VENERA BEKTESHI, PhD, MSW, MPA, MA, LCSW

Cancer Control and Population Science | Latina Women's Health

Community-Engaged Mixed Methods | Contextual Determinants of Cancer Care

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Independent scholar and cancer-disparities researcher examining how social and structural conditions, cultural context, geography, family relationships, and patient–provider interactions shape cancer prevention, screening, psychological well-being, and continuity of care among Mexican and other Latina women. Holds a PhD and MSW in Social Work from Boston College, NIH/NCI-supported postdoctoral training in cancer prevention and control at Washington University School of Medicine and Siteman Cancer Center, and prior service as a tenured Associate Professor. Combines community-engaged quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods with contextual theory and practice translation. Current development includes an NIH R01 application on Latina breast-cancer treatment disparities and intervention and implementation research on care access.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cancer prevention and screening disparities; preventive-care access and follow-up; Latina and immigrant women's health; rural–urban health disparities; psychosocial and family influences on care; acculturative stress; culturally responsive intervention development; community-engaged health-services research.

Methods: Community-based participatory research; qualitative interviewing; mixed methods; surveys; path mediation analysis; structural equation modeling; multigroup analysis; regression; systematic review. Developing research agenda: intervention development and implementation evaluation.

EDUCATION

PhD, Social Work — 2011
Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA
Dissertation: Coping with Acculturative Stress in an Environmental Context Among Latina Immigrants

MSW — 2008
Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA
Specialization: Macro Practice; Concentration: Global Health

MPA — 2004
Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY
Concentration: Advanced Policy Analysis

MA, Political Science — 2001
St. John's University, Department of Political Science, New York, NY

BA, Journalism and Political Science — 1999
University of Oklahoma, School of Arts & Sciences, Norman, OK

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Practitioner in Residence — 2026
DePaul Migration Collaborative, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Completed a competitive six-month, $96,000 fellowship to develop a replicable model for trauma-informed asylum practice and produce the CIAS Practitioner Toolkit. Developed, piloted, and disseminated a structured interdisciplinary practice instrument for immigration attorneys, social workers, mental-health practitioners, expert witnesses, and allied asylum practitioners. Led IRB-approved qualitative research with immigration attorneys and mental-health practitioners across legal aid, private practice, expert-witness, and interdisciplinary settings. Managed protocol design, recruitment, informed consent, dual-track interviews, GRA supervision, participant matrices, fieldnotes, interview protocols, tracking systems, analysis, and toolkit development. Submitted an oral paper and a hands-on workshop to SSWR 2027; the CIAS workshop was accepted. Toolkit publication is in discussion with Oxford University Press.

Associate Professor (Tenured) — 2022–2026
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
Cluster hire: Interdisciplinary Research in Health Disparities. Tenured faculty member with an NIH/NCI Loan Repayment Award for cancer prevention research with Mexican immigrant women and a sustained community-engaged health equity research portfolio. Co-PI, OU Big Challenge Grant ($270,000, 2024–2026); PI, multiple TSET and OU awards supporting cancer prevention and health equity research. Affiliate, OU Stephenson Cancer Center; Core Faculty, OU Gender Studies; Member, Data Institute for Societal Challenges; Member, None in Three Center for Prevention of Global Gender Violence. Led department-level and university service in curriculum governance, student academic affairs, equity processes, faculty committees, research infrastructure, and interdisciplinary collaborations. Managed GRAs, participant recruitment, research budgets, data systems, IRB processes, federal compliance reporting, and multi-year research timelines.

Associate Professor equivalent (official UK title: Senior Lecturer) — 2018–2022
Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK
Served as Research Ethics Officer, reviewing and monitoring faculty and student research proposals for ethical compliance, regulatory alignment, and risk management. Served as Director of Studies, overseeing student academic progress, degree-program compliance, quality assurance, and faculty coordination. Role Model, Aurora Leadership Programme, a UK-wide leadership initiative for women in higher education; mentored faculty and staff on career development and institutional navigation. Affiliate, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex (2018–2021).

Associate Professor equivalent (Senior Lecturer / Academic Tutor) — Sept 2016 – Aug 2018
Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York, UK
Director, Think Ahead Mental Health Social Work Programme, a government-funded national workforce-development programme embedded within NHS Trusts and local authorities, recognized as the only programme of its kind in the United Kingdom. Director of Masters Programmes in Research; member, departmental Ethics Committee. Oversaw programme design, trainee recruitment and supervision, placement coordination, compliance reporting, quality monitoring, and cross-sector partnerships among the university, NHS Trusts, local authorities, and national funders. Provided clinical supervision, stress-management training, and professional development to social work trainees in adult mental health placement settings.

Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) — 2012–2016
School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
Chaired the Mental Health Concentration and served on Health, Diversity, and International Committees. Built an independent research portfolio on immigrant health, acculturative stress, and cancer prevention; secured $46,000 in internal grants; supervised graduate and undergraduate research assistants.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cancer Prevention and Control — 2011–2012
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, Siteman Cancer Center
Completed postdoctoral research training in cancer prevention and control, with work in epidemiologic methods, translational cancer research, cancer disparities, and research compliance; affiliated with the Brown School of Social Work and Division of Public Health Sciences.

PRIOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2022–2026
University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center; OU Gender Studies Core Faculty; Member, Data Institute for Societal Challenges (DISC); Member, Center for Social Development; Member, None in Three Center for Prevention of Global Gender Violence, University of Huddersfield, UK

2018–2021
Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

2011–2012
Research Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

EXTERNAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

1. Principal Investigator — 2025–2026
Developing a Replicable Model for Trauma-Informed Assessment: The CIAS Toolkit for Practitioners Serving Asylum Seekers
DePaul Migration Collaborative Practitioner in Residence Fellowship. Total: $96,000.

