

RENEE A HEPPERLEN
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D. University of Minnesota -- Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN
 Minor: Quantitative Methods in Education, Department of Psychology
 Certificate: Disability Policy and Services
 Dissertation title: Differential Item Functioning and Measurement
 Invariance of Self and Proxy Reports: An Evaluation of Objective Quality
 of Life Measures for People with Intellectual and Developmental
 Disabilities
- 1995 A.M. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 1993 B.A. Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
 Major: Psychology
 Minors: Music and Biology

Fellowship/Traineeship

- 2011 – 2012 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
 Fellowship
- 1993 – 1995 Maternal and Child Health Trainee

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 – present University of St. Thomas, School of Social Work, Associate Professor
 Master of Social Work
- 2015 – 2021 University of St. Thomas, School of Social Work, Assistant Professor
 Master of Social Work
- 2014 – 2015 Augsburg College, Social Work Department, Visiting Assistant Professor
 Master of Social Work

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Hepperlen, R., Rabaey, P., Ament-Lemke, A., & Manley, H. (in press). Caring for a child with a disability in a Zambian community: A Study Using Photo-Elicitation. Submitted to *Child: Care, Health, and Development*. doi: 10.1111/cch.12851

Rabaey, P., **Hepperlen, R.,** Manley, H., & Ament-Lemke, A. (in press). Empowering caregivers of children with disabilities in Zambia: A photovoice study. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Hearst, M., Adelli, R., **Hepperlen, R.,** Biggs, J., DeGracia, D., Ngulube, E., Waluskiki-Mwewa, B., Johnson, D. E., & Rabaey, P. (2020). Community-based intervention to reduce stigma for children with disabilities in Lusaka, Zambia: A pilot. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. doi: 10.1080/09638288.2020.1829105

Hepperlen, R., Rabaey, P., Ngulube, E., Biggs, J., DeGracia, D., & Hearst, M. (2020). Aligning a training curriculum with local needs: Use of an advisory board. *International Social Work*. doi: 10.1177/0020872820915267

Hepperlen, R., Rabaey, P., & Hearst, M. (2020). Evaluating the cross-cultural validity of three family quality of life sub-scales. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*. doi: 10.1111/jar.12727

Nord, D. & **Hepperlen, R.** (2016). More job services – Better employment outcomes: Increasing job attainment for people with IDD. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 54(6), 402-411*. doi: 10.1352/1934-9556-54.6.402

Bogenschutz, M., Hewitt, A., Nord, D. & **Hepperlen, R.** (2014). Direct support workforce supporting individuals with IDD: Current wages, benefits, and stability. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 52(2), 317 - 329*. doi: 10.1352/1934-9556-52.5.317

Manuscripts in Submission

Hanzsek-Brill, K., Jimbo Llapa, F., **Hepperlen, R.,** Rabaey, P., Lowenson, K., & Hearst, M.O. (in review). Identity and Inclusion: Preparing interprofessional teams of healthcare students to work in cultural communities. Submitted to *Journal of Interprofessional Care*.

Hepperlen, R., Biggs, J., Ngulube, E., Mwandileya, W., & Hearst, M. (in review). Reducing Public Stigma of Children with Disabilities: A Feasibility Study of Community-Based Interventions. Submitted to *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

DeZelar, S., **Hepperlen, R.**, & Kiesel, L. (in process). Equity and inclusion for social work students with disabilities: A Scoping review.

Hepperlen, R., & Hearst, M. (in process). Experiences of parent-facilitators' empowerment following world café process.

Hepperlen, R., Biggs, J., Ngulube, E., & Hearst, M. (in process). Evaluation of Training on Disability Knowledge and Attitudes of Master Trainers and Community Health Volunteers in Lusaka, Zambia.

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

Hepperlen, R., & Hearst, M. (2016, Fall). Quality of life improvements for children with disabilities in Zambia. *Perspectives*.

