

**SHAMILA SIVAKUMARAN**

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[PhDStudentProfile](#)

[GoogleScholar](#)

[Facultyprofile](#)

**EDUCATION**

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<b>PhD</b>	University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work Dissertation: "Exploring the landscape of global social work education in the United States" Anticipated Defense Date	July 2026
<b>MSW</b>	University of Madras, Chennai, India (CSWE Recognized) Concentration: Community Development	July 2011
<b>BA</b>	University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka Psychology and Drama & Theatre	April 2006

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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Graduate School Dissertation Enhancement Grant	Fall 2025
Joseph, Lucille and Rebecca Hegar Endowed Scholarship Fund	Fall 2025
Graduate Dean's Research Fellowship Award	Summer 2025
Dean's Fellowship, The University of Texas at Arlington	2022-2026
SSWR Doctoral Student Travel Award	January 2025
School of Social Work Start-Up Fellowship	Fall 2022
IASSW and IFSW Travel Award	July 2018

**PUBLICATIONS**

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***Journal Articles***

- Kirsch, J., Kitchens, K, Kerr, K, & Sivakumaran, S. (2024). Group-based intervention models in treating refugee mental health in high-income countries: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380241270039>
- Jeevasuthan, S., & Sivakumaran, S. (2020). Teaching poverty in social work classroom: A Sri Lankan perspective. *Social Work & Society*, 18(2).
- Sivakumaran, S., & Subramaniam, J. (2020). Economic empowerment through self-employment initiatives: A group work experience based on a Sri Lankan village. *Groupwork*, 29(2), 94–113.  
<https://doi.org/10.1921/gpwk.v29i2.1461>

***Book Contribution***

- Sivakumaran, S., & The Research Methods Consortium. (2024). *Doctoral research methods in social work* (R. L. Mauldin, Ed.). Mavs Open Press. <https://uta.pressbooks.pub/advancedresearchmethodsinsw>

## **Book Chapters**

Jeevasuthan, S., & Sivakumaran, S. (2024). Politicized social work and value conflicts: An account of Sri Lanka's understanding. In R. Baikady, J. Przeperski, S. S. M., & M. R. Islam (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Power, Politics, and Social Work* (1st ed., pp. 169–188). Oxford University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197650899.013.52>

Sivakumaran, S., & Subramaniam, J. (2023). Shared roles and responsibilities of older adults in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. In J. Lewis & T. Heinonen (Eds.), *Social Aspects of Aging in Indigenous Communities* (pp. 433–454). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197677216.003.0020>

Sivakumaran, S., & Subramaniam, J. (2022). Field work in social work education: An account of the Sri Lankan experience. In R. Baikady, Said, V. Nadesan, & R. Islam (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Field Education in the Global South* (pp. 76–91). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003270119>

Sivakumaran, S. (2020). Impediments to professionalising social work education in Sri Lanka. In S. S.M., R. Baikady, C. Sheng-Li, & H. Sakaguchi (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Work Education* (pp. 671–688). Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-39966-5\\_42](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-39966-5_42)

Sivakumaran, S. (2018). Community theatre and community work: A Sri Lankan experience. In E. Huss & E. Bos (Eds.), *Art in Social Work Practice Theory and Practice: International Perspectives* (pp. 203–218). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315144245>

## **Book Review**

Sivakumaran, S. (2018). Book review: Social work in health: An introduction to context, theories, and skills. [Review of the book: *Social work in health: An introduction to context, theories, and skills*], by M. Petrakis. *Czech and Slovak Social Work*, 18, 2-5. [SP\\_4\\_2018.indd](#)

## **Report**

Subramaniam, J., & Sivakumaran, S. (2020). COVID-19 and social work: A collection of country reports. In L. Dominelli, T. Harrikari, J. Mooney, V. Leskošek, & E. K. Tsunoda (Eds.), *IASSW* (pp. 124–130). <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/IASSW-COVID-19-and-Social-Work-Country-Reports-Final-1.pdf>

## **Magazine Article**

Sivakumaran, S. (2017, February). Working with women heads of household in Northern region-Sri Lanka. *Social Dialog*, 16, 34–36. IASSW.

## **PUBLICATION IN PREPARATION AND REVIEW**

Sivakumaran, S., Washburn, M., LaBrenz, C., & Vazquez, C. (under review). Social work study abroad programs in the United States: A scoping review. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Sivakumaran, S., & LaBrenz, C. (Under review). Association between parental participation, adverse childhood experience, parental mental health and flourishing. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.

Washburn, M., Brown, S., Sivakumaran, S., Thomas, L., & Ziemba, P. (in preparation). A qualitative exploration experiences of using virtual reality to address substance use needs: Perspectives of providers and individuals in recovery. *Journal of Social Work Practice in Addictions*.

