

**Paula Smith, Ph.D.**  
**University of Utah**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Educational Leadership & Policy  
1721 Campus Center Dr., SAEC 2222  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
(801) 581-6017

Email: Paula.Smith@utah.edu

## **RESEARCH AGENDA**

I am a developmental psychologist with expertise in school-based prevention in middle and high schools. My primary research interests lie at the intersection of schools and juvenile justice systems - the school-to-prison pipeline, juvenile justice, restorative justice, and access to mental health resources. My currently funded research spans three areas, but are all concerned with maximizing youth and community potential through the use of evidence-based research. I am the *evaluator* of a 5-year suicide prevention intervention in 3 Utah school districts. My most recently funded research project is a collaboration with several prevention researchers across the country and the National Prevention Science Coalition to *plan and implement a demonstration project* to develop the infrastructure for prevention in the state of Utah. Lastly, I am also the Principal Investigator of a research initiative to *improve the quality of doctoral socialization for Black graduate students*; addressing the ways in which anti-Black racism permeates academia.

Professionally, I am a Board Member for the Society of Prevention Research, the National Prevention Science Coalition, and the Chair of the Utah Prevention Research Group. I advocate for socially just and equitable policies and practices in PK-12 schools and other youth-serving agencies.

**KEY WORDS:** school-based prevention, prevention research, juvenile justice, risk and protective factors, restorative justice

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Sept 2021 – present *Research Fellow*, Utah Women and Leadership Project.  
Supervising research for 6 students and 4 faculty to produce briefs about women of color in Utah. <https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/>
- June 2021 – present *Faculty Affiliate*, Marginalization-Related Diminished Returns (MDRs) Research Center. Collaborating on research related to Black middle class people and their health.  
<https://www.diminishedreturns.org/>

July 2009-present Associate *Professor*, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Aug 2018 – Jun 2020 Interim Associate Vice President, Office of Equity and Diversity, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

July 2010-Jun 2013 Chair, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

July 2007-Jun 2013 Executive Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring

July 2007-Jun 2009 Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, College of Education, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

July 2007 Associate Professor, Family & Consumer Studies Department, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Aug 99 – Jun 2007 Assistant Professor, Family and Consumer Studies Department, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Mar - Aug 1999 National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Post-Doctoral Research Associate. Health Research & Policy Centers, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. PI: Brian Flay, D.Phil.

## **EDUCATION**

May 1999 Ph.D., Developmental Psychology  
The University of Illinois Chicago, Illinois  
Minor Area: Educational Psychology  
Thesis: Parental influences for youth violence involvement  
Chair: Roger P. Weissberg, Ph.D.

May 1995 M.A., Developmental Psychology  
The University of Illinois Chicago, Illinois  
Thesis: Toward an ecologically valid stress scale for urban, low-income African-American children.  
Chair: Robert J. Jagers, Ph.D.

June 1988 M.A., Organizational Psychology  
The University of Chicago Chicago, Illinois  
Thesis: Expectancy Theory: A theoretical model with potential for the inculcation of corporate success in minorities  
Chair: John Humpal, Ph.D.

May 1987 B.S., Human Development and Family Studies  
Cornell University Ithaca, NY  
Research Advisor: Urie Bronfenbrenner, Ph.D.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications in Refereed Journals

- Smith, P. (2019). A qualitative examination of the self-medicating hypothesis among female juvenile offenders. *Women & Criminal Justice, 29*(1), 14-31, doi: 10.1080/08974454.2017.1377673.
- Smith, P. (2017). Girls in traditional and gender responsive juvenile justice placements. *Women & Criminal Justice, 27*(5), 302-326. doi:10.1080/08974454.2016.1250699.
- Kumpfer, K. L., Smith, P., & Franklin Summerhays, J.\* (2008). A wake-up call to the prevention field: Are prevention programs for substance use effective for girls? *Substance Use and Misuse, 43*(8-9), 978–1001. \*student
- Smith, P. & Smith, W. A. (2005). Experiencing community through the eyes of young female offenders. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, 21*(4), 364-385.
- Eddy, J. M., Smith, P., Brown, C. H., & Reid, J. B. (2005). A survey of prevention science training: Implications for educating the next generation. *Prevention Science, 6*(1), 59-71.
- Kumpfer, K. L., Alvarado, R., Smith, P., & Bellamy, N.\* (2002). Cultural sensitivity and adaptation in family-based prevention interventions. *Prevention Science, 3*(3), 239-244. \*student
- Eddy, J. M., Martinez, C., Morgan-Lopez, A., Smith, P., & Fisher, P. (2002). Diversifying the ranks of prevention scientists through a community collaborative approach to education. *Prevention and Treatment, Vol. 5, Article3*.
- Smith, P., Flay, B. R., Bell, C. C., & Weissberg, R. P. (2001). The protective influence of parents and peers in violence avoidance among African-American youth. *Maternal and Child Health Journal, 5*(4), 245-252.
- Jagers, R. J., Smith, P., Mock, L. O., & Dill, E. (1997). An Afro-cultural social ethos: Component orientations and some social implications. *Journal of Black Psychology, 23*(4), 328-343.
- Jagers, R. J., & Smith, P. (1996). A further examination of the spirituality scale. *Journal of Black Psychology, 22*(4), 429-442.

