

April Cavaletto, LMSW

Doctoral Candidate

University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Social Work

623-326-5420 | acavaletto@ssw.umaryland.edu

SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV); services for survivors; help-seeking and social support; program evaluation; intersectionality; quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods; community-engaged research

EDUCATION

Expected 2027	PhD	University of Maryland, Baltimore , Baltimore, MD Field: Social Work Dissertation Title: <i>Access to and Use of Campus Services among Community College Students with Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization</i> Co-Chairs: Dr. Laura Ting, PhD; Dr. Laurie Graham, PhD
2018	MSW	Arizona State University , Phoenix, AZ Concentration: Direct Practice with Children, Youth, and Families
2015	BA	Arizona State University , Tempe, AZ <u>First major</u> : English (literature) <u>Second major</u> : Communication Barrett, the Honors College; Graduated with highest distinction

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

2019-present **Licensed Master of Social Work**, State of Arizona

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published/In Press

1. **Cavaletto, A.**, Walton, E., Graham, L. M., & Hopkins, C. Q., Roberson, B. M., & Spirn, M. B. (in press). Defining, assessing, and promoting safety in restorative justice programmes that address sexual harm: An international qualitative study. *The International Journal of Restorative Justice*.
2. Hopkins, C. Q., Graham, L. M., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2025). Magic or morass?: Interdisciplinary work and program evaluation in legal education and legal policy for restorative justice programs. *Journal of Legal Education*, 73(4), 1037-1057.
<https://jle.aals.org/home/vol73/iss4/10/>

3. **Cavaletto, A.**, Zimmerman, L., Graham, L. M., & Ting, L. (2025). The state of intimate partner violence research in the community college context: A scoping review. *Journal of Family Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-025-00958-2>
4. **Cavaletto, A.**, Reed, L. A., Lawler, S., Turner, B. G., Wallhof, J. & Messing, J. (2025). “Healthy relationships”: A scoping review of definitions, components, and measures of healthy dating relationships among teens and young adults. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 27(3), 757-774. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380251325202>
5. Graham, L. M., Hopkins, C. Q., **Cavaletto, A.**, & Aggarwal, N. (2024). Using restorative justice to respond to and prevent sexual harm: A qualitative study of formal practices in six countries. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 40(17-18), 3929-3956. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605241285877>
6. Graham, L. M., Sarmiento Mellinger, M., Barth, R., Jiwatram-Negrón, T., Waller, B. Y., Messing, J. T., Bennett, C. R., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2024). The power of language to transform efforts to address intimate partner violence: Tensions in the field and pathways forward. *Families in Society*, 105(3), 457-472. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894241239091>
7. Yang, X., Zhang, P., Jing, S., Cheng, Y., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2024). Logotherapy-based interventions for Chinese family caregivers of older adults with dementia through online groups: A mixed-methods study. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 67(3), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2024.2326689>

Invited Publications

1. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, & Nguyen, C. (2025). A call for sexual and relationship violence bystander approaches for youth-supporting adults. *Journal of Family Violence*, special issue commentary. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-025-00948-4>

Under Review

1. **Cavaletto, A.**, Reed, L. A., Brown, M. L. (under review). Women and LGBTQ+ college student experiences of dating: Findings and implications for healthy relationship education.
2. **Cavaletto, A.**, & O'Connor, J. (under review). The role of college social groups as risk and protective factors for gender-based violence and its mental health outcomes.
3. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, Hopkins, Q. C. (under review). Feasibility and acceptability testing of an online sexual violence prevention bystander intervention training for adults working with youth.

4. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, Aggarwal, N., Crew, R., Nguyen, C., & Rose, T. (under review). #nofilter: A youth-led photovoice study to inform sexual violence prevention efforts.
5. O'Connor, J., Gezinski, L. B., & **Cavaletto, A.** (under review). The role of poly-strengths in buffering the negative mental health consequences of dating and sexual violence.

