

## PRESENTATIONS

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### JULIA SHU-HUAH WANG

Columbia University School of Social Work

“Health Effects of Local Immigration Enforcement on Mexican Immigrants in the US”

### AMANDA VILASECA

Lehman College-CUNY, Department of Social Work

“Social Work Practice in Addressing the Medical Needs of the Intellectually Disabled Population and Their Families”

### KIMBERLY LIVINGSTONE

PhD Program in Social Welfare, The Graduate Center of CUNY

“Moving on from permanent supportive housing: Facilitating factors and barriers among people with histories of homelessness”

### LISA A. HENSHAW

Adelphi University School of Social Work

“Active Service Members in the Military and Posttraumatic Stress: A Systematic Review”

### MEGHAN ROMANELLI

New York University, Silver School of Social Work

“Suicide attempts as a consequence of health and mental health system exclusion and discrimination among US transgender adults”

### AKANSKHA ANAND

Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

“Can Time Management Reduce Work-life Conflict? Testing Organizational Support’s Direct and Interactive Effects Using a Sample of nonprofit Human Service Employees”

### ALINA KHEYSON

Touro College Graduate School of Social Work

“Transgenerational Trauma Theories of Transmission”

### SARI SKOLNIK

Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University

“Coming Together: A Study of Factors that Influence Social Workers’ Connection to Group Work Practice”

## ABSTRACTS

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JULIA SHU-HUAH WANG

Columbia University School of Social Work

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### “HEALTH EFFECTS OF LOCAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE US”

I study the effect of local immigration enforcement that has escalated fear and risk of deportation among the undocumented on the health and mental health outcomes of Mexican immigrants living in the United States. In 1996, the US government passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA). Section 287(g) of IIRIRA grants state and local jurisdictions the choice to enter into agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The number of localities pursuing 287(g) agreements has increased from two in 2002 to 76 in 2009 across 26 states. As a result, tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants are removed annually from prison or during policing operations.

I use the restricted-use National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data (2000–2012) and link county-level 287(g) policy variables to study the effect of local immigration enforcement on the health and mental health outcomes of Mexican immigrants. The analytic sample is restricted to adults aged 18–60 born in Mexico living in households with at least one noncitizen family member. I found some evidence of 287(g) having negative impacts on mental health of Mexican immigrants.

There is little national-level scientific research on how immigration policy environment affects immigrant health, in general, and how state- and local-activism on immigration enforcement has influenced the health behaviors, health and mental health of immigrant families. This research bridges this critical knowledge gap and offers evidence to assess the full range of costs and benefits of immigration enforcement policies.

AMANDA VILASECA

Lehman College-CUNY, Department of Social Work

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## **“SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN ADDRESSING THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED POPULATION AND THEIR FAMILIES”**

This presentation will discuss the use of social work practice with the intellectually disabled (ID) population in regard to addressing medical and psychiatric needs and treatment. The presenter will address some of the medical and intellectual challenges a person with an ID may face and knowledge that social workers and other health care professionals need in order to be adequately informed to address needs of people with ID. A case example will illustrate some of the challenges in service provision, as well as explain how knowledgeable medical professionals and proper social work practice could have prevented misdiagnosis and overmedication of a patient with ID.

Social workers and other health care professionals have a difficult time providing services to people with ID due to lack of curriculum content and specialized training for work with this population. The presentation will address the importance of knowledge about the patient’s culture, including cultural attitudes about intellectual deficits, family roles, and professional services, as well as the need for professionals to educate themselves about the particular population and diagnosis.

Adults with ID frequently experience depression. However, this may not be diagnosed because the person with ID is unable to articulate the symptoms.

Relatives play an important role in addressing medical and psychiatric treatment of the patient. If medical professionals, including the social worker, do not possess adequate cultural knowledge and social work skills to understand and engage with the patient and family, information shared with professionals by family becomes limited and guarded.

