

PATRICIA J. HIGGINS, PH.D.

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Cleveland, TN 37311

EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Tennessee, December 2019
Educational Psychology: Adult Learning
Dissertation: “A Narrative Inquiry on the Experiences of Refugee Adult Learners in Community Colleges in the Southeastern Region of the United States”
Committee: Mitsunori Misawa, PhD (chair), Ralph Brockett, PhD, Mary Catherine Hammon, PhD, Terry Ishitani, PhD
- Graduate Certificate** University of Tennessee, December 2019
Qualitative Research Methods in Education
- TESOL** ELT Leadership Management Certificate June 2019
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages International Organization
English Language Teaching Leadership Management Certificate
- MS** University of Tennessee, Educational Psychology August 2017
Comprehensive Exam: “Empowering Adult Immigrant Students: English Language Adult Education”
Advisor: Mary Catherine Hammon, PhD
- BA** Eckerd College, American Studies December 2001
Letters Collegiums’ Award of Honor
Minor, Photography

TEACHING & RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

- Refugee and Immigrant Adult Learner Access and Opportunities in Higher Education
- International Student Persistence in U.S. Higher Education
- Facilitating Inclusive Learning Environments for Diverse Populations
- Student-Centered Teaching & Support Strategies
- Curriculum and Program Planning for Multicultural and Multilingual Adult Learners
- Intersectionality, Critical Theory, and Transformative Learning in Adult Learning

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA June 2022 – Current
Clinical Assistant Professor
Program Coordinator, *EdPsych Online* Master’s Degree Program

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

August 2020 – May 2022

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department
Educational Psychology Online Master's Degree Program

Adjunct Instructor, Instructor of Record

Courses Taught:

Adult Learning in Social Contexts Course

Program Planning in Adult Learning Course

Facilitating Change in Educational Environments

Ethics in Adult Education

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

November 2022

Invited Guest Speaker, Developing Professional Identity

Dr. Mitsunori Misawa's Graduate Course

Professional Seminar, PhD Program

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

October 2021

Invited Guest Speaker, The Graduate Experience

Dr. Mitsunori Misawa's Graduate Course

Professional Experiences, PhD Programs

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

April 2020

Invited Guest Speaker, Conducting a Narrative Inquiry

Dr. Mitsunori Misawa's Graduate Course

Narrative Inquiry, PhD Program

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

October 2020

Invited Guest Speaker, The Doctoral Experience

Dr. Mitsunori Misawa's Graduate Course

Professional Seminar, PhD Program

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

University of Tennessee, Knoxville USA

May 2018-August 2018

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department

Teaching Assistant

Dr. Qi Sun, *Non-Western Perspectives in Teaching and Learning*

Educational Psychology Online Masters Degree Program

Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville USA

September 2014 – Current

International Admissions Specialist

Mentoring, Immigration Advisor, and Academic Success Advisor

for International students, Immigrant students, and English Language Learners

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

June 2022 – Current

Clinical Assistant Professor

Program Coordinator, *EdPsych Online* M.S. Degree Program

Department of Educational Psychology & Counseling

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (CEHHS)

International Admissions Specialist

Pellissippi State Community College

September 2014 – Current

Final Candidate for Fulbright U.S. Scholar Administrators Program to South Korea for 2017

International Education Committee 2015-current

Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee 2018 – current

Stay Strong Employee Recognition for Value of Diversity 2020

Study Abroad Program Advisor

University of South Florida

April 2008-August 2012

Award: USF Outstanding Staff Award 2010

HONORS AND AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

2019

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department, University of Tennessee

Friends of Educational Psychology and Counseling Research Grant

2019

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department, University of Tennessee to provide research funds to facilitate doctoral scholarship

Travis Hawk Fellowship

2018-2019

Educational Psychology and Counseling Department, University of Tennessee, for outstanding academic credentials and success in academic journey

Letters Collegium Award of Honor

2001

Excellence in the field of American Studies. This is the highest award given to a graduating Senior in American Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Higgins, P. (2023). "I don't even recognize myself anymore": An autoethnography of workplace bullying in higher education. *Power and Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17577438231163041>

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2021). A narrative study of refugee adult learners' experiences in Southeastern U.S. community college. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*. DOI: 10.1080/10668926.2021.1910596

Submitted, In Review

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2022). A narrative inquiry on the experiences of adult refugee learners navigating U.S. higher education: Bird in a cage. *In review*.

