

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## RUTH E. CISLOWSKI MSW, MAJCS

---

**USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**  
**University of Southern California**  
[cislowsk@usc.edu](mailto:cislowsk@usc.edu)

### EDUCATION

---

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** **Los Angeles, CA**  
**School of Social Work, 1996**  
*Master of Social Work.* Concentration in Community Organizing, Planning, and Administration. Master Project on Volunteer Management. Graduate intern at Jewish Family Service and Jewish Programs for the Disabled.

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE** **Los Angeles, CA**  
**Irwin J. Daniels School of Jewish Communal Service, 1996**  
*Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service.* Recipient of Britton Scholarship awarded to student in the field of disabilities.

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY** **Oxford, OH**  
**School of Education, 1990**  
*Bachelor of Science in Education.* Kappa Delta Pi Education Honorary Society and Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary Society. Recipient, Miami University Volunteerism Award, Miami University 1988

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

---

**University of Southern California, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work,**  
**2011-present**  
**Adjunct Lecturer, 2011-2012**  
**Clinical Associate Professor 2012-2022**  
**Associate Teaching Professor, Practicum Education 2022- Present**  
**Assistant Director of Field Education, 2022- Present**

- Oversight of the Working Professionals/Parttime Program including curriculum, admissions, students advising, problem solving and consultation with MSW students and practicum faculty
- Co-PI for the HRSA Primary Care Project Scholarship 2021-present
- Coordination and oversight of practicum education as a member of the Practicum Education Leadership team

### **Southern California Regional Director Field Education, 2012- 2022**

- Oversight and approval for MSW students practicum placements attending the Virtual Academic Center (VAC) including students advising, problem solving and consultation with MSW students and field faculty
- Respond to field faculty liaisons regarding questions, concerns, or challenges in field placement
- Student mediation and conflict resolution for students when there are field related challenges
- Review and determine appropriateness of any special requests regarding field placement experience including place of employment requests, deviations of standard schedule, etc.
- Responsible for addressing significant challenges impacting students in field education and determining appropriate interventions
- Responsible for disciplinary action of students dismissed from field placement in Southern California including Student Review Meetings and recommendations for dismissal
- Coordinate communication for local agency partners with on campus field faculty
- Coaching for field placement interviews for students identified as needing additional support to be successful
- Develop communication tools ensuring students are informed of academic requirements
- Advise 2U Field Placement Staff regarding academic requirements, policies, conflict resolution
- Liaison between 2U staff and USC faculty regarding sharing of field placements
- Conceived and implemented Trauma-Informed Interview Coaching for students identified with traumatic and/or carceral backgrounds
- VAC field representative to USC Disability Services and Programs (DSP)
  - Identify academically appropriate accommodations for field practicum with the DSP staff
  - Ensure field faculty and 2U field placement staff are knowledgeable and prepared to support appropriate field placements for VAC MSW students with accommodations

- Developed protocols and ongoing coordinator for field placement process for VAC students connected with USC Student Health Leave
- Oversight for the VAC for Southern California field initiatives (Teaching Institutions, Law Enforcement Initiative)
- VAC Coordinator for Southern California Stipend Programs (LA DCFS Title IV-E, GSWEC, LA County DMH, Nontraditional Social Work)
- Facilitate Southern California VAC student inclusion in on campus programs, presentations, etc.
- VAC coordinator for the successful transition of field programs to the VAC from the closure of the San Diego Academic Center and the Orange County Academic Center (2016-2018)
- *PPSC VAC Coordinator* co-developed and coordinated the Pupil Personnel School and Child Welfare (PPSC) certification on the VAC, created protocols, and advised VAC students and alumni seeking the PPSC (2014-2018)
  - Co-facilitated the establishment of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement Summer training program for VAC students in school social work settings to successfully supplement field education during the summer semester (2016)

## **USC TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- *Virtual Field Practicum (SOWK 586a/589a) Virtual Practicum SOWK 591* with focus on introduction to Evidence Based Therapies: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Problem Solving Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing (2015-present)
- *Leadership and Management in the Social Work Profession and Organizations: Theory and Application (SOWK 611)* with focus on the methods and principles of leadership and management applied to social work practice (2016-2017)
- *Social Welfare (SOWK 535)* with focus on the structure and operation of current American social welfare programs and social policy analysis (2012)
- *Policy and Practice in Social Service Organizations (SOWK 534)* with focus on the study of social work organizations with emphasis on their policy contexts, organizational theory, and the development of delivery systems (2012)
- *Community Immersion (SOWK 534-affiliated workshop)* with focus to facilitate student's understanding of the social services needed and available within the individual's community (2011)