2. Principal Investigator — 2024–2025
Cultural Resilience and Cancer Prevention in Latino Communities
Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), Award #25000435. Total: $24,134.

3. Principal Investigator — 2023–2024
Mexican Women and Cancer Screening in Rural Oklahoma
TSET, Award #23000617. Total: $24,134.

4. Principal Investigator — 2022–2023
Contextualizing Cancer Prevention Among Mexican Women in Rural U.S.
TSET, Award #23000617. Total: $24,134.

NIH/NCI LOAN REPAYMENT SUPPORT

NIH/NCI Extramural Loan Repayment Program Awardee — 2023–2027 Contextualizing Cancer Prevention Among Mexican Women in Rural U.S. NIH/NCI Extramural Loan Repayment Program award; loan-repayment support.

INTERNAL AND UNIVERSITY GRANTS

1. Co-Principal Investigator — 2024–2026
Climate Information on Timescales for Climate Security in Latin America / OU Big Challenge Grant
OU Vice President for Research & Partnerships. Total: $270,000 ($135,000 annually for two years).

2. Principal Investigator — 2023
Cultural Influences on Cancer Prevention Among U.S. Rural Mexican Women
Dodge Family College of Arts & Sciences, University of Oklahoma. Total: $10,000.

3. Principal Investigator — 2022
Contextual Approach to Emotional and Cultural Barriers to Cancer Prevention
Knee Center Institute / OU School of Social Work. Total: $5,000.

4. Principal Investigator — 2015
Interaction Between Latino Culture and Structural Factors in Cancer Prevention
UIUC Research Board. Total: $14,000.

5. Principal Investigator — 2014
Contextual Approach to Emotional and Cultural Barriers to Cancer Prevention Among Latina Immigrants
Center for Advanced Studies, UIUC. Honorary fellowship: awarded one course-release semester (5 months) for study conceptualization; recognized at a formal awards dinner. Total: $32,000.

6. Principal Investigator — 2014
Domestic Violence Among Kosovar Rape Victims
Russian and East European Center, UIUC. Total: $200.

GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS — PENDING

Submitted applications; status as of October 9, 2026. Amounts shown are requested support or proposed application budgets, not awarded funding.

Research, Scholarly Writing, and International Collaboration

1. AAUW American Short-Term Research Publication Grant
Applicant and sole author — 2026. *Lucha y Esperanza: Faith, Family, and Well-being among Mexican Women.*
American Association of University Women, American Fellowships program. Amount requested: $8,000. Submitted September 28, 2026; recommendations complete September 29; decision pending. Proposed support period: 2027. Protected manuscript-development time for synthesis and revision of the Oxford University Press monograph on faith, family responsibilities, structural barriers, and preventive healthcare among Mexican-born women.

2. American Philosophical Society — Franklin Research Grant
Applicant and proposed Principal Investigator — 2026. *Migration, Family Separation, and Psychosocial Support: Practitioner Assessment and Referral Decisions in El Salvador.*
Proposed request: $5,500. Submitted September 25, 2026; supporting reference outstanding and decision pending.
Proposed project period: February 1–July 31, 2027.
Independent qualitative study using 12–15 practitioner interviews and service/referral documents to examine contextual influences on psychosocial assessment and referral decisions. Research activities and costs are separate from the proposed Fulbright training collaboration.

3. Fulbright Specialist Program — World Learning / U.S. Department of State
Roster applicant and proposed specialist — 2026. *Contextual Interviewing and Reintegration of Returned Women.*
Proposed host: Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA), Department of Psychology and Public Health, El Salvador. Roster application submitted September 19, 2026; application and both references confirmed complete September 24. UCA internal collaboration approval received; Specialist selection and external placement approvals pending.
Proposed early-2027 collaboration to adapt CIAS contextual-interviewing resources and deliver professional workshops and faculty development. Tentative placement: February 1–March 14, 2027.

Practice Translation and Business Development — Forward With Dignity

1. Visionaries — Hey Helen Grant
Founder and project lead — 2026. *CIAS Child and Family Interviewing Companion.*
Amount requested: $10,000. Submitted September 29, 2026; decision pending.
Six-month development, pilot, and initial digital release of an educational resource for professionals interviewing adolescents and caregivers. Proposed support covers expert review, selected Spanish-language resources, accessible design, practitioner usability testing, and digital delivery.

2. Secretsos Small Business Grant
Founder and applicant — 2026. *CIAS Child and Family Interviewing Companion — initial digital prototype.*
Proposed request: $2,500. Application received September 29, 2026; decision pending.
Proposed expert-reviewed, bilingual-ready educational prototype, with support for content review, Spanish-language materials, accessible digital design, usability testing, and revision.

3. National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) — Growth Grant
Founder and applicant — 2026. *CIAS Practitioner Training Launch.*
Amount requested: $4,000. Submitted September 25, 2026; decision pending.
Proposed six-month launch of repeatable organizational training using the existing CIAS toolkit, supported by reusable workshop materials, accessible design, booking and digital-delivery infrastructure, essential software, and organizational outreach.

4. Galaxy of Stars — Galaxy Grant
Founder and applicant — 2026. *Forward With Dignity business development.*
Submitted September 25, 2026; decision pending.

5. Verizon Small Business Digital Ready / LISC Small Business Grant Program
Founder and applicant — 2026. *CIAS Digital Training Launch.*
Proposed request: $10,000. Application received September 18, 2026; active consideration through year-end; decision pending.
Proposed six-month development of introductory digital lessons and practitioner resources, purchasing and delivery systems, organizational-buyer engagement, and pilot workshops.

