

# Kalah M. Villagrana, PhD, MSW, MPA

Assistant Professor  
School of Social Work  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2023                    **Ph.D., Social Work**  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University  
Dissertation: *Facilitators and Barriers of Effective Interprofessional Collaboration between Child Welfare and School Professionals*
- 2018                    **Master of Social Work**  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University
- 2018                    **Master of Public Administration**  
School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University
- 2013                    **Bachelor of Arts in Education, Elementary Education (English as a Second Language)**  
Barrett, the Honors College, Arizona State University

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2023- Present        **Assistant Professor**  
School of Social Work, Michigan State University
- 2019-2023            **Instructional Professional**  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University
- 2017-2019            **Instructional Professional**  
Academic Success Programs, Arizona State University

## ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

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10. Villagrana, K. M., Carver, A. T., Holley, L. C., Ogbonnaya, I. N., Stott, T., Denby, R., & Ferguson, K. M. (In Press). "You have to go hunting for information": Barriers to service utilization among expectant and parenting youth with experience in foster care. *Child & Family Social Work*.
9. Gibbs, D. J., Phillips, J. D., & Villagrana, K. M. (In Press). Stress, satisfaction, and turnover among child welfare workers: Examining associations with quality of interprofessional collaboration. *Journal of the Society for Social Work Research*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1086/724586>
8. Phillips, J. D., Villagrana, K. M., Gibbs, D. J., & Goldsborough, E. J. (2023). A quantitative study of the relationship between interprofessional collaboration and job satisfaction

- among child welfare caseworkers. *Families in Society*, 104(4), 504-516.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894231182170>
7. Wu, Q., Lawler, S., Mody, E., **Villagrana, K.**, & Ferguson, K. (2023). The relationship between housing status and behavioral health outcomes among youth experiencing homelessness with a foster care history in three U.S. cities. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, 14(2). <https://doi.org/10.1086/714134>
  6. **Villagrana, K. M.**, Carver, A. T., Holley, L. C., Ogbonnaya, I. N., Stott, T., Denby, R., & Ferguson, K. M. (2022). "They show us we're important": Facilitators of service utilization among expectant and parenting young people with foster care histories. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 39, 749-762. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00855-3>
  5. Hatch, E., Villagrana, K. M., Wu, X., Lawler, S.M., & Ferguson-Colvin, K. (2022). Predictors of secondary completion among homeless youth in three U.S. cities and the potential application of national policies. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 39, 347-359. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00826-8>
  4. **Villagrana, K. M.**, Vieyra, M., Mabingani, D., Krysik, J., Stott, T., & Hernández, J. (2020). Arizona National Youth in Transition Database: An innovative child welfare agency and university collaboration. *Children's Voice*, 29(2), 67-69.
  3. **Villagrana, K. M.**, Mody, E. H., Lawler, S. M., Wu, Q., & Ferguson, K. M. (2020). Educational outcomes for homeless young adults with and without a history in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 116, 105153. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105153>
  2. Wu, S., **Villagrana, K. M.**, Lawler, S. M., & Garbe, R. (2020). School lunch participation and youth school failure: A multi-racial perspective. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 47(3), 29-52.
  1. **Villagrana, K. M.** (2020). A model to improve educational stability collaborations between child welfare and educational agencies: Applying the theory of collaborative advantage. *Child Welfare*, 98(2), 85-102.

## **PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS**

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2. Cheung, J. R., & **Villagrana, K. M.** (2023). An overview of policies impacting elementary through postsecondary educational outcomes for children, youth, and young adults with foster care histories. In R.W. Denby & C. Ingram (Eds.). *Child and Family Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice*. Child Welfare League of America.
1. Phillips, J. D., Jurczak, E., **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Gibbs, D. J. (2023). Interdisciplinary practice in child and family-serving systems. In R.W. Denby & C. Ingram (Eds.). *Child and*

*Family Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice*. Child Welfare League of America.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

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1. **Villagrana, K. M.** (2020). [Review of the book *The Impossible Imperative: Navigating the Competing Principles of Child Protection*, Jill Duerr Berrick]. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 47(1).

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

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Harris, E., **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Vieyra, M. (2022). Qualitative assessment of key needs of young people transitioning out of foster care in Arizona.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW**

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**Villagrana, K.M.** (In Review). “They want to hear my voice”: Facilitators of interprofessional collaboration among professionals supporting the education of children and youth in foster care.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

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**Villagrana, K. M.**, Ogbonnaya, I. N., Carver, A. T., Holley, L. C., Stott, T., Denby, R., & Ferguson, K. M. (In Prep). Effect of the Empowered Young Parents Program for young people with foster care backgrounds: A pilot study.

Phillips, J. D., Jurczak, E., & **Villagrana, K. M.** (In Prep). Development and application of a comprehensive competency-based child welfare training needs assessment.

