

GRACIE BROWNELL, PH.D., LMSW

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706.853.8071

EDUCATION:

The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX

Arlington, Texas

Ph.D. Social Work

December 2013

Baylor University

Waco, Texas

Master of Science in Social Work

May 2009

Shorter University

Rome, Georgia

Bachelor of Science

May 2006

Psychology and Sociology

Academic Employment Experience

Fall 2015- Present

Assistant Professor

Texas A &M University-Commerce

Department of Social Work

Fall 2014- Summer 2015

Ad- Interim Assistant Professor

Texas A &M University-Commerce

Department of Social Work

August 2012-Dec 2013

Adjunct Instructor

The University of Texas at Arlington

School of Social Work

Manuscripts in Process

Brownell, G., Mercado-Sierra, M., & Smith, M. Reintegration as a Social Development Strategy for Liberia's Ex-Child Soldiers: Addressing Structural Barriers. *Social Development Issues Journal*. (Revised and resubmitted).

Openshaw, L., **Brownell, G.**, Mercado-Sierra, M., Smith, M. & Dawn Nelson. Social Work Code of Ethics-Consciousness clause. (In progress)

Mercado-Sierra, M., **Brownell, G.**, & Smith, M. Food insecurity among Texas A&M- Commerce students. (In progress)

Juried Publications

Brownell, G. (2020, November). Social Work Education through a Liberian Feminist Lens. *Social Dialogue Magazine*, 23, 39-42.

Brownell, G. (2019). A phenomenological study of ex-child soldiers' perceived meaning of reintegration in post war Liberia. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2019.1665608>

Adekola, P., Azuh, D., Amoo, E., & **Brownell, G.** (2019). Restoration of water supply in postconflict communities in Nigeria and sustainable reintegration. *International Journal of Civil Engineering and Technology*, 10 (2). pp. 191-201. ISSN 0976-6316

- Smith, M. & **Gracie Brownell** (2018). Knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors regarding sickle cell disease: Implications for prevention, *Social Work in Public Health*, 33:5, 299-316, DOI: 10.1080/19371918.2018.1469064
- Brownell, G.** & Basham, R. (2017). NGO strategy toward the reintegration of child soldiers in Liberia, Africa: An online survey of services, roles, and activities. *International Social Work*. 60. 002087281770427. 10.1177/0020872817704278.
- Brownell, G.** & Aguirre A. (2015). Experiences of Former Child Soldiers in Africa: A Qualitative Interpretive Meta-Synthesis. *International Social Work* Published online before print December 31, 2015, doi: 10.1177/0020872815617994
- Adorno, G., & **Brownell, G.** (2014). Understanding Quality-of-Life While Living with Late-Stage Lung Cancer: An Exploratory Study. *Journal Of Social Work In End-Of-Life & Palliative Care*, 10(2), 127-148 22p. doi:10.1080/15524256.2014.906372
- Adorno, G., & **Brownell, G.** (January, 2013). Conference paper. Voices of Older Veterans: Quality –of-Life At the End-of-Life During Late-Stage Lung Cancer. The Society for Social Work and Research 2013 Annual Conference; 01/2013.
- Brownell, G.**, Moon, S., & Basham, R. (2012). Inadequate Health Literacy among Elderly Immigrants: Characteristics, Contributing, and Service Utilization Factors. *Journal of Human Behaviour In The Social Environment*, 22(7), 875-895. doi:10.1080/10911359.2012.707930
- Brownell, G.** (2012). Review of the book Do African Children Have Rights?. *International Social Work*, 55 (3) 429-432.

