

# MEGHA M. PATEL

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### CONTACT INFORMATION

127 Elk Place, Rm. 442  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Email: mpatel@tulane.edu

### EDUCATION

2014 – present New Orleans, LA, USA	Tulane University <i>Doctoral Candidate, Social Work</i>
2006 – 2008 Philadelphia, PA, USA	University of Pennsylvania <i>Master of Social Work</i>
2000 – 2004 University Park, PA, USA	Pennsylvania State University <i>Bachelor of Science in Psychology</i>

### COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

The Politics of Child Deinstitutionalization

- Fall, 2016 | Pass with Distinction

Conceptualizing and Measuring Child Well-Being in the African Context

- Spring, 2017 | Pass with Distinction

### AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

- Child welfare and protection
- Family strengthening
- Gender and development
- Community development and resilience
- Social workforce strengthening

### PUBLICATIONS

**Patel, M.**, Liddell, J., & Ferreira, R. (2016). *Positive Action Evaluation Report*. New Orleans, LA: Office of the Mayor, The City of New Orleans.

Lavin, B., Kalinganire, C., & **Patel, M.** (2013). *Assessment of children reintegrated from orphanages in Rwanda*. Kigali, Rwanda: Rwanda Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and UNICEF Rwanda.

**Patel, M.** (2011). *Encouraging dialogue for gender equality and family planning through a volunteer savings and loan initiative* (Report). Kigali, Rwanda: CARE Rwanda.

## PRESENTATIONS

Haas, L. J., Gilkey, S., Mock, N., **Patel, M.** & Pop, D. (2014, July). *Deinstitutionalizing orphanages in Rwanda: Approaches to building a pilot training program for rapid social workforce development using multiple methods to support practical, sustainable deinstitutionalization and resilience enhancing efforts*. Paper accepted for oral presentation at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development: Promoting Social and Economic Equality, Melbourne, Australia.

**Patel, M.**, Haas, L. J., Nkurikiyinka, V., Nyinawagaga, C. & Karangwa, V. (2014, July). *A New Social Workforce in Rwanda to Implement Deinstitutionalization and Reintegration of Orphans*. Paper accepted for oral presentation at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development: Promoting Social and Economic Equality, Melbourne, Australia.

**Patel, M.**, Haas, L. J., Papendieck, A., Mudaheeranwa, H. & Nkubito, F. (2014, March 18). *Rwanda's effort to promote rapid social workforce development via emerging mobile technologies*. Presented as International Social Work Conference, Kampala, Uganda.

**Patel, M.**, & Kalinganire, C. (2012, October 15). *Lessons learned from a study tour exchange for Rwandan social work faculty*. Presented at Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa International Social Work Conference, White River, South Africa.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Tulane University

Introduction to Organizations and Community Practice (SOWK 7140)	Graduate, 2 credits Fall 2017	Teaching Assistant
Tools II: Practice-Based Research and Evaluation (SOWK 7420)	Graduate, 2 credits Spring 2017	Teaching Assistant
Human and Social Factors in Disaster (DRLS 6010)	Graduate, 3 credits Fall 2016	Co-Instructor
Introduction to Social Policy and Practice (SOWK 2000)	Undergraduate, 3 credits Fall 2016	Teaching Assistant
Advanced Field Practicum (SOWK 7540)	Graduate, 5 credits Fall 2011 - 2013	Adjunct Clinical Field Faculty

### Additional Teaching Experience

National Commission for Children, Government of Rwanda (Kigali, Rwanda, 2014)

- Social workforce capacity building training series

Rwanda National Association of Social Workers (Kigali, Rwanda, 2012)

- Social work continuing education workshop on values and ethics

Generation Rwanda (Kigali, Rwanda, 2010 – 2012)

- Leadership training series for Rwandan university students

Nationalities Service Center (Philadelphia, PA, USA, 2009)

- ESL instructor for newly resettled refugees and immigrants

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2017 - Present      Co-Investigator  
*Consortium for Resilient Gulf Coast Communities*  
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA
- Project coordination, data collection and supervision, IRB amendments
  - Quantitative analysis
- 2016                      Graduate Research Assistant  
*ResilientChild: Mali*  
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA
- Quantitative analysis
- 2015-2016              Co-Investigator  
*Positive Action*  
City of New Orleans, Office of the Mayor, New Orleans, LA, USA
- Project design and coordination, data collection, IRB submission
  - Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- 2013                      Research Assistant  
*Rapid Assessment of Children Reintegration from Orphanages in Rwanda*  
Tulane University, Kigali, Rwanda
- Data collection support
  - Qualitative analysis

### **FUNDED PROJECTS AND GRANTS**

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 2015 | <i>Positive Action</i>  | Source: City of New Orleans<br>Amount: \$15,000 |
| 2015 | <i>National Capacity Development of Social Welfare Workforce</i>  | Source: UNICEF<br>Amount: \$385,000             |
| 2013 | <i>Social workforce capacity building for Tubarerere Mu Muyrango! (Let's raise children in families!)</i> | Source: UNICEF<br>Amount: \$220,000             |

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 - 2016      Consultant  
*National Capacity Development of Social Welfare Workforce*  
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA
- Provided technical support for capacity development training series for Rwandan social workforce in child care and protection
- 2013 - 2014      Program Manager  
*Social Workforce Capacity Building for Tubarerere Mu Muyrango! (Let's Raise Children in Families!)*  
Tulane University, Kigali, Rwanda
- Supported efforts to strengthen the capacity of the newly recruited Rwandan social workforce in child care and protection for the implementation of Rwanda's child care reform policy
  - Responsible for ensuring the organization, design, and delivery of social workforce strengthening efforts in collaboration with Rwandan government, non-profit, and university partners
- 2011 - 2014      Program Manager  
*Improving Public Health Capacity in Rwanda*  
Tulane University, Kigali, Rwanda
- Supported human and institutional capacity development projects among Rwanda's institutions of higher learning in the health and social sciences
  - Advised and supported the development of a professional association for social workers in Rwanda
- 2011              Consultant  
*ISARO*  
CARE Rwanda, Huye, Rwanda
- Documented program on family planning intervention integrated into a volunteer savings and loan program aimed at empowering women in southern Rwanda
- 2010              Consultant  
*USAID/Higa Ubeho*  
CHF International, Kigali, Rwanda
- Led a participatory process with local Rwandan organization to evaluate existing strategies and identify areas for improvement in providing support group services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
  - Designed and facilitated training workshops for local Rwandan organization on topics related to counseling for PLWHA and structured play techniques for vulnerable children

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2007 – 2010	<i>ActionAIDS</i> Philadelphia, PA, USA	Case Manager
2007	<i>American Red Cross Headquarters</i> Washington, DC, USA	Presidential Intern
2006 – 2007	<i>Welcome House Adoption Program, Pearl S. Buck International</i> Perkasie, PA, USA	Graduate Social Work Intern
2006 – 2007	<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montgomery County</i> Norristown, PA, USA	Match Support Specialist
2005 – 2006	<i>Visions in Action</i> Johannesburg, South Africa	Volunteer
2004 – 2005	<i>The Renfrew Center</i> Philadelphia, PA, USA	Aftercare Coordinator
2003 – 2005	<i>Caring Hospice Services</i> Fort Washington, PA, USA	Volunteer

## **AWARDS**

Combating Racism Award, Black Men at Penn School of Social Work (2008)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa  
International Federation of Social Workers  
International Society for Child Indicators  
National Association of Social Workers, USA  
National Association of Social Workers, Rwanda  
Society for Social Work and Research

## **LANGUAGES**

Gujarati (proficient)  
French (basic)