

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Year	Degree	Field of Study	Institution
1994	Bachelor of Arts (BA)	Political Philosophy	University of Dallas Constantin College of Liberal Arts Irving, Texas
2018–2020		Nursing ¹ GPA: 4.0	University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation Arlington, Texas
2022	Master of Social Work (MSW)	Community and Administrative Practice GPA: 4.0 Thesis Chair: Genevieve Graaf, PhD, MSW	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Arlington, Texas
2024	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	Social Work GPA: 4.0 Dissertation Chair: Diane Mitschke, PhD, LMSW	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Arlington, Texas

¹Coursework completed but BSN program interrupted due to COVID-19

Professional Development Training

Year(s)	Course or Program, Degree if any	Institution
2026	Alzheimer's Association Interdisciplinary Summer Research Institute (AA-ISRI), Population Health Track	Alzheimer's Association, Chicago, Illinois
2026	National Health and Aging Trends, Data User Workshop	University of Michigan Mentor: Vicki A. Freedman, PhD
2025	Epidemiology for the Clinical Investigator	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
2025	Genetics	Harvard Medical School

Faculty Academic Appointments

Year(s)	Academic Title	Department	Academic Institution
2026–Present	Assistant Professor	Social and Behavioral Sciences	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Peter O’Donnell Jr. School of Public Health
2024–2025	Early Impact Faculty Scholar; Assistant Instructor	Social and Behavioral Sciences	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Peter O’Donnell Jr. School of Public Health

Other Professional Positions

Year(s)	Position Title	Institution
2025–Present	Regional Program Partner	Big River Grocery Helena, Arkansas
2025	Program Director, Refugee Clinic	Agape Clinic, Dallas, Texas
2022–2025	Social Worker (LMSW)	Agape Clinic, Dallas, Texas
2024	Statistic Tutor	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work PhD Program
2023	Instructor	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work Program
2021–2024	Graduate Research Assistant	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work

Current Licensure and Certification

Licensure

Year(s)	State
2024–2025	Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners, Licensed Master Social Worker

Board and Other Certification

Year(s)	Specialty	Certifying Organization
2022–Present	Cognitive Screening, Certified Rater	MoCA Test, Inc.

Honors and Awards

Year	Name of Honor/Award	Awarding Organization
2024	Graduate Fellowship \$14,500	U.S. Department of Transportation National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC)
2023	Leadership Development Scholarship \$1,000	University of Texas at Arlington Follett Student Leadership Center
2022–2024	Dean’s Fellowship	University of Texas at Arlington

	\$4,000	School of Social Work
2022	Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Awarded Spring 2022 & Summer 2022	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Office of Research
2021–2022	Outstanding MSW Student Community and Administrative Practice Awarded Fall 2022, Spring 2022, & Summer 2022	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Office of Student and Academic Affairs
2021	Policy Brief Award \$100	University of Texas at Arlington Social Policy, Education, Advocacy, and Knowledge (SPEAK) Program
2021	Roy and Betty Dulak Endowed Scholarship \$3,000	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
2021	Outstanding Foundation Field Student	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work Office of Field Education

Committee Service *(Member, unless noted otherwise)*

Year(s)	Name of Committee	Institution/Organization
<u>Global</u>		
2026	Education Committee	Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)
2026	Program Advisory Committee member for the Generative AI for Business Certificate program	Remington College
<u>University/Department</u>		
2025	Rural Health Training Academy Planning Committee	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
2024	Associate Dean of Research Search Committee	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
2023	Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
2022–2023	Dean’s Executive Committee	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
2021–2022	Community and Administrative Practice Curriculum Committee	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
2020–2021	Bachelor of Social Work and Foundation Curriculum Committee	University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work

Professional Societies

Dates	Society Name, member
2025–Present	Society for Epidemiological Research (SER)

2024–Present	Alzheimer’s Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment (ISTAART)
2024–Present	American Public Health Association (APHA)
2024–Present	Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
2023–2024	Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW)
2022–Present	Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)
2022–2023	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
2021–2022	Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA)
2021–Present	National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
2020–Present	Phi Alpha, Iota Chapter, University of Texas at Arlington
2020–Present	Phi Kappa Phi, Chapter 300, University of Texas at Arlington

