

BRENDA J. KURZ

Business Address:

University of Connecticut School of Social Work
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EDUCATION:

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, NC
Ph.D., Epidemiology, May 1986
Dissertation: The impact of early childbearing on academic achievement: An analysis within racial and socio-economic status groups.

M.S.P.H., Epidemiology, December 1981
Thesis: Migrant farm workers: A high-risk population.

Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA
M.S.W., Clinical Social Work, August 1983
Thesis: Adolescent pregnancy among poor Blacks: A critique of the psychiatric literature.

Duke University, Durham, NC
B.S., Zoology, 1978 Magna cum laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT. from 2005 to present – Assistant Professor from 1999 to 2005. Teach research to MSW and doctoral students; individuals, groups, and family courses; and human behavior in the social environment courses to MSW students. Conduct evaluations for the School for both internal and reaffirmation purposes. Chaired the Educational Review Committee and Co-chaired the Educational Policy Committee. Chaired four doctoral committees. Chaired the casework method from 2005-2007.

MSW Program Director, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, W. Hartford, CT. from August 2013 to June 2016; Oversaw the MSW program.

Assistant to the Dean for Research and Evaluation, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, W. Hartford, CT from August 2007 to August 2009. Assisted the Dean with various research functions and conducted evaluations for the School.

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, (Aug. 1994 - May 1999). Taught research (foundation and advanced), human behavior in the social environment, practice methods with individuals, and introductory social work to BSW and MSW students.

Assistant Clinical Professor, Psychiatric Social Worker, Duke University Medical Center, Division of Psychiatry, Durham Community Guidance Clinic, Durham, NC, (Sept. 1987 - May 1994). Conducted intakes and short and long-term individual (child), family and supportive parent therapy in an outpatient clinic which served primarily low-income, minority children and their families. Trained and supervised interns, and conducted and facilitated research projects. Administratively, coordinated psychopharmacology team, monitored the provision of community services for difficult cases, and developed and implemented quality assurance measures.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, (Sept. 1993 - June 2000). Supervised masters students' thesis projects and chaired a doctoral committee.

Lecturer, University of North Carolina School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC, (Jan. - May 1993, Jan. - May 1994). Taught "The Life Span and Human Development" (HBSE foundation).

Lecturer, Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA, (summer 1992 and 1993). Taught "Introductory Social Work Research Methods" (research foundation course), developed and taught "Beginning Treatment of Children" (practice advanced course), and advised thesis students.

Rural Public Health Zone Coordinator, U.S. Peace Corps, Bunkonde, Zaire, (July 1986 - May 1987). Member of a team that implemented a national rural health zone plan. Trained indigenous health care providers and nursing students in preventive health care practices and established an immunization program for children and pregnant women. Raised funds from OXFAM and PEV for these and other projects. Attended a 3-month training program on international rural public health care.

PUBLICATIONS:

In-press:

Gilbert, W., & Kurz, B. (2017). Correlates of Recovery from Substance Use Disorders. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*.

Articles:

Norwood, D., & Kurz, B. (2018). Measuring Intention to Refer: Older Adults and Social Service Agencies. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 1-20. doi 10.1080/01634372.2018.1435599

D'Angelo, K., Bryan, J., & Kurz, B. (2016). Women's Experiences with Prenatal Care: A Mixed-Methods Study Exploring the Influence of the Social Determinants of Health. *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*, 9(3), 127-149.

Hunter, N., Schaefer, M., Kurz, B., Prates, M., & Sinha, A (2014). Individual and Organizational Predictors of Pediatric Psychiatric Inpatient Admission in Connecticut Hospitals: A Six Month Secondary Analysis, *Administration and Policy in Mental Health Services Research*. 42; 176-185.

Beck, C., Kurz, B., & Gable, R. (2012). Concordance and discordance of the Postpartum Depression Screening Scale (PDSS) and Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) in an ethnically diverse sample. *Journal of Social Service Research*. 38(4), 439-450.

Kurz, B., & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (2007). The Concept of Race in Research: Using Composite Variables. *Ethnicity and Disease*. 17(3), 560-567.

Malcolm, B. & Kurz, B. (2006). Mental illness and West Indian women in WIC: Beliefs about causes, health care utilization, and symptomatology. *Caribbean Journal of Social Work*. 5, 122-142.

Kurz, B., & Hesselbrock, M. (2006). Ethnic differences in mental health symptomatology and mental health care utilization among WIC mothers. *Social Work in Mental Health*. 4(3), 1-21.

Cordero, A., & Kurz, B. (2006). Acculturation and mental health of Latina women in WIC. *Affilia*. 21; 41-58.

Kurz, B., Malcolm, B., & Cournoyer, D. (2005). In the shadow of race: Immigrant status and mental health. *Affilia*, 20, 434-447.

