



Special Issue Call for Papers
Families in Society Across the Globe
Mental Health: Learning locally to
impact globally

Families in Society

Call for Papers: Oct. 1, 2021 – February 1, 2022
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Issue Editors

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Mental Health is a human issue that affects individuals and families in every culture and society across the world. While the approach, skills, and practice may vary by country or region across the world, mental health providers (e.g., social workers, human service workers, peer supports, indigenous healers, doctors, nurses, etc.), similarly provide mental health assessment, services, and treatment to vulnerable and underserved populations experiencing and managing mental health conditions. In this special issue of *Families in Society*, we are actively seeking articles and research centering on global mental health through innovative local treatment, services, interventions, and perspectives. Our editorial team is comprised of expert international scholars from Ethiopia, Mexico, Taiwan, and the United States. This special edition marks a new beginning for *Families in Society*, as we recognize how globally influenced and connected we are. Also, we are seeking to promote local innovations in mental health care to a larger audience.

In this special issue, we will highlight evidence-informed practices that are assisting those with mental health issues, or their caregivers, or how organizations are providing this important though often minimized service. In addition, we recognize the importance of providing space for indigenous and culturally sanctioned approaches as well. To that end, both traditional length manuscripts, and shorter practice notes/research reports are invited.

(Continued)

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Areas of mental health interest include:

- Service access and utilization for underserved racial, ethnic, cultural, and stigmatized populations
- Patterns of service delivery, service utilization, engagement, and treatment adherence
- Strategies for addressing barriers and enhancing promoters to (formal and informal) mental health treatment and services
- Interventions nationally and internationally to maintain clients in treatment and improve outcomes and recovery
- Response to families' mental health needs during a special time (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic, a disaster, in transition, etc.)
- Activating local characteristics, strategies, resources to design and provide effective mental health services for families in need
- Cultural considerations in accessing and/or providing mental health services to families in need in a specific context/region
- Indigenous knowledge and mental health care
- Mental health care across the human condition (e.g., age, orientation, religion, SES, etc.)
- Mental and Emotional Health as well as Health Rights and Human Rights
- Personal attention Mental Health vs. Family and Community Mental Health: Contradictions of Public Policy
- Psychosocial and Mental-emotional burnout of Social Work health personnel
- Mental health service utilization by refugee [or any] families from {anywhere}
- Mental health care for adolescents with behavioral issues in school
- Ethical dilemmas when working with clients with mental health conditions

Dr. Robin E. Gearing is a professor of Social Work and the Director of the Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation in Treatment Engagement and Service (MH-RITES). Dr. Gearing's research focuses on improving the mental health outcomes of adolescents and young adults with serious mental illnesses and their families, specifically with marginalized and under-investigated populations. In addition, his work focuses on engagement with mental health services, including culturally informed adaptations of empirically-supported interventions.

Dr. Fang-pei Chen is a professor at National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan. Dr. Chen's research areas include mental health recovery, community psychiatric rehabilitation, and family caregiving for people with mental illness. Dr. Chen is currently exploring experiences with community living after long-term institutional care from the psychiatric patients' and their families' perspectives.

Dr. Messay Gebremariam is an associate professor of Social Work and Social Development at the School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University (AAU). Dr. Messay is also a research associate at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Messay's research areas include elders' well-being, care-leavers, mental health and migration. Dr. Messay is currently working on "Impact Evaluation of the Addis Ababa School Feeding Program on Education and Nutrition Outcomes: Evidence for Cascading" and "Reducing women's care burden and improving their economic wellbeing through establishment of community-based childcare centers".

Dra. Andrea Kenya Sánchez Zepeda is an associate professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM. Dra. Sánchez Zepeda research areas included Social Studies Families and Family Social Work, documentation of structural violations of Social Rights, Human Rights Activism, diversity Families, Artistic and sport strategies for safe & be wellness for Focus Families Groups, and territorial practices Social Work. Currently, the major project articulation project of Dra. Sánchez Zepeda is coordinating the Observatory Interamerican about Social Work practices with Families (OITSF).

Dr. Sondra J. Fogel is an associate professor at the University of South Florida. Dr. Fogel's research areas include issues related to homelessness and criminal justice, and social work education. Dr. Fogel is currently exploring family reunification processes among formerly incarcerated older adults. Dr. Fogel has served as the Editor in Chief of *Families in Society* since 2015 and will complete her tenure at the end of 2021.

Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, the first journal of social research, is one of the most enduring and highly regarded scholarly publications on family- and community-centered social work. Published continuously since 1920, the journal has a longstanding focus on person-centered, asset-based approaches to practice and policy. **Please contact Dr. Robin E. Gearing (rgearing@central.uh.edu) and Dr. Sondra J. Fogel (sfogel@usf.edu) with any questions.**

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