
Seth Kurzban, PhD, MSW, MPhil

Assistant Professor
University of Southern California
School of Social Work
1149 S. Hill St.
Suite 360s
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 743-2337

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Mental Health (Severe Mental Illness) Practice and Policy
Homelessness and Incarceration Practice and Policy
Intervention Research & Program Evaluation
Instrument Design and Testing

EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK New York, NY
Doctor of Philosophy, July 14, 2009
Concentration in Social Work Practice
Dissertation Title: An Intervention Study to Test Increased Social
Interactions through the use of Group Community Awareness Psychoeducation

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK New York, NY
Master of Philosophy, September 2007

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK New York, NY
Master of Social Work, May 1998
Concentration in Research and Clinical Practice

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH Pittsburgh, PA
Bachelor of Social Work, May 1995
Concentration in Community Development

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2009-present **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** Los Angeles, CA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Assistant Professor

2008-2009 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** Los Angeles, CA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Post-Doctoral Scholar
Conducted pilot testing of two Psychoeducational Interventions within the LA County Department of Mental Health funded through a competitive grant Analyzed secondary data for publications and presentations

2002-2006 **THE HARTFORD GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORK FACULTY** New York, NY
SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Evaluation Coordinator
Conducted process and formative evaluations to help program staff expand and strengthen the program. Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data for reports to the Hartford Foundation. Helped plan and conduct training conferences and retreats.

- 2001-2009 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** New York, NY
& THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE
Community Awareness through Psychoeducation
- Provided psychotherapy and group psychoeducation to participants with SPMI.
 - Designed, conducted and evaluated an intervention study to increase community support for individuals who are severely mentally ill and chronically homeless.
 - Supervised MSW students in clinical and research settings.
 - Worked with researchers, practitioners, and clients to develop curriculum and materials for the intervention.
 - Created and tested an instrument to capture the efficacy of psychoeducation groups.
- Evaluation Coordinator for HOPE-NY***
- Designed the implementation and evaluation of the program which worked with communities dealing with stress and trauma, identifying fidelity and treatment measures, targeting treatment goals, and recruiting participants.
 - Created a database for tracking and analyzing data.
 - Collected, transcribed, coded, and helped to analyze qualitative data consisting of focus groups, treatment groups, and direct observations used in writing up project summaries and reports.
- Mental Health Needs Assessment in Wake of Sept. 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack on New York***
- Generated an epidemiological estimation of the onset of Mental Health disorders in the wake of the terrorist attack, as well as the types and severities of possible MH problems.
 - Evaluated the public and the private MH systems' ability to respond and how these two systems might interact. Analyzed the response to the 9/11 attacks and created a draft plan for responding to future attacks.
- Social Work Practicum***
- Worked closely with Faculty on a range of projects, primarily analyzing a dataset looking at parents of schizophrenic children to determine risk and protective factors.
- 1999-2002 **WESTAT RESEARCH** Washington, DC
Research Associate
- Supported proposals and evaluation projects through an array of specific tasks, including: conducting background literature reviews, collaborating on study design, collecting qualitative and quantitative data, conducting primary and secondary data analysis, developing logic models, conducting focus groups, and working with team members to prepare evaluation reports and legislative briefings.
 - Worked on a variety of projects for SAMHSA, CSAT, CSAP, Department of Education, and the NIH (*list of projects available*).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2010-2011 **NCRR-UL1RR031986 (Buchanan PI)**
Los Angeles Basin Clinical and Translational Science Institute,
Co-PI's (Wenzel and Kurzban)
 \$35,000 Award for Project on Homeless Veterans in Skid Row: Understanding and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs
- 2009-2010 **Larson Endowment for Innovative Research, PI**
 \$38,000 Award for adapting CAPE in LA County DMH jail site

- 2007-2009 **American Group Psychotherapy Association, PI**
\$8,000 Dissertation Award for Community Awareness Psychoeducation Study
- 2004-2005 **Social Intervention Group, PI**
\$5,000 Dissertation Award for Pilot Study of Community Awareness Psychoeducation

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Kurzban, S.**, Davis, L., & Brekke, J. Vocational, social, and cognitive rehabilitation for individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia: A review of recent research and trends (2011). *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 12 (4) 345-355.
- Vanderwalde, A. & **Kurzban, S.** Paying Human Subjects in Research: Where Are We, How Did We Get Here, and Now What? (2011). *Journal of Law, Medicine, & Ethics*, 39 (3), 543-558.
- Davis, L., & **Kurzban, S.**, (2011) Mindfulness-based treatment for people with severe mental illness: A literature review. *American J. of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*, 14 (4).

