

Sean K. Burr

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EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work, expected October 2026

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work
Houston, Texas, USA

Dissertation: Financial Stress and Suicidal Desire in Midlife: Testing Psychological Pathways Within the Three-Step Theory of Suicide

Dissertation Chair: Robert E. Gearing, PhD

Postgraduate Fellow in Clinical Social Work

The Menninger Clinic Psychiatric Hospital
Houston, Texas, USA
September 2014 – August 2015

Master of Social Work, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice

University of Chicago
Clinical Concentration, Advanced Alcohol and other Drug Training Program
Chicago, Illinois, USA
October 2012 – June 2014

Bachelor of Arts (With Academic Distinction), Faculty of Humanities

University of Victoria
Victoria, BC, Canada, June 2008

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Licensed No.15982; BC College of Social Workers

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Suicide prevention and intervention, with emphasis on socioeconomic and structural determinants of risk
- Mental health stigma, help-seeking, and access to behavioral health services
- Clinical social work education and training in evidence-based mental health practice
- Social determinants of mental health, health disparities, and marginalized populations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Affiliate – MH-RITES Research Center, Graduate College of Social Work:

Houston, Texas

August 2024 – Present

- Collaborate on research examining treatment engagement and outcomes among individuals with mental health disorders
- Contribute to projects on mental health stigma in Latino and queer communities of Houston
- Lead a research project on identifying the efficacy of digital interventions for suicide prevention and intervention

Research Internship – Graduate College of Social Work, Doctoral Program:

Houston, Texas

January 2023 – May 2024

- The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD was awarded a grant to improve mental health services in Harris County as part of the American Rescue Plan Act program
- As member of the evaluation team, led in the development of a survey to capture quantitative outcomes from program's health initiatives

- Assisted in qualitative interviews with staff and stakeholders as part of program's evaluation
- Contributed to final report for the grant, and presented findings of evaluation at conference

Research Assistant – Graduate College of Social Work, Doctoral Program:

Houston, Texas

August 2020 – December 2022

- Assisted supervisor in range of research activities relating to the areas of mental health service access and utilization, mental health stigma, and suicide prevention and intervention
- Completed scoping reviews, provided initial statistical analyses, and assisted in grant identification

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Burr, S. K.**, Yu, M., Clark, D., Alonzo, D., & Gearing, R. E. (2025). Digital interventions for suicide prevention: Systematic review and meta-analysis of RCTs examining age, gender, and control group type. *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*, 46(3), 176-186. <https://doi.org/10.1027/0227-5910/a000996>
2. Gearing, R. E., Alonzo, D., Savani, S., **Burr, S.**, Arora, A., & Khudododova, S. (2024). Suicide and religion: A comparative analysis of a complex relationship to inform practice. In M. Schouler-Ocak, M. M. Khan, M. Schouler-Ocak, & M. Moosa Khan (Eds.), *Suicide across cultures: Understanding the variation and complexity of the suicidal process across ethnicities and cultures* (pp. 99–158). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/med/9780198843405.003.0007>
3. Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Carr, L. C., **Burr, S.**, Manning, K., & Torres-Hostos, L. R. (2023). Public stigma toward schizophrenia within Latino communities in the United States. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 59(5), 915–928. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-022-01075-w>
4. Azhar, S., Vaudrey, J., Gandham, S., **Burr, S.**, Oruganti, G., & Yeldandi, V. (2022). Secret lives and gender fluidity of people living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 50(1), 221–237. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22541>
5. **Burr, S. K.**, Fowler, J. C., Allen, J. G., Wiltgen, A., & Madan, A. (2017). Patient reported outcomes in practice: Clinicians' perspectives from an inpatient psychiatric setting. *Journal of Psychiatric Practice*, 23(5), 312–319. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PRA.0000000000000250>
6. Voisin, D., Berringer, K., Takahashi, L., **Burr, S.**, & Kuhnen, J. (2016). No safe havens: Protective parenting strategies for African American youth living in violent communities. *Violence and Victims*, 31(3), 523–536. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-14-00056>
7. Voisin, D., Takahashi, L., Berringer, K., **Burr, S.**, & Kuhnen, J. (2016). Sex is violence: African-American parents' perceptions of the link between exposure to community violence and youth sexual behaviours. *Child & Family Social Work*, 21, 464–472. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12162>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

1. Gearing, R. E., Washburn, M., Deng, Y., Robinson, A., **Burr, S. K.**, & Parks, S. (Manuscript in preparation). Exploring stigma toward suicide and suicidal ideation in the LGBTQ+ community.
2. **Burr, S. K.**, Gearing, R. E., & Yu, M. (Manuscript in preparation). When financial threat becomes psychological pain: Psychache and hopelessness as pathways to suicidal desire in midlife.
3. **Burr, S. K.**, Gearing, R. E., & Yu, M. (Manuscript in preparation). Financial threat and suicidal desire in midlife: The indirect role of belongingness.

GRANTS & AWARDS

PhD Student Research Grant for Mental Health Advancement,

MH-RITES Research Center, 2025 — \$2,000

Funded quantitative research examining financial stress and suicide risk in midlife.

PhD Student Award,

Child & Family Center for Innovative Research (CFCIR), 2025 — \$1,000

Funded a meta-analysis examining digital interventions for suicide prevention.

PhD Student Travel Fellowship,

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, 2023 — \$1,000

Supported research in India examining suicide prevention programs and curricula within social work education.

