

Alegnta Felleke, Ph.D., MSW
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Social Work, University of Kansas, May 2017

Dissertation: Financial Capability, Money Management, and Developmental Resources for Young Children in Low-Income Families

Dissertation Committee: Deborah Adams, PhD (Chair); Terri Friedline, PhD (Methodologist); Chris Petr, PhD; Mahasweta Banerjee, PhD; David Cook, PhD

Master of Social Work, Addis Ababa University, 2007

Master's Thesis: Child Labor in the Informal Sector: The Hazardous Livelihood of Blacksmith Children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Bachelor of Arts in Business Management, Jimma University, 2003

Minor: Economics

RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

Financial capability, mental/behavioral health among children; social and emotional wellbeing of children; child welfare, quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research.

EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Program Director, Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Service
Fall 2021-Present [Interim: Fall 2021 to Spring 2023].

Associate Professor, Our Lady of the Lake University Worden School of Social Service
Fall 2018-Present [Assistant Professor: 2018 through 2024].

Professor for the following courses: Statistics I (Ph.D.), Statistics II (Ph.D.); Quantitative Research (Ph.D.); Decolonized Pedagogy (Ph.D.), Scholarly Writing and Publishing (Ph.D.); Mixed Methods Research (Ph.D.), Proposal Development (Ph.D.); Epistemology and Theories (Ph.D.); Human Behavior in the Social Environment (BSW & MSW); Social Welfare Policy and Services (MSW); Social Work Research (MSW); Theories and Perspectives: Hispanic Children and Families (MSW).

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
2013-Spring 2018

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Traditional Format, Fall 2016

SW 720: Social Welfare Policy & Program Analysis

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Research Course, Blended Format, Spring 2016

SW 740: Social Work Research

GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Research Course, Traditional Format, Spring 2016

SW 740: Social Work Research
GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Blended Format, Fall 2015
SW 720: *Social Welfare Policy & Program Analysis*
GTA Instructor of Record, MSW Policy Course, Traditional Format, Fall 2015
SW 720: *Social Welfare Policy & Program Analysis*

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
2011-2015

Research Projects: Financial capability; Financial knowledge, financial inclusion, and economic strain among low-income parents of young children; Evaluating bereavement services for caregivers in a hospice setting (with a social work practitioner); Children and youth as economic citizens (with an international consortium of academics and practitioners)

Program Officer, Family Health International, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2007-2011

Practice Focus: Behavioral Health of Children; Family Capacity-Building

Lecturer at Unity University School of Business & Economics 2003-2007

Instructor of record for the following courses: Risk Management & Insurance; Statistics for Management; Human Resource Management; Project Analysis and Management; Mathematics for Management; Organization and Management; Financial Management

GRANTS

Federal Grant I:

Grantor: United States Department of Health and Human Services
Grant Total: \$ 200,000
Duration: 2020-2025
Role: Principal Investigator (PI)
Project Title: *Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH)*
Overseeing Federal Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration
Award Number: 6H79SM082284-03M001

Federal Grant II:

Grantor: United States Department of Health and Human Services
Research Grant Amount: \$175,000
Duration: 2023-2028
Project Title: *Por Los Niños (For the Children)*
Principal Investigator: Dr. Alegnta Felleke
Funding Source: Department of Health and Human Services
Overseeing Federal Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration

Start Date: September 1, 2023
End Date: August 31, 2028

Other Grants:

KU Graduate Studies Diversity Fellowship Award (\$18,500)	2013
KU School of Social Welfare Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund (\$1,800)	2016
Washington University in St Louis , Travel Fund (\$1,300)	2015
KU School of Social Welfare Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund (\$1,450)	2015
KU Graduate Studies Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund (\$500)	2014
KU School of Social Welfare Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund (\$1,200)	2014

AWARDS

- **Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award** (AY 2021-2022) Our Lady of the Lake University, Worden School of Social Service.

