

WYNDY L. WIITALA

OFFICE ADDRESS

VA HSR&D
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 2003
General Experimental Psychology
Focus: Applied Cognition and Quantitative Methods
- M.S. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, 2001
General Experimental Psychology
Focus: Applied Cognition and Quantitative Methods
- B.S. Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan, 1998
Psychology, Statistics (minor), summa cum laude

PRIMARY AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Research design and statistical analysis
- Survey design, implementation, and analysis
- Management and processing of large datasets
- Quantitative research methods
- Communicating results in written and presentation formats
- Programming in SAS and SPSS (10 years)
- Training small groups in SAS/SPSS, statistical analysis, statistical writing

COMPUTER LANGUAGES AND PACKAGES

- SAS, SPSS, DOS, SQL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009 - present Research Health Science Specialist, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research & Development, Center of Excellence, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2009 Adjunct Professor, Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2009 Adjunct Professor, College of Science & Engineering, Psychology Department, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2007 - 2009 Senior Statistician, Vice-President, Elite Research, LLC., Carrollton, Texas
- 2007 - 2008 Adjunct Professor, Department of Math and Computer Science, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

- 2005 - 2007 Sampling Analyst, Market Strategies, Inc., Livonia, Michigan (*now Market Strategies International*)
- 2004 - 2006 Research Associate, RMC Research Corporation, Portland, Oregon
- 2002 - 2004 Research Associate (2003 - 2004), Research Assistant (2002 - 2003), Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse & Organizational Wellness and Learning Systems, Fort Worth, Texas
Project Title: Small Business Wellness Initiative
P.I.: Joel B. Bennett, Ph.D.
- 2003 - 2004 Research Associate (2003 - 2004), Research Assistant (2003 - 2003), Institute of Behavioral Research & Psychology Department, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
Project Title: Cognitive Enhancements for the Treatment of Probationers
P.I.: Donald F. Dansereau, Ph.D.
- 2003 Statistical Consultant, Department of Education, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2003 Statistical Consultant, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1999 - 2003 Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, College of Science & Engineering, Psychology Department, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1999 - 1999 Part Time Adolescent Counselor, Great Lakes Recovery Center, Marquette, Michigan
- 1997 - 1998 Teaching Assistant, Psychology Department, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND HONORS

- American Psychological Association
- American Evaluation Association
- American Association of Public Opinion Research
- Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award, Texas Christian University, 2003
- Departmental Assistantship, Psychology, Texas Christian University, 1999—2003
- Nominated for Outstanding Graduating Student Award, Northern Michigan University, 1998
- Nominated for Jean M. Rutherford Award, Northern Michigan University, 1998

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Qualitative Research Seminar, May, 2008.
Texas Christian University, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Fort Worth, TX.
- Propensity Scores Short Course, May, 2007.
Sixty-Second Annual AAPOR Conference Program: Of Polls and Policy, Anaheim, CA.
- Cost-Effectiveness Workshop, November, 2003.
Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Reno, NV.

GRANT SUPPORT

SP11137
SAMHSA

Einspruch (PI)

Funding Dates: 09/04-09/06

Youth Transition into the Workplace

This project is a collaboration between RMC Research Corporation, Worksystems, Inc., NECA, IBEW, and Organizational Wellness and Learning Systems to adapt and implement Team Awareness (NREP model program) for young workers, aged 18-24. The young adults are employed as electrician apprentices and foremen. Phase I involves the development of project, trainer, and trainee manuals. Phase II will involve program delivery and evaluation.

Role: Research Associate. Work with team members in writing and developing the proposal for submission. Provide background information on Team Awareness, finalizing measures, and writing grant sections.

051530

Gabriel (PI)

Funding Dates: 09/04-09/06

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (SAPRP)

Effects of Reductions in Oregon Health Plan Coverage of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services on its Most Vulnerable Citizens

This is a three part study to examine the effects of terminating substance abuse and mental health services from the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) due to cost-cutting measures. One part of the study involves the use of state administrative databases to study Medicaid populations and trends in substance abuse and mental health services. Second, qualitative information will be collected through interviews with stakeholders and service providers at the state, county, and local levels. Third, a sample of OHP enrollees will be interviewed to gather information on their service use and related outcomes, including alcohol and drug use, employment, and criminal behavior.