Works in Progress

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2023). A narrative inquiry on the diverse experiences of adult refugee learners in community colleges in the Southeastern Region of the United States.

Higgins, P.J., & Misawa, M. (2023). Bridging the gap: Creating safe and inclusive research environments for vulnerable populations through narrative inquiry.

Misawa, M., & Higgins, P.J. (2023). Changing spaces and changing positionality: The transformative process of professionalization.

Misawa, M., & Higgins, P.J. (2023). Teaching ethics to adults: How do we learn and transfer knowledge about ethical beliefs and practices.

International Conference Proceedings and Presentations

(Peer-Reviewed)

Higgins, P.J., & Misawa, M. (2023). "Bridging the gap: Creating safe and inclusive research environments for vulnerable populations through narrative inquiry." The Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference. Lexington, KY.

Misawa, M., & Higgins, P.J. (2023). "Changing spaces and changing positionality: The transformative process of professionalization." The Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference. Lexington, KY.

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2023). "Creating Safe and Inclusive Research Environments for Vulnerable Populations through Narrative Inquiry." The Qualitative Report Conference, Virtual Conference.

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2022). "A Narrative Inquiry on the Experiences of Adult Refugee Learners Navigating U.S. Higher Education: Bird in a Cage." 18th

- International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Virtual Conference.
- Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2022). "Bird in a Cage: A Narrative Inquiry on the Experiences of Adult Refugee Learners in a U.S. Community College: Bird in a Cage." The Qualitative Report Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2022). "A Narrative Inquiry on the Transformative Experiences of Adult Refugee Learners in U.S. Higher Education: Bird in a Cage." International Transformative Learning Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2021). "Was it a dream or a nightmare? A narrative exploration of adult refugee learners' experiences in a community college." 17th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Virtual Conference.
- Higgins, P. J. (2021). "A narrative inquiry on the experiences of adult refugee learners navigating U.S. higher education: Bird in a cage." The 5th Bullying, Incivility, and Violence in Adult, Higher, Continuing, and Professional Education Pre-Conference, Adult Education in Global Times International Research Conference. Virtual Pre-Conference.
- Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2021). "Was it a dream or a nightmare? A narrative exploration of adult refugee learners' experiences in a community college." Adult Education in Global Times Conference. Virtual Conference. Retrieved from: <https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/aegt2021/proceedings/>

Domestic Conference Proceedings and Presentations

(Peer-Reviewed)

- Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2022). "Bird in a cage: Promoting equity and civility from the Narratives of adult refugee learners." The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) 2022 Conference: Light in a Troubled World.
- Higgins, P. J. (2022). "I love my work, but I am walking on eggshells: An autoethnography of a toxic workplace survivor." The 6th Bullying, Incivility, and Violence in Adult, Higher, Continuing, and Professional Education Pre-Conference, Adult Education Research Conference. Virtual Pre-Conference.
- Misawa, M., & Higgins, P. J. (2022). "Re-conceptualizing ethical practices in adult education in contemporary society using an ethics-centered practice." Adult Education Research Conference. <https://newprairiepress.org/aerc/2022/papers/10>
- Higgins, P. J., & Linkous, H. (2019). "We are going to keep the American Dream going: A refugee's journey through self-directed learning." Paper presented at American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2019). "Developing an inclusive learning environment for refugee student in U.S. adult education." Adult Education Research Conference, Buffalo, NY.

Higgins, P. J. (2019). "The experience of adult refugee learners in the southeast U.S. during the 2016 presidential election." Adult Education Research Conference, Buffalo, NY.

Higgins, P. J., & Misawa, M. (2018). "Developing an inclusive academic environment for international students in higher education." American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Myrtle Beach, FL.

Sun, Q., & Higgins, P. J. (2017). "Confucian heritage culture international student experience in the southeastern U.S." Adult Education Research Conference, Norman, OK.

