

Tanya Rhodes Smith
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WORK EXPERIENCE

July 2015 – Present

Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Director W Hartford, CT

Lead the Institute's programming, which seeks to increase the political participation and power of social workers and communities, including:

- Developing and delivering training for social work students and educators, community leaders and social service agencies on nonpartisan voter engagement and political advocacy;
- Leading and supporting research collaboratives related to political participation of social workers and the communities they serve;
- Expanding the Institute's signature training, the *Campaign School for Social Workers*, to universities across the country; and
- Supporting field placements in political settings and a growing national network of political social workers.

September 2012 – Present

University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Instructor and Advisor W Hartford, CT

September 2013 – June 2016

The Zoom Foundation's Leadership Development Roundtable Facilitator and coach Fairfield, CT

Led six-month professional development program for emerging nonprofit leaders that included visioning, aligning strategy to mission, cultivating stakeholder relationships, managing change and creating sustainable high performing organizations.

October 2007 – December 2011

duBay Horton Associates, Consultant Bridgeport, CT

Served as evaluator, trainer and researcher for public and private organizations, including \$3 million federal capacity building grant managed by the City of Bridgeport;

June 2007 – October 2008

The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc. HR Consultant Bridgeport, CT

Served as HR lead in hiring, staff management and support, and policy development.

May 2005 – April 2006

Program Director for Safe Start Initiative

Managed all aspects of the Bridgeport Safe Start Initiative (BSSI), a federally funded demonstration grant to improve the continuum of care for the identification, assessment and treatment of children exposed to violence. Responsibilities included:

- Strategic planning and collaboration with community partners, agencies and stakeholders;
- Managing the community-based RFP process and monitoring of quality service delivery;
- Overseeing and managing extensive program evaluation activities;
- Creating policy recommendations from the evaluations and national research; and
- Supervising all staff, consultants and resources secured by BSSI.

April 2004 – May 2005

Special Projects Consultant and HR Director

Special assignments included:

- Assisting CEO to implement HR reorganization to address employee retention, development and agency culture;
- Leading the initial planning and fundraising for supportive housing project; and
- Managing successful implementation of a large-scale database reporting project.

January 2000 – January 2002

The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (BCAC) Legislative Liaison and Lobbyist Bridgeport, CT

Responsible for BCAC's legislative advocacy:

- Wrote publications such as the annual legislative report card, fact sheets on current issues, letters to legislators and BCAC's Legislative Agenda;
- Managed political action strategy and mobilized network; Organized BCAC's annual legislative forums in Bridgeport and surrounding communities;
- Worked with various types of media, including newspapers, radio and T.V. through editorials, interviews and providing supporting documentation; and
- Provided support on technological projects.

June 2000 – September 2000

The Center for Connecticut Studies Researcher New Haven, CT

Developed educational materials on issues such as poverty, education, health care and the environment for the Connecticut press corp.

September 1999 – May 2000	The Institute for the Advancement of Political Social Work Practice <i>MSW Intern</i>	West Hartford, CT
September 1998 – May 1999	The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition <i>MSW Intern</i>	Bridgeport, CT
September 1996 – August 1998	Person to Person <i>Director of Development and Support</i> Managed the development activities and technology for a large community agency.	Darien, CT
April 1988 – August 1996	Hewitt Associates <i>Project Manager/Unit Manager</i> , Defined Contribution Services Lead consultant on defined contribution plan administration and consulting services for large corporations. Clients included Salomon Inc., ITT Corp., ICI Americas Inc., Zeneca Inc., John Hancock, and National Westminster Bank.	Norwalk, CT

EDUCATION

May 2000	University of Connecticut School of Social Work <i>Masters in Social Work</i> with a major in Policy and Planning and minor in Administration	West Hartford, CT
May 1988	University of Connecticut <i>Bachelor of Arts</i> with major in Economics and concentration in Mathematics	Storrs, CT

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

May 2015 – Present	Social Venture Partners CT, Partner	Westport, CT
June 2016 – Present	Connecticut Association for Human Services, Board member	Hartford, CT
September 2009 – Present	Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition <i>Board Member and co-chair Public Policy Committee</i>	Bridgeport, CT
January 2009 – June 2017	School Volunteer Associates Bridgeport/Big Brothers Big Sisters <i>Student Mentor</i>	Bridgeport, CT
May 2011 – March 2015	TheConnectedCitizen.org, Co-founder	Fairfield, CT
September 2007 – June 2008	Burroughs Community Center, Tutor	Bridgeport, CT
October 2003– April 2004	Nonprofit Enterprise Self-sustainability Team, Volunteer	Santiago, Chile
April 1995 – June 2000	Connecticut Counseling Centers, Inc. Board of Directors, <i>Chair and Vice Chair</i>	Norwalk and Waterbury, CT
September 1999 – May 2000	Student Organization, University of Connecticut School of Social Work <i>Co-chair</i>	West Hartford, CT
September 1992 – August 1996	Person to Person, Volunteer Caseworker	Darien, CT

OTHER

Lived in Santiago, Chile from 2002 to 2004 and four months in 2010. **Functional fluency in Spanish language.**

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Refereed Journal Articles

Ostrander, J., **Lane, S.R.**, McClendon, J., Hayes, C. & Rhodes Smith, T. (2017). Collective power to create political change: Increasing the political efficacy and engagement of social workers. *Journal of Policy Practice*. Retrieved from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15588742.2016.1266296>

Refereed Publications Under Review

Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J.A. & **Rhodes Smith, T.** (under review). "Politics is social work with power": Training social workers for elected office. Submitted to *Social Work Education* in 2017.

