

YEON JIN CHOI

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CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Fellow

USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology

- Multidisciplinary Research Training in Gerontology Program (T32-AG000037)
- Postdoctoral mentors: Eileen Crimmins and Jennifer Ailshire

EDUCATION

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

August 2017

School of Social Work

- Doctor of Philosophy Degree
- Dissertation Title: Home and neighborhood environments and older adults well-being
- Dissertation Chair: Christina Matz-Costa
- Committee Members: James Lubben and Sara M. Moorman
- Boston College Institute on Aging Dissertation Grant (\$7,500)
- Boston College Doctoral Fellowship (2012 – 2016)

Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis, MO

December 2011

George Warren Brown School of Social Work

- Master of Social Work Degree
- Concentration: Gerontology
- Specialization: Research
- George Warren Brown School of Social Work Scholarship (2009 – 2011)

Seoul Women's University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

February 2009

Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare Degree

- Major: Social Work
- 2nd Major: Gerontology
- Scholarship of Excellent Academic Achievement (2005 – 2009)

AWARDS, HONORS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards

Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

2015

- Received Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) Interdisciplinary Paper Award at the 2015 GSA annual scientific meeting
- Manuscript title: Neighborhood safety, social cohesion, and psychological well-being of older adults

Grant

- Boston College Institute on Aging**, Chestnut Hill, MA 2017
- Dissertation grant (\$7,500)

Scholarships

- Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, MA 2012 – 2016
- Boston College Doctoral Fellowship
- Washington University in St. Louis**, Saint Louis, MO 2009 – 2011
- George Warren Brown School of Social Work Scholarship
- Seoul Women's University**, Seoul, Republic of Korea 2005 – 2009
- Scholarship of Excellent Academic Achievement

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Gerontology/ Environmental gerontology
Health disparities; environmental justice
Community-based long-term care; Supportive services for community-dwelling older adults
Aging-in-place: Physical, social, psychological well-being

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Social Innovation at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA October 2017 – February 2018
Research Consultant

- Conduct literature reviews on social innovation programs/centers and community-university partnership program and prepare manuscripts

AARP, Washington, DC August 2016 – Present
Research Assistant

- Conducted research on caregiving tasks, stress, and needed support system among working caregivers and prepared presentation materials for the 2016 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- Conduct research on the relationship between community features and older adults' health

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA September 2015 – August 2017
Research Internship (Dr. Christina Matz-Costa)

- Participated in a research project, "Enhancing the health-promoting effects of older adults' activity portfolios: The development, feasibility and initial efficacy of a real-time, ecologically sensitive intervention" (funded by National Institute on Aging)
- Write research papers and prepare materials for conference presentations

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA September 2016
Research Assistant (Dr. Gautam Tadama & Dr. Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes)

- Wrote a grant proposal for an affordable and sustainable solar energy system in India as a team

AARP, Washington, DC

June – August 2016

Research Internship (Dr. Brittne Nelson)

- Created 2015 consumer fraud factsheets for 51 states:
<http://www.aarp.org/content/aarp/en/home/research/topics/economics/info-2016/2016-consumer-fraud-fact-state-sheets.html>
- Edited Tableau tables and updated reports on 14 aging-friendly communities:
https://public.tableau.com/views/AARP2015AFCSurvey/1-SummarizedStatistics?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:showVizHome=no
- Participated in data collection strategy meetings and prepared presentation materials for the 2016 Aging-Friendly Community Survey: <http://www.aarp.org/research/topics/community/info-2016/2016-aarp-age-friendly-community-survey.html>
- Edited annotated questionnaires, conducted analyses, and wrote reports on small business owners and their retirement savings plan
- Conducted a literature review on pop-up stores for AARP New Orleans

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

September 2014 – May 2015

Doctoral Publishable Paper Writing Project (Dr. Christina Matz-Costa)

- Conducted research on neighborhood safety, social cohesion, and older adults' well-being

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

January – May 2014

Research Assistant (Dr. Thanh V. Tran & Dr. Tam H. Nguyen)

