

Ya-Wen Melissa Liang
Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist
Tenured Associate Professor
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Sam Houston State University	2011-Aug. 8, 2015	Counselor Education (CACREP accredited, GPA 4.0)
ME.d.	University of North Texas, Denton	2007-Aug. 2010	Counseling (CACREP accredited, GPA 3.8)
B.A.	Providence University, Taiwan	1992-1995	English Literature
	ChihLee University of Technology, Taiwan	1987-1992	Business Administration
	(Graduated from 5-Year-ChihLee College)		(GPA 3.7 with 253 semester credit hours)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Texas #71927	(effective on 12/30/2020, Expiration: 09/30/2025)
Licensed Professional Counselor, Texas #71927	(effective on 09/14/2015, Expiration: 09/30/2025)
National Certified Counselor #335200	(effective on 02/10/2014, Expiration: 09/30/2029)
Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist by Humanistic Sandtray Therapy Institute	(effective on 02/18/2016)
TEA Supervisor Certificate, Certified by Education Service Center, Region 20	(effective on 08/17/2017)
Distance Education Certificate – Recertification by TAMUK	(effective on 12/14/2023)
Distance Education Certificate, by TAMUK	(effective on 11/29/2016)
New Faculty Investment Program Completion Certificate by CTE, TAMUK	(effective on 4/06/2018)
Counseling Certificate, by Methodist Graduate School of Theology Wesley Center	(effective on 06/12/ 2006)
Volunteer Hotline Counselor Certificate by Christian Cosmic Light Holistic Care	(effective on 05/24/2006)
Christian Counseling Certificate, by Wesley Counseling Center, Taipei	(effective on 12/16/2002)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

ACADEMIA

Sep. 2021-Present	Associate Professor Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX
2024-Present	Sandtray Therapy Transcribed Certification Program Coordinator Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX
Jun. 2023-Jan. 2025	Program Coordinator, Clinical Mental Health Counseling (EDCM) Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX
Jul. 2021-Jun. 2023	CACREP Liaison, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX
Jun. 2020-Jun. 2021 2016-2018	CACREP Coordinator, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX
2018-2019	Program Coordinator, Adult Education Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, TAMUK, TX

2016-Aug. 2021	Assistant Professor Department of Educational Leadership & Counseling, TAMUK, TX
2014-2016	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Counselor Education Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2011-2015	Doctoral Research Assistant, Department of Counselor Education Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
2008-2009	Graduate Research Assistant, Teach North Texas Program University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2007	Executive Secretary to President Taiwan Rhema Pastoral Psychology Graduate School, Taipei, Taiwan

COUNSELING

2014-2016	Caseworker, Department of Social Services at Raven School (Gulf Coast Trades Center), TX
2011-2014	Clinician, Department of Social Services at Gulf Coast Trades Center, New Waverley, TX
2011-2016	Clinician, Dr. Jack Staggs Counseling Clinic, SHSU, Huntsville, TX
2010-2011	Clinician, Steve Barns & Associates Counseling, Denton Bible Church, Denton, TX
2010	Clinician, Good Samaritan Society, Denton Village, TX
2009-2010	Clinician, Denton County Adult Detention Center, TX

NON-ACADEMIA (SELECTED FULL-TIME OCCUPATIONS)

2005-2006	Secretary to Vice President of HR Division, New Century Tech., Taipei, website
2004-2005	Secretary to President, Interserv Inc., Taipei, website of Interserv
1999-2004	Secretary, Jones Day Law firm - Taipei office website of JonesDay
1998-1999	Overseas Medical Emergency Coordinator, GESA, Taipei office website of AXA Group
1995-1996	Staff, Taipei office, TransAsia Airway website of TransAsia Airway

TEACHING

LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

Texas A&M University-Kingsville (Graduate Level) (2016-present)

EDCG 5310	Professional Orientation & Ethical Practice	Online
EDCG 5311	Theories of Counseling	Online
EDCG 5312	Counseling Techniques	Online
EDCG 5315	Legal Issues in Counseling	Online
EDCG 5323	Group Counseling	Online
EDCG 5324	Assessment	Online
EDCG 5329	Educational Research	Online
EDCG 5343	Basic Sandtray Therapy	Virtual
EDCG 5344	Advanced Sandtray Therapy	Virtual
EDCG 5345	Diagnosis & Psychopharmacology	Online
EDCG 5347	Counseling Culturally Differences	Hybrid
EDCG 5350	Marriage & Family Counseling	Online
EDCG 5355	Mats and Tech for Career Education	Hybrid

EDCG 5357	Field Practicum for Counselors – Sandtray Therapy	Virtual
EDCG 5357	Field Practicum for Counselors	Hybrid
EDCG 5362	Rural Leadership & Advocacy	Online

Sam Houston State University (Graduate Level) (2011-2014)

COUN 5393	Community Counseling (Co-instructor)	Face-to-face
COUN 6386	Supervision to Field Practicum Students	Triadic and Class Supervision (2012-2015)

Sam Houston State University (Undergraduate Level) (2014-2016)

COUN 4088	Abnormal Behavior (Adjunct)	Online
COUN 3321	Introduction to Helping Relationship (Adjunct)	Face-to-face

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Books, Chapters

Ikonomopoulos, J., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Furgerson, K., & Garza, K. (2020). Delivering effective treatment in rural regions. In S. A. Munoz & S. Bain (Eds.), *Mental Health and Wellbeing in Rural Regions*, pp. 94-115. Routledge.