REPORTS FOR GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

1. Graham L. M., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2026). *School-based violence intervention and prevention (SBVIP) project evaluation: MONSE report*. Commissioned report for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and the Baltimore City Health Department.
2. **Cavaletto, A.**, & Graham, L. M. (2026). *Teacher Talk pilot study report*. Commissioned report for the Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention.
3. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, Allison, A., & Young, K. (2024). *Collaborative community-based violence prevention project: Focus group report*. Commissioned report prepared for the Black Mental Health Alliance funded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance.
4. **Cavaletto, A.**, & Graham, L. M. (2024). *Teacher Talk preliminary feasibility study report*. Commissioned report for the Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention.
5. **Cavaletto, A.**, Graham, L. M., & Hoyt, B. (2023). *ERIN Talk Program evaluation final report*. Commissioned report for the Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention.
6. **Cavaletto, A.**, Graham, L. M., & Liggett-Creel, K. (2022). *Behavioral health crisis referral system for children & youth in Baltimore City, MD*. Commissioned report as part of the Addressing Intersections of Race and Violence Against Children and Youth project at the National Association of County and City Health Officials funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
7. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, & Liggett-Creel, K. (2022). *Data-sharing policies and practices in Baltimore City, MD*. Commissioned report as part of the Addressing Intersections of Race and Violence Against Children and Youth project at the National Association of County and City Health Officials funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Cavaletto, A.** (2026). *Sexual development across childhood: Understanding and responding to age-appropriate behaviors*. [Invited blog]. International Nanny Association. <https://nanny.org/sexual-development-across-childhood/>

PRESENTATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

1. **Cavaletto, A.**, Ting, L., & Graham, L. M. (2026, October). *Resources for survivors of intimate partner violence at community colleges*. Poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
2. **Cavaletto, A.**, Klein, L. B., Rai, A., Mennicke, A., & Graham, L. M. (2026, January). *Innovations in bystander intervention designed to prevent gender-based violence across the lifespan*. Roundtable at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, D.C., Organizer: **Cavaletto, A.**
3. **Cavaletto, A.**, Reed, L., A., Lawler, S. M., & Messing, J. T. (2026, January). *Measures of healthy relationships for youth and emerging adults: Reviewing existing practices and moving the field forward*. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Seattle, Washington.
4. Walton, E., **Cavaletto, A.**, Graham, L. M., & Hopkins, C. Q. (2025, January). *Addressing and promoting safety in restorative justice services that respond to sexual violence: A qualitative study of global practices*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Seattle, Washington.
5. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A.**, & Hopkins, C. Q., (2025, January). *Development and preliminary feasibility test of a sexual violence prevention bystander intervention program for youth-serving adults*. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Seattle, Washington.
6. Hopkins, C. Q., Graham, L. M., Schertzing, N., Jachman, M., Ames-Messinger, E., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2024, July). *Employing restorative practices in a comprehensive public health approach to prevent and respond to sexual violence*. Panel presentation at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference in Washington, D. C.
7. Hopkins, C. Q., Graham, L. M., Schertzing, N., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2024, June). *Magic or morass?: Interdisciplinary work and program evaluation in legal education and legal policy for restorative justice programs*. Panel presentation at the National Center for Restorative Justice Conference in South Royalton, Vermont.

