**Chansophal Mak, M.A.** Curriculum Vita

**EDUCATION**

Post-Doctoral Associate- University of Minnesota, USA, June 2023- June 2025 Mentor: Dr. Catherine Solheim, Professor Co-mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Wieling, Professor

Ph.D Human Development and Family Studies- emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy- University of Georgia, USA, Expected Graduation Date: May 2023  
Dissertation title: *“Mental health and relational needs assessment among Cambodian refugee families in the United States: A transgenerational ecological perspective.”* Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Wieling, Professor

M.A. Educational Guidance and Counseling- De La Salle University, The Philippines, 2014  
Thesis title: *“Perceived academic stress and coping strategies among dual degree college students in Cambodia: Examining the roles of academic emotions as moderators.”*  Advisor: Dr. Jerome Ouano

B. ED. in Education- Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2008

**RESEARCH AREAS** Traumatic Stress/Intergenerational Transmission of Traumatic Stress and Global Mental Health   
Displaced Populations and Multi-level interventions (i.e., individual, family, community)Qualitative Methodology and Feasibility Study Design  
Cultural Adaptation of Multi-level Interventions for Trauma-Affected Refugee Populations

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*Conducting “Mental health and relational needs assessment among Cambodian refugee families in the United States: An ecological perspective” for a Doctoral Dissertation (Spring 2022-Present): University of Georgia, Georgia, USA*

Primary responsibilities were to propose the study to get approval from the academic committee, apply for IRB, contact key informants who are serving Cambodian refugee families across the United States, conduct in-depth ethnographic interviews with key informants who consented to participate, transcribe and analyze the interview data in their original languages (Khmer and English), have ongoing consultation with academic advisor to enhance trustworthiness of data analysis, write results and discussion as well as clinical implications for future research, produce manuscripts for publication, and continuously apply for funding to further develop clinical trial studies and programs in response to the needs of Cambodian refugee families in the United States.

*Conducting “Intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress and resilience among Cambodian immigrant families along coastline in Alabama: Collective narratives through genogram” for a Second Year Research Project (Fall 2018-Spring 2020): University of Georgia, Georgia, USA*

Primary responsibilities were to propose the study to get approval from the academic committee, apply for IRB, search for research funding, contact community leaders who are serving Cambodian families along coastline in Alabama, conduct in-depth ethnographic interviews with Cambodian families (across three generations) who consented to participate, transcribe and analyze the interview data in their original languages (Khmer and English), have ongoing consultation with academic advisor to enhance trustworthiness of data analysis, write results and discussion as well as clinical implications for future research, produce a manuscript for publication, and continuously send abstracts for presentations at national and international conferences.

*Graduate Research Assistant (2018-2021): University of Georgia, Georgia, USA*

Project: Community and Family Resilience, Strength, and Vulnerabilities: Sociocultural Influences on Cambodian and Laotian Refugee Communities’ Responses to Environmental Challenges Research assistant for Dr. Denise Lewis and Dr. Desiree Seponski (NAS #200008280)

Primary responsibilities were to conduct in-depth interviews with Cambodian and Laotian community members, conduct prolonged ethnographic and observational field notes in the community, transcribe and analyze interview data in their original languages (Khmer and English), write and submit abstracts for national and international conferences, present findings at national and international conferences, and prepare manuscripts for publication. Presentations and manuscripts were related to social inequality, disaster preparedness, mental health, intergenerational family relationships, and health seeking behaviors.

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

ORCiD: [https://orcid.org/**0000-0002-7742-7446**](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7742-7446)

*Published*

**Mak, C.,** & Wieling, E. (2022). A systematic review of evidence-based family interventions for trauma-affected refugees. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *19*(15), 9361. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19159361>

**Mak, C**., Lewis, D., & Seponski, D. (2021). Intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress among Cambodian immigrant families: Collective Narratives. *Journal of Health Equity, 5*(1), 431-438. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heq.2020.0142>

**Mak, C**.& Ouano, J. (2017). Stress appraisals and coping strategies of Cambodian dual-degree students: The moderating role of achievement emotions. *Philippines Journal of Counseling Psychology.19*(1). p.39-50

*In Preparation*

**Mak, C.** Tailoring Narrative therapy for war-affected refugee families in healing intergenerational transmission of psychopathology and family disruption.

