Anna Ferris, PhD

Curriculum Vitae
3701 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Email: aferris@udel.edu

EDUCATION

PhD in Social Welfare **August 2026**
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

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Delaware **August 2026- present**
College of Education and Human Development
MSW Program
Assistant Professor

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Ferris, A., Bervik, A., Power, K., & Cnaan, R. (2025). Fragmented Integration: Social Welfare and Differential Inclusion Among Forced Migrants in the U.S. *Journal of Policy Practice and Research.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s42972-025-00135-1

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

Marrese, T., Cnaan, R., & Handy, F., Choi, D., **Ferris, A.** (2025). Volunteering Under Crisis: How Resource Perceptions Relate to Formal and Informal Civic Participation Before and During COVID-19. *Nonprofit Policy Forum.* doi: 10.1515/npf-2024-0051

Choi, D., Marrese, T., **Ferris, A.,** Cnaan, R., & Handy, F. (2025). Revisiting the Religiosity and Generosity Relationship in the U.S.: Takeaways from the COVID-19 Pandemic *Social Compass.* 72(4). doi: 10.1177/00377686251387999

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

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).

Nichols, B., **Ferris, A.**, & Castro, A. With that Money, We went to Tijuana: Unconditional Cash and Strategic Bordering Practices (Revise and Resubmit)

Ferris, A. Forcibly Transnationalized: Syrian Families Across Migration Trajectories (in preparation)

Ferris, A. Syrian Life Worlds: A Phenomenological Study of Forced Displacement (in preparation)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

History and Philosophy of Social Work and Social Welfare (Fall 2026)
University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice
Lecturer

Direct Social Work Practice (Fall 2026)
University of Delaware, MSW Program
Assistant Professor

Social Work Research Methods II (Fall 2026)
University of Delaware, MSW Program
Assistant Professor

Social Work Research Methods (Spring 2026)
Rutgers University, School of Social Work

Lecturer

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, School of Social Work
Lecturer

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

- Prepare prospect research 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

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

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)
Juley 2015-May 2016

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

B/ordering the Global: Transnational Feminist Critiques from Asia
Seoul, South Korea (presented online)
Panel Presentations: *Citizenship, Belonging, and Legal Subjectivity* and *Labor, Care, and Reproduction Across Borders*
July 2026

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)
Girona, Spain (presented online)
Oral presentation: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the US*
July 2026

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
Washington, DC
Oral Presentation: *Liminality of Forced Displacement: Syrian Refugee and Immigrant Lives in the US*
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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)

IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network)

LANGUAGES

English (native language)

Arabic (intermediate working proficiency – Syrian dialect)