

Tess Lefmann, Ph.D., M.S.S.W.

Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
The University of Mississippi

Contact Information

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Education

2014	<i>Ph.D.</i> , Social Work, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN Dissertation: <i>Effects of Prenatal Stress and Poverty on Fetal Growth</i> Advisor: Dr. Terri Combs-Orme
2010	<i>M.S.S.W.</i> , Social Work, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
2006	<i>B.A.</i> , Psychology, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Research Interests

Social determinants of health; maternal and child health disparities; reproductive health disparities; breastfeeding disparities; abortion and contraception; rural populations

Professional Memberships

- ◆ Council on Social Work Education (CSWE): Member
- ◆ Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR): Member
- ◆ Social Workers for Reproductive Justice (SWRJ): Member
- ◆ National Association of Perinatal Social Workers (NAPSW): Member
- ◆ American Public Health Association (APHA): Member

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. **Lefmann, T.**, Snell, S., Famuyide, M., Inguva, S., & Green, J.J. (in press). Bridging the divide: Connecting urban and rural care through the Right! From the Start Initiative. *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*.
2. Zhang, S., Conner, A., Lim, Y., & **Lefmann, T.** (2021). Trauma-Informed Care for Children Involved in Child Welfare: A Meta-Analysis. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 122, 105296.
3. Zhang, S., **Lefmann, T.**, Lee, N. Y., & Fisher, A. K. (2021). Ecological contexts of youth antisocial behaviors: A longitudinal perspective. *Aggressive Behavior*, 47(3), 364-374.

4. **Lefmann, T.** (2020). Breastfeeding as best practice for mitigating the negative effects of stress. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 16(1).
5. Hurst, C., Reno, R., & **Lefmann, T.** (2018). Committing to breastfeeding in social work: Applying core values. *Social Work*, 63(3), 252-260.
6. **Lefmann, T.**, Combs-Orme, T., & Orme, J. (2017). Examining the inter-correlated effects of low-income, life stress, and race on birth outcomes: A representative state study. *Social Work in Healthcare*, 56(6), 450-469.
7. Combs-Orme, T., **Lefmann, T.**, Veerman, T., Pilkay, S., Strong, J., & Thompson, P. (2017). Neuroscience in the HBSE sequence: Mandate and methodology. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 37(5), 477-492.
8. Burlaka, V., Kim, Y. J., Crutchfield, J. M., **Lefmann, T.**, & Kay, E. (2017). Internalizing behaviors of Ukrainian children. *Family Relations*, 66(5), 854-866.
9. **Lefmann, T.**, & Combs-Orme, T. (2014). Prenatal stress, poverty, and child outcomes. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, 6, 577-590.
10. **Lefmann, T.**, & Combs-Orme, T. (2013). Early brain development for social work practice: Integrating neuroscience with Piaget's theory of cognitive development. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 23(5), 640-647.
11. Combs-Orme, T., Orme, J., & **Lefmann, T.** (2013). Early brain development: African American parents' cognitions about the first three years of life. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 30(4), 329-344.

Manuscripts Under Review

1. **Lefmann, T.**, Ely, G., & Yanow, S. (under review). A trauma-informed social work response to support self-managed abortion. *Social Work*.
2. Auerbach, S.L., Ely, G., & **Lefmann, T.** (under review). Perceptions of abortion and accessibility in Appalachia: An exploratory study. *Health and Social Care in the Community*.
3. Swan, L.E.T., Senderowicz, L., **Lefmann, T.**, & Ely, G. (under review). Healthcare provider bias in the Appalachian region: The prevalence and impact of contraceptive coercion. *Health and Social Care in the Community*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

1. **Lefmann, T.**, Zhang, S., Auberbach, S.L., & Ely, G. (*in progress*). Perceptions of self-managed abortion within Appalachian communities. (*Journal submission undecided*).
2. Zhang, S., Robinson, S., Lim, Y., **Lefmann, T.** & Zhang, L. (*in progress*). Religiosity's associations with adolescents' mental health and behavioral wellbeing: Do they vary by sex and social connections? (to be submitted to *Journal of Affective Disorders*).
3. **Lefmann, T.** (*in progress*). My hand, my voice, my vision, my choice: Reflections on finding service in academia. (to be submitted to *Reflections: A Journal of Community Engaged Writing and Rhetoric*).

