

CURRICULUM VITAE

DENNIS T. KAO

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EDUCATION

Doctoral Candidate, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (expected May 2010)

Dissertation: “State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies and the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services”

Committee: Bruce Jansson (chair), Iris Chi, John Bola, Dowell Myers (School of Policy, Planning, & Development)

Master’s of Social Welfare, University of California at Los Angeles, School of Public Policy & Social Research, Department of Social Welfare (1997)

Bachelor of Art, University of California at Berkeley, College of Letter & Sciences, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology (1993)

ADVANCED TRAINING

Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems, University of Southern California Department of Geography (2009)

RAND Summer Institute: Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 6-7, 2009) and Demography, Economics, and Epidemiology of Aging conference (July 8-9, 2009)

Advanced Training Workshop on Structural Equation Modeling in Longitudinal Research, Longitudinal Research Institute (June 12-16, 2006; June 18-22, 2007)

GIS and Population Science Workshop, University of California at Santa Barbara, Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (July 10-22, 2006)

Applied Longitudinal Analysis, Southern California American Statistical Association 25th Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics (March 24, 2006)

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Immigration; health/health care disparities; Asian & Pacific Islander American communities; older adults; policy analysis; secondary data analysis; Geographic Information Systems and spatial analysis

TEACHING INTERESTS

Social and health policy; immigration; macro social work practice; quantitative research methods

HONORS/AWARDS

- 2009-11 Hartford Doctoral Fellow, Geriatric Social Work Initiative
- 2008- Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
- 2008 Student Best Paper Award, Medical Care Section, American Public Health Association
- 2006 Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award, Geriatric Social Work Initiative
- 2005 Urban/Global Leadership Fellow, Urban Initiative, University of Southern California
- 2004 Community Volunteer Recognition Award, Asian American Drug Abuse Program Inc.
- 1998 Fellow, Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2009-10 **Hartford Doctoral Fellowship Program**, Geriatric Social Work Initiative
“State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies and the Effects on Access to Health Services among Older Immigrant Populations.” (Principal Investigator; \$35,000)
- 2009-10 **Health Services Research Dissertation Grant (R36)**, Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality.
“State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies and the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services.” (R36 HS18082; Principal Investigator; \$29,732)
- 2009 **Robert L. Schneider Influencing State Policy Dissertation Award**.
“State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies & the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services.” (Principal Investigator; \$2000)

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Kao, D.** (2009). Generational cohorts, age of arrival, and access to health services among Asian and Latino immigrant adults. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 20(2), 395-414.
- Kao, D.**, Park J., Min S., and Myers, D. (In press). Occupational status and health insurance among immigrants: Effects by generation, length of residence in US, and race. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.
- Park, J., Myers, D., **Kao, D.**, and Min, S. (In press). Immigrant obesity and unhealthy assimilation: Alternative estimates of convergence or divergence, 1995-2005. *Social Science & Medicine*.
- Kao, D.** (In press). Factors associated with ethnic differences in health insurance coverage and type among Asian Americans. *Journal of Community Health*.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Kim, H., Ji, J. & **Kao, D.** (Resubmission under review). Burnout and physical health among social workers: A three-year longitudinal study. *Social Work*.
- Kao, D.**, Geronimo, V., and Wang, K. (Under review). Asian American families in the aftermath of welfare reform: Findings from community-based studies with service providers and welfare participants in Los Angeles County. *Journal of Community Practice*.
- Tang, K. & **Kao, D.** (Under review). Ethnicity, gender, and the education of Cambodian American students in a U.S. urban high school. *Urban Education*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Kao, D.**, Kim, H., Ji, J. & Hansen, M. (In progress). Effects of Health Service Use and Insurance Coverage on the Self-Rated Health Trajectories of the U.S. Adult Population, 1986 to 2002
- Jansson, B., **Kao, D.**, & Paek, J. (In progress). An advocacy practice framework for health settings linking case and policy advocacy.
- Paek, J., Jansson, B., & **Kao, D.** (In progress). Social workers and case advocacy in healthcare: Recommendations for research and practice.
- Bola, J., Soydan, H., & **Kao, D.** (In progress). Antipsychotic medication for early episode schizophrenia (systematic review & meta-analysis). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*.
- Bola, J.R., Schooler, N. & **Kao, D.** (In progress). Rescue medications for the prevention of psychotic relapse in remitted schizophrenia.

