

Alex Fink

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Education

University of Minnesota, School of Social Work

Ph.D. in Social Work, December 2019

Dissertation: Data Futures in Youth Work

Advisors: C. David Hollister and Ross VeLure Roholt

Committee: Katie Johnston-Goodstar, Robin Brown

University of Minnesota, School of Social Work

Master in Social Work, May 2017

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Majors: Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, Philosophy

Minors: Leadership, Management

Community Engagement Scholar

Teaching Experience – History and Summary

Department of Social Work, Augsburg University

- Human Behavior in the Social Environment, SWK 500, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025
- Practice Methods & Skills 1, SWK 505, Fall 2023
- Field Seminar 1, SWK 530, Fall 2022
- Field Seminar 2, SWK 535, Spring 2023
- Social Work Research and Evaluation, SWK 401, 2 sections, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Fall 2026
- Applied Research Methods, SWK 504, 3 sections, Spring 2024
- Environmental Justice & Social Change, SWK 210, 1 section, Spring 2025 & Spring 2026
- Care Futures in Ecopolitical Crisis: Anti-Oppressive and Anti-Colonial Practices in Guatemala, SWK 599, 1 section, Summer 2026

Taught multiple courses in the undergraduate and graduate social work program. Courses included hybrid, fully asynchronous, and in-person modalities. Worked to utilize experiential and active learning pedagogies to engage students in critical thinking and the application of theories to practice. Worked to further integrate new and engaging curriculum in courses, especially as they promoted engagement with current events and anti-racist ideas in social work.

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

- Adolescent and Youth Development for Youthworkers, YOST 3032/5032, 6 times (Fall and Spring semesters 2019, 2020, and 2021)
- Ways of Knowing in Youth Development Leadership: Using Research and Evaluation to Support Community Youth Development, YoST 5950, 1 time (Fall 2018)

Teacher and designer of several courses in the undergraduate Youth Studies program and the Youth Development Leadership master's program since 2018. Courses included an in-person and fully online re-design of *Adolescent and Youth Development for Youthworkers* (cross-listed graduate and undergraduate course), a service-learning course that focused on real-world projects to do grant-writing and curriculum development in partnership with local, youth-serving non-profit organizations. Also taught *Ways of Knowing in Youth Development Leadership: Using Research and Evaluation to Support Community Youth Development*, a research and evaluation course for master's students focused on developing action-research projects in professional work settings. Utilized pedagogies that supported students to integrate theory and practice, and drew on course content that promoted anti-racist ideas and practices.

Graduate School, University of Minnesota

- Multicultural and Inclusive Learning & Teaching Online Open Participatory Seminar, GRAD 8200, 2 times (Spring 2015 and Fall 2016)
- Teaching in Higher Education, GRAD 8101, 1 time (Fall 2013)

Co-teacher and designer of the *Teaching in Higher Education* course offered by the Center for Educational Innovation to graduate students from many disciplines. The course focused on building curriculum development and teaching / facilitation skills. Supported students to (re)write course learning aims, syllabi, and curriculum in learner- and student-centered ways. Also co-designed and co-taught an Online Open Participatory Seminar (like a MOOC) on *Multicultural and Inclusive Learning & Teaching* to graduate students, faculty, and community participants. This course helped participants learn new practices and revise course materials to promote anti-racist and inclusive content and pedagogy.

College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota

- Leadership, You, and Your Community, Instructor, OLPD 3303, 2 times (Spring 2012 and Fall 2013)
- Personal Leadership in the University, Instructor, EdPA 1961W, 4 times (Fall 2010, Spring and Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
- Field Experience, Instructor, EdPA 3401, 1 time (Fall 2011)

Responsibilities included teaching three of four classes in the undergraduate Leadership Minor program, and supporting the program in developing innovative, experiential, and active learning pedagogies for which the program was nationally and internationally recognized to teach the practice of leadership to undergraduate students. The field experience course supported student field work in local non-profit organizations. Each course promoted student personal and professional development through an anti-racist lens. This included using the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI).

Peer-Reviewed Publications¹

†Samimi, C., **Fink, A.**, & Pfefferkorn, M. (accepted with minor revisions). Ideathons as anti-oppressive social work pedagogy: A case study with counter-narrative. *Social Work Education*.

Goldkind, L. & **Fink, A.** (in publication). Data in, nothing out: A reflection on information poverty in the settlement house tradition. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, & Governance*.

Fink, A. (in publication). Spaces of Prefigurative Possibility: Openings in Luis Felipe Murillo's Common Circuits. *Journal of Community Informatics*.

Goldkind, L. & **Fink, A.** (in publication). Unsettling data infrastructures for "managing the poor": toward human service data for public goods. In E. Miyake & A. Daly (Eds.). *Valuing public sector data: data governance for economic, environmental and social development*. Scottish University Press.

Nienow, M., Apgar, D., **Fink, A., & Quinonez, J. (2025). Examining state policy responses to racial disparities in social work licensure exams. *Advances in Social Work*, 25(2), 651-671.
<https://doi.org/10.18060/28617>

Fink, A. and Goldkind, L. (2025). Exploring folk theories of data labor in human services. *Economic Anthropology*, 12(2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.70004>

Fink, A. (2024). Data cooperative. *Internet Policy Review*, 13(2). <https://doi.org/10.14763/2024.2.1752>

Fink, A. (2024). Leadership to what end? Connecting our practice to broader movements. *New Directions in Student Leadership*, 181, 21-30. <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.20588>

¹ Publications, presentations, and reports marked ** indicate they were produced and written with my undergraduate or graduate students.

² Publications, presentations, and reports marked † indicate they were produced and written with community partners.

