

Soonhyung Kwon, PhD, MSW, MA

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

- 2024 Aug – Assistant Professor, University of South Florida School of Social Work
Present
- 2023 Jul – Postdoctoral Research Associate, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Institute for
2024 Jul Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research

EDUCATION

- 2017 Aug – **PhD, School of Social Work, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign**
- 2023 Jun Dissertation: *Discrimination and Mental Health of Older Korean Adults in the U.S.: Feasibility and Preliminary Efficacy of a Culturally Tailored Mindfulness-Positive Psychological Intervention Using Virtual Reality*
Committee Chairs: Dr. Chi-Fang Wu and Dr. Rosalba Hernandez
Committee Members: Dr. Teresa Ostler, Dr. Flavia Andrade, and Dr. Neha Gothe
- 2015 Aug – **MSW, School of Social Work, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor**
- 2017 May Major: Aging in Family and Society & Community Organization
Minor: Interpersonal Practice
- 2013 Oct – **MA, Department of Social Policy, University of York**
- 2014 Oct Dissertation: *Integrated Approach of Public and Private Pension Scheme: Pension Regimes of 13 OECD Countries*
- 2007 Mar – **BSW, Department of Social Welfare, Soonchunhyang University**
2013 Feb

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published Articles

- Jiang, Y., Li, M., **Kwon, S.**, Zhu, Y., Bei, W., & Tang, F. (2024). Impacts of acculturation on depressive symptoms and activities of daily living of U.S. older Chinese immigrants. *The Gerontologist*, gnae124.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnae124>
- Kwon, S.**, Benoit, E. & Windsor, L (2024). The effects of social support and self-efficacy on hopefulness in low-income older adults during COVID-19 pandemic. *BMC Geriatrics*. 24(305), 1-8.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-024-04915-4>.
- Kwon, S.**, Shin, O., & Hernandez, R. (2024). Preliminary efficacy of a technology-based physical activity intervention for older Korean adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Educational Gerontology*. 50(1),

27-36. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03601277.2023.2216090>.

Kwon, S., An, J., Lara-Cinisomo, S., Andrade, C. D. F., & Hernandez, R. (2023). The influence of cultural values on Korean caregiver's mental health: A systematic review. *Social Work in Mental Health*. 21(6), 784-804. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2023.2202789>.

Hernandez, R., Wilund, K., Solai, K., Tamayo, D., Fast, D., Venkatesan, P., Lash, J. P., Lora, C. M., Martinez, L., Martin-Alemañy, G., Martinez, A., **Kwon, S.** ... Moskowitz, J. T. (2023). Positive psychological intervention delivered using virtual reality in hemodialysis patients with comorbid depression: Protocol and design of the Joviality™ randomized controlled trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 12(1), e45100. <https://doi.org/10.2196/45100>.

Jung, H., Sunderrajan, A., Durantini, M., Sanchez, E., Windsor, ... **Kwon, S.**, & Albarracin, D. (2022). Testing a digitally distributed method to recruit a network of community organizations to fight the consequences of the drug epidemic: A study in thirteen American states. *Journal of Community Psychology*. 50(8), 3455-3469. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22846>.

Billiot, S., **Kwon, S.**, & Burnette, C. E. (2019). Repeated disasters and chronic environmental changes impede generational transmission of indigenous knowledge. *Journal of Family Strengths*. 19(1), Article 11. <https://doi.org/10.58464/2168-670X.1407>.

Lee, S. J., **Kwon, S.**, Gatti, J. R., Korcari, E., Gresser, T. E., Felix, P. C., ... & Wu, N. W. (2017). Large-scale identification of human cerebrovascular proteins: Inter-tissue and intracerebral vascular protein diversity. *PloS one*, 12(11), e0188540. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0188540>.

Revise & Resubmit/Under Review

Hernandez, R., Chen, J., **Kwon, S.**, Martinez, L., Martinez, A., Alemany, G., M., Romero, D., Addington, E. L., Huffman, J., & Moskowitz, J. T. (Revise & Resubmit). Feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a Spanish-language positive psychological intervention in Hispanics/Latinos with hypertension: Results from a church-based randomized clinical trial. *Journal of Happiness Studies*.

Li, K., Tang, F., **Kwon, S.**, & Jiang, Y. (Revise & Resubmit). Social isolation and depressive symptoms of older Chinese Americans: The mediation effect of activity engagement. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*.

Kwon, S., Zhu, Y., Byrd, D., Tang, F., & Jiang, Y. (Under Review). A cross-lagged model for testing bidirectional relationships among physical function, depression, and cognitive function of older Chinese Americans. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*.