Washburn, M., Yu, M., Handique, S., Sivakumaran, S., Thomas, L. & Ziemba, P. (in preparation). A pilot evaluation of usability, presence and immersion in virtual environments to treat substance use disorders. *Journal of Technology in Human Services*.

Sivakumaran, S., & Bhaumik, D.S. (in preparation). Experiences of women migrating from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China: A qualitative interpretive meta synthesis.

Sivakumaran, S., Washburn, M., LaBrenz, C., Vazquez, C., & Mathbor, G. G. (in preparation). Global social work education: A content analysis of syllabi.

Sivakumaran, S., Washburn, M., LaBrenz, C., Vazquez, C., & Mathbor, G. G. (in preparation). Global social work education: A content analysis of websites.

Sivakumaran, S., Washburn, M., LaBrenz, C., Vazquez, C., & Mathbor, G. G. (in preparation). An exploration of international social work education programs and pedagogical models: A Systematic Review.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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Sivakumaran, S., Wisdom, D., & McClory, M. C. Impact of parental involvement in children's educational achievement: A systemic review. Society for Social Work and Research 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. January 14-18, 2026, Washington, DC

Sivakumaran, S., Washburn, M., LaBrenz, C., & Vazquez, C. Social work study abroad programs in the United States and Canada: A literature review. Oral presentation submitted for the 71st Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. October 23-26, 2025, Denver, CO

Sivakumaran, S., & Bhaumik, D.S. Experiences of women migrating from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China: A Qualitative Interpretive Meta Synthesis. 28<sup>th</sup> IPSA World Congress of Political Science, July 12-16, 2025, Seoul, Korea

Sivakumaran, S. Association between parental participation, adverse childhood experiences, parental mental health, and flourishing. Society for Social Work and Research 29th Annual Conference, January 15-19, 2025, Seattle, WA.

Guerrero, C., Jayasundara, S. D., Wanasinghe, M., & Sivakumaran, S. Combatting migrant labor trafficking in Sri Lanka: An intervention, protection, prevention, prosecution, and partnership model. International Consortium for Social Development 21<sup>st</sup> international biennial conference. July 16-17, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Sivakumaran, S. Enhancement of educational needs and performance: Community based sustainable social work intervention. Global Awareness Society International 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, May 23-25, Marrakech, Morocco. (Accepted for oral presentation)

Sivakumaran, S. Education as a vehicle for eliminating socioeconomic inequalities among underprivileged people in Sri Lanka. Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Development, July 4-7, 2018, Dublin, Ireland.

Sivakumaran, S. Application of Kolb's learning model for reflective teaching practice. 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium. July 2-3, 2018, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland. (Accepted for oral presentation)

Sivakumaran, S. Multifaceted challenges of women heads of families in post- conflict and development phase. International Consortium for Social Development international conference. September 29-30, 2016, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Sivakumaran, S. Impediments in professionalizing social work education in Sri Lanka. 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference, 17-18 December 2016. Sun Yat-sen University, China (Accepted for oral presentation)

Sivakumaran, S., & Solomon, D.P. Fostering social and economic initiatives that promote security and protection for women heads of households in after war development process. Joint World Conference, July 9-12, 2014, Melbourne, Australia. (Accepted for oral presentation)

Sivakumaran, S., & Solomon, D.P. Impact of globalization on women in Sri Lanka. Madras Christian College International Conference, September 29- 1 October 2014, Chennai, India.

## **GUEST LECTURES & MEDIA INTERVIEW**

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Sivakumaran, S. (2025, September 10). Diverse Population: Cultural assimilation, BSW Class. School of Social Work. University of Texas at Arlington.

Sivakumaran, S. (2025, September 4). Global health and aging: A Sri Lankan case study. [PowerPoint Slides]. School of Gerontology. University of Southern California.

Sivakumaran, S. (2023, September 25). Immigration experience and challenges, BSW Class. [PowerPoint Slides]. School of Social Work. University of Texas at Arlington.