Refereed International Journal Articles

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Kown, S. (2022). Navigating COVID-19 impacts on Southeast Asian immigrants: Chinese Texans' perspectives, *Journal of Asia Pacific Counseling*, 12(2), 51-68. <https://doi.org/10.18401/2022.12.2.4>

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Hall, K., Fedynich, L., & Gonzalez, M. (2021). Sandtray therapy for cancer patients, survivors, and family members, *Journal of Asia Pacific Counseling*, 11(1), 15-34. <https://doi.org/10.18401/2021.11.1.2>

Refereed Journal Articles

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Lopez, R. N., & Mata, J. I. (2024). Through the sand: Counselors-in-training's path of growth, *National FORUM Journal of Counseling and Addiction*, 13(1), 1-7.

Varela, D., Hall, K., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Cerda, A., & Rodriguez, L. (2024). The compulsory online experience: Understanding EdD students' perspectives of program transition during COVID-19, *Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education*, 16(5), 2062-2074. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JARHE-01-2023-0032>

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Kown, S., Bain, S., Guerra, C. M. (2023). The dilemma of mask-wearing: Association between mask-wearing adherence, discrimination, and anxiety in Asian Americans during the early stages of COVID-19, *National FORUM of Multicultural Issues Journal*, 20(1), 1-15.

Perez, A., Varela, D. G., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & Don Jones, D. (2023). Secondary educators' perceptions of emotional intelligence proficiency after COVID-19, *National FORUM of Applied Educational Research Journal*, 36(3), 1-15.

Hall, K., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & Libby, J. R. (2021). Best practices of principals to increase attendance in low-socioeconomic status rural high schools, *NASSP Bulletin: SAGE Journals*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01926365211012453>

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Hall, K., Fedynich, L., Gonzalez, M., Barrington, R., & Johnson, C. (2019). Holistic cancer support program in rural area, *Journal of Education and Social Development*, 3(2), 14-21. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3371708>
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Fedynich, L., & Henriksen R. C. (2019). Rural mental health: Correctional suicide prevention, *American Journal of Advanced Research*, 3(1), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3264020>
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Hall, K., Fedynich, L., Barrington, R., Gonzalez, M., & Tu, M. (2019). Rural health: A longitudinal study of anxiety and cancer support, *National FORUM Journal of Counseling and Addiction*, 8(1), 1-8.
- Henriksen, R. C., Jr., Henderson, S. E., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Watts, R. E., & Marks, D. F. (2019). Counselor supervision: A comparison across states and jurisdictions. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 97(2), 160–170. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcad.12247>
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Jones, D., & Robles-Pina, R. (2018). College students' GPA: Using a large dataset, *Journal of Education and Social Development*, 2(2), 77-81. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2526429>
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, (2018). Rural mental health: Marginalization of Chinese immigrant wives in the United States. *National FORUM of Multicultural Issues Journal*, 15(1), 1-8.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Jones, D., & Robles-Pina, R. (2018). Ethnic and gender stereotypes on college students' academic performance, *Research in Higher Education Journal*, 35, 1-12.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & Jones, D., (2018). Chinese and Taiwanese immigrant wives' assimilation in the United States, *Journal of International Business and Cultural Studies*, 11, 1-8.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & Bain, S. (2017). Exploring Chinese and Taiwanese wives' acculturation process in the United States. *National FORUM of Multicultural Issues Journal*, 14(1), 1-10.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, La Guardia, A., Furgerson, K., & Boswell J. (2017). Wellness of immigrant Chinese and Taiwanese wives in the United States. *Counseling & Wellness Journal*, 6, 1-35.
- Deng, F., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, La Guardia, A., & Sun, H. (2016). Cancer support program for Chinese immigrant breast cancer survivors. *Professional Issues in Counseling, Winter Issues*, 15(1), 1-19.
- Henderson, S. E., Henriksen, R. C., Jr., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & Marks, D. F. (2016). Counselor licensure supervision across the United States: A comparative look. *VISTAS Online (Sponsored by the American Counseling Association)*, 9, 1-10.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Butler, Y. J., & Nichter, M. (2015). Counseling Latino Christians in Costa Rica and the United States. *Professional Issues in Counseling*, 14(1), 1-13.

