

Abram James Lyons, MSW
Lecturer/Assistant Professor
Social Work Program | College of Education and Human Development
University of Delaware, DE
Personal: (509) 590-5954 | abelyons@udel.edu

EDUCATION

- 2021-present *PhD Social Welfare*
School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania, PA
Chair: Dr. Amy Castro
- 2015-2017 *Master of Social Work*
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Memphis (UM), TN
Master's Thesis: "Earned Income Tax Credit: Inequality in the Percent of Poverty."
Adviser: Dr. Maria Elena Delavega
- 2008-2010 *Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Second major in Philosophy,*
Department of Psychology & Communication Studies, University of Idaho (UI), ID

ACCEPTED PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPT

1. **Lyons, AJ**, Grinnell-Davis, C (2025). *Protecting Indigenous Children: A Critical Indigenous Analysis of the Child Welfare System*. Journal of Public Child Welfare
2. **Lyons, A**, Wodicka, C, Delavega, EM (2024). *Earned Income Tax Credit: Inequality in the Percent of Poverty*. Journal of Policy Practice and Research.
3. Herron, J, Hernandex-Vallant, A, Hirschak, KA, **Lyons, AJ**, Jansen, K, Dirks, LG, Shaw, J, Avey, J, McPherson, SM, Buchwald, D, McDonell, MG, and HONOR Study Team (2024). *Assessing the Validity of the American Indian Enculturation Scale in Alaska Native Adults Interested in Reducing Alcohol Use*. Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse.
4. Alcover, KC, **Lyons AJ**, Amiri, PhD (2024). *Patterns of Mean Age at Drug Use Initiation by Race and Ethnicity, 2004-2019*. Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment.
5. **Lyons, AJ**, Kordas, G, Wilson, M, Matheson, M, Shelton, A, Owens, M, Iiams-Hauser, K, McDonell, MG (2023). *Cannabis for Healing in a Native Community Clinic: Development and Preliminary Results from an Informatics Research Tool*. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.
6. Nagy, A, **Lyons, AJ**, Ardent, I, Gzesh, S (2022). *Forschungssozialisation(en) in partizipativen Projekten: Ein transatlantischer Austausch zwischen Europa und den USA (English translation: Research socialization(s) in participatory projects: A transatlantic exchange between Europe and U.S.A)* (2022). Widersprüche: Zeitschrift für sozialistische Politik im Bildungs-, Gesundheits-und Sozialbereich.
7. **Lyons, AJ**, Hirschak, KA, Kordas, G, Herron, JL, Jansen, K, Alcover, KC, Bergerson, D, Avey, JP, Shaw, J, Roll, J, Buchwald, D, McDonell, MG, and the HONOR Study Team (2022). *Factors for Parent-Child Separation among American Indian and Alaska Native People in an Alcohol Intervention*. Child Maltreatment.

