

Venera Bekteshi

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Oncology
Social Determinants of Health
Health Inequities
Mental Health and Immigration
Latinx Studies
Gender and Violence
Trauma and Victims of War

TEACHING INTERESTS

Cultural Sensitivity/Social Justice
Migration
Human Behavior in the Social Environment
Research Methods
Program Evaluation
Macro & Global Social Work
Health Disparities

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Social Justice Research Award**, Department of Women's Studies, Center for Social Justice
- **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)
- **Mayor's Recognition for Community Involvement**, New York City (2001)

EDUCATION

- 2022: Columbia University School of Social Work, Online Teaching Certificate
- 2011: Ph.D., Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA
Dissertation: *Coping with Acculturative Stress in an Environmental Context Among Latina Immigrants*
- 2008: MSW, Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA
Specialization: Macro Practice, Concentration: Global Health
- 2004: MPA, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY
Concentration: Advanced Policy Analysis
- 2001: MA, St. John's University, Department of Political Science, New York, NY
- 1999: BA, University of Oklahoma, School of Arts & Sciences, Norman, OK
Major: Journalism and Political Science

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

- 2022–Present: University of Oklahoma, School of Social Work, Norman, OK
Associate Professor (tenured)
Cluster hire: Interdisciplinary Research in Health Disparities
Administrative Role: Cancer Cluster Hire Liaison
- 2018–2022: University of Bath, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Bath, UK
Associate Professor (tenured)
Administrative Roles: Aurora Leadership Program Role Model, Research Ethics Officer, Director of Studies (1 semester)
- 2016–2018: University of York, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, York, UK
Associate Professor (tenured)

Administrative Roles: Director of Masters Programs in Research (2 years), Director of Think Ahead (2 years)

- 2012–2016: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Assistant Professor (tenure track)

- 2011–2012: Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
NIH Fellowship, Postdoctoral Fellow

ACADEMIC RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- **2022–Present:** University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center; University of Oklahoma Gender Studies Core Faculty; Member, Data Institute for Societal Changes (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:

Principal Investigator, 8/2024–5/2025

Cultural Resilience and Cancer Prevention in Latino Communities

Subcontract administered by University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center, funded by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Total cost: \$20,000.

Principal Investigator, 2023-2025

Contextualizing Cancer Prevention Among Mexican Women in Rural U.S.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute. Loan Repayment Award. Total cost: \$200,000.

Principal Investigator, 8/2023–5/2024

Mexican Women and Cancer Screening in Rural Oklahoma

Subcontract administered by University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center, funded by TSET and NCI. Total cost: \$20,000.

Principal Investigator, 2023

Fulbright Scholarship, Kosovo: Cancer Screening Engagement in Rural and Urban Kosovo

Status: Finalist.

Principal Investigator, 8/2022–5/2023

Healthcare Needs Assessment for Latinx Immigrant Communities

Subcontract administered by University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center, funded by TSET and NCI. Total cost: \$30,000.

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI: Ms. S. Malushi), 2005–2008

Domestic Violence and Runaway Homeless Youth

Funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Total cost: \$75,000.

Principal Investigator, 2004

Development of the Capacity to Address the Service Needs of the Beneficiaries

Funded by New York Foundation. Total cost: \$40,000.

Principal Investigator, 2004

Domestic Violence Among Albanian Immigrant Women in the U.S.

Funded by Van Ameringen Foundation. Total cost: \$50,000.

Principal Investigator, 2002

Integration of Albanian American Women in Mainstream U.S.

Funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Total cost: \$220,000.

Internal Grants:

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI: K. Pigeons, PhD), 2024–2026

University of Oklahoma Big Challenge Grant

Funded by the OU Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships. Total cost: \$135,000 annually for two years (totaling \$270,000).

Principal Investigator, 6/1/2023–8/31/2023

Emotional and Cultural Influences on Cancer Prevention Among Mexican Women in Rural U.S.

Funded by Dodge College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma. Total cost: \$10,000.

