

CURRICULUM VITAE

**DENNIS T. KAO**

Visiting Assistant Professor  
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**PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS**

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

**EDUCATION**

**Doctorate of Philosophy**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work (August 2010)

Dissertation (passed with distinction): "State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies and the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services" (chair: Bruce Jansson)

*Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS)*, USC Department of Geography (2009)

**Master of Social Welfare**, University of California at Los Angeles, School of Public Affairs (1997)

Concentration in Community, Administration, Policy & Planning

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

Major in Molecular & Cell Biology; concentration in Cell & Developmental Biology

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2011- **Visiting Assistant Professor**, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

2011- **Affiliated Faculty Member**, Houston Urban Research Center—a joint collaboration between the University of Houston and University of Houston, Downtown.

2010 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, University of Southern California, Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging.  
*Major responsibilities:* Conducted analysis of health survey data; co-authored two policy briefs.

2008-10 **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work

*Book project:* "Improving Healthcare through Advocacy: A Guide for the Health and Helping Professions" (with Bruce Jansson; book contract with John Wiley & Sons)

*Major responsibilities:* Co-authored chapter on advocating for culturally competent services.

- 2006-10 **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, School of Social Work  
*Project:* "Toward Individualized Care of Schizophrenia—Moderators to Identify Responsive Subgroups" (with John Bola; funded by the National Institute of Mental Health)  
*Major responsibilities:* Managed and conducted statistical analysis of longitudinal data. Coauthored papers (i.e. writing methods and results sections). Prepared poster for conference presentation. Assisted in preparing successful federal grant proposal (NIMH R03).
- Project:* "Antipsychotic medication for early episode schizophrenia" (meta-analysis with John Bola and Haluk Soydan; protocol approved by The Cochrane Collaboration).  
*Major responsibilities:* Reviewed 600 articles for possible inclusion in meta-analysis and inputting data into RevMan software. Coauthored review paper.
- 2006-08 **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California, Population Dynamics Research Group  
*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 health survey data. 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 hospital and clinic administrators. Assisted in preparing research proposals.

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED

- Bola, J., **Kao, D.**, & Soydan, H. (in press). Antipsychotic medications for early episode schizophrenia (systematic review). *The Cochrane Library*.
- Kao, D.**, Park J., Min S., and Myers, D. (2010). Occupational status and health insurance among immigrants: Effects by generation, length of residence in US, and race. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 12*(3), 290.
- Kao, D.** (2010). Factors associated with ethnic differences in health insurance coverage and type among Asian Americans. *Journal of Community Health, 35*(2), 142-155.
- 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.
- Park, J., Myers, D., **Kao, D.**, and Min, S. (2009). Immigrant obesity and unhealthy assimilation: Alternative estimates of convergence or divergence, 1995-2005. *Social Science & Medicine, 69*(11), 1625-1633.
- Kim, H., Ji, J. & **Kao, D.** (Accepted). Burnout and physical health among social workers: A three-year longitudinal study. *Social Work*.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS/SECTIONS**

- Kao, D.** & Jansson, B. (2011). Advocacy to promote culturally competent health services. In B. Jansson, *Improving Healthcare Through Advocacy: A Guide for the Health and Helping Professions* (pp. 179-210). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- Kao, D.** & Jansson, B. (2011). Expanding policy advocacy across national borders. In B. Jansson, *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice* (6th ed, pp. 155-183). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.
- Tang, K. & **Kao, D.** (2010). Gender, ethnicity and the education of Cambodian American students in a U.S. urban high school. In G.T. Papanikos (Ed.), *Issues on Education and Research: Volume 2* (pp. 9-22). Athens, Greece: Athens Institute for Education and Research.
- Kao, D.** & Jansson, B. (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.

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

- Kao, D.**, Kim, H., Ji, J. & Hansen, M. (In progress). Effects of health insurance coverage on the self-rated health trajectories of the U.S. adult population, 1986 to 2002.
- Kao, D.** (In progress). The spatial accessibility of health facilities for minority and immigrant communities in Los Angeles County.
- Paek, J., Jansson, B., & **Kao, D.** (In progress). Social workers and case advocacy in healthcare: Recommendations for research and practice.
- Bola, J.R., Schooler, N. & **Kao, D.** (In progress). Rescue medications for the prevention of psychotic relapse in remitted schizophrenia.

### **REPORTS**

- Kao, D.**, Lloyd, D., & Lim, V. (November 2010). *Los Angeles Population Change and Healthy Aging* (Health Policy Brief). Los Angeles: University of Southern California, Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging
- 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*

- Kao, D.** (November 2010). State language policies and access to health services among older immigrant populations. Poster presented at the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Leadership Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Kao, D.** (October 2010). Assessing the effectiveness of state language policies in improving immigrant access to health services. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Jansson, B., **Kao, D.**, & Paek, J. (November 2009). An advocacy practice framework for health settings linking case and policy advocacy. Paper 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. Paper 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 GRANTS**

2009-11 **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; \$70,000 for two years)

2009-10 **Health Services Research Dissertation Grant**, 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)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Advanced Social Policy Analysis, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (MSW)  
Spring 2011

Program Planning & Evaluation in Health Care, USC School of Social Work (2<sup>nd</sup> year MSW)  
Spring 2009 (Co-instructor); Spring 2010 (Lead instructor)

Health Care Policy, USC School of Social Work (2<sup>nd</sup> year MSW)  
Spring 2008 (Teaching Assistant); Fall 2008 (Co-instructor); Fall 2009 (Co-instructor)

Advanced Multivariate Statistics, USC School of Social Work (doctoral-level)  
Fall 2007 (Teaching Assistant)

Multiple Regression for Social Work Research, USC School of Social Work (doctoral-level)  
Spring 2007 (Lecturer, lab section)

Introduction to Social Work Statistics, USC School of Social Work (doctoral-level)  
Fall 2006 (Lecturer, lab section)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2011- Member, Information Technology Committee, UH Graduate College of Social Work
- 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

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2005     **Research Consultant**, Los Angeles Language Access Collaborative, Los Angeles  
*Project:* "Assessing the Implementation of Cultural & Linguistic Competency Standards at the LAC/USC 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.  
*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.
- 2001-04 **Project Director**, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA.  
*Major responsibilities:* Directed the Immigrant Welfare Project. Conducted policy advocacy and analysis on state and local welfare and health issues affecting the Asian & Pacific Islander population. Conducted 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     **Organizer**, 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. Developed 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.

## **HONORS/AWARDS**

- 2010 Dean's Scholar, School of Social Work, University of Southern California
- 2010 Order of Arete Student Recognition Award, University of Southern California
- 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

## **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

## **ADVANCED RESEARCH/STATISTICAL TRAINING**

- Propensity Score Analysis and Its Applications to Social Work Research, Society for Social Work & Research Summer Quantitative Training Workshops (July 2010)
- Workshop on Analyzing Poverty and Socioeconomic Trends Using the American Community Survey, National Poverty Center, University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy (July 2010)
- RAND Summer Institutes: Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists and Demography, Economics, and Epidemiology of Aging conference (July 2009)
- Advanced Training Workshop on Structural Equation Modeling in Longitudinal Research, Longitudinal Research Institute (June 2006; June 2007)
- GIS and Population Science Workshop, University of California at Santa Barbara, Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (July 2006)
- Applied Longitudinal Analysis, Southern California American Statistical Association 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics (March 2006)

## **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, STATA, Mplus, AMOS, HLM, ArcGIS, GeoDa