

Alison B. Wetmur, DSW, LCSW

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linkedin.com/in/alison-wetmur

Social work scholar and practitioner specializing in Disability Justice frameworks in social work education and practice. National leader with expertise in trauma-informed practice, d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing populations, and anti-oppressive pedagogy. Currently serving as the founding chair of NASW's newly established National Committee on Disabilities.

Education

Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) 2022

Rutgers University, School of Social Work, New Brunswick, NJ

Practice-based doctorate focusing on trauma within Disability Justice, Deaf/Hard of Hearing population, social justice, phenomenology, ableism, and intersectionality. Served on the Executive Committee throughout academic career. Completed qualitative research on the phenomenological experience of Deaf/Hard of Hearing adults from hearing families. Capstone project: multimedia resource for hearing parents of d/Deaf children (www.raisingdeafchildren.com).

Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) 2009

Rutgers University, School of Social Work, New Brunswick, NJ

Direct Practice track, emphasis on mental health. Honors: Inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Bachelor of Arts, English Literature 2000

Drew University, Madison, NJ

Areas of Concentration: Medieval and Renaissance Literature; Minor: Creative Writing

National Leadership & Service

Chair, National Committee on Disabilities (Inaugural) 2026–2028

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Appointed founding chair of the newly established national committee to guide NASW's first-ever comprehensive disability initiative. Leads strategic direction for disability-related policy and programming, advancing Disability Justice frameworks within the social work profession. Responsible for establishing committee structure, priorities, and operating principles from inception.

Grand Challenges for Social Work

Member, Leadership Advisory Council 2025–Present

Provide strategic guidance and leadership for the Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative, contributing to the development and implementation of national priorities for social work research, education, and practice.

Futures Lead, Cross-Cutting Disability Justice Working Group 2025–2026

Social Work Grand Challenges Futures Initiative

Serves as Futures Lead for the cross-cutting Disability Justice working group. Guides foresight-based and anticipatory social work efforts that position Disability Justice as an integrative framework across all Grand Challenge domains. Facilitates cross-network collaboration, power analysis, and futures-oriented

scenario development to ensure Disability Justice principles inform long-term visioning, strategy, and collective impact.

Service to the Profession

Founder, Social Work Disability Justice League

Founded an interdisciplinary network of social work scholars and practitioners advancing Disability Justice frameworks in social work education, research, and practice.

Organizer, Annual Disability Justice Unconference

Organizes annual unconferences focused on radical self-care, community connections, and Disability Justice within social work. Events include the Disability Justice IS Social Work Convening (2024) and Disability and Social Work: Imagining Disabled Futures Convening (2023).

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Served as peer reviewer for special edition of *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Llamosa, P., & Wetmur, A. (2025). For a More Holistic Conceptualization of Clinical Supervision: Challenges and Opportunities for Clinical Practice. *Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swaf020>
- Wetmur, A. B. (2024). The Experience of Growing Up Deaf in a Hearing-Abled Family: A Phenomenological Study. *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 51(1). <https://doi.org/10.15453/0191-5096.4715>

Book Chapters

- Gault, G.L., Wetmur, A.B., Plummer, S., & Findley, P.A. (2023). Violence Against People with Disabilities: Implications for Practice. In *Social work practice and disability communities: An intersectional anti-oppressive approach*. <https://pressbooks.pub/disabilitysocialwork/>
- Sherwood, K., Kattari, S. K., & Wetmur, A. (2023). Sexuality, Hearing Loss, and d/Deaf Individuals. In *Exploring sexuality and disability: A guide for human service* (1st ed.). Chapter 6, Routledge.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Wetmur, A. & Scoresby, K. (in preparation). Deaf in American Academia: A Collaborative Autoethnography.
- Wetmur, A. & Durant, K. (in preparation). A Critique of Rawlsian Justice Through a Disability Justice Lens.
- Slayter, E., Kattari, S.K., Yakas, L., Wetmur, A., et al. (in preparation). [Follow-up to Slayter et al. (2023), “Beyond Ramps, Curb Cuts and Captions: A Call for Disability Justice in Social Work”].

Book Chapter in Preparation

- Wetmur, A. (in preparation). [Chapter on Disability Justice]. In *Grand Challenges for Social Work Futures Initiative Final Report*.