6. WomensNet — Amber Grant
Founder and applicant — 2026. *CIAS Child and Family Interviewing Companion.*
Proposed request: $10,000. Submitted September 17, 2026; decision pending.
Proposed first edition with six modules, expert and community review, selected Spanish-language materials, practitioner workshops, and organizational training. The single application includes consideration for applicable Amber, Startup, and category grants.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL IN PREPARATION

NIH R01 application — in preparation. Latina breast-cancer treatment disparities: structural, cultural, family, and partner influences on timely guideline-concordant treatment, with community-engaged development and piloting of tailored strategies.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES — PUBLISHED, IN PRESS, OR ACCEPTED (25)

1. Bekteshi, V., Terpstra, L., Maxwell, D., & Bellamy, J. L. (accepted). Financial security, social support and Latino fathers with children with disabilities. Families in Society.
2. Bekteshi, V., van Hook, M., Gjermeni, E., & Bellamy, J. L. (2025). The shadow pandemic contextualised: Albania's response to domestic violence during COVID-19. International Journal of Health Planning and Management, 40(3), 716–729.
3. Sifat, M. S., Kenney, S., Bekteshi, V., Chiang, S. C., Ogunsanya, M., Boozary, L. K., Alexander, A. C., & Kendzor, D. E. (2024). The association of migration-related stress with poor mental health among recently resettled Afghan refugees. Journal of Migration and Health, 10, 100282.
4. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Decoding acculturative stress and psychological distress in Mexican immigrant women: Insights from a path mediation analysis. BMC Women's Health, 24(1), 667.
5. Bekteshi, V., & Schootman, M. (2024). Bridging gaps in breast cancer screening: A comparative study of Mexican women in U.S. rural and urban areas. Journal of Primary Care & Community Health, 15.
6. Bekteshi, V., Hunter, C. D., & Bellamy, J. L. (2024). Engaging immigrants in social service settings: Importance of cultural humility. Journal of Social Service Research, 50(6), 1075–1087.
7. Bekteshi, V., & Bellamy, J. L. (2024). Examining external and internal acculturative factors: Cuban-born women's experience of well-being in the U.S. Social Sciences, 13(2), 72.
8. Bekteshi, V., Sifat, M., & Kendzor, D. E. (2024). Reaching the unheard: Overcoming challenges in health research with hard-to-reach populations. International Journal for Equity in Health, 23(1), 61.
9. Bekteshi, V., & Bellamy, J. L. (2024). Adapting for well-being: Examining acculturation strategies and mental health among Latina immigrants. Social Sciences, 13(3), 138.
10. Bekteshi, V., Miller, C., Bellamy, J., & Jani, N. (2023). Increased domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: India's response. Development Policy Review, 42(2), e12749.
11. Bekteshi, V., Stodolska, M., & Kang, S. W. (2022). Ethnic enclosure and perception of discrimination among Korean and Polish immigrants. Journal of International Migration & Integration, 23, 85–104.
12. Bekteshi, V., & Kang, S. (2020). Contextualizing acculturative stress among Latino immigrants in the United States: A systematic review. Ethnicity & Health, 25(6), 897–914.
13. Lopez-Cevallos, D. F., Gonzalez, P., Bethel, J. W., Castaneda, S. F., Isasi, C. R., Penedo, F. J., Ojeda, L., Davis, S. M., Chirinos, D. A., Molina, K. M., Teng, Y., Bekteshi, V., & Gallo, L. C. (2018). Is there a link between wealth and cardiovascular disease risk factors among Hispanic/Latinos? Ethnicity & Health, 23(8), 902–913.
14. Fox, R. S., Mills, S. D., Roesch, S. C., Sotres-Alvarez, D., Gonzalez, P., Bekteshi, V., et al. (2018). Perceptions of cancer risk/efficacy and cancer-related risk behaviors: Results from the HCHS/SOL Sociocultural Ancillary Study. Health Education & Behavior, 45(5), 790–799.
15. Bekteshi, V., van Hook, M., Levin, J., Kang, S. W., & Thanh, V. T. (2017). Social work with Latino immigrants: Contextual approach to acculturative stress among Cuban, Mexican and Puerto Rican women. British Journal of Social Work, 47(2), 447–466.
16. Thanh, V. T., Wang, K., Bekteshi, V., & Vatcher, R. (2016). Marriage, race/ethnicity, and psychological distress among foreign-born Chinese, Korean, Mexican, and Vietnamese Americans. Social Work in Mental Health, 14(3), 245–259.
17. Bekteshi, V., & van Hook, M. (2015). Contextual approach to acculturative stress among Latina immigrants in the U.S. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 17(5), 1401–1411.
18. Bekteshi, V., van Hook, M., & Matthew, L. (2015). Puerto Rican-born women in the United States: Contextual approach to immigration challenges. Health & Social Work, 40(4), 298–306.

19. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, V. T. (2015). Psychological distress among low-income U.S.- and foreign-born women of Mexican descent: Impact of acculturation. Women's Health Issues, 25(2), 185–192.
20. Yaghjyan, L., Drake, B., & Bekteshi, V. (2014). Healthy behavioral choices and adherence to recommended cancer screening among U.S. adults: National Health Interview Survey. Austin Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology, 1(1), 8.
21. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2013). When a mother has cancer: Pathways to relational growth for mothers and daughters coping with cancer. Psycho-Oncology, 22(10), 2379–2385.
22. Bekteshi, V., Gjermeni, E., & van Hook, M. (2012). Modern-day slavery: Sex trafficking in Albania. International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, 32(7/8), 480–494.
23. Randall, J., & Bekteshi, V. (2012). Dodecaphony: Enacting support brokerage in the twelve cash & counseling expansion states. Care Management Journal, 13(3), 108–115.
24. Xu, Q., Bekteshi, V., & Thanh, V. T. (2010). Family, school, country of birth, and adolescents' psychological well-being. Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, 8(1), 91–110.
25. Lombe, M., Bekteshi, V., & Mahoney, K. (2009). Exploring patterns of service utilization among persons with disabilities in a consumer-directed care program. Journal of Disability Studies, 8(1), 21–36.

