

Rati Kumar
School of Communication
San Diego State University
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San Diego, CA 92182-1308
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EDUCATION

2013
Ph.D. Purdue University
Major: Health Communication
Minor: Research Methods, Sociology
Dissertation:
“Negotiating healthcare structures in the United States: Reassessing resettlement through refugee voices”

2008
M.A. University of Florida
Major: Mass Communication & Journalism
Thesis:
“A thematic analysis of the online discourses of Christian and Islamic fundamentalist organizations”

2006
J.D. (B.A.LLB.) Dr. Ambedkar College of Law, India

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor of Communication

San Diego State University, School of Communication (Aug. 2022 - Present)

Associate Professor of Communication

Central Connecticut State University, Department of Communication (Aug. 2019 – May 2022)

Assistant Professor of Communication

Central Connecticut State University, Department of Communication (Aug. 2013 – July 2019)

Faculty Affiliate

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor, CCSU (Aug. 2013 – Present)

Faculty Affiliate

Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE) (Aug. 2013 – Present)

Teaching Assistant

Purdue University, Department of Communication (Aug. 2009 – May 2013)

Research Assistant

Heart Health Indiana Project Manager

Purdue University, Department of Communication (Aug. 2010 – May 2013)

Teaching Assistant

University of Florida, Department of Communication (Aug. 2007 – Aug. 2008)

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Before Tenure (SDSU affiliation)

1. **Kumar, R.** (2023) Agency & Identity Negotiations of “Good DNA” by Children with Incarcerated Parents Amidst Stigmatizing Mental Health Structures: A Culture-Centered Analysis, *Health Communication*, DOI: [10.1080/10410236.2023.2207239](https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2207239)

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 23%; Impact Factor: 3.9)
2. Kumar, R. (*Acceptance with Revisions*) A Culture-Centered Analysis of Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS) as a Barrier to Health Self-Sufficiency (HSS) for Burmese Refugees in the United States. *Frontiers in Communication: Towards 2030: Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities. A Communication Perspective*.

(Impact Factor: 2.4)

Pre-SDSU affiliation (limited to 6-year probationary period)

3. **Kumar, R.** (2021). Refugee Articulations of Health: A Culture-Centered Exploration of Burmese Refugees' Resettlement in the United States. *Health Communication*, 36(6), 682–692. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.17120>

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 23%; Impact Factor:3.9)
4. **Kumar, R.** & Jamil, R. (2020). Labor, health and marginalization: A culture-centered analysis of the challenges of male Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Middle East. *Qualitative Health Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732320922180>.

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 18%; Impact Factor: 4.1)
5. Jamil, R. & **Kumar, R.** (2020). Migrant labor and health in the Middle East: A culture-centered analysis of the health experiences of Bangladeshi workers in the UAE. *Health Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1750773>

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 23%; Impact Factor:3.9)
6. Dutta, M. J., Collins, W., Sastry, S., Dillard, S., Anaele, A., **Kumar, R.**, Roberson, C., Robinson, T., & Bonu, T. (2019). A Culture-Centered Community-Grounded Approach to Disseminating Health Information among African Americans. *Health Communication*, 34(10), 1075–1084. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2018.1455626>

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 23%; Impact Factor:3.9)
7. Dillard, S., Anaele, A., **Kumar, R.**, & Jamil, R. (2018) Bridging Theory to Practice: Utilizing the Culture-Centered Approach (CCA) to Address Gaps in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Processes. *Athens Journal of Health*, 5(3) (pp. 175-194). http://DOI: 10.30958/ajh_v5i3 <https://www.athensjournals.gr/health/2018-5-3-1-Dillard.pdf>

- Dutta, M., S. Sastry, S. Dillard, **R. Kumar**, A. Anaele, W. Collins, C. Roberson, U. Dutta, C. Jones, T. Gillespie and C. Spinetta (2017). Narratives of stress in health meanings of African Americans in Lake County, Indiana. *Health Communication*, 32(10), 1241-1251. DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2016.1204583. [\[Link\]](#)

(Acceptance Rate of the Journal: 23%; Impact Factor:3.9)

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Before Tenure (SDSU affiliation)

- Kumar, R., Basnyat, I., & Mukherjee, P. (In-press). Health Communication and Social Justice: A Global South Perspective. In: Deb, N., Nair, M., Muschert, G. (Eds.) *Handbook on Social Justice in the Global South*. Edward Elgar Publishing, UK.
- Kumar, R. (2023). The Role of Contemporary Neoliberal Government Policies in the Erosion of Migrant Labor Rights During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Examination of Executive, Legislative and Judicial Trends in India and the United States. In: Kaur-Gill, S., Dutta, M.J. (eds) *Migrants and the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-7384-0_2
- Kumar, R. (2023) Migrant Health. In Ho, E., Bylund, C., van Weert, J., Basnyat, I., Bol, N. & Dean, M. (Eds.), *Wiley-Blackwell International Encyclopedia of Health Communication*.
- Kumar, R.**, & Mahbubur, R. (In-press). Rohingya Health. In Crawford, P. & Kadetz, P. (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Health Humanities*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Pre-SDSU Affiliation (limited to 6-year probationary period)

