

Sarah Clem, MSW

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EDUCATION

In Progress	PhD Candidate University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Dissertation: Barriers to Death Rituals: A Phenomenological Study of Bereaved Lived Experiences
2017	MSW Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY
2016	BSW Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- Clem, S. E.**, Becker, T. D., Sacco, P., & Cagle, J. G. (2025). Assessing prioritization of a good death across Brazil, Italy, Japan, and the United States: A psychometric evaluation. *Death Studies*, 1–11.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2025.2551368>
- Clem, S. E.**, Zhang, P., & Cagle, J. G. (2024). Exploring congruency of death location preferences versus expectations: Findings from the general public in Brazil, Italy, Japan, and the U.S. *Illness, Crisis & Loss*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10541373241262378>
- Becker, T. D., **Clem, S. E.**, Sacco, P., Cagle, J. G., Davitt, J. K., & Kusmaul, N. (2024). Further psychometric evaluation of the eight-item Hospice Philosophy Scale: Results from a national sample of interdisciplinary hospice clinicians. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 44(1), 70-82.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648241265183>
- Zhang, P., **Clem, S. E.**, Roderick, R., & Cagle, J. G. (2023). Exposure to a loved one's death and advanced care planning: Moderating effects of age. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 0(0).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10499091231188689>
- Cagle, J. G., Zhang, P., & **Clem, S. E.** (2023) Estimating the impact of hospice care on key patient-family care outcomes using a nationwide U.S. probability sample. *The American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Care*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10499091231218261>

Invited

Verdooner, E., & **Clem, S.** (2022). In-class breaks: The importance of taking a break during online classes and considerations for break activities. In M. Marquart, L. W. Marshall, R. Chung, & K. Garay (Eds.), *Designing Engaging and Interactive Synchronous Online Class Sessions: Using Adobe Connect to Maximize its Pedagogical Value*. EdTech Books.
https://edtechbooks.org/designing_engaging_interactive_synchronous_online_classes/breaks_during_classes

Under Review/In Preparation

L. J. M. Mack, Shdaimah C. S., & **Clem, S. E.** (2025). *'I was anxious, I was nervous': A qualitative exploration of dependency court perceptions and experiences across groups* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Clem, S. E., L. J. M. Mack, & Shdaimah C. S. (2025). *"I gave my life up to make sure these kids got out the system": A Qualitative Exploration of Cumulative Losses Among Kinship Caregivers* [Manuscript in preparation]. School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Clem, S. E. (2005). *Funerals and Meaning Reconstruction: An Autoethnographic Exploration*. [Manuscript in preparation]. School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Clem, S.E. & Davitt, J. (2024) *A thematic synthesis of barriers to funeral ritual engagement and related outcomes for bereaved individuals and families* [Manuscript in preparation]. School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Franke, N. D., & **Clem, S. E.** (2024). *"There was no crib notes on how to grieve": Finding Grief Space During and After a Juvenile Life Prison Sentence* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Social Work, La Salle University, Philadelphia.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

Clem, S. E., McCorvey, S., & Davitt, J. (2025, November 12-15). *Dual Caregivers: Stress, Physical Strain, and Self-Rated Health* [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting, Boston, MA, United States.

Clem, S. E. (2025, April 2-5). *Student paper award presentation: A thematic synthesis of barriers to funeral ritual engagement and related outcomes for bereaved individuals and families*. [Poster presentation]. 2025 ADEC Conference, Albuquerque, NM, United States.

Mack, L.J. M., Shdaimah, C. S., Phillips, D. R., & **Clem, S. E.** (2025, January 15-19). *"I was anxious and nervous about what was going to happen": The role of expectations across stakeholder groups in child welfare dependency courts* [Paper presentation]. SSWR 29th Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.

Clem, S. E., Davitt, J., McCorvey, S., Becker, T. D., Eastman, J. & Sesek, G. (2024, November 13-16). *The fortitude factor for caregivers: Understanding the effect of employment and caregiving on caregiver*

wellbeing [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, Seattle, WA, United States.