PEER-REVIEWED REFERENCE CONTRIBUTION

1. Gehlert, S., Kye-Price, S., & Bekteshi, V. (2012). Community-based participatory research. Oxford Bibliographies Online: Social Work.

SCHOLARLY REPORT

1. Burd-Sharps, S., Kurukulasuriya, S. K., Murison, S., Bekteshi, V., Castro, M., & Shapiro, J. (2004). Human development report toolkit for national and regional human development. Human Development Reports.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW OR IN REVISION (4)

1. Bekteshi, V., van Dellen, M., Kendzor, D., & Hernandez, M. (revise and resubmit). Integrating cultural humility in community-based research: Strategies with Mexican-born women. Ethnicity & Health.
2. Bekteshi, V., Yaghjyan, L., Su-Hsin, C., & Drake, B. F. (under review). Health behaviors among prostate cancer survivors: National Health Interview Survey. Austin Journal of Public Health.
3. Landrum, J., Neville, N., Bekteshi, V., Hunter, C. D., & Weathersby, D. (under review). Praxis for social justice in mental health: Conceptual framework and practice. Journal of Social Service Research.
4. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (under review). Women and daughter relationship in coping with breast cancer. Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology.

SELECTED MANUSCRIPTS AND PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

1. Terpstra, J., & Bekteshi, V. (in progress). Financial difficulties and social support in the well-being of Latino fathers and their youth with behavioral challenges.
2. Bekteshi, V. (in progress). Human trafficking victims and their healthcare needs.
3. Bekteshi, V. (in progress). Cancer survival and cultural implications among rural and urban Mexican women.

BOOKS AND MAJOR SCHOLARLY VOLUMES

1. Bekteshi, V. (Ed.). (Forthcoming). The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
2. Bekteshi, V. (Monograph in revision). Lucha y Esperanza: Faith, Family, and Well-being among Mexican Women. Oxford University Press.

BOOK CHAPTER MANUSCRIPTS

1. Bekteshi, V. (Forthcoming). A global overview of women's challenges and transformative approaches. In V. Bekteshi (Ed.), The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
2. Bekteshi, V. (Forthcoming). A reflection: Holding a fragile flame. In V. Bekteshi (Ed.), The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
3. Bekteshi, V. (Forthcoming). Reintegrating with dignity: Dr. Atifete Jahjaga's initiatives for wartime survivors. In V. Bekteshi (Ed.), The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
4. Bekteshi, V. (Forthcoming). Empowering immigrant communities through resilience: The stories of Flurije Bekteshi and Shqipe Bib. In V. Bekteshi (Ed.), The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
5. Bekteshi, V. (Forthcoming). Looking forward: Sustaining empowerment and cultivating new horizons for women's global justice. In V. Bekteshi (Ed.), The Light Women Carry: Global Narratives of Hope and Collective Empowerment. Oxford University Press.
6. Bekteshi, V. (Manuscript chapter). "Siempre oro antes de ir al médico" — Spirituality as coping and motivation. In Lucha y Esperanza: Faith, Family, and Well-being among Mexican Women. Oxford University Press.

PRACTICE INSTRUMENT / TOOLKIT

Bekteshi, V. (2026). CIAS Practitioner Toolkit: Contextualized Interviewing and Asylum Support. A structured, evidence-informed practice instrument for immigration attorneys, social workers, mental-health practitioners, and expert witnesses working on asylum cases. Developed through a CBPR-informed iterative process and piloted with practitioners; publication is in discussion with Oxford University Press.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Research Methods and Program Evaluation · Community-Engaged and Mixed-Methods Health Research · Health Disparities · Culturally Responsive Research and Practice · Mental Health · Immigrant/Refugee Health · Doctoral and Interdisciplinary Research Mentorship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at PhD, graduate, and undergraduate levels across universities in the United States and the United Kingdom.

- University of Oklahoma (2022–2026): Research Methods; Macro Social Work; Diversity, Oppression, and Privilege.
- University of Bath (2018–2022): Becoming a Social Scientist; Community Profiling: Mixed Methods Research; Working with Adults in Social Services; Mental Health in Social Work.
- University of York (2016–2018): Social Work Research Methods; Mental Health Social Work; International Social Work.
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2012–2016): Research and Program Evaluation; Research Methods for Graduate Students; Mental Health Policy; Social Policy; Immigration Research; Individual Studies; Research Methods.
- Simmons College, School of Social Work: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods, PhD level; co-convener with Dr. Karen Kayser.
- St. Peter's University: International Relations, undergraduate level.

STUDENT, POSTDOCTORAL, AND JUNIOR FACULTY MENTORSHIP

Junior Faculty, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Early-Career Scholars
Dr. Lindsey Terpstra · Dr. December Maxwell · Dr. Munjireen Sifat · Dr. Caroline Sarkey · Brikena Avdyli. Mentorship included co-authored publications, CIAS framework development, migration and health equity scholarship, SSWR/CSWE presentations, national workshop leadership, and The Light Women Carry chapter development.

Doctoral Students
Sung Wan Kang · Lenore Matthew · Hye Joon Park · Benjamin Lowell · Nantongo Molly · Farzana Aktar Shammy · Norgenta Lata · Ayesha Tariq. Mentorship included CIAS model development, literature synthesis, CBPR and culturally responsive methods, global gender justice chapters, CSWE/SSWR presentations, and workshop development.

