Athena Kheibari

Wayne State University School of Social Work
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EDUCATION

August 2019 *University of Kentucky*
Ph.D. in Social Work
Dissertation: *Suicide Attitudes and Terror Management Theory*

July 2014 *Ball State University*
M.A. in Social Psychology

May 2012 *University of Michigan-Dearborn*
B.A. in Psychology (with Honors and High Distinction)

May 2009 *Schoolcraft College*
Associates in Arts

EMPLOYMENT

2019-present Assistant Professor, Wayne State University, School of Social Work

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary research interests include (1) the role of death anxiety in suicide and stigma from a terror management perspective, (2) health disparities and socially constructed barriers resulting from stigma, and (3) attitudes toward substance use and opioid overdose.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kheibari, A., & Cerel, J. (*In Press*). The role of death anxiety and self-esteem on suicide attitudes. *OMEGA Journal of Death and Dying*.

Kheibari, A., & Cerel, J. (*In Press*). Does self-esteem inflation mitigate mortality salience effects on suicide attitudes? *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

Kennedy, A., Cerel, J., **Kheibari, A.,** Leske, S. & Watts, J. (2021). A comparison of farmer and non-farmer suicides from the United States National Violent Deaths Reporting System, 2003-2016. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12725

Long, M. M., Cerel, J., Aldrich, R. S., & **Kheibari, A.** (2021). Suicide exposure in crisis workers. *Crisis,* 1-7. https://doi.org/10.1027/0227-5910/a000760

Victor, G., Strickland, J., **Kheibari, A.,** & Flaherty, C. (2020). A mixed-methods approach to understanding overdose risk-management strategies among a nationwide convenience sample. *International Journal of Drug Policy, 86*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2020.102973

Kheibari, A., Walker, J., Clark, J., Victor, G., & Monahan, E. (2019). Forensic social work: Why social work education should change. *Journal of Social Work Education*. https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2019.1671257

Snell-Rood, C., Staton, M., & **Kheibari, A.** (2019). Women's first-person perspectives on the role of mental health in rural substance abuse. *Rural and Remote Health, 19*(4). doi:10.22605/RRH5279

Staton, M., Cramer, J., Walker, J. R., Snell-Rood, C., & **Kheibari, A.** (2019). The importance of language in evidence-based practices with rural participants: An exploratory linguistic analysis. *Journal of Rural Mental Health, 43*(4), 138-149. doi:10.1037/rmh0000117

Kheibari, A., Cerel, J., & Sanford, R. (2018). Attitudes about suicide ideation among suicide loss survivors: A vignette study. *Psychological Reports, 122*(5), 1707-1719. https://doi.org/10.1177/0033294118795882

Kheibari, A., Victor, G., Gutti, S. S., Gutti, S. N., Rao, S., Kitzman, P., & Dignan, M. (2018). Smoking and stroke in Appalachian Kentucky. *Journal of Neurology and Neurobiology, 1*(1), 1-4. doi:10.31487/j.NNB.2018.10.006

Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.**, Staton-Tindall, M. & Oser, C. (2018). Appalachian women's use of substance abuse treatment: Examining the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations. *Journal of Social Work Practice in Addictions*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2018.1450264

Slovak, K., Pope, N.D., Giger, J.T., & **Kheibari, A.** (2018). An evaluation of the Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training with an area agency on aging. *Journal of Gerontologcial Social Work, 62(1).* https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2018.1522410

Walker, J. R., Clark, J. J., Monahan, C. E., Shechet, A., Agharkar, B. S., **Kheibari, A.**, & Victor, G. (*2018*). Can developmental impairments in moral reasoning be mitigating in criminal and capital cases? *Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 36(4)*. https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2353

Miller, J., Benner, K., **Kheibari, A.**, & Washington, E. (2017). Conceptualizing on-campus support programs for collegiate foster youth and alumni: A plan for action. *Children and Youth Services Review, 83,* 57-67. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.10.028

<u>Manuscripts Under Review</u>

Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.,** Strickland, J., & Sightes, E. (*Under Review*). Exploring the lived experiences of medication for opioid use disorder treatment: A qualitative study among a nationwide convenience sample.