BOOK CHAPTERS/SECTIONS

- Jansson, B. & **Kao, D.** (Forthcoming). Using advocacy to promote culturally competent services (Chapter 7). In B. Jansson, *Advocacy for Better Health Care: Linking Evidence-based Medicine with Case and Policy Advocacy*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- Jansson, B. & **Kao, D.** (2008). Expanding policy advocacy across national borders. In B. Jansson, *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice* (5th ed., pp. 156-182). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.
- Kao, D.** (2008). Serving as an intermediary between immigrant communities and Sacramento: Lessons learned (Policy Advocacy Challenge 5.5). In B. Jansson, *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice* (5th ed., pp. 175-176). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

REPORTS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Kao, D.** (October 2008). *Residential patterns of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Los Angeles County's San Gabriel Valley, 1990 and 2000*. Report prepared for New American Dimensions, Los Angeles.
- Kao, D.** (March 2008). *Geography of Asian Americans and insurance companies in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County, Orange County, and New York City*. Report prepared for New American Dimensions, Los Angeles.
- Ichinose, D. & **Kao, D.** (June 2006). *Asian Americans at the ballot box – The 2004 general election: Growing voter participation in Southern California* (Demographic Research Project report). Los Angeles: Asian Pacific American Legal Center.
- Kao, D.** (September 2005). *Results from the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Hospital staff survey on language access*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Language Access Collaborative.

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED

- Jansson, B., **Kao, D.**, & Paek, J. (November 2009). An advocacy practice framework for health settings linking case and policy advocacy. Paper to be presented at the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- Paek, J., Jansson, B., & **Kao, D.** (November 2009). Social workers and case advocacy in healthcare: Recommendations for research and practice. Poster to be presented at the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- Tang, K. & **Kao, D.** (May 2009). Gender, ethnicity, and the education of Cambodian American students in an U.S. urban high school: Perspectives from administrators, teachers, and students. Paper presented at the Athens Institute of Education & Research International Conference on Education, Athens, Greece.
- Kao, D.**, Kim, H., Ji, J. & Hansen, M. (October 2008). Effects of health services use and access on the trajectories of self-reported health status and physical functioning. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Kao, D.**, Kim, H., Ji, J. & Hansen, M. (January 2008). Effects of health services use on the trajectories of self-reported health status and physical functioning. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Kao, D.** (January 2008). The effects of limited English proficiency on health insurance coverage among non-elderly adults in California. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Hansen, M., Kim, H., **Kao, D.** & Ji, J. (November 2007). Understanding pathways to care: A longitudinal analysis of depression and health service use among adults. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Mandayam, G. & **Kao, D.** (October 2007). Geographic Information Systems and its potential applications for social work. Workshop conducted at the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Bola, J.R., Schooler, N. & **Kao, D.** (September 2007). Rescue medications for the prevention of psychotic relapse in remitted schizophrenia. Poster presented at the World Psychiatric Association Conference, Shanghai, China.
- Kao, D.** (January 2007). Using geographic information systems to examine health access for immigrant communities in Los Angeles County. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 2007 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Kao, D.** (December 2006). Exploring health access for urban minority communities: A geographic information systems analysis. Poster presented at the International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, Hong Kong, China.
- Kao, D.** (November 2006). Assessing the factors contributing to differences in health insurance coverage across Asian American ethnic groups. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Kao, D.** (July 2006). Emergency departments, closures, and immigrant communities: A spatial perspective. Paper presented at the University of California Santa Barbara GIS and Population Science Conference on Spatial Demography, Santa Barbara, CA.
- Kao, D.** (February 2006). Health insurance, access, and utilization among Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrants. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Kao, D. (September 2005). Policy implications of growing immigrant settler populations in Japan and South Korea. Paper presented at the Asian Pacific Social Work Conference, Seoul, South Korea.

INVITED

Kao, D. (March 2007). Welfare & health issues affecting Asian immigrants. Panelist at colloquium “Challenges, Disruptions and Resilience in the Lives of Immigrant Families,” University of Southern California, School of Social Work.

Kao, D. (March 2003). Social services affecting Asian Pacific American families. Panelist at National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law & Public Policy, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Kao, D., Romero, M., & Huang, V. (September 2001). Ensuring culturally and linguistically appropriate services in health care. Workshop conducted at the California Healthcare Interpreting Association Annual Conference, Fresno, CA.