Reviews

1. Lefmann, T. (*in press*). Book Review: Breastfeeding and the Pursuit of Happiness. *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*.

Funding Reports

1. Green, J.J., Parks, V., **Lefmann, T.**, Poiroux, S., & Sparkmon, W. (2021). Right! From the Start Year One Evaluation Report to Kellogg.
2. Snell, S., **Lefmann, T.**, Green, J.J, Woo, L, & Cafer, A.M. (2022). Right! From the Start Year Two Evaluation Report to Kellogg.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

1. **Lefmann, T.**, Yanow, S., Paul, M., Jenkins, J. & Colon, M. (2022). *Self-Managed Abortion and the Role of Interdisciplinary Collaboration*. Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.
2. **Lefmann, T.** (2022). *Factors Influencing Breastfeeding for Mothers in the Mississippi Delta Region*. Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.
3. **Lefmann, T.** (2022). *Social Work's Commitment to Reproductive Justice*. AL-MS Social Work Conference, Meridian, MS.
4. **Lefmann, T.** (submitted). *Breastfeeding/Human Medicine IPE: An Innovation to Improve Lactation Knowledge and Support in Healthcare and Beyond*. Annual Conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.

5. **Lefmann, T.** (2021). A Community-Based Breastfeeding Intervention in Mississippi. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.
**accepted but not presented due to COVID-related budget cuts*
6. **Lefmann, T. & Ely, G.** (2020). Abortion Doulas as a Trauma-Informed Social Work Intervention. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, virtual meeting. **accepted but not presented due to COVID-related budget cuts.*
7. **Lefmann, T.** (2019). *Right! From the Start: A Model Approach to Breastfeeding Disparities in Mississippi.* Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA.
8. Hurst, C. & **Lefmann, T.** (2018). *Committing to Breastfeeding in Social Work: Applying Core Values.* Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.
9. **Lefmann, T.** (2018). *Breastfeeding Support in the Mississippi Delta: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Health Disparity.* AL-MS Social Work Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.
10. **Lefmann, T.** (2017). *Breastfeeding: Link Between Stress and Perinatal Outcomes.* National Association of Social Work Mississippi Chapter Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS.
11. Burlaka, V., Kim, Y.J., Crutchfield, J.M., & **Lefmann, T.** (2017). *Internalizing Behaviors of Ukranian Children.* Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
12. **Lefmann, T.** (2016). *A Representative State-Study of Prenatal Stress through PRAMS.* UM/UMMC Research Day, Jackson, MS.
13. **Lefmann, T.** (2016). *Breast is Best: The Role of Breastfeeding in Attenuation of Stress.* Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
14. **Lefmann, T.** (2016). *Poverty and Prenatal Stress: Effects on Birth Outcomes.* Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.
15. **Lefmann, T., Combs-Orme, T., & Orme, J.G.** (2015). *Effects of Prenatal Stress and Poverty on Fetal Growth.* Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO.

16. Combs-Orme, T., **Lefmann, T.**, Pilkay, S., Strong, J., Thompson, P., & Veerman, T. (2015). *Teaching Science to Social Workers*. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO.
17. **Lefmann, T.** & Combs-Orme, T. (2014). *Teaching Social Workers about Stress*. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.
18. Combs-Orme, T., Orme, J.G. & **Lefmann, T.** (2013). *Early Brain Development: African American Parents' Cognitions about the First Three Years*. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Diego, CA.
19. **Lefmann, T.** & Combs-Orme, T. (2012). *Epigenetics: Critical New Knowledge for Social Workers*. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington, D.C.
20. Kreck, T. & **Lefmann, T.** (2012). *Psychopharmacology & Autism: What Every Social Worker Should Know*. International Federation of Social Workers Joint World Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
21. Combs-Orme, T., Orme, J.G. & **Lefmann, T.** (2011). *Mothers' Reported Sources of Parenting Knowledge and Advice*. Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
22. Kreck, T. & **Lefmann, T.** (2012). *Psychopharmacology & Autism: What Every Social Worker Should Know*. Annual Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, Nashville, TN.
23. Combs-Orme, T. & **Lefmann, T.** (2012). *Epigenetics: Knowledge for the 21st Century*. Annual Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, Nashville, TN.
24. **Lefmann, T.** & Combs-Orme, T. (2011). *Advice and Information about Parenting: To Whom Do Mothers Turn?* Annual Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, Nashville, TN.