Refereed Regional Newsletters

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Fedynich, L., Gonzalez, M., & Barrington, M. (2018). Rural mental health: Connect professionals in facilitating community cancer support group. *Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Newsletter (Summer Issue)*, 21-22.
- Garza, K., Furgerson, K., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2018). Advocacy for school safety and mental health intervention. *Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Newsletter (Spring Issue)*, 14-15.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Furgerson, K., & Garza, K. (2017). Equip counseling students' competence through the ACA Code of Ethics. *Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Newsletter (Spring Issue)*, 7-8.

PRESENTATIONS**Refereed International Conferences (*) Denotes Collaboration with Graduate Students**

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2025, March 20-21). *Sandtray therapy: Fostering growth in counseling trainees* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development (ICESD"25), Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2025, March 20-21). *Fostering safe spaces: Practices in bullying prevention* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development (ICESD"25), Houston, TX.
- * **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Claudia, S., & Silvas, S.** (2024, March 28-29). *Exploring basics of sandtray therapy: Unleashing students' challenges and well-being* [Virtual presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development (ICESD"24), Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Kown, S.** (2023, October 6). *When Asian Americans face mask-wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Poster presentation]. Global Collaboration for Rural Mental Health Conference, Kingsville, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2023, March 31). *Double threats of COVID-19 exposure: Anxiety among Asian Americans during the COVID-19* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Social Science, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2022, April 1). *Navigating COVID-19 xenophobia and Asian Americans' wellbeing: Chinese Texans' perspectives* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Social Science, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, Houston, TX.
- * **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Kown, S., Hsu, S. C. (Candace), Garcia, C., Fedynich, L.** (2021, April 2). *Chinese Americans' lived experience during the COVID pandemic: The voice from South Texas* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development, Houston, TX.
- Kown, S., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2021, April 2). *Perceived discrimination and mental health in Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic: Does mask-wearing matter?* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development, Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Fedynich, L.** (2020, March 30-31). *Sandtray therapy for holistic cancer care* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development, Houston, TX. (accepted by ICESD, not presented due to COVID)
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Fedynich, L.** (2019, March 1). *Rural mental health: Cancer support program* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development, Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2019, March 1). *Rural mental health: Correctional suicide prevention in Taiwan* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Social Science, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Jones, D., & Robles-Piña, R.** (2018, April 7). *College students' GPA: Using a large dataset* [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Education and Social Development, Houston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Jones, D.** (2018, March 23). *Ethnic and gender stereotypes on college students' academic performance* [Paper presentation]. Academic and Business Research Institute International Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Jones, D.** (2018, March 23). *Chinese and Taiwanese immigrant wives' assimilation in the United States* [Paper presentation]. Academic and Business Research Institute International Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2017, January 5). *Year 106 professional training and practice for care facilities: Golden 72 hours for children and youth replacement in Texas* [Keynote speaker]. Division of Welfare Services for Children and Youth, Taipei City Government, Taipei.

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2017, January 6). *Year 106 professional training and practice for care facilities: Golden 72 hours for children and youth replacement in Texas* [Keynote speaker]. Division of Welfare Services for Children and Youth, Taipei City Government, Taipei.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2016, December 27). *Individualized teaching and coaching strategies: From a holiness perspective of Gestalt therapy* [Keynote speaker]. Holy Word Children's Home, Taipei.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2014, May). *Alternative school: Help youth out of trouble* [Keynote speaker]. Taipei City Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Taipei.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2014, May). *Counselor's perspectives serving in correctional facilities* [Keynote speaker]. Graduate School of Psychology and Counseling, University of Taipei, Taipei.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2014, May). *Correctional officers' stress adjustment towards inmates' stressors: Correctional counseling experiences in Texas* [Keynote speaker]. Doctoral Class at Department of Crime Prevention and Corrections, Central Police University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2014, May). *Clinical and correctional counseling to incarcerated people* [Keynote speaker]. Law School, National Taipei University, New Taipei City, Taiwan.

