

Chansopha Mak, Ph.D

Curriculum Vita

EDUCATION

Post-Doctoral Associate- President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP)- University of Minnesota, USA, July 2023- July 2025

Project title: "Exploring Cambodian refugee parenting practices after 40+ years of resettlement in the United States: A mixed method study"

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, 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, Professor

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

B. S. in Agronomy- Royal University of Agriculture, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2008

RESEARCH AREAS

Traumatic Stress/Intergenerational Transmission of Traumatic Stress and Resilience

Forcibly Displaced Populations and Global Mental Health

Cultural Adaptation of Multi-level Interventions for Trauma-Affected & Displaced Populations

Parenting and Child Development in Trauma-affected & Forced Displacement Context

Qualitative Methodology and Mixed Methodology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Project: "Exploring Cambodian refugee parenting practices: A mixed method study" (July 2023- July 2025) _ University of Minnesota, Minnesota, USA (UMN IRB Approval: 12/21/2023_ IRB ID: STUDY00020956)

Primary responsibilities is to write a proposal, develop research materials in both Khmer and English, apply for IRB, contact key community leaders who are serving Cambodian refugee families in Minnesota and across the United States, conduct participant recruitment, conduct survey and in-depth ethnographic interviews, conduct survey data coding, transcribe interview

data in their original languages (Khmer and English), conduct survey and interview analysis, consult with academic mentors regularly to ensure the quality and trustworthiness of the research, and constantly search for possible research fundings (e.g. Grant-in-Aids) with academic mentors to expand the scope of the research and to open the path for future a cultural adaptation project of an evidence-based parenting intervention to interrupt the cycle of intergenerational transmission of trauma among trauma-affected and forcibly displaced families.

Doctoral Dissertation: “Mental health and relational needs assessment among Cambodian refugee families in the United States: A transgenerational ecological perspective” (Spring 2022-Spring 2023) _ University of Georgia, Georgia, USA (UGA IRB Approval: 4/22/2022_ IRB ID: PROJECT00005353)

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.

Second Year Research Project: “Intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress and resilience among Cambodian immigrant families along coastline in Alabama: Collective narratives through genogram” (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>

Published

Mak, C., & Wieling, E. (2024). Mental health and relational needs of Cambodian refugees after four decades of resettlement in the United States: An ethnographic needs assessment. *Behavioral Sciences, 14*(7), 535. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs14070535> (IF:2.5)

Mak, C., & Wieling, E. (2024). Intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress and relational disruptions among Cambodian refugee families in the United States. *Journal of Health Psychology, 1-15*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13591053241245098> (IF:3.2)

Mak, C. (2023). *Mental health and relational need assessment among Cambodian refugee families in the United States: A transgenerational ecological perspective*. (Order No. 9949559225102959) [Doctoral dissertation, University of Georgia]. ProQuest Central.

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> (IF:4.47)

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> (IF:2.7)

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. & Wieling, E. Traumatic stress, complicated grief, and healing of first generation Cambodian refugees in the United States. (*Target: Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*)

Mak, C. Tailoring Narrative therapy for trauma-affected and displaced families in healing intergenerational transmission of traumatic stress and relational disruptions. (*Target: Journal of Contemporary Family Therapy*)

Ballard, J., Mehus, C., **Mak, C.** Observational Coding Methodology Paper. (*In progress*)

Ballard, J., Mehus, C., **Mak, C.** How do clinicians introduce parenting programs: A brief paper from survey of primary care clinicians & coded vignette data. (*In progress*)

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

International Presentations and Symposia

Mak, C. & Wieling, E. Mental Health and Relational Needs Assessment of Trauma-Affected Cambodian Refugees in the United States (2024, Sep). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 40th Annual Conference, Boston, MA. Sep 25-28.

Mak, C. & Wieling, E. Traumatic Stress, Complicated Grief, and Healing of First-Generation Cambodian Refugees in the United States (2024, Sep). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 40th Annual Conference, Boston, MA. Sep 25-28.

Mak, C. & Wieling, E. Intergenerational Transmission of Psychopathology and Family Disruption among Cambodian Refugee Families in the United States (2023, Nov). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 39th Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA. Nov 1-4.

Mak, C. A Systematic 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 37th Annual Conference (Virtual). Nov 2-5.

Mak, C., Lewis, D. C. & Seponski, D. M. Intergenerational Transmission of Traumatic Stress among Cambodian Immigrants along Coastal Alabama: Collective Narratives (2020, Nov). International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 36th Annual Conference (Virtual). Nov 4-14.

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

National Presentations and Symposia

Mak, C., & Solheim, C. Parenting in the context of war and forced displacement: Lessons learned from Cambodian refugee resettlement in the United States (2024, Mar). Department of Family Social Science, St Paul, Minnesota, USA. Mar 27

Mak, C., & Solheim, C. Exploring Cambodian refugee parenting practices after 40+ years of resettlement in the United States (2024, Mar). College of Education and Human Development Research & Innovation Day, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Mar 21

Ballard, J., Driscoll, J., Park, E., **Mak, C.,** Sargent, L., & Mehus C. We can measure parenting skills with online sound recordings in surveys (2024, Mar). College of Education and Human Development Research & Innovation Day, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, Mar 21

Mak, C., Lewis, D. C., & 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., & **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

Couple and Family Therapist National Licensure Exam

Preparation for the Licensure Exam for the State of Georgia, Tentative Exam Period: July

Marriage and Family Therapist Service Provider

Project Family, LLC, Athens, GA, USA, August 2021-June 2023

Marriage and Family Therapist Service Provider

Aspire Clinic at University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA, 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), 2021-2023

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), University of Georgia, 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- May 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
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Lecturer, Master Program, Department of Psychology, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2017-2018 Foundation of Counseling
2016-2018 Supportive 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 Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2022, (\$1000)
Summer 2021 Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2021, (\$800)
Degree Acceleration Awards, Awardee, 2021, (\$4800)
Summer 2020 Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship, Awardee, 2020, (\$900)
Summer 2019 Virginia Wilbanks 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

Grant-in-Aid Fund- 2024 (Not Funded)

Proposed Project Title: “Exploring Cambodian Refugee Parenting Practices Across the United States: A Mixed Method Study” integrating with Dr. Catherine Soheim’s Financial Wellbeing project.

Purpose: Extend my postdoctoral project to California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington where majority of Cambodians resettled.

Funding Possibility: \$20000+

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