Phillips, J. D., Jurczak, E., **Villagrana, K. M.** & Gibbs, D. J. (In Prep). A scoping review of empirical studies exploring the facilitators and barriers of interprofessional and interagency collaboration in the U.S. child welfare system.

## **RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANTS**

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2024-Present **Principal Investigator, In-Service Education for Michigan Child Welfare Professionals**

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Funding: \$660,000

Funding Period: 2021-2024

2022 **Principal Investigator, JumpStart Research Grant (Dissertation Funding)**

Graduate and Professional Student Association, Arizona State University

Funding: \$750

- 2021           **Principal Investigator, Graduate Research Support Program (Dissertation Funding)**  
Graduate College, Arizona State University  
Funding: 2,000
- 2018-2020    **Co-Principal Investigator, Empower: Online Training for Supportive Adults of Foster Youth**  
Women & Philanthropy, Arizona State University  
Funding: 60,000

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- 2022           **Summer Research Institute**, Selected Participant, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau
- 2021           **Honorable Mention, Best Paper Award**  
Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions Doctoral Conference
- 2019           **Teaching Excellence Award**  
Graduate and Professional Student Association, Arizona State University
- 2018-2019    **Graduate College Fellowship**  
Graduate College, Arizona State University (\$15,000)

## **PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS**

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15. **Villagrana, K. M.**, Cheung, J., & Geiger, J. M. (February 2024). *Programs and practice to promote college access for hidden college populations*. Invited as a presenter of an oral paper at the 2024 National Conference for Hidden Student Populations. Virtual
14. **Villagrana, K. M.** (January 2024). *A mixed methods study of interprofessional collaboration between child welfare and school professionals: Barriers and facilitators*. Invited as a presenter of an oral paper at the 2024 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, D.C.
13. Phillips, J., Gibbs, D, **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Jurczak, E. (January 2023). *A primer on conducting scoping reviews: Purpose, guidelines, and resources*. Invited as a presenter of a workshop at the 2023 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
12. Cheung, J. R., & **Villagrana, K., M.** (March 2022). *Finding solutions together: Increasing access and retention for students with foster care histories*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2022 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference. Baltimore, MD.

11. Cheung, J. R., **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Sempel, O. (October 2021). *Bridging Success: Supporting students with a foster care background*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2021 National Conference on Students in Transition Conference. Virtual.
10. Carver, A. T., **Villagrana, K. M.**, Holley, L. C., Ogbonnaya, I. N., Stott, T., Denby, R., & Ferguson, K. M. (January 2021). *"They show us that we're important": Facilitators to pregnancy and parenting service utilization as perceived by stakeholders and young parents with foster care histories*. Invited as a presenter of an oral paper at the 2021 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual.
9. Lawler, S., Reed, L., & **Villagrana, K. M.** (January 2021). *Generation Z heterosexual dating scripts: A confirmatory factor analysis of the Heterosexual Script Scale for adolescents and its correlates with teen dating abuse*. Invited as a presenter of an oral paper at the 2021 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual.
8. **Villagrana, K. M.** (January 2020). *Educational outcomes for homeless youth adults with a history in foster care: Implications for state tuition waiver programs for foster youth*. Invited as a presenter of a symposium paper at the 2020 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, D.C.
7. **Villagrana, K. M.** (October 2019). *Developing an interdisciplinary online intervention for supportive adults of foster youth*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Council for Social Work Education Conference. Denver, CO.
6. Wu, S., Lawler, S. M., **Villagrana, K. M.** & McCullough-Cosgrove, J. (October 2019). *Risk and resilience in youth: A social determinants of health perspective*. Invited as a presenter of a panel presentation at the 2019 Council for Social Work Education Conference. Denver, CO.
5. **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Hanrahan, J. (October 2019). *Developing pipeline programs for foster youth: Summer bridge, course, and online training*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Arizona National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
4. Lawler, S. M., Wu, S., & **Villagrana, K. M.** (April 2019). *Multi-racial comparison on relative detainment and youth gang involvement: A propensity score analyses*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
3. **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Hanrahan, J. (March 2019). *Foster care alumni first-year experience: Creating and implementing an innovative bridge program for first-year students*. Invited as presenter of an oral session at the 2019 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
2. **Villagrana, K. M.** (February 2019). *Free lunch participation and youth educational outcomes: A multi-racial perspective*. Invited as presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Watts

College of Public Service and Community Solutions Doctoral Research Conference.  
Phoenix, AZ.

1. **Villagrana, K. M.** & Hanrahan, J. (December 2018). *Development and outcomes of a foster care alumni bridge program*. Invited as presenter of an oral session at the 2018 Arizona Educational Research Organization Conference. Tempe, AZ.