In Revision

- Kurzban, S.**, Can Social Integration Be Taught? Findings of the Community Awareness PsychoEducation (CAPE) Pilot (Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal)
- Rice, E., **Kurzban, S.**, & Ray, D. Homeless but Connected: The Role of Heterogeneous Social Network Ties and Social Networking Technology in the Mental Health Outcomes of Street-Living Youth. (*Community Mental Health Journal*)
- Kurzban, S.**, Rice, E., Duan, L. & Milburn, N. Prospective Evidence for the Positive Impact of Early Housing on Homeless Adolescent's Mental Health (*American Journal of Public Health*)

Under Review

- Davis, L., **Kurzban, S.**, & Brekke, J. Self-Esteem as a Mediator of the Relationship Between Role Functioning and Symptoms for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness: A Prospective Analysis of Modified Labeling Theory. (*Schizophrenia Research*)
- Kurzban, S.**, Wenzel, S., Gilbert, M. A., & Ta, S. Understanding and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs of Veterans residing in Skid Row (*Public Health Reports*)
- Kurzban, S.**, The Evolution of Empirical Practice: From Evidence Based to Outcome Based Practice (*Journal of Evidence Based Social Work*)

In Progress

- Kurzban, S.**, Daly K., Bonds, C., & Brekke, J. Jail in-reach make sense for individuals with SPMI: The Peer Assisted Reintegration project. (*Psychiatric Services*)
- Kurzban, S.**, Davis, L., & Brekke, J. The Influence of Social Networks on Substance Abuse and Contact with the Criminal Justice System for Persons with Severe Mental Illness. (*Journal of Orthopsychiatry*)
- Kurzban, S.**, & Davis, L., Exploring the use of Mindfulness in Individuals with Severe Mental Illness (*Research on Social Work Practice*)
- Kurzban, S.**, Duan, L. & Brekke, J. An Exploration of Social Cognition's role in improving relationships and functioning (*Schiz Research*)

Kurzban, S. & Cederbaum, J. A., Behavioral Health: A Paradigm for Social Work Education (Journal of Social Work Education)

Kurzban, S., Davis, L., Yamada, A. M.; Philips, B., & Brekke, J. S. Informatics as Empowerment in a community based mental health clinic: Lessons from the COIN pilot project. (TBD)

Kurzban, S. & Davis, L. Practice Advances in Vocational, Social, and Cognitive Rehabilitation for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness: Implications for Social Work (Research on Social Work Practice)

Reports

Kurzban, S. (2009) An Intervention Study to Test Increased Social Interactions through the use of Group Community Awareness Psychoeducation. Dissertation Columbia University

Key Contributor to: Herman, D., Susser, E., & Felton, C. *Rates and Treatment Costs of Mental Disorders Stemming from The World Trade Center Terrorist Attacks: An Initial Needs Assessment*. Prepared for the New York State Office of Mental Health and the Center for Mental Health Services in the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration. 2002. (Unpublished Report)

Moran, G. E., Robins, C., & **Kurzban, S.** *Civil Commitment Under Medical Managed Care*. (DHHS Publication No. [SMA] 00-3455). Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2000.

Moran, G. E., Robins, C., & **Kurzban, S.** *Issue Brief: Evaluation of the PATH Grant Program*. (DHHS). Legislative Brief prepared for Center for Mental Health Services, 2001.

Mason, M., **Kurzban, S.**, & Sayer, J. *Pre-Adolescent Screening Instruments*. (DHHS). Rockville, MD. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2000.

Moran, G. E., Robins, C., & **Kurzban, S.** *Evaluation of the PATH Grant Program* (DHHS). Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2001. (Report prepared at request of U.S. Congress)

Kurzban, S. (1998). *Evaluation of transitional housing placements*. New York, NY: Evaluation Report for the Grand Central Business Improvement District.

PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Oct. 29, 2011 **139th APHA Annual Meeting** Washington DC
Longitudinal impact of housing on homeless adolescents mental health and substance use.

July 28, 2011 **21st NIMH Mental Health Services Research Conference** Washington DC
Proposal on Social Integration for Individuals with SMI

Jan. 13, 2011 **15th Annual SSWR Conference** Tampa, FL
Social Networks, Substance Abuse, and Contact with the Criminal Justice System for Persons with Severe Mental Illness

Jan. 12, 2011 **15th Annual SSWR Conference** Tampa, FL
Self-Esteem as a Mediator of the Relationship Between Role Functioning and Symptoms Among Individuals with Severe Mental Illness

