

Kathryn T. Luk, LGSW, MSW

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

Expected May 2026

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA

Dissertation: *Interrupting Iatrogenics: Exploring Factors Associated with Mobile Crisis Workers' Decisions to Deploy Coercive Interventions*

Master of Social Work

August 2022

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA

Specialization: Direct Practice

Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience

May 2016

College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota Twin Cities | Minneapolis, MN

Minor: Public Health

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

September 2020-Present

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA

- Independent Evaluation of New York State's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) (*In collaboration with Human Services Research Institute*)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nev Jones, MA, MA
Project Summary: This evaluation examines current implementation of AOT programs across New York State and explores the outcomes associated with being placed under an AOT order
 - Integrated participatory methods to ensure the evaluation study design centered the lived experiences of people under AOT orders
 - Designed recruitment materials for 13 different stakeholder interviews and focus groups
 - Revised semi-structured interview and focus group guides for four AOT stakeholder groups
 - Conducted semi-structured interviews with people under AOT orders and their family members
 - Created a county-level database from secondary sources for statistical analysis
 - Analyzed outcomes associated with being placed under an AOT order
- Mobile Crisis Teams: Testing the Potential for Perpetuating Disparities
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Leah Jacobs, MSW, MA
Project Summary: This study was an experimental 2x2 factorial vignette survey study that assessed the impact of service user race and prior criminal-legal involvement on mobile crisis workers' decisions to deploy coercive interventions
 - Conducted logistic mixed effects modeling analysis to assess the separate and cumulative effects of service user race and prior criminal-legal involvement on deploying coercive interventions
 - Created data visualizations using ggplot2 to present key findings from statistical analyses, enhancing data interpretation and communication
 - Performed data cleaning and management, ensuring accuracy and completeness, and conducted basic descriptive statistical analyses
 - Managed and processed honorariums for research study participation

- Resilience in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Leah Jacobs, MSW, MA

Project Summary: This study is a cluster-randomized controlled trial in twenty neighborhoods in Allegheny County that evaluates the Community Resiliency Collective Efficacy Intervention, with the goal of increasing community resilience and reducing community violence

Project Number: SM084931-03

- Developed a Quarto template for accessible, neighborhood-specific reports, streamlining data presentation and accessibility for community partners and additional stakeholders
- Supported research dissemination by preparing visual and written summaries for community stakeholders and policy makers
- Conducted data quality checks and analyses, ensuring integrity and reliability of collected data

- Family Relationships of People Living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, MSW

Project Summary: This project uses a recovery-oriented approach to examine the relationships of people living with SMI to strengthen family advocacy and supports for people living with SMI

- Prepared manuscripts exploring factors influencing relationship quality in people living with SMI from the perspectives of the individual and their relative
- Conducted literature reviews in the areas of recovery-oriented approaches for people with SMI, correlates of relationship quality, and family advocacy and intervention

Student Trainee

May 2010-August 2016

Department of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation, University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

- Characteristics and Mechanisms of Pain in Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kalpna Gupta

Project Summary: This project examines the characteristics and mechanisms of pain in SCD, which will lead to the development of novel and more effective approaches to treat acute pain crises for people living with SCD

Project Number: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute – 3R01HL103733-04S2

- Developed technique for immunostaining whole dorsal root ganglion (DRG) visualization using laser scanning confocal microscopy
- Investigated the impact of morphine sulfate on pain levels and survival with transgenic mice with SCD
- Performed deep/musculoskeletal pain testing, mechanical hyperalgesia testing, and hot and cold thermal sensitivity testing
- Conducted cell culture techniques to examine effects of mast cell degranulation on mouse blood endothelial cells (mBEC)
- Imaged cells using transmission electron microscopy to examine endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress on mBEC
- Conducted enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays to detect cytokines associated with ER stress

- Opioid and Breast Cancer Growth and Metastasis

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kalpna Gupta

Project Summary: This study examines the mechanisms by which morphine and other opioids promote angiogenesis to enhance breast cancer tumor growth and metastasis, which will lead to the development of novel therapeutics for breast cancer treatment and alter clinical decision making when treating patients with breast cancer.

