

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# DENNIS T. KAO

Assistant Professor  
University of Houston  
Graduate College of Social Work  
110HA Social Work Building  
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### EDUCATION

- 2010      **PhD** (Social Work), University of Southern California
- 2009      **Certificate in Geographic Information Science**, University of Southern California
- 1997      **MSW** (Community, Administration, Policy & Planning Concentration),  
University of California at Los Angeles, School of Public Affairs
- 1993      **BA** (Molecular & Cell Biology), University of California at Berkeley

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2011-      **Assistant Professor**, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work  
Member/Executive Committee Member, Children & Family Center for Innovative Research  
Research Scientist, Texas Obesity Research Center  
Member, University of Texas Health Sciences Center Consortium on Aging  
Faculty Affiliate, Kinder Institute for Urban Research
- 2012-      **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Department of Internal  
Medicine, Division of Geriatric & Palliative Care
- 2011      **Visiting Assistant Professor**, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work (8-month  
appointment, January-August)
- 2010      **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging (July-December 2010)
- 2004-06      **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California School of Social Work
- 2006-08      **Research Assistant**, USC Population Dynamics Research Group

### PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Health/health care disparities  
Immigrant populations  
Older adults  
Social policy  
Geographic Information Science/Systems, mapping, and spatial analysis  
Mixed methods

## FUNDING

### Current

- 2012-14 Hartford Faculty Scholars Program, Geriatric Social Work Initiative. *"Using Geo-Ethnography to Explore the Spatial Accessibility of Health Services for Aging Minorities"* (\$100,000; role: Principal Investigator)
- 2012-13 Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation Geriatric Studies for Junior Faculty Program, UTHealth Consortium on Aging. *"PST.Net: A Pilot Study of Teletherapy Depression Treatment for Older Adults"* (\$10,000; PI: Marissa Hansen; role: Collaborator).
- 2012-13 National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. *"Best Evaluation Tools & Techniques for Effective Recommendations for Policies (BETTER Policies)"* (1U18DP003350-01)(\$1,999,998; PI: Dan O'Connor; role: Co-Investigator)
- 2012-13 University of Houston Faculty Development Initiative Program 2012 – 2013, *"Mapping and Understanding Communities Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology"* (\$3,754; role: Principal Investigator)

### Pending

- 2012 National Institute on Drug Abuse, Diversity-Promoting Institutions Drug Abuse Research Program (R24). *"University of Houston Drug Abuse Research Development Program"* (\$2,528,733; PI: Patrick Bordnick; role: Project Director). Submitted 1/12 (score: 44). Resubmitted 9/12 (score: 28).

### Completed

- 2011 University of Houston New Faculty Research Program. *"Exploring the Spatial Accessibility of Drug Treatment Services and Community Resources for Minority Communities in the Greater Houston Area"* (\$6,000; role: Principal Investigator)
- 2011 University of Houston Drug Abuse Development Program Small Grant Mechanism. *"Exploring the Spatial Accessibility of Drug Treatment Services and Community Resources for Minority Communities in the Greater Houston Area"* (\$5,000; role: Principal Investigator)
- 2009-11 Hartford Doctoral Fellowship Program, Geriatric Social Work Initiative. *"State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies & the Effects on Access to Health Services among Older Immigrant Populations"* (\$70,000; role: Principal Investigator)
- 2009-10 Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) Health Services Research Dissertation Grant. *"State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies and the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services"* (\$29,732; R36 HS18082; role: Principal Investigator)
- 2009 Robert L. Schneider Influencing State Policy Dissertation Award *"State Variations in Linguistic Competency Policies & the Effects on Immigrant Access to Health Services"* (\$2,000; role: Principal Investigator)

### Unfunded

- 2/2012 National Institute on Aging, Secondary Analyses of Social and Behavioral Datasets in Aging (R03). *"Discrimination and Its Impact on Health Outcomes in Older Adults"* (submitted February 2012; role: co-Principal Investigator, with Luis Torres). Unscored.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-reviewed