Jan. 12, 2011 **15th Annual SSWR Conference** Tampa, FL

| | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------|
| | No Place Like Home: A Comparison of Street-Based and Home-Based Social Network Ties for Homeless Youth | |
| Nov. 12, 2010 | 138th APHA Annual Meeting “Building Community Awareness for Individuals Suffering from SPMI | Denver, CO |
| Nov. 11, 2010 | 138th APHA Annual Meeting “Severe mental illness and contact with the criminal justice system: Toward an understanding of risk and protective factors” | Denver, CO |
| Nov. 10, 2010 | 138th APHA Annual Meeting “Consumer Empowerment in Health Informatics” | Denver, CO |
| Aug. 12, 2010 | American Psychological Association "Social Integration through Peer Supported Mindfulness" | San Diego, CA |
| Aug. 12, 2010 | American Psychological Association "The validity of an instrument for measuring intrinsic motivation in clients with SPMI" | San Diego, CA |
| Jun.12-14,2010 | The Joint World Conference on Social Work Mindfulness Based Treatment for Individuals with SPMI | Hong Kong, China |
| Dec. 7, 2009 | Academic and Health Policy on Correctional Health Peer Assisted Reintegration- A model for women with SPMI leaving Jail | Ft. Lauderdale FL |
| April 20, 2009 | Forensic Social Work and the Law PEER reentry for improving jail release MH treatment | San Francisco, CA |
| May 27, 2008 | Urban Institute for Behavioral Health & NYU Housing, Hope and the Promise of Recovery | New York, NY |
| Feb 4, 2008 | New York State Psychiatric Institute Grand Rounds Wellness Group Treatment and Community Awareness Psychoeducation | New York, NY |
| Jan 19, 2008 | 12th Annual SSWR Conference EBP 2.0- New Directions for Evidence Based Practices: Results from Combined ACT and Psychoeducation Interventions | Washington, DC |
| Jan 14, 2007 | 11th Annual SSWR Conference Building Social Support for Individuals with SPMI: Results from the Community Awareness through Psychoeducation Intervention | San Francisco, CA |
| May 31, 2005 | 10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT “Community Awareness through Psychoeducation” | Philadelphia, PA |

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| May 5, 2011 | PACIFIC CLINICS INSTITUTE Beyond Stability- Reintegrating Individuals dealing with SMI | Los Angeles, CA |
| March 4, 2011 | Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center Advances in Neuro and Social Cognition and their impact on Social Integration | Los Angeles, CA |

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| June 11, 2010 | LA County Dept. of Mental Health What is Recovery? | Compton, CA |
| June 2, 2009 | LA County/UCLA Consortium on Best Practices in Mental Health Social Integration for MH consumers | Los Angeles, CA |
| May 2, 2007 | NAMI: New York City Chapter Psychotherapy: Strategies for making the most of MH professionals | New York, NY |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 2009-Present | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK <i>Assistant Professor</i> Masters Level Course: Clinical Evaluation in Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is designed to draw on previously acquired knowledge about problem formulation, measurement, and research design to teach students to formulate and analyze research questions using methodologies relevant to clinical practice. Masters Level Course: Clinical Practice in Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is designed to draw on previously acquired knowledge about problem formulation, measurement, and research design to teach students to formulate and analyze research questions using methodologies relevant to clinical practice. Doctoral Level Course: Policy Analysis and Advocacy | Los Angeles, CA |
| 2007 | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK <i>Adjunct Professor</i> Course: Clinical Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is designed to draw on previously acquired knowledge about problem formulation, measurement, and research design to teach students to formulate and analyze research questions using methodologies relevant to clinical practice. | New York, NY |
| 2003-2005 | NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK <i>Adjunct Professor</i> Course: Evidence Based Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course was designed to teach students how to identify, critique, and implement “best practices”. This course focused on the current move toward EBPs and how Social Work fits into this trend. Course: Research Practice II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course was designed to teach students about the different ways to conduct program evaluations and how these evaluations can be used to improve practice and planning. | New York, NY |
| 2002-2004 | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked as teaching assistant for the year long Research Practicum course for second year doctoral students. (Dr. Barbara Berkman, Professor) <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked as teaching assistant for the Research Methods course for first year masters students. (Dr. Edward Mullen, Professor) | New York, NY |

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- 2002-2008 **THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE** New York, NY
Social Work Department
- Trained MSW Interns in Evidence Based Practices for various clinical populations
 - Conducted Psychoeducational Community Groups at outpatient facilities throughout NY City
 - Supervised MSW students
- 2002-2006 **GODDARD RIVERSIDE ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAM (ACT)** New York, NY
Group Psychoeducation and Wellness Management Facilitator
- Ran weekly groups for individuals with severe mental illness focusing on a variety of topics to help them with their treatment goals and to maintain wellness.
 - Worked with ACT staff to ensure a continuum of care for group participants, including psychotherapy and basic case management services.
- 1995-1996 **WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE AND CLINIC** Pittsburgh, PA
Intensive Case Manager
- Linked clients to necessary services and served as an advocate for clients with doctors and therapists.
 - Provided intensive case management and counseling while working as part of a treatment planning team.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2011 **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**
Mental Health Services Research Fellow
- 2002-2003 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**
Willie G. Perry Scholar for Outstanding Potential
- 2001-2002 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**
Evelyn Burns Scholar for Public Policy
- 1998 **WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE AND CLINIC**
Veterans Administration Award for Outstanding Work with Veterans
- 1998 **UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**
One of Allegheny County's (PA) Volunteers of the Year

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS / LICENSURE

Steering Committee, ACLU Task Force on Prisoner Re-entry
Board Member, The Gabe W. Miller Foundation
Reviewer Psychiatric Services
Reviewer Schizophrenia Research
Reviewer Journal of Social Work Education
Licensed Master of Social Work, State of New York
Member, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
Member, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
Member, Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
Member, American Public Health Association (APHA)