

STERLING P. BENTLEY, MSW

HE/HIM/HIS

📞 919-706-2941

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EDUCATION

Sociology- B.A. Concentration in Gender and Sexuality University of North Carolina - Asheville 2016	Master of Social Work Organizational and Community Leadership Michigan State University 2023	Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work School of Social Work Michigan State University Expected 2028
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Civic Engagement within Marginalized Communities
 - Health Equity for Sexual and Gender Minority Populations
 - Political and Legislative Advocacy
 - Transgender and Gender Diverse Resistance and Resilience
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant- Dr. Deirdre Shires

2022- Present

- Participated in content analysis examining the motivating factors for cisgender parents to become advocates of their transgender children
- Conducted a literature review of best practices when forming a community advisory board

Graduate Student Representative- Multidisciplinary Research Team at MSU

2022- Present

- Conducted cognitive interviews to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the focus group guide being used for the MSU LGBTQIA2s+ Student Climate Survey
- Assisted in the design, implementation, and dissemination of the MSU LGBTQIA2S+ Student Climate Survey

Research Assistant- Dr. Carla Pfeffer

2022- Present

- Co-authored the "Stealth (Transgender Passing)" entry for the peer-reviewed publication, *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies*

Community Organizer

2018-2021

- Conducted needs assessments of transgender individuals living in rural areas of North Carolina to better understand health disparities and inform interventions
- Used qualitative data to frame legislative advocacy efforts with LGBTQ+ youth and families
- Conducted needs assessments of LGBTQ+ affirming educators and used the data to inform programmatic goals and organizational policies

Undergraduate Student

2015-2016

- Conducted a content analysis of social media coverage of women in sports. Examined the differences in the language that national sports news outlets, such as ESPN, described women's athletic achievements versus how the athletes described their own accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Pfeffer, Carla A., & Bentley, Sterling. (forthcoming) "Stealth (Transgender Passing)." In Abbie E. Goldberg and Genny Beemyn (eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Bentley, S.P. (2016, April 8). In *The Game: Female Athletes Battle With Sexism* [Paper presentation] NCUR Proceedings. National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Asheville, NC. Council on Undergraduate Research.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kattari, L., Kynn, J., Bentley, S., Pfeffer, CA. (2023). "All You Have to Do is Show Up:" An Exploration of the Experiences with Policy Action Among Cisgender Parents of Transgender and Gender Diverse Children. [Manuscript in preparation].

WORK EXPERIENCE

LGBTQ+ Youth Center Programs Director

LGBTQ+ Center of Durham, Inc. | Nov. 2020- July 2021

- Founded Gender and Sexuality Alliances in 4 high schools and 6 middle schools within the first six months of the position
- Prepared 5 transgender youth and their families to testify in front of the North Carolina State Legislature in opposition to anti-transgender bills
- Engaged community partners to build a coalition of over 20 youth justice leaders

Executive Director

Insideout 180 | May 2019-Jan. 2021

- Mentored and supervised 22 LGBTQ+ youth leaders with an emphasis on youth autonomy and intersectional values
- Developed program assessments and evaluations for 4 programmatic areas
- More than doubled the number of youth participants for Pride:Durham resulting in over 100 LGBTQ+ youth leading the pride march

Rural Youth Empowerment Fellow

Equality NC, | Oct. 2018-Oct. 2019

- Created an original social justice project, Health Care Support Plan, that empowers transgender people who are seeking gender-affirming healthcare
 - [Health Care Support Plan](#)
- Worked with community leaders to create resources for LGBTQ+ people living in rural areas across North Carolina
- Successfully lobbied state leaders to make conversion therapy illegal in North Carolina

AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Rasmussen Fellowship Award

The Graduate School at Michigan State University | August 2023

Advocacy Scholars Program

Michigan State University School of Social Work | August 2022-May 2023

Human Services Management Certificate

Michigan State University School of Social Work | August 2022-May 2023

Master of Social Work Student of the Year- MSU

National Association of Social Workers- Michigan Chapter | April 2022

Gordon and Gladys Aldridge Memorial Endowed Fellowship Fund Recipient

Michigan State University School of Social Work | August 2021

Honors Society Member

Department of Anthropology and Sociology | University of North Carolina- Asheville | 2016

Undergraduate Research Scholar

University of North Carolina- Asheville | 2016

Allyship Award

Black Student Association | University of North Carolina- Asheville | 2016

MEDIA COVERAGE

"Student view: For once, not 'the first'" (June 20, 2022). <https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2022/student-view-for-once-not-first-sterling-bentley?collection=05db6d6c-340b-45d5-8e27-27e795dddea1>

"Triangle LGBTQ athletes, advocates voice support after Raiders' Carl Nassib comes out" (June 22, 2021). <https://abc11.com/carl-nassib-nfl-raiders-las-vegas/10821078/>

"RYE Fellowship Youth Town Hall: Transgender Day of Visibility" (March 31, 2020). <https://qnotescarolinas.com/events/rye-fellowship-town-hall-transgender-day-of-visibility/>

"RYE Fellows Blog About Their Trip to D.C." (July 1, 2019). https://equalitync.org/news/rye_fellows_DC_blog/index.html