- Kao, D. (under review). State Language Policies and Access to Health Services among Older Immigrants. Submitted to *Journal of Aging and Health*, November 19, 2012.
- Leung, P., Cheung, M., Kao, D., & Carvalho, A. (under review). Prevalence and predictors of depression for the older Asian Americans in Houston. Submitted to *Ageing in Society*, October 31, 2012.
- Burnett, J., Achenbaum, W.A., Hayes, L., Flores, D.V., Hochschild, A., Kao, D., Halphen, J.M. & Dyer, C.B. (2012). Increasing Surveillance and Prevention Efforts for Elder Self-Neglect in Clinical Settings. *Aging Health*, 8(6).
- Guerrero, E.G., Kao, D., & Perron, B.E. (2012). Travel distance to outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities for Spanish-speaking clients. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2012.04.004 .
- Tang, K. & Kao, D. (2012). Gender, ethnicity and the education of Cambodian American students in an urban high school. *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Achievement*, 7. <http://jsaaea.coehd.utsa.edu/index.php/JSAAEA/article/view/140>
- Bola, J., Kao, D., & Soydan, H. (2012). Antipsychotic medications for early episode schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 38(1), 23-25.
- Kim, H., Ji, J. & Kao, D. (2011). Burnout and physical health among social workers: A three-year longitudinal study. *Social Work*, 6(3), 258-268.
- Bola, J., Kao, D., & Soydan, H. (2011, June). Antipsychotic medications for early episode schizophrenia (systematic review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* (Issue 6, Article No. CD006374).
- 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.

### Manuscripts in Progress

- The spatial accessibility of drug treatment facilities and locus of control among aging male Mexican American injecting heroin users
- Exploring the spatial accessibility of health facilities for minority & immigrant communities in Los Angeles and Houston
- Effects of health insurance coverage on the self-rated health trajectories of the U.S. adult population

### Book chapters/sections

- Kao, D. & Jansson, B. (2013; in press). Expanding policy advocacy across national borders. In B. Jansson, *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.
- 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.), *The Teacher and the Teaching Profession: Current Research and International Issues* (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.

## **Published Abstracts**

- Kao, D., Carvalho, A., & Lee, R.E. (2012). Physical activity among Asian American adults: Data from the 2010 Health of Houston survey. *International Journal of Exercise Science: Conference Abstract Submissions*, 6(2), Article 33.  
<http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijesab/vol6/iss2/33>.

## **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. (under review). Using geoethnography to explore the spatial accessibility of health services. Paper submitted to the Esri International User Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Kao, D., Torres, L, Singh, S., & Bordnick, P. (January 2013). Exploring the non-spatial and spatial role of locus of control among heroin-injecting Mexican American men. Paper to be presented at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Torres, L.R., Flores, D., Ren, Y., Kao, D., Haider, A. & Bordnick, P. (January 2013). Cultural values, disease, and self-rated health among Mexican American injection heroin users. Paper to be presented at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Flores, D., Torres, L.R., Torres, M., Ren, Y., Pericot-Valverde, I., Lopez, T., Kao, D. & Bordnick, P. (January 2013). Sangre mala, sangre buena/good blood, bad blood: The role of familismo as risk and protective factor in heroin-injecting Mexican American. Paper to be presented at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Sampson, M., Duron, J., & Kao, D. (January 2013). The role of postpartum depression in child maltreatment and parental home environment: A secondary analysis of a Healthy Families America program. Paper to be presented at the Society for Social Work & Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Kao, D., Carvalho, A., & Lee, R.E. (November 2012). Physical activity among Asian American adults: Data from the 2010 Health of Houston survey. Poster presented at the Texas Obesity Research Center Conference, Houston, TX.

Leung, P., Cheung, M., & Kao, D. (November 2012). Older Asian Americans with depression: Health and language barriers as predictors. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Washington, DC.

Kao, D. & Applewhite, S. (September 2012). Mapping communities with geographic information systems (GIS). Workshop conducted at the National Association of Social Workers-Texas State Conference, Houston, TX.

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. (December 2011). The potential uses of geographic information systems (GIS) and mapping in social work research. Presentation at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work 2011 Social Work Research Conference.

