

Vincent A. Fusaro

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Boston College School of Social Work
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Education

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ph.D., Social Work & Political Science, 2017

Concentrations in social service systems, American politics, and research methods

Dissertation: *The Spirit of '96: States and the Implementation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*

Dissertation committee: H. Luke Shaefer (co-chair, Social Work), Vincent L. Hutchings (co-chair, Political Science), Sandra K. Danziger (Social Work), Charles R. Shipan (Political Science)

Boston University

Boston, Massachusetts

Master of Social Work, 2005

Concentration: Macro practice

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, Rhode Island

Bachelor of Arts, 2002

Summa Cum Laude

Major: Political Science

Research Interests

Material hardships; poverty and low-wage work in the United States; evaluation of policies and programs to address hardship in low-income families; social, political, and economic influences on policy and program implementation; durable inequalities; social workers as policy actors

Teaching Interests

History and theory of social welfare policy; poverty and economic inequality; policy design and implementation; program and policy evaluation; methods of social research; macro practice

Publications

- Fusaro, V.** & Gewirtz, R. (accepted). TANF still matters: A social work perspective. *Social Work*.
- Fusaro, V.** (2021). Operationalizing the salience of race to state social policy: A comparison of approaches with application to TANF. *Journal of Policy Practice and Research*, 2, 213-232.
- Fusaro, V.** (2021). State variation in TANF expenditures: Implications for social work and social policy. *Social Work*, 66(2), 157-166.
- Fusaro, V.**, Dal Santo, L., & Shaefer, H.L. (2021). The end of welfare? Repurposing assistance and leaving families behind. *Social policy & social justice: Meeting the challenges of a diverse society* (4th ed.) (pp. 379-400). (M. Reisch, Ed.). Cognella, Inc.
- Fusaro, V.**, Shaefer, H.L., & Simington, J. (2021) Communities moving ahead, falling behind: Evidence from the Index of Deep Disadvantage. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 695, 292-312.
- Fusaro, V.** (2021). States & cash assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Race, politics, and policy structure. *Policy Studies Journal*, 49(3), 811-834.
- Shaefer, H.L., Edin, K., **Fusaro, V.**, & Wu, P. (2020). The decline of cash assistance and the well-being of poor children. *Social Forces*, 98(3), 1000-1025.
- Pandey, S. & **Fusaro, V.** (2020) Food insecurity among women of reproductive age in Nepal: Prevalence and correlates. *BMC Public Health*, 20(175).
- Krings, A., **Fusaro, V.**, Lee, N.Y., & Nicoll, K. (2019). Social work, politics, and social policy education: Applying a multidimensional framework of power. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 55(2), 224-237.
- Fusaro, V.** (2019). TANF. *Encyclopedia of Social Work*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Fusaro, V.**, Levy, H., & Shaefer, H.L. (2018). Racial and ethnic disparities in the lifetime prevalence of homelessness in the United States. *Demography*, 55(6), 2119-2128.
- Fusaro, V.** & Shaefer, H.L. (2016). How should we define low-wage work? An analysis using the Current Population Survey. *Monthly Labor Review*, October 2016.
- Fusaro, V.** (2015) Who's left out: Characteristics of households in economic need not receiving public support. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 42(3), 65-85.
- Fusaro, V.**, Bassuk, E., Grandin, M., Guilderson, L., & Hayes, M. (2012). Homeless families: United States. In Smith, S. et al. (eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home* (pp. 8-14). Oxford, U.K.: Elsevier.

Book Reviews

Fusaro, V. (2018) *Read my lips: Why Americans are proud to pay taxes* by Vanessa Williamson. *Social Work*, 63(3), 281-283.

Evaluation Reports

Fusaro, V. (2009). *Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children: Year 2, 2008-2009*. Newton, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness. <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/188.pdf>.

Fusaro, V. (2008). *Strengthening At Risk and Homeless Young Mothers and Children: Year 1, 2007-2008*. Newton, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness. <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/186.pdf>.

Non-Academic Writing

Fusaro, V. (2018) Family cap policy worsens poverty. Letter to the editor, *MetroWest Daily News*, June 1, 2018.

Conference Presentations

Fusaro, V. Cashless SNAP units with children & state TANF policy. January, 2020 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Fusaro, V. The salience of race to state policy: Measurement and implications for research and practice. January, 2020 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Fusaro, V. Trends in zero-income SNAP units with children: A role for TANF? November, 2019 poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management fall research conference, Denver, CO.

