

**Neil Bilotta, PhD, MHS, MSW**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

School of Social Work  
University of North Carolina  
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Chapel Hill, NC 27599

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**EDUCATION**

<b>2019 June</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>McGill University, School of Social Work</b> <i>Dissertation:</i> (Manuscript-based) Navigating Ethical Terrains: Perspectives on Social Work Ethics in Kakuma Refugee Camp
<b>2014 May</b>	<b>MHS</b>	<b>May, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health</b> <i>Thesis:</i> Exploring the Psychosocial Effects of Displacement Amongst Syrian Refugee Youth Displaced in Lebanon
<b>2011 August</b>	<b>MSW</b>	<b>Smith College School for Social Work</b> <i>Thesis:</i> Encompassing Acholi Values: Culturally Ethical Reintegration Ideology for Formerly Abducted Youth of the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda
<b>2003 May</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>Syracuse University</b> Department of Cultural Geography

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**AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Refugee Social Work	Research Collaboration
Social Work Research Ethics	Critical Social Work
Anti-oppressive Research Practices	Social Inclusion
Participatory Research	Youth Development
Community-Based Services	

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

August 2020 –	<b>Clinical Assistant Professor</b> School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2011 – 2013	<b>Clinical Social Worker</b> <i>Catholic Charities, Refugee Foster Care &amp; Resettlement Division, San Jose, CA</i> The Refugee Forster Care and Resettlement Division of Catholic Charities works with Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URMs) – predominantly from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Assessed mental health needs for incoming refugee youth. Provided psychodynamic and non-Western, culturally specific, counseling and mental health services for targeted population. Worked collaboratively with primary care physicians and educators to provide holistic healthcare and educational services. Created individual, culturally-sensitive Needs, Services, and Assessment Plans. Explored cultural integration of youth, while emphasizing the importance of cultural identity. Liaised and facilitated family meetings between youth and foster families via adapted social work theories to culturally fit the setting.

- 2010-2011      **Social Work Graduate Intern (HIV/AIDS)**  
*Comboni Samaritans of Gulu Uganda, HIV/AIDS Division, Gulu, Uganda*  
 Comboni Samaritans is a northern Ugandan operated organization serving local Ugandans in post-war reconstruction, education, health, and youth services. Collaborated with Ugandan social workers and other helping professionals to support clients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Clients presented concerns related to their diagnoses, post-conflict reconstruction, and intimate partner violence. Explored alternative forms of healing, specific to this population, while also incorporating Western theoretical lenses, Observed and participated in support groups with formerly abducted youth. Completed Anti-Oppression Project with employees of organization.
- 2009 – 2010      **Social Work Graduate Intern**  
*Broderick St. Adult Residential Facility, San Francisco, CA*  
 Broderick St. Adult Residential Facility is a non-profit agency and long-term residential milieu serving 31 adults (primarily of South East Asian background) with severe and persistent mental health concerns. Provided individual, psychodynamic counseling support for six residents. Developed culturally-specific treatment plans based on individual and client-centered assessments. Facilitated family meetings and consistently met with medical practitioners. Conducted needs assessments, safety checks, crisis intervention, and psycho-educational workshops on Medicare, health and safety in the house. Participated in weekly individual supervision with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker

#### AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2019        | <i>Graduate Student Essay Contest Finalist</i><br>Canadian Association of Refugees and Forced Migration Studies, York Univ. |
| 2018        | <i>Graduate Excellence Award (\$3,000)</i><br>Faculty of Arts, McGill University  |
| 2018        | <i>Lotte Marcus Sheldon Research Award (\$1,000)</i><br>School of Social Work, McGill University                            |
| 2016 – 2017 | <i>Graduate Dean's Award (\$40,000)</i><br>Faculty of Arts, McGill University   |
| 2016        | <i>Schull Yang Graduate Travel Award (\$3,000)</i><br>Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, McGill University                  |
| 2016        | <i>Graduate Excellence Award (\$7,500)</i><br>Faculty of Arts, McGill University  |
| 2016        | <i>Social Work Graduate Award (\$10,000)</i><br>School of Social Work, McGill University                                    |
| 2014 – 2015 | <i>Graduate Dean's Award (\$40,000)</i><br>Faculty of Arts, McGill University   |
| 2014        | <i>Mc&amp;M Goldenberg Fellowship (\$3,000)</i><br>Faculty of Arts, McGill University                                       |
| 2011        | <i>Alumni Association Thesis Award Winner (\$500)</i><br>Smith College School for Social Work                               |
| 2011        | <i>Amith Ben-David Memorial Thesis Prize Finalist</i><br>Smith College School for Social Work                               |
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**PUBLICATIONS**