Community Engagement

Year(s)	Project, brief description	Organization or institution
2026	Partnered with Delta Magic in their project, Big River Grocery, serving as Regional Project Partner	Delta Magic, Helena, Arkansas
2025	Established a nine-member community advisory board of cross-sector leaders in Phillips County, Arkansas, to guide planning, decision-making, support participant recruitment, and provide feedback on results of a gene–environmental interaction study focused on environmental exposures and cognitive impairment in the Arkansas Delta.	Phillips County Community Advisory Board Phillips County, Arkansas
2025	Co-developed and implemented a free cognitive screening platform focused on providing education on brain health and healthy aging. Model piloted at Metrocrest Services (Carrollton, TX) in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association (DFW Chapter), and the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute (UTSW Medical Center).	Metrocrest Services Carrollton, Texas
2022–2025	Partnered with a charitable clinic serving resettled refugees to integrate community-engaged research into clinical workflows. Led development of culturally informed cognitive screening protocols administered by social workers, aligning research participation with existing clinical services and trust networks.	Agape Clinic Dallas, Texas
2022–2023	Co-established a community advisory board consisting of six state-level community organizations in partnership with the Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA) and	Youth and Family Behavioral Service Priorities Community Advisory Board National

	funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).	
2021–2022	Recruited county-level administrators in Texas and California to advise on the creation of an index measuring county governance in rural (unincorporated) areas with funding from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (University of Wisconsin; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).	Unincorporation and Health Disparities Community Advisory Board Texas and California

Educational Activities

1. Direct Teaching

Date	Course Name, Rotation or Session Topic	Role	Number of Instruction hours	Primary Learner Audience (number)	Department or Organization
<u>Medical and Graduate School (UME) Course Instruction, Small Group Instruction, Clinical Supervision</u>					
Fall 2026	Advance Social and Behavioral Theory in Public Health (SBS 9302)	Course Instructor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks		O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
Fall 2026	Directed Readings	Course Instructor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks	1	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
Summer 2026	Directed Readings	Course Instructor	3-credit hour course, 11 weeks	1	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
Spring 2026	Integrative Learning Experience (PUBH 5301)	Faculty Mentor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks	1	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
Fall 2025	Advanced Social and Behavioral Theory in Public Health (SBS 5304)	Course Instructor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks	3	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
Summer 2025	Applied Practice Experience (PUBH 5300)	Preceptor	9 weeks	1	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)
University of Texas at Arlington					
Fall 2024	Intermediate Statistics (SOCW 6347)	Tutor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks	10	School of Social Work

Fall 2023	Social Welfare Policy and Services (SOCW 3303)	Course Instructor	3-credit hour course, 16 weeks	14	School of Social Work
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2. Curriculum Development

Date	Course Name or Curriculum Product	Role	Purpose	Primary Learner Audience	Organization or Institution
2025	Advanced Social and Behavioral Theory in Public Health (SBS 5304)	New course development	Provide an in-depth exploration of social and behavioral science theories in public health research and health promotion, emphasizing their critical evaluation, adaptation, and application	PhD Students	O'Donnell School of Public Health (UTSW)

3. Mentoring and Advising

Date	Mentee Name	Mentee Level/ Program and Institution	Role	Mentee Outcomes, Current Position
2026	Mary Kris Stringfellow	PhD Program/UT Southwestern Medical Center, O'Donnell School of Public Health	Dissertation Committee Member	Current PhD Student
2026	Noureen Ahmed	PhD Program/ UT Southwestern Medical Center, O'Donnell School of Public Health	Dissertation Committee Member	Current PhD Student
2025	Maya Dattatreya	Master of Public Health/UT Southwestern Medical Center, O'Donnell School of Public Health	Academic Advisor	Current MPH Student
2025	Isabel Chavez	Master of Public Health/UT	Academic Advisor	Current MPH Student

		Southwestern Medical Center, O'Donnell School of Public Health		
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Editorial Activities

Year(s)	Journal Name
<u>Ad Hoc Reviewer</u>	
2026	<i>SAGE Open Aging</i> American Public Health Association, Environment Program, 2026 Annual Meeting and Expo Society for Epidemiologic Research, 2026 Annual Meeting <i>The Gerontologist</i>
2025	<i>SAGE Open Aging</i> <i>The Gerontologist</i> <i>Academia Mental Health & Well-Being</i>
2024	<i>BMC – Public Health</i> <i>Journal of Policy Practice and Research</i>
2023	<i>Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities</i> <i>Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies</i>