### Policy Briefs

- Terrell, S.\* , & Smith, P. (2021, February) School resource officers and racial disparities in school discipline and juvenile justice referrals. Prepared for the National

Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives. \*student  
<https://www.npscoalition.org/post/school-resource-officers-and-racial-disparities-in-school-discipline-and-juvenile-justice-referrals>

Smith, P. Larson, J., & Scott, T.\* (2017, February) *High quality early childhood education: Good for children, good for the economy*. Prepared for Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN). \*student  
<https://www.npscoalition.org/post/high-quality-early-education-good-for-children-good-for-the-economy>

### **Book Chapter Publications**

Smith, P. & Brown, A. M. (Forthcoming). Leading Restorative Justice Efforts for Equity in Secondary Schools. In R. Shankar Brown (Ed.), *Re-Envisioning Education: Affirming Diversity and Advancing Justice*.

Pasupathi, M., & Smith, P. (2021). Revenge, Justice Systems, and Institutional Trust in Schools: Narrative Considerations. In H. Recchia & C. Wainryb (Eds.), *Revenge across Childhood and Adolescence* (pp. 218-246). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108776684.009

Kumpfer, K.L., & Smith, P. (2010). Prevention Methods: School, Family, Community, Media and Public Policy Approaches. In N. S. Miller & M. S. Gold (Eds.), *Addictive Disorders in Medical Populations* (pp. 73-95). West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Smith, P. (2007). The Case of Nathaniel Brazil. In L.L. Finley (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Juvenile Violence* (pp. 22-24). Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group.

Kumpfer, K., Smith, P., & Alvarado, R. (2005). Drug abuse prevention: Tools and programs. In R.H. Coombs (Ed.), *Addiction Counseling Review* (pp. 467-486). Mahwah, New Jersey: Erlbaum Associates.

Smith, P. (2004). Violence prevention. In N. B. Anderson (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Health and Behavior* (pp. 807-809). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

### **Research and Evaluation Reports**

Smith, P. (2018). Evaluation of iChamps: A program engaging K-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and police officers in relationship building through physical activity.

Smith, P. & Loebach, P.\* (2011). *Youth violence and positive youth outcomes*. Report commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. \*student

Smith, P. & Smith, W. A. (2006). *Planned Parenthood Association of Utah: Men's Health Initiative*. Commissioned by PPAU to improve their understanding and outreach

efforts to teen, young adult, racially diverse, and gay/bisexual men in Utah.

### **Op-Ed Publications**

Smith, P. (2019, November 17). Utah's mental health needs include more for prevention. <https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2019/11/17/paula-smith-utahs-mental/>

### **Selected Refereed Presentations**

Smith, P., Prospero, M., Knight, M., Hood, A., Andreasen, R., Thorn, L., Jenkins, C., Rees, D., Withers, M. & Dangerfield, R. (2021, October). Youth suicide prevention: A collaborative effort between state education, health, school districts, and a University evaluation team. Presented at the 2021 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health.

Acosta, C., Jones, B., MacKay, B., Mekrut, C., Nguyen, C. & Smith, P. (2021, March). Restorative justice collaborative of Utah (RJCUC): Advocacy for juvenile and criminal justice involved individuals: Opportunities and barriers. Refereed presentation at Utah Council on Conflict Resolution, Salt Lake City, UT.

