

# **MELANIA C. POPA MABE**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

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### **EDUCATION**

- 2010 Ph.D., Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research
- 1996 MA in Human Resources Management, Babes-Bolyai University, Social Work Department, Romania
- 1997 BA in Sociology, Babes-Bolyai University, Sociology Department, Romania
- 1995 BA in Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University, Social Work Department, Romania

### **TEACHING Certificates**

Carolina Online Learning & Teaching (COLT) program, Center for Teaching Excellence - 2020

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Undergraduate Courses - University of South Carolina**

Social Welfare Services for Women and Minorities 2018-2020  
Social Policy Analysis. 2019- 2015  
Social Welfare Institutions, Policies and Programs 2016 – 2020  
International Social Work 2015 -2020  
Introduction to Social Work 2019-2020

#### **Graduate Courses**

Human Behavior and Social Environment I. University of South Carolina. 2017  
Social Welfare Policy Analysis. University of South Carolina. 2016 - 2017  
Social Welfare Policy II. Winthrop University. 2016  
Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice. University of South Carolina. 2016  
International Social work and Social Justice. University of South Carolina. 2015  
Research Methods for Social Workers. Bryn Mawr College. 2004 - 2006

Data Analysis for Social Workers. Bryn Mawr College. 2004 - 2006

Social Education. West University of Timisoara. 1999 - 2000

Social Policy. West University of Timisoara. 1999 – 2000

## **SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**2013 – Present. America Institute for Foreign Study** Charlotte, NC

Senior Community Counselor for the Au Pair in America International Exchange Program. Ensure federal regulations are understood and respected by program participants. Offer supervision, support, training, on individual or group basis to ensure the exchange program participants are in compliance with the program policies and procedures. Network with 200 area representatives in the U.S. to secure new placements for both families and au pairs when the initial matches break. Currently overseeing a cluster of 23 host families and au pairs from all around the world.

**1997–2000; 2011 – 2012. Bethany Social Services,** Timisoara, Romania

Program Development Expert for European Union Funded Programs.

Oversaw trans-border efforts to identify best practices to promote youth employment in South-East Europe. Collaborated with experts from Hungary and Serbia, as well as European Union in designing and implementing a strategy for identifying best practices in promoting youth employment. Published a best practice manual and organizing an international conference.

Head of Domestic Services Department

Planned, initiated and implemented the first foster care pilot program in the west region of Romania and the first private non-profit domestic adoption program, emulating U.S. models. Once the program successfully secured placements for 15 children in 12 families for a year, provided assistance and consulting to the newly developed child welfare governmental services to develop a public foster families program.

**2005–2006. Fox Chase Cancer Center** Philadelphia, PA

Psychosocial and Behavioral Medicine Program

Project Manager - Behavioral Research Core Facility

Conducted individual and group health education sessions, focus-groups, targeted individual sessions to help cancer patients and their families cope with diagnosis, treatment, life after treatment, genetic counseling exploration sessions. Managed five ongoing clinical studies, including randomized control trials, quasi-experiments and qualitative exploratory studies, in various stages of implementation with a special focus on underserved minorities and health care disparities in cancer prevention and control. Insured adherence to research & clinical protocols and ethical standards.

**1996–1997 Maltese Help for Romania** , Timisoara, Romania

### Information Director

Assisted in developing and implementing a strategic plan for a new social center for elderly, including a day center, meals on the wheels and at-home assistance. Developed eligibility criteria and strategy for the selection of beneficiaries; planned intervention and services based on beneficiaries' assessments.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Bryn Mawr College . International Child Adoption Policy Analysis in the Romania and the U.S. Independent Study. Discourse, narrative analysis, content analysis. 2001- 2010

Fox Chase Cancer Research. Evaluation of psychosocial approaches to promoting psychological and physical adaptation to cancer risk, treatment, and survival. RCT, quasi-experiments, focus groups, survey. 2004 -2005

Fox Chase Cancer Center. Enhanced Counseling for Women Undergoing BRCA1/2 . Content analysis, quasi-experiment. 2004-2005.

Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations. Impacts of Multi-systemic Treatment on Youth Outcomes. Systematic review, meta-analysis. 2002 – 2003

Bryn Mawr College. Family and Childhood Poverty. Secondary analysis. 2002- 2004

### PUBLICATIONS

Popa-Mabe, M.C. (2015). Revisiting Romanian international child adoption – the politics of “child selling.” *Social Work Review*. 1 (15), 1-15. Available at:  
[http://www.swreview.ro/index.pl/revisiting\\_romanian\\_international\\_child\\_adoption\\_\\_the\\_politics\\_of\\_child\\_selling](http://www.swreview.ro/index.pl/revisiting_romanian_international_child_adoption__the_politics_of_child_selling)

Popa-Mabe, M.C., Simu, A. (2012). The impact of EU funded programs stimulating employment through the eyes of the beneficiaries – Romanian young adults with disabilities. [Abstract]. In: First International Conference on Social Inclusion and Equal Opportunities: SIEO 2012 “Youth employment- challenges and opportunities;” 2012, May 24; Timisoara, Romania. Eurostampa; 2012; p 334

Popa-Mabe, M. C. (2010). “Ceausescu’s orphans”: Narrating the crisis of Romanian international child adoption. (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from  
<http://udini.proquest.com/view/ceausescus-orphans-narrating-the-goid:305192921>

Littell, J. H., Popa, M., & Forsythe, B. (2005). Multisystemic Therapy for social, emotional, and behavioral problems in youth aged 10-17 (Cochrane Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, Issue 4, 2005. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Also published in *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 2005 (1). DOI: 10.4073/csr. 2005.1

Littell, J. H., Popa, M., & Forsythe, B. (2004). Multisystemic treatment for social, emotional, and behavioral problems in youth aged 10-17 (Protocol for a Cochrane Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Also published in *The Campbell Library*, 2004.

## **AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS**

2006 Rivitz Award for outstanding dissertation proposal, Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research Narrating Child Welfare: Hegemony, Policy Discourse, and Media Representations of the Romanian International Adoption Crisis

2000 Fulbright Junior Scholarship. One-year research scholarship, Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr, PA

## **INVITED TALKS**

Similarities and differences in Social Welfare Policy in Romania and the U.S.A. West University of Timisoara, Social Work Department. Romania. April, 7, 2012.

Strategies for promoting awareness about gender discrimination among high school students in Timis county. The Timis County Commission on Gender Equality Meeting, Timisoara, Romania. August, 4, 2012.

Similarities and differences in Social Work Education in Romania and the U.S.A. West University of Timisoara, Social Work Department, Timisoara, Romania. May 10, 2011.

Exploring how gender discrimination operates through stereotyping and jokes in the work environment. Bethany Social Services Foundation, Timisoara, Romania. July 26, 2011.

International Child Adoption representations in Romanian press and their political consequences. West University of Timisoara, Social Work Department, Timisoara, Romania, September 1, 2006.

To sell a child, to save a child: Key framing metaphors narrating International Child adoption in the Romanian and U.S. Press. Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr, PA. March 23, 2004.

Lessons from the professionalization of Social work in the U.S.A. The Romanian National Association of Social Workers, Timis Branch, Timisoara, Romania. August 20, 2002.

Impressions from studying in a graduate program in the U.S. West University of Timisoara, Social Work Department, Timisoara, Romania. January 4, 2001.

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Papers and posters presented**

The impact of EU funded programs stimulating employment through the eyes of the beneficiaries – Romanian young adults with disabilities. Paper presented at the First International Conference on Social Inclusion and Equal Opportunities: SIEO 2012, May 24-26, 2012.

Enhanced Counseling for Women Undergoing BRCA<sub>1/2</sub> Testing: Impact on Subsequent Decision Making about Risk Reduction Behavior. Poster presented at The Emerging Role of Screening & Prevention in Women's Cancer, April 15, 2005.

Communication to Enhance Adaptation across the Breast Cancer Spectrum. Poster presented at The Department of Defense (DOD) Fourth Era of Hope Meeting, June 8-11, 2005.

Multisystemic Therapy for Social, Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Youth Aged 10-17. Presented at The Nordic Campbell Centers Advisory Board Meeting, Copenhagen, June 17, 2005.

The impact of social perception about cancer on patients of Oncology Clinic "Dr. Chiricuta." Paper presented at The National Conference in Human Sciences in Romania, May 14-16, 1994.

### **COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Board of Directors. Art Therapy Center "Doina Pocioanu," Timisoara, Romania. 1999-2012.

Member. Timis County Commission on Gender Equality. Timisoara, Romania. 2011-2012

Peer Reviewer. *International Migration Journal*. 2012