

Darejan (Daji) Dvalishvili MD, MSW

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RESEARCH INTERESTS Child Maltreatment; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Child and Family Wellbeing; Child Protection and Social Services; Child Protection and Economic Interventions; Gender and Gender based Violence

TEACHING INTERESTS Research Methods
Program Development
Program Monitoring and Evaluation

EDUCATION

2021 (Expected) **Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work**
George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

2010 **M.S.W., Columbia University School of Social Work**
Columbia University, NYC, NY, USA
Specialization in Social Policy/Contemporary Social Issues

2002 **M.D. Pediatrics**
Tbilisi State Medical University

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018 – 2020 **International Education Center fellow, Government of Republic of Georgia**
International Doctoral Scholarship Program

2008 - 2010 **Soros Foundation, Social Work Masters Fellowship Program.**
Full tuition and living expenses to pursue MS in Social Work at Columbia University in the City of New York

COMPETITIVE WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

2020 **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research**
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research
Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) Data User Workshop

2019 **The Haruv Institute, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel**
The 7th Haruv PhD Workshop on Child Maltreatment

2019 **Kempe Center for the Prevention & Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect**
Anschutz Medical Campus | University of Colorado Aurora, Colorado
Kempe Interdisciplinary Summer Research Institute
Challenges & Opportunities in Child Maltreatment Research

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (Selected)

- 2018 – PRESENT** **Research Assistant**
Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy Research and Training (CICM)
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2018 - PRESENT** **Research Associate**
International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD)
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2017 - 2018** **Researcher**, Combinations of services for the Deinstitutionalization of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Uganda (DOVCU) project (Funded by ChildFund). The project aimed to analyze the outcomes of integrated package of interventions conducted through the project to reduce unnecessary separation of children from their families and to place children outside of family care into nurturing families. Three Learning Briefs were prepared. The findings contributed to the development of relevant knowledge and practice among government bodies, community structures and child care institutions to promote and support family care for children at risk of and/or separated from family; children in alternative family-based care and in permanent placements for children without family care.
- 2016 - 2018** **Principal Investigator**, National study on Violence against Children in children’s institutions, family and community in Belarus (Funded by UNICEF). The main goal of the study was to assess a scale and prevalence of violence against children at home, in schools and other children’s institutions in Belarus; It also explored the measures on prevention and response to violence against children undertaken by all stakeholders. The study contributed to better understanding of where the systems and service providers fail in identifying, reporting and responding to violence against children in Belarus. The project also provided clear recommendations on how to improve the system of public services, systems of monitoring and complaints’ consideration, and what were the opportunities in on-going efforts to reform child protection system for better protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect. The findings are used by the Government and UNICEF and to develop initiatives and programs on the child’s safety and violence prevention in children’s institutions and other environments in Belarus.
- 2015 - 2017** **Principal Researcher**, Revision of Social Protection System for Building Sustainable and Child Sensitive Social Protection in Georgia (Funded by UNICEF) The purpose of the project was to develop Child Assessment Screening Instrument (CASI), link it to the National Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) system/means tested social assistance program and to advance Child Protection Referral methodology. CASI was piloted/tested national wide within approx. 7,300 households with children across the country. The Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) implemented CASI as an integrated part of TSA system to better identify and address cases of child maltreatment.

2015 - 2016

Principal Researcher, The Readiness of Social Workers for the Practice in Child Welfare in Georgia (Funded by OSI Georgia Foundation).

The purpose of this research project was to analyze the BA and MSW academic programs in social work, the Terms of References and the caseloads of both statutory social workers and social workers working in various NGOs and identify the challenges in ongoing child welfare reform. The findings were used to inform all stakeholders and initiate the dialogue between academia, professional organizations and Social Service Agency (SSA, MoLHSA) and other service providers

2014

Principal Researcher, Monitoring of the National Diversion and Mediation Program for Juvenile Offenders (funded by UNICEF).

The purpose of the research was to analyze the quantitative data of the diversion and mediation program and identify trends. Within the scope of the research, I evaluated decision-making processes of professionals participating in diversion program and their capacity in identification of re-offending risks among juveniles. In addition, I reviewed the response mechanisms/activities of the Program to address identified risks of reoffending and prepared recommendations for the further advancement of the program.

The sample consisted of the qualitative and quantitative data of 350 cases. The Ministry of justice, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Corrections and UNICEF used the findings and recommendations.

2012 - 2013

Principal Investigator, Violence against Children in Georgia: National Survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (funded by UNICEF, USAID)

The study analyzed the levels of knowledge found among adult Georgian population regarding violence against children, the attitudes underlying child raising and discipline methods and the practices of reporting and reacting to child abuse cases. The sample for this quantitative study consisted of 3,345 respondents from over the country. The findings are used by UNICEF, various ministries, international and local NGOs to initiate legislative changes, to develop various programs for both victims and perpetrators and implement awareness raising advocacy campaigns.

