

STEPHANIE SENA

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Education:

University of Delaware, Newark, DE May 2006
Master of Arts in American History

Villanova University, Villanova, PA May 2003
Master of Arts in World History and Islamic Civilization

West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA May 2001
Bachelor of Arts in History

Leadership and Organizational Experience:

Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia (SREHUP) January 2011 - Present
Founder and Executive Director

I am the founder and executive director of the Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia (SREHUP), a non-profit anti-poverty initiative since 2011, where students help provide shelter, food, housing, and community to individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. SREHUP has a proven track record of success in helping shelter clients achieve housing.

SREHUP is the first low-barrier emergency housing in Philadelphia which welcomes people and families with the 3 p's: their Partners, their Property, and their Pets.

SREHUP focuses on a holistic approach to increasing the inventory of affordable housing, and making housing more available for our low-income neighbors. SREHUP is building villages of tiny homes on city land donated to us by the Philadelphia Landbank. In addition to increasing the inventory of affordable housing, and lowering the barriers for people who are homeless and low income to access that housing, we provide people with the skills, resources, programs, and assistance that they need to thrive. Through our strong partnerships with service providers and eight local universities, SREHUP is able to provide mental health care, physical healthcare, financial literacy courses, GED training, job training and job acquisition assistance along with housing workshops.

I worked with a large coalition of partners to launch The Breaking Bread Village, the first affordable housing initiative in the Philadelphia region to house both formally homeless people and their pets, and work to get them back on their feet. SREHUP has forged partnerships with Anti-Poverty Tiny Home Villages around the world. Examples include Opportunity Village in Eugene, Oregon and Social Bite Tiny House Homeless Village in Edinburgh, Scotland, both of which my team and I have recently visited to learn best practices and complement our research efforts.

I also raise awareness of our current poverty crisis, and advocate for policy changes needed to create a more just and equitable community, one in which all people have access to the resources they need to thrive.

I have been fortunate to receive funding and support from a wide range of nonprofits, foundations, churches, and other mission-driven organizations. As part of our ongoing efforts to secure grants, we diligently document a constantly growing number of dynamic data points and our outcomes.

To complement our day-to-day efforts and big-picture goals, I also plan, facilitate, and present at numerous conferences, symposia, and events.

I work closely with our Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, and 300+ active volunteers to continually develop, adapt, and refine programming aimed at supporting the needs of people on the margins now - while pushing the needle forward to end homelessness, poverty, and inequality.

This is truly collaborative work. I have had support from all levels of the city, from elected officials, corporations, local schools and universities, pet shelters, service providers, other nonprofit agencies, and community stakeholders.

**Anti-Poverty Fellow, Professor of Poverty and Policy
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law**

March 2020-Present

Villanova's new Anti-Poverty Fellow leading the Initiative to End Poverty and Inequality at Villanova University. As Director of The Initiative to End Poverty and Inequality, I support programmatic initiatives to generate concrete ideas and policy solutions to address the problem of poverty.

The Initiative approach the causes and effects of poverty with an interdisciplinary, evidence-based approach that prioritizes efforts that will yield concrete results and maximum advancement toward eliminating poverty.

In the position, I engage in research and writing regarding strategies to eradicate poverty, plan and organize an annual symposium aimed at identifying the most promising approaches to eradicating poverty, teach courses in poverty law and policy and other poverty-related subject, which include an experiential and original research component so that students develop practical experience with anti-poverty initiatives.

I generate proposals to fund interdisciplinary empirical research that will support data-driven analysis of poverty-related public policy challenges. In addition, I collaborate across Villanova's six Schools and Colleges to identify solutions and recommendations that are informed by a multidisciplinary approach.

Teaching Experience:

Villanova University

2003 - Present

- Poverty and Policy, Full Time Law Faculty
- Themes in Modern World History
- Poverty and Homelessness in History
- History of Resistance Movements

Immaculata University

2003 - 2017

- History of American Civilization and Diversity, Graduate level
- Modern Civilization, ACCEL Program for adult learners

- Modern Civilization, Distance Learning Course

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

2014 & 2018

- The American Experience- US History 1 and US History 2
- Global Perspectives in World History

Delaware County Community College

Spring 2010 - Fall 2012

- African American History
- Middle Eastern History
- History of Israel/Palestine Conflict
- Western Civilization 1

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

Fall 2007

- Modern World Civilization
- Ancient World Civilization
- US History

Fellowships and Awards:

Villanova University 2010 Pohlhaus-Stracciolini Award for Teaching Excellence, for “demonstrating a commitment to the life of the mind and to the well-being of students through teaching that is intellectually stimulating, challenging, and accessible, with efforts extending beyond the classroom.”

