

## Samantha E. Lawrence

Department of Human Development & Family Sciences

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### EDUCATION

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#### Ph.D. Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) Anticipated 2022

University of Connecticut (UConn)

Specializations: Child and Adolescent Development; Diversity and Culture; Health, Wellbeing, and Prevention

Advisor: [Rebecca Puhl](#)

Committee Members: [Ryan J. Watson](#), [Marlene Schwartz](#)

Dissertation: *The Nature and Psychosocial Consequences of Family Weight Communication and Stigma*

#### M.A. HDFS 2019

UConn

Specializations: Child and Adolescent Development; Diversity and Culture; Health, Wellbeing, and Prevention

GPA: 4.15

Thesis: *Comparing the effectiveness and durability of contact- and skills-based approaches to prejudice reduction* (Advisor: [Alaina Brenick](#))

#### B.A. Psychological Sciences, HDFS 2017

UConn

GPA: 3.97 (psychological sciences major), 4.0 (HDFS major)

Honors Scholar

Honors thesis: *You can't sit with us: The role of ethnicity in responding to situations of exclusion bullying* (Advisor: Alaina Brenick)

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I am broadly interested in **experiences, health/wellbeing consequences, and prevention of group/identity-based stigma, discrimination, and victimization** (e.g., stigma, discrimination, and victimization based on body weight, race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation) among youth and adults.

My current areas of interest include better understanding the **nature and health/wellbeing consequences of family weight stigma** among children and adults across cultures; patterns of **intergenerational transmission of weight stigma and body dissatisfaction**; and correlates/consequences of different **parent-child weight and health communication** practices.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed Publications

Lessard, L. M., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Puhl, R. M. (2021). Weight-Based Victimization and School Performance in Adolescence: Can Teachers Help Reduce Academic Risks? *School Psychology*, 36(1), 69-74. <https://doi.org/10.1037/spq0000371>.

Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Carvalheiro, D., & Berger, R. (2019). Teaching tolerance or acting tolerant? Evaluating the effectiveness of skills- and contact-based prejudice reduction interventions among Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jewish youth. *Journal of School Psychology*. 75, 8–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsp.2019.07.001> (Impact factor: 3.000).

Berger, R., Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Coco, L. & Abu-Raiya, H. (2018). The effectiveness and durability of contact- and skills-based approaches to prejudice reduction. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 59, 46-53. doi:10.1016/j.appdev.2018.04.002 (Impact factor: 2.146).

### Manuscripts Submitted for Review

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Walters, T. L., Farina, R. E., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2021). *College students' sexual motives, experiences, and drinking-related protective behavioral strategies*. [Manuscript under review].

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Walters, T. L., Clark, A. N., Zhang, Y., Hanna-Walker, V, Farina, R. E., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2021). *LGBTQ+ college students' social distancing practices during the COVID-19 pandemic*. [Manuscript under review].

Zhang, Y., Farina, R. E., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Walters, T. L., Clark, A. N., Hanna-Walker, V., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2021). *How social support and parent-child relationship quality relate to LGBTQ+ college students' well-being during COVID-19*. [Manuscript under review].

### Manuscripts in Preparation

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Zhang, Y., Hanna-Walker, V, & Lefkowitz, E. S. (in preparation). *Internalized LGBTQ+ stigma as it relates to adolescents' health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic*.

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Puhl, R. M., Schwartz, M., & Watson, R. J. (in preparation). *Links between parents' beliefs about obesity, weight bias internalization, and weight communication practices with children*.

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Puhl, R. M., Schwartz, M., Watson, R. J., & Foster, G. D. (in preparation). *A mixed-methods examination of the nature and psychosocial/health consequences of family weight stigma*.