**Mak, C.** & Wieling, E. Mental health and relational needs assessment among Cambodian refugee families in the United States: A transgenerational ecological perspective.

**Mak, C.** & Wieling, E. Intergenerational transmission of psychopathology and family disruption among Cambodian refugee families in the United States.

**Mak, C.** & Wieling, E. Traumatic stress and complicated grief among first generation Cambodian refugees in the United States.

**CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

*International Presentations and Symposia*

**Mak, C**. A Systemic Review of the Literature of Cambodian Resettled Refugees to the United States: Impact of Mental Health and Family Adjustment (2021, Nov). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Virtual Conference. Nov 2-5

**Mak, C**., Lewis, D. C. and Seponski, D. M. Intergenerational Transmission of Traumatic Stress among Cambodian Immigrants along Coastal Alabama: Collective Narratives (2020, Nov). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Virtual Conference. Nov 4-14

**Mak, C.,** Lewis, D. C. and Seponski, D. M. Hidden Wish for Education and Its Barriers: A Collective Narrative among Third Generation Cambodian Immigrants (2020, Sep). Qualitative Research on Mental Health, Malta, Sep 17-19 (Conference postponed)

**Mak, C**., Lewis, D.C. and Seponski, D.M. Spirituality, Mental Health, Grief, and Loss among First Generation Cambodian Immigrants (2020, Mar). International Family Therapy Association World Congress, Basel, Switzerland. Mar 12-14. (Conference postponed)

**Mak, C**. and Lewis, D.C. From a Broken Family: A Cry for Family Connection among First Generation Cambodian Immigrants (Feb, 2020). Society for Cross-Cultural Research 49th Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. Feb 26-29.

*National Presentations and Symposia*

**Mak, C**., Lewis, D. C. and Seponski, D. M. Spirituality and Grief Resolution among Cambodian Immigrants (2020, Nov). American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Swan and Dolphin Resort, Orlando, FL. Nov 12-15 (Conference postponed)

Lewis, D.C., Seponski, D.M., DeYoung, S.E., Phal, M., Mercurio, J. and **Mak, C**. Contextualizing the health-seeking behaviors of Cambodian and Laotian families (2019, Nov). Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Ft. Worth, TX. Nov 20-23.

*Traveling Funding for Research Presentations*

11/2018 Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Grants & Awards, Domestic Travel Assistance Award for 2018 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, San Diego, CA. $1500 Awarded.

2/2019 Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Grants & Awards, Domestic Travel Assistance Award for 2019 Society for Cross-Cultural Research 47th Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL. $1132 Awarded.

11/2019 Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Grants & Awards, Domestic Travel Assistance Award for 2019 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Fort Worth, TX. $1500 Awarded.

2/2019 Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Grants & Awards, Domestic Travel Assistance Award for 2020 Society for Cross-Cultural Research 47th Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. $1500 Awarded.

2020 Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Grants & Awards, Domestic Travel Assistance Award for 2020 International Family Therapy Association Conference, Basel, Switzerland. $2000 Awarded.

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

*Marriage and Family Therapist Service Provider* Project Family, LLC, Athens, GA, August 2021-June 2023

*Marriage and Family Therapist Service Provider* Aspire Clinic at University of Georgia, Athens, GA, August 2018- August 2021

*Counseling Psychologist*  CamEd Business School, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2016-2018

*Counseling Psychologist*  Khmer Counseling Psychology Services (KCPS), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2014-2018

*External Relief Counseling Supervisor* Child Help Line Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2016-2018

*Creative Arts Therapist* Ragamuffin Cambodia/International, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2014-2018

*External Counseling Consultant* Cambodian Children Fund (CCF), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2015-2017

*Student Consultant* Consultation and Advising Services (CAS), Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2015-2017

**PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

*Professional Memberships*  Member, American Psychological Association (APA), 2021-Present Member, International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), 2020- present Member, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), 2018 – present

*Departmental/ University Service* Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Serving as a Diversity and Outreach Officer (2019–2020)

