

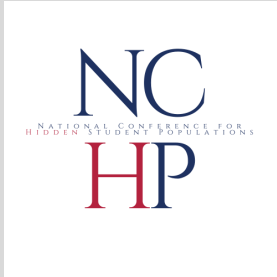
# The Scholar-Practitioner

August 2023

A publication of R is for Thursday

Editor: Liz Neria-Piña

Oklahoma State University



## National Conference for Hidden Student Populations

nchp@okstate.edu

<https://nchp.okstate.edu>

### Current Hidden College Student Populations

May include those who have foster care histories, justice-involved experiences, who are survivors of sexual violence or sex workers, recovering substances addicts, who face housing insecurity, or who are considered Third Culture Kids/Individuals

### NCHP Conference Fellows

Dr. Jennifer Geiger,  
University of Illinois, Chicago

Dr. Royel Johnson,  
University of Southern California

Dr. Kerri Kearney,  
Oklahoma State University

Dr. Megan Piel,  
University of Texas, San Antonio

Dr. Lori Tiller,  
University of Georgia

Dr. Lisa Will,  
Oklahoma State University



**The Scholar-Practitioner** is a monthly publication of research summaries that target the research-to-practice gap for U.S. scholar and practitioner advocates for hidden college student populations.

This publication reinforces the work of the **National Conference for Hidden Student Populations (NCHP)** by providing a space to share research applications for practice. NCHP was the first research conference dedicated to this multidisciplinary area of study. **The NCHP 4th conference will be held February 28 - March 1, 2024, at University of Texas—San Antonio.**

## Some Type of Way: Aging out of Foster Care

Schelbe, L. (2023). *Some type of way: Aging out of foster care*. Oxford University Press.

How do young people negotiate the transitions out of foster care and into adulthood? This is the question that *Some Type of Way: Aging out of Foster Care* seeks to address. Featuring five youth—Plato, Solana, Titi, Matty, and Jaden—and including examples from many others, the book explores the complex and complicated challenges youth face as well as their creative survival strategies and resilience. The book includes descriptions of service providers' efforts to assist youth aging out and shares service providers' insights. It highlights the limitations of the foster care system and the service delivery system for youth aging out. *Some Type of Way* details systematic barriers in society that create obstacles as youth leave care.

*Some Type of Way* is an ethnography of youth transitioning out of foster care and into adulthood. Based on over 90 interviews and almost 1,000 hours of observation of youth aging out and service providers in a mid-Atlantic county in the United States, the book presents real stories along with relevant research and theories to help understand how youth transition out of foster care and into adulthood. The book extends the understanding of how youth negotiate the transition out of foster care and into adulthood by integrating the stories of youth with research and theory.

The opening chapter shares the circumstances that lead to Plato, Solana, Titi, Matty, and Jaden entering foster care and their experiences while in care. In later chapters, the readers learn about the youths' lives as they leave care. Providing a holistic view of their lives, the book includes information about how they fare in various life domains such as housing, employment, education, health, and mental health. All of the youth have grit and experience successes; however, none of them escape facing hardships. The book examines

the creative ways these youth overcome the challenges they encounter. *Some Type of Way* contributes to knowledge in identifying the complex reciprocal interactions among the domains where youth aging out often experience hardships and acknowledging their survival strategies and the fluidity of their success.

The book includes information about service providers' efforts and the service delivery system. The book includes service providers' insights and observations of difficulties in helping youth age out of care. The time-demanding nature of the work, limited resources, and the complex challenges that service providers seek to address contribute to not always adequately serving youth. The book offers a critical examination of a system that did not adequately prepare them for life on their own.

*Some Type of Way* is firmly grounded in theory. Specifically, the book integrates a capital development framework, emerging adulthood theory, and life course perspective. It also synthesizes literature related to youth aging out

and the child welfare system, including information on trauma, poverty, and racism. Throughout the book presents details about relevant policies and critically examines service provision to youth aging out. A central theme of the book is the need to address the macro forces contributing to the hardships youth face as they leave care and for youth-driven services. The final chapter is a call to action that details concrete recommendations for policy and practice. The book concludes with a plea to listen to the youth.

Dr. Mark Courtney, at the University of Chicago and UC Berkley, endorsed the book with the following: "Lisa Schelbe's *Some Type of Way: Aging Out of Foster Care* provides a timely look at the situation facing youth as they transition to adulthood from a troubled social service system during a particularly challenging time in our nation's history. Schelbe's book provides the reader with a firm grounding in child welfare services policy, the structure and operation of the programs designed to help youth in care successfully navigate the transition to adulthood,

and takeaways from research on this population. Sharing insights gained from her impressive in-depth qualitative study of youth aging out of care and the adults charged with helping them, *Some Type of Way* tells a complex and engaging story of the lives of these young people and the successes and failures of society's efforts to do right by them as they become young adults. This is a must-read book for policymakers, professionals, researchers, and members of the public who wish to improve the lives of youth aging out of foster care."

## NCHP

**Save the date! Feb 28—March 1, 2024**

Call for Proposal **NOW OPEN!**

**Team Leader** - Become a team leader of a multidisciplinary research team. September 1, 2023, Deadline (notifications by September 15)

**Research Team Member** - Become a new multidisciplinary research team member. October 13, 2023, Deadline (notifications by October 31)

**Traditional Research Presenter** - Present an original empirical work. October 31, 2023, Deadline (notifications by November 10)

**Arts-Based Research Presenter** - Present an arts-based work. October 31, 2023, Deadline (notifications by November 10)

For more information, go to:

**<https://nchp.okstate.edu>**

**To sign up for ongoing email updates about the 2024 national conference and/or for archives of *The Scholar-Practitioner*, go to: <https://risforThursday.okstate.edu>**



# Some Type of Way

## Aging out of Foster Care



### SOME TYPE OF WAY

*Aging out of Foster Care*

LISA SCHELBE

*Some Type of Way: Aging out of Foster Care* seeks to address the following questions currently relevant to practitioners, policymakers, and researchers: What are the realities of the lives of youth aging out? Why are they struggling? What are agencies and service providers doing to help them? What should be done to help these youth negotiate the transitions out of care and into adulthood? Based on over 90 interviews and almost 1,000 hours of observation of youth aging out and service providers in a mid-Atlantic county in the United States, the book presents real stories along with relevant research and theories to help understand how youth transition out of foster care and into adulthood.

Featuring five youth--Plato, Solana, Titi, Matty, and Jaden--and including poignant examples from many others--the book explores the complex and complicated challenges youth face as well as their creative survival strategies and resilience. The book includes descriptions of service providers' efforts to assist youth aging out and shares service providers' insights. It highlights the limitations of the foster care system and the service delivery system for youth aging out.

**Lisa Schelbe**, Associate Professor,  
Florida State University College of Social Work



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