PUBLICATIONS

Felleke, A., Gomez, R. J & Moorehead, L. A. (Under Review). Strengthening Protective Factors in Hispanic Children: A Longitudinal Evaluation of Project Launch in Early Childhood Behavioral Health. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Felleke, A. & Viverette, A (Under Review). The Next Step for Head Start: A Systematic Review of Cognitive, Social, Health, and Family Outcomes. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.

Viverette, A, **Felleke, A,** & Sigala, Viridiana (2025). Demographic Determinants of Depression, Anxiety, and PTSD Symptomatology amid the COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for Mental Health Providers, *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 20(2), 1-17.

Bobadilla, T., **Felleke A.** Viverette, A., Martinez, E., & Ruales, R. (accepted). Navigating the Storm: A Qualitative Exploration of American College Students Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Social Science Research*.

Hildebrandt, E. J., **Felleke, A.,** Gomez, R. J., Bowie-Viverette, A. C., Matijczak, A. (2022). Addressing child welfare through comprehensive early intervention during COVID-19, *Child Welfare Journal*, 100 (3), p. 31-53.

Felleke, A. (2023). *Financial capability and family wellbeing: Research, Policy, and Practice*. Scholar's Press: New York, NY. ISBN : 978-620-6-76865-4.

Shibikom, A. F. * (2020). Affordable Care Act: Implications for recent permanent residents. *Journal of Health Science Education*, 4(4), 1-5.

Shibikom, A.F. * (2014). *Financial capability among low-income households in the United States*. Scholar's Press: New York, N. ISBN: 978-3-639-71881-2

Shibikom, A.F. * (2010). *Child labor in the informal sector: The hazardous livelihood of blacksmith children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*. VDM Publishers: New York, NY. ISBN: 978-3639307658

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Felleke, A. Gomez R. J.** (2025, October). Assessing Project LAUNCH: Evaluating Protective and Behavioral Outcomes in Early Childhood Development. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 71st Annual Program Meeting. Denver, Colorado. <https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2025-annualconference/>
- Felleke, A. Gomez R. J.** (2025, October). A U.S. Early Childhood Mental Health Intervention: Strengthening Protective Factors for Prevention. Internation Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Vilnius, Lithuania. <https://ispcan.org/congresses/vilnius2025/>
- Felleke, A.,** Segovia, J., Gibbons, G., Dollinger, R., Vatterott, M. (2023, October). Addressing mental health among young children: Learnings from Project LAUNCH. It's time to act: Defining and Reckoning Anti-Racist Social Work Education. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA. <https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2023-apm/>
- Felleke, A., & Sigala, V.** (2023, January). Financial capability and household financial management in low income families.. Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequalities + Building Solutions. 27th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work Research. <https://secure.sswr.org/2023-conference-home/>
- Felleke, A.,** Viverette, A., Alvarado, P. (2023, January). Addressing mental health among young Children thorough early interventions: Learnings from Project LAUNCH. Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequalities + Building Solutions. 27th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work Research. <https://secure.sswr.org/2023-conference-home/>
- Shibikom, A. F.** (2021, June). Financial capability and parent's involvement in children's education in low-income families. A Vision for the Future: Maximizing Social Impact [Conference presentation]. The Network for Social Work Management 2021 Annual Management Conference. Virtual Conference. <https://socialworkmanager.org/programs/annual-management-conference/>
- Shibikom, A. F. & Bobadilla, T.** (2021, January). Financial knowledge, financial inclusion and financial management in low-income families. The 25th Annual conference of Society for Social Work Research (SSWR). Virtual conference. <https://secure.sswr.org/2020-conference-home/>
- Shibikom, A. F. & Bobadilla, T.** (2020, November 16-20). Financial knowledge, financial inclusion, and household financial practices among low-income families. *Leading Critical Conversations: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* [Conference presentation]. CSWE 2020 Annual Program Meeting. Virtual conference. <https://www.cswe.org/Events-Meetings/2020-APM>
- Shibikom, A.F.** (2019). The role of parents' financial capability on developmental resources for children. Oral presentation at Annual Conference of Network for Social Work

Management (NSWM), *Accelerating Impact: Harnessing the Power of Human, Social, Financial Innovation*, Chicago, IL.