Grant Support

<u>Past</u>	<i>Grantor: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; County Health Rankings and Roadmaps</i>
	<i>Title of Project: Exploring county governance structures as drivers of health inequities</i>
	<i>Role: Co-Investigator</i>
	<i>Total amount of award and dates: \$100,000 (1/2024 – 12/2024)</i>
<u>Invited</u>	<i>Grantor: Alzheimer's Association</i>
	<i>Title of Project: Terbufos exposure and cognitive outcomes in a national older adult population</i>
	<i>Role: Principal Investigator</i>
<u>Under Review</u>	<i>Grantor: Department of Defense, Alzheimer's Research Program</i>
	<i>Title of Project: Validating a Replicated Population-Level Association of Chlorpyrifos and Alzheimer's Disease by G×E Interaction and a Metabolic Signature</i>
	<i>Role: Partnering Principal Investigator</i>

Invited Lectures

Year(s) Month	Title	Location
<u>National</u>		

2024 January	Research methods for engaging place in social work research [Workshop]	Society of Social Work Research, Annual Conference, Washington DC
<u>Regional/Local</u>		
2026 January	Family and Community Medicine Grand Rounds: Understanding the world around us: insights into refugee mental health (invited panelist)	University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas
2025 October	Engaging rural communities in public health research	University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work, Arlington, TX
2023 March	Qualitative Research Methods	University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work, Arlington, TX
2021 April	Policy Debrief: Medicaid Expansion in Texas	National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter (Austin, TX)

Bibliography

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Original Research Articles

2023	
1.	Palmer AN, Patel M, Sledge SL, Kitchens K , Cassano K. COVID-19 impacts on youth and young adult workforce development programs: a local perspective. <i>Child Youth Serv Rev</i> . 2023;155:107291. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107291.
2024	
2.	Palmer AN, Patel M, Kitchens K , Cassano K, Sledge SL. Lessons learned: a qualitative study of service delivery and experiences in local youth workforce programs. <i>J Child Fam Stud</i> . 2024;33(8):2655-2669. doi: 10.1007/s10826-024-02861-8.
3.	Graaf G, Kitchens K , Sweeney M, Thomas KC. Behavioral health services outcomes that matter most to caregivers of children, youth, and young adults with mental health needs. <i>Int J Environ Res Public Health</i> . 2024 Feb 1;21(2):172. doi: 10.3390/ijerph21020172. PMID: 38397663. PMCID: PMC10887955.
4.	Kitchens K , Graaf G. Piloting a measure of segregation at the census tract level: associations with place and racial/ethnic disparities in life expectancy. <i>Int J Environ Res Public Health</i> . 2024 May 11;21(5):613. doi: 10.3390/ijerph21050613. PMID: 38791827. PMCID: PMC11121047.
5.	Kirsch J, Maleku A, Kim YK, Aziz T, Dada S, Haran H, Kitchens K . The correlates of collective and individual trauma on mental health outcomes among Afghan refugees: a study of sociodemographic differences. <i>Community Ment Health J</i> . 2024 Oct;60(7):1255-1270. doi: 10.1007/s10597-024-01283-6. PMID: 38691243.
6.	Gomez-Vidal C, Palmer AN, Kitchens K , Ratliff GA, Graaf G. Unincorporation in counties as a political determinant of health: an exploration of five states. <i>SSM Popul Health</i> . 2024 Dec;28:101728. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2024.101728. PMID: 39686944. PMCID: PMC11647457.