Principal Investigator, 2/2022–12/2022

Contextual Approach to Emotional and Cultural Barriers to Cancer Prevention Engagement Among Mexican Women in the U.S.

Funded by University of Oklahoma School of Social Work, Knee Center Institute. Total cost: \$5,000.

Principal Investigator, 1/2015–12/2015

Interaction Between Latino Culture and Structural Factors in Cancer Prevention Engagement Among Mexican Women in the U.S.

Funded by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Research Board Grant. Total cost: \$14,000.

Principal Investigator, 1/2014–12/2014

Grant to Develop Research on Domestic Violence Among Kosovar Rape Victims in Kosovo

Funded by Russian and Eastern European Center. Total cost: \$200.

Principal Investigator, 1/2014–12/2014

Contextual Approach to Emotional and Cultural Barriers to Cancer Prevention Engagement Among Latina Immigrants

Funded by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Center for Advanced Studies. Total cost: \$12,000.

Competitive Travel Funding Awards:

Scholar's Travel Award, 2014

Conference in Health and Social Sciences, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Funded by University of Illinois Scholar's Travel Award. Total cost: \$200.

Scholar's Travel Award, 2013

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

Scholar's Travel Award, 2012

International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society
Funded by University of Illinois Scholar's Travel Award. Total cost: \$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 for publication to promote open access dissemination of research on cancer prevention among immigrant women.

Total secured cost: \$2,500. Waiver awarded May 2023; Submission date: March 2023.

Secured Publication Fee Waiver, 2023

Navigating Integration for Wellbeing Among Mexican Women in BMC Women's Health

Successfully negotiated publication support to enhance accessibility to research on health equity among Mexican women.

Total secured cost: \$3,500. Waiver awarded May 2023; Submission date: March 2023.

Special Section Guest Editor, 2023

Immigrant Women's Wellbeing in Social Sciences Journal

Coordinated and led editorial efforts for a special section on immigrant women's health and well-being, facilitating a diverse range of perspectives.

Total editorial support: \$13,500. Status: Awarded May 2023; Submission date: March 2023.

Publications

Book Contracts

Status: Under Review

1. When women rise: Oxford University Press
2. Lucha y Esperanza: Faith, Family, and Well-being among Mexican Women: Oxford University Press
1. Munjireen, S., & **Bekteshi**, V., & Kendzor, D. (accepted). Afghan refugees in Oklahoma City, OK, and determinants of their mental health. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.
2. **Bekteshi**, V., Vanhook, M. J., Bellamy, J. L., & Gjermeni, E. (accepted). The shadow pandemic contextualized: Albania's response to domestic violence during COVID-19. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*.
3. **Bekteshi**, V. (accepted). Cultural crossroads: How Mexican immigrant women navigate stress and adaptation. *BMC Women's Health*.
4. **Bekteshi**, V., & Schootman, M. (accepted). Empowering breast cancer screening among Mexican immigrant women (MIW) in Illinois: Insights from rural and urban communities. *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*.
5. **Bekteshi**, V., Hunter, C. D., & Bellamy, J. (accepted). Building bridges: Addressing health research gaps in Latino communities with cultural sensitivity. *Social Services Research*.