- Werner, L. & **Fink, A.** (2024). The classroom as laboratory: A theoretical grounding of the Intentional Emergence framework for leadership development. *New Directions in Student Leadership*, 181, 41-52. <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.20590>
- **Fink, A.**, Habtamu, B., Kunkel-Linares, A., Pence, M., Woller, K., & Alexander, I. (2024). Everybody teach! Upending traditional disciplinary curriculum to create co-taught, praxis-based, higher education courses. In H.M.A. Williams, H. Huskić, & Noto, C.M. (Eds.), *Disrupting Hierarchy in Education: Students and Teachers Collaborating for Social Change*. Teachers College Press.
- VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.**, & Ahmed, M. M. (2023). The Learning Partner: Dialogic approaches to monitoring and evaluation in international social development. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, 17(1/2).
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. (2022). Emerging tensions in data work: Staff and youth perspectives in youth-serving organizations. *Social Service Review*, 96(4), 617-654. <https://doi.org/10.1086/722277>
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. (2022). Surfacing Human Service Organizations' Data Use Practices: Toward a Critical Performance Measurement Framework: From the 2021 Community Informatics Research Network (CIRN) Conference. *The Journal of Community Informatics*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.15353/joci.v18i1.4712>
- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** (2021). The process of becoming. *Hybrid Teaching: Pedagogy, People, Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Hybrid Pedagogy, Inc.
- Fink, A.**, & Brito, M. (2020). Real big data: How we know who we know in youth work. *Child & Youth Services*. DOI: 10.1080/0145935X.2020.1832888.
- Brito, M., **Fink, A.**, Friend, C., Heidebrink-Bruno, A., Moe, R., Shaffer, K., Robin, V., & Wharton, R. (2020). [Love in the time of peer review](#). *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. Washington, D.C.: Hybrid Pedagogy, Inc.
- Alexander, I., & **Fink, A.** (2018). [Designing an inclusive intercultural online participatory seminar for higher education teachers and professionals](#). *Networked Learning: Reflections and Challenges*. Springer.
- Fink, A.** (2018). Bigger data, less wisdom: The need for more inclusive collective intelligence in social service provision. *AI & Society*, 33, 61-70. <http://rdcu.be/GwCj>
- Fink, A.** (2015). "We don't want a teacher": Using the past to offer fresh eyes to contemporary practice. *Child & Youth Services*, 36(1), 56-78.
- Wildermuth, C., Smith-Bright, E., Noll-Wilson, S., & **Fink, A.** (2015). Walking the razor's edge: Risks and rewards for students and faculty adopting case in point teaching and learning approaches. *Journal of Leadership Education*, 14(2), 30-50.
- VeLure Roholt, R., Baizerman, M., & **Fink, A.** (2013). Evaluation advisory boards. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 24(1), 186-187.

- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** (July 2, 2013). Learning from Early Childhood Education - Higher Ed and the Process of Becoming. *Hybrid Pedagogy*, www.hybridpedagogy.com.
- Soria, K., **Fink, A.**, Snyder, L., & Lepkowski, C. (2013). Leadership and social change in undergraduate education. *Journal of College and Character*, 14(3), 241-251.
- Soria, K., Nobbe, J., & **Fink, A.** (2013). Examining the intersections between undergraduates' engagement in community service and the development of socially responsible leadership. *Journal of Leadership Education*, 12(1), 117-139.
- Baizerman, M., **Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. (2012). From Consilium to Advice: A Review of the Evaluation and Related Literature on Advisory Structures and Processes. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 136, 5-29.

Books, Special Issues & Invited Papers

- VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.**, Johnston-Goodstar, K. (contracted and forthcoming, 2027). *Handbook of Youth Futures*. De Gruyter Press.
- VeLure Roholt, R., & **Fink, A.** (contracted and forthcoming, 2027). *Handbook of Youth Social Work*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Samimi, C. & **Fink, A.** (2025). Critical activities for integrating theory and practice. In J.M. Chonody (Ed.), *Teaching Activities for Social Work: Creative Pedagogies to Engage Students* (pp. 351-361). Springer Nature. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-95060-5>
- Goldkind, L., Ming, J., & **Fink, A.** (2024). AI in the nonprofit human services: Distinguishing between hype, harm, and hope. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, & Governance*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23303131.2024.2427459>
- Fink, A.**, VeLure Roholt, R., Anderson-Nathe, B. (Eds.) (2024). Everyday lived engagement: Working in-between young people, communities, and the university. *Child & Youth Services*, 45(2).
- VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.**, & Anderson-Nathe, B. (2024). A Festschrift to, for, and of Michael Baizerman. *Child & Youth Services*, 45(2), 183-185. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2023.2273596>
- Fink, A.** (2024). Creating the field by shaping its ideas, rejoinder. *Child & Youth Services*, 45(2), 199-207. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2023.2275462>
- Fink, A.** (2024). From concrete to abstract and back again: Co-creating transformative moments. *Child & Youth Services*, 45(2), 244-248. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2023.2275477>

†Randall, S., & Fink, A. (2024). “Maybe he knows what he’s talking about”: An interview with Steve Randall. *Child & Youth Services*, 45(2), 228–230. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2023.2275470>

Publications Under Review & in Process

Fink, A., Horn, T., & Nienow, M. (under review). Infrastructural Interventions for Care (Re)Vitalization. *Journal of Community Practice*.

Fink, A. & Goldkind, L. (in process). Shaping data tools with human service managers, workers, and service users: possibilities of LLM coding. *Journal of Community Informatics*.

**Fink, A. & VeLure Roholt, R., Nienow, M., Neal, S., & Hwang, W. (in process). Client voice and power in social work: A scoping review. *Advances in Social Work*.

†Moua, K. N., Fink, A., Yang, X., & Vang, X. (in process). Design methods to create tools that support anti-oppressive co-determination in practice. *Advances in Social Work*.