Hewitt, A. & **Hepperlen, R.** (2012). The North Carolina college of direct support demonstration project. *College of Direct Support Evaluation Brief, 33*. Institute on Community Integration, Minnesota.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2019 Graduate Research Team Grant, University of St. Thomas (\$10,000)

2013 Dissertation Proposal Award

2011 Travel Scholarship, Association of University Centers on Disabilities

INVITED TALKS

Hepperlen, R. (2019, June). Experiences of parents of children with disabilities in Lusaka, Zambia. Sermon. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN.

Hepperlen, R. (2014, October). Implications of prenatal genetic screening: A parent perspective. Paper presented at the Midwest LEND Symposium. University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL.

PRESENTATIONS

Juried Conference Presentations

DeZelar, S., **Hepperlen, R.**, & Kiesel, L.R., (2020, November) Models of equity and inclusion for social work students with disabilities. Online paper presented at Council on Social Work Education 66th Annual Program Meeting.

Hearst, M., Rabaey, P., Biggs, J., **Hepperlen, R.**, Waluskiku-Mwewa, B., & Ngulube, E. (2019, November). Community-based intervention to reduce stigma and improve quality of life

for children with disabilities in Zambia. Poster presentation at American Public Health Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Hepperlen, R., Rabaey, P., Ament-Lemke, A., & Manley, H. (2019, November). Understanding experiences of caregivers of children with disabilities through photovoice. Poster presented at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

Rabaey, P., **Hepperlen, R.,** Manley, H., & Ament-Lemke, A. (2019, October). Insights into stigma and discrimination: Lived experiences of parents of a child with a disability living in Zambia. Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Occupation, Phoenix, AZ.

Hepperlen, R., Rabaey, P., Hearst, M., Biggs, J., & DeGracia, D. (2019, June). Children with disabilities in Zambia: An interprofessional project. Poster presented at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Minneapolis, MN.

Hepperlen, R., & Kiesel, L. (2019, April). Effective online discussion prompts: A literature review and content analysis: Considerations for social work education. Paper presented at the Social Work Distance Education, San Antonio, TX.

Peterson, L., & **Hepperlen, R.** (2019, April). Serving to masters. Paper presented at the Social Work Distance Education, San Antonio, TX.

DeGracia, D., Hearst, M., **Hepperlen, R.,** Biggs Miller, J., Mushinda, E., Ngulube Chileshe, E., Rabaey, P. (2018, June). Improving the lives of children with disabilities in Zambia. Roundtable presentation at Physician Assistant Global Health, St. Paul, MN.

DeGracia, D., Hearst, M., Hepperlen, R., Biggs, J., Mushinda, E., Ngulube Chileshe, E., & Rabaey, R. (2018, May). Children with disabilities in Zambia. Poster presented at the American Academy of Physician Assistants, New Orleans, LA.

Hepperlen, R., Hearst, M., Rabaey, P., DeGracia, D., Biggs Miller, J., Mushinda, E., & Ngulube Chileshe, E. (2018, May). An inter-professional project addressing children with disabilities in Zambia. Roundtable discussion at International Social Work, Minneapolis, MN.

Hepperlen, R., Jimbo-Llapa, F., Hearst, M., Mielke, K., & Rabaey, P. (2018, April). Educating future health professionals: Piloting an interprofessional education and cultural humility framework. Poster presentation at Interprofessional Education Summit, St. Paul, MN.

Rabaey, P., Hearst, M., DeGracia, D., **Hepperlen, R.,** Miller, J., Mushinda, E., & Ngulube Chileshe, E. (2018, April). Children with disabilities in Zambia. Moderated breakout session at Interprofessional Education Summit, St. Paul, MN.

Rabaey, P., Miller, J., DeGracia, D., **Hepperlen, R.** & Hearst, M. (2018, March). Kusamala+: training of trainers (ToT) in Zambia to improve quality of life for children with disabilities and their families. Roundtable presentation at the 81st Annual Meeting of Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN.