8. **Cavaletto, A., & Zimmerman, L.** (2024, January). *Current understandings of community college students' IPV experiences and interventions: Discussion of a scoping review*. Oral paper presentation at the NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Strategies Conference in San Francisco, California.
9. **Cavaletto, A., Hoyt, B., & Graham, L. M.** (2024, January). *Conducting ethical pilot studies of interpersonal violence prevention programs with youth in schools*. Workshop at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, D.C.
10. Graham, L. M., **Cavaletto, A., Hopkins, C. Q.** (2024, January). *Using restorative justice principles to prevent and respond to sexual violence: A qualitative study to understand global practices*. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, D.C.
11. Deitz, A., Tennor, M., Mack, L.-J., **Cavaletto, A.** Chung, Y., Lee, H., & Zhang, P. (2024, January). *A collaborative research process in social work doctoral education: Recentering community*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, D.C.
12. Hopkins, C. Q., Graham, L. M., & **Cavaletto, A.** (co-presenter; 2023, October). *Qualitative study of international restorative justice responses to sexual harm: Methodology and preliminary results*. Oral presentation at the Association of American Law Schools Alternative Dispute Resolution Works-in-Progress Conference in New Haven, Connecticut.
13. **Cavaletto, A., & Zhang, P.** (2023, March). *Associations between romantic relationship quality, COVID-19 stress, and psychological distress among parents of minors*. Oral paper presentation at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate Research Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
14. **Cavaletto, A., Cagle, J., & Graham, L. M.** (2023, January). *School-level predictors of teen dating violence perpetration*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
15. Graham, L. M., McCauley, H., Rizo, C. F., & **Cavaletto, A.** (2023, January). *Strengths-focused sexual and intimate partner violence prevention: Current approaches and future directions*. Roundtable at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
16. Reed, A., Brown, L. A., Mazzio, A. K., Lawler, S., **Cavaletto, A.** (co-presenter), & Messing, J. (2023, January). *Lessons learned from women and LGBTQ+ college students about dating: Implications for inclusive and relevant healthy relationship education*. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

1. **Cavaletto, A.** (November, 2026). *Intimate partner violence assessment and safety planning*. Guest lecture for Advanced Clinical Interventions, a synchronous online MSW course at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Social Work.
2. Graham, L. M., & **Cavaletto, A.** (August, 2026). *School-based violence intervention and prevention (SBVIP) project evaluation: MONSE intervention programs*. Invited virtual presentation for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Baltimore City, MD.
3. **Cavaletto, A.** (March, 2025). *Dating and sexual violence among adolescents and emerging adults*. Guest lecture for Intimate Partner Violence, an in-person MSW course at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Social Work.
4. **Cavaletto, A.**, Chung, Y., Deitz, A., Lee, H., Mack, L-J., Tennor, M., & Zhang, P., (February, 2023). *Parental well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Invited virtual presentation for the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Social Work.
5. **Cavaletto, A.** (August, 2022). *Behavioral health crisis referral system for children & youth in Baltimore City, MD*. Invited virtual presentation for the Baltimore City Children's Cabinet Trauma Workgroup, Baltimore City, MD.
6. **Cavaletto, A.**, Chester, J., Clinton, T., & Pittman, Z. (July, 2022). *Sharing data to inform child and youth services in Baltimore City*. Invited virtual presentation for the Baltimore City Mayor's Office Trauma Informed Care Task Force, Baltimore City, MD.
7. **Cavaletto, A.** (November, 2021). *Gender-based Violence*. Guest lecture for Social Work with Groups and Families, a synchronous online undergraduate social work course at Western New England University.

AWARDS AND HONORS *Indicates competitive application and award

- 2026 **PhD Travel Fellowship**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$800)
- 2026 **PhD Travel Fellowship**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$200)
- 2025 **Dean's Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Fund** (\$1,100)
- 2025 ***University of Maryland Social Work PhD Program Dissertation Grant**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$4,000)
- 2024 ***NASPA Foundation Access Scholarship**, NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (\$755)
- 2024 **PhD Travel Fellowship**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$342)

- 2023 ***Graduate Student Travel Scholarship**, National Institute of Justice, National Research Conference (\$1,300)
- 2022 **PhD Travel Fellowship**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$600)
- 2021 **PhD Travel Fellowship**, University of Maryland School of Social Work (\$155)
- 2017 **College of Public Programs University Grant Award**, Arizona State University College of Public Programs and Community Solutions (\$1,000)
- 2016 **Arizona Graduate Scholar Award**, Arizona State University (\$2,000)