2012 - 2013

Principal Investigator, Violence against Children in Georgia: Analysis of the Child Protection Referral Procedures and Recommendations to the Government

(funded by UNICEF, USAID) The study analyzed the implementation of Child Protection Referral Procedures, established in 2010. In total, 90 professionals (social workers (Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs), teachers and resource officers (Ministry of Education and Science) and Policemen (Ministry of Internal Affairs) participated in 12 focus groups in four regions of Georgia. The findings of the study has been used by UNICEF and various state and non- state stakeholders to initiate and promote legislative changes and advancement of the Child Protection Referral Procedures.

2012 - 2013

Principal Investigator, Impact Evaluation of the Program Common Kids – Communal Action for Inclusion (funded by Austrian Development Agency (ADA))
The objective of the evaluation was the assessment of the impact of the implemented project activities and the effectiveness of the applied methodology.

The evaluation findings were used by the partners and donors to improve further implementation of the program (in the mid-evaluation phase); to sum up the overall project impact and visibility at the end of its implementation; and to plan effectively follow-up projects.

2010 - 2011

Co-Principal Investigator, Assessment of knowledge of HIV/STD among youth in public schools of Batumi (funded by OSI Foundation NY) The purpose of the study was to assess the level of the knowledge of HIV/STD among youth in public schools of Batumi. In total, 16-18 years old 309 respondents participated in the survey. The findings were used by local NGOs to initiate and develop new programs at schools to raise awareness of the students on the issues and enhance access to various services for them.

INDEPENDENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019; 2018

Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in Saint Louis
Instructor: Evidence Based Practice Skills for BSW Grads

2014 - 2016

Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

2011 - 2012

COURSES TAUGHT:

- Justice for Children and Social Work (Master Level)
- Cultural Diversity and Social Work
- Social Work: Skills and Methods
- Law and Social Work

OTHER TEACHING EXPERINCIES

2016 – Present

Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in Saint Louis
TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR:

- Data Management (PhD Level)
- Seminar in Social Work Theory & Knowledge (PhD Level)
- Planning Programs in Social and Medical Settings (Master Level)
- Program Evaluation (Master Level)

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2016

Project Director

“United Voices for Children” (UVC) in Georgia Georgian Coalition for Child and Youth Welfare (GCCYW) Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW)

2015 - 2016

Member

The National Panel on Identification and Assessment of Victims of Domestic Violence Interagency Council on Prevention of Domestic Violence (at the Administration of the Government of Georgia)

2015

National Consultant

on Designing Monitoring and Evaluation framework for National Youth Policy Action Plan, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Georgia

2011 - 2015	National Child Protection Consultant UNICEF Georgia
2010	National Public Fund Advisor (NPFA) SOS Children's Villages Georgia
2006 - 2008	National Family Strengthening Program Manager (FSPM) SOS Children's Villages Georgia
2005 - 2006	Social Worker Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
2002 - 2004	Social Worker Prevention of Infant Abandonment & Deinstitutionalization – (PIAD) Project, (Project Partners: UNICEF, EveryChild Georgia, World Vision International, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia), November 2002 – December 2004

SERVICE

2018 - Present	Reviewer, Global Social Welfare
2015 - Present	Abstract Reviewer, European Conference for Social Work Research

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published

1. Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Gandarilla Ocampo, M., Morrison, M., **Dvalishvili, D.** A Practical Framework for Considering the Use of Predictive Risk Modelling in Child Welfare (accepted). *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*
2. Ssewamala, F. M., **Dvalishvili, D.**, Mellins, C. A., Geng, E. H., Makumbi, F., Neilands, T. B., ... & Nakigozi, G. (2020). The long-term effects of a family based economic empowerment intervention (Suubi+ Adherence) on suppression of HIV viral loads among adolescents living with HIV in southern Uganda: Findings from 5-year cluster randomized trial. *PLoS one*, 15(2), e0228370.
3. Nabunya, P., Bahar, O. S., Chen, B., **Dvalishvili, D.**, Damulira, C., & Ssewamala, F. M. (2020). The role of family factors in antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence self-efficacy among HIV-infected adolescents in southern Uganda. *BMC Public Health*, 20(1), 1-9.
4. Damulira, C., Mukasa, M. N., Byansi, W., Nabunya, P., Kivumbi, A., Namatovu, P., Namuwonge, F., **Dvalishvili, D.**, Sensoy Bahar, O. & Ssewamala, F. M. (2019). Examining the relationship of social support and family cohesion on ART adherence among HIV-positive adolescents in southern Uganda: baseline findings. *Vulnerable children and youth studies*, 14(2), 181-190.