- Conducted research on equivalence of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale across gender and race applying item-response theory (IRT) as a team
- Reviewed literature on self-esteem and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
- Tested validity and reliability of the scale using IRTLRDIF and IRTPRO

Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

August 2013 – May 2014

Research Assistant (Dr. Jacquelyn B. James & Dr. Christina Matz-Costa)

- Conducted multiple literature reviews on various topics of productive engagement in later life
- Conducted research on the effects of the number of roles and its quality on older adults' psychological well-being as a team

Urban Strategies, Inc., Saint Louis, MO

May– August 2010

Special Project MSW Intern

- Researched and wrote a paper comparing services for senior adults living in senior housing across agencies funded by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- Visited agency owned senior housing to observe operations and attended meetings or events

Yong San Senior Welfare Center of Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul, Republic of Korea

August 2008 – May 2009

Co-worker/ Volunteer

- Conducted interviews to identify needs of seniors and plan services
- Coordinated a social skills education program for low-income female elderly with no family and conducted pre/post-tests to evaluate the program
- Surveyed meal program clients to evaluate the program

Ok-Soo Community Welfare Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea

July– August 2007

Practicum Student (Field practice)

- Conducted home visits and collected data and evaluated a meal program
- Participated in daycare programs and after-school programs for older adults and children

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Bi-Lingual International Assistant Services, Saint Louis, MO September 2011 – March 2012

MSW Practicum Student

- Performed intakes, home visits, evaluations and developed plans as a case manager
- Wrote a grant proposal for a health literacy program targeting foreign-born older adults
- Tutored older immigrants for citizenship and interpreted for older Koreans
- Introduced Older Blind Services (OBS) to older immigrant communities

Pu-Pyong Community Welfare Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea July– August 2008

Intern (Field practice)

- Conducted home visits for older adults
- Managed caseload of 5 clients: Performed intakes and developed plans
- Planned a self-help program for female immigrants in the community

Sung-dong Senior Welfare Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea March – June 2006

Staff Assistant

- Coordinated quarterly events for seniors
- Managed home visits for elderly with no family
- Managed telephone conversation service for elderly with no family

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA September 2016 – May 2017

Coordinator of the Doctoral Teaching Assistants

- Orient doctoral teaching assistants (e.g., TA responsibilities, SuperSaas, SPSS lab sessions) for the MSW Research Methods and Program Evaluation
- Assign doctoral teaching assistants to course sections and tutoring hours
- Facilitate coordination between the faculty and TAs
- Prepare a summary report for the Doctoral Program Director

Seoul Welfare Foundation, Seoul, Republic of Korea May 2010 – June 2011

Writer/Reporter

- Researched and interviewed social welfare agencies for older adults in the United States
- Wrote articles to introduce social welfare programs and services of the United States to Korea

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published

Berzin, S. C., Dearing, T., Mathews, O., **Choi, Y. J.**, & Pitt-Catsoupes, M. (2018). The Center for Social Innovation at Boston College. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*, 15(4), 473-480.

Choi, Y. J., & Matz-Costa, C. (2017). Perceived neighborhood safety, social cohesion, and psychological health of older adults. *The Gerontologist*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnw187.

Under Review

Matz-Costa, C., Lubben, J., Lachman, M., Lee, H. N., & **Choi, Y. J.** (revise and resubmit), The Engaged4Life pilot study: A randomized trial of an intervention to enhance the health-promoting effects of older adults' activity portfolios. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

In Preparation

Bonner-Cozad, A., & **Choi, Y. J.** (in preparation). Caregiver stress: The relationships between caregiver tasks, perceived importance of community support and increased stress.

Binette, J., Bridges, K., Cantave, C., **Choi, Y. J.**, Bonner-Cozad, A., Gjecovi, S., & Houghton, A. (in preparation). The relationship between health status of those 50 and older and importance of various community features.

Choi, Y. J. (in preparation). Home and neighborhood environments and older adults' well-being: Resource availability vs. Needs-fit.

Choi, Y. J. (in preparation). Moderating effect of physical functioning and SES in the relationship between home and neighborhood environment and older adults' well-being.