Refereed National Conferences (*) Denotes Collaboration with Graduate Students

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Kown, S.** (2023, April 7-8). *Face mask wearing perpetuates: Anxiety among Asian Americans during the COVID-19* [Lightning round presentation]. Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Places and Spaces for Peace, Virtual Conference.
- Kown, S., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, (2021, April 16). *Safe but anxious: Adherence to mask-wearing, perceived discrimination, and mental distress amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Asian/Asian Americans in the U.S.* [Paper presentation]. Southwestern Social Science Association 100th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- * **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Kown, S., Hsu, S. C. (Candace), Fedynich, L., & **Garcia, C.**, (2021, April 8). *Holistic wellness during the COVID-19 pandemic: A voice from Asian Americans with Chinese Ethnicity* [Conference session]. 4th Annual Virtual Conference Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Beyond, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago, IL.
- * **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Green, M., & **Castellanos, R.** (2021, February 19). *Advocate for equality through online counselor education during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Conference session]. Counselor Education Distance Learning Conference, Palo Alto, CA.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2019, September 12-14). *Professional networking: Cancer support services and research for survivors and families in a rural community* [Poster session]. Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- * **Ruiz, G., Rincon, M., & Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2019, March 28-31). *Rural mental health: Facilitating mental wellness and raising awareness for veterans battling PTSD* [Poster session]. American Counseling Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. (accepted by ACA, not presented due to a lack of travel budget with students)
- Henriksen, R., Henderson, S., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2018, January 11). *Counselor supervision: A comparison across states and jurisdictions* [Conference session]. American Association of State Counseling Boards, San Antonio, TX.
- Bain, S., Furgerson, K., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2017, February 16). *Ethical challenges for LPCs working in public school settings* [Roundtable session]. National Board for Certified Counselors Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Henriksen, R., Henderson, S., & **Liang Y. W. (Melissa)** (2015, March 12-15). *Counselor licensure supervision across the U.S.: A comparative look* [Conference session]. American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) & LaGuradia, A. (2013, September 6-7). *Exploring Chinese international wives' lived experiences and voicelessness in the U.S.* [Paper presentation]. National Assessment and Research Conference, Houston, TX.

Refereed State Conferences (*) Denotes Collaboration with Graduate Students

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Hart, L. (Feb. 2-4, 2025). Basic Sandtray Therapy, The 20th Annual Professional School Counselor Conference, Galveston, TX.

* **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Hart, L., & **Claudia S.** (Feb, 2024). Sandtray therapy for promoting students' awareness and confronting barriers, The 19th Annual Professional School Counselor Conference, San Antonio, TX.

* **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, & **Claudia S.** (Feb, 2024). Bullying prevention, The 19th Annual Professional School Counselor Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Henderson, S., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**. (Feb, 2024). Teaching affective empathy to counselors-in-training through experiential activities, 2024 Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (TACES) Mid-Winter Conference, Austin, TX.

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2022, November 10). Secrets for Successful Online Counselor Education [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Dallas, TX.

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2022, February 24). *Support Asian American clients overcoming COVID-19 xenophobia* [Conference session]. Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision 2022 Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, TX. (Accepted by TACES, not presented due to COVID)

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2022, February 25). *Ease students' anxiety in online counselor education* [Conference session]. Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision 2022 Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, TX. (Accepted by TACES, not presented due to COVID)

* **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Kown, S., & Hsu, S. C. (Candace), **Garcia, C., Castellanos, R.** (2021, November 4). *Let's hear it: Chinese Americans' avoidance and dilemmas during the COVID pandemic* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.

* **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)**, Green, M., & **Castellanos, R.** (2021, February 25). *Tips for innovative online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Conference session]. Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision 2021 Mid-Winter Virtual Conference, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) & Rosenbaum, L. (2020, July 18). *Using sandtray supervision to support courageous counseling students and supervisees* [Conference session]. Gulf Coast Counseling Association, 2020 Summer Virtual Conference, TX.

* **Liang Y. W. (Melissa)** & **Castellanos, R.** (2020, July 18). *Building courageous Hispanic first-generation graduate students* [Conference session]. Gulf Coast Counseling Association, 2020 Summer Virtual Conference, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) & Fedynich, L. (2020, July 19). *Connecting courageous counselors with passionate educators and licensed professionals for holistic cancer support* [Conference session]. Gulf Coast Counseling Association, 2020 Summer Conference, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) (2019, November 15). *Using sandtray to promote practicum students' awareness and confront barriers* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) (2019, November 14). *Creative counselor education* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) (2018, November 16). *Bullying prevention in rural schools* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Dallas, TX.

- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2018, March 1-2). *Using creative video clips, cartoons, pictures, and online assessments in Counselor Education* [Roundtable session]. Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision 2018 Midwinter conference, Austin, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Garza, K., & Bain, S.** (2017, November 17). *Promote diverse college students' academic success and learning strategies* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Green, M., & Furgerson, K.** (2017, November 17). *Cyberbullying prevention: Syllabus design and awareness promotion* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Garza, K. & Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2017, November 17). *Utilizing dialectical behavior therapy in supervision* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2017, February 12). *Promote diverse ethnic students' academic performance and learning strategies, 2017 Professional School Counselor Conference* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association, Arlington, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) & Nichter, M.** (2016, February). *Adolescent school bullying: Let's prevent bullying on campus* [Conference session]. 2016 Professional School Counselor Conference, Texas Counseling Association, Dallas, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Deng, F. J.** (2014, February). *Cancer support program for Chinese immigrant breast cancer survivors* [Poster session]. 6th annual Medicine and Humanities and Social Sciences Conference, Huntsville, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2014, February). *Counseling Christians in Costa Rica and the United States, poster session* [Conference session]. Christian Counselors of Texas, 32nd Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Nichter, M.** (2013, November). *Will they like me? Addressing ethnic stereotype anxiety on college student's academic performance* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Henry, W.** (2013, November). *Acting out: Helping incarcerated adolescents out of troubles* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Robles-Pina, R.** (2013, February). *Ethnicity, gender, and college student's academic performance: Using a large university dataset* [Conference session]. Southwest Educational Research Association Conference, San Antonio, TX. (Accepted by SERAC, not presented due to illness).
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Nelson, J., Li, C.S., & Lin, Y. F.** (2012, November). *Chopsticks or forks? The Chinese population's acculturation stress in the United States* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), La Guardia, A., & Serres, S.** (2012, November). *Speechless parrots: Exploring voicelessness of Chinese international wives in the United States* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Li, C. S., Lin, Y. F., Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Dowda, R.** (2012, November). *Asian Americans: Is it really a success story?!* [Conference session]. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Galveston, TX.