University of Delaware, Hagley Fellowship, including full scholarship and research grants for work on the history of disability and technology. Responsibilities also consisted of teaching internships.

Villanova University Graduate Assistantship, including full scholarship. Responsibilities comprised teaching internship and research assistantship.

Dr. Robert E. Dreyer Scholarship, 2000 and 2001, For academic achievement. Presented by West Chester University History Department.

Michael Grey Award, 2000 and 2001, For academic achievement and commitment to humanitarian causes. Presented by West Chester University History Department.

CAS (College of Arts and Sciences) Research Award, 2001, For research conducted in Greece on the depiction of the female psyche in Greek art. Presented by West Chester University College of Arts and Sciences Committee.

Invited Talks:

- February 26, 2020, Center for Architecture, Philadelphia, PA, “The Tiny House: Solutions for Workforce and Affordable Housing and Beyond.”
- October 17, 2019, AIA, BREAKING GROUND! The 2019 AIA Tri-State Conference, Albany, New York, “The Tiny House: Solutions for Workforce and Affordable Housing and Beyond.”

- October 2, 2019, AIA Tristate Conference, Philadelphia PA, “The Tiny House: Solutions for Workforce and Affordable Housing and Beyond.”
- September 19, 2019, Philadelphia Ethical Society, Philadelphia, PA, “Engaging Youth to Hack the Problem of Homelessness.”
- May 15, 2019, TEDx Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, “Using the Power of Community to Hack the Problem of Homelessness.”
- May 9, 2019, Come Together, PHFA HOUSING FORUM, Harrisburg, PA, “Alternatives Approaches to Affordable Housing Development.”
- May 4, 2019, Bucks County Conference on Human Animal Bond PEACEABLE KINGDOM CONFERENCE. “SREHUP as a Model for Housing People Experiencing Homelessness Together with Their Pets.”
- October 23, 2015, TEDx, Villanova University, Villanova, PA, “Igniting the Social Justice Generation.”

Keynotes:

- (Upcoming) September 24, 2020, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Housing Symposium, Harrisburg, PA, “Barriers to Housing Access, And How to Overcome Them.”
- (Upcoming) May 13, 2020, Self-Determination Housing of Pennsylvania: Breaking Barriers: Accessible Housing Summit, Harrisburg, PA, “Barriers to Housing Access, And How to Overcome Them.”
- February 28, 2020, PHENND Conference: Housing, Penn State Brandywine “Scope and Causes of Housing Crisis, and What Universities can Do to Ameliorate Poverty.”
- Feb 6, 2019, Villanova University, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. “Thinking Constellationally: Causes of Homelessness, Obstacles Out of It, and How We Can All Make a Difference.”

Op-Eds and Web Publications:

- “This Student-Run Philadelphia Shelter Wants to Change Your Attitude About Homelessness. At this shelter, the lives of the people experiencing homelessness matter.” Feb 22, 2018.
https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/xw5544/this-student-run-philadelphia-shelter-wants-to-change-your-attitude-about-homelessness
- “Volunteers, Stop Saying You are a Family to the Abandoned Poor: It Devalues Families and Misses The Cause of Homelessness.” Jan 27, 2019, Medium <https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/volunteers-stop-saying-you-are-a-family-to-the-abandoned-poor-it-devalues-families-and-misses-8f3e07bfe7bf>
- “Why I Am Not Volunteering on MLK Day of Service” Jan 20, 2019.
<https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/why-i-am-not-volunteering-on-mlk-day-of-service-53ec1ce751fb>
- “The SREHUP Story: From Failure to Cozy Cottages: The Power of Community” Jan 4, 2019.
<https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/the-srehup-story-from-failure-to-cozy-cottages-3d08a85b203f>.
- “The SREHUP Story: From Failure to Cozy Cottages, Failure, Pets, and Cozy Cottages” : Jan 3, 2019.
<https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/the-srehup-story-from-failure-to-cozy-cottages-ac668d53ead1>.

