

Gitima Sharma, Ph.D.

California State University, Fresno
Kremen School of Education and Human Development
Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation
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Education

Ph.D. in Counselor Education (CACREP Accredited) The Pennsylvania State University, PA	2015
M.A. in Counseling (CACREP Accredited) Michigan State University, MI	2009
M.S. in Child Development University of Delhi, India	2006
B.S. in Home Science (Major: Child Development) University of Delhi, India	2004

Academic Appointment(s)

Associate Professor Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation California State University, Fresno	2020-Present
Assistant Professor Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation California State University, Fresno	2015-2020
Program Coordinator and PPS Credential Coordinator Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation California State University, Fresno	2017-2020

Professional Licensure and Credential

Pupil Personnel Services Credential. California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, CA	2019
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Publications and Scholarship

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Sharma, G., Kim, J., & Bernal, K. (2021). The Relationship between the High School Sophomores' Purpose Orientations and their Post-Secondary Education Completion a Decade Later. *Professional School Counseling Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2156759X20981051>
- Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A., & Sharma, G. (2020). Sense of purpose and progress towards degree among freshman college students. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1521025120975134>
- Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A., & Sharma, G. (2020). Passion for Work and Well-Being of Working Adults. *Journal of Career Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0894845320946398>
- Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M.A. & Sharma, G. (2020). Examining the factor structure of the Revised Sense of Purpose Scale (SOPS-2) with adults. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*. doi:10.1007/s11482-019-09729-w
- Sharma, G. & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M.A. (2019). Validation of the Revised Sense of Purpose Scale (SOPS-2) with emerging adults. *Journal of Character Education, 15*, 39-52.
- Sharma, G. & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M.A. (2018). The Relationship between College Students' Sense of Purpose and Degree Commitment. *Journal of College Student and Development, 59*, 486-491. doi: [10.1353/csd.2018.0045](https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2018.0045)
- Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M.A. & Sharma, G. (2018). The relationship between faculty members' passion for work and well-being. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-018-9977-z>
- Sharma, G. & de Alba, E. (2018). Sense of Purpose among Female Students belonging to Minority Ethnic and Buddhist Backgrounds. *Journal of College and Character, 19*, 137-151. doi: [10.1080/2194587X.2018.1445644](https://doi.org/10.1080/2194587X.2018.1445644)
- Sharma, G., Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M.A., & Kang, Z. (2017). Sense of Purpose Scale: Development and initial validation. *Applied Developmental Science, 28*, 1-12.
DOI: [10.1080/10888691.2016.1262262](https://doi.org/10.1080/10888691.2016.1262262)
- Sharma, G., Kim, J., & Bryan, J.A. (2017). The effects of purpose orientations on high school graduates' college application decisions. *Journal of College Access, 3*, 98-117.
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jca/vol3/iss2/8>

Park, J.J. & Sharma, G. (2016). Religion and Social Capital: Examining the Roles of Religious Affiliation and Salience on Parental Network Closure. *Religion & Education*, 43, 162-177. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2015.1048657>

Other Publications

Wilde, M. O., Hammes, J. P., Sharma, G., Kang, Z., & Park, D. (2012, June). A students' perspective on 20/20: A vision for the future of counseling. *Counseling Today*, 54, 46-48.

Sharma, G. (2012, May). The external forces in our society that have changed the counseling profession significantly in the recent past. *Counseling Today*, 54, 68-69.

Conference Presentations

National and International Presentations

Scarton, C., Sharma, G., & Griffin, D.M. (2019, October). *Sense of purpose and persistence among minority counseling students: Implications for counselor education, supervision, and research*. Presented at Association of Counselor Education and Supervision.

Griffin, D. M., Bryan, J., & Sharma, G. (2019, October). *Informing counselor educators on how to prepare counselors for international settings*. Presented at Association of Counselor Education and Supervision.

Sharma, G., Scarton, C, Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A., & Perez, S. R. (2018, November). *Sense of Purpose among students pursuing Masters in Counseling*. Presented at Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, Santa Rosa, CA.

Sharma, G. & De Alba Bastarrechea, E. (2018, June). *Sense of Purpose among Female Students belonging to Minority Ethnic and Buddhist Backgrounds*. Presented at the American Humanistic Counseling Association Conference, Tampa, FL.

