

Ann Yamada

Associate Professor of Social Work Dept. of Adult Mental Health and Wellness at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA, US

Dr. Yamada's research focuses on cultural relevance of community mental health services for adults with severe mental illness.

Biography

Dr. Yamada joined the faculty in 2003 as an assistant professor after completing a National Institute of Mental Health-funded fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of cultural research methodology and cultural competence. She is especially interested in enhancing the cultural relevance of community mental health services for adults and older adults with severe mental illness. Her current research is focused on developing faith-based services for Asian Americans and other under-represented groups with documented disparities in mental health service use.

As a Degree Fellow at the East West Center in Honolulu, Dr. Yamada received a PhD certificate in intercultural studies and was honored for distinguished service. For more than a decade, she has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and quality of care delivered to underserved minority populations. Her clinical practice experience has centered on providing health and mental health interventions with culturally diverse people with severe mental illness.

In 2007, Dr. Yamada received a three-year NIMH grant to pilot test a new intervention to give mental health providers in psychosocial rehabilitation services a more effective way to assess sociocultural issues across diverse client populations. The development and testing of the intervention was designed in close collaboration with a large mental health rehabilitation agency in Los Angeles that serves primarily an urban, inner city and ethnically diverse population of clients with severe mental illness. The study generated practical information to enhance the delivery of effective psychosocial interventions across diverse cultural groups and to support the development of culturally tailored interventions. The resulting tool has also been tested with Spanish- and Korean-speaking clients.

She has been appointed to the Council on Social Work Education's Council on Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity and is an active member of the school's Diversity Committee. Her USC appointments include University Park Institutional Review Board; Saks Center on Law, Mental Health and Ethics; USC Davis School of Gerontology; and the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture. She also participates on the Clergy Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Religion/Spirituality, Mental Health, Diversity/Cross Cultural, Military Social Work

Education

University of Hawaii
PhD Clinical Psychology

University of Hawaii
MA Psychology

Emporia State University
BS Psychology

Accomplishments

Competitive Selection into the National Institute of Health
2010

Competitive Selection into the National Institute of Health, Research Stimulus Workshop by the Asian American Center on Disparities Research (AACDR), CASRC, San Diego, CA

Tenure Awarded

2009
USC School of Social Work

Certificate of Recognition

2007
Certificate of Recognition for actively and effectively incorporating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues into the MSW curriculum, USC School of Social Work

Award for Excellence in Mentoring

2005
Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Mellon Center for Excellence in Teaching, USC School of Social Work

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