Zhang, P., **Clem, S. E.**, Guan, T., Becker, T. D., & Sacco, P. (2024, November 13-16). *Validation of modified sense of control scale among older cancer patients* [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, Seattle, WA, United States.

Clem, S. E., & Davitt, J. (2024, April 11-13). *A thematic synthesis of barriers to funeral ritual engagement and related outcomes for bereaved individuals and families*. [Paper presentation]. 2024 ADEC Conference, Houston, TX, United States.

Franke, N. D., **Clem, S. E.**, & Becker, T. D. (2024, January 10-14). *"You can't really grieve them": Disenfranchised grief among people serving long prison sentences starting in childhood* [Paper presentation]. SSWR 28th Annual Conference, Washington DC, United States.

Clem, S. E., Zhang, P., & Cagle, J. G. (2023, November 8-12). *Exploring congruency of death location preferences versus expectations: Findings from Brazil, Italy, Japan, and the U.S.* [Paper presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Tampa, FL, United States.

Becker, T. D., **Clem, S. E.**, Sacco, P., Cagle, J. G., Davitt, J., Kusmal, N., & Cain, C. L. (2023, November 8-12). *Further evaluation of the Hospice Philosophy Scale: A differential item functioning analysis* [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Tampa, FL, United States.

Clem, S. E., Zhang, P., & Cagle, J. G. (2023, June 12-14) *Exploring congruency of death location preferences versus expectations: Findings from the general public in Japan* [Poster presentation]. IAGG Asia/Oceania Regional Congress 2023, Yokohama, Japan.

Clem, S. E., & Becker, T. D. (2023, April 23-25). *Formal and informal advanced care planning in couples: Exploring differences in engagement between U.S.-born and foreign-born older adults* [Poster presentation]. The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care 2023 General Assembly, Denver, CO, United States.

Rose, R., **Clem, S. E.**, & Smith, E. (2023, January 11-15). *Building & using directed acyclic graphs to inform causal analysis in social work research*. [Symposia presentation]. SSWR 27th Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Rose, R., **Clem, S. E.**, & Smith, E. (2022, November 7-12). *DAGS for evaluation: An approach to identifying the sufficient set* [Poster presentation]. Evaluation 2022: The American Evaluation Association's Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Clem, S. E., & Becker, T. D. (2022, November 2-6). *Measuring a good death: An assessment across four countries* [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society of America's 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, United States.

Clem, S. E., Zhang, P., & Cagle, J. G. (2022, April 24–26). *Exploring congruency of death location preferences versus expectations: Findings from a national sample of the US general public* [Poster presentation]. The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network 2022 General Assembly, Santa Fe, NM, United States.

Zhang, P., **Clem, S. E.**, & Cagle, J. G. (2022, April 24–26). *Prompting advance care planning: Exploring its association with death exposure* [Paper presentation]. The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network 2022 General Assembly, Santa Fe, NM, United States.

Clem, S. E. (2022, April 7). *COVID-19 impact and health attitudes: The role of religion among racial and ethnic minority immigrants in the US* [Poster presentation]. Public Health Research at Maryland Ninth Annual Conference.

Raikes, H., Jones-Harden, B., Chazan-Cohen, R., Brown, D., Deming, J., Duncan, A., Esteraich, J., Escalante, E., Byrd, J., & **Clem, S. E.** (2020, November 30–December 3). *Impacts of Early Steps to School Success: A language-focused infant-toddler home visiting program in 19 US rural communities* [Poster Presentation]. NRCEC 2020: The Administration for Children and Families' National Research Conference on Early Childhood.

Invited

Clem, S. (2025, November 19). *Death Rituals and Grief* [Oral presentation]. Theology and Philosophy of Death & Dying, Nashville, TN, United States.

Clem, S. (2025, November 11). *Perspectives toward After Death* [Oral presentation]. Death, Dying, and Bereavement, Tuscaloosa, AL, United States.

Clem, S. (2025, November 6). *Death Rituals: An Overview* [Oral presentation]. Death, Dying, and Bereavement, Tuscaloosa, AL, United States.

