

Jessica A. Wojtalik, PhD

Biosketch

Dr. Wojtalik's research interests surround advancing the evidence-base of psychosocial interventions that target community functioning for people experiencing schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses (SMIs). Dr. Wojtalik's goal is to increase access to anti-stigmatizing, strengths-based, and recovery-oriented SMI interventions in communities. Her research challenges deficit-based narratives of SMI, promoting hope and acknowledging the meaningful contributions to society and our greater good that people with SMI make every day.

Dr. Wojtalik has a particular interest in cognitive remediation interventions for people with early course schizophrenia. She has over a decade of experience researching and providing Cognitive Enhancement Therapy (CET), a social work-developed cognitive remediation intervention, for people with schizophrenia and Autism. Beyond cognitive remediation, Dr. Wojtalik has recently started research projects to expand the evidence-base of the Clubhouse Model of psychosocial rehabilitation for individuals with SMI. Much of Dr. Wojtalik's research in these areas is informed by the integration of social work research and cognitive neuroscience. She considers such an integration a novel direction to advance direct mental health practice for people experiencing SMI conditions with a strong neurobiological basis, such as schizophrenia.