Kao, D. & Trinh, S. (April 2001). Civil rights & language access: Consumer rights to linguistically appropriate services. Presented at Asian & Pacific Islander Health Forum Conference “Voices from the Community: Building Community Readiness to Improve Asian American & Pacific Islander Health”, Redwood City, CA.

Kao, D. (November 1997). Welfare reform, immigration and racism. Presented at the National Museum of American History’s traveling exhibition “A Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution,” University of California at Los Angeles.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2008- **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work
Project: “Advocacy for Better Health Care: Linked Evidence-Based Medicine & Ethics with Case & Policy Advocacy” (with Bruce Jansson; book contract with John Wiley & Sons)
Major responsibilities: Co-authoring two chapters for forthcoming book, the first on cultural competency and the second on the financing of health services.
- 2006- **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work
Projects: “Toward Individualized Care of Schizophrenia—Moderators to Identify Responsive Subgroups” (with John Bola; funded by the National Institute of Mental Health); and “Antipsychotic medication for early episode schizophrenia” (meta-analysis with John Bola and Haluk Soydan; protocol approved by The Cochrane Collaboration).
Major responsibilities: Managing and conducting statistical analysis of longitudinal data (regression and survival analysis). Reviewing 600 articles for possible inclusion in meta-analysis and inputting data into RevMan software. Coauthoring papers based on key findings (i.e. writing methods and results sections). Prepared poster for conference presentation. Assisted in preparing NIMH grant proposal.
- 2006-08 **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Policy Planning & Development
Project: “Variable tempo of dimensions of immigrant assimilation” (with Dowell Myers; funded by the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development)
Major responsibilities: Coauthored two papers on immigrant assimilation and health. Prepared manuscripts for publication and conference presentations. Conducted literature reviews. Conducted statistical analysis of large health surveys (e.g. National Health Interview Survey, Current Population Survey, and California Health Interview Survey). Assisted in study conception.

- 2004-06 **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work
Project: “Historical and policy development of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services: 1960 to present” (with Bruce Jansson)
Major responsibilities: Conducted literature reviews regarding the implementation of cultural and linguistic competent health services and the history of advocacy with LA County’s health system. Assisted in instrument development. Conducted face-to-face interviews with administrators and staff of local hospitals and organizations. Assisted in preparing research proposals.
- 2005 **Research Consultant**, Los Angeles Language Access Collaborative, Los Angeles, CA
Project: “Assessing the Implementation of Cultural & Linguistic Competency Standards at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center” (funded by the California Endowment)
Major responsibilities: Coded, managed, and conducted analyses of data examining implementation of health care interpretation in a hospital setting (using SPSS). Provided analysis and consultation for final report “Assessing the Implementation of Cultural & Linguistic Competency Standards at the Los Angeles County/ University of Southern California Medical Center” (released November 4, 2005).
- 2005 **Demographic Research Intern**, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA.
Project: “Asian Americans at the Ballot Box – The 2004 General Election: Growing Voter Participation in Southern California” (funded by the Chung Ying Tang Foundation)
Major responsibilities: Conducted analysis for APALC’s Demographic Research Project. Co-authored report on voter registration, turnout, and behaviors among Southern California Asian American voters during the 2004 President election. Managed and analyzed data on registered voters in Los Angeles and Orange County and voter exit poll data.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES

Co-instructor, University of Southern California, School of Social Work

Fall 2009: Health Care Policy

Spring 2009: Program Planning & Evaluation in Health Care

Fall 2008: Health Care Policy

Lecturer, University of Southern California, School of Social Work

Spring 2007: Multiple Regression for Social Work Research (lab section)

Fall 2006: Introduction to Social Work Statistics (lab section)

Teaching Assistant, University of Southern California, School of Social Work

Spring 2008: Health Care Policy

FIELD INSTRUCTION

Field Instructor, University of California Los Angeles, Department of Social Welfare. Supervised MSW students placed at Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Health Access (1998-2004)

GUEST LECTURES

“Using data for policy, planning, advocacy, & community building.” Evaluation Research course, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (September 11, 2008).

“Advocating for social welfare policies affecting immigrant populations.” Social Policy course, California State University Dominguez Hills, Dept. of Social Work (February 20, 2007).

