**Rebecca Leela Thomas, Ph.D., MSW**

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| ProfessorSchool of Social Work | DirectorCenter for International Social Work Studies |
| University of ConnecticutSchool of Social Work38 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT |

**EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Psychology

Areas of Focus: Advanced Research Methods, Welfare to Work-Employment and Training, Theories of Learning

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

**Dissertation**:Project TECH: The use of technology to increase literacy and job stability.

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), Planning

Areas of Focus: Program Planning, Program Management, Program Evaluation, and Proposal Development/Grant Writing

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (Advanced Standing)

BSW, Generalist Perspective, and, BA, International Development

Bethel College, Newton, KS

B.Th., Theology

Canadian Mennonite Theological Seminary, Winnipeg, MB

**EMPLOYMENT**

2010-Present *Associate Professor*, University of Connecticut

2014-Present *Director, International Center for Social Work Studies*, University of Connecticut

2012-2014 *Co-Director, International Center for Social Work Studies*, University of Connecticut

2004-2010 *Assistant Professor*, University of Connecticut

* 1. *Assistant Professor*, Temple University

1997-2003 *Research and Evaluation Coordinator*, Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University

Served as principal investigator of research and evaluation grants; developed, coordinated, and implemented multiple research grants and contracts, especially related to welfare to work; worked as the principal author of quarterly and yearly reports; supervised research staff and student interns; trained community groups on program planning, grant writing, and program evaluation.

* 1. *Adjunct Professor*, Temple University

1995-1998 *Program Coordinator*, Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University

Developed and coordinated an interdisciplinary citywide training project entitled *Collaborative Responses to Community and Domestic Violence*. The project goal was to highlight the linkage between domestic violence and child abuse, and the need to have an integrated response to a victim of family abuse. Collaborative partners included: Department of Human Services, Police Department, Domestic Violence Prevention and Service Organizations, and School of Social Administration.

1995-1997 *Research and Evaluation Specialist*, Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University

Developed, coordinated, and implemented evaluation plans with process and outcome measures for projects awarded to the Center for Social Policy and Community DevelopmentReceived federally-funded projects including HUD's Community Outreach Partnership Grant, the Department of Education's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, and the Department of Labor's Welfare to Work Project. Developed Request for Proposals and selection criteria for University/Community Partnership mini-grants for faculty and student organizations.

1988-1995 *Assistant Project Coordinator*, Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University

Assisted in the development and implementation of the *Adolescent Initiative Independent Living Project***.** Assisted in the development of life skills curriculum for foster care youth. Assisted in the development of a mentoring program for foster care youth. Developed a nationwide youth newsletter entitled *New Visions*, andassisted the foster care youth to become editorial staff of newsletter.

* 1. *Graduate Assistant*, Department of Political Science, Temple University College of Arts and Science

# RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

**Publications, Books**

Healy, L. M & **Thomas, R, L**. (2020). *International Social Work: Professional Action in an Interdependent World (3)*. Oxford University Press. New York, New York.

Libal, K., Berthold, S. M., **Thomas, R.** **L.,** Healy, L. M. (Eds.) (2014). *Advancing Human Rights in Social Work Education.* Council on Social Work Education Press.

**Publications, Peer-Reviewed Articles -- \*** Student authors

Sinha, J. W., & **Thomas, R. L**. (2020). Poverty reduction and female loan recipients: Comparing non-profit vs. for-profit microcredit programs’ supplemental services. *Social Development Issues.*

Valdovinos, M.G., **Thomas, R.,** Tredinnick, L.\*, & Vasquez Reyes, M\*. (2020). Human trafficking efforts to protect Connecticut's vulnerable children and youth: Incorporating the voices of community practitioners. *Violence and Victims, Special Issue on Human Trafficking of Children and Youth: Protecting the Most Vulnerable Victims of Violence*, *35*(3), 382-389

**Thomas, R.L.,** Felton, G.\*, Yagaloff, L.\*, & Yamaloyan, M. (2019). Returning home: The experiences of resettlement for Syrian-Armenian refugees into Armenia. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, (2019). doi-org.ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/10.1007/s12134-019-00663-2

**Thomas, R. L.** Vardanyan, V., Yagaloff, L.\*, & Diamond, R\*. (2018). Remittances: The impact on families in Armenia. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues,* 39(4), 634-646.