Juried Presentations

- Brownell, G.**, Smith, M., & Moore, B. (2018, October). Immigration Myths, Facts and Fantasies: Social Work Advocacy Today. Paper Presented at the 42nd Annual NASW/Texas State Conference. Arlington, TX.
- Smith, M., & **Brownell, G.** (2017, October). Knowledge about Sickle Cell Disease: Implications for Culturally Competent Prevention Efforts. Poster Presented at the CSWE's upcoming Annual Program Meeting. Dallas, TX.
- Brownell, G.**, Smith, M., & Moore, B. (2017, October). Myths, Facts and Fantasies: Immigration in the United States. Paper Presented at the 41st Annual NASW?Texas State Conference. Galveston, TX.
- Brownell, G.**, Basham, R., & Bezboruah, K. (2013, November). The Roles of NGOs in Ex-combatants' Reintegration in Liberia. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations and Voluntary Action. Hartford, CT.
- Brownell, G.** (2013, October). The Reintegration Experiences of Ex-child Soldiers in Liberia. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.
- Brownell, G.** & Richard Hoefer. (November 2012). Non-profit Organizations: Problems, Impacts, Costs, and Training Needs. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington DC.
- Brownell, G.** (June 2013). Experiences of Former Child Soldiers in Africa: A Qualitative Interpretive Meta-Synthesis. Paper presented at the Global Health and Well Being: the Social Work Response, New York, New York.

Adorno, G. F., & **Brownell, G.** (January 2013). Voices of Older Veterans: Quality-of-Life at the End-of-Life during Late-Stage Lung Cancer. Paper presented at the annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. San Diego, CA

Thesis Committee Member:

Gracie Campbell. "Batterer Rehabilitation: A Needs Assessment of Three Texas Counties." 2018.

Academic Service:

Faculty Senator, Texas A & M-Commerce Faculty Senate (2018-Present)

Chair, Faculty Senate Awards Committee (2019-Present)

Faculty Advisor, Social Work Advocacy Team (2017-Present)

Member, President's Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee (2019-2020)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Principal Investigator

March 2012 - December 2013

The Roles of NGOs in Ex-combatants' Reintegration in Liberia

School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington

- Designed survey research of NGO in Liberia
- Developed survey questionnaire
- Recruited participants and collected primary data
- Analyzed qualitative data analysis using, SPSS, grounded theory and Nvivo software
- Used excellent oral and communication skills to disseminate findings

Principal Investigator

August 2010 – May 2012

School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington

- Assisted social work professors with research projects
- Recruited participants and collected primary data
- Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data using, SPSS and Nvivo
- Prepared manuscripts for publications
- Published and presented findings at conferences

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS:

- 2009 -Recipient of the Researcher of the Year Award from Baylor University School of Social Work
- Member of Phi Alpha (Honour Society for social work students)
- Member of Phi Gamma Mu (Social Sciences Honor Society)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor

August 2015 – Present

School of Social Work

Texas A & M University- Commerce, Commerce Texas

- Teach graduate and undergraduate Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy, global perspective and research courses
- Supervise undergraduate and graduate students in the field
2200 Campbell St, Commerce, TX 75428
(903) 886-5102

Communities Living Specialist

July 2015 –August 2016

Community Specialist - Master's Level

- Provide face-to-face clinical behavioral stabilization and support interventions, supportive behavioral counseling, psycho-educational services, and referrals, skills training, advice and counseling services designed to assist youth and families function in the community.

Ad- Interim Assistant Professor

August 2014 – August 2015

Texas A & M University- Commerce, Commerce Texas

- Teach graduate and undergraduate Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Social Welfare Policy Courses
2200 Campbell St, Commerce, TX 75428
(903) 886-5102

Field Instructor

August 2013 - Present

Baylor University, Waco Texas

- Assist in providing supervision to graduate students interning in the Dallas Fort Worth area
- Monitor the educational progress of undergraduate and graduate level social work students within their assigned field placements
- Provide support, help problem-solve with students to enhance their educational experience
- Collect, review, provide feedback and complete a learning contract and evaluation for each student

Field Liaison

January 2012 – December 2013

School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington

- Monitored the educational progress of undergraduate and graduate level social work students within their assigned field placements.
- Provided support, helped problem-solve with students to enhance their educational experience
- Collected, reviewed and provided feedback and completed a learning contract and evaluation for each student