Under Review

1. Saitadze, I. & **Dvalishvili, D.** Gaps between Academia and Practice: Perspectives about Social Work Education in Georgia. *Journal of International Social Work*

In Preparation

2. **Dvalishvili, D.** & Jonson-Reid, M. Childhood Poverty and Foster Care Placement: Implications for Practice and Policy
3. **Dvalishvili, D;** Ssewamala, F.M.; Nabunya, P., Sensoy Bahar, O. Poverty and Violence Against Children in Southern Uganda: A Propensity Score Analysis
4. **Dvalishvili, D.,** Ssewamala, F.M., Sensoy Bahar, O., & Nabunya, P. (2020) Impact of Family-Based Economic Empowerment Intervention on Multidimensional Poverty for Adolescents Living with HIV (ALWHIV) in Uganda.
5. **Dvalishvili, D.,** Christopher, C. Ahmed, R. Shato, T., Muwanga, J., Namuwonge, F, Embaye, F., ...& Ssewamala, F. School Absenteeism during Menstruation among Adolescent girls in Southern Uganda: A Multi-level risk factors analysis.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Accepted

1. Nyoni, T., Ahmed, R., & **Dvalishvili, D.** Poverty and Children's Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health in sub-Saharan Africa in Child Behavioral Health in Sub-Saharan Africa: Towards Evidence Generation and Policy Development (Co-edited by Ssewamala, Sensoy Bahar & McKay). Springer - expected publication date is 2021
2. Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Kim, H., Chiang, C. & **Dvalishvili, D.** Disproportionate Need as a Factor Explaining Racial Disproportionality in the CW System (expected publication fall 2020)

Under Review

3. Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M. & **Dvalishvili, D.** Poverty and Child Maltreatment

PEER-REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2021

Dvalishvili, D., Jonson-Reid, M., Drake, B. Childhood Poverty and Foster Care Placement: Implications for Practice and Policy (Oral Presentation) Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2021 Annual Conference. Online

2021

Dvalishvili, D., Ssewamala, F. M., Zmachinski, L., Muwanga, J., Namuwonge, F., Nabunya, P., Sensoy-Bahar, O. Food Insecurity and Violence Against Children at Homes in Southern Uganda: A Propensity Score Analysis (Poster Presentation) Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2021 Annual Conference. Online

2020

Dvalishvili, D; Ssewamala, F.M.; Nabunya, P., Sensoy Bahar, O. Poverty and Violence Against Children in Southern Uganda: A Propensity Score Analysis (Accepted for Oral Presentation). European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA) 2020 Annual European Conference for Social Work Research. Bucharest, Romania

2020

Dvalishvili, D.; Ssewamala, F.M.; Sensoy Bahar, O.; Nabunya, P. (2020) Impact of Family-Based Economic Empowerment Intervention on Multidimensional Poverty for Adolescents living with HIV (ALWHIV) in Uganda. (Oral Presentation) Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2020 Annual Conference. Washington DC, USA

2019

Saitadze, I. & **Dvalishvili, D.** (2019) Gaps between Academia and Practice: Perspectives about Social Work Education in Georgia (ePoster) Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2019 Annual Conference (Conference topic: Ending Gender Based, Family and Community Violence) San Francisco, USA

- 2017** Saitadze, I. & **Dvalishvili, D.** (2017) The Challenges of Social Work Practice in Child Welfare in Georgia (Oral Presentation) European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA), 5th Annual Conference for Social Work Research. Aalborg, Denmark
- 2016** **Dvalishvili, D.** (2016). Child Protection in the context of Targeted Social Assistance and Child Cash Transfers in Republic of Georgia (Accepted for Oral Presentation). SWSD 2016: Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, Seoul, Korea
- 2015** **Dvalishvili, D.** (2015). Evaluation of Diversion and Mediation Program for Juveniles in Georgia: A Role of Social Work in Decision Making Process (Oral Presentation). European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA), 5th Annual Conference for Social Work Research. Ljubljana, Slovenia

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2020 - PRESENT** The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
- 2020 - PRESENT** National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- 2019 - PRESENT** Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- 2015 - PRESENT** International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
- 2014 - PRESENT** Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSW)
- 2014 - PRESENT** European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)
- 2007 - PRESENT** Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS** Generalized Linear Model, Survival Analysis, Multilevel and Longitudinal Modelling, Propensity Score Analysis, Structural Equation Modelling, Social Network Analysis, Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
- SOFTWARES** STATA, R, SAS, SPSS, MPlus, Nvivo, ArcGIS
- LANGUAGES** ENGLISH (proficient), RUSSIAN (proficient), GEORGIAN (Native)