Hepperlen, R. & Nord, D. (2014, June). The evolution of Olmstead: Contributing factors to state plans. Paper presented at the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Disability Studies, Minneapolis, MN.

Hepperlen, R. & Nord, D. (2013, November). The evolution of Olmstead: Advancement through litigation and state planning. Paper presented at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

Nord, D., Hewitt, A., **Hepperlen, R.**, & Bogenschutz, M. (2013, June). Improving community living outcomes through comprehensive, outcomes-focused direct support training. Poster presented at the 137th American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA.

Hepperlen, R. & Nord, D. (2013, May). Differential item functioning: National core indicators community inclusion scale. Poster presented at the University of Minnesota CEHD Student Research Day, Minneapolis, MN.

Nord, D., Hewitt, A., & **Hepperlen, R.** (2012, October). Outcome-focused training: A controlled multi-site evaluation. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Lightfoot, E., LaLiberte, T. & **Hepperlen, R.** (2011, January). An exploratory study of parental supports needed and received by parents with disabilities. Paper presented at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, D.C.

Lightfoot, E., **Hepperlen, R.** & LaLiberte, T. (2011, March). Supports for parents with disabilities: A first look. Paper presented at the University of Minnesota CEHD Student Research Day and Minnesota Social Service Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Borleske^{1*}, R. (1995, November). Communication intervention with parents to improve adherence with the diabetic regimen in pre-adolescent children. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA.

Non-Refereed Presentations

Hepperlen, R. (2012, May). The 1940s and 1950s: A lost era or the underpinnings of change for parents of children with disabilities. Paper presented at the University of Minnesota, School of Social Work History Symposium, St. Paul, MN.

Hepperlen, R. (2012, May). Direct support staff wages, benefits, turnover, and vacancy: A preliminary look. Paper presented at the School of Social Work Research Symposium, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota.

^{1*} Maiden name

Hepperlen, R. (2011, March). Informal and formal supports in parents with an intellectual disability: Research findings and implications for defining support policies. University of Minnesota School of Social Work Policy Summit, St. Paul, MN.

ADJUNCT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2012 – 2015 University of St. Thomas, School of Social Work, Adjunct Instructor
Master of Social Work

2012 – 2014 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Academic Health Center
Foundations of Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018 – present Co-Principle Investigator
Photovoice project with parents of children with disabilities in Lusaka,
Zambia.
Funding: GRT grant through the University of St. Thomas

2016 – present Co-Investigator
Kusamala+
Community-based intervention to support families of children with
disabilities in Lusaka, Zambia.
Principal Investigators: Dr. Mary Hearst and Dr. Paula Rabaey
Funding: GHR Foundation

2012 -- 2015 Principal Investigator
School of Social Work University of Minnesota
Doctoral Dissertation
Differential Item Functioning and Measurement Invariance of Self and
Proxy Reports: An Evaluation of Objective Quality of Life Measures for
People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

2014 Research Assistant
Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, University of Minnesota
Housing Vulnerability of Children in Child Protection
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kristine Piescher

2011 – 2014 Research Assistant
Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota
The Effects of a Competency-Based Training Intervention for Direct
Support Professionals on Site Level Organizational Outcomes, Learner
Outcomes, and Service Recipient Outcomes
Principal Investigator: Dr. Amy Hewitt

2010 – 2011 Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota
Supports for Parents with Disabilities
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Lightfoot

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

2002 – present Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Minnesota #11589

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008 – 2010 Anoka County, Developmental Disabilities, Senior Social Worker

2003 – 2008 Anoka County, Interagency Early Intervention, Senior Social Worker

2001 – 2002 University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry, Clinic Coordinator

1997 – 2001 University of Nebraska Medical Center, Maternal Care Program, Lead Obstetrical Social Worker

1995 – 1997 Lake Region Human Services Center, Clinical Social Worker

1994 – 1995 La Rabida Children’s Hospital and Research Center, Medical Social Work Intern

1993 – 1994 Chicago Department of Health, Public Health Social Work Intern