Invited Presentations

1. **Lefmann, T.** (2022, April). *Toxic Stress: How it Affects Vulnerable Populations*. Presentation at Stop the Hurt Conference for the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services, Tupelo, MS.
2. **Lefmann, T.** (2021, September). *Increasing Accessing to Medication Abortion in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region*. Presentation for the Isom Fellows Poster Session.

3. **Lefmann, T.** (2021, March). *Know the Law: The State of Breastfeeding Legislation in Mississippi*. Webinar presented for CHAMPS and the Mississippi State Department of Health.
4. **Lefmann, T.** (2019, September). *The Right to Breastfeed and the Choice to Do So*. Presentation for the Isom Fellows Poster Session.
5. **Lefmann, T.** (2019, December). *Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences*. Presentation for LOU Reads Coalition, Oxford, MS.
6. **Lefmann, T.** (2019, October). *Understanding Social Determinants of Health through Epigenetics*. Webinar presented for the Arkansas Association for Infant Mental Health.
7. **Lefmann, T.** (2018, September). *Trauma's Effect on the Lifecourse: An Overview of Epigenetics*. Webinar presented for the University of Arkansas Medical Center's Psychiatric Research Institute.
8. **Lefmann, T.** (2016, February). *Epigenetics: The Bridge Between Nature & Nurture*. Webinar presented for the University of Arkansas Medical Center's Psychiatric Research Institute.

Grants

10/1/22-9/1/22	<i>FACT Institute Grant</i> University of Mississippi ThinkForward QEP Role: Principal Investigator Amount: \$4000
11/01/21-10/31/22	<i>Evaluation of Interprofessional Breastfeeding Education</i> Subaward from the Center for Health Equity, Education and Research (CHEER) of Boston Medical Center Role: Principal Investigator Amount: \$5,000
12/01/21-6/15/22	<i>Critical Thinking Course Redesign</i> University of Mississippi ThinkForward QEP Role: Principal Investigator Amount: \$1,000
02/23/20-02/23/23	<i>Right! From the Start Initiative and Expansion</i>

Kellogg Foundation and Community Foundation of
Northwest Mississippi

Role: Co-investigator

Amount: \$29,100

9/01/22-8/31/24
(not funded)

*Elevating Historically Marginalized Voices to Women-
Centric Integrated Models for Maternal Mental Health*

National Institutes of Health

RFA-NR-22-003 (R21)

Role: Co-investigator

Amount: \$393,020

03/01/21 -
(not funded)

*A Family Intervention Designed to Break the Cycle of
Intergenerational Trauma in the Mississippi Delta*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

RFA-CE-21-004 (R01)

Role: Co-investigator

Amount: \$245,735

02/14/20 -
(not funded)

*Psychosocial Factors, Medication Abortion, and the Lower
Mississippi Delta Region of the U.S.*

Society of Family Planning

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Amount: \$25,000

03/15/19 -
(not funded)

*Perceptions of Breastfeeding Support for Hourly-Wage
Workers in Mississippi*

University of Mississippi Office of Research and Sponsored
Programs, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Role: Faculty Mentor

Amount: \$4,350

11/01/18 -
(not funded)

*Breastfeeding Attitudes of Social Work Child Caseworkers
in Mississippi*

Society for Research on Child Development Early Career
Scholars Grant

Role: Principal Investigator

Amount: \$7,500

Fellowships and Awards

2019-2021

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies,

- University of Mississippi Research Fellow
 - ◆ New project development on intersectionality of breastfeeding
 - ◆ Development of cross-listed course
 - ◆ \$4,500 for 2 years