Acosta, C., MacKay, B., Mekrut, C., Ross, C., & Smith, P. (2019, September). Implementation of restorative justice in juvenile and criminal justice settings: Opportunities and barriers. Refereed presentation at Utah Criminal Justice Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

Smith, P. & Bosworth, L. K. (2019, May). Prevention in High Schools Dialogue: Leadership, Restorative Justice, PBIS, Student Assistance Programs, and Others. Facilitated Dialogue at the Society for Prevention Research Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA.

Smith, P., Smith, W. A., & Parker, L. (2019, April). Black graduate education in a "post-truth" era: Preliminary results of a multifaceted initiative for African American doctoral students. Presented at the American Educational Research Association conference, Toronto, Canada.

Smith, P. (2016, May). Female juvenile offenders in traditional and gender responsive programming. Presented at the Society for Prevention Research Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Smith, P. (2006, November). Developing a female-specific risk assessment tool. Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

Smith, P. (chair), Leve, L. D., Russell, C. M., & Miller-Johnson, S. (2005, May). Girls and

- the Juvenile Justice System: Examining mental health, education and treatment issues. Symposium presented at the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Society for Prevention Research. Washington, D.C.
- Smith, P. (2004, March). Female juvenile offenders: Risk and resiliency. Presented at the Tenth Biennial Conference of the Society for Research on Adolescence. Baltimore, MD.
- Smith, P. (2003, June). Female juvenile offenders: Etiology and treatment. Presented at the Eleventh Annual Conference of the Society for Prevention Research. Washington, D.C.
- Smith, P. & Flay, B. R. (2003, June). Normative sexual development of African-American youth. Poster presentation at the Eleventh Annual Conference of the Society for Prevention Research. Washington, D.C.
- Kumpfer, K. L., Smith, P. & Alvarado, R. (2001, October). A wake-up call to the prevention field: Are prevention programs working for girls? Paper presented at the American Psychological Association's Women's Conference.
- Smith, P. (2001, May). Complexities of the female juvenile offender. Presented at the Ninth Annual Conference of the Society for Prevention Research. Washington, D.C.

## **GRANT ACTIVITIES**

### **Recent Awarded Grants/Contracts**

- Smith, P. (PI). Prevention in Utah. (2022) Developing the higher education and infrastructure for prevention in the state of Utah. \$750,000 direct costs – 10% IDC.
- Smith, P. (PI). Strategic prevention research in Utah. (2021) Disparities in prevention for underserved populations. \$40,000 direct costs.
- Smith, P. (PI). Evaluation of a mental health intervention in 3 school districts. (2019-2023). \$500,000 direct costs – 6% IDC.
- Smith, P. (PI), Smith, W. A., & Parker, L. (co-PIs). African American Doctoral Scholars Initiative (2018-2021). \$247,500 direct costs); \$75,000 in-kind salary for coordinator.
- Smith, P. (PI), Parker, L., & Smith, W. A. (co-PIs). Eccles Foundation (2015-2018). African American Doctoral Scholars Pipeline Initiative. \$70,000 (direct costs); \$50,000 in-kind salary for post-doctoral scholar (College of Education).

## **REVIEWER ACTIVITIES**

### **Peer-Reviewed Journals**

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2016-present | Women & Criminal Justice              |
| 2014-present | American Educational Research Journal |
| 1999-present | Prevention Science                    |
| 2000-2010    | American Journal of Public Health     |
| 2001-2007    | Maternal and Child Health Journal     |
| 2002-2008    | Journal of Health and Social Behavior |
| 2005-2007    | Child Development                     |
| 2005-2009    | Feminist Criminology                  |
| 2008-2009    | Sociological Forum                    |

### **Conferences**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1998-present | Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research |
|--------------|---|

### **Grant Proposals**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2019-present | Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships              |
| 2018-present | WT Grant Foundation                                |
| 2001-2009    | University Research Committee, University of Utah  |
| 2005-2007    | Ford Foundation Diversity Pre-Doctoral Fellowships |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