Shibikom, A.F. (2019). Financial capability and digital divide among low-income families with young children. Oral presentation at CSWE 2019 Annual Program Meeting: *Looking Back, Moving Forward*. Denver, CO. <https://cswe.org/Events-Meetings/2019-APM.aspx>

Shibikom, A.F. (2018). Financial capability, money management, and developmental resources for young children in low-income families. Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), *Achieving Equal Opportunity, Equity, and Justice*, Washington, DC.

Adams, D. & **Shibikom, A. F.** (2016). *Financial knowledge, financial inclusion and economic strain among low-income parents of young children*. Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), *Grand Challenges for Social Work: Setting a Research Agenda for the Future*, Washington, DC.

Shibikom, A. F. (2015). *Assets and vulnerability to HIV infection: Are economic assets a protective factor?* Oral presentation at 61st Annual Program Meeting (APM) of Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), Denver, CO.

Adams, D. & **Shibikom, A. F.** (2015). *Financial capability and economic strain among low-income parents of young children*. Oral presentation at the Convening on Financial Capability and Asset Building (FCAB): *Advancing Education, Research, and Practice in Social Work*, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Shibikom, A. F. & Adams, D. (2015). *Evaluating bereavement services for primary caregivers*. Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). *The Social and Behavioral Importance of Increased Longevity*, New Orleans, LA.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Child & Youth Finance International. (2012). *Children and youth as economic citizens: Review of research on financial capability, financial inclusion, and financial education*. Research Report. CYFI Research Working Group: Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Shibikom, A. F. (2011). *Opinions about Khat use in Ethiopia*. Annual Research Report. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair

- Zamora, E. V. *The Role of Socioeconomic Status, School Environment, and Parenting Styles in Anxiety Among Hispanic Children: A Moderation Analysis*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2025.
- Burrell, R. *Barriers & Bridges in Mental Health: Analyzing Help-Seeking Behaviors in African American Communities through the Andersen Behavioral Model of Health*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2025.
- Viverette, A. *Generational cohort differences in health service utilization and perceived health*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2022.
- Gains-Plankett, L. *Predictors of Stress among Law Enforcement Officers: Implications to Interaction with the Community*. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2023.
- Sigala, V. *The predictors of health service utilization among the Hispanic community*. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2023.
- Dollinger, R. *Evaluating Perceived Effectiveness in Healthcare Case Management: A Quantitative Survey of Case Management Professionals*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2026.
- Moorehead, L. *Intersectional Perspectives on Chronic Pain: Exploring Gender, Social Determinants, and Health Disparities in Pain Experience and Management*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2026.
- Harrison, A. *Medicaid Expansion and Access to Pediatric Mental Health Services in Rural Communities: Addressing Policy Gaps and Disparities*. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2027.
- Gonzalez, K. To be determined. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2027.
- Kalson, A. To be determined. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2027.
- Gomez, N. To be determined. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2027.
- Alvarado, P. To be determined. Ph.D. in Social Work. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2027.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member (Methodologist)

Ashdown, C. Leaving Well. A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Lived Experience of LGBTQ+ Mormons. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2025.

Hildebrandt, E. Integrative medicine for sexual assault recovery: A Transcendental social justice mixed methods study of survivors' perceptions and experiences. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2022.

Garcia, C. The ADHD Revolution: Perspectives of Social Work Students and Social Work Professionals. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, graduated in Spring 2022.

Hernandez, P. Exploring the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) as a social determinant of health on young immigrant adults: A Mixed Methods Study. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2023.

Fleck, R. Perception of Equity and Inclusion among Social Work Students: A Path Analysis. Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, anticipated graduation date, Spring 2023.

Comprehensive Exam Committee (Chair)

Rheanisha Burrell, 2023, anticipated completion of comprehensive exam proposal: Spring 2024

Eloisa Zamora, 2023, anticipated completion of comprehensive exam proposal: Spring 2024

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE)	2021-Present
Network for Social Work Management (NSWM)	2020-Present
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	2013-Present
Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR)	2012-Present
Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars	2012-Present
Ethiopian Society for Social Workers (ESSW)	2007-Present