

Mingyang Zheng

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School of Social Work
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Academic Appointment

8/21– present Assistant Professor
School of Social Work
Radford University, Radford, VA

Education

Ph. D. University of Minnesota, 2021
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work
Minor in Biostatistics
Dissertation: “Environmental Effects on Cognitive Health in Older Adults:
Insights for Long-Term Care Services”
Advisor: Elizabeth Lightfoot
Committee Members: Joseph Merighi (Chair), Elizabeth Lightfoot, Jean Quam,
and Lynn Eberly

M.S.W. School of Social Work Boston University, 2013
Aging Practice, Policy and Social Justice Concentration
Louis Lowy Certificate in Gerontological Social Work.

B.S. Beijing Normal University – Zhuhai, 2011
Franchise Management

Licensure Licensed Graduate Social Worker, Minnesota #29709

Research Interests

Long-term services and supports in community setting
Technology in aging care
Cognitive functioning in aging
Aging policy analysis
Program evaluation

Teaching Interests

Introduction to social work
Social work practice with older adults
Social work research methods
Social work with immigrants and refugees
Human behavior in the social environment
Introduction to statistics for social work practitioners

Juried Publications

Zheng, M., Kane, A. R., & Lightfoot, E. (2021). Helping older residents Remain in low-income housing: Predictive validity of the Live Well at Home-Rapid Screen (LWAH-RS) in a real-world application. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Lightfoot, E. & **Zheng, M.** (2021). Mentoring social work PhD students to help re-imagine long-term care. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Kane, A. R., & **Zheng, M.** (2020). Long-term services and supports. In Franklin, C. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Work*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Calhoun, M., Okamoto, K., Lightfoot, L., Goodenough, K. & **Zheng, M.** (in press). Contemporary perceptions of social work: Macro practice in the profession. *Journal of Community Practice*.

Lightfoot, E., & **Zheng, M.** (2020). Research note—A snapshot of the tightening academic job market for social work doctoral students. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 0(0), 1–8.

Lightfoot, E. **Zheng, M.,** & DeZelar, S. (2020). Substantiation of child maltreatment among parents with disabilities in the United States. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

Merighi, J., **Zheng, M.,** & Browne, T. (2018). Nephrology social workers' caseloads and hourly wages in 2014 and 2017: Findings from the National Kidney Foundation Council of Nephrology Social Workers professional practice survey. *The Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, 42(1), 31-59.

Non-Refereed Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Curriculum Materials or Reports

DeLiema, M., Vernon, S., Karp, N., & **Zheng, M.** (2020). *Planning for changes in financial capacity: Informing the design of a financial caregiving roadmap and decision guide*. Society of Actuaries.

Lightfoot, E. & **Zheng, M.** (2019). *Promising practices to support parents with intellectual disabilities*. Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. Available from https://cascw.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PracticeNotes_33.508.pdf

Lightfoot, E. & **Zheng, M.** (2019). *Preparing for the potential reopening of Inter-country adoption from Romania*. Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. Available from https://cascw.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PN34_WEB508.pdf

Zheng, M. (2018). Review of the book *Young people leaving state care in China*, by X. Shang & K. R. Fisher. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 45, 169–172.

Manuscripts Under Review

Vang, C., Sieng, M., & **Zheng, M.** (revise and resubmit). Conceptualizing loneliness among a refugee older adult group: Using an intersectionality framework. *Ageing & Society*.

Manuscripts in Process

Zheng, M., & Lightfoot, E. Improving attitudes and empathy toward people with dementia: A virtual reality education program.

Zheng, M., Harding, K., & Kane, R. Lesson learned from the CommonBond Live Well at Home program: A Mixed-methods approach.

Zheng, M., & Liu, X. Understanding depression in a family context: Evidence from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study.

Merighi, J., **Zheng, M.**, & Browne, T. Emotional exhaustion in social work practice: Findings from a national survey of renal social workers.

Merighi, J., **Zheng, M.**, & O'Keefe, T. Factors associated with perceived stress in cardiac rehabilitation patients.

Juried Presentations

Zheng, M. (2021, January). *Understanding environmental effects on the trajectories of cognitive functioning among older adults in China*. Poster presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research online.

Zheng, M. (2021, January). *Can virtual reality simulation improve the attitudes for people with dementia in informal caregivers?* Poster presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research online.

Lightfoot, E., Carlson, J., Semanchin, A., & **Zheng, M.** (2020, November). *The group advising model for doctoral mentoring: Harnessing peer and faculty strengths*. Paper presented Council on Social Work Education 2020 Annual Program Meeting online

Zheng, M. (2020, November). *Theory-driven interventions in improving quality of life among older adults with dementia*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education 2020 Annual Program Meeting online.