Fusaro, V. State contexts and food bank use by low-income families with children. January 2019 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Fusaro, V. The public and private safety nets: Does state policy predict emergency food resource use in low-income households? November 2018 poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management fall research conference, Washington, DC.

Fusaro, V. Beyond cash assistance: Examining TANF as a funding mechanism. June 2018 oral presentation at the Influencing Social Policy Conference 2.0, St. Louis, MO.

Fusaro, V. Still a safety net? TANF Cash assistance coverage and state fiscal health. January 2018 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

- Fusaro, V.** The decline of cash assistance: The state politics of TANF-as-funding-stream. November 2017 oral presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Nicoll, K., **Fusaro, V.**, & Wernick, L. Advocating for justice in an age of adversity. October 2017 interactive workshop presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX.
- Fusaro, V.** States and the decline of cash assistance: Race, politics & policy structure under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. April 2017 oral presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Fusaro, V. & Nicoll, K.** Children in immigrant families & economic hardship: Patterns of program participation. January, 2017 poster presentation at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Fusaro, V.** Beyond cash assistance: Race and state TANF spending priorities. January 2016 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Fusaro, V.** State TANF funding priorities & material hardship: Evidence from the Current Population Survey. November 2015 poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Miami, FL.
- Fusaro, V.** Party polarization in the United States: Implications for advocacy practice & social work education. October 2015 oral presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Fusaro, V.** Frayed safety net: Households in economic need and non-participation in income support programs. January 2015 poster presentation at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Fusaro, V.** Institutional control & welfare policy change in the American states. April 2014 oral presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Fusaro, V. & Tillotson, A.** Symbolic stringency in American welfare policy: State implementation of TANF EBT restrictions. January 2014 poster presentation at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Fusaro, V. & Tillotson, A.** Symbolic stringency in American welfare policy: Patterns of rapid diffusion following the passage of the middle class tax relief and job creation act. April 2013 oral presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Fusaro, V. & Lein, L.** Low-income non-residential fathers and public support programs. January 2013 oral presentation at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Desovich, T., Patton, S. & **Fusaro, V.** POP² (Power of Positive Prevention project): How to sell social norms to your community. July 2007 oral presentation at the National Conference on the Social Norm Approach, Cambridge, MA.

Additional Research Experience

University of Michigan School of Social Work, 2013-2014
Research Assistant for H. Luke Shaefer

University of Michigan School of Social Work, 2011-2012
Research Assistant for Laura Lein

Boston University, 2003-2005
Research Assistant for Maryann Amodeo and Scott Miyake Geron

Additional Research Methods Training

Inter-university Consortium for Social & Political Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research 2011, 2015 (coursework in advanced linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, rational choice modeling, and Bayesian methods)

Conducting Research Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation workshop, 2013

American Evaluation Association/Centers for Disease Control Summer Evaluation Institute 2007, 2009

Awards and Honors

Nominee, Harold D. Lasswell Award (for best dissertation in the field of public policy) 2019
American Political Science Association

Nominee, ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award 2018
University of Michigan

Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Award 2018 \$1000
Society for Social Work and Research

Doctoral Student Research Poster Award 2017 (for best research poster presented by a student in the University of Michigan Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science)
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Henry J. Meyer Award 2016-2017 (for best paper by a student in the University of Michigan Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science) \$7500
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Robert L. Schneider Dissertation Award 2016 \$1500

Influencing Social Policy

Joint Doctoral Program Grant 2016 (for distinguished achievement in the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science) \$9000
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Rackham Debt Management Award 2014 (for commitment to public service) \$7500
University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Clara P. & Larry E. Davis Scholarship 2013, \$5000
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Urban Practice Scholarship 2003-2005
Boston University School of Social Work

Grants and Fellowships

Funded

Research Incentive Grant 2019-2020 \$15,000
Boston College

Gerald R. Ford Fellowship 2015-2016 \$20,000, 2016-2017 \$24,695
University of Michigan Department of Political Science

Fahs-Beck Scholar 2015 \$5000
Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation

Summer Research Partnership 2013 \$4000, 2014 \$4000
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Rackham Conference Travel Grant 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Rackham Summer Training Grant 2011
University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Unfunded, full proposal invitation

The Fiscal Dynamics of TANF: Implications for Equity, 2019 \$90,000
Equity-Focused Policy Research: Building Evidence on Income Supports for Low-income Families with Children
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Basic Skills in Macro Practice (SCWK 8800), Fall 2019

