

DR. JESS HOWSAM SCHOLL

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Ph.D., Political Science, 2026
Fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations
Dissertation: Politics of trauma in Canadian refugee settlement: How contending with violence shapes refugee-host relations
Committee: Erica Simmons (chair), Nils Ringe, Jenna Loyd, Jessica Darrow, Scott Straus

University of Wisconsin–Madison, M.A., Political Science, 2021

University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, M.S.W. / A.M., 2018
Additional program of study: Global Social Development
Registration as a Social Worker in ON, Canada, #831618

Western University, M.A., Combined Program in Political Science and Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, 2015

Duke University, B.A., Dual Degree in Political Science and Public Policy Studies, 2012

Languages: English, French, Spanish

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2025. “Refugee Resettlement: A Durable Solution at a Crossroads,” with Molly Fee, Jessica Darrow, Ashley Cureton, and Odessa Gonzalez Benson, eds., Special Issue of *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 44(1): 1-11.
- 2025. “Surviving and Resisting Retrenchment: US Resettlement Organizations’ Responses to Trump-era Anti-refugee Policy,” with Jessica Darrow, *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 44(1): 162-187.
- 2020. “Chaos and Confusion: Impacts of the Trump Administration Executive Orders on the U.S. Refugee Resettlement System,” with Jessica Darrow, *Human Service Organizations* 44(4): 362-380.

Working Papers

- Power and Contestation in Trauma: Repoliticizing Psychological Mechanisms in the Legacies of Violence Literature

- “You Have to Do This if You Want to Be a Good Person”: The Civilising Violence of Prescribing Psychotherapy as a Panacea for Refugee Seeker Distress

TEACHING

Instructor, University Wisconsin–Madison

- IS/PS 434: Politics of Human Rights, Summer 2025

Course Manager, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- IS 101: Introduction to International Studies, Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- PS 140: Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2021, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
- IS 101: Introduction to International Studies, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- PS 439: The Comparative Study of Genocide, Summer 2020
- PS 120: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- June 2026: “Depoliticizing Distress in Canadian Refugee Settlement: How Medicalized Trauma Models Undermine Refugee-Host Relations.” Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference.
- March 2026: Co-chaired panel: “Disrupting imperial violence in migration and epistemology: Recentering liberatory practice and politics.” Presented paper entitled “Problematizing psychotherapy as panacea in Canadian refugee settlement.” International Studies Association Annual Convention.
- June 2025: “Affective politics in Canadian refugee programs: How trauma shapes refugee-host relations.” CPSA Annual Conference.
- May 2025: “Civilising violence in refugee settlement.” Canadian Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference.
- April 2025: “Refugee Resettlement at a Crossroads” Special Issue Launch, hosted by University of Chicago.
- June 2024: ““Their hearts are many places”: How surviving separation shapes refugee integration.” CPSA Annual Conference.
- April 2024: “Refugee Policy, Power, and Bureaucracy: Rethorizing bureaucrats as advocates in U.S. refugee resettlement” with Jessica Darrow. Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference.
- November 2023: “Centering survival in private sponsorship: A workshop in trauma-informed care.” Workshop for the Private Refugee Sponsorship Network.
- August 2023: “Introduction to Motivational Interviewing.” Workshop for Afghan refugees in Indonesian detention.
- May 2023: “The transformative potential of private sponsorship practice.” Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

- April 2023: “Situating survival in dynamic social contexts: Toward an experiential approach to the legacies of violence” with Lisa Sousa Dias. MPSA Annual Conference.
- March 2021: “Still in survival mode: How violence shapes immigrant-host dynamics.” Qualitative Methods Working Group, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- July 2018: “How to weather the storm: The impact of President Trump’s Executive Orders on the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program” with Jessica Darrow. International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Annual Conference.
- July 2018. “Trauma-informed refugee sponsorship.” Presentation to Executive Director and staff of AURA for Refugees.

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2020-2023.
- Student Research Grant Competition, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2022-2023.
- Summer Initiative Funding Award, Dept. of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2019, 2020.
- Community Engagement RFP, University of Chicago, 2018.

SERVICE

- Co-organizer of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Qualitative Collective: monthly workshop to support underrepresented scholars/hip, Aug 2025-ongoing.
- Co-editor of Refugee Survey Quarterly Special Issue on Resettlement. Provided detailed article feedback and support to Special Issue authors, 2023-2025.
- Private sponsorship group consultant for various organizations, including Rainbow Railroad and AURA for Refugees, Nov 2022-ongoing.
- Private Refugee Sponsorship Network’s Knowledge Exchange Committee Member, Feb 2023-ongoing.
- Graduate Student Representative, Dept. of Political Science Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2019-2020.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Editorial Assistant

June 2026-ongoing

- Compiling, formatting, and editing *Rethinking Generalization* for publication submission.

Non-profit Consultant

Jan 2024-ongoing

- Design and deliver trainings on trauma-informed care and burnout prevention to refugee resettlement organizations in multiple countries.

Academic Workshop Organizer

June-Dec 2023

- Co-organized workshop with Erica Simmons and Nick Rush Smith on Rethinking Generalization in Political Science (PAship).
- Managed contracts, vendors, and logistics for the event in NY.

Europeanization and Party Politics Literature Oct-Dec 2023

- Reviewed and integrated literature on the EU and its effects on party systems in an annotated bibliography.

Social Work Consulting Jan-March 2023

- Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada in Toronto, ON.
- Authored and edited Canada-wide training materials for private sponsors of refugees.

Social Worker Summer 2017, 2018

- AURA for Refugees in Toronto, ON.
- Authored and edited content for IRCC-funded Canada-wide sponsorship training program.
- Created trauma-informed and motivational interviewing trainings for sponsorship groups. Researched and designed new approach to agency funding. Supervised two undergraduate students.

Graduate Clinical Social Work Intern Sept 2017-June 2018

- Heartland Alliance International FACES in Chicago, IL.
- Provided individual and group therapy. Co-designed a queer refugee art-based support group.

Interim Operations Manager Feb-July 2017

- Ravenswood Community Services in Chicago, IL.
- Managed weekly client-choice food pantry and community meal for over 200 neighbors. Compiled donor reports, published monthly newsletters, and managed volunteers.

Graduate Case Manager/Social Work Intern Sept 2014-June 2015

- Inspiration Corporation in Chicago, IL.
- Helped unhoused participants achieve career goals through case management. Designed curriculum for and co-facilitated popular weekly support group for people living with housing instability.

Project Assistant Aug 2013-Aug 2014

- Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto, ON.
- Coordinated over 55 events, including industry leadership panels, fundraising, and alumni events. Prepared faculty documents and assisted faculty with finances. Assisted with website redesign.

REFERENCES

Erica Simmons - essimmons@wisc.edu
 Nils Ringe - nringe@wisc.edu
 Jessica Darrow - jdarrow@uchicago.edu