6. **Bekteshi, V.** (revise and resubmit). Cultural sensitivity in health research: A reflective analysis of practice and lessons from Project Lucha. *Social Services Research*.
7. **Bekteshi, V., & Bellamy, J. L.** (2024). Quantifying acculturative challenges: Cuban-born women's path to psychological well-being in the U.S. *Social Sciences*.
8. **Bekteshi, V., Sifati, M., & Kendzor, D.** (2024). Reaching the unheard: Overcoming challenges in health research with hard-to-reach populations. *International Journal for Equity in Health*.
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.** (2024). Increased domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: India's response. *Development Policy Review*, 42(2), e12749. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12749>.
11. **Bekteshi, V., Stodolska, M., & Kang, S. W.** (2021). Ethnic enclosure and perception of discrimination among Korean and Polish immigrants. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-021-00822-4>.
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. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2018.1469733>.
13. López-Cevallos, D. F., Gonzalez, P., Bethel, J. W., Castañeda, 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? Results from the HCHS/SOL sociocultural ancillary study. *Ethnicity & Health*, 23(8), 902-913. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2017.1315370>.
14. Fox, R. S., Mills, S. D., Roesch, S. C., Sotres-Alvarez, D., Gonzalez, P., **Bekteshi, V.**, Cai, J., Lounsbury, D. W., Talavera, G. A., Penedo, F. J., & Malcarne, V. L. (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. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1090198117744242>.
15. Tran, T., Wang, K., & **Bekteshi, V.** (2016). Marital status, race/ethnicity, and psychological distress among foreign-born Chinese, Korean, Mexican, and Vietnamese Americans. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 14(3), 271-291.
16. **Bekteshi, V., Vanhook, M., & Kang, S.** (2016). Social work with Latino immigrants: Contextual approach to acculturative stress among Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto-Rican women. *British Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcw003>.
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. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-014-0103-y>.
18. **Bekteshi, V., Vanhook, M., & Matthew, L.** (2015). Puerto-Rico born women in the U.S.: Contextual approach to immigration challenges. *Health & Social Work*, 40(4), 298-306. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlv070>.
19. **Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Thanh, 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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.whi.2014.11001>.
20. Yahyagan, L., **Bekteshi, V.**, & Drake, B. (2014). Healthy behavioral choices and adherence to recommended cancer screening among U.S. adults: National Health Interview Survey 2005. *Austin Journal of Public Health & Epidemiology*, 1(1), 1-6.
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. Gehlert, S., Kye-Price, S., & **Bekteshi, V.** (2012). Community-based participatory research. *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780195389678-0157>.
25. Xu, Q., **Bekteshi, V.**, & Tran, T. (2010). Family, school, country of birth, and adolescents' psychological well-being. *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, 8(1), 91-110.
26. 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.
27. 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 Reports by the National Human Development Reports Office in New York*. Available in French and English at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/learnmore/title.1281.en.html>.

Under Review

28. **Bekteshi, V.**, Yaghjian, L., Su-Hsin, C., & Drake, B. F. (under review). Health behaviors among prostate cancer survivors: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. *Austin Journal of Public Health*.
29. Landrum, J., Neville, N., **Bekteshi, V.**, Hunter, C. D., & Weathersby, D. (accepted). Praxis for social justice in mental health: Conceptual framework and practice. For consideration in special edition in *Social Services Research*.

Academic Articles In Progress:

1. **Bekteshi, V.**, & Delva, J. (in progress). *Celebrating Women Worldwide: Voices of Resilience and Empowerment*. To be submitted to the University of Oxford Press.
2. Tarpestra, J., & **Bekteshi, V.** (in progress). *Financial Difficulties and Social Support in the Well-being of Latino Fathers and Their Youth with Behavioral Challenges*.
3. **Bekteshi, V.** (in progress). *Social Work in Kosovo*. Special edition of *Social Sciences Research*.
4. Haley, F., Hanley, L., & **Bekteshi, V.** (April, 2015). *Contextual Approach to Familismo Values and Breast Cancer Engagement Among Latinas in Rural Illinois*.
5. Hanley, L., Haley, F., & **Bekteshi, V.** (April, 2015). *Contextual Approach to Latino-Specific Beliefs and Breast Cancer Engagement Among Latinas in Rural Illinois*.
6. **Bekteshi, V.** (in progress). *Human Trafficking Victims and Their Healthcare Needs*.
7. **Bekteshi, V.** (in progress). *Cancer Survival and Cultural Implications Among Rural and Urban Mexican Women*

Creative Work:

1. **Bekteshi, V.** (2002–2004). *Six newspaper articles addressing issues pertaining to Albanian immigrants in the U.S.* Published by *Illyria* (the only Albanian newspaper in the U.S.). Articles published in both English and Albanian. Global circulation, with a membership exceeding 50,000 subscribers.
2. **Bekteshi, V.** (2002–2004). *Feature stories on integration challenges among Albanian female adolescent immigrants in the U.S.* Published by *Shpresa* (Hope), the only magazine in the U.S. dedicated to Albanian Women. Published in English and Albanian. Magazine membership exceeds 2,000.