TEACHING AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Summer 2026	Course Developer	Teen Dating Violence MSW Course, Asynchronous, Arizona State University
Fall 2025	Adjunct Instructor	Program Evaluation MSW Course, Asynchronous, Arizona State University
Spring 2025	Adjunct Instructor	Research Methods MSW Course, Asynchronous, Arizona State University
Spring 2024	Adjunct Instructor	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I MSW Course, Asynchronous, Arizona State University
Fall 2023	Adjunct Instructor	Human Behavior and the Social Environment MSW Course, Synchronous Hybrid, University of Maryland-Shady Grove
Spring 2023	Teaching Assistant	Intimate Partner Violence MSW Course, In-person, University of Maryland-Baltimore

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2026-2027 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Tasks: Grant development; manuscript development; quantitative and qualitative analysis
Mentor: Dr. Iris Cardenas
- 2022-2026 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Tasks: Qualitative and quantitative analysis, feasibility and pilot study development and implementation, program evaluation, survey development, semi-structured interviews and focus groups, photovoice methods, report and journal manuscript development
Mentor: Dr. Laurie Graham
Partners: Erin Levitas Foundation; Black Mental Health Alliance; Baltimore City Health Department; Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; HeartSmiles

- 2019-2024 **Thriving Relationships Lab**, Arizona State University
Tasks: Literature review team leader, systematic and scoping reviews, semi-structured focus groups
Mentor: Dr. Lauren Reed
- 2021-2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Tasks: Government commissioned report preparation, data compilation, facilitation of electronic interviews with community partners, professional presentations, survey development
Mentors: Dr. Laurie Graham and Dr. Kyla Liggett-Creel
Partners: National Association of County and City Health Officials; Healing Youth Alliance; Baltimore City Health Department

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE (3+ years post-MSW)

- 2026-present **Program Development and Evaluation Specialist**, Erin Levitas Foundation, Baltimore, MD
- 2018-2021 **Youth and Education Program Coordinator**, Phoenix Sister Cities, Phoenix, AZ
- 2017-2018 **MSW Intern Trauma Therapist**, Empact La-Frontera Trauma Healing Services, Tempe, AZ
- 2017-2018 **Graduate Assistant/Program Coordinator**, Arizona State University West, Changemaker Central, Glendale, AZ
- 2016-2017 **Program Coach/MSW Intern**, Arizona State University, Bridging Success, Phoenix, AZ
- 2016-2017 **Client Advocate**, Chrysalis, Phoenix, AZ
- 2015 **Volunteer Coordinator/House Operations**, Maggie's Place, Tempe, AZ

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

CONFERENCE AND JOURNAL REVIEWER

British Journal of Educational Studies
 Council on Social Work Education Conference
International Journal of Adolescence and Youth
Journal of Family Violence (Ad hoc reviewer)
Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships
 Society for Social Work and Research Conference (Ad hoc reviewer)
Trauma, Violence, and Abuse

OTHER SERVICE

2021 - Present **Member**, IPV Collaborative, University of Maryland, Baltimore
2022 - Present **Prospective Student Mentor**, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Spring 2024 **Peer Mentor**, Society for Social Work and Research Conference
Fall 2022, 2023 **PhD Orientation Volunteer**, University of Maryland School of Social Work

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Social Work and Research
Violence Against Women Special Interest Group
Building Healthy Relationships to End Violence Special Interest Group
Council on Social Work Education
National Association of Social Work
Campus Advocacy and Prevention Professionals Association
University of Maryland Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative
NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE AND ANALYSIS TRAINING

Programs/Packages: Stata, SPSS, MPlus, NVivo, Covidence, Excel

Methods: Linear and logistic regression, continuous and categorical interactions, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, pre/post-test evaluation, structural equation modeling, stratified random sampling, systematic and scoping reviews, thematic analysis, photovoice