

Laura Krishnan-Mackie, MSW, LICSW

Assistant Professor and Director of Online MSW Practicum Education, School of Business & Social Sciences

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Laura joined the faculty at Colby-Sawyer in 2024. She earned a B.A. in psychology with a minor in philosophy from Elon University and an MSW from Smith College School for Social Work. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership at Springfield College.

Before entering social work higher education in 2020, Laura worked for nearly a decade as a clinical social worker in community-based and university mental health settings. She also served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 2008 to 2010. Her clinical work focused on university mental health, crisis response and brief and longer-term treatment modalities, including narrative therapy and trauma-informed care. Her practice is grounded in anti-oppressive and liberatory practices, such as LGBTQ+ affirming care, size-aware care, support for eating disorder recovery and work with international student populations.

Laura's scholarship focuses on social work and practicum education, supervision and intersectional social justice, including critical theories and trauma-informed, engaged pedagogy. Laura is a collaborative and relational social worker who believes in the transformative power of education for social workers and the populations they serve.

Areas of Expertise:

- Social work education and practicum education
- Culturally responsive and trauma-informed care and education
- Critical and liberatory approaches to education
- Narrative therapy
- University mental health
- International social work education

Appointments and Memberships:

- Council on Field Education (COFE), Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), under the Commission on Educational Policy (COEP) – COFE Research Subcommittee member, 2025–present.
- External member, Laboratory of Applied Social Research and Social Work Hellenic Mediterranean University, Greece, 2026–present.

Grants:

- Kendall Institute Grant, Council on Social Work Education. (2025–2028). INSPIRARE Global: The international network of social work praxis and innovation for research, advancing scholarship, rights, and education. Project lead. \$10,000.
- Mental Health Systems Grant, Boston Children's Hospital Collaboration for Community Health. (2022–2025). THRIVE Scholars Program: Transforming

healthcare, racial equity, inclusive, visionary leaders, and excellence. Project coordinator. \$300,000.

Awards:

- Josephine L. Rathbone International Fund. (2025). Funding for presentation at the European Association for Schools of Social Work annual European Conference on Social Work Education, Salzburg, Austria. \$1,000.
- Springfield College Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. (2024). Inspire Inclusion Award.

Select Presentations:

- Krishnan-Mackie, L., Kokaliari, E., Tronnier, C., Koutra, K., & Crossett, J. (2026, June). INSPIRARE Global: Building digital community, partnership, and shared learning in international social work education [Abstract accepted]. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD 2026), Nairobi, Kenya.
- Tronnier, C., & Krishnan-Mackie, L. (2025, June). Connecting through learning and learning through connection: Engaged pedagogy in global social work education. [Conference Presentation]. European Association for Schools of Social Work's European Conference on Social Work Education. Salzburg, Austria.
- Turcotte, C., Krishnan-Mackie, L., Medbery, R. (2025, June). Modeling the Use of Therapeutic Space in Online, Graduate Classroom Settings [Conference Presentation]. European Association for Schools of Social Work's European Conference on Social Work Education. Salzburg, Austria.
- Krishnan-Mackie, L., & Sallaku, K. (2025, April). ADEI training and intervention in practicum education. [Conference presentation]. NECON Annual Practicum Education Summit, Simmons University, Boston, MA.
- Mateo, R., Rodriguez, M. & Krishnan-Mackie, L. (2024, March 13). Opportunities and Challenges for Latina Social Workers Practicing with Black and Brown Communities. [Conference presentation]. Springfield College's "Fostering Equity and Inclusion for Latinas/os in Child and Family Welfare," Springfield, MA, United States.
- Clough, D., Koivisto, J., Krishnan-Mackie, L., & Logan, S. (2023, November 7). Examining Whiteness, White Supremacy, and Anti-Racism. [Conference presentation]. Springfield College's Annual "SEAT at the Table Conference," Springfield, MA, United States.
- Mackie, L. (2019, March 14). Size Aware Care: Body Positivity and Diversity for Sustainable Health [Conference presentation]. Vermont Care Partners' "Stepping Forward Together 2019, Promoting Cultural Competence and Equity in Communities," Burlington, VT, United States.