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Puhl, R. M., Watson, R. J., Schwartz, M. Lessard, L. M., & Foster, G. D. (in

preparation). *The psychosocial and health consequences of family weight stigma across six countries.*

Lessard, L. M. & **Lawrence, S. E.** (in preparation). *Weight-Based Disparities in Youth Mental Health: Scope, Social Underpinnings, and Implications for Policy.*

Lefkowitz, E. S., Waterman, E. A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Hanna-Walker, V., Walters, T. L., & Farina, R. E. (in preparation). *Sex-related alcohol expectancies: Between- and within-person correlates and changes over time.*

## HONORS & AWARDS

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2020	Connecticut Chapter Laureate for the Philanthropic Educational Organization's Scholar Award
2020	Office of Undergraduate Research Mentorship Excellence Award
2020	University Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
2019	Outstanding Instructor in Human Development and Family Sciences Award
2019	Provost's Acknowledgment for Teaching Excellence
2019	Mattoon-Kline Endowed Scholarship Fund
2019	Human Development and Family Sciences Departmental Award
2018	L. Eugene Thomas Human Development and Family Studies Award
2017	Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award
2017	Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society
2016	Edward Victor Gant Scholarship Finalist, UConn
2016	Dr. Arnold T. Orza Scholarship, UConn
2016-2017	Raymond and Jeanne Bartman Scholarship in Family Studies, UConn
2016-2017	Frederich C. Teich Award, UConn
2016	Psi Chi Psychology National Honor Society
2015-2016	Babbidge Scholar Award, UConn
2015	Golden Key National Honor Society
2013-2017	University Dean's List, UConn

## RESEARCH SUPPORT, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2020	Lefkowitz E. S., (Principal Investigator), Clark, A. N., Farina, R. E., <b>Lawrence, S. E. (Co-Investigator)</b> , Walters, T. L., & Zhang, Y. <i>LGBTQ+ college students' living arrangements and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.</i> Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, UConn, 4/20 – 3/21. \$5,000.
2020	<i>Gender identity-based discrimination: Student, parent, and school staff evaluations of interpersonal and systemic rights violations,</i> Graduate Research Award, UConn Human Rights Institute, \$1,469.
2019	Predocctoral Graduate School Fellowship Award in support of summer research efforts in the doctoral program, UConn Graduate School, \$800.

- 2018 *Evaluations of school-based rights violations of transgender and gender non-conforming youth: A social ecological perspective*  
[Wood/Raith Living Trust Summer Fellowship](#), UConn, \$4,000.
- 2018 Summer Fellowship for Advanced Graduate Students in support of summer research efforts, UConn Graduate School, \$600.
- 2017 Dr. Michael Ego's Travel Fund to present at the Society for Research on Adolescence in Minneapolis, Minnesota, UConn, \$500.
- 2017 UConn Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Award to present at the Society for Research in Child Development in Austin, Texas, \$500.
- 2016 *The Relation Between Personal Bullying Experiences with Evaluations of Various Response Strategies to Exclusion Bullying Scenarios, (Advisor: A. Brenick)*  
Ocean Rain Family Foundation for Summer Undergraduate Research Award, UConn Office of Undergraduate Research, \$3,200.
- 2016 UConn Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Award to present at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development in Vilnius, Lithuania, \$500.
- 2016 *Exclusion Bullying in Same- and Cross-Race Contexts: Evaluations of victimization, victimizer goals, and victim responses in relation to ethnicity and personal bullying and victimization experience, (Advisor: A. Brenick)*  
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience Award, UConn Office of Undergraduate Research, \$1500.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- Lawrence, S. E.** & Brenick, A. (2020, June). You're not invited: Racial context and youth's perceptions of and victim responses to exclusionary bullying. In S. Palmer & M. Miklikowska (Chairs), *The role of group processes in reactions to and consequences of bullying and social exclusion*. Paper to be presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece. (Conference canceled).
- Lawrence, S. E.**, Doyon, M., Trahiotis, A., Carvalheiro, D., Karr, E., Flannery, K., & Brenick, A. (2020, June). The role of minority sexual identity in evaluations of sexting victimization. Poster to be presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece. (Conference canceled).
- Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Carvalheiro, D., & Stepka, A. (2020, June). School context and discriminatory bullying: The role of school climate in youth judgments of im/migrant