Master's Level: Professional Learning Communities, F14, F15, F16, F17, F20, F21

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 5.5/6

Master's Level: Systems of Student Support, F20, F21

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: *not available*

Master's Level: Comm. Engaged Partnerships, S16, Su16, S16, S17, S18

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 5.3/6

Master's Level: Organizational Change, S15, S16, S17, F17

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 5.0/6

Doctoral Level: Restorative Justice in PK-12 Schools, S18, F20

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 6.0/6

Doctoral Level: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods, S22

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: *not available*

Doctoral Level: Community Engaged Partnerships, Su16

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 5.6/6

Doctoral Level: Organizational Change, F17

University of Utah, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

Average Student Ratings: 5.6/6



**STUDENT COMMITTEES**

| <u>ROLE</u> | <u>STUDENT</u>                  | <u>LEVEL</u>               | <u>DATE COMPLETED</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chair       | J. Janell Cerva                 | Doctoral Thesis            |                       |
| Chair       | Shenrui Yang                    | Doctoral Thesis            |                       |
| Chair       | Willie Chen                     | Doctoral Thesis            |                       |
| Chair       | Angela Choberka                 | Ed.D. Capstone             |                       |
| Chair       | Justin Pitcher                  | Ed.D. Capstone             |                       |
| Chair       | Mariana Ramiro Gomez            | Qualifying Exam            | On-Leave              |
| Member      | Misty McIntyre                  | Doctoral Thesis (Soc Work) |                       |
| Chair       | Sydney Phillips                 | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2021                  |
| Chair       | Shenrui Yang                    | Qualifying Exam            | 2021                  |
| Member      | Michaela Mozley                 | Doctoral Thesis (Psych)    | 2021                  |
| Chair       | Willie Chen                     | Qualifying Exam            | 2021                  |
| Member      | Jessica Duquette                | Capstone (Occ Therapy)     | 2021                  |
| Member      | R. Shawn Coon                   | Doctoral Thesis            | 2021                  |
| Member      | April Reynolds                  | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2020                  |
| Member      | Vanessa Jordan                  | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2020                  |
| Member      | Matt Watts &<br>MacKay Robinson | Joint Ed.D. Capstone       | 2020                  |
| Member      | Lucybel Mendez                  | Qualifying Exam            | 2020                  |
| Member      | Guy Johnson                     | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2020                  |
| Member      | R. Shawn Coon                   | Qualifying Exam            | 2020                  |
| Chair       | Jamie Leite                     | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Chair       | Lauren VandenBirge              | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Jill Landes-Lee                 | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Shawn Healey                    | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Ana Rodriguez                   | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Claustina Mahon Reynolds        | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Brenda Staples                  | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2019                  |
| Member      | Marni Davis                     | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2018                  |
| Member      | Michaela Mozley                 | Qualifying Exam (Psych)    | 2018                  |
| Chair       | J. Janell Fluckiger             | Qualifying Exam            | 2018                  |
| Chair       | Sonia Parker                    | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2016                  |
| Member      | Kathleen Christy                | Doctoral Thesis (ECS)      | 2016                  |
| Member      | Ashley McKinney                 | Doctoral Thesis            | 2015                  |
| Member      | Kyle Bybee                      | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2014                  |
| Chair       | Sandra Buendia                  | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2013                  |
| Member      | Jaime Lee Hinsz                 | Capstone Project (MPA)     | 2013                  |
| Chair       | Greg Hudnall                    | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2012                  |
| Chair       | Taran Chun                      | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2012                  |
| Member      | Jennifer Allie                  | Doctoral Thesis            | 2012                  |
| Member      | Thomas Quinn                    | Master's Thesis (Psych)    | 2012                  |
| Chair       | Norma Jean Remington            | Ed.D. Capstone             | 2011                  |
| Member      | Julie Swaner                    | Doctoral Thesis            | 2011                  |

|        |                   |                       |      |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Member | JoEllen Shaeffer  | Ed.D. Captstone       | 2010 |
| Member | Rosemary Capps    | Doctoral Thesis       | 2010 |
| Chair  | Laurie Ramirez    | Doctoral Thesis (TL)  | 2009 |
| Chair  | Matthew Hollibush | Doctoral Thesis (TL)  | 2009 |
| Chair  | Katherine Fife    | Master's Thesis (FCS) | 2007 |
| Member | Julie Carmalt     | Master's Thesis (FCS) | 2004 |

