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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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NAME: Susan M. De Luca

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: susdelucar

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

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**EDUCATION/TRAINING**

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| INSTITUTION AND LOCATION  | DEGREE       | Completion Date<br>MM/YYYY | FIELD OF STUDY                |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kent State University, Kent, OH   | BA           | 12/1997                    | Individual and Family Studies |
| University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI   | MSW          | 04/2001                    | Social Work                   |
| Kent State University, Kent, OH   |              | 08/2003-08/2004            | Post-Masters Research         |
| Ohio State University, Columbus, OH   | PhD          | 12/2009                    | Social Work                   |
| University of Rochester Medical Center-<br>Department of Psychiatry Rochester, NY | Postdoctoral | 09/2009-08/2012            | Psychiatry                    |

**A. Personal Statement**

My research specifically addresses health disparities related to suicide prevention particularly help-seeking behaviors among underserved racial/ethnic adolescents and emerging adults. My recently funded studies include utilizing large-scale datasets including the CDC's BRFSS and Fragile Families longitudinal studies. My work centers on peer norms surrounding suicidal thoughts and behaviors, rejecting codes of silence, disclosure patterns preceding and following suicidal ideation and attempts and the availability of social coping resources, of adolescents in distress. Currently, I am the PI/Co-I on 5 funded studies (3 additional studies are under review) that include mixed-methods approaches to novel suicide interventions, longitudinal examinations of parental depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts and their effects on their child's reported levels of connectedness to trusted adults and subsequent help-seeking attitudes and behaviors. I have one NIMH resubmission (R03) under review focusing on suicide behavior trajectories from early adolescence to young adulthood. I will also submit a R21 application in 2017 resulting from a funded study (University of Texas at Austin's "Pop-up Institute"). A second R21 application is a product of my participation in the PRC's Summer Bootcamp. In addition to the Bootcamp, I am also a member of the Health Workgroup that provides peer reviews on manuscripts and also grant applications. Longer range contributions to the field include creating culturally tailored interventions for Latino adolescents as they continually report the highest rates of suicidal behaviors compared to their non-Hispanic white and Black peers in the U.S. One new area of my research includes creating a standardized screening tool for suicide. This is in direct response to NIH, HHS and SAMHSA's new priority called "Zero Suicide". The goal of the initiative is to decrease suicide deaths nationally by 10% by 2020. These federal agencies have all made a concerted effort to create screening tools for diverse populations that will be disseminated to every emergency department, primary care office and inpatient department. I am currently working with leaders in "Zero Suicide" to collect pilot data, write a R21 proposal to test the tool in selected health care facilities and then a R01 application to disseminate and test the screening instrument to a larger population. Currently, my grant for a pilot study is under review (University of Texas, Summer Research Assignment).

**B. Positions and Honors****Positions and Employment**

1998-1999 AmeriCorps\*VISTA  
1999-2001 Research Assistant and Evaluation Consultant for NIMH Center for Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health-University of Michigan, PI: Michael S. Spencer  
2001-2003 Clinical Assessment Specialist, Department of Justice Affairs, Cleveland, Ohio  
2006-2009 Policy Advisor to Governor. Strickland, Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs  
2007-2009 Project Coordinator, SAMHSA-Assertive Adolescent & Family Treatment Project, PI: Tom Gregoire  
2009-2012 NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow (T32) - Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide, University of Rochester Medical Center, PI: Yeates Conwell

2012-Present Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work  
 2012-Present Research Associate, The University of Texas at Austin, Counseling and Mental Health Center. National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education  
 2013-Present Core Faculty, The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Women's and Gender Studies  
 2015-Present Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin

**Other Experience and Professional Memberships**

2004-Present Society for Social Work Research  
 2012-2013 Board Member, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Central Texas Chapter  
 2012-2013 Affiliate, Virtual Mentoring to Enhance Diversity of the Mental Health Research Workforce (VMED), NIMH and University of Rochester Medical Center Collaborative  
 2012-2015 Consensus Panel Member of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center Emergency Department Initiative, Suicide Prevention Resource Center and SAMHSA  
 2012-Present American Association of Suicidology  
 2013-Present National Association of Social Workers  
 2014-2015 Consensus Panel Member, Centre for International Mental Health's Mental Health in Multicultural Australia (MHiMA) Consortium  
 2015-Present Grant Reviewer, SAMHSA, Garrett Lee Memorial Grants  
 2015-Present Early Career Reviewer (ECR), Center for Scientific Review (CSR), National Institutes of Health, Community Influences in Health Behavior Study Section (CIHB)  
 2016-Present Institutional Suicide Prevention Reviewer, Independent Scientific Peer Review Panel (ISPRP) for Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC).  
 2016-Present National Steering Committee Member, Suicide Prevention Resource Center

**Honors**

2015 Lora Lee Pederson Teaching Excellence Award, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work

**C. Contributions to Science**

1. Health Disparities Related to Help-seeking Attitudes and Behaviors

I have established and led productive multidisciplinary research teams in psychiatry and social work programs prioritizing the examination of help-seeking patterns with underserved populations. During my T32 training and now as an assistant professor, I have worked with colleagues to develop strategies exploring the application and processes of intentional behavior change related to adolescent mental health and suicide prevention. Our work has advanced the field by understanding barriers related to help-seeking among higher-risk groups which is essential for public health initiatives. Particularly, I have found that racial/ethnic minorities have specific cultural norms related to seeking help during times of distress. This resulted in my pilot intervention as adolescents, especially racial/ethnic minorities, are more open to seeking out informal sources of support as opposed to professional services. The pilot study will lead to a prototype of a web-based intervention created by and designed for younger adolescents in distress.

1. De Luca, S. & Wyman, P. (2012). Latino and Latina adolescent disclosure after a recent suicidal ideation. *Journal of Primary Prevention, 33*(2-3), 99-110. PMID: 22538874.
2. De Luca, S., Schmeelk-Cone, K. & Wyman, P. (2015). Latino and Latina Adolescents' Help-Seeking Behaviors and Attitudes Regarding Suicide Compared to Peers with Recent Suicidal Ideation. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior, 45*(5), 577-587. PMID: 25795534
3. De Luca, S., Yueqi, Y., Lytle, M. C. & Brownson, C. (2014). The Associations of Race/Ethnicity and Suicidal Ideation Among College Students: A Latent Class Analysis Examining Precipitating Events and Disclosure Patterns. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior, 44*(4), 444-456. PMID: 24816248
4. De Luca S., Blossnich, J.R., Hentschel, E., King, E. & Amen S. (2016). Mental Health Care Utilization: How Race, Ethnicity and Veteran Status are Associated with Seeking Help. *Community Mental Health Journal, 52*(2), 174-9. PMID: 26659853.

2. Suicide Prevention among Adolescents and Young Adults

A second contribution to science is my series of adolescent suicide prevention studies. My research has focused on health disparities related to suicidal behaviors among higher-risk teens and emerging adults. My work has advanced the field by highlighting specific mechanisms related to racial/ethnic minority students' suicidal behaviors and how specific levels of connectedness play a role in their risk. My work is quite novel as

trusted adults, including fathers and teachers, have not been systematically examined among Latina adolescents. My work has informed policy as educational attainment and retention are salient topics in higher education. And as we learn more about sexual minorities and their increasingly high risk for suicide attempts and death, my team has emphasized the intersections of particular identities including sexual orientation and religiosity. Through these advancements, we seek to extend our research in terms of empirically-informed suicide prevention efforts.