Clem, S. (2025, October 9). *Barriers to Death Rituals: A Phenomenological Dissertation Study* [Oral presentation]. Qualitative Research Methods, Baltimore, MS, United States.

Clem, S. (2023, November 29). *End-of-life Topics: Death, Dying, and Grief* [Oral presentation]. Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Clem, S., Smith, J., Adesanya, I. (2023, May 9). *Oral, visual, & performative qualitative methods: Lessons from a peer study.* [Oral presentation]. UMSSW Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Qualitative Research Interest Group, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Rose, R., **Clem, S. E.**, & Smith, E. (2023, February 16). *Identifying the sufficient set in a DAG: The clock and grid approach* [Symposia presentation]. Lunch Time Research Seminar, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Clem, S. E., & Becker, T. D. (2022, October 20). *Measuring a good death: A comparison of four countries* [Poster presentation]. New Frontiers in Healthcare Management Life Sciences Seminar, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Clem, S. (2022, November 7). *Death, Dying, and Grief* [Oral presentation]. Social Work with Older Adults & Their Families, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Clem, S. E., Zhang, P., & Cagle, J., G. (2022, October 20). *Exploring congruency of death location preferences versus expectations: Findings from a national sample of the US general public* [Poster presentation]. New Frontiers in Healthcare Management Life Sciences Seminar, Baltimore, MD, United States.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Research Experience

Sept 2023–Present	Graduate Research Assistant (.5 FTE) University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Supervisor: Joan K. Davitt, PhD, MSS, MLSP
Sept 2022–June 2023	Graduate Research Assistant (.5 FTE) University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Supervisor: David Camacho, PhD, MSW, MSG
Aug 2020–Aug 2022	Graduate Research Assistant (.5 FTE) University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Supervisor: Brenda Jones-Harden, PhD, MSW

Teaching Experience

Aug 2025–Oct 2025	MSW Instructor – Online Asynchronous (.25 FTE) Foundation Social Work Practice II: Families and Groups Boise State University, Boise, ID Enrollment: 27
Mar 2025–May 2025	MSW Instructor – Online Asynchronous (.25 FTE) Foundation of Research I Boise State University, Boise, ID Enrollment: 17
Jan 2025–May 2025	MSW Instructor – Online (.25 FTE) Social Work Research University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Enrollment: 26
Jan 2024–May 2024	MSW Instructor – Online (.25 FTE) Social Work Research University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Enrollment: 30
Jan 2023–May 2023	MSW Instructor – Online (.25 FTE) Social Work Research University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Enrollment: 25
Jan 2021–May 2021	MSW Teaching Assistant – Online (.25 FTE) Social Work Research University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD Enrollment: 29

Jan 2020–March 2020	MSW Instructor – Residential (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 30
Sept 2019–Oct 2019	MSW Instructor – Residential (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 70
Sept 2019–Oct 2019	MSW Instructor – Online (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 43
Aug 2019–Sept 2019	MSW Instructor – Online (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 74
Jan 2019–March 2019	MSW Instructor – Residential (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 35
Sept 2018–Oct 2018	MSW Instructor – Residential (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 36
Aug 2018–Sept 2018	Lead MSW Teaching Associate – Online (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 87
Jan 2018–Feb 2018	Lead MSW Teaching Associate – Online (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 64
Sept 2017–Oct 2017	MSW Teaching Associate – Online Asynchronous (.25 FTE) Introduction to Statistics Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY Enrollment: 277