**Thomas, R.L.,** Ferraj, B.\*, Diamond, R.\*, & Yagaloff, L\*. (2017). Untold experiences and behaviors of transmigrants who remit: A qualitative study. *Social Development Issues*, *39* (2), 62-74.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2016). The right to quality education for refugee children through social

inclusion. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work,* 1(3), 193-201.

**Thomas, R. L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, C\*. M., Barrette, K.\*, & Ferraj, B\*. (2016). Engaging MSW students in faculty research: Students' perspectives of involvement in a program evaluation. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 36*(3), 275-288. doi-org.ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/10.1080/08841233.2016.1176981

Comer, E. W, Medina, C.K., Negroni, LK, & **Thomas, R. L.** (2016). Women faculty of color in a predominately-white institution: A natural support group. *Social Work with Groups, 40*(1-2), 148-155.

**Thomas, R. L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, C. M\*., Barrette, K.\*, & Ferraj, B\*. (2016). Building relationships and facilitating immigrant community integration: An evaluation of a Cultural Navigator Program. *Evaluation and Program Planning*. (55), 77-84.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (2009) Using distance learning to increase literacy among TANF participants. *Journal of Technology in Human Services*, *27*(3), 216-226.

**Thomas, R, L.** & Sinha, J. (2009). A critical look at microfinance and NGOs in regard to poverty reduction for women. *Social Development Issues*, *31*(2), 30-42.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Medina, C. (2008). Leveraging social capital: Using the infrastructure committee to secure employment for welfare clients*. Journal of Community Practice, 16*(3), 227-291.

Healy, L., & **Thomas, R.L.** (2007). International social work: A retrospective in the 50th year*. International Social Work, 50*(5), 581-593.

Bullock, K., & **Thomas, R.L.** (2007). The vulnerability for elder abuse among a sample of custodial grandfathers: An exploratory study. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 19* (4), 133-150.

**Thomas, R**.**L**., Fierro, R.\*, & Novakowski, S\*. (Spring, 2006). Examining the major barriers to employment among TANF recipients and the role of continuing education in preparing the professional workforce. *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education, 9*(1), 45-55.

**Publications, Book Chapters --** \*\*refereed, \* Student authors

**Thomas, R. L.,** &Williams, C. (2019). Beyond the mainstream – Diversity leadership and leading diversity in Social Work Education. In Connolly, M., Williams, C., & Coffey, D. (Eds.), *Strategic Leadership in Social Work Education* (pp. 39- 51). Switzerland: Springer Nature.

**Thomas, R.L**, & Medina, C. (2015). Connecticut. In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (2nd edition) (pp. 282-283). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Healy, L. M., **Thomas, R. L.,** Berthold, S. M.,& Libal, K. R. (2014). Fulfilling the rich potential of human rights in social work education. In K. R. Libal, S. M. Berthold, R. L. Thomas & L. M. Healy (Eds.), *Advancing* *Human Rights in Social Work Education* (pp. 3-18). Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education Press.

Berthold, S. M., **Thomas, R. L**., Healy, L. M., & Libal, K. R. (2014). Future directions in human rights and social work education. In K. R. Libal, S. M. Berthold, R. L. Thomas & L. M. Healy (Eds.), *Advancing* *Human Rights in Social Work Education* (pp. 497-508). Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education Press.

**Thomas, R.L**, Chiarelli-Helminiak\*., C., & Ferraj, B\*. (2014). A case study in immigrant civic engagement research: Linking human rights to social work education. In K. R. Libal, S. M. Berthold, R. L. Thomas & L. M. Healy (Eds.), *Advancing* *Human Rights in Social Work Education* (pp. 231-246). Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education Press.

\*\***Thomas, R.L.** (2012).Microcredit: A development strategy for poverty reduction. In L. Healy & R. Link. (Eds.) *Handbook of International Social Work* (pp.424-429). New York: Oxford University Press.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Healy, L. (2010). Incorporating disaster content as a component of international curriculum. In D. F. Gillespie & K. Danso (Eds.), *Disaster Concepts and Issues: A Guide for Social Work Education and Practice* (pp. 255-270). Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education.

**Articles Accepted:**

Medina, C. K., & **Thomas, R. L.** (2021). Social Inclusion: United States Immigrants as essential workers coming out of the shadows during COVID-19. In *Handbook of Social Inclusion. Research and Practices in Health and Social Sciences.* Springer.