Refereed Local Conferences (*) Denotes Collaboration with Graduate Students

- * **Alaniz, K., & Liang, Y. W. (Melissa).** (2019, May 6). *Explore grieving through Sandtray Therapy* [Poster session]. 13th Javelina Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX.

* **Martinez, K., & Liang, Y. W. (Melissa).** (2018, September 26). *Advocacy of self-care in professional counselor identity* [Poster session]. 12th Javelina Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX.

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2013, June). *Speechless parrots: Voicelessness of Chinese women married to U.S. citizens in the U.S.* [Poster session]. Association of Chinese American Professionals Science, Engineering & Technology Seminars, Houston, TX.

Invited Presentation

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) (2021, September 23). *Mental health awareness & social justice during the pandemic* [Invited presentation]. Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX.

Liang Y. W. (Melissa) (2019, May 3). *Sandtray therapy* [Invited presentation]. Student Health & Wellness Counseling Services, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX.

Liang, Y. W. (2014, February). *Exploration of respect and competence based on the ACA Code of Ethics (2005), NASW Code of Ethics, and Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors rules-regulations* [Invited presentation]. Montgomery County Youth Services' CEU Workshop, The Woodlands, TX.

Nichter, M., & **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa)** (2012, October). *Cognitive complexity: Helping supervisees think outside the box* [Invited presentation]. Supervision CEU Workshop, SHSU, The Woodlands, TX.

FUNDED GRANTS

Total Grant Funding from 2018 to 2021: \$50,546

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Hsu, S. C. (Candace), Kwon, S., Fedynich, L. (6/02/2020-3/01/2021) *COVID-19 Xenophobia on East Asians*. CEHP Research Award, \$15,000

PI: Ya-Wen (Melissa) Liang, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist

Ikonomopoulos, J., **Liang, Y. W. (Melissa),** Villa, R., & Bain. S. (2019). *Amistad: A collaborative approach to wellbeing*. Hidalgo County Sheriff's office \$24,893.40

Co-PI: Ya-Wen (Melissa) Liang, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), Tu, M., & Fedynich, L. (6/018/2018-5/31/2019) *Cancer support group*. TAMUK University Research Awards Grant, \$10,653

PI: Ya-Wen (Melissa) Liang, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Humanistic Sandtray Therapist
Co-Facilitators: Ming Tu, Ph.D., La Vonne Fedynich, Ed.D., Rebecca Barrington, MD. FACP., Mary Gonzalez, BSN, RN, Carol Johnson, Licensed Lymphedema and Physical Therapist

GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED, NOT FUNDED

Liang, Y. W. Melissa (Co-PI). The Texas A&M system represents 11 campuses. (2024). Mandarin Language Program Proposal Ministry of Education of Taiwan. (Dr. Liang's portion: \$16,200).

Hall, K, & **Liang, Y. W. Melissa.** (2023). Distance/Online Education Funding Grant: Counseling, amount requested, \$23,275-

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2019). CDCRFADP191906 *Multiple Approaches to Support Young Breast Cancer Survivors and Metastatic Breast Cancer* (LOI submitted)

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa), & Furgerson, K. (2017). *Curricular Service Learning to Women's Shelter of South Texas Kingsville*. Student Engagement through Service Learning Grant, amount requested \$7,000-

Liang, Y. W. (Melissa) (2017). *Curricular Service Learning to Kleberg County*. Student Engagement through Service Learning Grant, amount requested \$7,500-

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

National Associations and Memberships (present)

Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic Professional Honor Society #18038154 2008-present

State Associations and Memberships (present)

Texas Counseling Association (TCA) #79048	2011-present
Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (TACES)	2012-present
Texas Association for Adult Development and Aging	2023-present
Texas Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (TAARC)	2021-present
Texas Hill Country Counselors Association (THCCA)	2017-present

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP ROLES IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter Faculty Advisor (CFA) of Tau Alpha Kappa Chapter, Chi Sigma Iota	2018-present
Scholarship Committee	Beta Kappa Tau, Chi Sigma Iota 2013
Membership Coordinator	SHSU Chapter, AACC 2013-2015
President	SHSU Chapter, AACC 2012-2013
Treasurer	SHSU Taiwanese Student Organization 2011-2012
Mentor	UNT Learning Center 2008-2010
President	UNT Christian Graduate Students 2008-2009
Mentor	UNT Multicultural Center 2008-2009