Vang, C., Sieng, M., & **Zheng, M.** (2020, November). *Resilience of Hmong older adults: Coping with loneliness*. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting online.

Vang, C., Sieng, M., **Zheng, M.**, & Thor, P. (2020, October). *Experiences of loneliness among a refugee older adult group*. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo online

- Vang, C., Sieng, M., **Zheng, M.**, & Thor, P. (2020, March). *A conceptual model of loneliness: Experiences of Hmong older adults*. Poster presented at the College of Education and Human Development Research Day 2020, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- Zheng, M.**, & Liu, X. (2020, January). *Understanding depression in a family context: Evidence from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study*. Paper presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Lightfoot, E., & **Zheng, M.** (2020, January). *Are people with disabilities less likely to have children? Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study*. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Zheng, M.**, & Liu, X. (2019, November). *Factors associated with severity of depression: Evidence from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Zheng, M.**, & Lightfoot, E. (2019, October). *Social work academic job market: Too many PhD graduates, too few positions?* Poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 2019 Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Merighi, J., O'Keefe, T., **Zheng, M.**, Burt, M., Pergolski, A., Fietek, T., & Devereaux, M. (2019, September). *Patient education in Cardiac rehabilitation: Helpfulness ratings and reasons for non-participation*. Poster presented at the 34th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Portland, OR.
- Merighi, J., O'Keefe, T., **Zheng, M.**, Burt, M., Pergolski, A., Fietek, T., & Devereaux, M. (2019, September). *Factors associated with perceived stress in cardiac rehabilitation patients* Moderated scientific poster presented at the 34th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Portland, OR.
- Zheng, M.**, Harding, K., & Kane, R. (2019, January). *Factors associated with health-related needs screening rates among older adults in the subsidized housing*. Paper presented at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Merighi, J., **Zheng, M.**, & Browne, T. (2019, January). *Job-related conditions explain emotional exhaustion in dialysis social workers* Paper presented at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Lightfoot, E., & **Zheng, M.** (2019, January). *Assessing supply and demand of the social work academic job market*. Poster presented at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Zheng, M.**, Harding, K., & Kane, R. (2018, November). *Helping tenants stay in low-income senior housing: Predictive validity of the Live Well at Home Rapid Screen*. Poster

presented at the Gerontological Society of America 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, Boston, MA.

Merighi, J., Browne, T., & **Zheng, M.** (2018, May). *Factors associated with emotional exhaustion in social work practice: Findings from a national survey of renal social workers*. Paper presented at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2018, Dublin, Ireland.

Zheng, M. (2018, May). *Urban focused: China's pension system reform*. Poster presented at the International Social Work Conference 2018, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN.

Zheng, M. (2018, May). *Prenatal care among foreign migrant farmworkers in the United States*. Poster presented at the International Social Work Conference 2018, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN.

Zheng, M., & Harding, K. (2018, April). *Screening health-related service needs among older adults in subsidized housing facilities: Barriers and Challenges*. Poster presented at the Minnesota Gerontological Society 2018 Conference, Brooklyn Center, MN.

Zheng, M., & Harding, K. (2018, April). *Screening Health-Related Service Needs among Older Adults in Subsidized Housing Facilities: Barriers and Challenges*. Poster presented at the College of Education and Human Development Research Day 2020, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Zheng, M., Harding, K., & Kane, R. (2018, March). *Helping tenants stay in low-income senior housing: Predictive validity of the Live Well at Home Rapid Screen*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, Boston, MA.

Lightfoot, E., DeZelar, S., & **Zheng, M.** (2018, January). *Parents with disabilities in the child welfare system: Equity and justice implications*. Poster presented at the 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

Invited and Other Community Presentations

Zheng, M. (2019, April). *Applying hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) to social work research*. Guest lecture in Innovations in Social Research course. University of Bucharest, Romania.

Zheng, M. (2019, April). *Social work in China: The good, the bad, and the ugly*. Guest lecture in International Social Work course. University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Saint Paul, MN.

Zheng, M. (2018, November). *Factors associated with health-related needs screening rates among older adults in the subsidized housing*. College of Education and Human Development. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Zheng, M. (2018, May). *Assessing the impact of the 1961 White House Conference on Aging on the passage of Medicare*. Social Welfare History Conference. University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Saint Paul, MN.

