

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Thomas O. Blank**

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### APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS:

- 1988-present *University of Connecticut*  
**Professor (Associate Professor 1988-1993)**, Human Development and Family Studies, School of Family Studies/College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 2002-2007 **Director, Center on Aging and Human Development**, University of Connecticut
- 2006-2008 **Director of Graduate Studies**, Human Development and Family Studies
- 2005-present **Associate/Affiliate**, Center on Health Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut
- 2007-present **Affiliate**, Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Center on Aging, University of Connecticut Health Center
- 1997-2001 **Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies**, School of Family Studies
- 1990-1994 **Division Director**, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division, Travelers Center on Aging
- 1980-1988 *Lehigh University*  
**Assistant to Associate Professor** (1986), Department of Social Relations; Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, 1986-1988
- 1986-1987 *Temple University*  
**Affiliate Associate Professor**, Department of Psychology

- 1977-1980            *University of Missouri-Kansas City*  
**Assistant Research Professor**, Institute for Community Studies (1979-1980); Lecturer, Psychology and Sociology Departments (1977-1980)
- 1976-1979            *University of Missouri-Columbia*  
**Postdoctoral Trainee**, National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral Traineeship, Center on Aging Studies
- 1976-1979            *Midwest Council for Social Research on Aging*  
**Postdoctoral Associate**
- 1972-1976            *Columbia University*  
**N.I.M.H. Predoctoral Trainee**, Faculty Fellow

**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:**

- 1976-1979            *University of Missouri-Columbia and Kansas City*  
Postdoctoral Program in Social Gerontology
- 1972-1976            *Columbia University*  
Ph.D. October, 1976 (Social Psychology)  
M. Phil. May, 1975 (Psychology)
- 1966-1968            *Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana*  
B.A. with highest honors June, 1968 (Theology, Psychology)
- 1964-1966            *Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*  
diploma *summa cum laude* June, 1966

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Gerontological Society and its Section for Behavioral and Social Sciences (Fellow) (1977-present; Fellow since 1998)
- Society of Behavioral Medicine (1998-present)
- American Psycho-social Oncology Society (2000-present)
- American Psychological Association and Divisions on Adult Development and Aging, Personality and Social Psychology, SPSSI (1973-1998)
- Society for the Advancement of Social Psychology (1980-1990; Vice-President, 1983-1988)

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- Fellow, Gerontological Society of America since 1998
- Distinguished Contribution to Aging, Travelers Center on Aging—Campus Branch, 1989
- N.I.M.H. Postdoctoral Traineeship, University of Missouri
- N.I.M.H. Predoctoral Traineeship, Columbia University

Consumer Reviewer, CDMRP Prostate Cancer Research Program, Department of Defense, six times since 2004

Researcher Mentor in Researcher-Advocate Mentor Program, Biennial Cancer Survivorship Conference in 2006 and 2008

## **RECENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:**

- 1996-present      **Prostate Cancer Survivors: Quality of Life and Well-being**  
Examination of social psychological aspects of being diagnosed with prostate cancer, using a variety of methods and populations. Emphasis on survivorship issues overall and for specialized populations. Portions funded by National Institute on Aging R03 from January, 2000- June 2003, and by Anthony Marchionne Foundation from January, 2007- February 2009.
- 2003-present      **Psychological Growth Following Cancer Diagnosis**  
With Crystal Park. Model development and research on how some cancer survivors feel a sense of growth following their diagnosis and treatment. Including both aging and young cancer survivors at various points in the years after diagnosis. Portions funded by Lance Armstrong Foundation, Jan. 2004-June 2006, 2008-2011.
- 1999-present      **Cancer and Aging**  
With Crystal Park, Keith Bellizzi. Using lifespan developmental and life course approaches to understanding age differences in the impact of cancer.
- 2005-present      **Gay Men and Prostate Cancer**  
With Marysol Asencio and Lara Descartes. Developing and implementing research on attitudes, knowledge, and experience of middle-aged and older gay men about prostate cancer and differences in treatment and survivorship by gay men. Funded by Anthony Marchionne Foundation.
- 2007-present      **Couple Dynamics and Cancer Survivorship**  
Examining the impact of cancer on both the survivor and his or her partner and their perceptions of impacts on the other to explore how concordance or lack of symmetry on impacts affect both quality of life and couple relationship factors.
- 2004-present      **Online Support Groups for Cancer**  
With various undergraduate and graduate students, investigating how individuals utilize list-serve type, asynchronous “support groups,” including content and types of messages, with special emphasis on gender differences in usage