Kawashima, D., Kawamoto, S., Shiraga, K., **Kheibari, A.,** Cerel, J., & Kawano, K. (*Under Review*). Suicide attitudes among suicide loss survivors and their adaptation to loss: A cross-cultural study in Japan and the United States. *OMEGA Journal of Death & Dying*.

Kheibari, A., Hedden, B. J., Comartin, E., Kral, M., & Kubiak, S. (*Under Review*). Law enforcement and suicide calls for service: A mixed-methods study of suicide attempts and deaths. *OMEGA Journal of Death & Dying*.

Kheibari, A., Cerel, J., & Victor, G. (*Under Review*). Comparing attitudes toward stigmatized deaths: Suicide and opioid overdose deaths. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

Cerel, J., Long, M., Aldrich, R., Powerll, W., & **Kheibari, A.** (*Under Review*). Suicide exposure in mental health providers. *Death Studies*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-present Consultant for Mitigation Specialists, Michigan State Appellate Defenders Office (SADO)
- Provide consultation services to mitigation specialists for juvenile lifer cases
- Provide consultation services to criminal defense attorneys for other criminal cases

2016-2018 Capital Mitigation Specialist, Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy
- Investigate and analyze relevant mitigation evidence for trial proceedings in capital cases
- Prepare comprehensive social histories of three capital defendants
- Perform various assessments of client and his or her family, particularly regarding adaptive deficits

2017-2019 Graduate Assistant, University of Kentucky Transformative Learning Faculty Fellows Program
- Deliver various workshops related to academic achievement to diverse population of students
- Provide curriculum support to faculty across the university on various topics including, multimodal communication assignments, instructional lesson plans, and assessment measures

2015 – 2016 Graduate Research Assistant, University of Kentucky College of Social Work
- Assist social work faculty with research endeavors, including but not limited to conducting literature reviews, creating databases from data entry, and producing brief data profiles of study samples
- Supervise a team of MSW student research assistants

2012-2014 Graduate Assistant, Ball State University, Office of Student Center Programs
- Advise members of the University Program Board and Lite Nite – Largest student programming organization at Ball State University that provides many cultural events, educational programs, and diverse entertainment for students
- Promote diversity, plan activities, and lead staff meetings for students
- Manage budget of $35,000 each semester for campus events

GRANTS & FUNDING AWARDS

Submitted Grants

P50 MHxxxxxx (Johnson, Ahmedani, Weinstock) 07/1/2020-06/30/2026
Project title: The National Center for Health and Justice Integration for Suicide Prevention (NCHATS)
Status: Submitted 10/30/2020
Amount (NIH/NIMH): $15,464,699
Role: Consultant

Spencer Foundation
Project title: A Linguistic Analysis of a Pro-Suicide Forum: How Big Data Can Inform Curriculum-Based Suicide Prevention Programs
Status: Submitted 11/1/2020
Amount: $50,000
Role: PI

On-Going Grants

University of Kentucky Core 3 CURE COVID-19 Pilot Program, 06/30/2020-06/30/2021
Project title: Mental Health & Suicide Attempt Survivors in the time of COVID-19 (Amount $9,842.08)
Role: Co-PI

Completed Grants

College of Social Work Pilot Funding Award, University of Kentucky, 04/01/2020
Project title: Suicide Attitudes from a Terror Management Theory Perspective (Amount $2,120)
Role: PI

College of Social Work Pilot Funding Award, University of Kentucky, 05/01/2015
Project title: Does a Parenting Skills Group Decrease Child Abuse Potential? (Amount $10,000)
Role: Co-PI

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, for Mark Dignan, Ph.D. (PI), University of Kentucky Prevention Research Center, August 2014-2015
Appalachia Community Cancer Network: Amount $1,000,561
The major goal of this project is to work towards a reduction in cancer health disparities in Appalachia by conducting community-based education, research and training activities in rural areas of six states. The project will also include a faith-based intervention to reduce obesity among rural Appalachian church members by improving diet and increasing physical activity.

Research Assistant, for Mark Dignan, Ph.D. (PI), University of Kentucky Prevention Research Center, August 2014-2015
Project Title: Administrative Supplement for Strengthening Research, Training, and Outreach Capacity of the Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP): Amount $29,608
This project was designed to develop infrastructure to support research on Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities.