- 2019
 - Community-Engaged Research Summer Institute, Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research, 2019 Selected Cohort Member
 - ◆ Summer intensive training of junior investigators in methods of community-engaged research
 - ◆ Cost of living and travel for one week

- 2011-2013
 - The Urban Child Institute and University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Doctoral Fellow
 - ◆ Research/lab assistant to the CANDLE (Conditions Affecting Neurocognitive Development and Learning in Early childhood) Study
 - ◆ \$10,000/year for 3 years

Students Supervised

Thesis Chair

1. Jones, M. (expected 2023). *The effects of Covid-19 on maternal perceptions of parenting*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.

2. Kelly, K.G. (2022). *The long-term health and developmental implications associated with children born at low-birthweight*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.

3. Chance, A. (2020). *Mississippi immigration raids: Implications for social workers*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.

4. McDaniel, M. (2019). *Mental health and academic performance of first-generation college students*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.

5. Sullivan, G. (2017). *A qualitative evaluation of a meal service program*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.

Thesis Committee Member

1. Patel, M. (2022). *Effects of waterborne benzo(a)pyrene embryonic exposure on development, behavior, reproduction, and mitochondrial bioenergetics in zebrafish*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.
2. Meyers, J.M. (2020). *An examination of the association between state Medicaid perinatal services and birth outcomes*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College.
3. Johnson, M. (2019). *Healthcare practices related to neonatal abstinence syndrome*. Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honor's College

Editorial Responsibilities

- National Task Force member of CSWE and Erickson Institute on Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, 2020 to 2022, contributed to the *2015 EPAS Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health*.
- Editorial Board member for *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 2020 to current.
- Reviewer for *Affilia Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*, 2021 to current.
- Reviewer for *Current Women's Health Reviews*, 2020 to current.
- Reviewer for *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 2019 to current.
- Reviewer for *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 2018 to current.
- Reviewer for *Journal of Social Sciences*, 2016 to current.
- Reviewer for CSWE APM, 2018 to 2019.
- Reviewer for APHA APM, 2020 to 2021.

Service

Routine Service to Department

- BSW Committee, 2015 to current.
- PhD Committee, 2016 to current.
- HBSE Curriculum Committee Chair, 2016 to current.
- School of Applied Sciences Curriculum Committee, 2020 to 2021.

Non-Routine Service to Department

- Student Social Work Organization, Faculty advisor, 2016 to 2017.
- Search Committee for Department Chair, 2017.
- Mississippi Day Planning Committee, 2022.

University Committees

- Coordinated Community Response Team of the Violence and Intervention and Prevention Services Office, Committee member, 2021 to current.
- Faculty Senate Representative, 2018 to 2019.
- Chancellor's Standing Committee on Sensitivity and Respect, member, 2018 to current.
- Neuroscience Minor, Faculty member, 2016 to current.
- Disaster Sciences Minor, Faculty member, 2018 to current.
- UMMC Interprofessional Breastfeeding Collaborative, Faculty member, 2018 to current.
- UM Interprofessional Education Committee, Social Work Faculty representative, 2015 to 2019.

Service to University

- Confidential advocate with the Violence Intervention Program, 2021 to current.
- Faculty advisor to RASA (Rebels Against Sexual Assault) student organization, 2021 to current.

Professional and Community Service

- Leadership board member of the Memphis Full Spectrum Doula Collective, 2018 to current.
- Facilitator of A.E.Henry Community Health Center regional training of community health workers on interviewing skills, 2018.
- Judge for Mississippi Region VII Science Fair, 2016 to 2018.
- Volunteer with Remote Area Medical, 2013 to 2017.
- Volunteer with Moms Demand Action of Lafayette County, 2018 to current.
- Volunteer with Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi, 2017 to current.
- Volunteer with SHERo (Sisters Helping Every woman Rise and Organize) MS, 2022 to current.