

EXAMPLES – RSCA AGENDA

My long term RSCA agenda focuses on 1) issues related to mental health and general well-being among Asian Americans and 2) enhancing culturally sensitive and competent social work practice with Asian populations. Beginning with internal grants in my early years at SJSU, I've developed a well-established research agenda that has helped me to secure multiple external grants, to continue publishing my work, and increasingly engage in interdisciplinary research activities with other faculty, community-based agencies and international scholars. Now, I have a solid and strong record of academic achievement in peer-reviewed publications and grant funding specifically related to research with the Asian community and the mental health field. I aim to be a leading scholar in the field of mental health in the Asian population, domestically and globally.

Over the past decade, the violent combat sport of mixed martial arts, and its most prominent company the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), have experienced an enormous growth in popularity. During this time, one of my major RSCA lines has focused on psychological and sociological issues related to this controversial but increasingly mainstream and lucrative sport. For example, a colleague and I completed a critical media analysis of how the mass media framed the UFC from 1993-2006, and we also qualitatively examined how professional fighters cope with stressors within and outside of the competitive arena. More recently, I investigated media portrayals of UFC women's champion fighter Ronda Rousey using a feminist theoretical approach, and am currently completing a study with a graduate student on how Rousey has framed her athletic, gendered, and celebrity identities via social media, including Twitter and Instagram. Finally, I am beginning an SJSU RSCA-grant funded mixed methods study on the motivations of professional MMA fighters who have a high level of knowledge about concussion-related symptoms. This study brings my RSCA agenda directly into the public health domain, as it will help parents and coaches better understand why even well-informed athletes knowingly risk long-term brain injury.

My research focuses on issues related to racial and ethnic minority health and healthcare disparities, especially among Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, including those who suffer from mental and related disorders. My prior studies in support of this agenda have examined barriers and facilitators to accessing mental health treatment, and the effectiveness of innovative and culturally appropriate treatment approaches in health care settings, using qualitative and quantitative approaches. My current work focuses on mental health among vulnerable and underserved populations including Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, where I have found a high proportion with mental health needs (e.g. depression) but extremely low rate of mental health care use. I have also completed a yearlong interprofessional faculty development program (160+ hours) on ethnogeriatrics at Stanford University, Geriatric Education Center in 2013-14. Ultimately I aim to contribute to improved health and mental health care outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations.

One of my major research interests is studying how humans, information and technologies interact. Over the years, my research has been moving toward that, with research projects about how librarians (information professionals) provide services via information and communications technology (ICT) to support and facilitate human access to information (example 1 - the best practices of providing texting-based reference and information services at libraries; example 2 - the essential competencies and desirable training for librarians that provide information services via online real time chat).