

School of Social Work Presents:

*“Toward Better Access, Utilization, and Quality of
Care: Addressing Disparities in Health and Mental
Health”*

A Colloquium by

Xiaochuan (Sharon) Wang, Ph.D., MSW
University of Central Florida
Candidate for Associate Professor
School of Social Work



Dr. Wang is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Central Florida. She received her Ph.D. in Social Work from University of Georgia, and her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Wang's research focuses on health and mental health care disparities through an intersectionality lens. Her work seeks to improve access, utilization, and quality of care for at-risk populations, including older adults, racial/ethnic minorities, and individuals with intersecting identities (e.g., older Asian Americans). She has examined pathways, correlates, and outcomes of care access and utilization, including help-seeking among older Asians with mental health needs and suicidal older adults. Her research on care quality assesses multi-level factors (e.g., workforce role and capacity, facility quality, and contextual influences) associated with resident outcomes in nursing homes.

Dr. Wang has published in leading journals in social work and gerontology, frequently as first or sole author. Her research has been supported by six competitive grants (three as PI), including the highly competitive Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging academic research grant (awarded to up to four projects nationwide each year). She was the sole PI on her award and the first UCF faculty member to receive this distinction. In addition, Dr. Wang has advanced interdisciplinary collaborations with faculty in statistics, engineering, and biomedicine to inform innovative approaches to care disparities. She is also dedicated to cultivating the next generation of social work practitioners, researchers, and educators through teaching and mentoring.

Wednesday, October 1st, 2025
2:30 – 3:30 pm
CBCS Atrium, MHC 1200
[MS Teams Link](#)

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