- 1976-present      **Methodological, Theoretical, and Conceptual Studies in Social and Developmental Psychology of Adult Development and Aging**  
Development of a life-span developmental and relational perspective to social psychology.
- 1990-1999      **Control and Caregiving**  
With Georgie Winter and Maurice Levesque. Development of a model of the relationship of perceived control, desire for control, and control capacity to control behaviors and interpersonal perceptions, especially as those relate to the caregiving situation.
- 1984-1997      **Effects of Induced Early Retirement on Individuals and Families**  
With Robert C. Williamson and Alice Rinehart from 1984-1992. Social, inter-personal, and psychological effects of financial inducements to retire, especially early. Later research ongoing with State of Connecticut early retirees includes short-term longitudinal samples of both acceptors and rejecters of offers.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Social psychological and personality aspects of cancer survivorship  
 Cancer and aging in lifespan/life course perspective  
 Post-traumatic growth and loss related to chronic illness  
 Marital and family processes in dealing with cancer  
 GLBT populations and health, especially cancer  
 Use of Internet for cancer information, comparisons, and support  
 Theory and method for a social psychology of developing adults  
 Control and interpersonal relationships in adulthood  
 Retirement effects on social psychological factors  
 Historical-contextual approaches to social psychology and gerontology

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS** (chronological within category):

**BOOKS**

- Blank, T. O. (1982) *A social psychology of developing adults*. New York: Wiley-Interscience.
- Blank, T. O. (1988) *Older persons and their housing-- today and tomorrow*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas.
- Haber, G. M., & Blank, T. O. (eds.) (1992) *Building design for handicapped and aged persons*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Williamson, R. C., Rinehart, A. D., & Blank, T. O. (1992) *Early retirement: Promises and pitfalls*. New York: Insight/Plenum.

Blank, T. O. (ed.). (1993) *Topics in gerontology: Selected, annotated bibliographies*. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

Blank, T. O. (1986) A contextual and relational view of adult development. In R. Rosnow and M. Georgoudi (Eds.), *Contextualism and understanding in behavioral science*. New York: Praeger.

Blank, T. O. (1987) Attributions as dynamic elements in a lifespan social psychology. In R. Abeles (Ed.), *Implications of a lifespan perspective for social psychology*. Hillsdale, N. J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Blank, T. O. (1993) Introduction to the field and the bibliographies. In Blank, T. O. (ed.), *Topics in gerontology: Selected, annotated bibliographies*. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

Blank, T. O. (1993). Contextualism. In R. Kastenbaum (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of adult development*. Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press.

Blank, T. O. (1993). Housing across the adult lifespan. In R. Kastenbaum (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of adult development*. Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press.

Blank, T. O., Asencio, M., Descartes, L., & Griggs, J. (2009). Aging, health, and GLBTQ family and community life. In C. A. Fruhauf & D. Mahoney (Eds.), *Older GLBT Family and Community Life*. New York: Routledge.

### **SELECTED REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK REVIEWS**

Ludwig, D. J., & Blank, T. O. (1969) Measurement of religion as perceptual set. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 8, 319-321.

Blank, T. O., Staff, I., & Shaver, P. (1976) Social facilitation of word associations: Further questions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 34, 725-733.

Blank, T. O. (1982) The incomplete social psychology of aging: A psychologist's perspective. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 14, 307-318.

Blank, T. O. (1984) Meaning and motivation in adult perceptions of causality. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 5, 111-120.

Blank, T. O. (1989) Social psychology, contexts of aging, and a contextual world view. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 29, 225-239.