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2020–July 2020 Strategic Initiatives Specialist
Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, NY
Supervisor: R. Nancy Albilal, MSW
Responsibilities: Executed the de-implementation process of a ten-year grant program for Preventive Services and implemented five new grant programs. Oversaw hiring process, managed staff training in evidence-based practice models, and developed new tools and procedures to align with contract requirements.
- Jan 2019–Dec 2019 Program Supervisor – Preventive
Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, NY
Supervisor: Arij Abdul-Halim, MHC
Responsibilities: Provided MSW supervision and advised a team of case managers supporting immigrant and refugee families. Developed and led focus groups and individual interviews to advance strategic funding proposals.
- Nov 2017–Jan 2019 Counselor Advocate and After-school Program Director
Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, NY
Supervisor: Tyeast Fullerton
Responsibilities: Developed and implemented programming for three unique programs supporting refugee and immigrant youth ranging from kindergarten to grade 12. Created an internal program manual to improve documentation, communication, budgeting, recruitment, and scheduling.
- Sept 2016–April 2017 Constituent Case Manager Intern
U.S. Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney, New York, NY
Supervisor: Sarah Hague, MSW
Responsibilities: Managed constituent casework relating to issues with immigrant and non-immigrant visas, including completion of letters of inquiry and letters of support. Represented Congresswoman Maloney at various events and meetings including community board meetings, community task force meetings, and special events.
- Jan 2016–May 2016 Social Work Intern
WorkLife Partnership, Fort Collins, CO
Supervisor: Brittany Robinson
Responsibilities: Created and implemented training programs for client skill development and career progression. Maintained and provided critical revisions to the agency database, marketing materials, and monthly newsletter.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- October 2025 Spring & Summer 2025 Teaching Awards: Curator Award
Office of Academic Affairs
- October 2025 Spring 2025 Dean’s Teaching Awards
University of Maryland School of Social Work

April 2025	Dr. Hannelore Wass Cross-Cultural Student Paper Award 2025 ADEC Conference
May 2022	2021-2022 Outstanding Student Representative Award Graduate Student Association
April 2022	Outstanding Research Poster 2022 SWHPN General Assembly
June 2021	Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work

FUNDING

July 2025	PhD Dissertation Grant (\$4,000), University of Maryland School of Social Work
October 2023	Travel Fellowship (\$600), University of Maryland School of Social Work
February 2023	Conference Scholarship (\$175), Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network
November 2022	Travel Scholarship (\$2,300), The Center for Global Engagement at UMB
September 2022	Travel Fellowship (\$600), University of Maryland School of Social Work
September 2022	ESPO – Carol Schutz Travel Award (\$184), Gerontological Society of America
March 2022	Travel Fellowship (\$600), University of Maryland School of Social Work
November 2020	Travel Fellowship (\$600), University of Maryland School of Social Work

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

2025–Present	ADEC Student and New Professional Committee Member Conference Subcommittee
2025–Present	Society for Social Work and Research Senior Volunteer Coordinator
2023–Present	Ad Hoc Gerontological Society of America Conference Reviewer
2023–Present	Ad Hoc Death Studies Journal Reviewer
2022–Present	Ad Hoc Journal of Gerontological Social Work Reviewer
2022–2025	Society for Social Work and Research Lead Volunteer Coordinator
2021–2022	Society for Social Work and Research Deputy Volunteer Coordinator

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

2023–2024	Graduate Student Association Alternate Representative Graduate Research Conference Subcommittee Member
2022–2023	Search Committee Member Dean for the University of Maryland School of Nursing
2022–2023	Graduate Student Association Secretary Graduate Research Conference Chair
2021–2022	Graduate Student Association Primary Representative Graduate Research Conference Subcommittee Member Professional Development Subcommittee Member Graduate School Stipend Review Committee Member

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2022–Present	Qualitative Research Interest Group Co-chair Autoethnography Group Facilitator Peer-debrief Facilitator
2021–2023	PhD Program Committee Representative
2021–2022	PhD Social Committee Member

AFFILIATIONS

American Association of University Women

Association for Death Education and Counseling

Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work

Association for the Study of Death and Society

Gerontological Society of America

Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network

Society for Social Work and Research

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

2025	Unlocking Insights with Dedoose: A Guide to Qualitative and Mixed Methods Analysis University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD
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2025	Innovative Mixed Methods Research University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD
2023	Qualitative Data Repository: Training & Discussion University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD
2023	Fundamentals of Conducting Focus Group Interviews University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD
2019	Seminar in Field Instruction NYU Silver School of Social Work
2019	Online Faculty Development Series Columbia University School of Social Work
2019	Motivational Interviewing NYC Administration for Children's Services
2018	Institute on Pedagogy and Technology for Online Courses Columbia University School of Social Work