## **USC TRAININGS**

- Co-facilitator with Brenda Wiewel, DSW, LCSW: *Intervention with Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)* (2020)
- Co-Created and facilitated initial VAC New Field Instructor training (2012-2014)
- Revised and facilitate the New Field Instructor Training (2019-2022)
- Circle Trainer for campus based MSW Students: Teach evidence-based practices including Motivational Interviewing, Problem Solving Therapy and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (2016-present)
- Created and facilitate External Field Instructor Training (2019-2020)
- Co-Trainer for 2U Staff Professional Development: Ongoing from (2012-2022)
- Co-created training for Preceptors (2013)

## **PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

#### **Master of Social Work Program, 2005-2008**

**Field Liaison.** Founding field faculty member. Supervised graduate social work students in field placement internships. Provided support to participating agencies. Developed curriculum and instructed a graduate level course regarding issues in the field. Ensured program requirements were met and quality learning experiences were provided for the students. Assisted in recruiting social service agencies and the placement of student interns at participating agencies. Developed reports, analyzed data, and facilitated meetings for the accreditation of the program.

California State University, Northridge Teaching Assignments:

- Foundations of Field Education I (SWRK 522)
- Foundations of Field Education II (SWRK 523)

## **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

---

Singh, M., Cox, T., **Cislowski, R.**, Wobbe-Veit, L., [2022] “Examining the Impact on Student Learning, Progression, and Retention During Natural or Human-Made Disasters.” Presented November 2022, Council for Social Work Education conference

Hsiao, S., Joosten-Hagye, D., Artavia, M., **Cislowski, R.**, [2022] “Promoting Health Equity through Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Field Models.” Presented November 2022, Council for Social Work Education conference

Wobbe-Veit, L., **Cislowksi, R.**, Cox, T. [2020] “Living in a Disaster Zone: Making the Connection.” Presented November 2020, Council for Social Work Education conference (virtual)

Hearn,S., Nguyen,K., Hsiao,S., **Cislowksi, R.** [2020] Demystify Accommodations: Supporting Students with Disabilities Through Inclusion, Empowerment, and Advocacy. Presented November 2020, Council on Social Work Education Conference (virtual)

**Cislowksi, R.**, Ford, A., Lee, T., Michelsen, R. (2019). From remediation to success: Helping students turn it around in field practicum. In R.P. Maiden (Ed.), *The transformation of social work education through virtual learning* (pp.283-304). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholar Publishing.

Brown, D., Cox, T., Davis, J., Franklin, U., Hsaio, S., **Cislowksi, R.** (2019). “Infusing Social Justice into MSW Gatekeeping: Analyzing Student Performance Data to Inform Decisions in Field.” Presented at the 5th Annual Social Work Distance Education Conference. San Antonio, TX. [invited]

Supranovich, R., **Cislowksi, R.**, & Parga, J. (2018) Spiraling Organizational Change: A Campus Conversion to Online Programming.*Field Educator*, 8 (1), 1-12

George, S., **Cislowksi, R.**, Lee, T., Wobbe-Viet, L. (2018) Field Placement, Second Times the Charm? Poster Presented April 2018, Social Work Distance Education Conference, San Antonio, TX.

**Cislowksi, R.**, Lee, T., Ford, A., Michelsen, R. (2017) Maximizing Student Success through performance management in field placement: Beyond Evaluating Competency. Presented October 2107 Council for Social Work Education conference (CSWE), Dallas, TX.

**Cislowksi, R.**, George, S., Lee, T., Wobbe-Viet, L. (2017) Developing Innovative Responses to Students Directly Impacted by Local and National Disasters. Presented October 2017 Council for Social Work Education conference (CSWE), Dallas, TX.

**Cislowksi, R.**, Supranovich, R., Parga, J., (2017) Maintaining Morale Mission and Excellence During a Transformational Change. Presented June 2017. Network for Social Work Management Conference, New York, New York.

**Cislowksi, R.**, Lee, T., Morris, B., Wobbe-Veit, L. (2016) Incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce & Clinical Skills in the Social Work Curriculum. Poster Presented October 2016 Council for Social Work Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Cislowksi, R.**, Supranovich, R., Parga, J., (2016) A Social Work Program's Change From Traditional to Virtual: Impact on Field. Presented October 2016 Council for Social Work Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Cislowski, R.**, Davis, L., Ford, A., Lee, T., Michelsen, R (2016) Field Remediation in a Distance Learning Environment. Presented April 2016, Social Work Distance Education Conference, CSWE. Indianapolis, IN.

