

Steven S. Wahle

RESEARCH PROGRAM

I am interested in military veteran identity. Relatedly, I am researching the theory and origins of social work practice, and how these relate to veterans.

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC College of Social Work	Expected Nov. 2022
MSW	Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO	2015
Bachelor of Arts	University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL	2009
Associate of Arts	Valencia College, Orlando, FL	2007

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator 2020-Present
The Relationship between Veteran Identity and Resource Engagement on a College Campus. Dr. Laura Brashears (U of SC Sociology)
Prepare and build survey, distribute survey, data management, data analysis

Research Assistant 2020-2021
WorkWell. Dr. Marina Kukla (Indianapolis VA)
Recruit participants, data collection, data management

Graduate Research Assistant 2019-2020
Various projects. Dr. Nikki Wooten (COSW)
Conduct literature searches, basic statistical analysis skills (correlation, multiple regression), review and edit reports, posters, manuscripts and presentations, create and edit table shells per journal's authors' instructions for development of manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, populate tables using SAS output

PUBLICATIONS

Farber, N., Moran, M., **Wahle, S.** (2022). Integrated and Holistic Education for Social Work: The Special Place of Field Education. *Routledge International Handbook of Field Work Education in Social Work*. Routledge.

PRESENTATIONS

Wahle, S. (2021, April). *The Veteran Pedestal Dilemma*. Discover UofSC Conference. Columbia, SC.

Wahle, S. (2020, May). *Veteran identity centrality and resource engagement*. Abstracted accepted for oral presentation at the 5th Veterans in Society Conference. St. Louis, MO. *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19.

Wahle, S. (2020, May). *How can I help? Destigmatizing mental health Conversations*. Abstract accepted for oral presentation at Discover USC 2020. Columbia, SC. *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19.

Wahle, S. (2020, May). *Boundary setting as self-care and ethical practice*. Abstract accepted for oral presentation at the NASW-SC Spring Symposium. Columbia, SC. *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19.

Wahle, S., Ray, E., & Mann, J., (2015, April). *What veterans need to be successful: Saint Louis University veteran survey*. Accepted for the 21st Annual Graduate Student Association Research Symposium of Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Wahle, S. (2021, Nov.). *Who are the Veterans on Campus? Untangling the Identity from the Experience*. U of SC Center for Teaching Excellence. Columbia, SC

Wahle, S. (2021, Nov.). *Military Affiliated Students: Strengths and Opportunities?* U of SC Center for Teaching Excellence. Columbia, SC.

Wahle, S. (2021, May). *Who is a veteran in social science research?*. Veterans Studies Association Conversations in Veteran Studies. Virtual event.

Wahle, S. (2021, March). *Ph.D.s Who Can Win a Bar Fight*. U of SC Graduate Student Association Student Veteran Panel. Virtual event.

Wahle, S. (2020, January). *Adaptive reorientation: A picture and a framework*. Department of Veterans Affairs Adaptive Reorientation Didactic. Columbia, SC.

Wahle, S. (2018, April). *The recovery approach to employment and improved outcomes*. Missouri Symposium on Homelessness. Lake Ozark, MO.

Wahle, S. (2017, October). *Vocational checklist & benefits Calculator Tools*. Quarterly Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services Call. St. Louis, MO.

Matthieu, M.M., Seligson, T. & **Wahle, S.** (2013, July). *An introduction to veterans on campus*. Missouri Department of Mental Health Eighth Annual Show Me You Care About Suicide Prevention State Conference. Columbia, MO.