MA/MSW Students
Andrea Hernandez · Brenda Gisell · Fabian Mauricio · Nikki Brice · Cesar Bardo. Mentorship included CBPR, outreach for Lucha Vive Sano, culturally responsive research, and CSWE presentation preparation.

Undergraduate Students
Haley Fox · Laura Hanley · Jessica Levin · Gregory Lindsey. Mentorship included undergraduate symposium presentations, runner-up recognition, and co-authored publications.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Co-Chair, Gender Cluster, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), January 2025–present.
- Founder and two-term Chair, SSWR Special Interest Group on Health Disparities.
- Editorial Review Board Member, Journal of Social Service Research, November 2023–present.
- Associate Editor, Journal of Social Science Review, December 2022–present.
- Section Editor, Journal of Social Sciences, April 2023–December 2024; special issue leadership on immigrant women's well-being.
- Abstract Reviewer, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, 2012–present.
- Departmental and university service: research ethics, curriculum governance, student academic affairs, equity processes, faculty committees, and quality assurance roles across OU, Bath, York, and UIUC.
- Grant and manuscript review / review panels: PLOS ONE; British Journal of Social Work; Social Science Review; American Journal of Public Health; International Journal of Intercultural Relations; Journal of Community Health; Oxford Bibliographies Online; Women's Health; Journal of Leisure Research; University of Illinois FLAS Fellowship Selection Committee (2014–2015); NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, After School Programs Grant Review Panel (2005–2006).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Faculty Research Commitment to Social Justice Award, Center for Social Justice, University of Oklahoma (2025)
- Fulbright Scholar Program Finalist, U.S. Department of State (2023) — Cancer Screening Engagement in Rural and Urban Kosovo
- Nominee, Inclusivity in IPE Award, Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences (2024)
- Award for Mentoring Youth Albanians, Albanian American Women's Organization (2023)
- Outstanding Presentation Recognition, Macrotheme Conference on International Social Issues, Dubrovnik, Croatia (2014)
- Mayor's Recognition for Community Involvement, New York City (2001)

RESEARCH RECOGNITION AND FUNDING-RELATED DISTINCTIONS

- University of Oklahoma annual research evaluation trajectory: Meets Expectations (2022–2023); Exceeds Expectations (2023– 2024); Outstanding 5/5 (2024–2025).
- UK research-assessment context: scholarship developed and evaluated within a REF-oriented UK university environment emphasizing originality, significance, and rigor.

LICENSURE, CREDENTIALS, AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) — Illinois, active independent clinical license, No. 149.041975; issued September 21, 2026. Passed the ASWB Clinical examination in August 2026.
- LMSW — active licensure in New York, Georgia, and Oklahoma

• Advanced Group Therapy Training — in progress
• Online Teaching Certificate — Columbia University School of Social Work (2022)
• Certificate in Ethical Leadership — Woodhull Institute for Ethical Training and Leadership (2001)
• Certificate in Training Professionals Working with Displaced Refugees — Refugee Women's Network (2003)
• Certificate in Middle Management — Columbia University Business School (2002)
• Certificate in International Popular Economics — Smith College Center for Popular Economics (2002)
• Summer Research Institute — University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (2007)

CLINICAL, PRACTICE, POLICY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Staff Therapist, The Jewish Board (JBFCS) — Oct 2025 – Present
Provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive individual, group, and family psychotherapy to children, adults, and families presenting with depression, anxiety, trauma, family stress, behavioral dysregulation, safety concerns, substance use recovery, and complex mental health needs. Facilitate psychoeducational and therapeutic groups for immigrant women and women born outside the United States, addressing trauma, adjustment, relational stress, culturally informed coping, and resilience. Conduct assessment, ongoing risk and safety monitoring, treatment and service planning, clinical documentation, caregiver collaboration, care coordination, and referrals as clinically indicated. Use CBT, trauma-focused CBT, motivational interviewing, solution-focused therapy, narrative therapy, strengths-based practice, and culturally responsive intervention to support emotional regulation, resilience, family functioning, and psychosocial stability.

Director of Operations / Director, Think Ahead Programme — July 2016 – Sept 2018
University of York, UK. Directed a two-year intensive government-funded programme designed to strengthen multidisciplinary social work in adult mental health settings. Provided clinical supervision, mental health support, and stress-management training to social work trainees in rigorous adult mental health placements; received formal supervision from senior clinical social workers on clinical judgment, case conceptualization, and reflective practice. Spearheaded development of the Mental Health Social Work curriculum; addressed students' needs including those with learning disabilities; collaborated with the U.K. government and faculty to deliver a joint programme on Mental Health Social Work.

Research Director, Provost's Office — Summer 2008; Fall 2010
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. Launched cross-university research on merit-based scholarships for distinguished PhD students; developed a user-friendly database of scholarships available to students, increasing financial assistance opportunities for Boston College PhD candidates.

Co-Investigator, School of Social Work — 2008–2009
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. Conducted interviews, focus groups, and qualitative analysis; supervised research on Medicaid clients and support brokers, contributing to two published manuscripts.

Research Associate, Center for Human Rights and International Justice — 2006–2008
Boston College. Conducted policy research and critical analysis on U.S. immigration policy with attention to mental health impacts on immigrant populations. Conducted interviews, focus groups, and quantitative data analysis using large datasets; contributed to two published manuscripts.

Research Associate, Community Service Society (CSS) — 2004–2006
New York, NY. Supported applied social policy research and analysis related to community wellbeing and public-sector service delivery. Analyzed and compared 20 after-school programs; developed an evaluation report for the Department of Education, highlighting the most innovative programs.