- “Policies regarding cultural competent health services.” Health Policy course, University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Los Angeles, CA (April 6, 2006).
- “Developing goals and objectives.” Program Development & Grant Writing course, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (February 21, 2006) .
- “Welfare reform: Then and now.” Policy & Practice in Social Service Organizations course, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (November 16, 2005).
- “Asian American neighborhoods.” Community Immersion course, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (August 17, 2005).
- “Social work, policy, and Asians & Pacific Islanders.” Introduction to Social Work course, California State University at Northridge, Department of Sociology (March 3, 2003).
- “Welfare reform and immigrants.” Social Problems course. University of California at Riverside, Department of Sociology (November 12, 2002).
- “Asian & Pacific Islander communities and welfare reform.” Asian Americans & Public Health course, University of California at Irvine, Department of Social Sciences (October 17, 2002).

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2001-04 **Project Director**, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA.
Major responsibilities: Directed APALC’s Immigrant Welfare Project. Conducted policy advocacy and analysis on state and local welfare and health issues affecting the Asian & Pacific Islander American community. Worked with legislators and government officials. Provided trainings to service providers regarding welfare reform and health-related issues. Wrote foundation and government grant proposals and prepared grant reports. Supervised staff and interns/volunteers.
- 1997-01 **Policy Coordinator**, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA.
Major responsibilities: Conducted policy advocacy and analysis on welfare reform and health issues affecting the API community. Worked with state legislators and government officials on the implementation of welfare and health policies and programs. Coordinated involvement of local service providers and community members in local, state, and federal advocacy efforts. Provided trainings to service providers regarding welfare reform and health-related issues.
- 1996-97 **Social Work Intern**, Liberty Hill Foundation, Santa Monica, CA.
Major responsibilities: Coordinated the 1996-97 Environmental Justice & Sustainable Economy funding cycle. Conducted outreach and provided application assistance to potential grantees. Developed and wrote grant proposals.
- 1997 **Organizing Intern**, Human Service Network, Los Angeles, CA.
Major responsibilities: Conducted outreach and trainings regarding welfare reform to community organizations and services agencies in Los Angeles County. Prepared policy briefs on welfare reform-related issues. Organized and facilitated coalition meetings.
- 1996 **Organizer**, Los Angeles Living Wage Coalition, Los Angeles, CA.
Major responsibilities: Organized and engaged leaders and staff of faith-based institutions and community organizations in Los Angeles Living Wage Campaign. Wrote foundation grant proposals.
- 1995-96 **Social Work Intern**, St. Barnabus Senior Center, Los Angeles, CA.
Major responsibilities: Provided case management services to older adults residing in the Central Los Angeles area. Served as a liaison between clients and government programs, including the Social Security Administration, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Health Services, Immigration & Naturalization Services, and In-Home Supportive Services.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2009- Reviewer, *American Journal of Public Health*
- 2008- Reviewer, *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*
- 2006- Board Chair, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- 2002- Board Member, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- 2001-05 Board Member, Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
- 2002-05 Committee Member, Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
- 2001-04 Board Member, Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness
- 2004 Advisory Committee Member, Children's Now *California Report Card*
- 2002-04 Policy Advisory Committee Member, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- 2002-04 Member, Cultural & Linguistic Advisory Workgroup, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- 2001-04 Seed Fund Committee Member, Liberty Hill Foundation, Santa Monica, CA
- 2000-04 Steering Committee Member, California Hunger Action Coalition
- 2003 Editorial Committee Member, *People's Guide to the CalWORKs 60-Month Limit*, Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness
- 2002-03 Advisory Committee Member, Los Angeles Healthy Kids Program
- 2002-03 Reviewer, REACH 2010 Promoting Access to Health for Pacific Islander & Southeast Asian Women Mini-Grants Program
- 1999-03 Grant Reviewer, United Way of Los Angeles Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- 1999-03 Steering Committee Member, Los Angeles Welfare Reform Coalition

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Public Health Association
Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work
Council of Social Work Education
Gerontological Society of America
Influencing State Policy
Society for Social Work and Research

SPECIFIC SKILLS

Research: Quantitative methods; quantitative data analysis; GIS and spatial analysis
Organizational: Program development & administration; grantwriting; organizing
Policy: Legislative and administrative advocacy; policy analysis
Software: SPSS, SAS, STATA, Mplus, AMOS, HLM, ArcGIS, GeoDa