Book Reviews

Fink, A., & Brito, M. (2026). AI and the Disruption of Welfare: Challenges for Social Work Education and Practice: edited by Goetz Ottmann and Carolyn Noble, New York, Routledge, 2026, 328 pp. *Ethics and Social Welfare*, 20(3), 462–465. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496535.2026.2711514>

Fink, A. (2021). Canaries in the Data Mine: Understanding the Proprietary Design of Youth Environments. *The Information Society*, 37(5), 323–324. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2021.1968221>

Fink, A., & Brito, M. (2021). Constructing Digital Cultures: Tweets, Trends, Race, and Gender. *The Information Society*, 37(1), 60–61. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2020.1849421>

Fink, A. (2019). Smart World Cities in the 21st Century. *The Information Society*, 36(1), 55–56.

Brito, M., & Fink, A. (2017). Civic Media: Design, Technology, Practice. *The Information Society*, 33(2), 98–100.

Fink, A. (2016). Favela Digital by David Nemer. *The Information Society*, 32(5), 368–369.

Fink, A. (2016). To the Cloud: Big Data in a Turbulent World by Vincent Mosco, *Journal of Community Informatics*, 12(2), 226-228.

Santavasy, C., & **Fink, A.** (2016). Youth Studies: Fundamental Issues & Debates by James Cote, *Child & Youth Services*, 37(1), 92-93.

Moua, K.N., & **Fink, A.** (2015). Review: Badass Teachers Unite by Mark D. Naison. *Youth and Policy*, 114, 133-135.

Fink, A. "Review of Chapter 6." *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens. A Collaborative Book Engagement*. Eds. Iskandar Zulkarnain, Megan Farnel and Fiona Barnett. HASTAC. Web. 11 August 2014.

Fink, A. (2013, Oct.). Youth Policy in a Changing World by M. Hahn-Bleibtreu & M. Molgat. *Youth and Policy*, 111, 90-92.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

Fink, A. & Zobitz, J. Strengthening interdisciplinary capacity and engagement in community-based data science. ARNOVA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA November 2026

VeLure Roholt, R. & **Fink, A.** Civic youth work: Healing ourselves and repairing a fractured world. Critical Youth Work, Weimar, Germany August 2026

Fink, A. & VeLure Roholt, R. Critical youth futures in an era of predictive surveillance. Critical Youth Work, Weimar, Germany August 2026

Zobitz, J., **Fink, A.**, Forstie, M., & Bamattre, R. Strengthening interdisciplinary undergraduate capacity and engagement in community-based data science. International Conference on Teaching Statistics, Brisbane, AU July 2026

Fink, A., Nienow, M., & Brito, M. Toward acknowledgements of the more-than-human in the material production of AI. European Conference on Social Work Research, Aberdeen, UK April 2026

Fink, A. & Moua, K.N. Creating Tools to Support Anti-Oppressive Co-Determination in Practice. Council on Social Work Education, Kansas City, MO October 2024

Gilmer, J., Peacock, S., & Fink, A. Augsburg Local: A Framework for Advancing Anchor Institution Strategies Amidst Changes in Campus and Culture, Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, Minneapolis, MN	October 2024
**Hei Yue Lee, C., Fink, A., & Benasutti, M. Evaluated by students, for students: Participatory evaluation of a justice-oriented anchor program. Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, Minneapolis, MN	October 2024
Goldkind, L. & Fink, A. A third sector albatross: Critical data studies in the human services. Joint meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of Work, Boston, MA	April 2024
Fink, A. & Velure Roholt, R. Transitioning leadership to those most impacted by social issues. Minnesota Social Service Association Webinar, Minneapolis, MN	April 2024
Moua, K. N. L. & Fink, A. Expanding imaginations toward just social work futures. Minnesota Social Service Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN	March 2024
**Fink, A., Spratt, R., Zidenga, E., Quinn, K., Glader, K., Mancini-de-León, M., León-de-Mancini, T. & Weaver, J. Building co-determination through visualizations with clients. Minnesota Social Service Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN	March 2024
Fink, A. & VeLure Roholt, R. Social work training to transition leadership to those most impacted by social issues. Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA	October 2023
Fink, A., & Samimi, C. Developing open educational resources (OERs) using popular education. Council on Social Work Education, Anaheim, CA	November 2022
Fink, A. & VeLure Roholt, R. Nonprofit Staff and Youth Participants' Perspectives on M&E in a Datafied World. American Evaluation Association, New Orleans, LA	November 2022

- **Fink, A.**, Vue, A., Zhang, A., Miller, J., Rau, L., & VeLure Roholt, R. March 2022
Client-Led Philanthropy: Justice-Based Giving Practices,
Minnesota Social Service Association, Minneapolis, MN
- **Fink, A.**, Alexander, I., Woller, K., & Pence, M. Co-Creating March 2022
Educational Resources with Clients, Minnesota Social Service
Association, Minneapolis, MN
- Fink, A.**, VeLure Roholt, R., & Samimi, C. Data Justice in Performance March 2022
Measurement and Client Tracking, Minnesota Social Service
Association, Minneapolis, MN
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. Adaptive Leadership in Evaluation Use, October 2020
American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis, MN
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. Evaluating Data Collection Systems for November 2019
Youth Programs, American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis,
MN
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. Adaptive Leadership in Evaluation Use, November 2019
American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis, MN
- Alexander, I., & **Fink, A.** OOPS! Or, Designing an Intercultural May 2016
Online Participatory Seminar in the Spirit of the Highlander Folk
School, Networked Learning, Lancashire, UK
- Johnston-Goodstar, K., VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.**, & Zieffler, A. April 2016
School Climate and Native American Youth Wellbeing, American
Educational Research Association Annual Conference,
Washington, DC
- Fink, A.** The New Collective Intelligence for *Narrow* Goods in Social June 2015
Service Provision, Communities and Technology, Limerick,
Ireland
- Fink, A.** The Political Economy of Data in Collective Impact June 2015
Strategies, Data Power, Sheffield, UK
- Alexander, I., & **Fink, A.** OOPS! We created an Open, Online, April 2015
Participatory Seminar, Academy of Distinguished Teachers 2015,
University of Minnesota, Minnesota, USA

- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** We Can Do Better: Freeing Education from the Cultural Artifact of Childhood, American Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, USA. December 2014
- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** Schooled by those who come before us: Lessons in pedagogy from early childhood education. American Association of Philosophy Teachers Conference, Collegeville, MN, USA August 2014
- Fink, A.** Is it “just data”? The political economy and infrastructure of data in community research. What Went Wrong?: Reflecting and Learning from Community-Engaged Research Conference 2014, Minneapolis, MN, USA July 2014
- Fink, A.** From Integration to Community Control: Educational Strategies of the Black Freedom Movement, 1954-1982. History of Youth Work Conference 2014, Minneapolis, MN, USA June 2014
- Fink, A.,** Baizerman, M., VeLure Roholt, R. A civic youth work approach to social justice. Child & Youth Care Annual Conference 2014, Victoria, BC, Canada May 2014
- Fink, A.,** & Anderson-Nathe, B. How the rapidly evolving open access and open data movements will transform child & youth care research in the 21st century. Child & Youth Care Annual Conference 2014, Victoria, BC, Canada May 2014
- Lightfoot, E., Reinardy, J., **Fink, A.,** Hamre, K., Kalomo, N., Moua, K. N. Doctoral education in social work: Exploring the possibilities. Minnesota Social Services Association Annual Conference 2014, Minneapolis, MN March 2014
- Fink, A.** Using open data and open source tools to support social services and social change. Minnesota Social Services Association Annual Conference 2014, Minneapolis, MN March 2014
- Frazzini, R., & **Fink, A.** What do I do now? The impacts of the new training program on transformational mentoring at the University of Minnesota. University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute Conference 2013, Albuquerque, NM October 2013

- Baizerman, M., VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.** From Consilium to Advice. American Evaluation Association, Washington, D.C. October 2013
- Frazzini, R., & **Fink, A.** What do I do now? The impacts of the new training program on transformational mentoring at the University of Minnesota. University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute Conference 2013, Albuquerque, NM October 2013
- VeLure Roholt, R., & **Fink, A.** New Frontiers in Global Youth Empowerment Strategies: Effective Training to Support Effective Youth Work. International Consortium for Social Development, Kampala, Uganda. July 2013
- Carlson, M., & **Fink, A.** Envoyss. Open Engagement 2013: Art & Social Practice, Portland State University. May 2013
- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** Asking the Right Questions of Occupy Wall Street. The Crisis in American Democracy, Purdue University April 2013
- Fink, A.**, Frazzini, R., & Speer, J. Training for mentors assigned to first year students. Focusing on the First-Year, University of Minnesota. February 2013
- Soria, K., **Fink, A.**, Lepkowski, C., & Snyder, L. Leadership and social action in undergraduate education. Association for the Study of Higher Education. November 2012
- Fink, A.**, Frazzini, R., & Speer, J. Creating a mentor training program for transformational mentoring in the University of Minnesota leadership programs. University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute Conference 2012, Albuquerque, NM October 2012
- Fink, A.**, Frazzini, R., & Speer, J. Necessary processes and characteristics for transformational mentoring. University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute Conference 2012, Albuquerque, NM October 2012
- Fink, A.** & Link, A. "Making Things Better": The Role of Leadership in Evaluation Use. Evaluation in Practice, Pori, Finland June 2012
- Fink, A.** Where is the Youth Work(er) in Afterschool? National Afterschool Association 2012 Annual Convention, Dallas, TX April 2012

- Nienow, M. & **Fink, A.** The Everyday Experience of Hope in Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Social Work Practitioners. Minnesota Social Services Administrations Annual Meeting 2012 March 2012
- Fink, A.** & Werner, L. Curricular and Programmatic Structures to Support Sustained Community Research and Action in a Large Undergraduate Student Leadership Program November 2011
International Symposium on Research, Education, and Problem-Solving 2011, Orlando, FL
- Frazzini, R. & **Fink, A.** Transformational Mentoring in University of Minnesota Co-Curricular Leadership Programs, University of New Mexico Mentoring Conference, Albuquerque, NM October 2011
- Fink, A.** Opportunities for Strengthening Democracy through Campus/Community Engagement, Imagining America 2011 National Conference, Minneapolis, MN September 2011
- Fink, A.** & Blevins, J. Innovations in Youth Entrepreneurship: A Strengths-Based Approach to Workforce and Community Development, National Association of Social Workers – Minnesota Annual Conference, Saint Paul, MN May 2011
- The Green M&M Project: a reality-based examination of myths and message about sex, power, and growing up male and female, National Sexual Assault Conference, Washington, DC January 2008

Conference Workshops

- Clark, K., Martin, K. & **Fink, A.** Designing immersive community-engaged learning for lasting impact. Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference, Houston, TX November 2026

Invited Presentations

- Fink, A.** (2025). Participatory data governance & data cooperatives. November 2025
Alan Turing Institute, University of Berkeley.