Kwon, S., Andrade, C. D. F., & Hernandez, R. (Under Review). Preliminary efficacy of a mindfulness-positive psychological intervention using virtual reality in older Korean Americans: Randomized controlled trial. *Aging & Mental Health*.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Cross, T. P., Fox., H. L., Landa, C., LaSota, R., Thebaud, M., Hines, D., Parsons, T., Song, E., Hampton-

- Campbell, S., **Kwon, S.**, & Steiner, M. J. (2024). *Exploring the role of guardianship in effective and equitable permanency: Policy context and lessons learned*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Landa, C., Fox, H.L., LaSota, R., Thebaud, M., Hines, D., Parsons, T., Song, E., Hampton-Campbell, S., **Kwon, S.**, & Steiner, M.J. (2023). *Exploring the Role of Guardianship in Effective and Equitable Permanency: Report on the Professional Interview Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Tran, S., Betteridge, E., Hjertquist, R., Spinelli, T., Prior, J., Jordan, N., & **Kwon, S.** (2021). *The Relationship Between Emotional and Behavioral Needs Identified When Children Enter Substitute Care and Their Problems While in Care*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Tran, S., **Kwon, S.**, & Cross, T.P. (2021). *Another Look at the Resilience of Children and Youth in DCFS Care: New Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Tran, S. & **Kwon, S.** (2020) *How Frequently Do Young Children in DCFS Care Receive Early Childhood Education? Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., **Kwon, S.** & Tran, S. (2020). *Sexual Victimization and Sexual Behavior of Children and Youth in DCFS Care: Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Tran, S., & **Kwon, S.** (2020). *Substance Use of Children and Youth in DCFS Care: Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Tran, S., & **Kwon, S.** (2020). *Delinquent Behavior of Youth in DCFS Care: Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., Tran, S., & **Kwon, S.** (2020). *Behavioral Health Services for Children in DCFS Care: Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Tran, S., Cross, T.P., & **Kwon, S.** (2020). *The Emotional and Behavioral Health of School-Age Children and Youth in DCFS Care: Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Cross, T.P., **Kwon, S.** & Tran, S. (2020). *The Use of Psychiatric Medication for Children in DCFS Care. Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Kwon, S.,** Zhu, Y., Tang, F., & Jiang, Y. (2023, November). *Physical function, depression, and cognitive function of older Chinese Americans: Cross-lagged model*, GSA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, the United States.
- Kwon, S.** (2023, November). *Anti-Asian Racism Among Older Korean Americans During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, GSA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, the United States.
- An, J. & **Kwon, S.** (2023, November). *Personal Factors Affecting Interpretation of Chronic Stress among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions: Moderating Role of Different Leisure Types*, GSA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, the United States.
- Kwon, S.,** Benoit, E., & Windsor, L. C. (2023, November). *The Role of Social Support and Self-Efficacy on Hopefulness in Low-Income Older Adults Aged 50 and Over*, GSA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, the United States.
- Kwon, S.** & An, J. (2022, November). *Initial Efficacy of an App-based Mindfulness-Meditation for Bereaved Korean Older Adults during the Pandemic*, GSA 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting. Tampa, the United States.
- Kwon, S.,** Lara-Cinisomo, S., Andrade, F., & Hernandez, R. (2022 January) *The Influence of Cultural Values on Mental Health of Korean Caregivers for Older Adults: Systematic Review*, 2022 Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C, United States.
- Kwon, S.** & Shin, O. (2021, November). *Effects of a Web-based Intervention on Cardiovascular and Physical Health of Korean Older Adults During the Pandemic*, GSA 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting. Online.
- Kwon, S.,** An, J., & Shin, O. (2021, November). *A Trend of Korean Older Adults' Awareness as a Threat to Society During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, GSA 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting. Online.
- Shin, O., An, J., **Kwon, S.,** & Wu, C. (2020, January). *The Impact of Retirement on Loneliness: a Systematic Review*. 2020 Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C, the United States.
- Kwon, S.** & Billiot, S. (2018, November). *Elderly Native American's Mental Health Impacts of Exposure to Environmental Change*, GSA 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, Boston, the United States.
- Kwon, S.** (2018, July). *Life Satisfaction of Older Caregivers for Individuals with Dementia: Gender perspective*, Social Work, Education and Social Development Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- Billiot, S., Powell, T. L., & **Kwon, S.** (2018, July). *Indigenous People, Environmental Change, and Mental Health: Systematic Review*, Social Work, Education and Social Development Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- Kwon, S.** (2017, July). *Informal Social Support, Stress, and Depressive Symptoms Among Spousal Dementia Caregivers Aged 60 Years and Over in the United States*, Alzheimer's Association International Conference, London, the United Kingdom.
- Kwon, S.** (2016, September). *Social Work for Older Adults with Dementia*, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, the United States.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 **Gerontological Society of America**
GSA Diversity Mentoring and Career Development Fellow Award
- 2022 **University of Illinois School of Social Work**
Training Funds Award (Dissertation)
- 2022 **University of Illinois School of Social Work**
Ernie Gullerud Dissertation Scholarship
- 2022 **Gerontological Society of America**
TJ McCallum Memorial Award
- 2022 **Gerontological Society of America**
Carol Schutz Award
- 2022 **Gerontological Society of America**
Student Award - GSA Behavioral and Social Sciences Section
- 2021 **Korean American Social Work Educators Association**
Dr. Paul K.H. Kim Scholarship
- 2021 **Gerontological Society of America**
Student Award - GSA Behavioral and Social Sciences Section
- 2018-2022 **University of Illinois School of Social Work**
Conference Travel Funding
- 2018 **Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work**
AGESW Pre-dissertation Fellows Program
- 2016-2017 **University of Michigan School of Social Work**
Conference Travel Funding
- 2011-2012 **Soonchunhyang University Department of Social Welfare**
Merit Grade Scholarship
- 2012 **Senior Welfare Center of Seoul**
Award in Social Work Program Development
- 2008 **Soonchunhyang University Department of Social Welfare**
Second-Year Student Representative Scholarship
- 2007 **Soonchunhyang University Department of Social Welfare**
Project Field: Medical Social Work - Grand Prize