Kurz, B. (2005). Depression and mental health service utilization among women in WIC. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity*, 14(3/4).

York, R., Kurz, B., Powell, M., & Rohrer, G. (2001). Evaluation of a comprehensive state program for adolescent mothers. *The Journal of Applied Social Sciences*, 25(2), 157-168.

Brown, P., Rice, A., Angell, B., & Kurz, B. (2000). Faculty hiring practices in social work education. *Critical Social Work*, 1(2), 1-13.

Angell, B., Kurz, B., & Gottfried, G. (1998). Suicide and North American Indians: A social constructivist perspective. *Journal of Multicultural Social Work*, 6(3/4), 1-26.

Martin, S., Cotten, N., Browne, D., Kurz, B., & Robertson, E. (1995). Family violence and depressive symptomatology among incarcerated women, *Journal of Family Violence*, 10(4), 399 - 411.

Merritt, R.B., Rogers, J.G., Kurz, B.J. (1978). Genic variability in the longnose dace, *Rhinichthys cataractae*, *Evolution*, 32:116-24.

Book reviews:

Kurz, B. (2010). [Review of the book “Toward Evidence –Based Practice: Variations on a Theme”] *Best Practices in Mental Health: An International Journal*, 6(2), 135-138.

Kurz, B. (2002). [Review of the book “Promoting positive outcomes: Issues in children’s and families’ lives.”] *Journal of Primary Prevention*, 22(4), 437-440.

Kurz, B. (2000). [Review of the book “Psychotherapy with “Impossible” cases: The efficient treatment of therapy veterans.”] *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, 18(1), 81-85.

Kurz, B. (1999). [Review of the book “Trauma in the lives of children: Crisis and stress management techniques for counselors, teachers, and other professionals.”] *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, 18(1), 81-85.

Kurz, B. (1998). [Review of the book What about America’s homeless children? Hide and seek.] *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, 16(1), 91-93.

Kurz, B. (1998). [Review of the books Making the peace: A 15-session violence prevention curriculum for young people and Days of respect: Organizing a school-wide violence prevention program]. *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, 15(3), 83-86.

Kurz, B. (1997). [Review of the book Children in danger: Coping with the consequences of community violence]. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 14(2), 139-143.

Grants and Contracts:

Received:

Principal Investigator with Patricia Carlson, Meg Feely, and Margaret Lloyd, Dean's Incentive Award Competition, Mapping Critical Services for Connecticut Differential Response Cases, April 2018.

Principal Investigator, University of Connecticut VPR's Scholarship Facilitation Fund - The Development of an Interprofessional Pain Management Group Using Interviews with Key Informants – August, 2017

Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Paula McCauley. COordinated Pain-management Education with Practice Applications for INterprofessionals – inCHIP Committee on Interprofessional Excellence in Healthcare, June, 2017

Co-Principal Investigator, Children's Fund of Connecticut. Impact of mobile crisis on rates of emergency department utilization among children, October, 2016 – March, 2018, \$50,000.

Co-Principal Investigator, contract with the Department of Children and Families and the UConn School of Social Work as the Performance Improvement Center for DCF's Differential Response System's Community Support for Families Program, March, 2012 – present, \$1,688,200.

Principal Investigator, contract with the Department of Public Health, Focus Groups for the State of Connecticut's Fetal and Infant Mortality Program: Prenatal Care Experiences of Women in Connecticut, February 2013 – August, 2013, \$14,400.

Principal Investigator, contract with the Children's Trust Fund - CTF's Nurturing Parenting Groups and the UConn School of Social Work: Applying Group Work Principles to Curriculum Based Groups – September 2010 – August, 2015, \$42,500.

Principal Investigator, contract with the Children's Trust Fund - CTF's Nurturing Parenting Groups: What facilitates and what hinders them? – September, 2009 – August, 2010.

Principal Investigator, University of Connecticut Large Grant Program - Faculty Research Account - A typology study of mental health and health care utilization of an ethnically diverse group of mothers in the WIC program - May 2003

Principal Investigator, University of Connecticut - Faculty Research Account - A study of mental health and health care utilization of an ethnically diverse group of mothers in the WIC program - April 2002

Co-Investigator of an evaluation contract (Michie Hesselbrock, Principal Investigator), Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services' Connecticut Coalition for the Advancement of Prevention (CCAP), funded by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) - PRISM Initiative - 2000-2004

Co-Investigator with Reginald York, PhD, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Evaluation of the Adolescent Parenting Program, fall, 1997.

Applied for: Principal Investigator, with Dr. Paula McCauley, Co-Principal Investigator, Testing the Feasibility of a Novel Integrative Group-Based Pain Self-Management Program for Adults with Chronic Non-Malignant Pain, UConn Research Excellence Proposal, December, 2016

Technical Reports:

Semi-annual reports to the Department of Children and Families and the UConn School of Social Work as the Performance Improvement Center for DCF's Differential Response System's Community Support for Families Program, March 2012 – present.