Ostrander, J.A., Bryan, J.K., Sandler, A.K., Nieman, P., Clark, M., **Smith, T. R.**, Loveland, E. (under review). The Political Participation of First Year Social Work Students: Does Practice Specialization Matter? Submitted to *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare* in 2017.

Refereed Presentations

Smith, T. R., Lane, S.R. & Ostrander, J.A. (upcoming October 2017). Voter Engagement in Social Work Field Education: Toward Equal Opportunity and Justice. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX*

Rhodes Smith, T., Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J. & Powers, J. (June 2017) Voter Engagement in BSW and MSW Curriculum: Bridging the Macro and Micro Divide *Policy Conference 2.0, St. Louis, MO*

- Rhodes Smith, T.,** Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J. & Powers, J. (May 2017). Amplifying marginalized voices: Social workers' advocacy role with voter turnout. *National Association of Social Workers-Connecticut Annual Conference, Cromwell, CT*
- Lane, S.R., **Rhodes Smith, T.** Ostrander, J. & Hylton, M. (November 2016). Bringing voter engagement to your campus. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA*
- Hylton, M., **Rhodes Smith, T.,** Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J. (November 2016). The power of three: Strategies for involving BSW students in voter engagement. Poster presentation. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA*
- Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J., **Rhodes Smith, T.** (June 2016). "Politics is social work with power;" Training social workers for elected office. *Policy Conference 2.0, St. Louis, MO*
- Rhodes Smith, T.,** Hylton, M., Lane, S.R., Ostrander, J. & Loveland, E. (June 2016). Voting is social work: Expanding social work's impact through nonpartisan voter empowerment. *Policy Conference 2.0, St. Louis, MO*
- Rhodes Smith, T.,** Lane, S.R. & Ostrander, J.A. (October 2015). "Politics is social work with power;" Training social workers for elected office. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO*

Selected Invited Presentations

- Rhodes Smith, T.,** Lewis, C., Klein, S., Pritzker, S. & Ostrander, J.A. (upcoming November 2017). Social work is political: Preparing students for careers in political settings. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX*
- Rhodes Smith, T.** (upcoming July 2017). The Future of Political Social Work. *Plenary Speaker, Political Boot Camp for Social Workers, Washington, DC*
- Rhodes Smith, T.** (June 2017). Effective Advocacy in Divided Times: National Change through Local Action. *Plenary Speaker, Policy Conference 2.0, St. Louis, MO*
- Rhodes Smith, T.** (April 2017). Social Work is a Political Profession. *St. Joseph's University, West Hartford, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (April 2017). Adding Political Action to Social Work Practice. *Lobby Day, Southern Connecticut State University, Hartford, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (April 2017). The Connection between Voter Turnout and Community Well-being. *League of Women Voters Community Action Event, Windham, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** and Lane, S.R. (March 2017). Social Work Is a Political Profession. *Continuing Education Seminar. West Chester University, Philadelphia, PA*
- Smith, T. R.** and Lane, S.R. (March 2017). Being a candidate for elected office. *Student Advocacy Day, Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy, Washington, D.C.*
- Smith, T. R.** (November 2016). Ethics and Politics. *National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter, Rocky Hill, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (October 2016). Voting is Social Work. *Student Action Day, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (October 2016). Social Work and Politics: Empowering Clients & Communities, and Empowering Ourselves, *All Student Luncheon, Western New England University, Springfield, MA*
- Smith, T. R.** (June 2016). Strategies for Teaching Political Advocacy, *Policy Teaching Institute, Policy 2.0 Conference, St. Louis, MO*
- Smith, T. R.** (April 2016). Political Social Work. *Lobby Day, Southern Connecticut State University, Hartford, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (March 2016). Social Work Career Panel, *Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT*
- Smith, T. R.** (March 2016). Policy & Politics Symposium, *Social Work Day on the Hill, National Press Club, Washington, D.C.*
- Rhodes Smith, T.,** Lewis, C., Holmes, K., & Plitt Donaldson, L. (October 2015). Wanted: Social Workers on the Hill. *Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO*
- Smith, T. R.** (April 2015). Political Social Work. *Queens Community College, City University of New York, Flushing, NY*

University Teaching Experience (* denotes class developed or substantially revised)

Masters Level

- Program Planning, Development and Evaluation

- Political Advocacy
- Political Social Work *
- Field Instruction

Workshops and Continuing Education

- Leadership Development
- Nonpartisan Voter Engagement
- Political Advocacy
- Politics and Ethics