Project Number: National Cancer Institute – 5R01CA109582-05

- Quantified immunoreactive pixels for statistical analysis, examining differences between mice treated with and without morphine
- Immunostained tumor samples for visualization by epifluorescent microscopy
- Collected and prepared tissue and tumor samples from C3TAG transgenic mice

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty

September 2024-Present

School of Social Work, Augsburg University / Minneapolis, MN

- Independently taught hybrid sequenced courses SWK 615: Diversity & Inequality I & SWK 616: Diversity & Inequality II
 - Facilitated inter-group dialog (IGD)-based discussions about social construction of identities, power and privilege, and types of intersection systemic oppressions on a bi-weekly basis, culminating in two student-led discussions about difficult topics
 - Organized and led a variety of interactive and engaging activities to encourage further engagement with material and accommodate a variety of learning styles
 - Graded all assignments and provided additional feedback for students to deepen their understandings of identity and oppression

Teaching Fellow (TF)

January 2024 – May 2024

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

- Independently taught SWRES 2033: Evaluation Research in the Social Services
 - Lectured on fundamentals of evaluative research on a weekly basis
 - Graded all assignments and provided additional feedback for students' assignments and final projects
 - Held office hours and met with students to develop their final evaluation projects and improve their academic writing skills on a weekly basis

Teaching Assistant (TA)

August 2023 – December 2023

School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

TA Mentor: Dr. Cathrine Greeno

- SWRES 2033: Evaluation Research in the Social Services
 - Lectured on evaluative qualitative research (10/18/23) and community-based participatory research (11/8/23)
 - Graded all assignments and provided additional feedback for students' final projects
 - Held office hours and met with students to develop their final evaluation projects and improve their academic writing skills

- SWRES 3022: Inferential Statistics
 - Prepared and provided instruction for weekly stats labs using Stata SE 17.0
 - Graded weekly stats labs and provided additional feedback for students' final projects
 - Held office hours and met with students to improve their statistical analysis skills

Day One® Trainer and Specialist

November 2018-August 2021

Cornerstone Advocacy Service / Bloomington, MN

- Trained 150+ advocates on interagency collaboration using a trauma-informed referral process and system
- Biannually facilitated advocate trainings on power, privilege, and oppression

Youth Prevention Educator

October 2017-November 2018

Tubman / Minneapolis, MN

- Educated metro-area middle- and high-school students on healthy relationships and mental health skill development
- Served as a resource for students, teachers, and administrators to support students experiencing violence
- Facilitated monthly youth leadership program to engage young people in peer-education, violence prevention, and social change within their own communities

East Metro Safe Harbor Regional Navigator & Youth Outreach Coordinator October 2016-October 2017

Tubman / Maplewood, MN

- Developed and increased regional capacity to identify and serve sexually exploited youth through educational trainings and provision of technical support
- Trained to facilitate sexual exploitation and prevention groups with youth and young adults

Violence Prevention Educator

February 2015-May 2016

The Aurora Center / Minneapolis, MN

- Certified sexual assault crisis counselor in the state of Minnesota
- Presented on bystander intervention and gender-based violence causes and prevention strategies

Sexual Health Awareness and Disease Education (SHADE) Coordinator

May 2014-May 2016

Boynton Health Service, Department of Health Promotion / Minneapolis, MN

- Facilitated presentations to educate undergraduate students on various sexual health and sexuality topics
- Led weekly meetings to support peer sexual health educators

GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Washington County Crisis Response Unit (CRU) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training May 2025
- Trauma-Informed Facilitation - Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) Facilitator's Meeting – Wilkinsburg Neighborhood July 2024
- Trauma-Informed Facilitation - Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) Facilitator's Meeting – Homewood Neighborhood March 2024

- Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy March 2023
[Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.]
- Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy November 2022
[Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.]
- Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy May 2022
[Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.]
- Dean Scholar's Spring Celebration – Program Graduate Speaker April 2020
(Cancelled due to COVID-19)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Luk, K.T. & Jones, N. (2024). National seclusion and restraint trends withing child residential treatment facilities: 2010-2020 in review. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 95(4): 681-695. doi: 10.1007/s11126-024-10098-3

Labrum, T., **Luk, K.**, Newhill, C.E., & Solomon, P. (2024). Relationship quality among persons with serious mental illness and their relatives: Rates and correlates. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 95(2): 253-269. doi: 10.1007/s11126-024-10069-8

Tran, H., Mittal, A., Sagi, V., **Luk, K.**, Nguyen, A., Gupta, M., Nguyen, J., Lamarre, Y., Lei, J., Guedes, A., & Gupta, K. (2019). Mast Cells Induce Blood Brain Barrier Damage in SCD by Causing Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress in the Endothelium. *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*, 13, 56. doi:10.3389/fncel.2019.00056

Nguyen, J., **Luk, K.**, Vang, D., Soto, W., Vincent, L., Robiner, S., Saavedra, R., Li, Y., Gupta, P., & Gupta, K. (2014). Morphine stimulates cancer progression and mast cell activation and impairs survival in transgenic mice with breast cancer. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, 113 Suppl 1(Suppl 1), i4–i13. doi:10.1093/bja/aeu090

Vincent, L., Vang, D., Nguyen, J., Gupta, M., **Luk, K.**, Ericson, M. E., Simone, D.A., & Gupta, K. (2013). Mast cell activation contributes to sickle cell pathobiology and pain in mice. *Blood*, 122(11), 1853–1862. doi:10.1182/blood-2013-04-498105

Luk, K., Boatman, S., Johnson, K. N., Dudek, O. A., Ristau, N., Vang, D., Nguyen, J., & Gupta, K. (2012). Influence of morphine on pericyte-endothelial interaction: implications for antiangiogenic therapy. *Journal of Oncology*, 2012, 458385. doi:10.1155/2012/458385

Manuscripts Under Review

Luk, K.T. & Newhill, C.E. (2023). Hurt Instead of Help: BIPOC clients and sanctuary harm during inpatient care. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.