KIMBERLY LIVINGSTONE

PhD Program in Social Welfare, The Graduate Center of CUNY

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## “MOVING ON FROM PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: FACILITATING FACTORS AND BARRIERS AMONG PEOPLE WITH HISTORIES OF HOMELESSNESS”

Kimberly R. Livingstone, LMSW

PhD candidate in Social Welfare, Graduate Center, CUNY

Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

Daniel B. Herman, Ph.D., MSW

Professor

Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

**Background and Purpose:** Supportive housing has been recognized as a critical ingredient in addressing the problem of homelessness among persons with psychiatric disabilities. However, factors such as the high demand for such housing, limited supply, and wide-acceptance of recovery oriented services have led to pilot initiatives to help residents move on from supportive housing. This study explored factors that promote and impede formerly homeless permanent supportive housing tenants from moving into more independent community housing.

**Method:** Data were collected using individual interviews from a sample of 21 participants including 10 current and 11 former residents of permanent supportive housing sites operated by an agency in New York City. Interviews were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis.

**Result:** Facilitators included alumni events and counseling provided by supportive housing personnel, staying focused on set goals, viewing supportive housing as a steppingstone, and a willingness to fight for what they hope to accomplish. Barriers included lack of affordability and rental assistance; fear of becoming homeless again; unacceptability of available housing; and limited help facilitating the transition.

**Conclusion:** Based on the identified barriers and facilitating factors, a range of policy and program recommendations is offered. These include: development of formalized service approaches to help residents make effective transitions out of supportive housing; growth of locally funded rental vouchers; promoting an organizational commitment to a moving on philosophy; expanded use of mutual aid and alumni supports; and the development of collaborative relationships to help identify suitable housing options.

LISA A. HENSHAW

Adelphi University School of Social Work

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## “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY AND POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW”

This systematic review of the literature evaluates the effectiveness of interventions being utilized to treat posttraumatic stress reactions onsite with active service members in the military. Approximately 2.2 million troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, which rates of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and acute stress were reported at 15% among active and National Guard brigade military combat teams. While standards for assessing and improving the quality of life and health among active service members exist, significant challenges including attrition, recruitment difficulties, negative stigma and limited screening methods remain prevalent. This systematic review contributes to the literature by exploring two questions for research: (1) what interventions exist for the treatment of active service members experiencing posttraumatic stress reactions? (2) to what extent are the onsite interventions offered effective?

After approximately 350 studies were reviewed, nine studies met the criteria for inclusion. PRISMA guidelines were followed to methodically report searched databases, inclusion criteria and specificity of search terms. Study designs included case studies, randomized control studies, quasi-experimental, retrospective and exploratory study designs. Sample size varied from 1-129 and all studies demonstrated reduction in symptoms of posttraumatic stress. Core themes included the use of brief treatment interventions, moderate-high rates of attrition and pilot studies. Further research is needed to determine the reliability of findings across larger sample sizes, validate whether patient gains can be sustained after longer-term follow up and explore implementation strategies that will successfully break down the barriers of service utilization and attrition for active service members.

MEGHAN ROMANELLI

New York University, Silver School of Social Work

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Quantitative Methods: Mental Health Disparities and Services Research

**“SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION AMONG US TRANSGENDER ADULTS”**

Meghan Romanelli, LCSW

New York University

Wenhua Lu, PhD, MS, MA

New York University

Michael A. Lindsey, PhD, MSW, MPH

New York University

*Purpose:* Transgender people are at heightened risk for suicide. The National Institute of Health identifies reducing transgender health disparities, including suicide, as a public health priority. This group, however, faces barriers to care that stem from the health/mental health (MH) system and may increase their involvement in suicidal behaviors. This study examines the relationship between formal help-system exclusion/discrimination and suicide attempts among transgender people. Postponed care, network support, and level of outness are conceptualized as mediators of this relationship.

*Method:* The analysis included 4,143 respondents from the U.S. National Transgender Discrimination Survey, a convenience sample of transgender adults purposively sampled in 2008. Measures included composite scores for denial of health/MH services, discrimination while receiving health/MH services, postponed care, outness level, and network support. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to test hypothesized relationships.

*Results:* The model displayed good fit indices (CFI=0.995; WRMR=0.626; RMSEA=0.019). Transgender participants who reported higher levels of exclusion ( $\beta=0.106$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), discrimination ( $\beta=0.157$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), postponed care ( $\beta=0.056$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), and outness ( $\beta=0.008$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) had higher odds of a suicide attempt. Network support had a significant protective effect on suicide attempts; those reporting high levels of support had lower odds of a suicide attempt ( $\beta=-0.126$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). The data supported postponed care and network support as partial mediators of the relationship between exclusion/discrimination and suicide attempts.