**Thomas, R. L.** (2021). Climate change, forced migration and displaced persons: A call for environmental justice in social work education and practice. In *Lessons from Abroad: Adapting International Social Welfare Innovations* (2nd ed.). NASW Press.

**Articles under Review:**

Sinha, J.W. & **Thomas, R.L.** (August, 2020). Poverty Reduction and Female loan Recipients: Comparing Non-Profit vs. For-Profit Microcredit Programs’ Supplemental Services. *Social Development Issues.*

**Works in Progress:**

1. **Thomas, R, L**. & Hayes, C\*. Karen refugee experience in Hartford. (Interviews completed, data analysis completed). Anticipated submission to *International Social Work*.
2. **Thomas, R, L**. & Simmons, L. Economic Development by Immigrant Owned Business in Park Road and Park Street. (Interviews completed, data analysis completed, in the process of writing). Anticipated submission to *Social Development Issues.*.
3. **Thomas, R. L.** Resettlement of Syrian Refugees. (Interviews completed, coding completed, data analysis completed). Anticipated submission to *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*.

**Technical Reports for Grants Completed:**

**Thomas, R.,** Valdovinos, M., Tendinnick, L.\*, Vasquez, Reyas, M\*. (2020). *The Connecticut Project: Strengths and Gabs in Responding to Human Trafficking.* Report submitted to The Governors TIP Council, Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L,** Chiarelli-Helminiak.\*, Ferraj, B.\*, Barrett, K.\*, & Communadurn, R\*.(2014). *Building relationships and bridging social capital: An inclusive approach to immigrant civic engagement within libraries,**process and outcome evaluation.* Report submitted to the National Leadership Grants Institute of Museum and Library Services. Hartford, CT.

* Three Year Summary 2014
* Year 3 - 2013
* Year 2 - 2912
* Year 1 - 2011

**Thomas, R.L**, Houser, L.\*, & Argue, K\*. (2002). *Evaluation report for project TECH*. Report submitted to the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation and the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Argue, K\*. (2001). *Program evaluation: Project TALENT*. Report submitted to the Department of Labor, Washington DC, and Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R**.**L**., & Argue, K\*. (2001). *Program evaluation: Employment and training for non-custodial programs.* Report submitted to the Department of Labor, Washington DC, and to Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R**.**L**., Houser, L.\*, & Leaman, J.\* (2000). *Evaluation report for the national adoption center's adoptnet program.* Report submitted to the Kellogg Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, and the National Adoption Center, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, & Houser, L\*. (1999). *Process and outcome evaluation of Freire Charter School.* Report submitted to the Freire Charter School and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R**.L., & Leaman, J\*. (1999). *Program evaluation of southern homes crisis to competency program.* Report submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC and Southern Homes Agency, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R.L.** (1999). *A model for community-university partnership.* Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R.L.** (1997). *Domestic abuse in the Latino community: A needs assessment for Philadelphia.* Report submitted to the Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Abuse, Harrisburg, PA.

**Thomas, R. L.** (1996). *New perspectives on family violence: Current contrivances and common issues, training on collaborative responses for reducing family violence*. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R. L.** (1996). *Focus on the perpetrator of violence*. Report submitted to the Collaborative Responses for Reducing Family Violence, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R. L.** (1996). *Perspectives on violence: Focus on the family*. Report submitted to the Collaborative Responses for Reducing Family Violence, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R. L**. (1996). *Policy development on domestic violence*. Report submitted to the End the Violence: A National Conference on Partnership, Prevention, and Policies. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

#### SELECTED JURIED WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Workshop:

Bragin, M., **Thomas, R.,** Sim, T., Spinusa, S., & Davis, R. (2020) Unaccompanied and separated children: Restoring relationships through social work practice. SWESD, Italy.

Valdovinos, M.G., **Thomas, R.,** Tredinnick, L., & Vasquez Reyes, M. (2020). *Human trafficking efforts to protect Connecticut's vulnerable children and youth: Incorporating the voices of community practitioners.* Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR), Washington, DC.

Bragan, M., Healy, L., **Thomas, R. L.,** Gatenio Gabel, S., & Davis, R. (2019). *The Global Commission in Action - Innovation opportunities for learning and teaching.* CSWE Connect presentation for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Denver, Colorado.