Manuscripts in Progress

Porter, C., **Luk, K.T.**, & Jacobs, L. A Systematic Review of Interventions to Reduce Coercion Across Mental Health Settings

Luk, K.T. & Sable, P.E. The Sound and the Fury: Defining Values-Based Buzzwords in Physical and Mental Healthcare. Under Preparation.

Gupta, P., Jacobs, L., **Luk, K.T.**, Jones, T. “Acting as the Face of a Broken System”: Challenges Experienced by Mobile Crisis Workers. Under Preparation.

Mangum, L., Craddoc, J., & **Luk, K.** Understanding Sexual Victimization and Condom Use Behaviors Among a Sample of Sexually Experienced Black Women Using Latent Class Analysis. Under Preparation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Luk, K.T., Jacobs, L., Gupta, P., Gottlieb, A., Jones, N., Watson, A., Miller, T. (January 2025). *The Impact of Service Users’ Race and Legal System Involvement on Coercive Mobile Crisis Interventions: An Institutional Racism Prevention Research Study*. Oral presentation at the 29th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference.

Gupta, P., Jacobs, L., **Luk, K.T.**, & Jones, T. (January 2025). *Acting as the Face of a Broken System: Challenges Experienced by Mobile Crisis Workers*. Poster presentation at the 29th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference.

Miller, T., Jacobs, L., Gupta, P., & **Luk, K.T.** (January 2025). *Strategies for Recruiting Diffuse Practitioner Groups: Lessons Learned from a National Survey with Mobile Crisis Workers*. Poster presentation at the 29th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference.

Luk, K.T., Jacobs, L., Gupta, P., Gottlieb, A., Jones, N., Watson, A., & Miller, T. *Examining the Impact of Service Users’ Race and Legal System Involvement on Coercive Mobile Crisis Interventions*. Oral presentation at the 2024 APPAM Fall Research Conference.

Luk, K., Jones, N., Greeno, C. (January 2024). *National Trends in Seclusion and Restraint Utilization within Child Residential Treatment Centers*. Oral presentation at the 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference.

Luk, K., (January 2024). *Exploring Factors Associated with Implementation Levels of Trauma-Informed Care*. Poster presentation at the 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference.

Luk, K., Jones, N., Greeno, C. (April 2023). *Predictors of Seclusion and Restraint Use in Child Mental Health Residential Treatment Centers*. Poster presentation at the 11th Annual Adolescent and Young Adult Health Research Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mangum, L., Craddock, J.B., & **Luk, K.** (November 2022). *Understanding Sexual Victimization and Condom Use Behaviors Among a Sample of Sexually Experienced Black Women Using Latent Class Analysis*. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association 2022, Boston, MA.

Luk, K., Lamarre, Y., Lei, J, Paul, J, Benson, B, Nguyen, J, Gupta, K. (April 2015). *Mast Cell Activation in Sick Mice Stimulates Endothelial Dysfunction*. Poster presentation at the 16th Annual Robert Hebbel Department of Medicine Research Day, Minneapolis, MN.

Luk, K, Nguyen, J, Paul, J, Benson, B, Lamarre, Y, Gupta, K. (December 2014). *Mast Cells Stimulate Endothelial Dysfunction in Sick Cell Disease*. Oral presentation at the 56th American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Luk, K, Duong, T, Paul, J, Jha, R, Lamarre, Y, Thompson, S, Nguyen, J, Gupta, K. (August 2014). *Morphine and Mast Cells Stimulate Endothelial Dysfunction*. Poster presentation at the 6th Mayo Clinic Angiogenesis Symposium, Rochester, MN.

Luk, K, Nguyen, J, Vang, D, Taiwo, OB, Kohli, DR, Ericson, ME, Pintar, JE, Hebbel, RP, Gupta, K. (December 2011). *Association of Mu Opioid Receptor with Neurogenic Inflammation in Sick Mice*. Oral presentation at the 53rd American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Luk, K, Boatman, S, Johnson KN, Dudek, OA, Ristau, N, Vang D, Nguyen, J, Gupta, K. (April 2011). *Influence of Morphine on Pericyte-Endothelial Interaction via Platelet Derived Growth Factor-B and Platelet Derived Growth Factor-beta*. Poster presentation at the 12th Annual Robert Hebbel Department of Medicine Research Day, Minneapolis, MN.

