithaca, NY.
5. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J., Agans, J. & Meade, J. (2017, September). *Trauma informed care for youth providers: A training workshop for the Expanded Learning Network of Broome County*. Poster presented at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Internship Symposium, Ithaca, NY.
6. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J. & McKone, K. P. (2017, August). *Rejection sensitivity mediates the association between negative urgency and peer relationships*. Invited poster presenter, Festival of Scholarship for the Inauguration of Cornell's 14<sup>th</sup> President, Ithaca, NY.
7. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J., McKone, K. P. (2017, April). *Mechanisms linking rejection sensitivity and negative urgency to peer conflict*. Poster presentation, awarded best psychology poster. Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Spring Forum, Ithaca, NY.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

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1. **Lesnick, J.** (2020) *Continuous quality improvement at New York Foundling: A comprehensive overview and training manual for program supervisors*. New York Foundling Hospital.
2. **Lesnick, J.**, Ramirez, C., Lau, V., & Harris, T. (2019). *Centering youth voice in decision making: Directions for youth-adult partnership in DYFJ*. NYC Administration for Children's Services, Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ).
3. **Lesnick, J.**, & Ramirez, C. (2018). *Youth-centered evaluation of strengths-based programming in DYFJ: Metrics and guidelines for implementation*. NYC Administration for Children's Services, Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ).
4. **Lesnick, J.**, Mendle, J., Agans, J. & Meade, J. (2017). *Trauma informed care in afterschool programs: A comprehensive training curriculum for Broome County providers*. Cornell Cooperative Extension.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Assistant

January 2023-Present

University of California-Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs

- Graduate teaching assistant for undergraduate courses "Social Problems and Social Change", "Gangs, Criminal Justice, and Mass Incarceration"
- Prepare lessons, lead discussion sections, evaluate student assignments, and provide individual student support.

**Teaching Assistant** **January 2018– May 2018**  
*Cornell Prison Education Program, Cayuga Correctional Facility*

- Co-taught a science fiction literature course for students earning degrees while incarcerated.
- Planned lessons, facilitated reading discussions, and provided writing assignment support.

**Teaching Assistant** **August 2016– December 2016**  
*Department of Human Development, Cornell University*

- Undergraduate teaching assistant for an introductory research methods course.
- Created learning resources, provided SPSS coding support, assisted with grading.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Graduate Research Assistant** **June 2023-PRESENT**

*Anti-Recidivism Coalition- California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant*  
*Principal Investigators: Laura Abrams, MSW, PhD, Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH*

- Collect and analyze qualitative data evaluating the organization’s re-entry services for transition age youth (18-25) recently released from custody, including conducting, including interviews and focus groups with youth members, and credible messenger mentors.
- Collect and analyze quantitative data for a randomized controlled trial examining universal basic income for transition age youth re-entering the community.

Assist with development of “Stepping Home” model to transition youth out of state-run facilities.

**Graduate Research Assistant** **May 2023-PRESENT**

*Office of Youth and Community Restoration*  
*Principal Investigators: Laura Abrams, MSW, PhD, Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH*

- Conduct literature reviews and create presentations and issue briefs for community stakeholders on policy and practice with youth sentenced for high-level charges.
- Assist with development of “Stepping Home” model to transition youth out of state-run facilities.

**Graduate Research Assistant** **September 2021-PRESENT**

*Life Course Intervention Research Network- Youth Justice Node, UCLA Department of Pediatrics*  
*Principal Investigators: Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH, Laura Abrams, MSW, PhD*

- Conduct analysis of literature on 21st century trends in US juvenile legal system reform.
- Coordinate and facilitated national focus groups with juvenile legal system stakeholders, including groups with governmental administrators, policy-makers, front-line facility staff, and system-impacted youth and family members.
- Conduct qualitative coding and analysis for focus group data.
- Write manuscripts on project results for scholarly journals, and findings reports for participants and community collaborators.
- Manage internal review board (IRB) materials, and participant protections and compensation.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

**February 2015 – May 2018**

*Adolescent Transitions Lab, Cornell University Department of Human Development*

*Principal Investigator: Jane Mendle, PhD*

- Developed and tested a theory of mechanisms linking rejection sensitivity, negative urgency, and girls' interpersonal difficulties using longitudinal and structural equation models in MPlus.
- Implemented study protocols and collected primary data with youth participants enrolled in the "Expressive Writing" study.
- Conducted data entry, coding, and cleaning for qualitative journal entries, survey measures, and the Add Health (National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health) dataset using SAS.
- Conducted literature reviews on puberty and developmental psychopathology.
- Coordinated and managed recruitment, hiring, and SAS training for new research assistants.