Choi, Y. J., Jeon, H., & Song, A. (in preparation). English proficiency and online health information-seeking behaviors among older Whites, Hispanics, and Asians.

Matz-Costa, C., James, J. B., Yang, J., & **Choi, Y. J.** (in preparation). Quality, quantity or nature of socially-productive activity in middle and later life? Effects on life satisfaction.

Matz-Costa, C., Sabbath, E. L., **Choi, Y. J.**, & Lee, H. (in preparation). Engagement in paid and unpaid work in later life: A holistic, multi-level conceptual framework.

REPORTS

Choi, Y. J. (2011). Access Living: A Result of the Barrier Free Movement, *Global Welfare Movement*, 5, 57-62.

Choi, Y. J. (2011). Millenium Park. *Global Welfare Movement*, 5, 36-38.

Choi, Y. J. (2011). OASIS: Intergenerational tutoring program. *Global Welfare Movement*, 4, 32-35.

Choi, Y. J. (2010). Alzheimer's Association. *Global Welfare Movement*, 3, 52-59.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Choi, Y. J. (January 2018). Home and neighborhood environments and older adults' well-being: Health, community satisfaction, and aging-in-place. Paper will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

Choi, Y. J., Cantave, C., Guengerich, T., Binette, J., & Bonner-Cozad, A. (January 2018). Understanding needs of older adults with different physical functioning. Poster will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.

- Cantave, C., Binette, J., & **Choi, Y. J.** (October 2017). What community features are important to people with disabilities. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Honolulu, HI.
- Choi, Y. J.**, Matz-Costa, C., Lee, H., Sabbath, E. L. (January 2017). Engagement in paid and unpaid work in later life: A holistic, multi-level conceptual framework. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Lee, H., Matz-Costa, C., & **Choi, Y. J.** (January 2017). Findings from a randomized controlled trial of an ecologically-sensitive intervention to enhance the health-promoting effects of older adults' activity portfolios. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Choi, Y. J.**, Jeon, H., & Song, A. (January 2017). English proficiency and online health information-seeking behaviors among older Whites, Hispanics, and Asians. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Bonner-Cozad, A., & **Choi, Y. J.** (November 2016). Caregiver stress: The relationships between caregiver tasks, perceived importance of community support and increased stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.
- Matz-Costa, C., Lee, H., **Choi, Y. J.**, Foss, S., & Lubben, J. (November 2016). Engaged4Life: An ecologically-sensitive intervention to enhance the health promoting effects of older adults' activity portfolios. Paper presented in M.E. Lachman (chair), Strategies to increase physical activity: Findings from the Boston Roybal Center for Active Lifestyle Interventions (RALI). Symposium presented at the 2016 Gerontological Society of America Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Choi, Y. J.**, & Matz-Costa, C. (January 2016). Neighborhood safety, social cohesion, and psychological well-being of older adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Choi, Y. J.**, & Matz-Costa, C. (November 2015). Neighborhood safety, social cohesion, and psychological well-being of older adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.
- Choi, Y. J.**, & Tran, T. (November 2015). Cross-Cultural Equivalence of the Kessler 6 Scale (K6) between Older White and Asians. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-Hoc Manuscript Reviewer

BMJ
Research on Aging
The Gerontologist

Professional Activities & Affiliations

Gerontological Society of America, United States
Korea Association of Social Workers, Republic of Korea
Society for Social Work and Research, United States

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Research for Social Work Practice, Salem State University <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Spring 2018
Conducting Social Work Research, Salem State University <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Spring 2018
Designing Social Work Research, Salem State University <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	Fall 2017
Program Evaluation, Boston College <i>Adjunct Faculty</i> <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2017 Spring 2015 & 2016
Models of Social Welfare Intervention Research, Boston College <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2015
Research Methods, Boston College <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Fall 2014 & 2015

SKILLS

Data Analysis: GIS, HLM, LISREL, Mplus, Pikto Chart, SPSS, STATA, and Tableau
Online Teaching Portals: Blackboard and Canvas