- Fink, A. & Lind, N.** (2025). Minding AI: Creating assignments for learning with artificial intelligence. *Days in May*, Augsburg University. May 2025
- Fink, A.** (2025). Tenure and collegiality. *Panel for Preparing Future Faculty*, University of Minnesota. March 2025
- Fink, A.** (2025). Creating civic cultures on every campus: Innovative models of civic learning across institution types. *Panel for Campus Compact's Civic Learning Week*. March 2025
- Fink, A.** (2024). Youth advisory structures. *Ann Bancroft Foundation, Board of Directors* January 2024
- Fink, A.** (2020). Data futures for youth work. *Department of Juvenile Justice*, 2020, Minneapolis, MN, USA January 2020
- Fink, A.** (2016). It takes a village (of computers?) to raise a child: A political economic perspective on youth and family agency in social service mass data collection systems. *Institute for Advanced Studies Critical Data Studies Fellowship Presentation*, 2016, Minneapolis, MN, USA September 2016
- Fink, A.** (2015). Developing (mobile) apps with Qualtrics. *Conversations & Computing Club*, 2015, Minneapolis, MN USA November 2015
- Alexander, I., & **Fink, A.** (2015). OOPS! Or, Designing an Intercultural Online Participatory Seminar that Draws on the Spirit of Highlander Folk School, Center for Educational Innovation, Minneapolis, MN, USA October 2015
- Fink, A.** (2015). Big Data and Inequality, Ethics in the Information Age Course, Metro State University, Saint Paul, MN, USA September 2015
- Fink, A., Rivas, J., Kingsley, K., Weah, W.** (2015). Engaging Youth in Research to Improve Systems, Every Hour Counts 2015, Oakland, CA, USA March 2015
- Fink, A.** (2015). The Right to Research & Action: Participatory Advocacy in the Digital Age, Macro Policy Advocacy Course, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Minneapolis, MN April 2015
- Fink, A.** (2015). Ethics and Data Use. Continuing Education Series, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Minneapolis, MN March 2015

- Fink, A.**, Bushey, B., Springer, A., & Murray, K. (2014). Open Data and Civic Technology. Digital Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Panel, November 2014, Minneapolis, MN November 2014
- Fink, A.**, Anklesaria, F., & Marsh, L. (2014). Digital pedagogy, Digital Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Workshop, October 2014, Minneapolis, MN October 2014
- Fink, A.** (2014). Working from within: The pedagogical and programmatic elements of education behind the Civil Rights movement, 1954 to 1969, Historical Research Seminar, May 2014, Minneapolis, MN May 2014
- Fink, A.**, & VeLure Roholt, R. Effective training to support the diffusion of quality civic youth work. Research Poster Day, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN May 2014
- Werner, L., Hellstrom, D., & **Fink, A.** (2013). From What? To Wow!: Exploring Case-In-Point Teaching. Leadership Can Be Taught Symposium 2013, Minneapolis, MN. June 2013
- Fink, A.** (2013). Transformational Leadership. Leadership in Film and Media, Fall 2013, Minneapolis, MN November 2013

Reports & Other Publications

- Fink, A., Wolf, L., Goldkind, L. *Jacob A. Riis Report on Data Mapping Project*. New York, NY: Fordham University. May 2024
- †**Allery, O., Ali, N., Ali, I., Avila, B., Beeskow, K., Benasutti, M., Dualah, M., Erickson, L., **Fink, A.**, Gronert, S., Hauer, F., Hector, R., Jackson, A., Johnson, A. Lee, C.H.Y., Mannes, N., Neumann, M., O'Connor, O., , Petersen, A., Pliego Gil, A., Premo, B., Roble, H., Simmons, R., Stockard Jr, E., Thorud, D., Tran, X., Warsame, L., & Yang, P. (2024). *Campus Cupboard evaluation report*. Minneapolis, MN: Social Work Co-Lab, Augsburg University. April 2024
- Fink, A.**, VeLure Roholt, R. (2020). *The YouthBank Story, 2020*. Minneapolis, MN. December 2020

Fink, A., VeLure Roholt, R. (2019). <i>The YouthBank Story, 2018-2019.</i> Minneapolis, MN.	December 2019
Fink, A., VeLure Roholt, R. (2018). <i>The YouthBank Story, 2017-2018.</i> Minneapolis, MN.	December 2018
VeLure Roholt, R., Fink, A. (2018). <i>Roots for the Home Team</i> <i>Evaluation: Milwaukee.</i> Minneapolis, MN.	December 2018
VeLure Roholt, R., Fink, A. (2017). <i>Program Evaluation: "Finding Your</i> <i>Roots".</i> Minneapolis, MN.	October 2017
VeLure Roholt, R., Fink, A., Eckert, G. (2016). <i>Roots for the Home</i> <i>Team Evaluation.</i> Minneapolis, MN.	December 2016
Fink, A., VeLure Roholt, R. (2016). <i>YouthBank Minnesota Learning</i> <i>Partner Report, 2015-2016.</i> Minneapolis, MN.	December 2016
Fink, A. (2015). <i>Our Data Cooperative: Technical Enquiry.</i> London, UK: Common Futures	April 2015
**Rivas, J., Kim, D., Carruthers, P., Robinson, D., Larson, B., & Fink, A. (2015). <i>Holistic indicators of youth development.</i> Minneapolis, MN: Youthprise.	January 2015

Work Experience

Sabo Center for Democracy & Citizenship, Augsburg University, Faculty Fellow	June 2026 - Current
● Conducted strategic visioning and planning conducted in partnership with dozens of university stakeholders. ● Lead several university-wide initiatives to develop infrastructure for Community Engagement on campus. ● Served as Action Council Lead for Augsburg's participation in the Institute for Citizens & Scholars Campuswide Immersion initiative. ● Served as Campus Voting Coordinator for Augsburg University.	

Sabo Center for Democracy & Citizenship, Augsburg University,

Faculty Fellow & Director

Jun. 2024 – June 2026

- Conducted strategic visioning and planning conducted in partnership with dozens of university stakeholders.
- Developed goals & workplans across all work areas to align with strategic planning.
- Managed 5 programmatic areas: Bonner Community Leaders, Community Engaged Learning, Food Initiatives & Campus Kitchen, Community Garden and Community Relations.
- Managed and developed partnerships with local and national stakeholders and funders.
- Lead several university-wide initiatives to develop infrastructure for Community Engagement on campus.
- Lead initiatives to develop communications and marketing strategy.
- Served as Campus Voting Coordinator for Augsburg University.
- Raised over \$350,000 in grants across program areas, with additional grants under review.