Research Assistant, for Michelle Staton, Ph.D., College of Social Work, University of Kentucky, August 2014-2015
- Transcribe participant interviews and analyze qualitative data
- Contribute to manuscript preparations and national conference presentations

Research Assistant, for Julie Cerel, Ph.D., College of Social Work, University of Kentucky, May 2013 – April 2014
- Summer internship and continued part-time work on a Department of Defense funded grant about the impact of exposure to suicide in veterans and community members
- Data collection, transcribing participant interviews, data coding
- Attended team meetings and observed structured clinical interviews

Psychology Honors study, with Joseph Musial, Ph.D. (Advisor), Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn, January 2011- June 2012
- Designed a study that examined special education service among traditional public schools compared to public school academies

Research Assistant, for Robert Hymes, Ph.D., Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn, January 2011-June 2012
- Investigated the influence of attractiveness in dating advertisements on memory, minimal groups prejudice, and empathy
- Ran experimental sessions, coded data, cleaned data, inputted SPSS syntax

REVIEWS FOR JOURNALS

Psychological Reports
Journal of Mental Health & Clinical Psychology
OMEGA – Journal of Death and Dying
Death Studies
Criminal Justice and Criminology
International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology

INVITED TALKS

2021, Jan *From Life Imprisonment to the Death Penalty: A Human Rights Perspective on the Criminal/Legal System in the U.S.*
Schoolcraft College
Focus Series: Human Rights

2020, Nov *Managing Client Suicidality*
Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO)
SADO Virtual Michigan Mitigation Annual Fall Training

2016, Aug *Terror Management Theory and the Death Penalty*
Asbury University
Course title: Social Systems

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter 2021 *Research Methods in Social Work II (Primary instructor/Online)*
School of Social Work, Wayne State University

Winter 2021 *Foundations of Ethics and Values in Social Work (Primary instructor/Online)*
School of Social Work, Wayne State University

Fall 2020 *Behavioral Health and the Criminal/Legal System (Developed course/Primary instructor/Online)*
School of Social Work, Wayne State University

Winter 2020 *Ethical Issues in Interpersonal Practice (Primary instructor)*
School of Social Work, Wayne State University

Fall 2019 *Research Methods in Social Work I (Primary instructor)*
School of Social Work, Wayne State University

Summer 2019 *Forensic Behavioral Health & Social Work (Primary instructor/Online)*
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky

2017-2018 *Foundations of Professional Ethics in Social Work (Primary instructor)*
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky
(Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018)

Fall 2016 *Foundations of Social Justice (Co-instructor)*
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky

Fall 2016 *Drugs and Crime: An Inside Out Prison Exchange Program Course (Co-instructor)*
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky

Fall 2016 Guest lecture: *Capital Mitigation*
College of Law, University of Kentucky
Course title: Capital Punishment

Fall 2016 Guest lecture: *Suicidality in Adolescences & Young Adulthood*
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky
Course title: Human Behavior in the Social Environment

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Kheibari, A., Cerel, J., & Victor, G. (2020, November). Comparing attitudes toward stigmatized deaths: Suicide and opioid overdose deaths. Poster presented at the University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center 2020 Virtual Inaugural Research Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.

Kheibari, A., Cerel, J., Aldrich, R. S., & Brown, A. (2019, April). Suicide exposure in crisis workers. Poster presented at the 52nd Annual American Association of Suicidology, Denver, CO.

Kheibari, A., Cerel, J., Brown, A., & Williams, S. (2018, April). Are suicide attitudes different in suicide attempt survivors? Poster presented at the 51st Annual American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.

Williams, S., Frey, L., Cerel, J., Brown, M., & **Kheibari, A.** (2018, April). Loss survivor perceptions of suicide: Comparing the United States and Japan. Paper presented at the 51st Annual American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.