**Cislowski, R.**, Davis, L., Michelsen, R., Ford, A., (2015) Helping Students Turn It Around in Field Practicum. Presented October 2015 Council for Social Work Education Conference, Denver, CO.

**Cislowski, R.**, Michelsen, R (2015) Social Workers in Middle Management – Strategies for Thriving. Presented June 2015 Network for Social Work Management Conference, Washington D.C.

Artavia, M, **Cislowski, R.**, Hsiao, S., Ford, A. (2015) Emerging Practices in Developing and Supporting Agencies with a non-MSW Preceptor. Presented April 2015, Social Work Distance Education Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

**Cislowski, R.**, Artavia, M., Hsiao, S., Ford, A. (2014) Best Practices in Developing and Supporting Agencies with a non-MSW Preceptor. Presented October 2014, Council on Social Work Education Conference, Tampa, FL.

## **USC SUZANNE DWORAK-PECK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICE**

---

- Primary Care Project (PCP) Grant Co-PI (2021-), of HRSA's \$3.5 million Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students grant
- Faculty Council Representative (2015-2017), (2019-2021)
  - Vice-Chair Faculty Council and Representative to Faculty Academic Senate (2019-2021)
  - Interim Chair 2021
  - Chair, Faculty Guidebook Revision Committee, Chair Retention Plan Committee
- Virtual Faculty Liaison for Inclusion of faculty at campus-based meetings and events (2014-2020)
- Chair and Co-Chair, Annual Performance Review (Field) Revision Committee (2014-present)
- Chair, Student Performance Improvement Plan Committee (2013-present)
- Member, Promotion Review Committee (2019-2020)
- Chair, Agency Replacement Workgroup to create a smooth transition for students displaced from field and needing a replacement agency (2018)
- Chair, New or Change of Field Instructor Workgroup that created a successful process to prevent disruption or displacement of a student due to loss of field instructor at agency (2018)
- Member, COBI/SCI Faculty Development Committee (2016-2019)
- MSW Application Reviewer, (2017)
- SCI Department Lead APR Reviewer (2018)

- SCI Department APR Reviewer (2017)
- APR Reviewer (2014)
- Member, Faculty Evaluation Subcommittee (2015)
- Member, curriculum committee for field courses (2014-2015)
- Member, Faculty Search Committee (2013-2015)
- Chair, Preceptor Training Committee (2013)

## **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SERVICE**

---

- Member, Academic Senate Faculty Handbook Subcommittee (2021-2022)
- Faculty Representative to Student Health Advisory Committee (2021-2022)

## **USC CURRICULAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Created and led the *Field Practicum* SOWK 686A Professional Development Assignment for the VAC MSW students (2013-2016)
- Co-created assignment for *Field Practicum* SOWK 689a preparing students for field for the VAC (2016)
- Co-created assignment for the revision of *Integrative Learning for Advanced Social Work Practice* SOWK 698A (2017)
- Member, curriculum conversion committee of *Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education* SOWK 699A and SOWK 699B for the VAC regarding macro social work and working with groups (2016-2017)
- Chaired the committee to developed alternative assignments for *Applied Learning in Field Education* SOWK 589B and *Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education* SOWK 699A for students in field placements in school settings (2016)
- Member, curriculum redesign team for *Integrative learning for Social Work Practice* SOWK 588, and *Integrative Learning for Advanced Social Work Practice* SOWK 689A and SOWK 689B, (2015-2016)
- Consulted on the revision of *Social Work Practice in School Settings* SOWK 614 for the VAC (2015)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

- USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, Accelerated Online Teaching Intensive (2020)
- Certification Coaching Skills for Managers, USC Human Resources Division, Training and Development (2017)
- Certified Mental Health First Aid (2015)

- Certified Financial Social Worker, Center for Financial Social Work (2009)
- Credentialed as provisional certified teacher in Comprehensive Social Studies, Ohio Department of Education (1998)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

### **COMMUNITY CARE AT HOME**

**Los Angeles, CA**

#### **West Los Angeles FamilySource Center**

**2008-2011**

**Program Director.** Established and administered a consortium of eight West Los Angeles social service agencies partnered to increase family income and improve youth academics. Oversight of \$1 million budget comprised of City of Los Angeles and foundation funding. Secured and managed 2 offices. Directly supervised 4.5 staff and indirect oversight of 12 partner contracted staff. Responsible for negotiating contracts, budget planning, and ensuring contract compliance. Directed all marketing activities, developed communication materials, planned special events, coordinated volunteer opportunities. Field Instructor for MSW interns.