**Thomas, R. L.** (2018) *A call to action: Climate-induced displacement, the social work global agenda, and the UN sustainable development goals.* Joint World Conference in Social Work, Dublin, Ireland.

Medina, C. K. & **Thomas, R. L.** (2018) *Leveraging social capital: the infrastructure committee secures employment for welfare clients.* Joint World Conference in Social Work, Dublin, Ireland.

Medina, C. K. & **Thomas, R. L.** (2018).*Poverty in CT: Homelessness, food, and economic insecurities and hope for the future.* Joint World Conference in Social Work, Dublin, Ireland.

**Thomas, R. L**. Martha Bergan, Rebecca Davis, and Shirley Gatenio Gabel (2017) *Why does Social Work Matter to the United Nations?* *Towards New Competencies: Global Issues in Social Work Curriculum* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Dallas, TX.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2017) *Why the UN Matters to Social Work: Grand Challenges go Global.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Dallas, TX.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2016).*The right to quality education for refugee children through social inclusion.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM). Atlanta, GA.

Creamer, T., & **Thomas, R.L.** (2015). *Do implicit racial attitudes influence health-related aid-effectiveness in Haiti: A pilot study to establish sample size.* Annual Scientific Meeting, San Diego, CA.

**Thomas, R.L.,** & Barrette, K. (2015). *Exploring community-based disaster risk reduction as a community practice model: A case study of disaster-affected villages in Bihar India.* Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR), New Orleans, LA.

Creamer, T., & **Thomas, R.L.** (2015). *Do implicit racial attitudes influence health-related aid-effectiveness in Haiti: A pilot study to establish sample size.* Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR), New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Thomas, R.L.**, & Chiarelli-Helminiak, C. (2014). *Social capital and employment among immigrants and refugees*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Tampa, FL.

 **Thomas, R.L.,** & Barrette, K. (2014). *Social Work: Redefining roles and curriculum*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Tampa, FL.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2014).*Building civic engagement and social capital among immigrants.* Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development. Melbourne, Australia.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2014). *Remittances: The untold experiences of recent immigrants who send money home.* Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development. Melbourne, Australia.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, & Chiarelli-Helminiak., C*.* (2014). *Building* *relationships and bridging social capital through the immigrant civic engagement project*: A *program evaluation*. Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR), San Antonio, TX.

**Thomas, R.L.**, & Chiarelli-Helminiak., C. (2013). *Hartford public library immigrant civic engagement project: Innovative approaches to community development in a challenging economy and changing society.* ARNOVA Annual Conference, Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, & Chiarelli-Helminiak., C. (2013). *Immigrant civic engagement research: Linking human rights to social work education.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Dallas, TX.

**Thomas, R.L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak., C*.* (2013). *A case study in immigrant civic engagement research: Linking human rights to social work education*. University of Connecticut School of Social Work Working Seminar in Advancing Human Rights in Social Work Education, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.,** & Chiarelli-Helminiak., C***.*** (2013). ***Building relationships and bridging social capital: An inclusive approach to immigrant civic engagement within libraries,*** *process, and outcome evaluation year 2.* University of Connecticut School of Social Work Research & Scholarship Exhibition,West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Barrette, K.., & Communaduran, R. (2013). *The connection between global social work and effective service to immigrants in the United States.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Dallas, TX.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, Chiareli-Helminiak, & Ferraj, B. (2013). *Immigrant civic engagement research: Linking human rights to social work education.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM),Dallas, TX.

**Thomas, R.L.**, Chiareli-Helminiak, T., Ferraj, B., Barrette, K., & Communaduran, R. (2012). *Linking classroom education to immigrant community research.* Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Washington, DC.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, & Chiareli-Helminiak, T***.*** (2012). ***Building relationships and bridging social capital: An inclusive approach to immigrant civic engagement****.* Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact. Stockholm, Sweden.

