

## **Research Method Workshop IV**

**Title:** *Intervention Research: Behind the Scenes*

**Presenters:** Kimberly Bender and Heather Taussig, *Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver*

**Facilitator:** Dan Herman, Professor and Associate Dean for Scholarship & Research

### **Abstract**

**Background:** The purpose of this workshop is to familiarize participants with the intervention research process. From early intervention development, through testing intervention effects, to disseminating findings, the intervention research process will be outlined and explored with participants. The workshop aims to unveil the often hidden or “behind the scenes” tasks and decisions made in intervention research. How do ideas for interventions develop? When is the right time to engage in intervention research? What types of teams are used to design and implement intervention studies? What common questions are asked in testing interventions? What design options are considered and what are the benefits and drawbacks of each? How are such studies funded? These questions will be answered and discussed with participants using examples from the presenters’ own work. Participants will be encouraged to apply this process to their own research areas, identifying critical next steps to moving their intervention research forward.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to describe the intervention research process and will gain an understanding of the steps necessary to develop a successful intervention research project. Participants will apply material learned in the workshop to their own interests, identifying necessary next steps in their progression as intervention researchers.

**Activities:** Workshop presenters will use a combination of teaching methods, including mini-lectures, small group discussions, and experiential activities to help participants understand and apply the material presented. Guided facilitation will aid participants in translating the intervention research process into actionable steps for their own work.

**Career Level and Pre-requisites:** This workshop is intended for social work researchers interested in understanding when and how to engage in intervention research. It would be helpful to those currently engaging in intervention research projects as well as those who envision intervention projects in the future. It is appropriate for all SSWR attendees.

**Preferred Maximum Participants:** 40

### **Presenter Bios:**

Kimberly Bender is an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. Her research on homeless youth has recently tested a mindfulness-based intervention, Safety Awareness For Empowerment (SAFE), aimed at building youths’ risk detection skills in order to prevent victimization on the streets. She has also developed and pilot tested a group intervention, Youth Voice, aimed at engaging homeless youth in creating social change through use of photo voice.

Heather Taussig, Ph.D. is a Professor and the Associate Dean for Research at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work. She has directed federally-funded randomized controlled trials and longitudinal studies of preventive interventions for maltreated children in foster care. The program she developed, *Fostering Healthy Futures*, is listed on several evidence-based registries. Dr. Taussig served on a study section at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and currently serves on the Research Board of the National Mentoring Resource Center funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Both presenters will have their work highlighted in an upcoming special issue of the Journal of the Society of Social Work and Research focused on intervention research. Professor Dan Herman, Guest Editor of the special issue, will provide an introduction to this workshop, characterizing the landscape of intervention research in social work.