- Kumar, R. (2019). International Perspectives on Women's Health: Reflections on A Handmaid's Tale from India. In Ritzenhoff, K. & Goldie, J. (Eds.), *The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders*. Lexington Books.
- Kumar, R.**, Hurwitz, H., Keays-Yeager, A. (2018). Connecticut's Children with Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Initiative at Central Connecticut State University: Building academic partnerships to expand knowledge and inspire change. In Gordon, L. (Ed.), *Contemporary Research and Analysis on the Children of Prisoners: Invisible Children*. (pp.172-189) Cambridge Scholars Publisher.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & PANELS

Before Tenure (SDSU affiliation)

- Kumar, R. (2022, November). *Honoring Paul Farmer in Health Communication: Centering People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment (PLACE) through Critical Health Communication Praxis*. Spotlight panelist for the Health Communication Division for the 108th Annual National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, 2022.

2. Kumar, R. (2022, November, 1). *Prison Education as Social Justice: Engaging Issues of Liberation and Community for Those Impacted by Mass Incarceration*. Panelist for the Activism and Social Justice Division for the 108th Annual National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, 2022.
3. Kumar, R. (2022, November). *Navigating and Engaging DE&I Practices at the Intersections of Teaching, Research, and Administration*. Spotlight panel co-chair for the Health Communication Division for the 108th Annual National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, 2022.
4. Kumar, R. (2022, November). *A critical analysis of the 'employment as self-sufficiency' mandate within U.S. resettlement structures through Burmese refugee narratives of health, work and acculturation*. Panelist for the panel sponsored by the New York State Communication Association at the 108th Annual National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, 2022.

Pre-SDSU Affiliation (within 6-year probationary period)

1. Kumar, R. (2021, November). *Health in Displacement: The pandemic as an entry point for examination of structural health inequities for migrants and refugees at the margins of citizenship and labor protections*. Organizer and panelist for the Health Communication Division for the 107th Annual National Communication Association Conference, Seattle, 2021.
2. Kumar, R. (2021, November). *Mental resilience counternarratives of 'Good DNA' by Children with Incarcerated Parents as a cultural negotiation of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences*. Panelist for the Research in Progress Roundtables for the 107th Annual National Communication Association Conference, Seattle, 2021.
3. Kumar, R. (2021, May). *Centering Care: Methodologies of the Global South*. Panelist at the Virtual ICA Regional Hub at CARE pre-conference, 2021 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BQx5Hq4_A4
4. Kumar, R. (2020, May). *A Global Perspective on Health Communication Challenges*. Session chair for the Health Communication Division of the 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference at Gold Coast, Australia (Virtual), 2020.
5. Kumar, R. (2020, May). *Barriers to Medical Care-Seeking and Structural Negotiations within the Context of Refugee Resettlement in the United States*. Panelist at the Health Communication Division of the 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference at Gold Coast, Australia (Virtual), 2020.
6. Kaur-Gill, S, Jayan, P., Kumar, R. (2020, May). *Battling Health Disparities through Culture-Centered Interventions: Dismantling Racist Health Structures*. Panelist at the Health Communication Division of the 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference at Gold Coast, Australia (Virtual), 2020.
7. Kumar, R., & Jamil, R. (2019, November). *Health and marginalization: Voices of Bangladeshi migrant workers from the Middle East*. Paper submitted to the 105th Annual National Communication Association at Baltimore, MD, 2019.
8. Jamil, R., & Kumar, R. (2019, May). *Migration and health: Stories from the Middle East*. Paper to be presented at the 69th Annual International Communication Association at Washington, D.C. 2019.

9. Kumar, R. (2019, April). *A culture centered lens on the lived health experience of Burmese refugees resettled in the United States*. Poster to be presented at the 5th Biennial D.C. Health Communication Conference (DCHC) on “International and Global Health Communication Research” at Fairfax, VA, 2019.
10. Kumar, R. (2019, April). *A culture centered lens on the lived health experience of Burmese refugees resettled in the United States*. Poster to be presented at the 5th Biennial D.C. Health Communication Conference (DCHC) on “International and Global Health Communication Research” at Fairfax, VA, 2019.
11. Kumar, R. (2018, March). Participant at the Consortium of Universities on Global Health at Columbia University, NY, 2018.
12. Kumar, R. (2018, April). Report on CIP Analysis for the Youth Voice Project, Presented at IMRP, CT. *[Published report/analysis]*

PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

Before Tenure

1. **Kumar, R.,** Basnyat, I., Hingle, A., Bui, B., Pham, B. (*To be submitted to JACR in*). *A culture-centered analysis of Vietnamese American women’s mental health support-seeking in Northeastern United States*.
2. **Kumar, R.,** Dutta, M. (*To be submitted to Health Communication*) “We know this is where animals live”: Narratives of health and forced displacement among Rohingya refugees of Hyderabad, India.
3. Kumar, R. (*To be submitted to the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*). An agentic analysis of Rohingya women’s health needs in the context of forced displacement.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Before Tenure