- bullying in the U.S. In M. Miklikowska & K. Eckstein (Chairs), *The role of school diversity contexts for intergroup attitudes and adjustment of youth in four Western countries*. Paper to be presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece. (Conference canceled).
- Brenick, A., Zwarycz, C., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Berger, R. (2018, July). Stand by or speak up: Promoting positive bystander behavior in intergroup contexts with skills- and contact-based interventions. In A. Brenick & A. Duffy (Chairs), *Getting by with a little help from my peers: Individual and social factors that contribute to defending bystander responses to bullying*. Paper presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Goldcoast, Australia.
- Brenick, A., Berger, R., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2017, October). *Teaching tolerance or acting tolerant? Comparing the effectiveness of skills- and contact-based prejudice reduction interventions among Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jewish youth*. Paper presented at the 6th International Symposium of Psychology and Human Development, Santa Clara, Cuba.
- Brenick, A., Margie, N. G., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Veres, M. (2016, July). What should victims do? The relation between bullying experience and choices for victims' responses in same-race and cross-race bullying situations. In A. Brenick & M. Schachner (Chairs), *Effects of Positive and Negative Interethnic Interactions amongst Ethnic Minority Youth in Four Countries*. Paper presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Margie, N. G., Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Veres, M. (2016, July). *Interpreting intent in potential bullying situations: The relation between race/ethnicity, hostile intent attributions, and bullying experience*. Poster presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Margie, N. G., Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Veres, M. (2016, July). *Justifying bullying: How previous experiences predict adolescent moral reasoning about exclusion used to bully in same-race and cross-race situations*. Poster presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Vilnius, Lithuania.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- Lawrence, S. E.**, Walters, T. L., Clark, A. N., Zhang, Y., Hanna-Walker, V., Farina, R. E., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2021, April). *LGBTQ+ college students' social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Flash talk paper to be presented to the Society for Research in Child Development Virtual Conference.
- Lefkowitz, E. S., Zhang, Y., Clark, A. N., Farina, R. E., Hanna-Walker, V., Walters, T. L., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2021, April). Parental relationship quality, social support, and LGBTQ+ students' stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. In E. S. Lefkowitz (Chair), *Individual and family functioning in vulnerable populations during the COVID-19*

*pandemic*. Paper to be presented to the Society for Research in Child Development Virtual Conference.

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Doyon, M., Trahiotis, A., Carvalheiro, D., Karr, E., Flannery, K., & Brenick, A. (2020, May). The role of minority sexual identity in evaluations of sexting victimization. Poster to be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development Special Topics Conference “Construction of the Other: Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Prejudice and Discrimination, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. (Conference rescheduled).

Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Carvalheiro, D., & Berger, R. Prejudice-reduction under conflict: Comparing contact and skills-training interventions. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development Special Topics Conference “Construction of the Other: Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Prejudice and Discrimination, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. (Conference rescheduled).

Lefkowitz, E. S., Waterman, E. A., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2020, March). Sex-related alcohol expectancies: Between-and within-person correlates and changes over time. In E. S. Lefkowitz (Chair), *Online and offline dating and sexual violence: The roles of alcohol, the Internet, and gender*. [Paper presentation]. Society for Research in Adolescence, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled).

Brenick, A., Carvalheiro, D., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Berger, R. (2019, March). The effectiveness of two intervention programs for promoting youth intergroup prosociality in the Middle-East. In J. Grütter & J. Peplak (Chairs), *Children’s emotions and prosocial behavior in the context of intergroup relations*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Carvalheiro, D., & Berger, R. (2019, March). Stand by or stand up? Interventions to promote prosocial intergroup bystander behavior among youth in the Middle-East. In S. Palmer & A. Brenick (Chairs), *But What Do \*They\* Say? The Role of Group Dynamics in Bullying Behaviors and Bystander Responses to Bullying*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Carvalheiro, D., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Karr, E., & Brenick, A. (2019, March). *Gender, age, group norms: How do they relate to adolescents’ evaluations of intergroup exclusion?* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

**Lawrence, S. E.**, Wink, M., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2019, March). *Mother-child sex communication: Do acculturation and ethnic identity matter?* Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Lefkowitz, E. S., Wesche, R., Wink, M., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2019, March). *Sexual motives vary by adolescents’ romantic relationship status and commitment*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

**Lawrence, S. E., Brenick, A., & Zwarycz, C.** (2018, April). *I've Got Your Back: Does Positive Bystander Intervention Relate to Adolescents' Judgments of Social Exclusion Bullying?* Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence, Minneapolis, MN.