Social Work, Augsburg University, Assistant Professor

Aug. 2022 – Current

- Instructor for core undergraduate and graduate courses, revising curriculum for Anti-Oppressive and Anti-Racist practice.
- Worked with a team as Grants & Innovations Committee Chair to apply for 2 state grants (received for \$270,000 and \$250,000) and 1 federal grant.
- Advised undergraduate and graduate students for registration, navigation through difficult life and course circumstances, job preparation, and recommendations.
- Supported student group and other student activities.
- Redesigned and reinvigorated the Youth Studies minor with other interested faculty, served as coordinator.
- As Co-Principal Investigator, applied for and received National Science Foundation Grant for \$220,000 (NSF 2519926 HNDS: Advancing motivational science through labor force capacity

building and community data science infrastructure).

Additional \$44,000 supplement is pending.

- Co-Principal Investigator for two research studies with partners at other universities, collaborating with Augsburg students through URGO and external funds.

Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, Researcher 5

Jan. 2020 – Aug. 2022

- Co-Principal Investigator, Youthprise contract for the training, support, mentoring and evaluation of eight pilot YouthBank sites and expansion to six additional sites. Developed youth training team to support the expansion of YouthBank sites.
- Managed Roots for the Home Team contract for leadership and entrepreneurship curriculum development.
- Managed contract with Isuroon for evaluation of youth programs.
- Coached youth research justice team in contracts management, research design, data collection and analysis, and writing.
- Facilitated on-site data collection through interviews and focus groups.
- Advised students, wrote recommendation letters for scholarships and graduate school, served as support in job and scholarship applications, operated Independent Studies.

Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, Research Assistant

Sept. 2019 – Dec. 2019

- Co-Principal Investigator, Youthprise contract for the training, support, mentoring and evaluation of eight pilot YouthBank sites and expansion to six additional sites. Developed youth training team to support the expansion of YouthBank sites.
- Managed Roots for the Home Team contract for leadership and entrepreneurship curriculum development.
- Coached youth research justice team in contracts management, research design, data collection and analysis, and writing.
- Facilitated on-site data collection through interviews and focus groups.

Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, Research Fellow

Mar. 2015 – Aug. 2019

- Co-Principal Investigator, Youthprise contract for the training, support, mentoring and evaluation of eight pilot YouthBank sites and expansion to six additional sites. Developed youth training team to support the expansion of YouthBank sites.
- Managed Roots for the Home Team contract for leadership and entrepreneurship curriculum development.
- Coached youth research justice team in contracts management, research design, data collection and analysis, and writing.
- Facilitated on-site data collection through interviews and focus groups.

Youth Economic Participation Initiative, University of Minnesota, Research Assistant

Oct. 2014 – Oct. 2016

- Managed grant logistics and data across eight global sites
- Analyzed qualitative data from eight sites.
- Participated in on-site data collection through interviews and focus groups.

Youthprise, Youth Engagement and Research Intern

June 2014 – Mar. 2015

- Coached youth research justice team in contracts management, research design, data collection and analysis, and writing.
- Developed internal evaluation designs for the organization.
- Published research report on holistic indicators research.
- Participated in on-site data collection through interviews and focus groups.

Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, Graduate Assistant

Sept. 2013 – Aug. 2014

- Gathered data through participant observation, interview, and secondary data sources.
- Analyzed mixed methods data using Dedoose Qualitative Data Analysis tool to develop and write reports on research. Participated in writing process.
- Created and maintained data management system for four partners.

Leadership Education and Development, University of Minnesota, Aug. 2010 – Aug. 2013
Graduate Assistant

- Planned a research and evaluation agenda and timeline for Leadership Education and Development programs in coordination with partners and other key stakeholders.
- Developed and coordinated several research and evaluation projects to elucidate the strengths, weaknesses, and key characteristics of leadership development pedagogy used in the undergraduate Leadership Minor program.
- Developed a rigorous adjunct instructor training program and professional development program to support over 50 adjunct instructors to learn new pedagogical strategies and encourage a strong community of practice.

Brian Coyle Community Center, Youth Entrepreneurship Intern Sept. 2010 – Aug. 2011

- Coordinated and developed entrepreneurial programs in collaboration with young people and community institutions.
- Coached Youth Leadership Council toward the development of effective youth leaders and community organizers.

Learning Dreams, University of Minnesota, Community Research June 2008 – Aug. 2010
Assistant

- Developed partnerships with local community organizations to conduct research projects in collaboration with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs
- Designed and engineered the development of organization technology projects built on open source software frameworks, including a volunteer management application.

Student Employee Leadership Program, University of Minnesota, June 2009 – Aug. 2010
Technology Project Consultant

- Collaborated with Student Affairs offices and other on-campus departments to design and develop a website to provide information to program participants and track participant progress through the program.

Co-Founder, Story Circle Communities Sept. 2008 – Jan. 2010

- Facilitated the development of a local community collective to catalyze community-organizing efforts based on methods used by the Citizenship Schools of the civil rights movement.

Student Engagement and Leadership, University of Minnesota, June 2007 – June 2008
Senior Leadership Programs Coordinator

- Managed the development and coordination of three leadership development programs for undergraduates at the University of Minnesota, including the creation and distribution of marketing materials, management of program budgets, and management of two student peers.
- Pioneered the launch of two new leadership development programs for the University of Minnesota that successfully continued for the past two years.
- Facilitated leadership programs for several hundred students, including the direct facilitation of programs for the duration of a semester, up to twenty students at a time.

Student Engagement and Leadership, University of Minnesota, Sept. 2006 – June 2007
Assistant Coordinator

- Planned and facilitated leadership development program for twenty-five undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota.