3. **Bekteshi, V.** (2004). *Newspaper articles published by the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Daily.*
4. **Bekteshi, V.** (2003). *Four feature stories published in the Children's Section of Rilindja (Re-birth).* Published in Albanian. Newspaper circulation exceeded 200,000 subscribers.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma, School of Social Work, Norman, OK

Convener

Graduate level

- Research Methods
- Diversity, Oppression, and Privilege
- Macro Social Work

University of Bath, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, England

Convener

Undergraduate level

- Becoming a Social Scientist
- Working with Adults in Social Services
- Community Profiling: Mixed Methods Research Methods Class
- Mental Health in Social Work

University of York, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, York, England

Convener

Graduate level

- Social Work Research Methods
- International Social Work
- Mental Health Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work, Urbana, IL

Convener

Graduate level

- Research and Program Evaluation
- Social Policy
- Research Methods for Graduate Students
- Immigration Research
- Mental Health Policy
- Individual Studies
- Research Methods

Simmons College, School of Social Work

Co-Convener with Dr. Karen Kayser

PhD level

- Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

St. Peter's University, New Jersey

Convener

Undergraduate level

- International Relations (Undergraduate Level)

SOCIAL WORK MACRO AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The York University, UK, Think Ahead Program (mental health social work)

Director of Operations, July 2016–Sept 2018

- Provided mental health and other support to students in the program
- Offered training on stress-management techniques
- Directed the operations of a two-year interdisciplinary social work program, the only one of its kind in the U.K.
- Spearheaded the 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 program on Mental Health Social Work

Boston College Provost's Office, Chestnut Hill, MA

Research Director, Summer 2008; Fall 2010

- 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

Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

Co-Investigator, 2008–2009

- Conducted interviews, focus groups, and qualitative analysis
- Supervised research on Medicaid clients and support brokers, contributing to two published manuscripts

Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice

Research Associate, 2006–2008

- Engaged in policy research on U.S. immigration
- Conducted interviews, focus groups, and quantitative data analysis using large datasets
- Contributed to two published manuscripts

Community Service Society (CSS), New York, NY

Research Associate, 2004–2006

- Analyzed and compared 20 after-school programs
- Developed an evaluation report for the Department of Education, highlighting the most innovative programs

New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, New York, NY

Associate Analyst of Quality Assurance, Nov 2005–Nov 2006

- Monitored and evaluated Community-Based Organization (CBO) contractors
- Provided technical assistance to underperforming contractors and directed corrective actions

New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), New York, NY

Associate Analyst, Prevention, Oct 2004–Nov 2005

- Supported homeless immigrant women and victims of human trafficking
- Managed domestic violence services
- Oversaw a \$24 million portfolio of homelessness prevention contracts

United Nations Development Program, New York, NY

Social Science Analyst, April 2003–Jan 2011

- Conducted quantitative analysis of National Human Development Reports

- Developed an online newsletter and supported the preparation of the Annual Awards Dinner

Albanian American Women's Organization, New York, NY

Deputy Director, May 2000–Nov 2003

- Managed program, financial, and management oversight for a start-up serving 300,000 Albanians
- Successfully raised over \$200,000 in two years and managed a \$400,000 budget

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Editorial Review Board Member, *Social Service Research* (Nov 2023–Present)
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Social Science Review* (Dec 2022–Present)
- Session Chair, *Journal of Social Sciences* (April 2023–Dec 2024)
- Reviewer, Conference Paper, *Society for Social Work Research* (May 2023–Dec 2023)

STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Graduate Students

1. Sung-wan Kang – PhD, Social Work
2. Lenore Matthew – PhD, Social Work
3. Hye Joon Park – PhD, Social Work
4. Andrea Hernandez – MA, Anthropology
5. Brenda Gisell – MA, Anthropology

