

Muna O. Saleh, MSW
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work	May 2025 (Expected)
MSW	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities School of Social Work	2021
BA	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Major 1: Sociology of Law, Crime, and Deviance Major 2: Political Science	2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND DISSERTATION STUDY

Interests: *Health disparities; health policy; health utilization among resettled refugees; refugee resettlement policy; collective trauma & resilience*

Dissertation Title: *Health after resettlement: Multilevel drivers of health status among Somali refugees with chronic conditions*

Committee: Dr. Hyojin Im (Chair), Dr. Gabriela León-Pérez, Dr. Mer Francis, & Dr. Kyeongmo Kim.

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

[VCU NEWS LINK](#)

GRANTS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, HPRS Dissertation Award	2024 \$10,000
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar	2022-Present \$124,000
Virginia Commonwealth University SSW Service and Leadership Award	2024
Virginia Commonwealth University Graduate School Travel Fund	2023 \$500
CSWE, SSWR GADE Doctoral Policy Fellowship	2022-2023 \$4,500
University of Minnesota Social Work Interprofessional Training Collaboration	2020 \$8,000
Minnesota Department of Human Services Culturally Specific Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services	2020 \$1,000

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Saleh, M., Amona, E., Kuttikat, M., Sahoo, I., Chan, D., Murphy, J., & Kim, K. (2024). Child Mental Health Predictors Among Camp Tamil Refugees: Utilizing Linear and XGBOOST Models. *PLOS ONE*.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0303632>

Saleh, M. Im, H. (Book Chapter; 2024). Marginalization as Traumatization: Developmentally Based Trauma Framework for Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma in Somali Refugees. In L. Kromjak, & A. Karamelic-Muratovic (Eds.), *Intergenerational Trauma in Refugee Communities*. [Routledge](#).

Im, H., **Saleh, M.**, & Khetarpal, R. M. (2024). Embodiment of structural vulnerability: illness experiences among Somali refugee women in urban displacement. *Ethnicity & Health*, 1-24.

Sahoo, I., Kuttikat, M., Chan, D., Murphy, J., **Saleh, M.**, & Lund, M. (2024). Transmigration Stressors, Parent Mental Health, Resource Utilization and Family Functioning Among Sri Lankan Camp Refugees in India. *Migration and Development*.

Cage, J., **Saleh, M.** Strolin-Goltzman, J, Shockley McCarthy, K. (2023). From student engagement to school engagement of students: Toward providing the luxury of engagement to youth involved with the child welfare system. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

Cage, J., Kemmerer, A., Shockley McCarthy, K., Pitts, B., Strolin-Goltzman, J., & **Saleh, M.** Measuring school engagement for youth involved with the child welfare system: a structured review of the literature. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

Charlier, D., Hesari, E., Moore, S., **Saleh, M.**, Tian, Y., Toker, Y., & Wolf, C.(2022). A Catalyst for Meaningful Policy Change: How the Black Lives Matter Movement Reduces Police Brutality. *Humphrey Public Affair Review*, 8(1), 37-45.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Saleh, M. & Im, H. [Under Review]. Cross-generational transmission of distress in the context of chronic marginalization and culture loss: A qualitative Study of Somali refugee families resettled in the U.S.

Im, H., & **Saleh, M.** [under review]. Exposure to Natural Disaster and Polytrauma among Somali Refugees in Urban Displacement.

Cage, J., **Saleh, M.**, Cashio, V., Kemmerer, A., Lee, P., Martinez, R., Thomas, N., Stoter, A. (under review). Exploring The Educational Stability of Students in Foster Care: A Structured Review of the Literature.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Saleh, M., & Verheijen, J. M. The effects of overall health status and service utilization on the management of chronic conditions among migrants: a systematic review.

Cage, J., Corley, N., & **Saleh, M.** *Dear Reviewers, we do not need a comparison group for research centering Black people's lives and experiences.*

Im, H., Amona, E., & **Saleh, M.** Unraveling the Interconnectedness of Trauma-Related Common Mental Disorders in Refugee Populations: A Network Analysis Approach

Im, H., Kim, K., Burnette, D., & **Saleh, M.** Multilevel Determinants of Healthcare Utilization Among Older Refugees in the United States: A Modified Anderson Model Approach.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Saleh, M., & Im, H. (2024, August 6). Cross-generational transmission of distress in the context of chronic marginalization and culture loss. [Poster, accepted for presentation]. *Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers, North American Refugee Health Conference, 2024 Annual Conference*. Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Saleh, M., & Aguilar, C. (2024). *Collective Identity Traumas and Complex Illness Experiences: Examining Structural Traumatization Embedded in Migration Policies*. [Oral, accepted for presentation]. RWJF Health Policy Research Scholars Summer Institute 2024. Baltimore, MD, United States.