*Conclusion:* There is a need to improve interactions within formal help-systems for transgender people seeking care. Results support the need for interventions targeting postponed care and enhanced network support to mitigate suicide risk.

AKANSKHA ANAND

Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

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## “CAN TIME MANAGEMENT REDUCE WORK–LIFE CONFLICT?: TESTING ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT’S DIRECT AND INTERACTIVE EFFECTS USING A SAMPLE OF NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICE EMPLOYEES”

Meta analytic studies show that work life conflict has a negative impact on employee health and well-being. Accordingly, occupational health scholars have investigated individual level interventions (e.g., self-care) that ameliorate the construct’s detrimental effects. One intervention that has received little attention in the social work literature is time management. Conservation of resources theory states that employees who effectively regulate personal resources (i.e., time) should experience positive outcomes. Although supportive work environments have been found to moderate time management’s impact on work life conflict, no empirical studies have examined organizational support’s influence on the time management–work life conflict association.

To address this research gap the present study surveyed 253 nonprofit human service employees located in New York City (53% response rate). Cronbach’s alphas for the study’s measures ranged from .64 to .87. All survey items loaded heavily onto their respective factors above .41. Discriminant validity was established using maximum likelihood estimation with varimax rotation and no item cross loaded onto another factor above .27. Non-significant main effects were noted for time management ( $\beta = -.10, n.s$ ) and organizational support ( $\beta = -.02, n.s$ ). However, a significant negative time management x organizational support interaction ( $\beta = -.17, p < .05$ ) was observed. Research findings contribute to the social work literature by being the first known empirical work showing that organizational support moderates the relationship between time management and work life conflict. In order to reduce work life conflict, nonprofit human service agencies should institute organizational policies that facilitate effective time management practices.

ALINA KHEYSON

Touro College Graduate School of Social Work

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## “TRANSGENERATIONAL TRAUMA THEORIES OF TRANSMISSION”

Working with the Holocaust Survivor's, family interaction is commonly present in clinical practice. The transmission of trauma can be traced through Holocaust survivor's relations with their family members and family dynamics. Parental transmission of trauma in the Holocaust Survivor population has been discussed in the literature. Theories of transmission suggest two distinct forms “direct and specific” and “indirect and general”. Direct transmission of trauma has been observed in offspring born between 1945 and 1955, particularly among only child born to Holocaust survivors, replacement children, and children who's parents were severely traumatized in displacement or hiding. Studies reveal that transgenerational trauma has been seen in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation offspring. This presentation will explore trauma transmission through multiple theoretical lens (1) psychodynamic theory- emotions that could not be consciously experienced by the first generation are given over to the second generation, (2) sociocultural – passing down of social norms and beliefs from one generation to generation is well described in social psychology, (3) family systems- unconscious and conscious transmission of parental traumatization always takes place in a certain family environment, which is assumed to effect a major impact on the children, and (4) biological theory – perspective that genes transmit constitutional elements from parent to child and mental illness seems to have a clear hereditary etiology. The mitigating and aggravating factors of psychopathology are examined along with possible interventions that can be implemented by social workers.



SARI SKOLNIK

Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University

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Category of Research: Education, Practice

### **“COMING TOGETHER: A STUDY OF FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SOCIAL WORKERS’ CONNECTION TO GROUP WORK PRACTICE”**

The purpose of this study was to learn the factors that impact a social workers’ connection to group work practice and the extent to which their work conforms with the group work model as explicated in the *Standards* created by the International Association of Social Work with Groups, the group work organization. The goal of this research was to provide empirical data and related insights that will enhance the preparation of social workers for current social work group work practice.

This research is a mixed-method study completed electronically using a survey research design. The study utilized a survey instrument that measures how practitioners see their work as matching the inventory of competency standards, *Standards*, developed by Sweifach and LaPorte (2013).

A great amount of valuable information emerged from the participants’ responses. The majority of the subjects were exposed to group work in both their classroom environments and field experiences which may have played a significant role in their pursuit of group work. The subjects highlighted that having field instructors and classroom teachers who were knowledgeable about group work practice supported their learning. Furthermore, this study found that having an opportunity to independently facilitate a group was most helpful in learning group work. The study also identified factors that impact group work practice in contemporary agency settings such as agency function and field of practice.