**Thomas, R.L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Tigner., J., Ferraj, B., & Comaduran, R., (2012). *Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement within Libraries*. Human Rights and Social Justice Conference at Fordham University, New York, NY.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Tigner., J., Ferraj, B., & Comaduran, R., (2012). *Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement within Libraries*. National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter, Middletown, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Tigner., J., Ferraj, B., & Comaduran, R. (2012). *Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement within Libraries*. Central Connecticut State University: Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, New Britain, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Tigner., J., Ferraj, B., & Comaduran, R. ( 2012). *Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement within Libraries*. Social Work for Global Justice Speaker Series. University of Connecticut, West Hartford, CT

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (2011). *Microcredit as a strategy for poverty reduction. Living* Annual Evaluation Report submitted to the Hartford Public Library.  *in a world of diversity and disparity working to achieve social justice*. National Association of Schools of Work. Fall Specialty Conference, Middletown, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (October 2011). *The Nuts and Bolts of Program Evaluation*. University of

 West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (July 2011). *The impact of remittances in the Caribbean.* 9th Biannual Caribbean and International Social Work Educators Conference, Barbados.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (2011) *Building relationships and bridging social capital: An inclusive approach to immigrant civic engagement within libraries.* Third annual research conference, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (June 2010). *Building leadership and organizational capacity: A university-community partnership.* Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development, Hong Kong, China.

Healy, L. & **Thomas, R**.**L.** (2010). *Best Practices for Social Integration Contributions.* Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development, Hong Kong, China.

Medina, C. & **Thomas, R**.**L.** (2010). *Integration of NASW case management among unemployed women.* Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development, Hong Kong, China.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2010). *Best Practices for Social Integration Contributions.* The First Annual SSW Research and Scholarship Exhibition, West Harford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L**. (2009). *Organizational development among community-based agencies to increase community capacity: implications for the Caribbean*. 9th Biannual Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Educators, Georgetown Guyana.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Medina, C. (2009). *Organizational development among community-based agencies to increase community capacity*. International Consortium for Social Development, Monterrey, Mexico.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2008). *Organizational development among community-based agencies to increase community capacity*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Philadelphia, PA.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Sinha, J. (2008). *A critical look at microfinance and microcredit in regard to poverty*. The Academic Commission of the 34 International Congress of Schools of Social Work, Durban, South Africa.

**Thomas, R.L**., & Medina, C. (2008). *Leveraging social capital: A model to secure employment for a vulnerable population.* The Academic Commission of the 34 International Congress of Schools of Social Work, Durban, South Africa.

**Thomas, R.L,** & Sinha, J. (2007). *A critical look at access and sustainability issues for NGOs and income generation with women.* Council of Social Work Education. San Francisco, CA.

**Thomas, R.L**. (2007). *The role of NGO's and micro-credit for development*. The 8th Biennial Caribbean and Social Work Educators' Conference, Trinidad, Port of Spain.

**Thomas, R.L**. (2006). *Leveraging social capital: The creation and management of partnerships to address issues of poverty and inequality*. Global Social Work: Growth Inequality, The Academic Commission of the 33rd International Congress of Schools of Social Work, Santiago, Chile.

**Thomas, R.L** (2006). *Working to unite families: Strengthening the employment capacity of non-custodial parents*. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Chicago, IL.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2005). *Working to unite families: Strengthening the capacity of non-custodial parents to address issues of unemployment*. Advancing Social Work Praxis in an Era of Global Transformation, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.

#### Thomas, R.L. (2005). *Working to unite families: Addressing barriers to employment*. Evaluation for Practice – A Meeting Place for Various and Complementary Approaches, University of Huddersifeld, Huddersifield, UK.

#### Thomas, R.L. (2005). *Using cultural competency to develop and evaluate programs*. Multicultural Competency in Action and Practice Conference. Bridgeport, CT.

**INVITED WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Thomas, R. L**. (2018) *Research agenda for the Center for International Social work Studies*. Presentations to students and faculty visiting from Germany.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2016).*The right to quality education for refugee children through social inclusion.* Presentation to Working group on Migration. United Nations.NY.