Saleh, M., Khetarpal, R., Im, H. (2024, January 14). Embodiment of Structural Vulnerability: Complex Illness Experiences of Somali Refugee Women in Displacement. [Symposium, accepted for presentation]. *Society for Social Work and Research, 27th Annual Conference*, Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Saleh, M., & Im, H. (2023, August 24). Legitimizing the role of refugee-led organizations in the resettlement of refugees in the U.S. [oral presentation]. *International Consortium for Social Development, 23rd Biennial Conference*, Gavle, Sweden

Im, H., & **Saleh, M.** (2023). (Presenter). Structural vulnerability and liminal legality of Somali refugees displaced in Kenya. [oral presentation]. *International Consortium for Social Development, 23rd Biennial Conference*, Gavle, Sweden.

Saleh, M. (2023, June 28). "Improving Contextual Factors of Refugee Health Care Utilization and Access: Recommendations and Policy Insight". [Oral Presentation]. *Council on Social Work Education, Research, Policy Practice Institute, Washington, D.C.*

Saleh, M., & Im, H. (2023). Using Systemic Trauma Theory to Understand the Marginalization and Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma Among Somali Refugee Families in the U.S. [oral presentation accepted for presentation]. *Society for Social Work and Research, 27th Annual Conference*, Phoenix, AZ, United States

Murphy, J., Kuttikat, M., Chan, D., Sahoo, I., **Saleh, M.**(2023). A Network Analysis of Resource Utilization in a Refugee Camp. [Poster presentation accepted for presentation]. *Society for Social Work and Research, 27th Annual Conference*, Phoenix, AZ, United States

Saleh, M., Kuttikat, M., Murphy, J., Roldan, P., Sahoo, I., & Chan, D (2022). Post-migration stressors, parent health, and family functioning among camp refugees. [poster presentation accepted for presentation]. Council on Social Work Education 68th Annual Proposal Meeting, Anaheim, CA, United States

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice (Online), MSW Program, Virginia Commonwealth University
Fall 2024 | Summer 2024 | Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant

Person in Society (online), BSW Program, Virginia Commonwealth University | Fall, 2023

Pedagogy Training

Seminar on Social Work Education and Teaching, with Dr. Elizabeth Cramer, Spring 2023
Social Work Teaching Practicum, with Dr. Jamie Cage, Fall 2023

SERVICE

Doctoral Student Association

- *President* 2023-2024
- *Vice President* 2022-2023

Doctoral Program Committee

- *Representative* 2022-2024

Panel Invitation

- *Panelist*, Social Work, Policy, and Politics, 10/13/2022
- *Moderator*, Landing an Academic Job, 5/4/2023

MSW FIELD INSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

Clinical Placement

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 2020-2021

Foundational

Primary Counselor, Zumbro Valley Health Center, Intensive Residential Treatment 2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, *Virginia Commonwealth University* 08/2021-present
Projects

Refugee Somali Youth in Urban Displacement Health Research

PI: Hyojin, Im, PhD

Health and Family Functioning of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India¹

Community Engagement Research Lab (CEMIR)

PI: Miriam Kuttikat, PhD

Testing Family Dynamics Among Horn of Africa Migrants in the DMV Area

PI: Miriam Kuttikat, PhD

Measurement of School Engagement for Child Welfare Involved Youth

PI: Jamie Cage, PhD

The Schooling Experiences of Systems Involved Youth²

PI: Jamie Cage, PhD

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Data Research Coordinator

08/2020-12/31/2022

Three Rivers Community Action &
Minnesota Department of Health: Division of Child & Family Health

¹ NIH-funded research

² State-funded research

Project: MDH Family Home Visiting Program

Case Manager

2016-2017; 2019-2020

Zumbro Valley Health Center

Project: Behavioral and Mental health Somali Community Outreach, Culturally-Specific Programming

Child Protection Social Worker

2018-2019

Olmsted County, MN

Project: Ongoing Child Protection

Parent Aware Quality Coach, CLASS Coach

2017-2018

Child Care Aware of Minnesota

Project: Southeast Minnesota

VOLUNTEER WORK AND MENTORSHIP TRAININGS

Emerging Leaders in Community Development Mentorship Program

2019

Diabetes Health Conversations, *Minnesota Department of Health*

2013

Art of Hosting World Café, *Harvesting Conversations That Matter*

2012

United Way-Delta Innovations *Award Grant Committee*

2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Work Research

Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers

Council on Social Work Education