## **PEER-REVIEWED POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

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4. Gibbs, D. J., Phillips, J. D., & **Villagrana, K. M.** (January 2022). *Interprofessional collaboration, job stress, and intention to leave among the child welfare workforce: A structural equation model*. Poster presented at the 2022 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Originally accepted as an oral paper. Virtual.
3. **Villagrana, K. M.**, Carver, A. T., Holley, L. C., Ogbonnaya, I. N., Stott, T., Denby, R., & Ferguson, K. M. (January 2021). *“You have to go hunting for information”: Barriers to service utilization among pregnant/parenting young people with experience in foster care*. Poster presented at the 2021 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual.
2. Lechuga-Peña, S., **Villagrana, K. M.**, Mitchell, F. M. & Marroquin, J. M. (January 2021). *Incorporating Photovoice into an existing Latinx bilingual community-based intervention: Lessons learned from Your Family, Your Neighborhood*. Poster presented at the 2021 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual.
1. Lawler, S. M. & **Villagrana, K. M.** (January 2020). *Relative detainment and gang involvement among Arizona youth: Variation across racial groups*. Poster presented at the 2020 Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

## **OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

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6. **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Cheung, J. R. (March 2022). *Strategies to support the educational success of children and youth in foster care*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2022 School Social Work Association of Arizona Annual Conference. Scottsdale, AZ.
5. **Villagrana, K. M.** & Taylor, J. (February 2020). *Engaging new resources to promote bright educational futures for foster youth*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2020 Arizona School Counselors Association Conference. Fort McDowell, AZ.
4. **Villagrana, K. M.**, & Hanrahan, J. (December 2019). *Empowering foster youth to navigate pathways to postsecondary education*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Arizona ACT Summit. Phoenix, AZ.
3. **Villagrana, K. M.** (November 2019). *Developing an online intervention: Empower Online Training*. Invited as a presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Following in the Footsteps of Radicals Conference. Tempe, AZ.

2. **Villagrana, K. M.** (April 2019). *Free lunch participation and youth educational outcomes: A multi-racial perspective*. Poster presented at the 2019 Institute for Social Science Research Poster Contest. Tempe, AZ.
1. Cheung, J., **Villagrana, K. M.**, Hanrahan, J., & Jimenez, G. (February 2019). *Increasing access and success for foster youth at Arizona State University*. Invited as presenter of an oral session at the 2019 Social Embeddedness Network Conference. Tempe, AZ.

## **TEACHING & MENTORING**

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- 2023-Present **Instructor, School of Social Work, Michigan State University**  
SW840: Generalist Social Work Practice Methods I (In person)  
SW841: Generalist Social Work Practice Methods II (In person)  
SW200: Introduction to Social Work (In person)
- 2019-2023 **Instructional Professional, School of Social Work, Arizona State University**  
SWG 519: Research Methods in Social Work (In person)  
SWU 340: Macro Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Online)  
SWU 320: Research Methods in Social Work (Online)  
SWU 291: Social Service Delivery Systems (In person/Online)
- 2019 **Academic Associate, School of Social Work, Arizona State University**  
SWG 519: Research Methods in Social Work (Online)
- 2017-2019 **Instructional Professional, Academic Success Programs, Arizona State University**  
UNI 220: Mindset Connections (In person)  
UNI 120: Academic Success Seminar (In person)
- 2022 **Watts College Undergraduate Research Program, Arizona State University**  
Arianna Troutt

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2023-Present **Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, & Governance**  
Ad Hoc Reviewer
- 2021-Present **Journal of Public Child Welfare**  
Ad Hoc Reviewer
- 2021-Present **Perspectives on Social Work**  
Ad Hoc Reviewer

## **SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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- 2023-Present **Faculty Affiliate:** Center for the Interdisciplinary Research, Collaboration, Learning, and Engagement  
Michigan State University
- 2023-Present **Committee Member:** Foundation and Clinical Practice Sequence Committee  
School of Social Work, Michigan State University
- 2023-Present **Committee Member:** BASW Sequence Committee  
School of Social Work, Michigan State University
- 2020-2023 **Committee Member:** Foster Care Alumni Champions Committee  
Arizona State University
- 2018-2023 **Committee Member:** Child Welfare Curriculum Committee  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University

## **POST-MSW PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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- 2021- 2023 **Social Worker,** Bridging Success  
Watts College, Arizona State University
- 2021-2023 **Research Specialist,** School of Social Work  
University of Connecticut
- 2021-2022 **Consultant, Transitional Age Youth Project,** Center for Child Well-being  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University
- 2021 **Survivor Link AmeriCorps Service Member,** Office of Gender-Based Violence  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University
- 2018-2021 **Research Coordinator,** Child Welfare Education Program  
School of Social Work, Arizona State University

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Council for Social Work Education  
Society for Social Work and Research