8. Hirschak, KA, Kordas, G, **Lyons, AJ**, Herron, JL, Jansen, K, Shaw, J, Avey, JP, McPherson, SM, Roll, J, Buchwald, MD, McDonell, MG, and the HONOR Study Team (2022). *Investigating Secondary Alcohol Outcomes in a Contingency Management Intervention among American Indian and Alaska Native Adults*. Journal of Addiction Medicine.
9. Hirschak, KA, Amiri, S, Kordas, G, Oluwoye, O, **Lyons, AJ**, Bajet, K, Hahn, JA, McDonell, MG, Campbell, A, & Venner, K (2022). *Disparities in National Availability of Waivered Buprenorphine Providers by Racial and Ethnic Composition of ZIP Codes*. Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy.
10. Bindler, R, Watson, CJ, **Lyons, AJ**, Skeiky, L, Lewis, J, McDonell, M, Lazarus, P, Wilson, M (2022). *Drug-Drug Interaction between Orally Administered Hydrocodone-acetaminophen and Inhalation of Cannabis Smoke – A Case Report*. Hospital Pharmacy.
11. Hirschak, KA, **Lyons, AJ**, Herron, JL, Kordas, G, Shaw, JL, Jansen, K, Avey, JP, McPherson, SM, Donovan, D, Roll, J, Buchwald, D, Ries, R, McDonell, MG, and the HONOR Study Team (2021). *Contingency Management for Alcohol Use Disorder Reduces Cannabis Use Among American Indian and Alaska Native Adults*. Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment.
12. Alcover, KC, **Lyons, AJ**, Oluwoye, O, Muse, ID, Kelly, ME, McDonell, MG (2021). *Race/Ethnicity in Transition from First Alcohol Use to Alcohol Use Disorder*. Alcohol.
13. Smith, ET, **Lyons, AJ**, Schumacher, S, Kriegel, L, McDonell, MG (2021). *Rising Strong: A Housing-Based Intervention to Prevent Childhood Out-Of-Home Placements from Families Impacted by Housing Instability, Opioid Use, and other Substance Use Disorders*. Social Work in Mental Health
14. Hirschak, KA, Jansen, K, **Lyons, AJ**, Herron, J, Bergerson, D, Shaw, J, Dirks, LG, Avey, J, Calhoun D, Jackson, C, Lauch, L, Donovan, D, McPherson, SM, Echo-Hawk, A, Dillard, D, Lillie, K, Roll, J, Buchwald, D, McDonell, MG, and HONOR Study Team (2021). *Lessons Shared: Implementation of a Randomized Clinical Trial for Alcohol Use Disorders with Five American Indian and Alaska Native*. Collaborations: A Journal of Community-based Research and Practice.
15. McDonell, MG, Hirschak, KA, Herron, J, **Lyons, AJ**, Alcover, KC, Shaw, J, Kordas, G, Dirks, LG, Jansen, K, Avey, J, Lillie, K, Donovan, D, McPherson, SM, Dillard, D, Ries, R, Roll, J, Buchwald, D, and the HONOR Study Team (2021). *Effects of Incentives on Alcohol Abstinence with Three American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: A Multi-Site Randomized Controlled Trial*. JAMA Psychiatry.
16. Lillie, KM, Jansen, KJ, Dirks, LG, **Lyons, AJ**, Alcover, KC, Avey, J, Hirschak, K, Herron, J, Buchwald, D, Donovan, DM, McDonell, MG, Shaw, JL (2020). *Assessing the Predictive Validity of the Stages of Change Readiness and Treatment Eagerness Scale (SOCRATES) in Alaska Native and American Indian people*. Journal of Addiction Medicine.

Under review peer-reviewed manuscript

1. Philips, M, **Lyons, AJ**, Castro, A. *Deservedness & Unconditional Cash in Public Discourse: A Big Qual Analysis across 8 Guaranteed Income Experiments*. (under review)

2. Bervik A, **Lyons, AJ**. *Welfare for Settlers: The Homestead Act of 1862*. (Under Review)

Manuscripts in-progress

1. **Lyons, AJ**, Grinnell-Davis, C, Dunnigan, A, Armstrong, H. *Coalitions and Erasure: A Qualitative Analysis of Public Statements Regarding Data Elements for Evaluating Child Welfare Outcome for Indigenous and LGBTQ Children*. (In-progress)
2. Bervik, A, **Lyons, AJ**, Castro, A, & West, S. *Child Support, Fatherhood, and Guaranteed Income: A Mixed-Methods Analysis on Unconditional Cash Payments for Nonresident Fathers*. (In-progress)

Others (non-peer reviewed)

1. **Lyons, AJ**, Barlow, J, Nescott, E (2025). Legislative Wrap-Up 2025. KIDS COUNT in Delaware. Newark, DE. <https://udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/1393>
2. Bervik, A, **Lyons, AJ**, West, S, Tandon, N, Castro, A, Nichols, B (2024). *The American Guaranteed Income Studies: Columbia, South Carolina*. Center for Guaranteed Income Research. Philadelphia, PA. <https://www.pennncgir.org/publications>
3. **Lyons, AJ**, Alcover, KC, Bresler, T, Layton, M, McDonell, M (2020). *Qwibil Final Report 2019-2020*. Washington State University. Spokane, WA
4. **Lyons, A**. (2017). *Community needs assessment: Refugee empowerment program report*. University of Memphis, Housing and Community Development Fellowship. Memphis, TN.

FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational & Mixed Methodologies Scholar
2022	Professional Development Training Series on Poverty and Economic Mobility
2015-2017	Housing and Community Development Fellowship
2016	Professional Development Fellowship

AWARDS

2017	NASW Student of the Year TN Chapter
2017	College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Award
2008-2010	Honorary President's List – UI
2008-2010	Washington Undergraduate Exchange Program Award

MEMBERSHIPS

2018-present	Social Welfare Action Alliance
2019-present	Society for Social Work and Research
2016-2017	Council of Social Work Education

2015–2017 National Association of Social Workers

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025 Developed Land Acknowledgement in collaboration with Wilmington Quaker group
2020–2022 Continental Philosophy Server Administrator, Discord
2019 House of Charity, Spokane, WA
2017 Canvassing for local election
2016 IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
2010–2013 Peace Corps Volunteer, Rohatyn, UA

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS/ORAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **Lyons, AJ**, Grinnell-Davis, C, Dunnigan, A, Prince, D, Armstrong, H (January 2025). *Indigenous and LGBTQ+ Coalition Formation for the Child Welfare Policy Rule-Making Process: A Thematic Analysis Using an Advocacy Coalition Policy Framework*. Oral presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle, WA
2. Bervik, A, **Lyons, AJ**, Castro, A, West, S (January 2025). *A Bit of Light in That Tunnel of Darkness: Guaranteed Income for Nonresident Fathers*. Oral presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle, WA
3. DeYong, E, Tandon, N, West, S, Castro, A, Golinkoff, J, **Lyons, AJ** (January 2025). *Two-Generation Impacts of Guaranteed Income in Cambridge, MA*. Oral presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle, WA
4. **Lyons, AJ**, and Grinnell-Davis, C (December 2024). *Protecting Indigenous Children: A Critical Indigenous Analysis of the Child Welfare System*. Oral presentation at the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy: Graduate Student Workshop, Philadelphia, PA.
5. Dunnigan, A, Grinnell-Davis, C, **Lyons, A** (April 2024). *The Impact of State ICWA Laws on Improving Foster Care Outcomes for Indian Families*. Oral presentation at the 42nd Annual National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference, Seattle, WA.
6. Grinnell-Davis, C, Smith, RJ, and **Lyons, AJ** (January 2024) *Treatment effects of a state Indian Child Welfare Act statute on discharge of Indian children from foster care*. Oral presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC
7. Grinnell-Davis, C, Smith, RJ, and **Lyons, AJ** (January 2024) *Treatment effects of a state Indian Child Welfare Act statute on discharge of Indian children from foster care*. Oral presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC
8. Philips, M, **Lyons, AJ**, Castro, A, West, S (January 2024) *Deservedness & Unconditional Cash in Public Discourse: A Big Qual Study Across 8 Guaranteed Income Experiments*. Poster presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC

9. Smith, E.T., Brigman, M., Bindler, R., Mills, S., Parsons, A., Matheson, M., Owens, M., Lozeau, S., Iiams-Hauser, K., **Lyons, A.J.**, Bender, N., Lederhos-Smith, C., Wilson, M., McDonnell, M.G. (March 2023) *Building an academic-community partnership to facilitate federally-funded research in a Tribally-owned clinic*. Poster presented at the Washington State University's (WSU) Showcase, Pullman, WA
10. Smith, E.T., Brigman, M., Bindler, R., Mills, S., Parsons, A., Matheson, M., Owens, M., Lozeau, S., Iiams-Hauser, K., **Lyons, A.J.**, Bender, N., Lederhos-Smith, C., Wilson, M., McDonnell, M.G. (March 2023) *Building an academic-community partnership to facilitate federally-funded research in a Tribally-owned clinic*. Poster presented at Center for Native American Research and Collaboration's (CNRC) Indigenous Research Conference, Pullman, WA
11. Smith, E.T., Brigman, M., Bindler, R., Mills, S., Parsons, A., Matheson, M., Owens, M., Lozeau, S., Iiams-Hauser, K., **Lyons, A.J.**, Bender, N., Lederhos-Smith, C., Wilson, M., McDonnell, M.G. (March 2023) *Building an academic-community partnership to facilitate federally-funded research in a Tribally-owned clinic*. Poster presented at the Inland Northwest Research Symposium, Spokane, WA.
12. Hirschak, K., Amiri, S., Kordas, K. G., Oluwoye, O., **Lyons, A. J.**, Bajet K. B., Hahn, J. A., McDonell, M., Campbell, A. N., & Venner, K. (June 2022). *Disparities in national availability of waived buprenorphine providers by racial and ethnic composition of ZIP codes*. Oral presentation at the Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
13. Jansen, K., Lillie, K., Dirks, L., **Lyons, A.**, Alcover, K.C., Hirschak, K., Herron, J., Buchwald, D., Donovan, D., McDonell, M., Shaw, J. (February 2020). *Assessing the Predictive Validity of the Stages of Change Readiness and Treatment Eagerness Scale (SOCRATES) in Alaska Native and American Indian People*. Poster presented at the Northwest Tribal Health Conference, Portland, OR.
14. **Lyons, A.**, Bresler T., Matheson M., Shelton, A., Owens, M., Iiams-Huaser, K., Layton, M., McDonell, M.G. (February 2020). *Cannabis as Medicine in a Native Community: A Learning Health System and Registry with Clinic Patients*. Poster presented at the Northwest Tribal Health Conference, Portland, OR.
15. Alcover, KC, **Lyons, AJ**, Morgan, KE, McDonell, MG. (July 2019). *State-by-state Patterns of Marijuana Use Incidence Rates in the US from 2002-2017*. Poster presentation at Research Society on Marijuana, Vancouver, WA.
16. Alcover, KC, **Lyons, A**, Oluwoye, O, Kriegel, L, McPherson, S, McDonell, MG. (June 2019) *Subsequent alcohol use disorder among first-time alcohol and cannabis users in a nationally representative sample*. Poster presentation at the 42nd Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
17. **Lyons, A.**, Delavega, E., and Kindle, P. (January 2018). *Earned Income Tax Credit: Unequal Access and Unequal Outcomes*. Poster presentation at the 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
18. **Lyons, A.**, Cohen, G., & Delavega, E. (March 2017). *Dealing With The Realities of Welfare: Undergraduates and Tax Policy*. Oral presentation at the 34th Annual Conference of the Association of