Counselor and Facilitator

June 2011 – August 2011

New Connections Parenting Program

- Provided counselling to parents who are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Facilitated parenting classes (groups and individual settings) parents involved with CPS and a mandated to attend parenting classes in order to regain custody of their children
- Supervised bachelor and master level social work interns
- 701 S Nedderman Dr, Arlington, TX 76019
- (817) 272-2011

Social Work Intake Counselor

July 2009 – June 2010

Methodist Children's Home, Waco, Texas

- Interviewed prospective applicants, conducted bio-psychosocial assessments
- Participated in and conduct presentations in the weekly Intake Screening Committee (ISC) meetings, noted the decisions and notified families of the decisions
- Collaborated with probation officers, child protection workers, counsellors, psychiatrists, families and other resource providers to facilitate application process or referrals to other agencies that can meet clients' needs
- Provided support to staff working with students through on call work by conducting assessments (suicide and depression screenings) overnight and on weekends as needed
- Supervised undergraduate and graduate level social work interns
- 1111 Herring Ave, Waco, TX 76708
- (254) 753-0181

Social Work Intern

August 2008 – May 2009

Waco Center for Youth, Waco, Texas

- Conducted psychosocial assessments
- Participated in multidisciplinary team meetings with psychiatrists, nurses, direct care staff and other team members to discuss patients' condition/diagnoses, care plan and any changes in their treatment
- Facilitated psycho-educational therapy to at risk youths in a residential setting
- Utilized interventions based on cognitive and cognitive behavioral theories
- Provided individual, group and family counselling to adolescents in a residential setting

Graduate Assistant

May 2008 – May 2009

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP Waco, Waco, Texas)

- Organized activities and field trips to promote awareness and readiness for college
- Facilitated groups with middle and high school students and their parents to create and promote early awareness and readiness for college
- Collected data for ongoing program evaluation

Social Work Intern

August 2007 – July 2008

Communities in Schools, Waco, Texas

- Provided individual case management. This includes working closely with parents and teachers around classroom behavior and social issues.
- Documented assessments and sessions with students
- Worked in collaboration with Lake Air Middle School and its partners to create a services plan to meet the student and family's needs.
- Referred students and parents to agencies in the Waco community to help them meet their needs
- Developed and implemented an evidenced based curriculum on substance abuse awareness and prevention at Lake Air Middle School. This included leading two cognitive behavioral groups during the after school program. Topics included the effects of substance abuse, anger management, peer pressure, and social skills.

Resident Counsellor

July 2006 – May 2007

St. Joseph's Children's Home, Louisville, KY

- Worked with children who have emotional and behavioral difficulties
- Helped supervise adolescent girls from ages six through seventeen with daily activities
- Helped provide counselling and mentorship for at risk youths in a residential setting
- Provided positive adult peer interaction and mediation between clients

Senior Therapeutic Aide

July 2006 – December 2006

Acute Child Psychiatry Services

- Worked with adolescents with psychiatric or emotional distress in their homes, communities and hospitals
- Provided short-term intensive family and individual therapy and in-home crisis management and crisis intervention as needed
- Conducted suicide assessments as needed
- Provided case management

Intern

Spring 2006

Hospitality House for Women, Rome, Georgia

- Worked as a case manager and counsellor for female victims of domestic abuse
- Helped counsel and mentor children of domestic abuse victims

Intern

Fall 2005

Division of Family and Children Services, Rome, Georgia

- Worked as a co-case manager on child abuse cases
- Worked with the crisis hotline and took intake calls

- Worked alongside investigator in response to intake calls
- Documented inquiry calls, investigation and sessions with clients
- Conducted home visits to investigate alleged child abuse and neglect

NON SOCIAL WORK RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Chief Executive Officer/Volunteer

October 2009 – 2015

RadioLIB Inc. (A non-profit, community based radio station)

- Directed program planning, goals and strategies development, implemented and monitored projects
- Led in partnership with the board and provide oversight of RadioLIB's long and short term goals in
- Spearheaded the organization's involvement in community development both in the Liberian diaspora and the Republic of Liberia

Professional Affiliations, Licensure, and Special Training

- Licensed Master Social Worker, State of Texas
- Board member BESTWA, Inc.
- Board member Organize for Liberia