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2022 **Kwon, S. (PI)** The effects of app-based mindfulness for bereaved older Korean adults. Demand (https://www.demand.co.kr/app_inmind?lang=en). \$950
- 2022 An, J. (PI) & **Kwon, S. (Co-PI)** VR-based Mindfulness Intervention for Older Korean Americans.

Faculty Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Support Grant program
California State University – East Bay. \$7,000

2016 'Anti-Ageism' Project & Therapeutic Art Project for Older Adults with Cognitive Impairment.
Gerontology Learning Community, University of Michigan School of Social Work. \$500

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021-2023 **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing

- Worked on HCHS/SOL cohort data
- Participated across multiple NIH (R01 & R21)-funded positive psychological intervention trials using virtual reality platforms and tablet/smartphone apps in both Chicago and Urbana-Champaign in IL

2019-2020 **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

- Researched multilevel interventions designed to address substance use related to health disparities in distressed communities

2019 **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Center for Prevention Research & Development

- Researched Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) and the Federal Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)

2017-2019 **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

- Researched a peer-reviewed systematic review focused on environmental change, indigenous people, and mental health
- Applied for R21 NIH grant (Youth physical health intervention)

2015-2017 **Research Assistant (Volunteer)**

Veteran Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System

- Researched a correlation between diversified human cerebrovascular proteins and human brain

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 Fall **University of South Florida School of Social Work**

SOW6438: Evaluation of Clinical Practice in Diverse Settings (22 MSW students; In-person)

2023 Fall **East Carolina University School of Social Work (Guest Lecturer)**

HDFS 2400: Introduction to Gerontology (Title: Technology in Social Work; Online)

2022 Fall **University of Illinois School of Social Work**

SOCW 427: Social Work Research Methods (10 BSW students; In-person)

- 2021 Fall **University of Illinois School of Social Work**
Discovery Partners Institute's Science Team: Undergraduate Students in the Department of Computer Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Chicago (6 undergraduate students; Online)
- 2019 Fall **University of Illinois School of Social Work**
SOCW 417: Dementia Care for Older Adults (Title: Mental Health in Older Asian Americans; In-person)
- Yanbian University of Science and Technology Department of General Studies (Volunteer)**
Introduction to Psychology (English; 65 undergraduate students; In-person)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2017 **Intern**
Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
Supervisor: Laura E. Rice-Oeschger, LMSW
- Researched how social support affects older adult caregiver's depressive symptoms and stress
 - Facilitated a mindfulness class for dementia caregivers
 - Facilitated a focus group for older adults with early-stage dementia
- 2015-2016 **Intern**
University of Michigan Geriatric Center Silver Club
Supervisor: Doug Dault, Director of Silver Club Memory Programs
- Facilitated art and food therapy program for dementia patients
 - Managed fundraisers and companies
 - Published winter and spring newsletters
 - Interviewed family caregivers on their opinions about social support and depression
- 2015 **Full-Time Social Worker**
O-Jeong Senior Community Welfare Center, General Affairs and Administration
- Conducted satisfaction survey to 152 clients
 - Dealt with 284 clients who received a free meal
 - Managed budget (approximately \$3,500,000)
 - Developed a community program (*O-jeong café*)
 - Achieved the greatest award from the Ministry of Health and Welfare with the Gyeonggi-do Province Senior Welfare Center Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

- 2013 National Certificate of Social Work, (Korean) Ministry of Health and Welfare
- 2012 Certificate of Qualification in Art Therapy

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2020 Society for Social Work and Research
2018 Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work
2018 The Gerontological Society of America
2017 The International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment
2013 Korean Association of Social Workers