Associate Analyst, Quality Assurance, NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development — Nov 2005 – Nov 2006
Monitored and evaluated community-based organization contractors for compliance and performance in outreach and support programs, including services addressing mental health and domestic violence. Conducted site visits, reviewed documentation, assessed program adherence to contractual standards, and produced compliance reports for senior agency leadership.

Associate Analyst, Prevention, NYC Dept. of Homeless Services — Oct 2004 – Nov 2005
Provided direct mental health support to homeless immigrant women and survivors of human trafficking in a city agency prevention context. Contributed to program planning and service delivery within a large municipal human-services agency, including work connected to a $24M prevention portfolio.

Social Science Analyst, United Nations Development Programme — April 2003 – Jan 2011
Contributed to human development reporting, policy analysis, and methodological toolkits used in national and regional human development reporting. Conducted quantitative analysis of National Human Development Reports; developed an online newsletter and supported preparation of the Annual Awards Dinner.

Deputy Director, Albanian American Women's Organization — May 2000 – Nov 2005
New York, NY. Co-founded and helped lead a start-up nonprofit organization serving Albanian immigrant women, families, and the broader Albanian-American community in New York. Directed and expanded support services for Albanian immigrants, with attention to women and families affected by trauma, domestic violence, and displacement. Represented the agency in the absence of the Executive Director; conducted Advisory Board and Board relations; shared public speaking, networking, and relationship-building duties; conducted program, reporting, financial, and management oversight. Raised more than $200,000 over two years and managed a $400,000 organizational budget; supported programs for a community estimated at approximately 300,000 Albanian Americans (organizational budget tripled in less than two years; staff growth from 2 to 10).

Program Manager, Albanian American Women's Organization — June 2001 – May 2002
New York, NY. Developed partnerships with service providers to coordinate services to Albanians and piloted direct programs; worked actively with consultants on Training and Development and in designing a strategic and fundraising plan; initiated and organized fundraising, cultural and community outreach events; conducted promotion, outreach, and public relations on behalf of the organization.

Program Coordinator, International Rescue Committee — May 2000 – May 2001
New York, NY. Maintained the flow of communication between staff, consultants, Board members, and general members; organized the board's program committee quarterly meetings; worked actively with consultants and other senior staff to prepare reports, concept papers, and budgets for special projects.

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Secured as PI during early-career nonprofit leadership at the Albanian American Women's Organization and partner agencies.

1. Principal Investigator — 2002
Integration of Albanian American Women in Mainstream U.S.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Total: $220,000.

2. Co-Principal Investigator — 2005–2008
Domestic Violence and Runaway Homeless Youth
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Total: $75,000.

3. Principal Investigator — 2004
Domestic Violence Among Albanian Immigrant Women in the U.S.
Van Ameringen Foundation. Total: $50,000.

4. Principal Investigator — 2004
Development of the Capacity to Address the Service Needs of the Beneficiaries
New York Foundation. Total: $40,000.

5. Principal Investigator — April 2003
Workshops on Cultural Awareness Grant to broaden the cultural awareness of Albanian immigrant youth in New York through a series of cultural workshops.
Citizens Committee for New York. Total: $2,000.

6. Grant Reviewer — 2005–2006
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

COMPETITIVE TRAVEL FUNDING AWARDS

Scholar's Travel Award — 2014
Conference in Health and Social Sciences, Dubrovnik, Croatia. University of Illinois. Total: $200.

Scholar's Travel Award — 2013
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Washington, D.C. University of Illinois. Total: $600.

Scholar's Travel Award — 2012
International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society. University of Illinois. Total: $1,200.

SECURED PUBLICATION SUPPORT AND EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Secured Publication Fee Waiver — 2023
Lucha Case Study in the Journal of Health Equity Negotiated reduced fee to promote open access dissemination of research on cancer prevention among immigrant women. Total secured: $2,500.

Secured Publication Fee Waiver — 2023
Navigating Integration for Wellbeing Among Mexican Women, BMC Women's Health Successfully negotiated publication support to enhance accessibility of research on health equity among Mexican women. Total secured: $3,500.

Special Section Guest Editor — 2023
Immigrant Women's Wellbeing, Social Sciences Journal Coordinated and led editorial efforts for a special section on immigrant women's health and well-being. Total editorial support: $13,500.

RESEARCH IMPACT, POLICY UPTAKE, AND PRACTICE TRANSLATION

- Global development reporting: Co-authored Human Development Report Toolkit for National and Regional Human Development, used to standardize HDR methodology and cited in national and regional development reporting, academic curricula, and evaluations of HDR processes.
- Anti-trafficking policy and evaluation: Modern-day Slavery: Sex Trafficking in Albania informed international anti-trafficking discourse and was cited in UNICEF Albania reports and the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's 2019–2020 Annual Report.
- Domestic violence practice translation: The Shadow Pandemic Contextualised: Albania's Response to Domestic Violence During COVID-19 was featured in an NHS Scotland domestic violence and child abuse professional e-update in March 2025.
- Intersectional policy discourse: Increased Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic: India's Response was featured in the Overseas Development Institute's Development Policy Review round-up as a contribution to intersectional policy responses.
- Trauma-informed professional training: Engaging Immigrants in Social Service Settings: Importance of Cultural Humility was integrated into the Vicarious Trauma Manual for Counsellors by Punjabi Community Health Services.
- Rural health practice guidance: Reaching the Unheard: Overcoming Challenges in Health Research with Hard-to-Reach Populations was cited by the U.S. Rural Health Information Hub as a resource for engaging marginalized groups.
- Global gender justice dialogue: The Light Women Carry includes narratives from high-profile global leaders and advocates, including Kosovo's former President Dr. Atifete Jahjaga and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Vasfije Krasniqi, and is positioned for policy dialogue on trauma-informed care, post-conflict reconstruction, and gender equity.
- Research ethics and participant compensation advocacy: Community-engaged research in Oklahoma catalyzed advocacy efforts to address restrictive compensation policies affecting non-citizen research participants.