Role: Research Associate. Work with team members in writing and preparing proposal for submission to RWJ.

1 R01 DA15060-01A1
NIH/NIDA

Deck (PI)

Funding Dates: 10/02-06/05

Impact of Financing on Outcomes of Methadone Maintenance

This study examines the outcomes of publicly funded methadone maintenance programs treating opiate dependence in Oregon and Washington, two states that include methadone maintenance services in the Medicaid benefit but important differences in financing that have strongly influenced provider practices.

Role: Research Associate. Coordinate data acquisition and conduct data analysis.

2 R01 DA08608-06
NIH/NIDA

Dansereau (PI)

Funding Dates: 03/00-03/05

Cognitive Enhancements for the Treatment of Probationers (CETOP)

The primary objective of the CETOP Project is to assess the impact of introducing into a criminal justice substance abuse treatment program cognitive activities specifically designed to (a) increase probationers' motivation for treatment and (b) promote development of skills that can be useful during treatment. A second major objective is to determine how these activities can be most effectively combined and efficiently delivered. On-site implementation is at the Dallas County Judicial Treatment Center (under the administration of Cornell Companies, Inc.) in Wilmer, Texas.

Role: Research Associate. Conduct data analysis and assist with the delivery of treatment modules.

Small Business Wellness Initiative (SBWI)

SBWI is a collaborative project that combines research with service outreach. The project delivers and evaluates two evidence-based health promotion and substance abuse prevention programs to employees from a randomly selected group of small businesses in North Texas. The businesses selected are in industries identified as high risk for substance abuse, according to the National Household Survey of Drug Abuse: Construction, Transportation, and Restaurant/Hospitality. The interventions, to be compared with a no-training control group, are class-room based programs. The first is Team Awareness, developed by Dr. Joel B. Bennett and associates at Texas Christian University, and identified in the National Registry of Effective Prevention Programs (NREPP) by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The second customizes programs developed by The Center for Workforce Health (Dr. Royer Cook and associates).

Role: Research Associate. Survey design, data management and analysis, write reports, administer surveys, assist with training.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

- Deck, D., **Wiitala, W.L.**, McFarland, B., Campbell, K., Mullooly, J., Krupski, A., & McCarty, D. (2009). Medicaid coverage, methadone maintenance, and felony arrests: Outcomes of opiate treatment in two states. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 28(2), 89 – 102.
- Greene, J., Speizer, H., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2008). Telephone and Web: Mixed-mode challenge. *Health Services Research*, 43(1), 230-248.
- Weaver, D. & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2006). *2006 LASER Implementation study results*. Seattle, WA: Washington State LASER Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform, Pacific Science Center.
- Bennett, J.B., Patterson, C.R., Woo, W.A., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2006). Social risks for at-risk drinking in young workers: Application of work-life border theory. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 36(3), 485-514.
- Deck, D.D., **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Laws, K. (2006). Medicaid coverage and access to publicly funded opiate treatment. *Journal of Behavioral and Health Services Research*, 33(3), 324-334.
- Patterson, C.R., Bennett, J.B., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2005). Healthy and unhealthy stress unwinding: Promoting health in small businesses. *Journal of Business and Psychology*, 20(2), 221-247.
- Wiitala, W.L.** & Dansereau, D.F. (2004). Using popular quotes to enhance therapeutic writing. *Journal of College Counseling*, 7(2), 187-191.
- Bennett, J.B., Patterson, C.R., Reynolds, G.S., **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Lehman, W.E.K. (2004). Team Awareness, problem drinking, and drinking climate: Workplace social health promotion in a policy context. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 19(12), 103-113.
- Wiitala, W.L.** (2004). *A comparison of three pregnancy prevention programs*. Salem, OR: Office of Prevention and Transitional Benefits, Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults, & Families.
- Wiitala, W.L.** (2004). The impact of stress on thought processes. *Jo Lee Magazine* (online publication).
- Bennett, J.B., **Wiitala, W. L.**, & Patterson, C.R. (2003). The role of spirituality in workplace health: A case study of small business leadership. *Wellness Management* (a publication of the National Wellness Institute).
- Bond, C.F, **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Richard, F.D. (2003). Meta-analysis of raw mean differences. *Psychological Methods*, 8(4), 406-418.