Social Welfare System (SCWK 7701), Spring 2018, 2019, 2020
Boston College School of Social Work

Social Policy Design & Enactment, Fall 2014
University of Michigan School of Social Work

Teaching Assistant

Contemporary Issues in American Politics, Fall 2012, Fall 2013
University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Introduction to American Politics, Winter 2013, Winter 2014
University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Political Theory, Fall 2001
University of Rhode Island

Additional Teaching Experience

Boston College School of Social Work Social Innovation Day
Faculty consultant
2018, 2019

Institute for Social Research/National Science Foundation-Census Research Network
Teaching Assistant
Conducting Research Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation
Summer 2014 (Ann Arbor, MI), Summer 2015 (Suitland, MD)

Tufts University
Guest lecturer
November 20, 2009 for course, *Child and Youth Development: International Perspectives on Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances*

Practice Experience

Research Associate National Center on Family Homelessness 2007-2010

Project manager for national multi-site program evaluation. Responsible for instrument development, data management, and analysis. Conducted focus groups and qualitative interviews with program clients, staff, and leadership. Oversaw on-site data collectors. Developed written products and presentations for a variety of audiences.

Community Health Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts 2005-2007
Analyst

Designed, conducted, and analyzed data for process and outcome evaluations of substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, and parenting education interventions. Conducted community health needs assessment surveys with eight Massachusetts high schools. Provided training and technical assistance to eleven community coalitions on substance abuse prevention, youth development, needs assessment, and evaluation.

Academic Service

Boston College

Publishable paper committee, Joshua Lown, 2021.

Discussant, “Unbound: How Inequality Constricts Our Economy and What We Can Do About It” presentation by Heather Boushey, February 2020

Boston College School of Social Work/United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley collaboration working group, 2018-present

Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Committee, 2019-present
Metrics and measurement subcommittee

Executive Committee, School of Social Work, 2019-present

Master of Social Work Admissions Committee, 2018

Local and Global Sustainable Development Working Group, 2018

University of Michigan

Chair, University of Michigan School of Social Work Doctoral Students Organization, 2013-2015

Co-coordinator, University of Michigan Interdisciplinary Group on Poverty & Inequality, 2011-2013

Treasurer, University of Michigan School of Social Work Doctoral Students Organization, 2011-2013

Panel chair, University of Michigan Interdisciplinary Group on Poverty & Inequality Graduate Student Conference, 2012

Manuscript reviewer, University of Michigan Interdisciplinary Group on Poverty & Inequality Graduate Student Conference, 2011

External

External reviewer for Royce, E. *Poverty & Power: The Problem of Structural Inequality*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Organizer, Policy Practice & Social Work Special Interest Group, Society for Social Work & Research, 2021

Member, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference program committee, 2020, 2021.

Symposium organizer, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, 2020.

Member, Society for Social Work and Research Doctoral Fellow Award committee, 2019, 2020

Proposal reviewer, Macro 2020 Conference, 2019.

Discussant, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, 2019

Discussant, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, 2018

Member, Grand Challenges for Social Work Reducing Extreme Economic Inequality Working Group, 2017-present

Proposal reviewer, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, 2017, 2018

Ad hoc reviewer, *Social Forces*; *Community, Work and Family*; *Journal of Family Issues*; *Population Research and Policy Review*; *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*; *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*; *Social Indicators Research*; *Social Policy & Society*; *Social Work in Mental Health*; *International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health*

Public Service

Expert testimony before Massachusetts legislature Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities on proposal to index Temporary Aid to Families with Dependent Children (Massachusetts TANF) cash assistance benefits to the “deep poverty” threshold. July 16, 2019.

Expert testimony before Massachusetts legislature Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities on proposal to repeal Temporary Aid to Families with Dependent Children (Massachusetts TANF) cash assistance family cap. March 5, 2019.

Expert testimony before Massachusetts legislature Joint Committee on Ways and Means on proposal to repeal Temporary Aid to Families with Dependent Children (Massachusetts TANF) cash assistance family cap. March 16, 2018.

Grant review volunteer, United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley. Evaluated proposals, conducted site visits, and participated in grant review meetings for financial capacity enhancement program initiatives. 2017.

Guest instructor, Huron High School introductory economics. Taught three classes on poverty in the United States. March 15, 2017.

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

Association for Community Organization and Social Action

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

Influencing Social Policy

Society for Social Work & Research