**Thomas, R. L. &** Diamond., R\*. *Social entrepreneurship and micro-credit as a strategy for poverty reduction*. (2014). SUSI Program for Northern African and Middle East Students, Storrs, CT

**Thomas, R. L**.(2012) *Micro-Credit as a strategy for poverty reduction*. SUSI Program for Northern African and Middle East Students, Storrs, CT

**Thomas, R.L.**, Chiarelli-Helminiak, T. (2013) *Linking classroom education to immigrant community research.* University of Connecticut School of Social Work Doctoral Student Seminar, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.,** Chiarelli-Helminiak, T. & Ferraj, B. (2013) *Working Seminar in Advancing Human Rights in Social Work Education.* West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.,** Chiarelli-Helminiak, T., Ferraj, B., & Barrette, K., Communaduran, R**(2013). *Building relationships and bridging social capital: An inclusive approach to immigrant civic engagement within libraries,*** *process and outcome evaluation year 2*. University of Connecticut School of Social Work Research & Scholarship Exhibition, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2011). *Assessment and Program Evaluation*. University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2010). *Social capital and poverty reduction*. University of Dalat, Vietnam.

**Thomas, R.L.** (2009). *Nuts and bolts of writing a grant proposal.* Connecticut State Department of Education: Division of Family and Student Support Services, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Cromwell, CT.

**Thomas, R**.**L.** (2009). *Nuts and bolts of writing a grant proposal.* Connecticut State Department of Education: Division of Family and Student Support Services, Family Resource Centers, Middletown, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.** (June 2009). *Planning and writing result-oriented programs.* Connecticut State Department of Education: Division of Family and Student Support Services. Family Resource Centers, Middletown, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.** (November 2008). *A critical look at microfinance and NGO's in regard to poverty reduction for women.* University of Connecticut Women's Study Spotlight, Storrs, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.** (April 2008). *Microcredit/microfinance: Long-term solution for ending poverty.* International Day, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.** (February 2008). *The role of microfinance in poverty reduction for women in Kolkata, India.* University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT for the doctoral students.

**Thomas, R.L.** (March 2006). *Social Work in India.* University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT.

**Thomas, R.L.**(March 2005). *The impact of Tsunami and the role of social workers in the disaster relief efforts in India*. University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT.

#### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND OTHER AWARDS

**Fellowships:**

#### 2013 United States Department of State Professional Fellowship Program, Costa Rica.

#### Grants:

#### 2020-2022 Principal Investigator, *Crossroads to Connectivity (C2C) Program at the Hartford Public Library.* External Evaluator for Hartford Public Library. The Hartford Foundation, $22,000.00 (Funded).

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#### Principal Investigator, *PCSW TIP Council: Human Trafficking Project*. Connecticut Coalation for Domestic Violence, $20,000.00 (Funded).

#### 2018-2019 Principal Investigator, Transforming Communities Focus on Armenia. Council of Social Work Education, $5,000.00 (Funded).

#### 2017- Principal Investigator, *The Resettlement Process for Syrian Refugees in Armenia*. Scholarship Facilitation Fund, UCONN from the Office of Vice Provost for Research. $2,000.00 (Not Funded).

#### 2016 Principal Investigator, *Migration, employment, and remittances to Armenia.* Scholarship Facilitation Fund, UCONN from the Office of Vice Provost for Research. $2,000.00 (Not Funded).

#### 2015-2016 Principal Investigator, *Immigrants and migrant as economic engines for small business enterprises.* School of Social Work, Deans Incentive Award. $2,500.00 (Funded).

#### 2014-2015 Recipient, Human Rights Institute Programming Grant for the Center for International Social Work Studies. *Human rights and social justice: A community discussion of literature and film. $*500.00 award.

#### 2013-2014 Principal Investigator, *Remittances: The untold experiences of recent immigrants who send money home.* School of Social Work, Deans Incentive Award. $2,500.00 (Funded).

#### 2011-2014 Principal Investigator, *Process and Outcome Evaluation – Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement within the Library*. The Hartford Public Library. $150,000.00 (Funded).

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#### 2008-2011 Principal Investigator, *Safety Net Service Network.* The Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies $197,000.00 (Funded).

#### Principal Investigator *Leveraging Social Capital in Organizations through Partnership: A Case Study of the Infrastructure Committee.* Dean’s incentive award. $1,000.00 (Funded).

#### 2000 Author and Research Coordinator, *Outcome Evaluation for Project TECH*. Mayor's Commission on Literacy Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation $175,000.00 (Funded).

#### 1999-2000 Author and Research Co-coordinator, *Outcome Evaluation for AdoptNet.* National Adoption Center $30,000.00 (Funded).

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#### 1998-2000 Author and Research Coordinator, *Process Evaluation for Project TALENT.* Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation $90,000.00 (Funded).