Sharma, G. & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A. (2018, April). *The relationship between college students' sense of purpose and degree commitment*. Roundtable session presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York City, NY.

Kim, J., Bryan, J., & Sharma, G., (2018, April). *Hidden behind the model minority stereotype: Disparities in Asian parent empowerment and their children's college enrollment*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York City, NY.

Sharma, G. & De Alba Bastarrechea, E. (2018, April). *Sense of Purpose among Minority Students*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York City, NY.

- Sharma, G. & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A. (2017, October). *Sense of Purpose Scale Development and Initial Validation: Implications for Counseling and Research*. Poster session presented at the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), Chicago, IL.
- Sharma, G., Kim, J., & Bryan, J. (2017, April). *The effects of purpose orientations on the high school graduates' college application decisions*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, TX.
- Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A., & Sharma, G. (2017, April). *Validation of the Sense of Purpose Inventory with adults*. Roundtable session presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, TX.
- Choi, K., van der Boom, C., & Sharma, G. (2017, March). *Curating magazine International Safe Zone to Support International LGBTQ+ International Students: South Korea, the Netherlands, and India*. Presented at the American Counseling Association Conference, San Francisco, California.
- Park, J.J. & Sharma, G. (2013, April). *Religion and Social Capital: Examining the Roles of Religious Affiliation and Salience on Parental Network Closure*. Presented at American Educational Research Association annual conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Neil, D.M., Kozan, S., Sharma, G., Ni, K., (2009, March) *Acculturation Experiences of University International Students: A Study of Inter-group Comparisons*. Presented at the American Counseling Association Annual Conference & Exposition. Charlotte, NC.

State Presentations

- Choi, K., van der Boom, C., Sharma, G., & Singaravelu, H. (March, 2017). *LGBT rights around the world: the Netherlands, Taiwan, South Korea, India, and Malaysia*. 2017 Safe Zone: First Annual Safe Zone Open Space Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Sharma, G. & Sakakini, R. (2016, June). *Sense of purpose and persistence among students*. Presented at Western Association for College Admission Counseling Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
- Irbie, M., Ruiz, A., & Sharma, G. (2016, February). *Raising awareness of AB540 students' challenges and support at a CSU*. Presented at California College Personnel Association Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
- Sharma, G., Kang, Z., & Wilde, M. O. (2012, September). *Positive youth development: Sense of purpose and educational resilience*. Presented at Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision annual conference. Savannah, GA.

Local Presentations

- Christa, M., Griffin, D. M., & Sharma, G. (2019, April). *The transition into adulthood: Providing practical life skills for students*. Sponsored by California State University, Fresno Cesar Chavez Education Conference, Fresno, CA. [Poster Presentation]
- Sharma, G. (2019, April). *Students' purpose orientations, college access, and college persistence*. Presented at Dandoy Research Colloquium. Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G. & Perez, S.R. (2019, April). *The Relationship between High School Students' Sense of Purpose and College Outcomes*. Presented at 35th Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education. Fresno, CA.
- Lopez, A. K. S., Goff, M, Mendoza, M. B., & Sharma, G. (2018, September). *How to Get into College and Successfully Pursue the Teaching Profession*. Presented at TEACH conference, Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G. (2018, May). *College students' sense of purpose and degree commitment*. Presented at Dandoy Research Colloquium. Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G., & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A. (2017, March). *Sense of Purpose Scale: Development and Validation*. Presented at Dandoy Research Colloquium. Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G. (2017, March). *Implementing Purpose-Centered Career Counseling Interventions in High Schools to Reduce Achievement Gap*. Presented at Cesar Chavez Inequities and Social Justice in Education, Teacher Education, and Mental Health Conference. Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G. (2015, November). *Sense of purpose among first-generation female minority students*. Presented at Cesar Chavez Inequities and Social Justice in Education, Teacher Education, and Mental Health Conference. Fresno, CA.
- Sharma, G., Kang, Z. (2013, November). *Role of Sense of Purpose in Educational Persistence: Implications for Minority Female Students*. Presented at Pennsylvania Counseling Association. State College, PA.