### **INDEPENDENT CONSULTING PRACTICE**

**West Hollywood, CA**

**2002 to 2005**

**Consultant.** Offered consulting services including volunteer program design and management, strategic planning, community outreach and organizing, successful grant proposal writing and review, and project planning.

### **FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**2000 to 2001**

**Reading by 9 Program Coordinator.** Added more than 300 literacy volunteers and 100 partner schools to the *Los Angeles Times* Reading by 9 School Volunteer Program. Developed systems, policies and materials for recruiting, processing, training, and supporting volunteers and partner schools. Created training curriculum and conducted the training for new literacy volunteers. Established partnerships with businesses to create corporate volunteer programs. Planned and implemented volunteer opportunities for public and corporate volunteers. Recruited, trained and managed adult educators at partner schools to support the literacy volunteer efforts. Supervised support staff. Ensured contract compliance and prepared monthly funder reports.

### **CAMPAIGN TO RE-ELECT DELAINE EASTIN**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**1998**

**Deputy Campaign Manager.** Recruited and organized events for more than 1,000 volunteers throughout Southern California. Managed Southern California field operations for the campaign to reelect Delaine Eastin as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Supervised field staff. Enlisted the endorsement of elected officials and organizations. Assisted with local media relations. Spoke on behalf of the candidate at functions.

### **LOS ANGELES CABLE TELEVISION ACCESS CORP.**

**Los Angeles, CA**



### **1997 to 1998**

**Education Director.** Instrumental in the launch of the largest interconnected educational access channel in the nation. Organized the Education Advisory Council, comprised of more than 30 local educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. Prepared policies and procedures to govern the education access channel. Solicited, approved, and produced programming. Outreach and trainings for schools, nonprofits, and independent producers.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**Los Angeles, CA**

#### **1996 to 1997**

**Program Assistant.** Instrumental in the development and implementation of a statewide mentorship program which brought community leaders in violence prevention together with at-risk youth. Assisted in the establishment and review of proposals for a multi-million-dollar community computing center project and the coordination of statewide technology leadership conferences.

### **U.S. PEACE CORPS**

**Kyustendil, Bulgaria**

#### **1991 to 1993**

**Peace Corps Volunteer/English as a Foreign Language Instructor.** Taught English and Business English to students in grade levels 8 to 12. Conceived and organized a conference for Ministry of Education staff, university and college faculty, Bulgarian high school administrators, and Peace Corps volunteers to raise cross-cultural awareness, exchange teaching methodologies, and evaluate program effectiveness.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

- Social Work Distance Education Committee (2015-present)
- The Network for Social Work Management (2014-present)
- National Association of Social Workers (2012-present)
- Council on Social Work Education (2012-2019)
- Field Education Committee, Voting is Social Work National Mobilization Effort (2020-present) Co-Chair, 2021- present)

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

---

- Human Services Commissioner, City of West Hollywood (2000-2018)
- (Chair, 2003 to 2005, 2012, 2013, Vice Chair, 2011) Monitored and administered more than \$4 million in funding to social service agencies. Identified the City's social service priorities, reviewed grant proposals, recommended the allocation of funds.
- Founding Member LAUSD West Hollywood Task Force for School Board Member Nick Melvoin (2017-2021)
- Member, West Hollywood/Beverly Hills Democratic Club (1998-present)

- Volunteer, SEIU Local 11 Unemployment Insurance Enrollment for victims of COVID 19 (2020-2021)
- Faculty Mentor Volunteer, USC Center for Excellence in Teaching (2020) Assist faculty in transition to online education Volunteer,
- Volunteer, USC Student Health Center's Wellness Wednesdays (2019)
- Homeless Point in Time Count, City of West Hollywood (2016-present)
- Member, California Democratic State Central Committee (2010-2016)
- Alternate Member, Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee (2010-2016)
- Member, Disabilities Advisory Board, City of West Hollywood (1998-2000)
- Member, Literacy Task Force (Koreh L.A.), The Jewish Federation, (1999-2004)
- Member, Disabilities Advisory Board, City of West Hollywood (1998-2000)

## AWARDS

---

- **28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Woman of the Year** from Congressman Adam Schiff in recognition of profound impact on the people and community. (2022)
- **Honorary Doctorate of Jewish Nonprofit Management** from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (2022)
- **West Hollywood Women in Leadership Award** from the City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (2018)
- **Prospector Award, California's Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award** from the U.S Department of Commerce (Sole Author for the California Award for Performance Excellence) (2012)
- **Harry Shapiro Memorial Prize** for service to individuals with special needs, Hebrew Union College (1996)