College of Liberal Arts Student Services, University of Minnesota, Sept. 2005 – Aug. 2007
Web Applications Developer

- Coordinated with departmental offices to design, develop and maintain dynamic, database-driven websites for the College of Liberal Arts.
- Worked in Adobe Photoshop, PHP Programming Language, JavaScript, SQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Access, and CMS Management

Research Experience

Augsburg University, Assistant Professor Aug. 2022 - Current

- Co-PI NSF 2519926 HNDS: Advancing motivational science through labor force capacity building and community data science infrastructure with Professor John Zobitz.
- Co-PI on Youth LED project in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, a community-based, qualitative study of youth leadership, education, and development programs in the Midwest. This includes a current scoping review study of client voice and power in social work.
- Co-PI on Riis Settlement House study in collaboration with Fordham University, a community-based, participatory, qualitative intervention research study working to develop just, effective client tracking and database systems for modern Settlement Houses.
- Co-PI on Social Work Futures study in collaboration with Dr. Kao Nou Moua at Augsburg University, an experiential,

participatory, futures design project collaborating with community-based social work practitioners to design anti-racist, anti-oppressive tools for practice.

Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, Researcher 5

June 2015 – Aug. 2022

- Co-PI on strategic planning and evaluation for Youthprise nonprofit youth-serving organization.
- Managed participatory, developmental evaluation of YouthBank program development, including facilitating skill building workshops, data collection, data analysis, data management, and report writing.

Youth Economic Participation Initiative, University of Minnesota, Research Assistant

Oct. 2014 – Oct. 2016

- Partnership between Talloires Network and 8 partner sites in different countries implementing youth entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Managing grant deliverables, data collection and analysis, report writing, and data management.

Native Youth Gang Assessment, University of Minnesota, Research Assistant

Sept. 2013 – Aug. 2014

- Community-Based Participatory Research project funded by Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs.
- Data collection, analysis, report and article writing, data management.

Public Engagement Research Project, University of Minnesota, Research Assistant

June 2013 – June 2015

- Exploring staff, student, and faculty experiences of public engagement at a Research I University in collaboration with a Pakistani university.
- Data collection, analysis, and management. Project management.

Advanced Research Circle, University of Minnesota, Member

Jan. 2009 – Sept. 2012

- Research Topic: Student growth in relation to student development and learning outcomes and constructive-developmental psychology

Grants/Contracts Received

- NSF 2519926 HNDS: Advancing motivational science through labor force capacity building and community data science infrastructure, National Science Foundation \$220,956 2025 - 2028
- Drive for 5 School Based Mental Health Fellowship, Department of Employment & Economic Development \$250,000 2024
- Augsburg School Social Work Scholars, MN Department of Education \$270,000 2024
- Unseen observation: Reimagining school safety, Jump Start Grant, Collaborator \$25,000 2022
- Youthprise YouthBank Evaluation, Co-PI on Study \$70,000/yr. 2016 - 2023
- Roots for the Home Team, Co-PI \$15,000 2021
- Roots for the Home Team, Co-PI \$10,000 2018 - 2020
- Isuroon Youth Programs Evaluation \$10,000 2020
- Youthprise Strategic Planning and YouthBank Evaluation, Co-PI on Study \$70,000 2015
- Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Grant, Collaborative partnership between College of Design, Public Health, Fairview Hospital \$121,000 2013
- Best Buy Foundation funding for Youth Leaders for Community Change \$3,000 2011
- Catalyst youth grant, Brian Coyle Center, Pillsbury United Communities \$1,000 2010

Blog Posts & Other Media

- Titchen, A., Manley, K., Cardiff, S., Codd, M., **Fink, A.**, Frost, D., Hardwick, C., Hammond, K., Hardiman, M., Jackson, C., Lieshout, F.v., Mulcahey, M., Peelo-Kilroe, L., Ward, R., & Webster, J. Critical companionship resource. *University of East Anglia*. <https://www.uea.ac.uk/groups-and-centres/projects/niche/niche-workstreams/critical-companionship-homepage> 2025

- Brito, M., & **Fink, A.** (2022). The process of becoming. In Friend, C (Ed.), *Hybrid Teaching*. Hybrid Pedagogy. <https://anchor.fm/hybrid-teaching/episodes/The-Process-of-Becoming-e1ahijh> [Audio recorded version of paper.]
- Fink, A.** (2019). Helping organizations understand data and relationships with clients. *AEA 365*. <https://aea365.org/blog/helping-organizations-understand-data-and-relationships-with-clients-by-alex-fink> Jan. 15, 2019
- VeLure Roholt, R., Catalano, J., Hollister, R., & **Fink, A.** (2017). Educating transformative entrepreneurs at university. *University World News*. <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20171122074419459> Nov. 24, 2017
- Fink, A.** (2015). Three Resources to Engage in Participatory Research with Youth. *Youthprise*. <https://youthprise.org/blog/three-resources-to-engage-in-participatory-research-with-youth/> Mar. 23, 2015
- Fink, A.**, & Friend, C. (2015). MMCP: Learning Our Way away from Institutions. *Hybrid Pedagogy*. <http://www.hybridpedagogy.com/announcements/moocmooc/away-from-institutions/> Feb. 25, 2015
- Brito, M., **Fink, A.**, Friend, C., Heidebrink-Bruno, A., Moe, R., Shaffer, K., Robin, V., & Wharton, R. (2014). Love in the Time of Peer Review. *Hybrid Pedagogy*. <http://www.hybridpedagogy.com/journal/love-time-peer-review/> Nov. 22, 2014
- Fink, A.** (2014). What's a scholarly workflow – and why do I want one? *University of Minnesota Techniques in Teaching and Learning*. <https://uminntilt.com/2014/09/29/whats-a-scholarly-workflow-and-why-do-i-want-one/> Jul. 21, 2014
- Fink, A.** (2013). Open data should be for justice. *Opensource.com*. <https://opensource.com/government/13/12/open-data-justice> Dec. 6, 2013
- Fink, A.** (2012). Why deal with the “hard stuff” in class. Or, the danger of sterilizing education. *University of Minnesota Techniques in Teaching and Learning*. <https://uminntilt.com/2012/10/09/why-deal-with-the-hard-stuff-in-class/> Oct. 9, 2012