Texas Counseling Association (TCA)

Co-Chair, Award Committee	TCA (Approved by TCA Governing Board and Senate)	2023-2024
Awards Committee	Texas Counseling Association (TCA)	2022-2023
Editorial Reviewer Board	Journal of Professional Counseling	2020-2026
Program Reviewer	TCA Professional Growth Conference	2017-present

AD HOC REVIEWER

Ad hoc reviewer	Journal of Asia Pacific Counseling	2019-present
Ad hoc reviewer	Journal of Counselor Leadership & Advocacy	2017-present
Ad hoc reviewer	TCA PGC & PSCC Proposals	2017-present
Ad hoc reviewer	Professional Issues in Counseling	2018-2020
Ad hoc reviewer	Journal of Education & Social Development	2018-2019
Review Committee	TCA Division & Chapter Continuing Education Program	2017-2019
Ad hoc reviewer	SAGE Journals	2013
Ad hoc reviewer	Southwest Educational Research Association	2012
Editorial Assistant	Professional Issues in Counseling	2011-2015
Ad Hoc Reviewer	The Family Journal	2011-2015
Program Reviewer	TACES Midwinter Conference	2019

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Year 2024 (A total of 15.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board from 2 Conferences/Workshops)

- 5 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 10.5 CEUs at the Texas Counseling Association 2024 School Counselor Conference
- Ten (10) TrainTraq Courses
- TAMUK Search Committee Training
- TAMUK Virtual Grant Forward Training

- TAMUK Blackboard Ultra Training
- TAMUK Applied Artificial Intelligence to Enable Biological Discoveries
- CSI Chapter Leaders Training

Year 2023 (A total of 13.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board from 2 Conferences/Workshops)

- 12 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 1.5 CEUs Texas Human Trafficking Resources Center HEART Training
- Professional Counselors Jurisprudence Exam
- Texas Counseling Association Committee Chair Training
- HR Hiring training 6/13/2023
- CTE workshops
- Five (5) TrainTraq Courses

Year 2022 (A total of 36.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board from 2 Conferences/Workshops)

- 34.5 CEUs at the 2022 Annual TCA Professional Growth Conference
- 2 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- TAMUK Search Committee Training
- TAMUK Maestro Research Portal Training
- Nine (9) TrainTraq Courses

Year 2021 (A total of 75.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board from 5 Conferences/Workshops)

- 31.5 CEUs at the 2021 Annual TCA Professional Growth Conference
- 16 CEUs at the 4th Virtual Annual Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Beyond Conference
- 12 CEUs at the Virtual 2021 Annual TACES Mid-Winter Conference
- 13 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 3 CEUs at the GCCA Virtual Workshops
- CITI Program for IRB members: a refresher
- Five (5) TrainTraq Courses

Year 2020 (A total of 25.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board)

- 12.5 CEUs at the Telehealth for Mental Health Professionals: 2-Day Distance Therapy Training
- 8.5 CEUs at the GCCA 2020 Virtual Conference
- 1.5 CEUs at the Professional Advocacy: Training Students/Supervisees to Advocate for Our Profession
- 3 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- Twelve (12) TrainTraq Courses

Year 2019 (A total of 62.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board)

- 40 CEUs of LPC Supervisor Training
- 10.5 CEUs at the TCA 2019 Professional Growth Conference
- 4 CEUs at the AARC National Assessment and Research Conference
- 3 CEUs at the THCCA Workshop
- 4 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 1 CEU at the SACES Webinar
- Three (3) TrainTraq Courses
- Twelve (12) Disaster Training Courses at the American Red Cross
- CITI Program: Social & Behavioral Researchers
- Faculty Search Committee Training
- CTE Wednesday Seminar: How Do I Promote Civil and Thoughtful Engagement in the Classroom
- Research Social Event

Year 2018 (A total of 31 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board)

- 6 CEUs at the 2018 American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASB) Conference

- 3 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 1.5 CEUs of Strategies to Integrate Trauma Theory and Practice
- 6 CEUs at the 2018 TCA Professional Growth Conference
- 14.5 CEUs at the TACES Mid-Winter Conference
- Seven (7) TrainTraq Courses
- International Conference on Education and Social Development
- CSI Business Meetings
- Chapter Faculty Advisor (CFA) Training
- Program Coordinator Training
- CITI Program: IRB Member Training
- Faculty lecture: Dr. Steve Bain
- High-Impact Practices in Higher Education Conferences
- CTE Wednesday Noon Seminar
- Two Years New Faculty Investment Program Completion

Year 2017 (A total of 44.5 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board)