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**Edited Book Chapters**

1. **Bilotta, N.**, Fenning-Kissler, M., Denov, M., Bah, A., & Marchand, I. Assessing participatory research with children affected by armed conflict: Conceptual, methodological and ethical concerns (*in-press*). In Denov, M., Mitchell, C., & Rabiau, M. (eds.). *Children and families affected by war, displacement and migration: A tri-pillared approach*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
2. **Bilotta, N.** & Denov, M. The right to be heard: Participatory research ethics in Kakuma refugee camp. (*in-press*). In Denov, M., Mitchell, C., & Rabiau, M. (eds.). *Children and families affected by war, displacement and migration: A tri-pillared approach*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

1. **Bilotta, N.** (2021) Reimagining 'respect for persons' and 'justice': Culturally irresponsible ethical principles with refugees. *International Social Work*, 1-14.
2. **Bilotta, N.** (2021). A critical self-reflexive account of a privileged researcher in complicated setting: Kakuma refugee camp. *Research Ethics*, 1-13.
3. **Bilotta, N.** (2020). Anti-oppressive social work research: prioritizing refugee voices in Kakuma refugee camp. *Ethics and Social Welfare*, 14(4), 397-414.
4. **Bilotta, N.** & Denov, M. (2018). Theoretical understandings of unaccompanied young people affected by war: Bridging divides and embracing local ways of knowing. *British Journal of Social Work*, 48(6), 1576–1593.
5. **Bilotta, N.** (2016). Uprooting the pumpkin: Neo-colonial therapeutic interventions with formerly abducted young people in northern Uganda. *Children & Society*, 30(5), 384-395.
6. Corbin, J., **Bilotta, N.**, & Masimo, O. (2016). Preparing social work students to engage in social development in global contexts: A US - Uganda collaboration. *Social Development Issues*, 38(2), 82-93.
7. Fraser, S., Denov, M., Guzder, J., Bond, S., & **Bilotta, N.** (2016). Children of war: Quebec's social policy response to children and their families. *International Journal of Social Science Studies*, 4(7), 41-54.
8. Blanchet-Cohen, N., Denov, M., Fraser, S., & **Bilotta, N.** (2016). The nexus of war, resettlement, and education: War-affected youth's perspectives and responses to the Quebec education system. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 60, 160-168.
9. Sjollega, D. & **Bilotta, N.** (2016). The raw and the poignant: Using community using poetry in qualitative research. *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, 30(1), 17-32.
10. **Bilotta, N.** (2015). Orientalism and Congolese unaccompanied refugee minors in the global north. *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, 8(2), 23-41.

### Manuscripts Under Review by Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Bilotta, N., Manzanares, M. (Under review). Where are Youth? Culturally Responsive “Youth Contribution” in Positive Youth Development (PYD) in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).
2. Chowa, G., Massa, R., Bilotta, N., Zulu, G. & Manzanares, M. (Under review). Can social networks improve job search behaviors among low-income youth in resource-limited settings? Evidence from South Africa.

### Manuscripts in Progress

Plaut, S., **Bilotta, N.**, Clark-Kazak, C., Felices-Luna, M., Rosenoff Gauvin. Are “Ethically Appropriate” Responses the Same? A Social Work Practitioner/Researcher’s Dilemma in, *Tangled webs: Ethical conundrums in human rights work*.