1. CT State University System Board of Regents **Cross-Disciplinary Faculty Research Award** (Central Connecticut State University 2020-2021) **Awarded**
<https://www2.ccsu.edu/news/story/4783>
https://www.ct.edu/newsroom/board_of_regents_names_2020_21_faculty_award_recipients

William T. Grant Foundation’s Reducing Inequality Grant (2021)
(Co-PI, \$590,721, Submitted) *The #Solidarity Project: Building an Empathetic Racial Hashtag Activism for Black, Asian and Latino Communities*

Davis Educational Foundation Mini Grant (2020) under the Improving and Expanding Campus-Wide General Education Assessment Grant (\$150,000)
(Awarded, Rubric Development Team Member for Oral Communication, \$300)

American Association of University Professors Faculty Research Grant CCSU (2020-2022) **(PI, \$5000, Awarded)** *A culture-centered approach to Rohingya refugee health as lived experience in Hyderabad, India*

American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant (2021)

(PI, \$25,000, Submitted) *A media production based after-school curriculum targeting socioemotional development for at-risk youth in New Britain, CT.*

United States Department of Agriculture Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant
2020-2021

(Co-PI, \$290,716, Submitted) *New Britain Urban Agriculture Development Project for sustainable solutions to food insecurity in urban communities*

CT General Assembly/Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy Grant, (2015-2018) **(PI, \$50,000 Awarded)**
Youth Voice Project: A health campaign targeted towards mental health wellness in children with incarcerated parents

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Before Tenure (SDSU affiliation)

1. National Communication Association Health Communication Division
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Vice Chair
2. Western States Communication Association,
Ad Hoc Policy Committee, Member
3. International Communication Association, Member

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Fall 2023 - Present Crystal Nguyen (Masters), Chair.
Tentative Thesis Title: Cultural discursive spaces of disordered eating and health among young Vietnamese American Women in San Diego, California.

Fall 2024-Spring 2023 Saki Amemiya (Masters), Committee Member.
Thesis Title: "I tried to explain, but it was not enough." Communication Strategies of Hearing Mothers with Deaf Children in Japan.

Fall 2022 - Present Comprehensive Exam Committee member for 4 graduate students

July 2022 COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) design workshop as part of the Program for the Internationalization of Curricula, U.S. - Mexico.

COURSES TAUGHT AT SDSU

Course #	Course Name	Level (i.e., upper, lower, grad)	Modality (i.e., online, in-person, hybrid)	Co - Taught?
<i>COMM 321</i>	<i>Intro to Health Communication</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>COMM 371</i>	<i>Intercultural Communication</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>COMM 422</i>	<i>Politics of Health Communication</i>	<i>Upper</i>	<i>In-person</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>COMM 750</i>	<i>Seminar: Communication & Politics</i>	<i>Graduate</i>	<i>In-person</i>	<i>No</i>

SERVICE

Service for the Department

1. Fall 2023 Search Committee for Border Studies in Communication, Member
2. Spring 2023 Health Communication Student Organization, Advisor
3. Fall 2022-Present Department Executive Committee, Member
4. Spring 2023-Present Diversity Planning Committee, Member

Service for the College

1. Spring 2023 -Present PSFA, Dean's Honors and Awards Committee, Member

Service for the Profession

1. Spring 2023- Present National Communication Association Health Communication Division, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Chair
2. Spring 2022 - Fall 2022 National Communication Association Health Communication Division, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Vice-Chair
3. Spring 2021-Present Journal of Applied Communication Research, Editorial board member
4. Spring 2022 - Present CoLead Editor, Frontiers Special Issue Community-based Research and Scholar-Activism in the Global South

Ad- hoc Reviewer

1. Journal of Applied Communication Research (2020)
2. American Behavioral Scientist Special Issue (2020)
3. Oxford Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Communication (2021)
4. Frontiers in Health Communication Journal (2019-Present)
5. Health Communication Journal (2017 -Present)
6. National Communication Association Conference (2010- Present)
7. International Communication Association Conference (2010- Present)

Service for the Community

Rohingya National League of Los Angeles, *Member, Board of Directors*

A group of global Rohingya refugees committed to educate, develop and save the Rohingya community. Some of the humanitarian and educational activities they have carried out in the Rohingya refugee camps, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh include providing shelter-based education, providing online education to youth, giving humanitarian assistance like non-food and food items.

Paradym Academy, *Member, Board of Directors*

An after-school and extended day program made up of individual, cooperative, connected-learning curricula, designed to empower at-risk and marginalized youth through transmedia production and media literacy.

Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, *Member*

CIRC is a nonpartisan coalition whose members are deeply committed to immigration reform and in fostering civic participation from all segment of society.

Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, *Network member*

The CTSAB is tri-chaired by the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Children and Families, and CT Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide

Prevention and is the single state-level advisory board in Connecticut that addresses suicide prevention, intervention, and response across the lifespan.