- 33 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- 7.5 CEUs at the TCA 2017 Professional Growth Conference
- 3 CEUs at the TCA 2017 School Counselor Conference
- 1 CEU at the GCCA Workshop
- Three (3) TrainTraq Courses
- 5th High-Impact Practices in Higher Education Conference
- NFIP Training
- Grant Search Workshop
- CTE Wednesday Noon Seminar

Year 2016 (A total of 2 CEUs Accredited by the LPC Board)

- 2 CEUs at the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International Webinars
- Thirteen (13) TrainTraq Courses
- NFIP Weekly Meetings
- NFIP Budget Training
- Five (5) CTE Wednesday Noon Seminars

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

College Senator At-Large, Faculty Senate	2024-2026
Faculty Evaluation Committee, Faculty Senate	2024-2025
Academic Misconduct Committee	2024-2025
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Review Committee	2019-2024
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Review Committee Alternate	2018-2019
Faculty Development Leave Committee	2018-2021
Faculty Senate Committee	2019-Spring 2021
Faculty Overload Pay Committee	2019-2020

COLLEGE COMMITTEES

Graduate Curriculum Committee	CEHP	2023-2025
CEHP Review Committee	Outstanding Faculty & Staff Awards	2020-2022
Dissertation Committee	Victor Villegas (Bilingual Department)	2021-2021
Graduate Council Representative	Juan Lopez (Bilingual Department)	2018-2021
Search Committee	Director of Educator Preparation Program	2019

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

Chair of Graduate Curriculum Committee	EDLC	2024-2025
Annual Evaluation Criteria Committee	EDLC	2024-2025
Tenure & Promotion Committee	EDLC	2022-present
Chair of Search Committee	Clinical Assistant Professor, EDLC	Spring 2024
Chair of Search Committee	Open Rank Professor, EDLC	Spring 2024
Search Committee	School Program Coordinator	2024
Search Committee	Rural Mental Health Faculty	2024
Dissertation Committee – Steven Deanda	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2023-2024
Chair of Continuation and Tenure Committee	EDLC	Spring 2023
Curriculum Department Committee	EDLC	Fall 2023
Search Committee	EDLC Chair	Fall 2022-Summer 2023
Search Committee	Administrative Associate IV, EDLC	2023
Dissertation Committee - Amanda M. Garcia	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2023
Dissertation Committee - Francisco Ramirez	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2019-present
Dissertation Committee - Apolonia Renteria	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2019
Dissertation Committee - Gaynell Juarez	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2019
Dissertation Committee - Marcia Braswell	Educational Leadership & Counseling	2019
Search Committee	Educational Administration Lecturer	2019
Assistant Chair of Search Committee	Counselor Educator, EDLC	2017-2018

DEPARTMENT SERVICES***Sandtray Therapy Transcribed Coordinator (Fall 2024-Present)***

- Graduate Curriculum Development - Sandtray Therapy (Initiated Fall 2024, Effective Fall 2025)
 - Developed a 12-credit graduate transcript certificate program to expand specialized training.
- Sandtray Therapy Emphasis (Initiated Fall 2024, Effective Fall 2025)
 - Designed a specialization track to address the growing need for advanced Sandtray Therapy training.

EDCM Program Coordinator (June 2023 – January 2025)

- Led significant program changes, overseeing key developments before graduation.
- Enrollment Growth (June 2023-January 2025)
 - Spring 2025: 159.7% increase, reaching 200 students (compared to Spring 2024)
 - Fall 2024: 293.3% increase, reaching 183 students (compared to Fall 2023)
 - Summer 2024: 306.7% increase (compared to Summer 2023)
 - Spring 2024: 406.7% increase, reaching 77 students (compared to Spring 2023)
 - Fall 2023: 300% increase (compared to Fall 2022)
- Program Enhancements:
 - Website Updates: Improved accessibility and program transparency (June 2023-January 2025)
 - Course Scheduling: Schedule 35 courses per semester and arrange instructors (June 2023-January 2025)
 - Institutional Research Report: Collaborate with faculty to submit the EDCM and EDCG reports (2024)
 - Program Student Learning Outcomes Report: Collaborate with faculty to submit the EDCM and EDCG SLOs (2023-Present)
 - Faculty Hiring Proposal Composition: Led the proposal process for three full-time faculty (2023-2024)

Program & Curriculum Alignment

- TEA Syllabi Alignment: Updated courses (EDCG 5310, 5311, 5324, and 5329) to meet TEA audit requirements (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)
- EDCM Program Student Handbook (2016 – Present):
 - Authored the initial handbook in 2016.
 - Revised in Fall 2024 to reflect updated academic policies and student guidelines.