Zheng, M. (2018, February). *Social security system in China*. Guest lecture in International and Comparative Social Welfare Policy course. University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Saint Paul, MN.

Zheng, M. (2017, July,) *Evaluating the effectiveness of the Live Well at Home Program at CommonBond Communities*. CommonBond Communities, Minneapolis, MN.

Zheng, M. (2014, December). *The prevalence of mental health problems among older adults in China*. Wenxin Social Services, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Zheng, M. (2014, October). *Working with older adults: A motivational interviewing approach*. Wenxin Social Services, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Research Experience:

2/20 – present Principal Investigator

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

Doctoral Dissertation

“Environmental Effects on Cognitive Health in Older Adults: Insights for Long-Term Care Services”

9/17 – present Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

“Job-related emotional exhaustion among social workers”

“Perceived Stress in Cardiac Rehabilitation Patients”

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph Merighi

6/20 – 1/21 Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

“Financial caregiving roadmap and decision guide for older adults”

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marguerite DeLiema

09/19 – 5/20 Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

“Conceptualization of Loneliness Among Hmong Older Adults”

Principal Investigator: Dr. Cindy Vang

01/17 – 5/19 Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

“Parental Disability in the Context of Child Welfare System

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Lightfoot

Grants and Scholarships

2019 – 2020 Travel Award, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$1,100.

- 2018 – 2019 Mary E. Pennock Endowment Fellowship, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$3,000.
- 2018 – 2019 Travel Award, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$1,100.
- 2017 – 2018 Joyce & Robert Rosene Doctoral Fellowship, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$4,000.
- 2017 – 2018 United Way Scholarship, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, \$3000
- 2017 – 2018 Travel Award, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$920.
- 2016 – 2017 Provost's Office Scholarship, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, \$22,500.
- 2016 – 2017 College of Education and Human Development Doctoral Fellowship, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$4,500.
- 2016 – 2017 Mary E. Pennock Endowment Fellowship, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$4,500.
- 2016–2017 David & Georgiana Hollister Fellowship, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, \$7,125.
- 2012 – 2013 Lowy-Geriatric Education Model (Lowy-GEM) Program in Aging Scholarship, Boston University School of Social Work, \$3,000.

Teaching Experience

- 9/20 – 5/21 Community Faculty
Advanced Social Work Evaluation (MSW)
School of Social Work
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- 5/21 – 07/21 Co-instructor
Working with Immigrant Populations (MSW)
School of Social Work
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- 9/19 – 1/20 Community Faculty
Social Work Research Methods (MSW)
School of Social Work
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- 9/18 – 1/19 Community Faculty
Social Work Research Methods (MSW)

School of Social Work
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

9/17 – 1/18 Teaching Mentee
Social Work Research Methods
School of Social Work, University of Minnesota
Mentor: Dr. Joseph Merighi

Professional Experience

1/17 – 9/17 Program Evaluator (Part-time)
CommonBond Communities, Minneapolis, MN.

7/14 – 5/16 Social Worker (Full-time)
Wenxin Social Services, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.

6/13 – 6/14 Case Manager (Full-time)
ACMH, Inc, New York, NY.

9/12 – 5/13 Social Work Intern (Part-time)
Kit Clark Senior Services, Dorchester, MA.

9/12 – 5/13 Social Work Intern (Part-time)
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, Dorchester, MA.

9/11 – 5/12 Social Work Intern (Part-time)
Friends of the Children, Roxbury, MA.

Honors and Awards

2020 2020 Third Annual 3-Minute Thesis Finalist, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. (Finalist Final competition cancelled due to Coronavirus Pandemic)

2019 Excellence in Teaching Award, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

2018 Doctoral Student Engaged Scholarship Award, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

2018 Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Outstanding Student Poster Finalist, Gerontological Society of America 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting

Professional Service

2019 Ad hoc Journal Reviewer
Research on Aging

2017 – 2018 Member, Faculty Search Committee
School of Social Work, University of Minnesota

2017 Ad hoc Journal Reviewer
Journal of Gerontological Social Work

Community Service

2021 Student Representative, School of Social Work Shared Governance Working
Group, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota,
Saint Paul, MN
2019 – 2020 Program Evaluation Consultant, FamilyMeans, Stillwater, MN
2019 Volunteer, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 2019 Annual Program
Meeting

Professional Associations

Gerontological Society of America
Council on Social Work Education
Society for Social Work and Research

Other Trainings

The Data Scientist's Toolbox (Coursera), John Hopkins University
Practical Machine learning (Coursera), John Hopkins University
Online Learning Principles, University of Minnesota