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#### Author and Research Coordinator, *Outcome Evaluation for Non-Custodial TANF Parents.* Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation $175,000.00 (Funded).

1. **Author and Research Coordinator**, *Process and Outcome Evaluation of Freire Charter School.* Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Philadelphia $10,000.00 (Funded).

1998-1999 **Author and Research Coordinator**, *Process and Outcome Evaluation for Southern Homes Crisis to Competency Program.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services$30,000.00 (Funded).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### MSW Courses:

#### *University of Connecticut, School of Social Work*

#### International Social Work Global Issues; International Development Theory and Practice; Comparative Social Welfare Policy; Social Welfare Policy; Process & Finances; Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation; Policy Practice: Careers, Contexts & Quantitative Analysis; Human Oppression; Research Methods for Social Work Practice; Advanced Research Program Evaluation; Women and Children in Families; Independent Study; Field Advising.

* *Temple University, School of Social Administration*

Community Consultation and Planning; Organizational Theory; Social Welfare Policy and Services I; Social Welfare Policy and Services II; Social Work Research Methods I

**Undergraduate Courses:**

* *Temple University, School of Social Administration:*

Introduction to Social Research; Evaluation and Program Practice; The History and Values of Social Welfare; Social Welfare in the United States; Perspectives on Violence: Focus on the Family; Issues related to Community Violence.

* *Temple University, College of Arts and Science, Department of Political Science*:

American Political Systems; American Presidency

**SELECT SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### International

#### 2015-Present Member of the UN Migration Committee

#### 2014-Present IASSW representative to the United Nations

**National**

2018-Present Member of the CSWE Board

2018-Present Chair of the CSWE Commission on Global Social Work Education

2016-Present Member of CSWE Commission on Global Social Work Education

2018-Present Member of the CSWE Katherine Kendal Institute Board

2017-2019 Chair of the Hartford Commission for Immigrant and Refugees

2014-Present Hartford Commissioner for Immigrant and Refugees (CRIA)

2014-Present Member of the Research and Data taskforce

2011-Present Member of the Immigrant Advisory Group.

2007-Present Board Member of Prana International. An NGO developed to fund Micro-Credit programs in India.

2011- 2014 NASW Executive Board Member At Large, Connecticut Chapter.

2013 Planning committee for the ARNOVA Conference: The 42nd Annual Conference's theme, "*Recession, Renewal, Revolution? Nonprofit and Voluntary Action in an Age of Turbulence,"* Hartford.

2006-2010 Member of the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission.

2004-2010 Member of the Welfare Work Group, Connecticut.

2004-2009 Board Member of CWEALF.

2005 Reviewer of proposals for SAMHSA: Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

2005 Planning member of the Multicultural Competency in Action and Practice Conference.

2004 Conducted strategic planning sessions with Nonprofit organizations serving youth.

#### 2001 Directed two-day strategic planning session for Project TALENT and TANF Non-Custodial Parents Program

#### 2001 Chaired planning meetings for the development of statewide domestic abuse prevention anti-violence campaign for the Medical Society of Pennsylvania

#### 2001 Reviewed federal proposal for University Community Partnership Grants in Washington for federal Housing and Urban Development

#### 1999-2001 Chaired the Education and Training Committee for Philadelphia to develop curriculum for family violence prevention initiative for the Institute for Safe Families

#### 1997-1999 Assisted in the development of neighborhood street festivals to strengthen community cohesion for the Family Life Festivals

#### 1998 Assisted in designing, conducting, and analyzing a needs assessment of low-income persons in Philadelphia for the Mayor's Office of Community Services

#### University of *Connecticut, Storrs, CT*

2014-PresentMember of the Norian Armenian Programs Committee

2013-Present Member of the Provost's Global Affairs Advisory Committee

2018-Present Co-member of the Education Abroad Advisory Committee

2015-2017 Member of the Provost's Library Advisory Committee

#### 2014-2014 Member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

2006-2007 Member of the Provost Committee to Review Fine Arts/Humanities/Human Rights Strategic Plan

