

Anna Ferris, MSW
Curriculum Vitae
3701 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Email: aferris@upenn.edu

EDUCATION

PhD in Social Welfare

August 2021-present

University of Pennsylvania

School of Social Policy and Practice

Dissertation title: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the United States*

Dissertation Committee: Drs. Ram Cnaan, Roberto Gonzales, Amy Castro, and Samer Abboud

Master of Social Work

August 2016

University of Pennsylvania

School of Social Policy and Practice

Bachelor of Social Work

May 2014

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

School of Social Work

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Bervik, A., & Ferris, A. (2024). An Ideology of Deserving: A Historical Analysis of United States Immigration Policies Governing Forced Migration and Social Welfare. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12706>

Ferris, A., Marrese, T., Cnaan, R., Choi, D., & Handy, F. (2024). Who Volunteers at Refugee and Immigrant Nonprofits? Results from Two Studies. *Nonprofit Policy Forum*. doi: 10.1515/npf-2023-0066

Choi, D., Ferris, A., Marrese, T., Cnaan, R., & Handy, F. (2023). The Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers and Donors in the US. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, and Governance*. 48(3). 340-354. 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23303131.2023.2232844>

Marrese, T., Choi, D., Ferris, A., Cnaan, R., & Handy, F. Changes in Formal and Informal Volunteering Before and During Crises; Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic. (Accepted).

Choi, D., Marrese, T., **Ferris, A.**, Cnaan, R., & Handy, F. Revisiting the Religiosity and Generosity Relationship in the U.S.: Takeaways from the COVID-19 Pandemic (Accepted).

Journal Articles in Submission or Preparation

Bervik, A., **Ferris, A.**, & Ziembo, C. Different Pathways, Different Results? A Scoping Review Examining Integration Outcomes for Privately Sponsored and Government-Assisted Refugees (Revise and Resubmit).

Ferris, A., Bervik, A., Power, K., & Cnaan, R. Fragmented Integration: Social Welfare and Differential Inclusion Among Forced Migrants in the U.S. (Under Review).

Nichols, B. & **Ferris, A.** San Diego Guaranteed Income Pilot and the San Diego-Tijuana Border (in preparation)

Research Reports

Cnaan, R.A., Handy, F., Marrese, T., Choi, D. Y., and **Ferris, A.** 2022. Generosity Trends and Impacts: Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND GRANTS

Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR)

Doctoral Research Assistant - Qualitative Research Team

June 2025- present

Guaranteed Income Pilot Program (GIPP) – Paterson, NJ Phase II

- Conducting qualitative data collection, data coding, and analysis of unconditional cash experiment in Paterson, NJ
- Co-authoring the white paper on the outcomes of the experiment

The Athena Advisors

Consultant

September 2025- present

- Preparing prospect research, memos, internal audits, reports, and trainings to support non-profit organizations in strengthening their fundraising practices and organizational performance

Muslim Philanthropy Initiative - Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

2024 PhD Scholar

Dissertation Research Grant Recipient; Awarded: \$4,200

21st Century CCLC grant awarded to Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association (OCCCCA)

Program Evaluator
March 2025 – present

University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, 2024 Summer Research Fellowship

Principal Investigator

Project: Humanitarian Protection and Social Welfare Provision: An Exploration of How Access to Federal Welfare Shapes the Lives of Those Seeking Humanitarian Protection. Funding: University of Pennsylvania; Awarded \$5,000

University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, 2023 Summer Research Fellowship

Principal Investigator

Project: Who Volunteers for Refugee and Immigrant Organizations? Two Studies Exploring Volunteering at Nonprofits Serving Refugees and Immigrants. Funding: University of Pennsylvania; Awarded \$5,000

Generosity Trends and Impacts: Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA

Co-Investigator

May 2021-April 2022

TEACHING INTERESTS

Social research methods, history of social welfare, social policy, social theory, forced migration and social work

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

History and Philosophy of Social Work and Social Welfare (Fall 2025)

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice
Lecturer

Introduction to Social Research (Fall 2024)

Temple University
Adjunct Faculty

Teaching Assistant (Fall 2019)

University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
Washington, DC

Oral Presentation: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the US*

Forthcoming January 2026

International Community, Work, and Family Conference
Bielefeld, Germany

Oral presentation: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the US*

March 2025

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)
Krems, Austria (presented online)

Oral presentation: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the US*

March 2025

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
Seattle, WA

Poster Presentation: *Fragmented Integration: Social Welfare and Differential Inclusion Among Forced Migrants in the U.S.*

January 2025

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)
Lisbon, Portugal (presented online)

Oral Presentation: *Welfare Inclusion vs Exclusion: The Impact of Forced Migrant Categorization on the Modern Welfare State*

July 2024

European Conference for Social Work Research
Vilnius, Lithuania

Oral Presentation: *Welfare Inclusion vs Exclusion: The Impact of Forced Migrant Categorization on the Modern Welfare State*

April 2024

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
Washington, DC

Oral Presentation: *Who Volunteers for Refugee and Immigrant Organizations? Two Studies Exploring Volunteering at Nonprofits Serving Refugees and Immigrants*

January 2024

Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy
University of Pennsylvania

Oral Presentation: *Welfare Inclusion vs Exclusion: The Impact of Forced Migrant Categorization on Welfare Access and Integration*

December 2023

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)
Warsaw, Poland (presented online)

Oral Presentation: *Welfare Inclusion vs Exclusion: Comparing Welfare States and their Response to those with Temporary and Full Refugee Status*
July 2023

Migration Practicalities: Host Country Responses to Authorized and Unauthorized Migrants
Madrid, Spain

Oral Presentation: *Afghan Evacuee Resettlement and Civic Engagement*
October 2022

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Journal reviewer to Nonprofit Policy Forum

Journal reviewer to the International Journal of Social Welfare

Journal reviewer to VOLUNTAS

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia

Community Schools Specialist
November 2020-August 2021

SEAMAAC

(Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition)

Lead Case Manager
September 2016-November 2019

HIAS Pennsylvania

(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)

Refugee Resettlement Case Manager (MSW Field Placement)
July 2015-May 2016

Congressman Mike McIntyre

Veterans Services Case Manager (BSW Field Placement)
August 2013-May 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)

SKILLS

Software: Dedoose, R (beginner)

LANGUAGES

English (native language)

Arabic (intermediate working proficiency – Syrian dialect)