Baccalaureate Program Directors, Inc., New Orleans, LA.

19. Cohen, G, **Lyons, A**, & Greenwell, H (April 2017). Poster presented at the 5th annual Social Work Symposium at the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.

GRANTS

1. Title: *A Critical Analysis of Indigenous Children in the Child Welfare System and the Impact of Indian Child Welfare Act*
Year: 2025
Amount: \$25,000
PI: Abram J. Lyons, MSW, University of Pennsylvania

This grant funded Mr. Lyons' dissertation examining the history of Indigenous Child in the child welfare system within the context of structural colonialism. The project utilized data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System to explore the effect of the impact of Indian Child Welfare Act for Indigenous Children between 2005 and 2021.

2. Title: *Evidence for the Indian Child Welfare Act as the Gold Standard for Child Welfare Practice*
Year: 2023 to 2024
Amount: \$8,000
PI: Claudette Grinnell-Davis, PhD, University of Oklahoma
Role: Research Associate

This invited grant examines 15 years of national child welfare data (NCANDS and AFCARS) to examine whether ICWA practice guidelines applied to children from other races result in improved permanency outcomes. While there are no ICWA fields in either dataset, this team has already demonstrated that, while inadequate from a tribal sovereignty defense position, analyzing American Indian identity alone versus as part of multiracial identity results in practice differences in line with ICWA standards for American Indian-only children. Using statistical typology techniques such as sequence analysis and latent class analysis, we will identify American Indian children who were most likely to receive services congruent with ICWA standards and then use that knowledge to identify children of other races who received similar services and examine their child welfare service outcomes.

As a part of this project, we are beta-testing the RAPIDS compiler, the algorithm recently developed to merge this data. This project will be a breakthrough not only in terms of its content, but also in terms of methodology and rigor in data science while operating from a framework of quantitative-critical evaluation.

3. Title: *Honoring Indigenous Families – Nebraska*
Year: 2021 to 2025
Amount: \$24,000
PI: Claudette Grinnell-Davis, PhD, University of Oklahoma
Role: Research Associate

This community-based participatory action project is one of the first at a state level to evaluate the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a policy designed to address glaring race equity issues in our child welfare system that disproportionately harm Indigenous youth and families. This Indigenous-led community project explores the following broad questions: (1) did changes made to Nebraska's ICWA in 2015 result in fewer Indigenous youth entering the foster care system; (2) did the changes