Matthieu, M.M., Seligson, T. & **Wahle, S.** (2013, July). *Taking a deeper look: A clinical perspective of veterans on campus*. Missouri Department of Mental Health Eighth Annual Show Me You Care About Suicide Prevention State Conference. Columbia, MO.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- Summer 2022: Intervention Strategies in Military Behavioral Health and Combat Related Issues (SOWK 739)
- Summer 2022: Overview of Social Work Practice with the Military, Veterans, and their Families (SOWK 737)
- Summer 2021: Psychopathology and Psychodiagnostics for Social Work Practice with Adults and Older Adults (SOWK 760)
- Summer 2021: Overview of Social Work Practice with the Military, Veterans, and their Families (SOWK 737)
- Summer 2020: Overview of Social Work Practice with the Military, Veterans, and their Families (SOWK 737)

Teaching Practicum

Supervisor: Naomi Farber, PhD

- Spring 2020: Foundations of Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups (SOWK 722)

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Supported Employment Counselor

2022- Present

Veterans Health Administration, St. Louis, MO

- Identify and evaluate strengths and barriers of participants in their ability to return to employment, and to communicate and discuss these issues with other members of the treatment team
- Incorporate findings into action plans that may be used in the overall treatment planning process.
- Discuss the treatment plans and contracts developed by the team with Veterans
- Provide Supported Employment (SE) services to Veterans with SE qualifying diagnoses including Psychotic Spectrum Disorders, Bipolar Disorders with cooccurring Substance-Use Disorders
- Identify and evaluate strengths and barriers of participants in their ability to return to employment, and to communicate and discuss these issues with other members of the treatment team
- Incorporate findings into action plans that may be used in the overall treatment planning process
- Recommend appropriate psychological/vocational interventions as part of each Veteran's individual treatment plan and assure appropriate consultation for specialized psychological services
- Conduct job development with the local community and VA employers, in order to build relationships and facilitate the employment of Veterans within the program
- Counsel and guide the Veteran through difficulties during the job search, on the job site, and other locales, as needed
- Help employers understand the nature of the client's barriers, while maintaining a positive impression of the Veteran's capability to succeed
- Perform mock interviews, role plays and offer to be a part of the interview process
- Evaluate the results of the program and make sound, professional advocacy, for recommended changes

Primary Care Mental Health Integration Therapist

2018-2019

Veterans Health Administration, Columbia, SC

- Provide education and supportive services to veterans and/or their families
- Administer a full range of psychosocial assessment services and psychiatric diagnoses of mental disorders, particularly for complex or unusually difficult patients
- Offer comprehensive, evidence-based psychotherapeutic interventions, including individual and group psychotherapy
- Provide case management for complex patients
- Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior (PMDB) trainer
- Consult with professional staff within VA Medical Center and to community providers concerning clinical assessment findings and appropriate treatment plans for patients
- Develop, implement and document the psychotherapeutic treatment plan for an assigned caseload of patients, including prompt completion of clinical reminders
- Independently evaluate the client's situation and arrives at a reasoned conclusion
- Ensure same-day access to mental health services for veterans as deemed necessary by the service both in person and by telephone

Supported Employment Counselor

2014-2018

Veterans Health Administration, St. Louis, MO

- Researched and developed best practices for VA programs to address issues of access and improve service delivery
- Developed a measure-based care tool and process to evaluate motivation among veterans and inform clinical decision making
- Developed tools and trainings for clinicians to reduce barriers to employment among clients
- Facilitated coordination for VA and non-VA services and community-based follow-up services to integrate veterans into the community
- Established respectful, effective relationships with veterans and clinical and administrative staff from a range of institutions and agencies, including community employers
- Provided guidance and training to all homeless programs and staff across the VA hospital on resources that enhance and result in competitive employment outcomes for veterans
- Developed employment opportunities for homeless veterans both directly through community-based job development and indirectly by leveraging the expertise of the employment collaborative
- Established VA Work-Study presence at Hope Recovery Center
- Taught various topics related to veteran employment to VA staff and veteran clients
- Created and maintained relationships with community partners to address individual and systemic issues

SERVICE

College of Social Work PhD Committee

2021-2022

UofSC Graduate Student Association

2020-2021

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Civic Scholar

The Colonel W. Patrick Naylor Military Endowed Scholarship Fund

Dean's Doctoral Fellowship

2020-2021

2019-2020

2019-2022