Kurz, B., D'Angelo, & Bryan, J. (2013). Final Report: Focus Groups for the State of Connecticut's Fetal and Infant Mortality Program: Prenatal Care Experiences of Women in Connecticut, CT Department of Public Health

Kurz, B., & Letendre, J. (2015). Final Report: CTF's Nurturing Parenting Groups and the UConn School of Social Work: Applying Group Work Principles to Curriculum Based Groups, The Connecticut Children's Trust Fund.

Kurz, B., & Letendre, J. (2010). Final Report: CTF's Nurturing Parenting Groups: What facilitates and what hinders them? The Connecticut Children's Trust Fund.

Kurz, B., Gagliardi, A., & Latorre, N. (2008). A report to the Connecticut Department of Public Health on the Perinatal Depression Screening Project conducted at Optimus Health Care and Community Health Center, Inc.

Hesselbrock, M., Kurz, B., & Grube, K. (2004). Evaluation of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' (DMHAS) Partnership in Resource Infrastructure Support Monies (PRISM) Project: Final Report

Presentations:

Kurz, B., Carlson, P., Nilson, K. (2017) Family assessment response in Connecticut: Lessons learned from implementation and evaluation finding. Paper presented at the 2017 International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement, October 18, 2017, Vail, CO.

Kurz, B., Carlson, P. M., Lin, H., Ives, M., & Pierce, J., Nilson K. (2017). The Performance Improvement Center Model: Differential Response as a Case Example. Paper presented at the 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, January 13, 2017. New Orleans, LA.

Carlson, P. M., Lin, H., Kurz, B., Ives, M., & Pierce, J., Nilson K. (2017). Child Welfare Outcomes and Risk Assessment Scores. Poster presentation at the 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, January 12, 2017. New Orleans, LA.

Kurz, B., & Letendre, J. (2016). "Groupwork is powerful! This stuff changes ... lives:" Training on Group Processes. Poster presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA (11/5/16).

Carlson, P. M., Kurz, B., Lin, H., Ives, M., & Pierce, J. (2016). The Differential Response System in Connecticut: Implementation and Early Outcomes of the Community Support for Families Program. Paper presentation at the 20th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

Kurz, B., & Klein, W. (2011). Lessons learned about maximizing response rates to alumni surveys: Keep the paper. Poster presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA (10/29/11).

Kurz, B., Beck, C. & Gable, R. (2011). PDSS and PHQ-9: Concordance and discordance in screening tools for postpartum depression. Poster at the 2011 UConn School of Social Work Research and Scholarship Exhibition (3/28/11).

Letendre, J, & Kurz, B., (2011). Putting the group into groupwork: A university-community collaboration. Poster at the 2011 UConn School of Social Work Research and Scholarship Exhibition (3/28/11).

Kurz, B. (2009). Alumni surveys using the tailored design method: Electronic versus mailed. Poster presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Kurz, B., & Werkmeister Rozas, L. (2006). Race and research: An argument in favor of social index variables. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA

Kurz, B., Smith, M. & Geller, B. (2006). Improving access to care. Invited speaker at the Conference Addressing Perinatal Depression: Implication for consumers and Providers. Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine – Office of Continuing Education and the Connecticut AHEC Program.

Kurz, B. (2006). Understanding and Treating Perinatal Depression in Low-Income Women. University of Connecticut School of Social Work Continuing Education Series, March, 2006, West Hartford, CT.

Kurz, B. (2006). Prevalence, treatment and barriers to treatment for depression among ethnically diverse low-income women. Invited speaker at the Connecticut Medicaid Council's Quality Assurance Subcommittee's Women Health Forum: Perinatal Depression and Oral Health Care During Pregnancy, Hartford, CT.

Felke, T, & Kurz, B. (2004). GIS as a Tool for Social Work Planning and Practice. Presentation. Council on Social Work Education. Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.

Kurz, B. (2004). Use of racial/ethnic categorizations in research: A methodologic approach to addressing ethnic heterogeneity. The Society for Social Work and Research, 8th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Brown, P., Rice, A., Angell, G., & Kurz, B. (1999). Faculty hiring practices in social work education: A national survey. Paper presentation. Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting. San Francisco, CA.

Kurz, B., Carawan, C. (1998). Who are we anyway? Roundtable Discussion. Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kurz, B. (1998). Methods to deal with extremely manipulative clients. Walter B. Jones Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center. Greenville, NC.