Anuforo, J, Nguyen, J, **Luk, K,** Wallen-Friedman, S, Kohli, DR, Vang, D, Ericson, ME, Simone, DA, Hebbel, RP, Gupta, K. (December 2010). *Association of Non-Healing Wounds, Pain and Neurochemical Alterations in Sick Cell Disease*. Poster presentation at the 52nd Annual American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- Undergraduate Research Supplement September 2013
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health
HL 103733 – Characteristics and Mechanisms of Pain in Sick Cell Disease
- Undergraduate Research Scholarship June 2012
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Minnesota Twin Cities – Minneapolis, MN
- High School Student Supplement September 2010
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health
HL 103733 – Characteristics and Mechanisms of Pain in Sick Cell Disease

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Dean's List August 2022
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA
- Outstanding Service Award April, 2016
The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education, University of Minnesota / Minneapolis, MN
- Outstanding Abstract Achievement Award – Undergraduate Student December 2014

American Society of Hematology 56th Annual Meeting / San Francisco, CA

- Outstanding Abstract Achievement Award – Undergraduate Student December 2011
American Society of Hematology 53th Annual Meeting / San Francisco, CA

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Outreach Coordinator July 2022-July 2023

Doctoral Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

- Facilitate relationship development for incoming and present doctoral students
- Plan and host social events for doctoral students to engage in community building
- Manage social media accounts for Doctoral Student Organization

Interim Doctoral Student Organization Liaison to the Associate Dean of DEI March 2022-July 2022

Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

- Served as the Doctoral student voice on the School of Social Work's DEI committee
- Provided student input and feedback for proposed policies and procedures

Racial Equity Consciousness Institute March 2022-April 2022

Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

- Participated in a seven-session series of learner-oriented engagement modules about developing racial equity consciousness
- Developed disposition, knowledge, awareness, and skills to address race and racism in a systematic way

Student Representative September 2021-September 2022

University Council on Graduate Study, University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh, PA

- Represented interests of Master's and Doctoral students from the School of Social Work on pan-university council
- Considered and suggested amendments to university policies and programs impacting over 9000 graduate students

TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Systems Science for Social Impact – Group Model Building Track August 2024

Washington University in St. Louis – Brown School of Social Work

Trauma Informed Clinical Practice August 2023

New York University – Silver School of Social Work

Multilevel Modeling for Longitudinal Data May 2023

University of Pittsburgh – Summer Methodology Series

Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling May 2023

The Center for Statistical Training by Curran-Bauer Analytics

Star-Lite Training: Learning Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience

May 2019

Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute

Technology of Participation (ToP) Strategic Planning Workshop

June 2018

HueLife

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Day One® Trainer and Specialist

November 2018-August 2021

Cornerstone Advocacy Service – Bloomington, MN

- Developed and maintain collaborative relationships with 90+ agencies across the state of Minnesota
- Trained advocates on supporting victim/survivors of violence, including Day One® process and Power & Privilege
- Provided technical support for advocates with complex advocacy situations
- Streamlined and review processes so victim/survivors find safety and support in a single contact
- Served as the On-Call supervisor for 24/7 crisis line service

Youth Educator

October 2017-November 2018

Tubman – Minneapolis, MN

- Educated metro-area middle and high school students on healthy relationship skill development
- Served as a resource for students, teachers, and administrators to support students experiencing violence
- Facilitated monthly youth leadership program to engage young people in peer-education, violence prevention, and social change within their own communities
- Provided training and technical assistance to schools implementing anti-violence initiatives
- Quarterly planned and hosted events for teens to engage within their own communities

East Metro Safe Harbor Regional Navigator & Youth Outreach Coordinator October 2016-October 2017

Tubman – Maplewood, MN

- Served as the East Metro's regional expert in sexual exploitation and trafficking in Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington counties
- Provided trauma-informed resources and referrals for youth, professionals, and community members
- Developed relationships with community and systems partners to improve outcomes for sexually exploited youth
- Streamlined and enhanced coordination between systems of care for sexually exploited youth
- Improved regional capacity to identify and serve sexually exploited youth through trainings and presentations

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer

June 2022 – May 2024

Sex Worker's Outreach Project Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

- Facilitate healthy boundaries and sex work workshop with providers
- Attend monthly meetings to determine goals and workplan for group

AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) – Minnesota License #32990	Expires January 2026
Member of Society for Social Work and Research	October 2023 – Present
Member of Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)	August 2022 – Present

SKILLS

Languages – Fluent in English and Spanish (speaking, reading, and writing); Conversational in Vietnamese
Stata and R statistical software
Minnesota State Certified Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Counselor – Minnesota Statute 595.02