

**EDUCATION****UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Doctoral Candidate (ABD), 2004-present  
 Expected graduation date, Fall 2010  
 Chair: Palinkas, Lawrence, PhD

Los Angeles, CA

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Masters of Social Welfare, June 2001

Los Angeles, CA

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, May 1999

Long Beach, CA

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Clinical Oncology Social Work  
 Decision-Making and End-of-Life Care  
 End-of-Life Care and Patient-Provider Communication  
 Hospice and palliative care  
 Ethnic Health and Mental Health Disparities  
 Evidenced Based Practice and Translational Research  
 Community Based Participatory Research  
 Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research

**TEACHING INTERESTS**

Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research  
 End of Life Care & Loss, Grief, and Bereavement  
 Advanced Directive, End of Life Policy  
 Social Work and Health Care  
 Social Work Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families  
 Social Work with Older Adults

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2009 – 2011 **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** \$40,000  
**Doctoral Training Grant in Oncology Social Work – competitive renewal**  
**Exploring Patient-Provider End-of-Life Communication with Low-Income Latino Cancer Patients**
- 2007 – 2008 **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**  
**College of Palliative Care, Year-long Mentorship Program**  
 Mentor: Betty Ferrell, PhD, FAAN  
 Mentoring-related travel expenses \$3000
- 2007 **ASSOCIATION OF ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORK**  
**Regional Conference Scholarship** \$400
- 2007 **ADVOCATING FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (ACE Project)**  
**Transdisciplinary Palliative Care Education – Training Course** \$300
- 2006 – 2008 **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** \$40,000  
**Doctoral Training Grant in Oncology Social Work**  
**Coping with Advanced Cancer among Low-Income Latinos**
- 2002 – 2003 **VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**  
 Special Contribution Award - Mentorship Social Work Training Program \$600
- 2000 – 2001 **VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**  
 Special Contribution Award - Palliative Care Resource Guide \$300

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

- Ell, K., Xie, B., Vourlekis, B., **Nedjat-Haiem, F.**, Lee, P.-J., Muderspach, L., Russell, C., & Palinkas, L. (2009). Cancer Treatment Adherence among Low-Income Women with Breast or Gynecologic Cancer: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Patient Navigation. *Cancer, 115*(19), 4606-4615.
- Ell, K., Xie, B., Wells, A., **Nedjat-Haiem, F.**, Lee, P. J., & Vourlekis, B. (2008). Economic stress among low-income women with cancer: effects on quality of life. *Cancer, 112*(3), 616-625.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2003). Advance directive quality assurance improvement project. *Veterans Administration – Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, In-house document.*
- Valente, S. & **Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2003). Evidenced-based fact sheet to improve care: advance planning for end of life. *Veterans Administration – Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, Nursing Research Council, 3(4), 1-2.*

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Ell, K., & Palinkas, L.A. (2008). Low income Latinas with advanced cancers: a qualitative study of patients' explanatory models and healthcare interactions. *Under revision*

## PRESENTATIONS

- Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Martin, S., Pablo A., Hee Y. L., Tazuko S., & Padgett, D.K.. (2010, January), *Lost in Translation? Conducting Qualitative Research in Diverse Cultural Contexts.* Accepted roundtable discussion at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- Padgett, D.K., Petr, C.G., Gilgun, J.F., Sands, R.G., Littell, J., Soydan, H., Tempel, L., **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** & Stein, E. (2009, January). *A frank (and friendly) dialogue about evidence based practice.* Roundtable discussion at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** & Ell, K. (2008, November). *Enhancing Methodological Rigor for Conducting Qualitative Research in a Second Language.* Oral paper presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Maryland.
- Putney, Oyama, Lam, **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Ninh, Harris, & Bengtson. (2008, November). *Ethnicity and the Transmission of Religion Across Generations.* Oral paper presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Maryland.
- Harris, **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Putney. (2008, November). *The "TRAG" Project: A Multidisciplinary Team-Based Approach to Integrating Qualitative Methods and Longitudinal Survey Research.* Oral paper presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Maryland.
- Brekke, J., Palinkas, L., Ell, K., Flanzer, J., Parker, K., & **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** (2008, January). *Effective practice in real world settings: The need to expand social work translational research.* Round Table Discussion at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Washington, DC
- Harris, S.C., Putney, N.M., Lam, J., Ninh, H., **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Oyama, P.S., & Bengtson, V.L. (2007, November). *Continuity, change, and complexity in religious affiliations across generations.* Oral paper presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.
- Lam, J., **Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** Ninh, H., Oyama, P.S., Harris, S.C., Putney, N.M., & Bengtson, V.L. (2007, November). *Religious continuity, change, and complexity in multigenerational families.* Oral paper presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 61<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** & Chi, I., (2007, January). *Chronic health conditions, disability and length of survivorship on self-perceived health status among older cancer survivors in California.* Oral paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** & Ell, K., (2006, December). *Cultural perceptions of cancer and terminal illness among Latinos.* Oral paper presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, Hong Kong, China.
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.,** & Chi, I., (2006, November). *Self-perceived health status among older cancer survivors in California.* Poster presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Dallas, TX
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2006, February). *An exploration of end-of-life in the United States and Korea.* Poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education, Gero-Ed Center, Chicago, IL
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2005, November). *Social workers and advance directives: improving communication with hospitalized patients.* Poster presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Orlando, FL
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2005, September). *An integrative approach to palliative care: A comparison of United States and Korea.* Oral paper presentation at the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Social Work Conference, Seoul, Korea.
- Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2005, April). *Towards a good death.* Oral paper presentation at the Hamovitch Research Center Colloquium, Los Angeles, CA

**Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2003, March). *End-of-life care: Meeting practical & emotional needs*. Poster presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference on Aging, University of California, Los Angeles

**Nedjat-Haiem, F.** (2002, August). *Advanced directives: Communication is key to advance planning for end-of-life care*. Poster presentation (Honorable Mention Award) at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's Performance Improvement Exposition, Los Angeles, CA

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2007 – Present    **TRANSMISSION OF RELIGION ACROSS GENERATIONS**  
(Vern Bengtson, PhD, Principal Investigator)  
University of Southern California, Center for Religion and Civic Culture  
Research Assistant    Los Angeles, CA
- Interview Guide Development & Pilot Interviews
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews and field notes
  - Qualitative data analysis (code development, code building, theme development)
  - Atlas.ti application, grounded theory and family case-study analysis
  - Team meetings and oral presentation of case summaries
  - Responsible for organizing and writing book chapters on the impact of health, illness, & death on religious transmission, the influence of religious education, Jewish families from generation to generation
- 2006- Present    **COPING WITH ADVANCED CANCER AMONG LOW-INCOME LATINOS**  
(Frances Nedjat-Haiem, MSW, Principal Investigator & Kathleen Ell, Co-Investigator)  
University of Southern California, School of Social Work  
Researcher/Principal Investigator    Los Angeles, CA
- American Cancer Society funded research exploring cultural explanatory models of Spanish-speaking, Latinas with advanced, metastatic cancers to identify socio-cultural beliefs and behaviors associated with healthcare interactions.
- Developed grant proposal, research design, and implementation procedures
  - Organized research team to evaluate Spanish language translation
  - Provided supervision for research assistants
  - Developed protocols quality control
  - Conducted qualitative semi-structured interviews
  - Qualitative data analysis (code development, code building, theme development)
  - Atlas.ti application, grounded theory and case-study analysis
  - Literature review and written report
- 2005- 2007    **ALLEVIATING DEPRESSION AMONG PATIENTS WITH CANCER (ADAPT-C)**  
(Kathleen Ell, DSW, Principal Investigator)  
University of Southern California, School of Social Work  
Research Assistant    Los Angeles, CA
- National Cancer Institute funded randomized clinical trial testing the effectiveness of a structured case management and patient navigation intervention model and a socio-culturally tailored collaborative approach to depression care implemented in Los Angeles County urban public sector care systems.
- Developed research instruments: chart abstraction tools for outcome variables
  - Conducted chart abstraction
  - Conducted patient outcome interviews
- 2004-2006    **IMPROVING PATIENT ACCESS AND ADHERENCE TO CANCER TREATMENT**  
(IMPAACT) (Kathleen Ell, DSW, Principal Investigator)  
University of Southern California, School of Social Work  
Research Assistant    Los Angeles, CA
- National Institute of Health funded randomized clinical trial testing the effectiveness of a structured case management and patient navigation intervention model and a socio-culturally tailored collaborative approach to depression care for low-income minority women with breast and gynecological cancers, implemented in an urban sector oncology care system
- Conducted patient outcome interviews
  - Supervision for program staff
  - Data acquisition, entry, and management
  - Participation in interdisciplinary team meetings
  - Developed research instruments: chart abstraction tools for outcome variables

- Conducted chart abstraction
- Conducted semi-structured telephone interviews
- Provided supervision for research assistants conducting Spanish interviews
- Conducted qualitative data analysis (code building, theme development) using Atlas.ti software
- Literature review and manuscript preparation