Brito, M., and **Fink, A.** (2012). Learning from early childhood education—two pedagogy nerds contemplate what higher ed might be overlooking. *University of Minnesota Techniques in Teaching and Learning*.
<https://uminntilt.com/2012/04/23/learning-from-early-childhood-education-two-pedagogy-nerds-contemplate-what-higher-ed-might-be-overlooking/> Apr. 23, 2012

Awards

Distinguished Teaching, Early Career Faculty, <i>Augsburg University</i>	2026
Tony Bibus Social Work Faculty of the Year, <i>National Association of Social Workers – MN Chapter</i>	2026
Critical Data Studies Fellow	2016
HASTAC Scholar	2013
Community Engagement Scholar	2010
President’s Student Leadership and Service Award	2008

Certifications

Quality Matters Certification	2012
Subject-Objective Interview – Certified Reliable Scorer	2011

Service to the University & Profession

Editorial Board, <i>Journal of Community Informatics</i>	Dec. 2024 - Current
Chair, Elections Committee, <i>Augsburg University</i>	Jun. 2025 - Current
Student Standing Committee, <i>Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2025 - Current
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, <i>Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2025 – Current

Chair, Curriculum Committee, <i>Department of Social Work, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2025 - Current
Sabo Center Engagement Council, <i>Augsburg University</i>	Sept. 2024 - Current
Admissions Committee, <i>Department of Social Work, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2024 - Current
Peer Reviewer, Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference	Apr. 2024
Assessment Committee, <i>Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2024 – Aug. 2025
Community Impact and Alumni Relations Working Group, <i>School of Health, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2024 – Current
Environmental Stewardship Committee, <i>University Council, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2023 - Current
Chair, Grants & Innovations Committee, <i>Department of Social Work, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2023 – Aug 2025
Curriculum Committee, <i>Department of Social Work, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2023 – Aug. 2024
Admissions Committee, <i>Department of Social Work, Augsburg University</i>	Aug. 2022 – Aug. 2023
Undergraduate Committee, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022
Youth Studies Cooperative Student Group Advisor, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	May 2021 – Aug. 2022
AMPLIFY Youth Work Conference Leadership Committee, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	Jan. 2021 – June 2021
Youth Development Leadership Committee, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2022
Ph.D. Curriculum Committee Member, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	Oct. 2013 – Oct. 2014
Council Member, <i>School of Social Work, University of Minnesota</i>	Oct. 2012 – Oct. 2013

Contributing Editor, <i>Hybrid Pedagogy</i>	June 2014 – Dec. 2014
Guest Editor, <i>Hybrid Pedagogy</i>	February 2014 – June 2014
Northern Ireland May Session Study Abroad Research and Curriculum Development, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	June 2008 – June 2009
Assistant Dean's Freshman Advisory Board, Subcommittee Facilitator, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	Sept. 2008-Jan. 2009
First-Year Leadership Institute Advisory Board Member, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	Sept. 2007 – May 2008
LeaderQuest Advisory Board Member, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	Sept. 2008 – May 2008
Welcome Week Student Advisory Board Member, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	April 2007 – Oct. 2008
Leadership Minor Student Advisory Board Member, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	Oct. 2007 – May 2008

Community Involvement Experience

• Social Work Future Seminars, Facilitator and Researcher	June 2023 - Present
• Roots for the Home Team, Curriculum Design and Consulting Support	July 2017 – Aug. 2022
• 21 st Century Academy, Participatory Research Data Analysis Volunteer	June 2018 – Aug. 2018
• Co-Curricular Leadership Programs, University of Minnesota, Mentor Advisory Board Member	Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013
• Cedar Riverside Youth Council Advisory Board, Pillsbury United Communities, Facilitator	Jan 2012 – May 2014
• Prairie Oaks Institute at Robert Creek, Program Development and Community Development Volunteer	June 2010 – June 2011
• Social Justice Leadership Retreat, University of Minnesota, Tier II Retreat Planner and Facilitator	Aug. 2010 – Jan. 2011
• The Alliance: A University District Partnership, University of Minnesota, Vision and Planning Team Committee Member	Jan. 2010 – August 2010

- Learning Dreams, University of Minnesota, School of Social Work, Volunteer Neighborhood Educator Oct. 2009 – August 2010
- University of Minnesota, Student Experiences Task Force, Task Force Representative Oct. 2008 – May 2010
- First-Year Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota, Mentor Jan. 2009 – May 2010
- Jenny Lind Elementary, Volunteer After-School Program Facilitator Oct. 2009 - Dec. 2009
- Social Justice Leadership Retreat, University of Minnesota, Tier II Retreat Facilitator Jan. 2009
- East Side Neighborhood Services, Youth After-School Program Assistant Sept. 2007 – Dec. 2007
- Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education, Violence Prevention Educator Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009

Community Application Development

- TohMoo Karen Resource Database 2016
- WIT-Y – Well-being Indicator Tool for Youth 2014

Community Curriculum Development

- VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.** *Finding Your Roots 2.0* 2022
- VeLure Roholt, R., **Fink, A.** *Finding Your Roots 1.0* 2021

Scholarly Videos

- Bali, M, **Fink, A.**, Pippin, T., Shukla, S. Theater of the Oppressed: Image Theater, <https://onehe.org/eu-activity/theatre-of-the-oppressed-image-theatre/> December 28, 2020
- Alexander, I., & **Fink, A.** 4As of Course Design, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqAFFYkm_qM April 15, 2015