lead to provision of more culturally competent services and improved outcomes for Indigenous youth and families in the foster care system; (3) what is working well with the law's implementation and what are areas for improvement? This research will provide critical insight into the effectiveness of ICWA policy changes that can be replicated in other states and at the federal level, as well as identifying barriers and lessons learned through Nebraska's five years of implementation. Research strategies include organizational ethnography of the formation of the community/agency advisory board; evaluation of administrative data from agency community partners (Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; State of Nebraska Supreme Court Improvement Project; Nebraska Foster Care Review Office); qualitative interviews with community stakeholders and members of Indigenous families served by the Nebraska system; and policy/statute legal analyses of agency regulations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025 Newark, DE	<p>KIDS COUNT Delaware Summer Fellow <i>University of Delaware – Biden School of Public Policy</i></p> <p>Oversaw and developed of a publicly distributed pamphlet in collaboration with KIDS COUNT staff.</p>
2022-Present Philadelphia, PA	<p>Graduate Assistantship <i>University of Pennsylvania – Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR)</i></p> <p>Engaged in qualitative data collection interviews across the US, including families involved with the child welfare system receiving a guaranteed income intervention. Collaborated with CGIR researchers to produce reports for the The American Guaranteed Income Studies series. Developed codebooks and coded interviews as part of qualitative data analyses.</p>
2022-Present Remote	<p>Program Coordinator <i>University of Oklahoma – Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work</i></p> <p>Lead qualitative data collection and analysis with Indigenous families, Child welfare workers, and Tribal leaders on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded project including 17 focus groups and 17 individual interviews. Assisted in data analysis using a large dataset including 15 years' worth of merged, nationwide AFCARS and NCANDS data. Managed and fostered relationships with partnering community Tribal organizations.</p>
2018-Present Spokane, WA	<p>Scientific Assistant (Lead Research Coordinator) <i>WSU – Behavioral Health Innovations</i></p> <p>Coordinate and manage 4 qualitative and 4 quantitative projects including an RO1 with 400 AI/AN participants; Created 4 REDCap 100+ item surveys utilizing piping, field embedding, branching, and action tag functions; Developed 3 and managed 6 Institutional Review Board approved research protocols; Conducted and oversaw recruitment efforts, interviews, and survey batteries with 350+ participants; Established research partnerships and developed research agreement with one Tribal agency; Analyzed (i.e. binary and</p>

multivariable linear regression and descriptive) and managed data using STATA software; Executed study dissemination efforts in 4 native communities for 2 RO1 projects; Produce interactive visualizations using Tableau software.

2017-2018
Spokane, WA

Child and Family Welfare Service Social Worker
DSHS – Children's Admin. – Indian Child Welfare Unit

Oversaw cases of 30 AI/AN children and over 40 native parents working toward reunification; Coordinated drug and alcohol treatment and mental health therapy with service provider and clients; Organized group meetings with clients, service providers, and other family supports; Communicated regularly with tribal representatives and native specific service providers

2017
Memphis, TN

Research Assistant
University of Memphis – Anthropology Department

Conducted and documented over 30 qualitative interviews with faculty and community partners; Developed two 21 item qualitative surveys utilized in research project; Organized correspondence and interview scheduling with over 30 faculty and community partners; Utilized MaxQDA Software, and developed comprehensive code sheet for data analysis

2016-2017
Memphis, TN

Lead Community Evaluation Researcher, ESOL facilitator, and Mentor
Refugee Empowerment Program

Created 48 item survey utilized for assessing refugee community needs; Collaborated with community stakeholders from 5 different nations in the development and implantation of survey; Analyzed 60 quantitative interviews and identified community needs to enhance organization's development focus; Cultivated English language development of over 20 refugee adults through teaching and curriculum planning

2016
Memphis, TN

Research Assistant
University of Memphis – Social Work and Public Admin. Departments

Conducted over 50 qualitative-quantitative interviews for Memphis city's mayoral office; Analyzed and created visualizations of findings; Presented report to representatives of Memphis city government and mayoral staff

2016
Memphis, TN

Research Assistant
Data for Good Inc.

Facilitated up to 8 quantitative interviews per day, 3 days a week at Shelby County Juvenile Court

2015–2016
Memphis, TN

Community Resource Intern
SMA

Established and maintained partnerships with 30 community organizations; Facilitated, set-up, and breakdown equipment and services for up to 7 organizations weekly; Create and market upcoming events through flier distribution and canvassing

2013 – 2015
Memphis, TN

Public Relations/Safety Officer
Rhodes College Campus Safety

Developed and maintained professional relationship with students, faculty and parent groups; Documented incidents and created campus safety logs as specified by departmental protocol; Oversaw and monitored safety guidelines for college students

2010 – 2013
Ukraine

Youth Development Volunteer
Peace Corps

Facilitated programs with 120 at-risk youth at local orphanage designed to promote healthy life choices; Created and managed program to teach 7 high school students leadership and volunteering skills; Assisted group operate 8 youth camps focusing on leadership, environmental awareness, and cultural competency; Managed HIV/AIDS project effecting the behaviors and knowledge of over 350 community members.