Sun, Q., & Higgins, P. J. (2017). "The experience of east Asian students' campus life in the U.S.: A case study of perception of student support services at a community college." American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Memphis, TN.

SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE), 2017-Present

Adult Education Research Conference (AERC), 2017 – Present

The Bullying, Incivility, and Violence in Adult, Higher, Continuing, and Professional Education Pre-Conference, in Association with the Adult Education in Global Times International Research Conference,
Conference Committee Member & Reviewer, 2021 Virtual Pre-Conference.

American Education Research Association (AERA) 2022-Present

APA: Division 15 Educational Psychology, 2022 – Present

National Association for Study Abroad Professionals (NAFSA), 2008 – Present

The Forum of Education Abroad, 2012 – Present

TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages International Organization), 2017 – Present

SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATION SERVICE

2022-current Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) **Co-organizer for Pre-Conference for Bullying, Incivility, and Violence in Adult, Higher, and**

Professional Education

Promoting Ethics and Professionalism through Adult Education Research to Help Eliminate Bullying, Incivility, and Violence for All

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXPERIENCE

- 2001 **Cairo, Egypt & London, England**
Homestay and Language Study
- 2003 **Vienna, Austria**
International work experience. Translation Services.
- 2007 **London, England**
Oversee operations and student/faculty studying abroad at London Study Centre as Eckerd College.
- 2015/2016 **Vietnam**
Organize and travel throughout Vietnam to recruit international students, establish collaborative agreements with Educational institutions, and solidify partnerships with Study USA Offices at U.S. Embassies in Vietnam.
- 2019 **Colombia**
Organize and travel throughout Colombia to recruit international students, establish collaborative agreements with Educational institutions, and solidify partnerships with Education USA Offices at U.S. Embassies.

ADVISING & MENTORING

PHD COMMITTEES – FUNCTION AS SCHOLARLY AREA EXPERTISE

SPRING 2023: BELTRAN, VANN

SUMMER 2023: BELTRAN, CARY, VANN

FALL 2023: BELTRAN, CARY, VANN

SPRING 2024:

MS EdPSYCH ONLINE ADVISEES – FUNCTION AS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

FALL 2022: 11 (AEP)

SPRING 2023: 30 (15 AEP, 12 AE, 3 ALPS)

SUMMER 2023: 30 (15 AEP, 15 AE)

FALL 2023: 40 (18 AEP, 17 AE, 5 ALPS)

SPRING 2024:

MS EdPSYCH ONLINE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM COMMITTEES

FALL 2022: 5 TOTAL, 3 AS CHAIR

SPRING 2023: 5 TOTAL, 2 AS CHAIR

SUMMER 2023: 2 TOTAL

FALL 2023: 5 TOTAL, 4 AS CHAIR

SPRING 2024: 3 TOTAL, 1 AS CHAIR

SERVICE

University Service

Assessment Day Participant/Evaluator: 2022, 2023

College Service

Assessment Committee: 2023-2024

Core Course Sub-Group: 2023-2024

Graduate Research Symposium Committee: 2022-2023, 2023-2024

Graduate Council: began 2023-2024, 3 year term

Graduate Council Curriculum Review Committee: began 2023-2024, 3 year term

Departmental Service

DEI Committee: 2022-2023

Diversity Action Plan (DAP) EPC Student Forum Co-coordination: Spring 2023

Program Service

AAACE (American Association of Adult & Continuing Education) Conference Marketing Program 10/9-15/2022

UTK OLAP Office DE Program Marketing Webinar 9/21/2022

OLC (Online Learning Consortium) Accelerate Conference 11/1-3/2022

UTK OLAP (Online Learning and Academic Programs) Office DE Program Recruitment Webinar 1/31/2023

OLAP Office Virtual Conference 10/25-27/2022

OLAP Seminar 3/8/2023

UTK STRIDE Training 8/4/2023

OLAP Mental Health Services for DE Students 9/27/2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APA Virtual Conference 07/28-29/2022

TLI Courageous Conversations Workshop 9/27/2022

AERA Virtual Conference 5/4-5/2023

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE

Bridge for Refugees, Chattanooga & Knoxville

GRANT EXPERIENCE

Submitted

Applied

Awarded