2025	
7.	Kitchens K , Mitschke DB, LaBrenz CA, Thomas LA, Robinson ED. Teaching note–Connections Tutoring Lab: peer-led support in a virtual environment. <i>J Soc Work Educ.</i> 2025 Jan 17;61(2):1-6. doi: 10.1080/10437797.2024.2410801.
8.	Kitchens K , Kim Y. The role of education and English proficiency in cognitive health among older refugee populations in the United States. <i>J Gerontol Soc Work.</i> 2025 Jan;68(1):107-122. doi: 10.1080/01634372.2024.2421303. PMID: 39475185.
9.	Graaf G, Kitchens K , Sweeney M, Thomas KC. Outcomes that matter to youth and families in behavioral health services. <i>Adm Policy Ment Health.</i> 2025 Mar;52(2):331-345. doi: 10.1007/s10488-024-01409-8. PMID: 39269533. PMCID: PMC11935307.
10.	Kitchens K , Fields N, Mitschke DB. Reevaluating locus of control among older Karen refugees in long-term resettlement: an interpretative phenomenological analysis. <i>Gerontologist.</i> 2025 May 10;65(6):gnaf104. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnaf104. PMID: 40065637.
11.	Kitchens K , Kirsch, J, Naseh, M. Socioeconomic status among older resettled refugees in the United States: older Bhutanese refugees’ diminished returns on cognitive health. <i>Gerontol and Geriatr Med.</i> 2025 Jul 15;11:30495334251356739. doi: 10.1177/30495334251356739. PMID: 40672692. PMCID: PMC12264397.
12.	Husain L, Kitchens K , Raja S, Memon M. Bridging implementation gaps in digital health: a translational research imperative for equitable healthcare innovation. <i>Clin Transl Sci.</i> 2025 Oct;18(10):e70375. doi: 10.1111/cts.70375. PMID: 41044865. PMCID: PMC12494540.
2026	
13.	Kitchens K . Cognitive screening variability by English proficiency: a multi-group confirmatory factor analysis using the National Health and Aging Trends Study cognitive screening battery. <i>J Cross Cult Gerontol.</i> 2026 Mar 30;41(2):19. doi: 10.1007/s10823-026-09569-w. PMID: 41910864; PMCID: PMC13035586.
14.	Kitchens K . Bervik AD, Mitschke DB. Communal agency across the life course: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of resettlement stress among refugees from Burma in the United States. <i>Qual Health Res.</i> (In Press). doi: 10.1177/10497323261467306.

Original Research Articles (Under Review)

15.	Kitchens K , Haley RW. Agricultural organophosphate pesticide use and incident dementia in U.S. Counties: an exposome-wide association study. <i>JAMA Neur.</i>
16.	Fields NL, Xu L, Mammah R, Jang S, Stringfellow MK, Tinker S, Kitchens K . Faith-placed programs and supports for dementia: a scoping review. <i>Gerontologist.</i>
17.	Kitchens K , Gomez-Vidal C, Ratliff GA, Graaf G. Unincorporated places: county authority, fiscal capacity, and administrative responsiveness. <i>Pub. Admin.</i>
18.	Ratliff GA, Gomez-Vidal C, Palmer AN, Kitchens K , Graff G. Measuring unincorporation: constructing indices to evaluate county populations and areas outside cities. <i>J. Comm Pract.</i>
19.	Mitschke, D. B., Kitchens, K. , & Faizel, M. (2026). How experiences of displacement and resettlement impact health and health care access for Rohingya refugees: An emic perspective. <i>Social Sciences</i> , Special Issue: Inclusion and Integration Issues Among Forced and Voluntary Migrants.

Reviews, Book Chapters, Monographs and Editorials

1.	Snowden LR, Graaf G, Keyes L, Kitchens K , Ryan A, Wallace N. Did Medicaid expansion close African American–white health care disparities nationwide? A scoping review. <i>BMC Public Health</i> . 2022 Aug 30;22(1):1638. doi: 10.1186/s12889-022-14033-8. PMID: 36038836. PMCID: PMC9426283.
2.	Kirsch J, Kitchens K , Kerr K, Sivakumaran S. Group-based intervention models in treating refugee mental health in high-income countries: a systematic review. <i>Trauma Violence Abuse</i> . 2024 Dec;25(5):4173-4187. doi: 10.1177/15248380241270039. PMID: 39143917.
3.	Kitchens K , Sesay BJ, Fields NL, Stringfellow MK, Mitschke DB. What is the state of the literature about refugees aged 45 and older from Burma in third-country resettlement contexts?: a scoping review. <i>Gerontologist</i> . 2025 Apr 9;65(5):gnaf034. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnaf034. PMID: 39878133.

