

## Soonhyung Kwon, PhD, MSW, MA

Assistant Professor, University of South Florida School of Social Work

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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. 24(305)

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-

- 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.

## 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-M46 (179.153.67) (3042254) (1978062)*

## **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-



- 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