6. Fabian Mauricio – MA, Anthropology

7. Andrea Hernandez – MSW, Social Work

Undergraduate Students

1. Haley Fox – BA, Social Work
2. Laura Hanley – BA, Interdisciplinary Health
3. Jessica Levin – BA, Social Work

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2007: University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems, Pittsburgh, PA – *Summer Research Institute*

2004: New York Foundation, New York, NY – *Professional Grant Writing Workshop*

2003: Refugee Women's Network, Inc., Atlanta, GA – *Certificate in Training Professionals Working with Displaced Refugees*

2002: Columbia University Business School, New York, NY – *Certificate in Middle Management*

2002: Smith College Center for Popular Economics, North Hampton, MA – *Certificate in International Popular Economics*

2001: Woodhull Institute for Ethical Training and Leadership, New York, NY – *Certificate in Ethical Leadership*

REVIEW PANELS

- Editorial Board: *Social Services Research*
- Special Section Editor: *Social Sciences*
- Editorial Board: *Social Work & Social Sciences Review*
- *PLOS ONE* (2019–2021)
- *British Journal of Social Work* (2020–2021)
- *Social Science Review* (2014–2021)
- *American Journal of Public Health* (2016–2020)
- *Journal of Leisure Research Review* (2014–2018)
- *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (2014–2018)
- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) – Abstract Selection Committee (2012–Present)
- University of Illinois FLAS Fellowship Selection Committee (2014–2015)

- Department of Youth and Community Development, After School Programs Grant Review Panel (2005–2006)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Invited Conference Presentations

1. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Lecture for Department of Psychology. Invited; University of Pristina, Kosovo.
2. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Mother-daughter relationships and cancer. Presented at *All in the Jeans Day*, Presence Covenant Medical Center, Urbana, IL.
3. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Human Trafficking in Albania. Presented at *UIUC School of Social Work Community*, Urbana, IL.
4. Bekteshi, V. (2013). Experimental Designs. Guest lecture in SOCW427, taught by Dr. Min Zhan.
5. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Human trafficking in Albania and Illinois. Moderated a panel with Dr. Eglantina Gjermeni, Albania's Minister of Urbanization, Dr. Mary Vanhook, and Seth Boughton, UIUC Ph.D. student.
6. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Contextualizing immigration experience among Latina immigrants. Presented at *University of Dardania*, Pristina, Kosovo.

Academic Presentations

1. Bekteshi, V. (2024, January). Multidisciplinary perspectives on social determinants of health. Oral presentation, roundtable at the *Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference*, Washington, D.C.
2. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Domestic violence during COVID: India's response. Oral presentation at the *Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research*, Washington, D.C.
3. Bekteshi, V. (2024). Multidisciplinary challenges in social determinants of health. Oral presentation at the *Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research*, Washington, D.C.
4. Bekteshi, V. (2020). Health inequity research: Reaching underprivileged populations in cancer research. Symposium conducted at *University of Bath*, Bath, UK.
5. Bekteshi, V. (2019). Cultural sensitivity in researching hard-to-reach populations. Symposium conducted at *University of Bath, Department of Social and Policy Sciences*.
6. Bekteshi, V. (2017). Needs of human trafficking victims. Program leader and moderator at the *University of Leeds*.
7. Haley, F., Hanley, L., & Bekteshi, V. (2015). Contextual approach to familismo values and breast cancer engagement among Latinas in rural Illinois. Poster presented at the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Symposium*.
8. Hanley, L., Haley, F., & Bekteshi, V. (2015). Contextual approach to Latino-specific beliefs and breast cancer engagement among Latinas in rural Illinois. Presented at the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Symposium*.
9. Bekteshi, V., Yaghjian, L., & Drake, B. (2014). Health behaviors among prostate cancer survivors: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Poster presented at the *38th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Prevention Oncology (ASPO)*, Arlington, VA.
10. Bekteshi, V. (2014). Modern-day slavery and the government approach: Case of Albania. Poster presented at the *Macrotheme Conference*, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
11. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Than, T. (2014). The impact of acculturation on perceptions of psychological well-being among Mexican-born women. Presented at the *Council for Social Work Education Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX.

