

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME	POSITION TITLE	INSTITUTION
<b>Meghana Nallajerla</b> <a href="mailto:nallajer@usc.edu">nallajer@usc.edu</a>	<b>MSW/Ph.D.</b> Student	<b>University of Southern California</b> <b>Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work</b>

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### EDUCATION/TRAINING

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<b>INSTITUTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FIELD OF STUDY</b>
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA	Ph.D.	In-Progress	Social Work
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA	M.S.W.	In-Progress	Social Work
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	B.A.	2018	Psychology, South Asian Studies

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**Professional and Research Interests:** Collective trauma and the psychosocial impacts of disaster (climate change, conflict, COVID-19, systemic oppression), especially among racially/ethnically marginalized groups. Community resilience, healing, and community-based mental health interventions. Transformative and restorative justice interventions, community organizing, and social justice movements. Participatory action research, policy, global mental health.

### Professional & Research Experience

08/23 – present	Research Assistant, University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Los Angeles, CA.
06/22 – 06/23	Research Coordinator, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL.
09/21 – 06/22	Health Services Research Analyst, National Center for PTSD, Palo Alto, CA.
08/19 – 08/21	Neuroimaging & Research Coordinator, Stanford University, School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.
09/18 - 05/19	Fulbright Research Scholar, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
06/14 – 12/14	Instructional Student Assistant, Educational Opportunity Program at CSU-Sacramento.
08/17 - 05/18	Senior Honors Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

### Honors and Awards

2024	Young Climate Leader of Color, People's Climate Innovation Center
2023	Graduate Fellowship, University of Southern California, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
2022	Asian American Psychological Association Graduate Leadership Initiative Participant
2022	Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Fellow
2021	Genesis Institute Decolonizing Mental Health Fellow
2018	Fulbright Research Award Grantee
2018	Phi Beta Kappa
2018	Abraham D. Cohn Prize
2018	James Brister Society Student Leadership Award
2018	Active Minds Emerging Scholar
2014	U.S. Presidential Scholar

### Leadership Experience

2023-Present	Doctoral Student Association (DSA), University of Southern California, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
2021-2023	Facilitator and Community Educator, Unlearning Caste Supremacy
2018-2020	Board Member, University of Pennsylvania Asian Alumni Network (UPAAN)
2015-2018	Penn Association for Gender Equity (Chair, 2017-2018)
2016-2017	Facilitator, Penn Violence Prevention

## Publications

*Peer Reviewed*

Haidar, A., Kalantzis, M., **Nallajerla, M.**, Vela, A., Adler, S. R., & Burnett-Zeigler, I. (2024). A Qualitative Examination of Perceptions of Mindfulness Among Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Americans: Implications for Cultural Adaptation of Mindfulness-Based Interventions. *Global Advances in Integrative Medicine and Health*, 13.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/2753613024124707>

**Nallajerla, M.**<sup>1</sup>, Anene, E.<sup>1</sup>, Bath, E. P., & Castillo, E. G. (2023). Revisiting research safety protocols: the urgency for alternatives to law enforcement in crisis intervention. *Psychiatric services*, appi-ps.

*In Progress*

**Nallajerla, M.**, Wahleithner, J., Manber Ball, T. (In Progress). Impact of Marginalized Identity on Symptom Presentation and Therapy Experience in Social Anxiety Disorder.

## Conference Presentations

**Nallajerla, Meghana** & Samarasinghe, G., (Nov 2022). Collective Healing: Incorporating Collective Trauma and Community Resilience into Psychosocial Interventions with Conflict-Affected Tamil Communities [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

**Nallajerla, Meghana** & Samarasinghe, G., (Sept 2022). Collective Healing: Incorporating Collective Trauma and Community Resilience into Psychosocial Interventions with Conflict-Affected Tamil Communities [Poster Presentation]. Asian American Psychological Association National Convention.

**Nallajerla, Meghana\***, Anene, E.,\* Bath, E., & Castillo, E., (Sept 2021). Urgency of Alternatives to Police in Crisis Intervention Services [Poster Presentation]. Psychologists for Social Responsibility: Uprooting Carceral Psychology: Healing Justice.

**Nallajerla, Meghana\***, Anene, E.,\* (Jul 2021). The Urgency of Alternatives to Police in Crisis Intervention Services [Poster Presentation]. 6th Biennial APA Division 45 Conference.

**Nallajerla, M.**, DeRubeis, R., & Rozin, P., (Nov 2020). Generational Differences in Perceptions of Depression Among South Asian Americans [Poster Presentation]. Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

**Nallajerla, M.**, Weiss, T., Bailenson, J., & Ball, T., (Feb 2020). Utilizing Virtual Reality to Examine Avoidance Behavior in Social Anxiety Disorder [Poster Presentation]. Stanford Bio X.

**Nallajerla, M.**, DeRubeis, R., & Rozin, P., (May 2018). Generational Differences in Perceptions of Depression Among South Asian Americans [Poster Presentation]. University of Pennsylvania Psychology Symposium.

**Nallajerla, M.** (Apr 2017). The Spice Collective - Building Asian American Student Feminist Spaces [Poster Presentation]. South Asian Americans Leading Together Summit.

*\*Denotes shared first authorship*

## Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association

Asian American Psychological

Association

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<sup>1</sup> Denotes shared first authorship