### Reports

Chowa, G., Masa, R., Manzanares., M., **Bilotta, N.** & Barrington, C. (2021). A Systematic Review of PYD Impacts on Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth. Washington D.C.: Making Cents International; USAID.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

1. **Bilotta, N.**, Manzanares, M. (2021). Where are Youth? Culturally Responsive “Youth Contribution” in Positive Youth Development (PYD) in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). 22nd Biennial International Consortium for Social Development, South Africa.
2. **Bilotta, N.** & Uwayo, D. (2021). Othering in international humanitarian work and research: perpetuating power asymmetry between ‘us’ and ‘them.’ Panel discussion at Global Institute for Research, Education, & Scholarship (GIRES) Conference – Humanitarian Organizations: (His)stories, Impacts and Challenges.
3. **Bilotta, N.** (2020). Prioritizing refugees’ voices: Reconceptualizing refugee ethics protocols in refugee research. Paper presentation at the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture Conference – Collaboration, Partnership, Translation, Integration, Brown University.
4. Plaut, S., Clark-Kazak, C., **Bilotta, N.**, Felices-Luna, M. & Rosenoff-Gauvin, L. (2019). Ethics and methods of human rights work: Exploring theoretical and practical approaches. Panel discussion at the Social Practice of Human Rights Conference; University of Dayton.
5. **Bilotta, N.** (2019). Understanding social work ethics: “Respect” and “benefits” according to refugee young people in Kakuma refugee camp. Paper presented at the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference–Interrogating Integration, York University.
6. Taha, D. & **Bilotta, N.** & Clark-Kazak, C. (2019). Decolonizing ethics: Critical reflections on research, power and privilege in forced migration scholarship. Panel discussion presented at the Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference –Interrogating Integration, York University.
7. **Bilotta, N.** (2018). ‘Cultural humility’ in forced migration studies: White social workers and refugee communities. Paper presented at the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference–Dialogue Beyond Borders, University of Ottawa.

8. **Bilotta, N.**, Taha, D., Clark-Kazak, C. & Plaut, S. (2018). Methodological challenges for social work researchers in forced migration studies. Panel discussion presented at the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference – Dialogue Beyond Borders, University of Ottawa.
9. **Bilotta, N.** (2016). Moving beyond trauma and resilience for war-affected refugee young people. Paper presented at the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference – Freedom of Movement, University of Winnipeg.
10. **Bilotta, N.** (2015). (Post)Colonialism and refugee resettlement for Congolese unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) in the U.S. Paper presented at the Migration and Diversity in Changing Global Contexts Conference, Western Ontario University.
11. Corbin, J. & **Bilotta, N.** (2013). Return and reintegration: Post-conflict resettlement experiences of displaced individuals in northern Uganda. Paper presented at the 18th Biennial International Consortium for Social Development, Uganda.
12. Corbin, J. & **Bilotta, N.** (2013). Preparing social work students to engage in social development in global contexts: A US - Uganda collaboration-Smith College School for Social Work. Paper presented at the 18th Biennial International Consortium for Social Development, Uganda.

### Invited Presentations

1. **Bilotta, N.** (2020). Exploring Ethics in Global Social Development Research/Practice. Presentation at *Global Social Development Innovations Center (GSDI)*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School for Social Work (Webinar).
2. **Bilotta, N.** (2019). Using my privilege: Disseminating research results in Kakuma refugee camp. Presentation at the *Norwegian Refugee Council*, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.
3. **Bilotta, N.** (2019). Decolonizing “development work” in international social work contexts. Presentation at the *Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC)*, Ottawa, Canada.
4. **Bilotta, N.** (2019). Cultural humility and social work with newly resettled refugees in the U.S. Presentation at Circles of Care (CoC), *Jewish Family Services*, Springfield, MA.
5. **Bilotta, N.** (2011). Encompassing Acholi values: culturally ethical reintegration ideology for formerly abducted youth of the Lord’s Resistance Army in northern Uganda. Presentation at *Alumni Association – Smith College School for Social Work* – Northampton, MA.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2021	<b>Confronting Oppression &amp; Institutional Discrimination (SoWo 501)</b> , Master’s Level Course - <i>School for Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
Fall 2021	<b>Confronting Oppression &amp; Institutional Discrimination (SoWo 501)</b> , Master’s Level Course - <i>School for Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
Spring 2021	<b>Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation (SoWo 510)</b> , Master’s Level Course - <i>School for Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
Summer 2020	<b>Social Welfare Policy I &amp; II</b> , Master’s Level Course - <i>School for Social Work, Smith College</i>
Spring 2020	<b>Child Welfare Policy</b> , Master’s Level Course - <i>Department of Social Work, Westfield State University</i>

Fall 2018      **Anti-oppression in Social Work Practice**, *School of Social Work, McGill University*

Fall, 2017 –  
Spring 2018      **Global Social Problems**, *Community College of Vermont*

