

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

PhD in Anthropology, Sociocultural Concentration

February 2014

Dissertation: *Somali Diasporic Social Spaces as Communal Responses to War and Displacement*

Based on research in Kenya and Minnesota 2007-2010, this ethnography examines the role of everyday practice and narratives in collective responses to the traumas of war, displacement, and marginalization, as enacted in social spaces through which Somali refugees generate and sustain social connections and shared cultural identity.

Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, MA

Master of Social Work, Clinical Concentration

May 1999

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology, with Minor in Studio Art

May 1995

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston, Boston, MA

Senior Research Associate

May 2018 – present

Research Associate

June 2015 – April 2018

- **Trauma-Informed Approaches in Centers for Independent Living (2020-2021):** Principal Investigator (PI) for Switzer Research Fellowship project, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), conducting a qualitative, ethnographic study to develop guidelines for trauma-informed practices in centers for independent living.
- **Advancing Higher Education for Afghanistan's Development (AHEAD) (2020-2025):** Co-PI and lead for applied research capacity building activities in the education sector for USAID-funded project supporting the development of the higher education system in Afghanistan.
- **Rural Youth Apprenticeship Development (RYAD) Project (2020-2025):** Lead evaluator for NIDILRR-funded knowledge translation project promoting the development and advancement of vocational rehabilitation (VR) apprenticeships programs for youth with disabilities in underserved rural communities.
- **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Research Capacity Building for Minority Entities, Langston University (2018-2023):** Mentor for NIDILRR-funded peer-to-peer mentorship academy to enhance the research capacity among faculty and researchers from minority serving institutions (MSIs).
- **Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT), Langston University (2018-2023):** Member of NIDILRR-funded National Scientific Mentorship Panel for post-doctoral fellows from MSIs.
- **ICI Consulting (2020-ongoing):** Provide program evaluation and needs assessment consultation to state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies.
- **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Transition Pathways Services Project (2018-2020):** Directed evaluation for a Transition Work-Based Learning Model Demonstration, funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Disability Innovation Fund.
- **Think College National Coordinating Center (2017-2019):** Conducted qualitative research studies for Center funded by the US Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education to develop, expand, and improve inclusive higher education programs for people with intellectual disabilities across the United States.

- **Building Capacity of CDFIs to Serve Individuals with Disabilities (2018-2020):** Designed evaluation tools for training and technical assistance project funded by the US Department of Treasury.
- **Job Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC) (2015-2019):** Led evaluation for RSA-funded national VR technical assistance center.
- **SGA Model Demonstration Project (2015-2017):** Led a large longitudinal qualitative follow-along study with consumers of two state VR agencies, as part of the RSA-funded model demonstration project, which tested a VR service innovation for SSDI beneficiaries.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA Foundation, Boston, MA

Lead Evaluator (Independent Consultant)

December 2013 – September 2015

- Designed and conducted two program evaluations (one retrospective, one concurrent) of the Massachusetts Institute for Community Health Leadership (MICHL), using participant observation, in-depth interviews, and surveys.

Somerville Food Security Coalition, Somerville, MA

Project Coordinator, Youth Assessment of Food Security

October 2014 – June 2015

- Conducted rapid community-based participatory assessment of food security issues for urban youth.

HIV-AIDS Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston, MA

Consultant

February 2007 – May 2007

- Conducted ethnographic fieldwork for CDC-funded health behavior surveillance project.

National Initiative on Gender, Culture, & Leadership in Medicine (C-Change), Waltham, MA

Research Assistant

September 2006 – February 2007

- Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data for a national study of gender in medical education.

Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, MA

Interviewer

October 2000 – March 2001

- Conducted structured interviews with consumers for MA DMR (now DDS) evaluation.

DIRECT SERVICE EXPERIENCE

International Learning Center, YMCA of Greater Boston, Woburn, MA

Education and Career Advisor

September 2013 – June 2015

- Developed and supported education and career goals with adult English Language Learners.
- Collaborated in program planning and implementation to enhance learner engagement, retention, and outcomes.
- Served as on-site liaison to local Workforce Center.

KGA, Inc., Framingham, MA

EAP Consultant

March 2001 – December 2005

- Provided assessment, counseling, and consultation to employees, HR professionals, and managers.
- Managed several accounts, involving program implementation, employee orientations, and service coordination.

South Bay Mental Health Center, Lowell, MA

Staff Therapist

October 1999 – September 2000

- Provided psychotherapy to adults, adolescents, children, and families, and collaborated with other community providers.

Lesley College (now Lesley University), Cambridge, MA**Counselor/Intern, Counseling Center**

September 1998 – May 1999

- Conducted brief therapy with university students; facilitated support group for international students; led stress management workshop.

Chelsea High School, Chelsea, MA**Social Work Intern**

September 1997 – June 1998

- Provided individual and group counseling and crisis intervention to adolescents in an urban high school.

Kit Clark Senior Services Adult Day Health & Memory Loss Programs, Dorchester, MA**Social Worker and Activities Coordinator**

June 1995 – August 1997

- Participated in coordination and implementation of a day program for seniors and adults with disabilities.

RESPOND, Inc., Somerville, MA**Counselor/Advocate Intern**

September 1994 – May 1995

- Provided advocacy, counseling, and support to women at a domestic violence program.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA**Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology

January 2014 – May 2014

- Designed and taught Anthropology of the Body, an upper-level undergraduate/graduate course.

Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology

January 2006 – December 2012

- Assisted in planning and teaching over a dozen anthropology courses, gave lectures, and graded assignments.

Massachusetts Bay Community College, Wellesley Hills, MA**Adjunct Professor**, Social Sciences and Professional Studies

September 2013 – May 2014

- Designed and taught introductory cultural anthropology course.