- “The SREHUP Story: From Failure to Cozy Cottages: Lessons on Persistence and Success” Jan 3, 2019. <https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/the-srehup-story-from-failure-to-cozy-cottages-1e5e12c69b75>.
- “The SREHUP Story: From Failure to Cozy Cottages: A Brief History” Jan 3, 2019. <https://medium.com/@stephaniesena/the-srehup-story-from-failure-to-cozy-cottages-f6593093509c>

Radio Show and Podcast:

“Thinking Constellationally”

October 2019 - Present

Connecting the Dots between Systems of Inequity, and Between Ourselves and Our Neighbors. The show highlights root causes of poverty and homelessness, what we need to do to overcome it, how poverty is connected to other systems of inequity, and how we can connect with our neighbors to build a stronger safety net. The show also amplifies voices from our community experiencing poverty and homelessness, and voices of those on the front lines trying to fix the systems that produce it.

“Thinking Constellationally” is recorded once a week at USALA Media, and each episode airs four times a week, and is a podcast. USALA Media is an affiliate of WHYY, and airs in 82 countries.

I’ve interviewed experts on issues ranging from homelessness, genocide, the law and housing, the promise and specifics of Universal Basic Income, the need for skateboarding and skateparks to promote egalitarianism and cross-cultural pollination, the growth of political activism and the work of Reclaim Philadelphia, environmentalism and hope as a strategy in the fight against the climate crisis, the refugee crisis, fair funding for public schools, political activism in Delaware County, the closing of Hahnemann Hospital and the fight for access to healthcare, the fight against gun violence through play and education, and the strengthening of the safety net through after-school programming with the city’s most vulnerable youth and families.

<http://www.usalamedia.com/radio/shows/thinking-constellationally/>

Ongoing Research:

I am currently conducting research for scholarly journal publication on permanent supportive housing that evaluates the cost effectiveness and the evidence for improving outcomes for families experiencing homelessness. I am also conducting research on the costs and benefits of the housing choice voucher system. Both of these projects will yield scholarly publications in peer-reviewed academic journals such as *Housing Policy Debate*. And I have developed research on understanding the goals and evaluation metrics of service learning, which I aim to publish in *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* or *International Journal for Students as Partners*.

I am working with Dr. Joan Maya Mazelis, Associate Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University-Camden, on issues of urban poverty and social ties, using qualitative interview methods to explore when and why people in poverty turn to unknown service providers for assistance rather than to family members. This is a mixed methods research project exploring social ties among the poor, with a longitudinal component examining people’s transition out of homelessness.

Dr. Mazelis is Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, an affiliated scholar at Rutgers-Camden’s Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE), a Faculty Affiliate at the University of Wisconsin’s Institute for Research on Poverty, and co-leader of the New

Jersey/Philadelphia chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, an organization of scholars that connect their research to legislatures, civic organizations, and the media. Dr. Mazelis is the author of *Surviving Poverty: Creating Sustainable Ties among the Poor* (NYU Press 2017) about poverty in Philadelphia, as well as scholarly journal articles and book chapters. Dr. Mazelis and I will build on data we already have and we anticipate additional data collection for our project will begin in the coming months and will yield publication of a book as well as articles in interdisciplinary scholarly journals such as *Urban Studies* and *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Community Involvement:

Volunteer, Families Forward	2017 - 2018
Board Member, Playgrounds for Palestine	2013 - 2016
Faculty Advisor, Back on My Feet at Villanova University	2013 - 2014

References:

Governor Ed Rendell, email: egr@edwardrendell.com, phone: 215-421-2001

Philadelphia Councilman Mark Squilla, email: mark.squilla@phila.gov, phone: 215-686-3458

Sister Mary Scullion, Founder and Executive Director of Project Home, email: maryscullion@projecthome.org

Dr. Kathryn GetekSoltis, Ph.D. Chair of Center for Peace and Justice, Villanova University, email: Kathryn.geteksoltis@villanova.edu, phone: 610-519-4498

Dr. Joseph Betz, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Villanova University, email: joseph.betz@villanova.edu, phone: 610-525-4499

Dr. Helen K. Lafferty, Ph.D., College Professor, Department of Education and Counseling, Villanova University, email: helen.lafferty@villanova.edu, phone, 610-519-4697

Dr. Kate Szumanski, Ph.D., Director of Professional Development and Internships, Villanova University, email: phone: 610-519-3942, phone: 215-514-4232