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2021 | Superior Service Award, College of Education  |
| 2021 | Maya Angelou Award for Innovation, Black Faculty & Staff Association                          |
| 2021 | Excellence in Service, Black Cultural Center  |
| 2018 | Excellence in Service to the Black Student Community, Black Student Union, University of Utah |
| 2015 | Community Servant Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.  |
| 2007 | Excellence in Early Career Teaching Award, University of Utah                                 |
| 2006 | Excellence in Teaching Award, Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society                                  |

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

### **Professional Service**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-present | Utah State Board of Education, Vaping Among Youth Taskforce   |
| 2020-present | Board Member, Society for Prevention Research   |
| 2021-present | Vice Chair, Advocacy Committee SPR  |
| 2018-present | Member, Restorative Justice Collaborative of Utah   |
| 2018-present | Advisory Board, Utah Prison Education Project   |
| 2018-present | Board Member, National Prevention Science Coalition (non-partisan policy outreach)  |
| 2017-present | Chair, Utah Prevention Research Group   |
| 2016-present | Member, National Prevention Science Coalition (non-partisan policy outreach)  |
| 2016-present | Black Faculty & Staff Association, University of Utah (co-chair, 2020-2023)   |
| 2010-present | Member, Diversity Network Committee, Society for Prevention Research (Founding Member; Past-Chair, Membership, Diversity Symposium, & Scholarships) |
| 2016-2019    | Member, Evidence-Based Workgroup, Division of Mental Health and Substance Use, State of Utah  |
| 2017-2018    | Member, College Executive Committee   |
| 2016-2018    | Member, Utah Opportunity Scholars Scholarship Committee   |
| 2016-2018    | Member, College Awards Committee, College of Education  |
| Spring 2016  | Co-Chair, Search Committee Student Equity and Diversity Retention Coordinator   |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2015-2017 | Chair, College of Education Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee                            |
| 2014-2016 | Member, Salt Lake City School District College and Career Readiness Taskforce                    |
| 2014-2015 | Chair, Teaching and Mentoring Committee for Auxiliary Faculty                                    |
| 2014-2015 | Member, Grad Nation Education Summit (Chair, Youth Track)  |
| 2014-2015 | Member, Search Committee, College of Education (IT Manager)                                      |
| 2012-2015 | Primary Advisor, University of Utah Sigma Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.    |
| 2010-2013 | Member, College of Education Curriculum Committee  |
| 2010-2011 | Member, Faculty Advisory Committee on Teacher Education (FACTE)                                  |
| 2007-2013 | Member, College Leadership Team, College of Education  |
| 2008-2010 | Member, Academic Senate, University of Utah  |
| 2009-2010 | Chair, Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy |
| 2009-2010 | Member, Search Committee, Educational Leadership & Policy  |
| 2008-2010 | Member, Excellence in Teaching Committee, University of Utah                                     |
| 2008-2010 | Member, College Executive Committee, College of Education  |
| 2007-2010 | Member, Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee, College of Education                         |
| 2004-2010 | Member, Salt Lake City Mayor's Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Coalition                                 |
| 2004-2010 | Chair, Minority Scholarship Committee, Society for Prevention Research                           |
| 2002-2004 | Chair, Early Career Prevention Network (ECPN)  |
| 2002-2004 | Board Member, ECPN Representative for Society for Prevention Research                            |

**Community Service**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2009-present | Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Utah, Troop #2490   |
| 2005-2008    | Parent Volunteer, Girl Scouts of Utah, Troop #2308   |
| 2004-2007    | Presenter and Workshop Leader, Delta GEMS (young girls aged 14-18), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. |
| 1998-2010    | Member, Board of Regents. The Mercersburg Academy.   |

**ASSOCIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2009-present | American Educational Research Association, Division E; Social and Emotional Learning SIG; School Climate SIG  |
| 2007-present | Association for School and Curriculum Development   |
| 2004-present | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Greater Salt Lake Alumnae Chapter (Current: Economic Development Chair). Prior Positions: Scholarship Chair; Internal Audit Committee Chair; Vice President; Collegiate Advisor; Membership Intake Leader (2x); Financial |

Secretary; Website Manager; Risk Management Coordinator;  
Delta Academy & GEMS leader; Fundraising Chair; Scholarship  
Committee Member)

1998-present

Society for Prevention Research (Board Member, 2002-04; 20-23)

1994-2010

Early Career Prevention Network, Society for Prevention Research  
(Co-Founder & Past-Chair 2002-2004)