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### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 –      **Research Faculty**, Global Social Development Innovations Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2019 –      **Axis Co-Leader (Participatory Research) – Global Child McGill**  
*Project:* Global Child McGill: A Tri-Pillared Approach  
*PI:* Drs. Myriam Denov, Claudia Mitchell, Marjorie Rabiau (McGill University)  
*Funding:* Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC)

2017 – 2018      **Dissertation Data Collection**  
*Project:* Navigating Ethical Terrains: Perspectives on Social Work Ethics in Kakuma Refugee Camp

- Critical Ethnography (using participatory research approaches) includes qualitative interviews with 31 refugee young people, living in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

2014 – 2017      **Research Assistant**  
*Project:* Applying Arts-based Technologies in Refugee Research  
*PI:* Dr. Myriam Denov (McGill University)

2013 – 2014      **Global Mental Health Research Assistant**  
*Project:* Local Psychosocial Manifestations of War: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon  
Caritas-Lebanon Migration Center

2011 – 2012      **Research Assistant**  
*Project:* Return and reintegration: Post-conflict resettlement experiences in northern Uganda  
*PI:* Dr. Joanne Corbin (Smith College – School for Social Work)

2011      **Research Assistant**  
*Project:* Local Understandings of Mental Health Needs in Post-Conflict Acholiland  
*PI:* Marijke Deleu; *World Health Organization; Gulu, Uganda*

- Utilized participatory research approaches in northern Uganda with social workers, doctors, and cultural leaders.

2011      **Research Associate**  
*Project:* Ugandan SAFE Project (Gender Equity in Rural Uganda)  
*PI:* Olivia Dreier, Karuna Center for Peacebuilding  
Drafted sections of a USAID request for proposal (RFP)

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### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018      **Consultant**  
*Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Burlington, VT*

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Met with Youth Program Specialist on bi-weekly basis. Assisted with youth-focused curriculum for newly arrived Africans living in Vermont. Attended youth-led meetings and explored educational opportunities for members.

2006 – 2009

**Community Integration Counselor***Toolworks – Connecting Ability to Opportunity, San Francisco, CA*

Toolworks is a non-profit organization that provides tools and resources that promote independence, equality and personal satisfaction to adults diagnosed with cognitive “dis”-abilities. Supervised clients at various volunteer and job sites. Provided crisis intervention, psycho-educational workshops on health and mindfulness trainings. Drafted treatment plans, monthly reports, and daily case notes. Facilitated family meetings

2005

**English Tutor***Kasumbiri High School, Kamuli District, Uganda, Africa*

Tutored Freshman and Junior English lessons in rural Uganda. Worked on decolonizing educational curriculum.

2004

**Social Work Volunteer***Mother Teresa’s Kalighat Home for the Dying, Kolkata, India*

This hospice served as a peaceful place for homeless and other disenfranchised community members in eastern India. Fed, bathed, comforted, sang and listened to residents.

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## SERVICE

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**Committees**

Global Engagement Committee – UNC-CH

MSW Admissions Committee – UNC-CH

Research Curriculum Committee – UNC-CH

**Journal Reviewer**

International Social Work

Civil Wars

**Leadership and Service**2014 – 2017 **Co-Chair, Equity Planning Committee, School of Social Work, McGill University**2016 – 2018 **Doctoral Student Mentor, School of Social Work, McGill University**2015 – 2016 **Facilitator, Undoing Racism Group, School of Social Work, McGill University**2010 – 2011 **Co-facilitator, Unlearning Racism Group, Smith College School for Social Work**2009 – 2011 **Member, Anti-racism Task Force Group, Smith College School for Social Work**2009 – 2010 **Practice Sequence Curriculum Committee Member, Smith College School for Social Work**

### **Selected Professional Trainings**

- 2019 *Gender-based Violence in the Context of Forced Migration Training*, Global Campus of Human Rights – European Union
- 2019 *Cultural Humility & Cross-Cultural Communication: Bridging the Divide*, Sojourner Truth School for Social Change and Leadership, Holyoke, MA
- 2013 *Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training*, Southside Community Center, San Jose, CA
- 2012 *Motivational Interviewing: Introduction*, Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers, San Francisco, CA

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Emerging Scholars and Practitioners on Migration Issues (ESPMI)
- Canadian Association for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)