PRESENTATIONS

- Wiitala, W.L.** (2009, June). *Using PsychData and SPSS for your research: Tips for analyzing quantitative data*. Presentation at the Texas Woman's University: Department of Health Studies Graduate Research Colloquium, Denton, Texas.
- Wiitala, W.L.** & Carlin, C. (2007, May). *Context and response order effects: Do these apply to health behavior questions?* Paper presented at the 62nd Annual AAPOR Conference Program: Of Polls and Policy, Anaheim, California.
- Speizer, H., Greene, J., Baker, R., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2006, January). *Telephone and Web: The Mixed-Mode Challenge*. Paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Telephone Survey Methodology, Miami, Florida.
- Speizer, H., Schneider, K, **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Baker, R. (2005, May). *An experimental comparison between telephone and web*. Paper presented at the American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, Miami, Florida.
- Deck, D.D., **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Laws, K. (2005, October). *Medicaid Coverage and Access to Publicly Funded Opiate Treatment: Oregon's Experience*. Paper presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Santa Monica, California.
- Deck, D.D. & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2004, October). *The role of coverage in promoting access to publicly funded opiate treatment*. Poster session presented at the Addiction Health Services Research conference, Treatment Research Institute, Philadelphia, PA.
- Wiitala, W.L.** & Deck, D.D. (2004, October). *Impact of financing on retention in publicly funded methadone treatment*. Paper presented at the Addiction Health Services Research conference, Treatment Research Institute, Philadelphia, PA.
- Bennett, J.B., **Wiitala, W.L.**, & Patterson, C.R. (2004, July). *Leader spiritual orientation and employee health*. Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI.
- Patterson, C.R., Bennett, J.B., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2004, July). *Unwinding after work: Substance abuse risk identification*. Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI.
- Wiitala, W.L.**, Bennett, J.B., & Patterson, C.R. (2004, July). *Work Cohesion/Family Cohesion: A predictive model of employee health*. Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI.
- Patterson, C.R., Bennett, J.B., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2004, January). *Positive resources for healthy stress-unwinding and substance abuse prevention in small businesses*. Poster session presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
- Patterson, C.R., King, L.A., Bennett, J.B., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2004, January). *Recovering from a bad day: Mood, behavior, and emotional confidence*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Personality Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
- Wiitala, W.L.** (2003, November). *Techniques for managing personal problems*. Presentation to psychology department faculty and graduate students, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.
- Wiitala, W. L.** & Dansereau, D. F. (2003, April). *Enhancing therapeutic writing with popular quotes*. Poster session presented at the Student Research Symposium, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.
- Rao, S. R., Sia, T. L., Dansereau, D. F., **Wiitala, W. L.**, Bahr, G. S., & Atha-Weldon, C. (2001, March). *The effects of meditation on those not seeking it as a technique*. Poster session presented at the biannual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, Denton, TX.

- Wiitala, W. L.**, Sia, T. L., Dansereau, D. F., Rao, S. R., Bahr, G. S., & Atha-Weldon, C. (2001, March). *Personal mapping and locus of control*. Poster session presented at the biannual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, Denton, TX.
- Ray-Harribance, L., Purvis, K.S., Cross, D.R., Paulson, R., & **Wiitala, W.L.** (2000, April). *Children's family drawings as assessment of attachment in post-institutionalized children*. Poster session presented at the Southwestern Society for Research in Human Development, Eureka Springs, Arkansas.