Friends of Kalangarai. (2024, February 18). GEMS Webinar 5 with Ms. Shamila Sivakumaran. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S2YHIJ\\_pug](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S2YHIJ_pug)

Shamila Sivakumaran. (2024, May 6). *The Global Impact of Social Work. Blaze the Mic*. Podbean.com; UTA School of Social Work Podcasts. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-m5y5w-1605f5d>

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Texas at Arlington**

#### **Adjunct Instructor School of Social Work**

SOCW 3301 Theories of Human Behavior	Fall 2025
SOCW 5353 Social Policy and Mental Health	Summer 2025
SOCW 3320 U.S. Immigration Policy and the American Dream	Spring 2025
SOCW 5311 Advanced Micro Practice	Spring 2025
SOCW 3303 Social Welfare Policy and Services	Fall 2024
SOCW 2361 Introduction to Social Work	Fall 2024
SOCW 2361 Introduction to Social Work	Summer 2024
SOCW 5307 Diverse Population (sections 003 & 004)	Summer 2024
SOCW 5301 Human Behavior and Social Environment I	Fall 2023
SOCW 5307 Diverse Populations	Summer 2023
SOCW 5303 Foundations of Social Policy and Services	Summer 2023

**National Institute of Social Development: School of Social Work  
Lecturer**

**2013-2019**

DipSW/BSW 114 Introduction to psychology  
DipSW/BSW 212 Methods of Social Work: Case Work  
DipSW/BSW 213 Methods of Social Work: Group Work  
DipSW/BSW 222 Human rights, Law and social work  
BSW 313 Counseling for Social Work I  
BSW 325 Counselling for Social Work II  
DipSW/BSW 216 Volunteerism for Social Work I  
DipSW/BSW Ethics and Values of Social Work  
DipSW 112 Social Problems in Sri Lanka  
DipSW 115 Practice Lab

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**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**University of Texas at Arlington**

**Graduate Research Assistant**

A qualitative exploration on experiences of using virtual reality to address substance need: Perspectives of providers and individuals in recovery	
Conducted thematic analysis using Dedoose	Spring 2024
Participated in the interviews for Healthy Minds Health Community project evaluation	
Scoping review on interprofessional collaboration between school mental health professionals: Abstract and full text screening	Spring 2024
Scoping review on the resettlement experiences among older refugees from Burma	
Abstract and full text screening	Fall 2023
Systematic on group-based intervention models in treating refugees mental health in high-income countries: Abstract and full text screening and data extraction	

**Center for Policy Analysis, Sri Lanka**

**2011**

Assistant Field Researcher  
Data collection: field visit & interview

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Technical Consultant, Mental Health and Psychosocial training programs, MHPSS.net/Institute of Health Policy, Sri Lanka	May 2021-July 2022
Project Officer, International Organization for Migration (6months)	November 2020-April 2021
Project Coordinator-Psychosocial, ZOA International, Sri Lanka	January 2019-August 2020
Regional Psychosocial Coordinator, Regional Directorate of Health Services, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	October 2012-August 2013
Field Officer, ZOA International, Sri Lanka	August 2011-August 2012

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**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Metacognitive Feedback Loop, workshop, CIRTL Network	Fall 2025
College Teaching Certificate, CIRTL, UTA	July 2025
Khanmigo for Educators Course, Khan Academy	July 2025
A certification for completion of Teaching Institute online Johns Hopkins Teaching Institute	July 2025
The Global Standards of Social Work Education and Training International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)	May 2025
ACUE Course in Designing Learner-Centered and Equitable Course Association of College and University Educators	May 2025
First Year Faculty Teaching Academy, Center for the Integration of Research Teaching and Learning	June 2024
Mentorship and Sponsorship Workshop	October 2023
Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology, Centre for Global Leadership Development, Bangalore, India	April 2022
Making Teaching Effective, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka	2015

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of <i>Comparative Resilience Among Higher Education Students</i> research Project team, Global Awareness Society International (GASI)	September 2025
President Student for Global Change University of Texas Arlington, Arlington	August 2023-present
Treasurer Doctoral Student Association University of Texas at Arlington	June 2023- May 2025
Member International Political Science Association	2025
Member Society for Social Work and Research	2024-present
Member Society for Research in Child Development	2024-present
Member Council on Social Work Education	2023-present
Member International Association of Schools of Social Work	2013-present
Member International Consortium for Social Development	2023-present
Member Golden Key International Honor Society	2023-present
Member Social Work Innovation Network	2022-present
Member Asian & Pacific Association for Social Work Education	2018-2021
Secretary SEWA Student Organization, Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College	2010-2011

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Peer Mentor	School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington	Fall 2024-present
Convener	International Social Work Students Virtual Conference	March 2024 & 2025
Editorial Board	Discover Global Society, Springer Nature	2023-present
Reviewer	Journal of Social work Practice	2025
Reviewer	Asia Research Journal of Arts & Science	2025
Reviewer	Discover Global Society Series	2023-present
Reviewer	Society for Social Work Research Conference	2025
Reviewer	Social Work and Society	2020
Faculty Supervisor	Concurrent field work and Block Field Placement	2013-2018
Research Supervisor	Undergraduate & Graduate	2013-2018

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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Founder	Yarltharakai Self Help Group, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	2021-present
Co-founder	Uthayathaarai Self-help Group (SHG) A virtual self-help group in Sri Lanka.	2019-prsent