Kheibari, A., & Victor, G. (2017, November). Existential terror, social injustice, and the death penalty. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology 73rd Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.**, Staton-Tindall, M. & Oser, C. (2017, June). Appalachian women's use of substance abuse treatment: Examining the behavioral model for vulnerable populations. Poster presented at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Miller, J., Benner, K., & **Kheibari, A.** (2017, March). Identifying collegiate supports for foster youth and alumni: A plan for action. Paper presented at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Miller, J., Benner, K., & **Kheibari, A.** (2016, November). Conceptualizing support programs for collegiate foster youth: A plan for academic administrators. Poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 62nd Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Kheibari, A. & Victor, G. (2016, June). The role of terror management theory and social injustice in capital punishment. Oral presentation at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Victor, G., **Kheibari, A.,** & Staton-Tindall, M. (2016, June). An examination of risk factors predicting injection drug use among previously incarcerated rural women. Poster presented at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Kheibari, A., Sanford, R., Frey, L., & Cerel, J. (2016, April). Personal experience with stigma in adults bereaved by suicide and suicide attempt survivors: A qualitative study. Poster presented at the 49th Annual American Association of Suicidology, Chicago, IL. doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.23214.82248

Kheibari, A., Sanford, R., Frey, L., & Cerel, J. (2016, January). Exploring attitudes toward suicide in adults bereaved by suicide and suicide attempt survivors. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Washington, D.C. doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.10107.62243

Houston, J. F., Jaggi, N., Hebert, J. R., Gallagher, A. D., Cromo, M., **Kheibari, A.** (2015, November). Impact of targeted communications within a National Cancer Institute Center to reduce cancer health disparities geographical management of Cancer Health Disparities Program Regional Network. Poster presented at the 8th AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, Atlanta, GA.

Gutti, S., Gutti, S., Kitzman, P., **Kheibari, A.**, Johnson, A., & Dignan, M. (2015, March). Geographic distribution of stroke in the Big Sandy area development district. Poster presented at the 10th Annual Center for Clinical and Translational Science Spring Conference, Lexington, KY.

Kheibari, A., & Chan, J. Y. (2014, August). Attitudes toward suicide survivors. Poster presented at the 122nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Kheibari, A., Musial, J., Drake, P., Henry, A., & McAuslan, P. (2012, May). Special education service among traditional public schools and public academy schools within the city of Detroit. Poster presented at the 84th annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

McDowell, J., **Kheibari, A**., Balaghi, D., & Bollinger, M., (2012, May). Religious stereotypes and attitudes in college students. Poster presented at the 84th annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Kheibari, A., **&** Musial, J. (2011, May). A comparison of special education service among traditional public schools and public-school academies. Poster presented and journal published at the 20th annual Meeting of the Minds, Rochester, MI.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2015-2016 Capital Mitigation Training

- Participation in 15 capital case reviews as a doctoral student trainee case consultant under the direct supervision of Robert Walker, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
- Provided relevant literature on mitigating factors in capital case sentencing to defense attorneys with the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy
- Received in-service training from expert mitigation specialists, Dawn Jenkins and Suzanne Hooper
- Received a three-day Mitigation and Social History Video training sponsored by the Kentucky DPA
- Received a two-day Capital Defense 101 training sponsored by the Kentucky DPA

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018	Dumez Research Scholarship, University of Kentucky
2015	College of Social Work Research Committee Travel Award, University of Kentucky
2015	Lyell Bussell Travel Award, Ball State University
2014	Aspire Student Travel Award, Ball State University
2014	Graduate Student Recognition Award, Ball State University
2012	Service Learning Certificate, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2012	Distinguished Students in the Department of Behavioral Science Award, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2011-2012	Psi Chi, National Honor Society in Psychology
2010-2011	Dean's List, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2010-2012	Psychology Honors Program, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2006-2008	Michigan Merit Scholarship
2005	Scholarship Competition in Communication Arts, Schoolcraft College

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

2017-present	American Society for Criminology (Student Affiliate)
2016-present	Society for Social Work and Research (Student Affiliate)
2013-present	American Association of Suicidology (Student Affiliate)
2011-2013	American Psychological Association (Student Affiliate)

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

2018-2019	Doctoral student committee member for College of Social Work, University of Kentucky
2017-2018	Doctoral student representative for the Graduate Student Congress, University of Kentucky
2012-2014	Second-year master's students class representative, Department of Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services, Ball State University
2013-2014	Student member, East Central Indiana Prevention Coalition
2012-2013	Student member, Alive Campaign, Ball State University, August 2012- April 2013
2010-2012	Secretary of psychology club, University of Michigan-Dearborn

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND SPECIAL SKILLS

Farsi (fluent speaker)
Computer Skills: SPSS, MAXQDA 11, Qualtrics survey software