Meeting Summaries or Proceedings

2026	
1.	Kitchens K , Haley, RW. Organophosphate pesticide exposure and Alzheimer’s disease incidence in the United States: A longitudinal national exposome-wide analysis of cumulative exposure and use trajectories [oral presentation]. Presented at: American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo; 2026 Nov 3; San Antonio (TX).
2.	Kitchens K , Haley, RW. Agricultural terbufos use trajectories and subsequent ADRD incidence in the U.S.: a nationwide, longitudinal, county-level analysis [oral presentation]. Presented at: Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC); 2026 Jul 13; London (UK).
2025	
3.	Fields N, Xu L, Stringfellow M, Kitchens K , Jang S. Faith-placed services and supports for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias: a scoping review. <i>Innov Aging</i> . 2025 Dec 31;9(Suppl 2):igaf122.3932. doi: 10.1093/geroni/igaf122.3932.
4.	Kitchens K , Bervik A, Mitschke DB. Resettlement stress among emerging and middle adult refugees from Burma: an interpretative phenomenological analysis [oral presentation]. Presented at: Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2025 Jan 16; Seattle (WA).
5.	Kitchens K , Nordberg A. Community engagement in the cultural adaptation of standardized instruments among forcibly displaced populations: a scoping review [poster]. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2025 Jan 18; Seattle (WA).
6.	Gomez-Vidal C, Kitchens K , Ratliff GA, Graaf G, Palmer AN. Governance and health in unincorporated areas: a qualitative study on county-level challenges in Texas and California [poster]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2025 Jan 17; Seattle (WA).
7.	Spadola C, Kirsch J, Kerr K, Parikh K, Kitchens K . Addressing sleep health among refugees: results of a systematic review [poster]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2025 Jan 17; Seattle (WA).
2024	
8.	Kitchens K . English proficiency, immigration status, and cognitive assessment variability in older adults. <i>Innov Aging</i> . 2024 Dec 31;8(Suppl 1):641–642. doi: 10.1093/geroni/igae098.2099.
9.	Fields N, Kitchens K , Mitschke DB. Re-evaluating locus of control among older Karen refugees in long-term resettlement. <i>Innov Aging</i> . 2024 Dec 31;8(Suppl 1):237-238. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnaf104. PMID: 40065637.

10.	Kitchens K , Kirsch J. Socioeconomic status and cognitive difficulty: diminished returns among older Bhutanese refugees in the US. <i>Innov Aging</i> . 2024 December;8(Suppl 1):238. doi: 10.1093/geroni/igae098.0769.
11.	Kitchens K , Faizal M. The relational home: factors associated with feeling at home among stateless Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh [oral presentation]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2024 Jan 12; Washington (DC).
12.	Kitchens K , Mitschke DB, Nordberg A. Balancing priorities: navigating cost and affordability in the secondary relocation decisions of immigrants and resettled refugees [oral presentation]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2024 Jan 11; Washington (DC).
2023	
13.	Gomez-Vidal C, Ratliff GA, Kitchens K , Palmer AN, Graaf G. Understanding incorporation as a contextual driver of healthy environments [oral presentation]. Presented at: American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo; 2023 Nov; Atlanta (GA).
14.	Kitchens K , Mitschke DB. Length of time post-resettlement as a factor predicting somatic idioms of distress in resettled Karen refugees from Burma: a retrospective chart review [oral presentation]. Presented at: Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting; 2023 Oct 29; Atlanta (GA).
15.	Palmer AN, Patel M, Kitchens K , Cassano K, Sledge SL. COVID-19 impacts on youth and young adult workforce development programs [poster]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2023 Jan; Phoenix (AZ).
16.	Palmer AN, Sledge SL, Patel M, Kitchens K , Cassano K. Exploring local implementation contexts of youth workforce development programs: provider and young adult perspectives [oral presentation]. Presented at: Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference; 2023 Jan; Phoenix (AZ).
2022	
17.	Ratliff GA, Gomez-Vidal C, Kitchens K , Dzimbiri MN, Palmer AN, Graaf G. Developing political indices for evaluating health disparities in unincorporated communities [oral presentation]. Presented at: American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo; 2022 Nov; Boston (MA).

Non-peer reviewed scientific or medical publications/materials in print or other media

1.	Mitschke D, Nordberg A, Mattingly S, Kitchens K . Housing choice, transportation equity, and access to opportunities in refugee and immigrant communities [Internet]. Portland (OR): Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC); 2024 Jan. Report No.: NITC-RR-1477. doi: 10.15760/trec.295. Available from: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/trec_reports/259/
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