Grant Writing

- Sharma, G. & Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A. (2020). First Year Students' Sense of Purpose, Career Development, Wellness, and Persistence. Amount: \$10,000 (Awarded)
- Sharma, G. & Becton, A. (2018). Exploring Sense of Purpose among Minority College Students. Spencer Foundation. Amount: \$39, 250.00 (Submitted)

Yukhymenko-Lescroart, M. A., & Sharma, G. (2018). Sense of Purpose among College Students. Spencer Foundation. Amount: \$49,947 (Submitted)

Sharma, G., Choi, K., & Paradise, E. (2018). Service-Learning Summer Intensive Course Seminar Redesign Grant. Amount: \$9,500 (Awarded)

Research Projects and Thesis Committees

Jennifer Enns (2020). *What Makes Us Thrive in Teaching: The Role of Purpose, Authenticity, and Identity in Teacher Retention*. Dissertation currently under review at Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fresno.

Jessie Betancourt (2019). *The role of school in helping emerging adults formulate their purpose in life*. Masters thesis completed under supervision for Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno.

Katherine Bernal (2019). *Achieving the DREAM: The School Counselor Role in Supporting Undocumented Latino/a Students*. Masters thesis completed under supervision for Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno.

See Xiong (2018). *Experiences influencing the academic success of Hmong American students in higher education*. Masters Thesis completed under supervision for Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno.

Lucely Rosas (2017). *Exploring college persistence among first generation students: Implications for student affairs and college counseling*. Masters Research Project completed under supervision for Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno.

Teaching Experience

Course(s) Developed and Revised

COUN 200, *Seminar in Counseling Techniques*. Course revised to meet CACREP accreditation requirements on strengthening students' theoretical foundation and professional identity, California State University, Fresno.

COUN 208, *Practicum in Counseling*. Course revised to incorporate technology and meet CACREP accreditation standards on supervision, California State University, Fresno

COUN 214, *Student Development Theory and Higher Education Development*. Course transformed to a "Service-Learning" designated course, California State University, Fresno.

COUN 242, *Seminar on Parent Education, Pupil Advocacy, and Consulting*. Course revised to incorporate service-learning, California State University, Fresno.

Course(s) Taught

COUN 249, *Field Practice in School Counseling*, CSU, Fresno
Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

COUN 208, *Practicum in Counseling*, CSU, Fresno
Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018.

COUN 200, *Seminar in Counseling Techniques*, CSU, Fresno
Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

COUN 202, *Seminar in Group Counseling*, CSU, Fresno
Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

CNED 507, *Multicultural Foundations of Counseling*, Pennsylvania State University
Fall 2013.

EDCP 615, *Appraisal in Counseling*, University of Maryland
Spring 2013.

EDCP 616, *Counseling Theory and Practice*, University of Maryland
Fall 2012.

Counseling and Professional Experience

Mental Health Therapist
Spirit of Woman, CA

May 2014-March 2015

Career Counselor
Penn State Career Services, PA

January 2014-May 2014

Clinical Supervisor
Masters in Counseling Practicum, PA

August 2013-December 2013

School Counselor
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, MD

January 2012-May 2012

Counseling and Personnel Services Research Fellow
University of Maryland, MD

August 2011-May 2013

School Counselor
Delhi Public International School, India

August 2009-May 2010

College Counselor Michigan State University Counseling Center, MI	January 2009-May 2009
Assistant Community Director Residence Life Department, Michigan State University, MI	August 2008-May 2009
Academic Mentor Student Athlete Support Services, Michigan State University, MI	August 2007-May 2008
Research Analyst World Bank, India	August 2006-May 2007

Service

Department-Level

School Counseling Program, Search Committee Member: Fall 2020
Student Affairs & College Counseling Program, Search Committee Member: Fall 2020
Masters in Counseling Program Review/Self-Study Chair: Fall 2018-Present
Masters in School Counseling Program Coordinator: Fall 2017-Spring 2020
Pupil Personnel Services Credential Coordinator: Fall 2017-Spring 2020
Curriculum Development Committee, Member: Fall 2016-Spring 2020
School Counseling Program, Search Committee Chair: Fall 2017-Spring 2018
Practicum in Counseling Coordinator: Fall 2017-Fall 2018
Clinical Review Committee, Member: Fall 2016-Fall 2018
Clinical Mental Health Committee, Member: Spring 2016-Fall 2018
Graduate Writing Requirement Committee, Co-Chair: Spring 2016-Fall 2017
Comprehensive Exam Oversight Committee, Member: Fall 2016- Fall 2017