Presidential Fellowship,

University of Houston, 2020–2022 — \$4,000

Competitive multi-year doctoral fellowship supporting doctoral study at the University of Houston.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sessional Instructor – NorQuest College, Social Work Diploma Program:

Edmonton, Alberta

January 2017 – July 2017

- Taught an introduction to Community Development course (class size 34 students)
- Assisted in the development of course content and evaluation alongside instructors from the other two sections

Selected Guest Lectures:

- “*Mental Health & Suicide Prevention in Schools*,” Course: Human Behavior in the Social Environment 300; Radford University, 2026
- “*Gatekeeper Program for Suicide Intervention in Schools*,” Course: Education, Curriculum, and Instruction 3024; Virginia Tech, 2025
- “*Single-Case Experimental Design*,” Course: Social Work Research 6305; Graduate College of Social Work, 2024

PRESENTATIONS

Burr, S. K., & Gearing, R. E. (October 2026). *Financial stress attribution and help-seeking pathways among midlife suicide attempt survivors*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 72nd Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA. **Accepted for presentation.**

Burr, S. K., Brewer, K. B., Washburn, M., Miao, Y., Santiago, N. G., & Torres-Hostos, L. R. (January 2025). *Stigma toward families with mental health problems in Latino communities*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 29th Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Burr, S. K., Gearing, R. E., & Narendorf, S. C. (January 2025). *Attitudes towards youth and adult suicide: Results from a community survey in Harris County*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 29th Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Burr, S. K., Gearing, R. E., Alonza, D., Savani, S., Arora, A., & Khudododova, S. (June, 2024). *Updated review & practice implications: Suicide in the context of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Atheism/Agnosticism*. International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) 11th Asia Pacific Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Burr, S. K., Yu, M., Gearing, R. E., Alonzo, D., & Clark, D. (June, 2024). *Meta-analysis of mobile suicide prevention interventions and recommendations for practice*. International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) 11th Asia Pacific Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Burr, S. K., Yu, M., & Gearing, R. E. (January, 2024). *Suicide prevention & digital interventions: A meta-analysis and clinical implications*. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 28th Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

Burr, S. K., Yu, M., & Gearing, R. E. (October 2023). *Suicide & technology: A meta-analysis of digital suicide interventions*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 69th Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.

Gearing, R. E., Brewer, K., Washburn, M., Carr, L. C., **Burr, S. K.**, Manning, K., & Torres-Hostos, L. R. (November 2022). *Public stigma toward schizophrenia within Latino communities in the United States*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 68th Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, California.

Burr, S. K., Gearing, R. E., & Alonzo, D. (October 2021). *Buddhism, American Indian Religions, Atheism, and Agnosticism and suicide: Assessment and treatment implications*. 20th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (WPA), Virtual Congress.

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Mental Health Therapist – Island Health, Urgent Short-Term Assessment and Treatment

Victoria, British Columbia

January 2023 – Present

- As part of an interdisciplinary team, assess and treat individuals experiencing a range of psychosocial and psychiatric diagnoses.
- Provide psychotherapy to a caseload of patients according to the General Psychiatric Management treatment approach and guidelines.
- Collaborate with patients and their support systems for discharge planning and coordinate aftercare with other treatment and community healthcare providers.
- Provide supervision and mentorship to master's level students and new hires to the team.

Clinical Care Manager (Part-time) – Veterans Affairs Canada:

Edmonton, Alberta

August 2017 – September 2021

- Provided individualized, community and home-based care to veterans and their families.
- Completed psychosocial assessments and provided individualized goal-based care plans.
- Co-created safety plans for issues of suicidality, addictive disorders, and family violence.
- Liaised with veteran's care team and provided regular reports to ensure high-quality care.

Social Worker – The City of Edmonton, Citizen Services, Individual & Family Well-being:

Edmonton, Alberta

November 2015 – January 2021

- Provided individual, couple, and family mental health assessments and treatment.
- Supervised and co-supervised, bachelor and master's level practicum students.
- Led the development and implementation of client outcome measures for direct services (counselling, groups, etc.), and played a lead role in branch evaluation committee.

Social Work Fellow – The Menninger Clinic, Inpatient Treatment Program, Adult Division:

Houston, Texas

September 2014 – August 2015

- As part of a multidisciplinary team assisted in assessments, diagnosis, and treatment of professionals with an array of psychiatric disorders (mood, addictive, personality).
- Co-facilitated twice weekly group psychotherapy with psychologist (6-12 patients/session).
- Attended a year-long course on providing long-term psychodynamic therapy at Baylor College of Medicine alongside psychiatry residents, offered by the department of psychiatry.

PROFESSIONAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

2025 – Present	Member, International Research Network for Suicide in Older Adults (Special Interest Group within the IASP)
2024 – Present	Member, International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)

PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Social Work in Health Care, 2026
Crisis: Intervention and Suicide Prevention, 2025
Frontiers in Public Health: Public Mental Health, 2025
Journal of Community Psychology, 2021
Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, 2021

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **2024–2026:** Volunteer with Community Mental Health Service Provider – co-facilitate a monthly no-cost drop-in psychoeducation group for male-identifying individuals focused on mental health resilience, healthy relationships, and community integration.
- **2023:** Volunteer, Operation Track Shoes, a provincial sports festival for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **2020 – 2022:** Volunteer with Veteran support not-for-profit in Edmonton. Provided mentorship, activity planning, and advocacy work for the organization.
- **2017–2020:** Board Member, Secretary, and Treasurer, Ribbon Rouge Foundation, an Edmonton-based grassroots organization promoting health equity and social justice through the arts.