2005-present Participated in activities at the Asian American Cultural Center

#### University of Connecticut, School of Social Work, Hartford, CT

#### 2018-Present Chair of the Policy Practice Sequence

#### 2013-Present Director of the Center for International Social Work Studies

#### 2010-2013 Chair of the Policy Practice Sequence

#### 2010-2012 Co-Director of the Center for International Social Work Studies

#### 2004-Present Served on the International Center Advisory Board

#### 2016-Present Member of the PTR committee

#### 2016-2018 Member of the Doctoral Committee

#### 2005-2006 Member of the Doctoral Committee

#### 2014-Present Member of the Educational Policy Committee

#### 2007-2010 Member of the Educational Policy Committee

#### 2018-Present Member of the FAAC Committee

#### 2013-2016 Member of the FAAC Committee

#### 2014-2015 Chair of the FAAC Committee

#### 2009-2011 Member of the FAAC Committee

#### 2014-2015 Member of the Search Committee for Faculty

#### 2005-2015 Ad Hoc Faculty Advisor to the Asian Student Organization

#### 2013-2014 Co-Chair of the School of Social Work Vision Committee

#### 2009-2013 Member of Admissions Committee

#### 2007-2010 Active participant in Research and Writing group

#### 2004-2010 Member of the Field Advisory Committee for Community Organization and Policy Practice

**Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**

#### 2002-2005 Board member of City-Wide Planning and Development Agency

#### 2002-2005 Member of City Wide Infrastructure Committee

* 1. Associate Editor of *The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*
	2. Developed, planned, coordinated, and disseminated the refereed journal focusing on publishing scholarly and relevant articles on continuing education, professional development, and training in the field of social welfare. Worked closely with the Managing Editor and the International Advisory Board on special issues, themes, and commissioned articles.

#### 2002-2004 Member of Working to Unite Families Infrastructure Committee

**Temple University, School of Social Administration**

2003-2004 Co-Chair of Research and Grants Committee

2002-2004 Chair of BSW Research sequence

2001-2004 Participated in the development and writing of curriculum for Management and Planning Track

2002 Co-Chair of the Convocation Committee Management and Planning Track

1999-2000 Student Field Placement Liaisons

#### Academic Awards:

#### 1992-1994 The Presidential Faculty Training Grant, Temple University

1987 Graduate Assistantship at the Developmental Disabilities Center

#### Professional Honors:

#### 2019 Outstanding Service, CSWE Board of Directors. Washington, DC.

#### 2015 CSWE Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education Mentor Award

#### 2014 NASW/CT Educator of the Year, Rocky Hill, Ct.

#### 2014 Keynote Speaker, Women's Forum: Keeping Silent in the Face of Injustice Around the World, Temple University.

#### 2014 CSWE Partners in Advancing International Education Award

#### 2014 Hartford Commissioner on Refugee & Immigrant Affairs

#### 2013 University of Connecticut Provost's Award for Excellence in Public Engagement

2008 **Immigrant Honoree Recognition** for contributions to the State of Connecticut. Awarded by:

* Offices of the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Connecticut
* State Comptroller, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut
* Secretary of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly
* Official Statement from the Office of the Governor of the State of Connecticut
* Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, United States Congress
* Public Leadership Citation from the Office of the Treasurer, State of Connecticut

2005 **Tsunami Relief Effort Recognition**- University of Connecticut Asian American Student Organization for the contribution made in the Tsunami Relief Effort.

**Reviewer for the Following Journals**

* Caribbean Journal of Social Work
* Evaluation and Program Planning
* Journal of Human Rights and Social Work
* Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare
* Journal of International Migration and Integration

**Book Proposal Reviewer**

* NASW Book Committee Reviewer (July 2020-2023).
* Roberts, A. & Hokenstad, M.C. (Eds). (2020) Global Age Friendly Cities: An International Network of Innovations and Exchange. Roberts & Hokenstad. (Eds). NASW Press
* Inequality in U.S. Social Policy: An Historical Analysis (2018). Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

**Fulbright Reviewer**

* Served as a reviewer for Fulbright Romania application (2020).

**Social Science and Educational Sciences panel for the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF). 2021**

* External Reviewer

**Accreditation Reviewer**

* Served as an outside reviewer for the MSW program proposal for the University of West Indies at the MONA Campus in Jamicia. MSW.

**PhD Doctorial Dissertation**

* Examiner
* Dissertation reviewer

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Council on Social Work Education

#### National Association of the Schools of Social Work

#### International Association of Schools of Social Work

#### Society for Scientific Research