



Brett Drake, Ph.D.

Dr. Drake is Professor of Data Science for the Social Good in Practice at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. His substantive area is child maltreatment and public child welfare systems, with an emphasis on early system contacts, including reporting and substantiation. He formulated the popular “Harm / Evidence” model of substantiation and has a particular interest in poverty and its strong association with child maltreatment. Dr. Drake’s work features the incorporation of geographic variables (e.g. neighborhood poverty) into child maltreatment research, and explores a range of policy issues, such as mandated reporting, and questions of class and racial bias in child welfare reporting. He is co-author, along with his wife, Melissa Jonson-Reid of “After the Cradle Falls” a text on child maltreatment (Oxford Press) aimed at a general audience. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Drake had several years of field experience as a child protective services worker.