Tufts University, Medford, MA**Teaching Assistant and Grader**, Department of Anthropology

January 2009 – December 2012

- Assisted in teaching cultural and medical anthropology courses.

PUBLICATIONS

Taylor, A. B., Domin, D., Papay, C. K., & Grigal, M. (in press). “More dynamic, more engaged”: Faculty perspectives on instructing students with intellectual disability in inclusive courses. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*, 3(1).

Taylor, A. B. and Blackburn, N. (2020). “It makes me feel part of the society”: Return-to-work decisions of SSDI beneficiaries. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 53(3):319-333.

Domin, D., Taylor, A. B., Haines, K. A., Papay, C. K., & Grigal, M. (2020). “It’s Not Just About A Paycheck”: Perspectives on Employment Preparation of Students with Intellectual Disability in Federally-Funded Higher Education Programs. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 58(4), 328–347.

Taylor, A. (2014). Book Review: The Politics of Dress in Somali Culture. *Journal of Religion in Africa* 44(2):289-290.

Taylor, A. (2010) Getting the Story Straight: What the Media and the FBI Are Missing. *MASHRI Quarterly* 1:7.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “It makes me feel part of the society’: Consumer perspectives on returning to work,” Webinar for Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) and Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation Research to Practice Series 2021 March 2021
- “Ethnographic fieldwork in the Somali diaspora,” Guest lecture for graduate research methods course, School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, UMass Boston October 2019
- “Faculty Perspectives on Inclusive Courses: Teaching College Students with Intellectual Disability,” AHEAD Equity & Excellence: Access in Higher Education Conference, Boston, MA July 2019
- “Conducting Applied Research in the Field of Vocational Rehabilitation: Strategies and Challenges in Studying Emerging Models of Employment Service Delivery,” co-presented with Ngai Kwan and Kelly Haines, Webinar for Langston University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (LU-RRTC) on Research and Capacity Building for Minority Entities September 2018
- “The SGA Project Demonstration: A VR Model for Improving Outcomes for SSDI Beneficiaries” (Co-presented with Purvi Sevak and Frank Martin, Mathematica Policy Research), Evidence-Based Practices in Vocational Rehabilitation: Advancing the State of the Science, Madison, WI May 2018
- “Why Return to Work? Consumer Perspectives from the SGA Qualitative Study” PEQA-TAC Summit Conference, Omaha, NE September 2017
- “Islam at the Mall: Religion and Social Space in the Somali Diaspora,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN November 2016
- “Quotations and Codes and Memos, Oh My! The Basics of Qualitative Research and Data Analysis Using Atlas.ti,” Webinar for LU-RRTC on Research and Capacity Building for Minority Entities November 2015
- “Little Mogadishu’: Creating a Somali Space in Minnesota,” Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference, Durham, NC March 2013
- “*Nabad Iyo Midnimo*: Alternative Trauma Narratives in Collective Well-Being,” Paper presented as part of chaired panel, “Trauma, Displacement and Well-Being among Resettled Refugees,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA November 2012
- “NO MEN, Sorry And Please Don’t ASK’: Somali Weddings as Ambivalent Spaces,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada November 2011
- “Welcome to Somalia’: The Minneapolis *Suuq* as a Diasporic Space,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA November 2010
- “Diasporic Identities: Trauma and Coping among Somali Refugees,” University of Minnesota Anthropology Department, Minneapolis, MN March 2010

- “Identity Construction in the Somali Diaspora: Media Narratives, Power, and Resistance,” Paper presented as part of Co-Chaired and Co-Organized panel, “Dangerous Discourse: Refugees and Articulations of Power in Media,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA December 2009
- “‘One Religion, One People’: Trauma, Meaning-Making, & Islam in the Somali Diaspora,” Joint Spring Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology & Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Asilomar, CA March 2009
- “Diasporic Identities: Trauma & Coping among Somali Refugees” Transnational Families: Theory and Method, Sociology Department Colloquium, Brandeis University November 2008
- “Somali Refugees: Seeking Peace and Justice,” Rolling up the ‘Welcome Mat’: Local Community Response to Refugees, Heller School, Brandeis University April 2008
- “Seeking Asylum: Power, Resistance, and Assistance” (Awarded Best Paper), Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Student Conference, Tufts University March 2007
- “Social Services for Refugees: Parallel Narratives of Help and Need,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA November 2006

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Switzer Research Fellowship, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, 2020-2021
- St. Clair Drake Student Travel Grant, Society for the Anthropology of North America, 2013
- Renee Rapaporte Endowed Dissertation Year Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2011-2012
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (Recommended for funding at High Priority Level; not awarded due to insufficient funds), 2010
- Doctoral Study Teaching Fellowship (five years total), Brandeis Anthropology Department, 2005-2011
- Provost Award, Brandeis University, 2010
- Mellon Dissertation Research Grants, 2009 and 2010
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, 2009
- Research and Travel Grants (six grants total), Anthropology Department and Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University, 2007-2010
- Best Paper Award, Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium, 2007

LANGUAGES

- Advanced skills in spoken and written Spanish
- Intermediate skills in spoken and written Somali
- Intermediate skills in American Sign Language

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Massachusetts

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Member, College of Education and Human Development Senate, UMass Boston, 2019-present
- Member, ICI Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Justice Steering Committee, 2021-present
- Member, Health & Disability Partnership, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2018-present
- Member, Disability Research Interest Group, American Anthropological Association, 2017-present
- Member, Society for Applied Anthropology, 2006-present
- Volunteer Team Leader, Community Cooks, 2013-present (currently on pandemic hiatus)