

Kathryn T. Luk, LGSW, MSW

kal244@pitt.edu | <https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/people/kathryn-luk>

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work Expected 2025
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

Master of Social Work August 2022
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience May 2016
College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota Twin Cities – Minneapolis, MN

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Dean's List August 2022
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

Outstanding Abstract Achievement Award – Undergraduate Student December 2014
American Society of Hematology 56th Annual Meeting – San Francisco, CA

Undergraduate Research Supplement September 2013
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health
HL 103733 – Characteristics and Mechanisms of Pain in Sickle Cell Disease

Undergraduate Research Scholarship June 2012
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Minnesota Twin Cities – Minneapolis, MN

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

High School Student Supplement September 2010
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health
HL 103733 – Characteristics and Mechanisms of Pain in Sickle Cell Disease

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Assistant September 2020-Present
School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

- Evaluate professional and client experiences with compulsion and coercion in assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) system in New York in collaboration with Human Services Research Institute
[Faculty mentor: Dr. Nev Jones, MA, MA]
- Conducted study design, data collection, cleaning, and analysis to examine mobile crisis worker decision making based on clients' race and previous involvement with law enforcement
[Faculty mentor: Dr. Leah Jacobs]
- Prepared manuscripts exploring factors influencing relationship quality in people living with serious mental illness (SMI) from perspective of person with SMI and their relatives

[Faculty mentor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW]

Student Trainee

September 2020-Present

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

- Developed technique for immunostaining whole dorsal root ganglion (DRG) to study pain in sickle cell disease (SCD)
- Examined effects of morphine sulfate (MS) on tumor growth on breast tumors
- Investigated impact of MS on pain levels and survival in transgenic mice with SCD
- Studied effects of mast cell degranulation on endothelium in SCD
- Researched effects of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress on endothelium in SCD

[Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kalpna Gupta]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow (TF)

January 2024 – Present

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

1. Trauma-Informed Facilitation - Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) Facilitator’s Meeting March 2024
2. Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy [Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.] March 2023
3. Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy [Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.] November 2022
4. Creating Trauma-Informed Agencies – SWINT 2031: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy [Instructor: Dr. Travis Labrum, LCSW, Ph.D.] May 2022
5. Dean Scholar’s Spring Celebration – Program Graduate Speaker (Cancelled due to COVID-19) April 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 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*. <https://doi-org.pitt.idm.oclc.org/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*. Under Review.

Manuscripts in Progress

Luk, K.T. & Jones N. National Seclusion & Restraint Trends Within Child Residential Treatment Facilities: 2010-2020 in Review. Under Preparation.

Luk, K.T. & Sable, P.E. The Sound and the Fury: Defining Values-Based Buzzwords in Physical and Mental Healthcare. 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., 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 Sickle 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 Sickle 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 Sickle 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 Sickle Cell Disease*. Poster presentation at the 52nd Annual American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

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 inter-school council
- Considered and suggested amendments to university policies and programs impacting over 9000 graduate students

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 - Present

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

SKILLS

Languages – Fluent in English and Spanish (speaking, reading, and writing); Conversational in Vietnamese and Mandarin Chinese

Stata and R statistical software

Domestic violence and sexual assault crisis counseling

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