12. Kang, S., & Bekteshi, V. (2014). A systematic review of acculturative stress among Latino immigrants: Risks and protectors. Presented at the *Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
13. Bekteshi, V., Matthews, L., & Vanhook, M. (2014). Puerto Rican-born Latinas and integration into the U.S.: Risks and protectors from acculturative stress. Presented at the *Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
14. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Than, T. (2013). Cumulative effect of acculturation in cross-cultural equivalence of K6 scale. Presented at the *King's College Annual Conference on Immigration Research*, London, UK.
15. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). Cuban-, Mexican-, and Puerto Rican-born women and acculturative stress in a contextual perspective. Presented at the *Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.
16. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). The impact of external and internal contexts on integration challenges among immigrant Latinas in the U.S. Presented at the *Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.
17. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). When a mother has cancer: Pathways to relational growth for mothers and daughters coping with cancer. Presented at the *Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.
18. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). Relational ruptures: Mothers and daughters and the cancer-induced stress. Presented at the *Qualitative Health Research Conference*, Alberta, Canada.
19. 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 presented at the *Public Health 4th Annual Conference*, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
20. Bekteshi, V., & Kayser, K. (2012). Integrated literature review: Acculturative stress and Latina women. Poster presented at the *Public Health 4th Annual Conference*, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
21. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Than, T. (2011). Cross-cultural equivalence of well-being scale among U.S.- and foreign-born Mexican women in the U.S. Poster presented at the *Council for Social Work Education Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
22. Bekteshi, V. (2010). Credit union and asset building among Medicaid population. Poster presented at the *13th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research*, New Orleans, LA.
23. Bekteshi, V. (2010). Family, school, country of birth, and adolescents' psychological well-being. Presented at the *13th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research*, New Orleans, LA.
24. Bekteshi, V., & Xu, Q. (2010). Acculturation and perception of psychological well-being among low-income Mexican women in the U.S. Presented at the *Migration and Immigrant Incorporation Workshop*, Harvard University, Boston, MA.
25. Xu, Q., Bekteshi, V., & Than, T. (2010). Schools and families interact to support the healthy development of foreign-born adolescents' psychological well-being. Presented at the *10th Annual Diversity Challenge Conference of the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture*, Boston, MA.
26. Bekteshi, V., Xu, Q., & Than, T. (2010). Ethnicity, country of birth, and perceptions of well-being among low-income Mexican women. Presented at the *10th Annual Diversity Challenge Conference of the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture*, Boston, MA.
27. Randall, J., & Bekteshi, V. (2008). Enacting support brokerage in the twelve cash and counseling expansion states: Consumer direction/self-determination. Presented at the *24th National Home and Community-Based Services Conference*, Boston, MA.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Summer 2015: Guest appearances on TV Teuta-Montenegro, discussing research and professional experience as part of the *Albanian American Success Stories*. [Watch here](#)
- Summer 2015: Guest appearance on the *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette* discussing differences between the U.S. and other countries. [Read here](#)
- Fall 2014: Guest appearances on Kosovo TV stations (Klan, TV Prishtina), discussing research and professional experience. [Watch here](#)
- Fall 2014: Guest appearance in the *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette* discussing research on Latina immigrants and breast cancer. [Read here](#)
- October 2013: Guest appearance on *Illinois International TV*, discussing Latina immigrant women's health and mental health. [Watch here](#)

SKILLS

- **Software:** LISREL, MPLUS, SPSS, STATA, Hyper-Research, NVivo, Access
- **Languages:** Spanish, Croatian, English, Albanian

HOBBIES

Certified yoga teacher – Rishikesh, India.

Zumba instructor – Zagreb, Croatia.

Hiking – Completed the Camino de Santiago, hiking 800 kilometers from France to Spain in 22 days.