INVITED LECTURES AND INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Bekteshi, V. (2025, Fall). Contextualized domestic violence in Albania. Kosovo Embassy, London.
2. Bekteshi, V. (2025, February). Advancing health equity through cultural humility. Stephenson Cancer Center, OUHSC.
3. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Lecture for Department of Psychology. Invited; University of Pristina, Kosovo.
4. Bekteshi, V. (2020). Health inequity research: Reaching underprivileged populations in cancer research. Symposium, University of Bath.
5. Bekteshi, V. (2019). Needs of human trafficking victims. Programme leader and moderator, University of Leeds.
6. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Contextualizing immigration experience among Latina immigrants. Presented at University of Dardania, Pristina, Kosovo.
7. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Human trafficking in Albania and Illinois. Moderated a panel with Dr. Eglantina Gjermeni (Albania's Minister of Urbanization), Dr. Mary van Hook, and Seth Boughton (UIUC PhD student).
8. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Mother-daughter relationships and cancer. Presented at All in the Jeans Day, Presence Covenant Medical Center, Urbana, IL.

9. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Human trafficking in Albania. Presented at UIUC School of Social Work Community, Urbana, IL.
10. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Experimental designs. Guest lecture in SOCW427, taught by Dr. Min Zhan.

ACADEMIC AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Bekteshi, V. (2027, January, pending acceptance). From framework to practice: A CBPR-informed process for developing the CIAS Practitioner Toolkit for interdisciplinary asylum work. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. Oral paper submitted.
2. Bekteshi, V. (2027, January, accepted). Accounting for context, culture, and stress in asylum client interviews: A hands-on workshop using the CIAS Practitioner Toolkit. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. Workshop accepted (Session Proposal #17524).
3. Bekteshi, V. (2025, January). Brief and brilliant session: Boundless grace — orchestrating refugee empowerment through co-liberation. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. Highly competitive Brief and Brilliant session (<10% acceptance rate).
4. Bekteshi, V. (2025, January). Reality check: Transforming cancer education for Latina immigrant women through augmented reality. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.
5. Bekteshi, V., & Schootman, M. (2025, January). Contrasting breast cancer screening patterns among Mexican immigrant women in rural vs. urban U.S. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.
6. Bekteshi, V. (2025, January). Social work leadership in multidisciplinary environments addressing health disparities. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.
7. Bekteshi, V. (2024, January). Multidisciplinary perspectives on social determinants of health. Roundtable, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
8. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Domestic violence during COVID: India’s response. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
9. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Multidisciplinary challenges in social determinants of health. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
10. Bekteshi, V. (2019). Cultural sensitivity in researching hard-to-reach populations. Symposium, University of Bath, Department of Social and Policy Sciences.
11. Haley, F., Hanley, L., & Bekteshi, V. (2015). Contextual approach to familismo values and breast cancer engagement among Latinas in rural Illinois. Poster, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Symposium.
12. Hanley, L., Haley, F., & Bekteshi, V. (2015). Contextual approach to Latino-specific beliefs and breast cancer engagement among Latinas in rural Illinois. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Symposium.
13. Bekteshi, V., Yaghjyan, L., & Drake, B. (2014). Health behaviors among prostate cancer survivors: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Poster, 38th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Prevention Oncology (ASPO), Arlington, VA.
14. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Modern-day slavery and the government approach: Case of Albania. Poster, Macrotheme Conference, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
15. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, V. T. (2014). The impact of acculturation on perceptions of psychological well-being among Mexican-born women. Council for Social Work Education Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
16. Kang, S., & Bekteshi, V. (2014). A systematic review of acculturative stress among Latino immigrants: Risks and protectors. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
17. Bekteshi, V., Matthews, L., & van Hook, M. (2014). Puerto Rican-born Latinas and integration into the U.S.: Risks and protectors from acculturative stress. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
18. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, V. T. (2013). Cumulative effect of acculturation in cross-cultural equivalence of K6 scale. King’s College Annual Conference on Immigration Research, London, UK.
19. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). Cuban-, Mexican-, and Puerto Rican-born women and acculturative stress in a contextual perspective. SSWR Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

20. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). The impact of external and internal contexts on integration challenges among immigrant Latinas in the U.S. SSWR Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
21. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). When a mother has cancer: Pathways to relational growth for mothers and daughters coping with cancer. SSWR Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
22. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012, October). Relational ruptures: Mothers and daughters and the cancer-induced stress. Qualitative Health Research Conference, Alberta, Canada.
23. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). The relationship of acculturative stress and psychological distress among Latina immigrants: A cross-cultural comparison of Cuban-, Mexican-, and Puerto Rican-born women. Poster, Public Health 4th Annual Conference, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
24. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). Integrated literature review: Acculturative stress and Latina women. Poster, Public Health 4th Annual Conference, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
25. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, V. T. (2011). Cross-cultural equivalence of well-being scale among U.S.- and foreign-born Mexican women in the U.S. Poster, Council for Social Work Education Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
26. Bekteshi, V. (2010). Credit union and asset building among Medicaid population. Poster, 13th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
27. Bekteshi, V. (2010). Family, school, country of birth, and adolescents' psychological well-being. 13th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
28. Bekteshi, V., & Xu, Q. (2010, February). Acculturation and perception of psychological well-being among low-income Mexican women in the U.S. Migration and Immigrant Incorporation Workshop, Harvard University, Boston, MA.
29. Xu, Q., Bekteshi, V., & Thanh, V. T. (2010). Schools and families interact to support the healthy development of foreign-born adolescents' psychological well-being. 10th Annual Diversity Challenge Conference, Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, Boston, MA.
30. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, V. T. (2010). Ethnicity, country of birth, and perceptions of well-being among low-income Mexican women. 10th Annual Diversity Challenge Conference, Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, Boston, MA.
31. Bekteshi, V. (2010). Contemporary Albanian societies in transition. Cross-Disciplinary Conference Exploring Integration Challenges Facing New Albanian Immigrants in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Member, Five-Member Organizing Committee. New York University, NY.
32. Randall, J., & Bekteshi, V. (2008). Enacting support brokerage in the twelve cash and counseling expansion states: Consumer direction/self-determination. 24th National Home and Community-Based Services Conference, Boston, MA.
33. Bekteshi, V. (2005). Always between two worlds: Experiences of Albanian American refugees in the U.S. Refugee Women's Network Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