Lefkowitz, E. S., Wesche, R., Carneiro, D., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Wink, M. (2018, April). *Daily predictors of contraception and condom use.* Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence, Minneapolis, MN.

Brenick, A., Margie, N. G., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2017, April). *Moral judgments about exclusion bullying: The role of previous bullying experiences and ethnicity of participants, excluders, and victims.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

Margie, N. G., Brenick, A., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2017, April). *The role of ethnicity and prior victimization in youth's moral reasoning about exclusion bullying in same and cross-race scenarios.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

Brenick, A., Margie, N. G., **Lawrence, S. E.**, & Veres, M. (2016, March). *The relation between personal bullying experience with evaluations of various response strategies to exclusion bullying scenarios.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

## **UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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Karr, E., Brenick, A., Carneiro, D., & **Lawrence, S. E.** (2019, April). *Send nudes: Ratings and reasoning about sexting victimization among hetero and LGB emerging adults.* Presented at the [7th Annual Spring Frontiers in Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition](#), UConn, Storrs, CT.

Brenick, A., **Lawrence, S. E.**, Berger, R., & Tarrasch, R. (2018, February). *Evaluating a school-based mindfulness & compassion training intervention to reduce Jewish-Israeli youth's prejudice of Arabs.* Presented at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity Poster Session, UConn, Storrs, CT.

**Lawrence, S. E.** (2016, February). *Understanding the effects of ethnicity in peer exclusion bullying scenarios.* Presented at the [Center for the Study of Culture, Health, and Human Development Seminar](#), UConn, Storrs, CT.

Brenick, A., Margie, N. G., **Lawrence, S. E.** & Veres, M. (2016, October). *The relation between personal bullying experience with evaluations of various response strategies to exclusion bullying scenarios.* Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Frontiers in Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition, UConn, Storrs, CT.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**HDFS, UConn**

2020- Present *Graduate Research Assistant, [UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity](#), Advisor: [Rebecca Puhl](#)*

2020- Present *Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: [Edna Brown](#)*

2017- Present *Graduate Research Assistant, Developmental Aspects of Sexual Health ([DASH](#)) Lab, Advisor: [Eva S. Lefkowitz](#)*

2015-2020 *Lab Manager and Principal Research Assistant, The Developmental Approaches to Identities, Inequalities, and Intergroup Relations ([DAIIR](#)) Lab, Advisor: [Alaina Brenick](#)*

2019 *Graduate Research Assistant, [Center for Culture, Health, and Human Development](#), Advisor: [Caroline Mavridis](#)  
Primary duty was to transcribe interviews conducted as part of an evaluation of a home visiting program to support early childhood development*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**HDFS, UConn**

Human Development: Infancy Through Adolescence

*Instructor* (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

*Teaching Apprenticeship* (Fall 2017; Advisor: Alaina Brenick)

Diversity Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences

*Instructor* (Summer 2020)

Adolescent Development

*Instructor* (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

*Teaching Apprenticeship* (Fall 2017; Advisor: Alaina Brenick)

Research Methods in Human Development

*Instructor* (Spring 2019)

*Teaching Assistant* (Fall 2018; Advisor: Keith Bellizzi)

Family Interaction Processes

*Teaching Assistant* (Fall 2017, Spring 2018; Advisor: Louisa Baker)

**PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

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2020 *Disability Awareness and Inclusive Teaching Faculty Training, Department of Educational Psychology, UConn  
Completed an online training program that discusses in detail college student experiences of ADHD, anxiety, depression, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and*



traumatic brain injuries, as well as the ways instructors can design their courses to be universally inclusive and accommodating.

2020 *Distance Education Certificate*, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UConn

Completed a certificate program on best practices in teaching and learning in an online environment.

2019-2020 *Graduate Certificate in College Instruction*, NEAG School of Education, UConn  
Completed a certificate program intended to deepen instructors' theoretical and practical understanding of teaching at the college-level.

2018, 2019 *Young Scholars Senior Summer Mentor*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program, UConn  
Facilitated and supervised the research lab immersion experience of academically talented high school students from high poverty backgrounds.

### **Professional Membership and Affiliations**

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)

International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD)

### **Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer**

Stigma and Health

Eating and Weight Disorders