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

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

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" at University of California at Los Angeles.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses taught**

Mapping Individuals, Organizations, and Communities: Applications of Geographic Information Systems for Social Work, UH Graduate College of Social Work (in development)

Advanced Social Policy Analysis, UH Graduate College of Social Work (4 semesters)

Geographic Information Systems Module (three class sessions), UH Graduate College of Social Work (incorporated as part of a Community Development course; 1 semester)

Program Planning & Evaluation in Health Care, USC School of Social Work (co-instructor; 2 semesters)

Health Care Policy, USC School of Social Work (co-instructor; 3 semesters)

Advanced Multivariate Statistics, USC School of Social Work (teaching assistant; 1 semester)

Multiple Regression for Social Work Research, USC School of Social Work (lab instructor; 1 semester)

Introduction to Social Work Statistics, USC School of Social Work (lab instructor; 1 semester)

### **PhD Students**

Hyosu Kim, Qualifying and Dissertation (chair), "Meta-analysis of predictors of turnover among child welfare workers"

Elizabeth McIngvale, Qualifying and Dissertation (member), "Web based self-help for obsessive compulsive disorder"

Melissa Torres, Qualifying and Dissertation (member) "Perceptions of Latina/os and the sex trade: A qualitative study"

Amanda Ford, Qualifying (member), "Don't Get Killed on Craigslist: Understanding Behavior and the Perceived Levels of Risk of Women-Seeking-Women"

Rhonda Patrick, Qualifying (member), "Measuring Quality of Life in an Urban Homeless Population"

## **Independent Study/Research Internships**

Rebecca Mauldin (MSW/PhD, Spring 2012): Social network theory and research applications

Yi Ren (PhD, Fall 2012): Development of a study and writing a manuscript (to be submitted for publication)

Yolanda Villarreal (PhD, Fall 2012): Development of a NIH R03 proposal

Amy Carvalho (MSW/MPH, Spring 2012): Development of a Master's thesis proposal

Sheila Singh (PhD, Spring 2012): Conducting data analysis and manuscript writing

Melissa Torres (PhD, Fall 2011/Spring 2012): Grant writing and policy analysis related to human trafficking

Melinda Rushing (MSW, Spring 2012): Conducting a comparative policy analysis (No Child Left Behind Act)

Celeste Ige (MSW, Spring 2012): Mapping drug treatment and prenatal services in Texas

Hyosu Kim (PhD, Fall 2011): Development of a protocol for systematic review/meta-analysis

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **University/College**

2011- Member, Information Technology Committee

2011- Member, MACRO Concentration Workgroup

2011-12 Member, Evaluation Committee

### **Profession/Academic**

2012- Reviewer, *International Journal of Social Welfare*

2012- Reviewer, *The Gerontologist*

2011- Reviewer, *International Journal for Equity in Health*

2009- Reviewer, *American Journal of Public Health*

2008- Reviewer, *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*

### **Community**

2012- Member, Steering Committee, Hunger Free Texans Regional Coalition

2012- Member, Community Planning Team, Healthy Living Matters

2006-10 Board Chair, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, Los Angeles, CA

2002-10 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, LA County Dept. 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*
- 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
- 1999-2003 Grant Reviewer, United Way of Los Angeles Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- 1999-2003 Steering Committee Member, Los Angeles Welfare Reform Coalition

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

- 2005 Research Consultant, Los Angeles Language Access Collaborative, Los Angeles
- 2005 Demographic Research Intern, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles
- 2001-04 Project Director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles
- 1997-2001 Policy Coordinator, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996-97 Social Work Intern, Liberty Hill Foundation, Santa Monica, CA
- 1997 Organizer, Human Service Network, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 Organizer, Los Angeles Living Wage Coalition, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995-96 Social Work Intern, St. Barnabus Senior Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994-95 Instructor, Orange County School District Outdoor Science School, Running Springs, CA
- 1993-94 Lab Technician, Hycor Biomedical Company, Inc.

**HONORS/AWARDS**

- 2008- Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
- 2010 Dean's Scholar, School of Social Work, University of Southern California
- 2010 Order of Arete Student Recognition Award, University of Southern California
- 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

2010 Propensity Score Analysis and Its Applications to Social Work Research, Society for Social Work & Research Summer Quantitative Training Workshops

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

2009 RAND Summer Institutes: Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists and Demography, Economics, and Epidemiology of Aging conference

2006, 2007 Advanced Training Workshop on Structural Equation Modeling in Longitudinal Research, Longitudinal Research Institute

2006 GIS and Population Science Workshop, University of California at Santa Barbara, Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science

2006 Applied Longitudinal Analysis, Southern California American Statistical Association 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics

## SPECIFIC SKILLS

**Research:** Quantitative data analysis; GIS and spatial analysis; mixed methods

**Organizational:** Program development & administration; grantwriting; organizing

**Policy:** Legislative and administrative advocacy; policy analysis

**Software:** SPSS, STATA, Mplus, AMOS, HLM, ArcGIS, GeoDa