1. Bekteshi, V. (2002–2004). Six newspaper articles on Albanian immigrants in the U.S. Published in Illyria (the only Albanian newspaper in the U.S.; English and Albanian; global circulation; 50,000+ subscribers).
2. Bekteshi, V. (2002–2004). Feature stories on integration challenges among Albanian female adolescent immigrants. Published in Shpresa (Hope) (the only U.S. magazine dedicated to Albanian women; English and Albanian; 2,000+ subscribers).
3. Bekteshi, V. (1996–1998). Twenty newspaper articles published by the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Daily.
4. Bekteshi, V. (1990). Four feature stories published in the Children's Section of Rilindja (Re-birth) (in Albanian; circulation 200,000+).

COMMISSIONED REPORTS

1. Lombe, M., Mahoney, K., & Bekteshi, V.. Exploring patterns of service utilization among persons with disabilities in a consumer-directed care program.

2. Contributing Author. Human Development Report Toolkit for National and Regional Human Development Reports. National Human Development Reports Office, New York, Summer 2004.
3. Contributing Author. Needs Assessment of Albanian American Women Living in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Community Resource Exchange, Fall 2003.
4. Contributing Author. Utilization of Human Development Reports by Developing Countries. Human Development Reports Headquarters, New York, Summer 2004.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Reporter/Producer, Cable Channel 48 — Jan 1997 – Jan 1999
Norman, OK. Reported, wrote, and edited news stories for the newscast; interviewed and gathered story information.

Associate Producer, Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) — May 1997 – April 1998
Oklahoma City, OK. Reported, wrote, and edited news stories for the newscast; interviewed and gathered story information.

Reporter/Editor, Oklahoma Daily — Jan 1996 – Dec 1996
Norman, OK. Wrote at least two stories per week on the "International Events on Campus" beat.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Board Member, Albanian American Women's Organization — Aug 2006 – Present
New York, NY.

Advisory Board Member, GBC Public Relations — Jan 2003 – May 2003
Greenwich, CT. Provided consulting; assisted with marketing and implementation of events; contributed to outreach and cultivated relations with the community in Greenwich and surrounding areas.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Summer 2015: Guest appearances on TV Teuta-Montenegro, discussing research and professional experience as part of Albanian American Success Stories.
- Summer 2015: Guest appearance on the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, discussing differences between the U.S. and other countries.
- Fall 2014: Guest appearances on Kosovo TV stations (Klan, TV Prishtina), discussing research and professional experience.
- Fall 2014: Guest appearance in the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, discussing research on Latina immigrants and breast cancer.
- October 2013: Guest appearance on Illinois International TV, discussing Latina immigrant women's health and mental health.
- Voice of America Radio Program on Albania: Integration of the Albanian American community in New York and the role of the diaspora in the economic development of Kosovo.
- Cable Network, Bronx, New York: Hosted a weekly show focusing on challenges experienced by newcomer Albanian women in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Several successful Albanian women appeared as guest participants to share advice on acculturation issues.

OTHER AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

- Full Academic Scholarship to complete the Combined MSW/PhD program at Boston College
- Panel Coordinator: "Media and Communication" — Career Conference, Columbia University, Washington, D.C.
- Founder and Chair of the Balkan Dialogue Student Club at Columbia University
- Full Scholarship to attend training in ethical leadership offered by the Woodhull Institute
- Full Scholarship to complete training in international popular economics offered by Smith College
- Full Scholarship to complete middle management training at the Non-Profit Management Institute
- President, International Leadership Class — two years in a row at the University of Oklahoma

- Editor of Shpresa (Hope), the only Albanian American Women's Magazine (2002–2004)
- Master of Ceremonies at various non-profit events organized by Albanian American non-profit organizations in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Association for Clinical Social Work
- National Association of Social Workers
- Council on Social Work Education
- Society for Social Work and Research

METHODS, SOFTWARE, AND LANGUAGES

Research methods: Community-based participatory research; qualitative interviewing; survey research; systematic review; path mediation analysis; structural equation modeling; multigroup analysis; multiple regression; logistic regression; mixed-methods and translational health equity research.

Software: LISREL, MPLUS, SPSS, STATA, NVivo, HyperResearch, Microsoft Access.

Languages: English, Albanian, Spanish, Serbian.

Licensure: Active LCSW (Illinois); LMSW (New York, Georgia, Oklahoma).

HOBBIES

- Certified yoga teacher — Rishikesh, India
- Zumba instructor — Zagreb, Croatia
- Hiking — Completed the Camino de Santiago, approximately 800 kilometers from France to Spain, in 21 days

REFERENCES

Available upon request.