Academic Advising & Student Support

- Academic Advisor: Conducts interviews, provides advisement, reviews degree plans, and focuses on student retention (2016 – Present):
 - Spring 2025-Present: (M-R)
 - Fall 2024: 64 students (M-S)
 - December 2024: 49 students (M-R)
 - Spring–Summer 2024: 43 students (J–R)
- Recruitment: Designs recruitment materials and supports program outreach (2017 – Present)
- New Student Orientation Facilitator (2020 – Present)
- Chapter Faculty Advisor, Tau Alpha Kappa (CSI International Honor Society): Provides mentorship and organizational leadership (2018 – Present)
- Administrator:
 - Founder and administrator of TAMUK Counseling Community (Facebook, 2017 – Present).
 - Administrator of Tau Alpha Kappa CSI Community (Facebook, 2018 – Present).

Accreditation & Program Assessment

- Analyze Vital Statistics (2018-Present)
- CACREP Liaison: Collaborated with counseling faculty to submit CACREP reports (Jun. 2021 – Jun. 2023)
- CACREP Coordinator (2016 – 2018) & (May 2020-Jun. 2021)
 - Led program efforts to secure the first full 8-year CACREP accreditation.
 - Aligned course syllabi and developed matrices to meet CACREP standards (Fall 2016 – Present).
 - Managed accreditation preparation (2016 – 2018).
 - Revised Self-Study reports (2017 – 2021).
 - Initiated and authored a 133-page CACREP Self-Study report (Fall 2016).

Additional Departmental Roles

- EDLC Library Liaison (2019 – 2021)
- Program Coordinator – Adult Education, EDLC (2018 – 2019)
 - Advised all ADED students and reviewed degree plans
 - Led recruitment and designed promotional materials.
- Speaker, Nodes of Excellence Event (2019) – CMHC Program
- Mentor, EDLC Dissertation Intensive Workshop (2019)
- Interviewer, EDLC Ed.D. Admissions Interviews (2018)

UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS

TAMUK Dealing with Conflict & Confrontation Workshop	2022
TAMUK Communication for Leaders with Julie Burch Leadership Series	2022
Attend General Faculty Meetings, College Meetings, and Department Meetings	2016-present
Attend Meetings with Provost and 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting	2019-2020
Attend Provost Candidate Presentations and CEHP Dean Search Presentations	2020
Attend Organization Advisor Risk Management Training	2020
Campus Security Authority (Student Organization Advisor)	2018-present
Phi Kappa Phi Spring Book Drive	2019
Spirit Window Contest Judge	2018
Wednesday Noon Seminar Facilitator	October 24, 2018
First to Go Panel Discussion	2017
Humanities Advisory Board of South Texas Heritage Preservation Project	2017

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Session Chair	International Conference on Education and Social Development	2024-2025
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Session Chair	International Conference on Social Science, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies	2022-2023
Hair Donation	Children with Hair Loss	2023
Chi Sigma Iota	Attend Delegate Business Meeting & Awards Ceremony	2022
Session Chair	International Conference on Education and Social Development	2019
Group Counseling Facilitator,	Peterson Regional Medical Center	2018-2019

HONORS AND AWARDS

University Faculty Service Award Nomination	TAMUK	Spring 2025
CEHP G.E.M. Service Award	TAMUK	Fall 2024
CTE Graduate Teaching Award Nomination	TAMUK	Spring 2024
University Faculty Service Award Nomination	TAMUK	Spring 2024
University Team Accomplishments Staff Award Nomination	TAMUK	2024
CEHP G.E.M. Service Award	TAMUK	Fall 2023
CEHP Research Award	TAMUK	2020
CEHP Outstanding Junior Faculty Award	TAMUK	2018-2019
University Research Award	TAMUK	2018
Newsletter: Grant Resource Center Celebrates Young PI's Enthusiasm to Service		2018

SCHOLARSHIPS

Emerging Scholars Honor Program Scholarship, SHSU	2015
Emerging Scholars Honor Program Scholarship, SHSU	2015
Emerging Scholars Honor Program Scholarship, SHSU	2014
Student Research Scholarship, Medicine, Humanities & Social Sciences Conference	2014
Randy Pollard Family Scholarship	2014
Randy Pollard Family Scholarship	2013
Scholarship Award, Student Research, Chinese American Professionals Conference	2013
The University Center Scholar, SHSU	2013
The University Center Scholar, SHSU	2012
Emerging Scholars Honor Program Scholarship, SHSU	2012
W. Tom Thweatt III Scholarship	2012
International Doctoral Scholarship (Summer), SHSU	2012
International Doctoral Scholarship (Spring), SHSU	2012
Emerging Scholars Honor Program Scholarship, SHSU	2011
Auxiliary Services Scholarship, UNT	2010
Auxiliary Services Scholarship, UNT	2009
College of Education Scholarship, UNT	2008-2010
A. Tennyson Miller and Joe L. Akins Scholarship, UNT	2009
A. Tennyson Miller and Joe L. Akins Scholarship, UNT	2008

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED ABOVE

Christian Counseling Training, Denton Bible Church, Supervised by John Henderson, LPC-S, Ph.D.