*Clinical Service*Offer Individual, Couple, and Family Therapy, Aspire Clinic at MacPaul Center, University of Georgia (2018-2021)

*Clinical Internship* Offer Individual and Family Therapy to Low-Income Families in Athens, Project Family LLC, Georgia, (2021-Present)

*Doctoral Student Peer Reviewer* Offer two peer reviews per year for the *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, (2022-Present)

*Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) Candidate Search Committee* Interview potential candidates in Social Work sponsored by the Open Society Foundation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, (2016 cohort)

*Task Force Member* Volunteer to reactivate the Cambodian Psychological Association (CPA) that has been on hold for 10 years. Main Responsibilities: Call for meetings among board members and founders; develop new vision, mission, action plan; and search for funding (2016-2018)

*Student Consultant* Offer mental health, educational guidance, and career guidance to undergraduate students from low-income families at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2015-2017)

**CERTIFICATIONS**

*Certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies*  University of Georgia- expected completion 2023 An advanced graduate education program that prepares graduate students to design and conduct qualitative studies and teach qualitative research methods courses. Graduates of this program have the knowledge and skills to design, critique, and implement high quality research and evaluation studies.

*Certified Prepare and Enrich Facilitator- 2020* An intensive clinical training program trains providers on the core knowledge and skills to facilitate an evidence-based pre-marital intervention program focused on fostering relational resilience in romantic relationships.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Graduate Teaching Assistant: University of Georgia, Georgia, USA* Fall 2022 Development within Family Summer 2022 Introduction to Child Development & Lifespan Development Spring 2022 Research Methods in Human Development and Families Fall 2021 Human Sexuality across Lifespan Summer 2021 Development within Family

*Co-Instructor: University of Georgia, Georgia, USA* Summer 2021 Introduction to Child Development

*Lecturer, Master Program, Department of Psychology, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh,Cambodia*  2017-2018 Foundation of Counseling 2016-2018Supportive Seminar for graduate students 2016-2017 Group Counseling

*Instructor, Pannasastra University of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia* 2014-2018 English Instructor at Pannasastra University of Cambodia 2010-2011 English Instructor at Pannasastra University of Cambodia 2009-2010 English Instructor at Australian Center for Education-Cambodia

**AWARDS/HONORS**

*University of Georgia* Graduate Education Advancement Board Fellowship, Awardee, 2022, ($2500) Price-Coker Excellence in Research Foundation Award, Awardee, 2022, ($2100) Summer 2022 Virginia Wilbansks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2022, ($1000) Summer 2021 Virginia Wilbansks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2021, ($800) Degree Acceleration Awards, Awardee, 2021, ($4800) Summer 2020 Virginia Wilbansks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2020, ($900) Summer 2019 Virginia Wilbansks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2019, ($1100) Cambodian and Laotian Strength and Resilience Summer Research Award, Awardee, 2019, ($5,000)

*Open Society Foundation (OSF)* Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) Program Assistantship to assist CSSA scholars’ preparation courses in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Awardee, 2016 (July), ($3000) OSF Alumni Internship Funding to work at Ragamuffin Cambodia/International, Awardee, 2014-2015, ($5000) Asia Pacific Scholarship Consortium (APSC) sponsored by OSF for a Master of Arts in Educational Guidance and Counseling at De La Salle University, the Philippines, Awardee, 2011-2014, ($35000)

**GRANT APPLICATION EXPERIENCES**

*Soros Equality Fellowship- 2022 (Not Funded)* Proposed Project Title: “Voicing Mental Health and Relational Needs, and Unpacking Social Inequality among Cambodian Refugee Families after Four Decades of Resettlement in the United State: An Ecological Perspective” Funding Possibility: Up to $130000+

*University of Georgia Graduate School Dissertation Completion Awards- 2022-2023 (Not Funded)* Proposed Dissertation Title: “Mental health and relational needs assessment among Cambodian refugee families in The United State: An ecological perspective” Amount of the award: $21,840 (10 months)

**LANGUAGES**

*Khmer*- Mother tongue

*English*- Fluently

*Thai*- Adequately