

MH-RITES Center Research Fellow

Ciwang Teyra, MSW, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Truku Tribal Nation, Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University

Email: ciwang@ntu.edu.tw

Ciwang Teyra, PhD focuses her research on determinants of global indigenous health, wellbeing and resilience; historical trauma, healing, and resistance; the development of culturally relevant psychometric measurement to understand the phenomena as well as culturally informed interventions to address health concerns among indigenous communities internationally. Her research is informed by her experiences as an indigenous woman raised in the Truku Tribal Nation of Taiwan. Dr. Teyra is currently an assistant professor at the National Taiwan University Department of Social Work. She is also a Principal Investigator (PI) of the federally funded research project "Exploring Cultural Caring Models and Practices among Indigenous Truku Tribe." Dr. Teyra is a CoPI of a qualitative study, "The Development of Indigenous Social Work Profession in Taiwan". She received her doctoral degree from the University of Washington School of Social Work in 2017. The title of her dissertation is "Culture and History Matter: A Mixed-Methods Study of Historical Trauma, Cultural Practices and Alcohol Use among Indigenous Communities in Taiwan." Her dissertation findings provided an empirical evidence regarding the influence of historical trauma on indigenous people's alcohol use in Taiwan, and found that culturally specific factors can alleviate the negative influence of historical trauma on their alcohol use. Dr. Teyra's career goal is to develop internationally culturally-responsive interventions that can reduce indigenous health and mental health disparities and promote healthful communities globally. Her research agenda aligns with the MH-RITES Center's focus on expanding knowledge regarding understanding barriers and promoters of mental health services engagement as well as developing culturally responsive interventions to engage people addressing their mental health concerns effectively.