1. De Luca, S., Wyman, P.A. & Warren, K. (2012). Latina Adolescent Suicide Ideations and Attempts: Associations with connectedness to parents, peers and teachers. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, 42(6), 672-683. PMID: 23062099
2. Gulbas, L., Hausman-Stabile, C., De Luca, S., Tyler, T. & Zayas, L.H. (2015). Examining Non-Suicidal Self-Injury and Suicidal Behavior in Adolescent Latinas: An Exploratory Study. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 85(4), 302-314. PMID: 26052816
3. De Luca, S., Franklin, C., Yeuqi, Y. & Johnson, S. Brownson, C. (in press, 2016). The Relationship between Suicide Ideation, Behavioral Health, and College Academic Performance. *Community Mental Health Journal*. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 26831304
4. Lytle, M. C., De Luca, S., Blosnich, J., & Brownson, C. (2015). Associations of religious and racial/ethnic identities with suicidal ideations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning individuals. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 178, 39-45. PMID: 25795534

#### **Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/susan.deluca.2/bibliography/48064128/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>

#### **D. Research Support**

##### **Ongoing Research Support**

Research Award (S.T. Russell, PI) 2016-2017

Pop-Up Research Initiative: UT Interdisciplinary Funding Opportunity

Co-I: S. De Luca

Discrimination and Population Health Disparities

Our pop-up initiative launches an interdisciplinary network of UT and nationally and internationally-known scholars who focus on discrimination and health. The Institute will produce a research product based on in-depth preparation for a larger future initiative, collaborative work to carry out a defined investigation, or an effort to bring a single or group of partially completed projects to a successful conclusion. This Institute will bring together leading health, policy and discrimination scholars to investigate the dramatic implications of discrimination for health.

Role: Co-Investigator

Responsibilities: Collaborating with project team on grant and manuscript writing; overseeing graduate students; handling administrative responsibilities and reporting.

Research Award (S. De Luca, PI) 2015-2017

St. David's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research in Underserved Populations, The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing (CHPR)

Developing a Web-Based Intervention for Adolescents in Distress: A Mixed-Methods Study

This pilot study focuses on the development and effectiveness of a webpage for young, distressed adolescents. Surveys will assess Internet/social media knowledge/usage, help-seeking attitudes and behaviors. Focus groups will inform paper prototypes of a novel, web-based intervention.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Recruitment of sample; designing and executing survey and focus groups; collecting and analyzing survey and focus group data; negotiating with research sites; handling administrative responsibilities and reporting; paper-writing.

Research Award (S. De Luca, PI) 2013-2016

The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Women and Gender Studies

A multigenerational examination: Latina mothers' and daughters' incidence of suicidal behaviors in their adolescent years.

This novel, exploratory study will begin to unravel any generational patterns of suicidal behaviors, coping mechanisms and help-seeking behaviors between mother and daughter. By interviewing both daughter and mother, I hope to understand how suicidal behaviors, that appear to run in families, distinctively function in Latino households.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Recruitment and interviews; quantitative analyses and paper-writing.

(S. De Luca, PI)

2014-2016

National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program for Health Disparities Research  
Latina Adolescent Suicide Prevention

Two studies will seek to understand the intergenerational factors related to Latina adolescent suicidal behaviors. Both studies will examine adolescents' coping norms, their help-seeking attitudes and behaviors to ascertain any generational patterns of attempts, coping mechanisms and help-seeking.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Conducting quantitative analyses on both studies utilizing secondary data, paper-writing; handling administrative responsibilities and reporting

### **Completed Research Support**

Seed Award (S. De Luca, PI)

06/01/15-05/31/16

University of Texas at Austin, Population Research Center, Summer Proposal Boot Camp

Developing a Web-Based Intervention for Adolescents in Distress

The summer boot camp is designed to teach junior faculty the craft of grantsmanship while also socializing them with regard to the development of interdisciplinary approaches to population science. A R21 application draft was the outcome of this project.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Collaborating with colleagues on grant proposals and providing feedback.

JRG-189 (S. De Luca, PI)

06/01/13-5/01/16

The Hogg Foundation

Mental Health Research Grants for Assistant Professors in Texas

Assessing mental distress and suicide among families: A ten-year examination of parents and their children

This study examined potential associations of mental distress and suicide across multiple generations of families by utilizing the Fragile Families dataset that has followed parents and their children for nine years.

Child's self-reported levels of parental connectedness will be assessed and how this is related to the child's help seeking attitudes and behaviors.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Conducting quantitative analyses on both studies utilizing secondary data, paper-writing; handling administrative responsibilities and reporting