2003-2004 **THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES AT THE END-OF-LIFE, (William H. Shrank, MD, Principal Investigator)**  
**Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System,**  
**Division of General Internal Medicine**  
**Research Assistant** **Los Angeles, CA**

- Qualitative data analysis of focus group data
- Literature Review

2000 Summer **VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM,**  
**Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and The University of California,**  
**Los Angeles, Undergraduate Curriculum in Gerontology Career Tracking Survey**  
**Research Assistant** **Los Angeles, CA**

- Functioned as a research assistant and consultant working on data entry, data coding, data cleaning, and code book preparation.
- Literature review and manuscript preparation.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Spring 2008 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** **Los Angeles, CA**  
**School of social work**  
 Course: (SOWK 770) Introduction to qualitative and mixed research methods  
**Co-teacher** (with professor Lawrence Palinkas)

- Assisted with course development to add Atlas.ti training components
- Teleconferencing with University of California, San Diego
- Lecture topics included:
  - Qualitative project development & managing the Hermeneutic Unit in Atlas.ti
  - Grounded theory, code development, and memo writing
  - Building network diagrams, families (codes, super codes, and primary documents), & filtering techniques to compare and contrast data
  - Techniques for conducting semi-structured interviews in a language other than English

Spring 2007 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** **Los Angeles, CA**  
**Leonard Davis School of Gerontology**  
**Co-teacher** (with Dr. Sharon Valente)  
 Course: (GERO 437) Social and Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying

- Assisted with course development
- Lecture topics included:
  - End of life care with older adults
  - Death trajectories
  - Coping with life-threatening illness
  - Advanced Directives

Spring 2006 **WHITTIER COLLEGE** **Whittier, CA**  
 Guest Lecturer course on Death and Dying  
 Presentation: Advance Directives and Social Work Practice.

### **CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

2005 to present **CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER** **Los Angeles, CA**  
 Hospital medical social worker – part-time employee

- Clinical, psychosocial assessment
- Crisis intervention, brief counseling, advocacy, community referrals
- Focused on maintaining independence at home/community for as long as possible
- Discharge planning, referrals, and nursing home placements

2001- 2004 **VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM** Los Angeles, CA  
 Hospital medical social worker

- Medical, surgical, hematology/oncology services
- Psychosocial assessments, crisis intervention
- Short-term, brief counseling with individuals and groups
- Advocacy and community referrals for resources
- Discharge planning, referrals, and nursing home placements
- Case presentation in interdisciplinary case conferences and staff meetings
- Developed performance and quality assurance projects
- Computer tracking of data and data analysis for quality assurance projects

1998 – 1999 **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH,** Long Beach, CA  
**STEPHEN BENSON PROGRAM**  
 Counselor for learning disabled undergraduate students

- Individual counseling, personal and academic issues including time management, study skills, career goals, academic planning, and family/relational issues.
- Cognitive/behavioral therapy

#### **PRACTICE TRAINING**

2000 – 2001 **PARTNERS ADULT DAY HEALTH CENTER, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES** Los Angeles, CA  
 Clinical social worker

2000 – 2001 **VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**  
**Hartford/Archstone Geriatric Social Work Leadership Internship (GSWEC)** Los Angeles, CA  
 Clinical social worker

1999 – 2000 **ST. JOSEPH’S CENTER – MONETARY ADVISORY PROGRAM (MAP)**  
**Homeless Service Center** Venice, CA  
 Clinical social worker

1998 – 1999 **LEISURE WORLD, SEAL BEACH** Seal Beach, CA  
 Group facilitator

#### **SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

2008 – present **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** Los Angeles, CA  
**HAMOVITCH RESEARCH CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE HUMAN SERVICES**  
 Representative, Doctoral Student Association

2005 – 2006 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** Los Angeles, CA  
 Co-Chair, Doctoral Student Association

1999 – 2000 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES** Los Angeles, CA  
 Chair, Gerontological Caucus

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Peer reviewer for Cancer
- Peer reviewer for the International Journal of Social Work
- Member, Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
- Member, American Cancer Society (ACS)
- Member, American Oncology Social Work (AOSW)
- Member, American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS)
- Member, Gerontological Society of American (GSA)
- Member, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
- Member, Latino Social Work Network Orange County
- Member, Advisory group, Iranian Studies Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

#### **OTHER SKILLS**

- Fluent in Farsi
- Computer applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Atlas.Ti, SPSS, Teleconferencing