Kurz, B. (1997). Red Flags and Referrals, Workshop at the Third Annual Public Health Social Work Conference Expanding the Vision: Public Health in the Twenty-First Century, Winston-Salem, NC

Kurz, B. (1995). A synthetic strategy to teaching research: When the rubber hits the road. Presentation at the Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

Manley, G., Artis, L., Kurz, B., & Lowe, G. (1995). Is the concept of mental disorder culturally relative? Panel Presentation at the East Carolina University School of Social Work and Criminal Justice Program Workshop on Ethics, Lies, and Videotapes: Challenges to Professionals in Search of Moral Being, Greenville, NC

Lyons, C., Polhamus, P., Laney-Bell, B., Flowers, M., & Kurz, B. (1990). Portable social work: Home visiting with troubled families, Panel Presentation at Conference on Treatment with the Severely Troubled Individual and Family, Durham, NC

Kurz, B. (1988). Early childbearing: For whom does it matter? Poster Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA

Dissertation Committees:

Chair:

- Lachack, John (June, 2016 to present). Kin Foster Parents
- Reeves, Michael (February, 2018). Adolescents and Homelessness: Using Photo Voice to Understand the Lived Experience of Homeless Adolescents
- Gilbert, William (April, 2015). Correlates of Sustained Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Use
- Norwood, Dwight (February, 2015). Understanding Social Responsibility Using the Theory of Planned Behavior: The Connecticut Gatekeeper Program

Committee Member:

- Reyes, Loida (April 2015). Hartford Open Choice Students' School Engagement: The Role of Individual Characteristics and School Attributes

SERVICE:

University of Connecticut, School of Social Work:

- Promotion, Tenure & Renewal Committee, 2011 to 2012, 2016-present
- Educational Review Committee, September 2009-2011; Chair from September, 2013 to May, 2016.
- MSW/MPH liaison
- Educational Policy Committee (as the School evaluator), September 2007 to 2009; as Co-Chair as MSW Program Director from September 2013 to May 2016.
- Doctoral Program Committee, 2009 to 2013, 2014-2015
- Casework Method, September, 1999 to 2013 (Chair from, September, 2005 to 2007).
- Reaffirmation Committee, 2010 to 2013
- Field Advisory Board. Prepared materials for orientation, involved key field instructors in a discussion of curriculum revisions, and prepared and modified evaluation materials, September 1999 - 2005.

University of Connecticut:

- Committee on Interprofessional Education in Health, September 2012 – present; Co-chair February 2018 - present

- University of Connecticut, Graduate Program in Public Health, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Advisory Committee Member, September 2006 to spring 2013
- Site team review member for the UCHC TRIPP Center, March 2013.

Other:

- Connecticut Department of Public Health, Division of Health Systems Regulation, Social Work Consultant. Review and recommend action to be taken regarding complaints about care and service issued by social workers, June 2003 to present.
- Connecticut Department of Public Health, Genomics Workgroup, 2009 to 2011.
- Real Dads Forever, consultant, 2010 to present.
- Connecticut Workforce Collaborative on Behavioral Health, Member of the Council on the Workforce for Adults, May 2008 to August 2010
- Connecticut Department of Public Health Perinatal Depression Workgroup, Chair of the Evaluation subcommittee, September 2005 to 2008.
- Mental Health Association of Connecticut, Member of the Board of Directors, May 2006 to 2007.
- Unitarian Church, West Hartford: Crop Walk Treasurer, Jan 2005 to June 2008; Sunday school teacher, Sept. 2003 - Feb 2003, and Sept. 2004 to May 2005, Sept 2007 to May 2008.
- Women, Infants and Children's Program. Conducted a transportation survey for the northern Hartford WIC clinic (summer, 2003) and provide requested data to the WIC offices, 2002 to 2005.
- Save the Center. Volunteer with this West Hartford group, Fall, 2003 to 2005.
- CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic. Collaborated with these agencies beyond the PRISM grant requirements, including writing the evaluation section of a grant, January 2001 to summer 2004.
- Reviewed article for Addiction (April 2001)
- Family and Medical Leave Task Force, Committee member for Representative Chris Donovan (November 1999 - March 2000)
- Consulted with the Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center in West Hartford, CT (November 1999 - May 2000)

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- Accepted to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program - National Institute of Mental Health sponsored workshop on Epidemiology of Mental Disorders, Ann Arbor, MI, 1995
- Delta Omega Society Student Service Teaching Award, University of North Carolina -Chapel Hill, 1986.
- Pogue Fellowship, given by the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in recognition of academic achievement, 1983 -1984
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Traineeship, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, 1979 - 1981.
- Alice M. Baldwin Scholarship, given by Duke University in recognition of academic achievement, 1977 - 1978.
- First Group Scholar, Smith College, 1974 - 1975.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Member of the National Association of Social Workers
Member of the Council of Social Work Education
Member of the Society for Social Work Research