School-Level

Special Education Program, Search Committee Member: Fall 2020
Kremen Community Council, Member: Fall 2020- Present
KSOEHD Research Committee, Co-Chair: Fall 2019-Fall 2020
KSOEHD Research Committee, Member: Fall 2016-Present
KSOEHD Educational Equity Committee, Member: Fall 2015-Present
KSOEHD Graduate Committee, Member: Fall 2017-Spring 2020

University-Level

Research Subcommittee, Member: Fall 2017-Present

State- and Local-level Community Service

San Joaquin Counselor Association Board Member, Advocacy and support for counselors in San Joaquin Valley, Fresno, CA: Spring 2019-Present

Community liaison and facilitator of Gandhi, King and Ikeda: A Legacy of Creating Peace Exhibition, Fresno State, CA: Spring 2019-Fall 2019

Consultant, Fresno and Clovis Unified School Counselor Liaisons and School Counseling Interns, Central Valley, CA: Fall 2018-Present

Zone Young Women Leader and Northern California Event Coordinator, SGI-USA 50,000 Lions of Justice Peace Festival, San Jose, CA: Fall 2016-Fall 2018

Scholar, Practitioner, and Community Partner with Central California Mentoring Academy Partnership, Central Valley, CA: Spring 2018-Present

Community liaison, Hosted exhibitions and seminars on peace during Community Events such as Vintage Days and Gandhi Jayanti, Fresno, CA: Spring 2016-Present

Mental Health Therapist and Professional Development Workshops Facilitator, Spirit of Woman Rehabilitation Center, Fresno, CA: Spring 2016-Spring 2018

Minority Female Students Support Group Facilitator, Student Health and Counseling Center, Fresno, CA: Summer 2016

Facilitator and Presenter on the rights of LGBTQ community in India, The First Annual Safe Zone Open Space Conference, San Francisco, CA: March 2017

Facilitator and Presenter, Cesar Chavez Inequities and Social Justice in Education, Teacher Education, and Mental Health Conference, Fresno, CA: Fall 2015-Fall 2018

Facilitator and Presenter, Raising awareness of AB540 students' challenges and support, Los Angeles, CA: February 2016

Consultant on students' wellness and success, Roosevelt High School Administration, Fresno, CA: Spring 2016

National and International Professional Service

Editorial Review Board Member, The Journal of Human Services: Training, Research, and Practice: 2015-Present

Proposal Reviewer, AERA Division E Counseling and Human Development: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020

Program Review Coordinator, Association of Humanistic Counseling: 2018-2019

Sally Casanova Scholarship Applications Reviewer: 2018-2019

Guest Editorial Consultant and Peer Reviewer, The Journal of Religions: 2019

Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society for Counselors and Professionals Co-Advisor: 2018-2019

Guest Editorial Consultant and Peer Reviewer, The Journal of Character Education: 2018

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Current Psychology: 2019

Awards and Fellowships

Graduation Initiative-2025 Award California State University, Fresno	2019-2020
Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Award California State University, Fresno	2018-2019
Outstanding Advisor Award Nominee California State University, Fresno	2018 and 2019
Provost Promising Faculty Award Nominee California State University, Fresno	2017-2018
Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Award California State University, Fresno	2017-2018
DISCOVERe Faculty Fellow Award California State University, Fresno	2017-2018
Service-Learning Seminar Grant California State University, Fresno	2016-2017
Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Award California State University, Fresno	2016-2017
Provost Research Award California State University, Fresno	2016-2017
Counseling and Personnel Services Research Fellow Award University of Maryland, College Park	2011-2013

Bharat Petroleum Cooperation Limited: Fellowship for Higher Studies Mumbai, India	2007-2009
M.A. Counseling Exceptional Practitioner Award Michigan State University, East Lansing	2008-2009
M.A. Counseling Scholastic Achievement and Educational Excellence Award Michigan State University, East Lansing	2008-2009
M.A. Counseling Community Excellence in Diversity Award Michigan State University, East Lansing	2007-2008

Professional Affiliations

American Counseling Association
 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES)
 American Educational Research Association
 American College Counseling Association
 Chi Sigma Iota
 Indian Association of Family Therapy