Presentations

Invited Presentations & Panels

- Wetmur, A. (2026, January). Integrating Across the Grand Challenges: Strategies, Barriers, & New Commitments. [Invited panel]. GCSW Festival of Ideas, Washington, DC.
- Wetmur, A. (2013–2020). Disability Justice, Deafness, and Deaf Culture. [Recurring guest lecture]. Feminist Theories course, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- Wetmur, A. (2025, October). Integrating disability justice principles into an affirming social work practice model. [Conference presentation]. Council on Social Work Education 71st Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- Scoresby, K., Wetmur, A., Niehaus, M. (2025, July). The Role of Social Work in Supporting Deaf Children and Their Families. [Conference presentation]. 24th International Congress on the Education of the Deaf, Rome, Italy.
- Wetmur, A. & Scoresby, K. (2025, July). Deaf in American Academia: A Collaborative Autoethnography. [Conference presentation]. 24th International Congress on the Education of the Deaf, Rome, Italy.
- Wetmur, A. (2024, September). Deafness and Disability in the College Classroom. [Conference presentation]. Disability Justice IS Social Work Convening and Un-conference, Remote.
- Wetmur, A. (2023, September). Social Work and Disability: A Historical Perspective. [Conference presentation]. Disability and Social Work: Imagining Disabled Futures Convening and Un-Conference, Remote.
- Wetmur, A. (2023, September). Deafness and Trauma: Implications for Social Workers. [Conference presentation]. Disability and Social Work: Imagining Disabled Futures Convening and Un-Conference, Remote.

Doctoral Mentorship

DSW Capstone Committee Member, University of Kentucky, 2025–Present. Mentoring a doctoral student conducting a mixed methods research study.

Teaching Experience

Visiting Lecturer 2023–Present

University of Kentucky, College of Social Work, Lexington, KY

Deliver comprehensive instruction across undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, teaching diverse courses including Ethics, Direct Practice, Introduction to Doctoral Studies, Supervision, Program Evaluation, and Critical Issues in Social Work Education. Coordinate multi-section courses with oversight of 10+ instructors and completely redeveloped the Advanced Psychopathology and Psychopharmacology curriculum for DSW students. Contribute to departmental operations through MSW and DSW application reviews, active participation in department and college-wide meetings, and guest instruction in BASW-level courses. Demonstrate expertise in remote pedagogy while maintaining academic rigor across all degree levels.

Lecturer II, Social Work (Non-Tenure Track) 2021–2022

Gallaudet University, Washington, DC

Taught courses in the Bachelor of Social Work program, including quantitative and qualitative research and social work practice at macro and micro levels. Faculty advisor for the Mu Pi chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Adjunct, Sign Language & Disability Studies 2020–2023

Connecticut College, New London, CT

Implemented formal ASL curriculum for Connecticut College's pilot program, now a permanent offering. Designed a First-Year Seminar on Disability Justice and served as academic advisor for 17 first-year students.

Adjunct, Sign Language & Human Services 2012–2023

Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT

Developed curricula for multiple ASL and disability studies courses. Instrumental in development of the Sign Language Certificate Program.

Courses Taught

Doctoral Level

SW 860: Program Evaluation Methods (University of Kentucky)

SW 620: Understanding Theory in Social Work Practice (University of Kentucky)

SW 872: Clinical Praxis Theory (University of Kentucky)

SW 852: Introduction to Doctoral Studies (University of Kentucky)

SW 893: Critical Issues in Social Work Education (University of Kentucky)

Master's Level

SW 600: Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families (University of Kentucky)

SW 625: Introduction to Social Work: Professional Behavior and Ethics (University of Kentucky)

SW 726: Psychopathology for Clinical Social Work II (University of Kentucky)

SW 731: Advanced Social Welfare Policy & Analysis (University of Kentucky)

Bachelor's Level

SW 435: Introduction to Social Work: Professional Behavior and Ethics (University of Kentucky)

American Sign Language & Disability Studies

American Sign Language I–IV (Connecticut College; Manchester Community College)

ASL Grammar and Syntax (Manchester Community College)

Numbers and Fingerspelling (Manchester Community College)

Sign Language for Babies and Children (Manchester Community College)

Learning Processes and Disabilities (Manchester Community College)

Adults with Disabilities (Manchester Community College)

Issues/Trends in Disabilities (Manchester Community College)

Clinical Experience

Owner, True Places Counseling PLLC, 2017–Present

New London, CT

Clinical practice providing therapeutic services in English and American Sign Language. Specialization in trauma and deafness. EMDR trained. Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Clinical Supervisor, providing supervision to LMSWs, including LCSW exam preparation.

Clinician 2013–2017

Change, Inc., Middletown, CT

Provided linguistically and culturally competent therapy for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Specialized in mood disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse, and trauma. Supervised unlicensed master-level clinicians.

Clinical Social Worker 2009–2013

American School for the Deaf, PACES Program, West Hartford, CT

Provided counseling with Deaf/Hard of Hearing high school students with secondary disabilities. Individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, and social rehabilitation.

Credentials & Licensure

Licensed Clinical Social Worker in CT (LCSW), 2013–Present

Site Instructor in Field Instruction (SIFI) Certification, 2015

EMDR Basic Training, 2018

Yoga Teacher Certification, 2022

Professional Memberships

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)

American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA)

Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss (AMPHL)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)