**Research Assistant**

**December 2013 – August 2016**

*Think:Kids, Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Psychiatry*

*Principal Investigator: Alisha Pollastri, PhD*

- Collected and entered data on the effects of the Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) model on child behavioral health symptoms, and parent mindsets and skills.
- Conducted analyses on demographic differences in treatment efficacy using STATA.
- Developed a matrix of recommended measures for contracted providers to assess model impact.
- Prepared training resources and participant evaluations for Tier 1 CPS model trainings.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**MSW Intern | Therapist, Group Facilitator, Analyst**

**June-September 2022 (520 hours)**

*Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative, Culver City, CA*

- Mental health therapist for high school-aged students. Maintained caseload of 3-5 youth. Provided Solution-Focused and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy services, developed treatment plans and clinical goals, and case management support.
- Facilitated SELFY (Social-Emotional Learning for Youth) Elementary curriculum with students ages 6-10 in summer school at McKinley Elementary School.
- On-site social worker for the Bruin Guardian Scholars summer academy for high-school aged foster youth. Facilitated SELFY Teen curriculum, met with each scholar for individual assessment, and provided therapeutic drop-in support and crisis services.
- Led the organization in transitioning to a new data management and reporting processes.

**MSW Intern | Case Management**

**September 2021-May 2022 (504 hours)**

*Disability Community Resource Center, Venice, CA*

- Conduct intakes for community members interested in disability-related services.
- Screen members for participation in interpersonal violence support groups.
- Provide clinical case management for members, including treatment planning, applications for housing and public benefits programs, advocacy and accompaniment to appointments.

**Program Quality Analyst | Evidence-Based Community Services August 2019– August 2021**

*The New York Foundling, New York, NY*

- Facilitate data-driven service improvement planning with clinical staff in alternative to incarceration, child welfare prevention, and school and community mental health programs.
- Develop data entry systems and monitoring processes for adherent implementation of evidence-based therapy models.
- Produce qualitative and quantitative trend reports analyzing clinical and program outcomes.
- Facilitate planning and development of processes to increase client feedback on services.
- Conduct internal data reviews preparing for stakeholder audits and Medicaid compliance.
- Test pilot initiatives in robotic process automation and natural language processing AI to reduce clinician documentation burden and strengthen qualitative data insights.

**AmeriCorps VISTA- Division of Youth and Family Justice**

**July 2018 – July 2019**

*NYC Administration for Children’s Services, New York, NY*

- Developed an initiative to engage court-involved youth in participatory action research. Collaborated with youth and advocates to create action research tools and train agency leadership in effective youth-adult partnership.
- Designed and implemented evaluations of youth experience in juvenile programming. Formed recommendations for improving youth-centered practice in high and low security facilities.
- Managed data collection and evaluation for projects including trafficking and violence prevention, vocational training, and reducing use of restraints.
- Evaluated proposals for citywide alternative to incarceration program contracts.
- Project manager of an initiative to build infrastructure for volunteering in juvenile facilities.

**HONORS & AWARDS**

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- May 2018* Outstanding Senior Award, Cornell Human Ecology Alumni Association
- May 2018* Keynote Speaker, Cornell Human Development Department Graduation
- May 2018* Florence Halpern Award for Leadership Excellence in Community Service
- May 2018* Cornell LGBT Studies Undergraduate Writing Award
- April 2017* Best Psychology Presentation, Cornell Undergraduate Research Board
- April 2016* Roberta M. Berns Scholarship for Translational Youth Development Research

**FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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Critical Participatory Action Research Institute; Scholarship awarded to fund institute attendance for development of action research tools in juvenile detention settings (April, 2019). Public Science Project, City University of New York.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Summer Project Grant (May 2017- September 2018). Awarded to develop and facilitate trauma-informed care trainings for afterschool programs.

PRYDE (Program for Research on Youth Development and Engagement) fellowship for intensive training in applied youth development research (September 2017 – May 2018). Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University.

## **SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS**

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- Solution-Focused Therapy Certification- Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative (June 2022)
- Advanced data analytic and coding skills in STATA, SAS, R, MPlus, and SPSS.
- Process Mining Data Analyst Certification, Celonis (March 2020).
- Lean Six Sigma Quality Improvement Methodology- Green Belt Certification, Six Sigma Global Institute (February 2020).
- Fundraising & Grant Writing. AmeriCorps VISTA professional development courses (March 2019).
- Motivational Interviewing. NYC Administration for Children’s Services Workforce Institute (October 2018).

## **RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

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- Longitudinal Modeling using MPlus (Data Analysis Training Institute of Connecticut).
- Four-semester advanced seminar and practicum in translational youth development research.
- Research design, qualitative and quantitative methods for social sciences, with R training.
- Specialized courses in child and adolescent development, social work practice, and social policy.

## **ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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- Society for Social Work Research (December 2022-Present)
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (October 2019-Present)
- Society for Research in Adolescence (April 2018- Present)
- Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society (September 2017- Present)
- Society for Research in Child Development (April 2017-Present)

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- Riker’s Debate Project, Volunteer teacher (February 2020)
- Sanctuary for Families, Child care volunteer (January 2019- May 2019)
- Cornell Information and Visitor Relations, Student manager and tour guide (February 2016- August 2018)
- Cornell Club Field Hockey (August 2014-2016)