- Blank, T. O. (1992) Active elderly in active contexts. *Pharmacopsychologia*, 4, 38-51.
- Blank, T. O., Levesque, M. J., & Winter, G. P. (1993) The triad of control: Concepts and applications to caregiving. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 16, 261-286. [Also published in Lachman, M. E. (ed.), *Planning and control processes across the life span*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates].
- Blank, T. O., & Levesque, M. J. (1993) Constructing success and failure: Age differences in perceptions and explanations of success and failure. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 37, 105-118.
- Blank, T. O. (1995). Half a social psychology of aging. (Review of *Experiencing the Life Cycle: A Social Psychology of Aging* (2 ed.)). *Contemporary Psychology*, 40, 38-39.
- Blank, T. O. (1996). Cognizing the social psychology of aging. (Review of *Social Psychology of Aging: A Cognitive Perspective*.) *Contemporary Psychology*, 41, 46-47.
- Blank, T. O. (1997). Defining developmental social psychology. (Review of *Developmental Social Psychology: From Infancy to Old Age*). *Contemporary Psychology*, 42, 731-732.
- Blank, T. O. (1997). Review of *The Many Faces of Dependency in Old Age*. *Contemporary Gerontology*, 4, 22-24.
- Blank, T. O. (1999). Survivorship (Poem). *Coping with Cancer magazine*. December, 1999.
- Blank, T.O. (2005). Gay men and prostate cancer: Invisible diversity. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 23, 2593-2596.
- Blank, T. O., & Petrovic, K. A. (2005). Human development in the genomic revolution. *NCFR Report, Family Focus on Aging Special Issue*, 50, (3), F2-3.
- Guzzardo, M. T., & Blank, T. O. (2005). Social support networks of residents in federally-subsidized senior housing. *NCFR Report, Family Focus on Aging Special Issue*, 50, (3), F22-23.
- Blank, T. O. (2006). Gay and lesbian aging: Research and future directions (Book review). *Educational Gerontology*, 32, 241-243.
- Bellizzi, K.M. & Blank, T. O. (2006). Understanding the dynamics of post-traumatic growth in breast cancer survivors. *Health Psychology*, 25, 47-56.
- Blank, T. O., & Bellizzi, K. M. (2006). After prostate cancer: Predictors of well-being among long-term prostate cancer survivors. *Cancer*, 106, 2128-2135.

- Bellizzi, K. M., Blank, T. O., & Oakes, C. M. (2006). Social comparison processes in autobiographies of adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Health Psychology, 11*, 777-786.
- Blank, T. O., Graves, K., Sepucha, K., & Llewellyn-Thomas, H. (2006). Understanding treatment decision-making: Contexts, commonalities, complexities, and challenges. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 32*, 211-217.
- Blank, T. O., & Adams-Blodnieks, M. (2007). The who and what of usage of two cancer online mailing lists. *Computers in Human Behavior, 23*, 1249-1257.
- Bellizzi, K. M., & Blank, T. O. (2007). Cancer-related identity and positive and negative affect in survivors of prostate cancer. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship, 1*, 44-48.
- Blank, T. O. (2007). *Midlife and Older Gays and Lesbians* (Book review). *Educational Gerontology, 33*, 1016-1017.
- Blank, T. O. (2008). *Experience of Retirement* (Book review). *Educational Gerontology, 34*, 247-248.
- Blank, T. O. (2008). Review of "Aging and Time: Multidisciplinary Perspectives" by Jan Baars and Henk Visser. *Educational Gerontology, 34*, 355-356.
- Edmondson, D., Park, C. L., Blank, T., Fenster, J. R., & Mills, M. A. (2008). Deconstructing spiritual well-being: Existential well-being and HRQOL in cancer survivors. *Psycho-Oncology, 17*, 161-169.
- Blank, T. O., & Bellizzi, K. M. (2008). A gerontologic perspective on cancer and aging. *Cancer, 112*, 2569-2576.
- Trask, P. C., Blank, T. O., & Jacobsen, P. (2008). Future perspectives on the treatment issues associated with cancer and aging. *Cancer, 113*, 3512-3518.
- Blank, T. O. (2008). The challenge of prostate cancer: "Half a man or man and a half?" *Generations, 32*, 68-72.
- Park, C. L., Edmondson, D. E., Fenster, J. R., & Blank, T. O. (2008). Positive and negative health behavior changes in cancer survivors: A stress and coping perspective. *Journal of Health Psychology, 13*, 1198-1206.
- Park, C. L., Edmondson, D., Fenster, J. R., & Blank, T. O. (2008). Meaning making and psychological adjustment following cancer: The mediating roles of growth, life meaning, and restored just world beliefs. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 76*, 863-875.

- Park, C. L., Edmondson, D., & Blank, T. O. (2009). Religious and non-religious pathways to stress-related growth in cancer survivors. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being, 1*, 321-335.
- Blank, T. O., Asencio, M. W., Descartes, L., & Griggs, J. (2009). Aging, health, and GLBTQ family and community life. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies, 5*, 9-34.
- Park, C. L., Zlateva, I, & Blank, T. O. (2009). Self-identity after cancer: “survivor,” “victim,” “patient,” and “person with cancer.” *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 24* (Supplement 2), S430-S435.
- Yanez, B., Edmondson, D., Stanton, A. L., Park, C. L., Kwan, L., & Blank, T. O. (2009). Facets of spirituality as predictors of adjustment to cancer: Relative contributions of having faith and finding meaning. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 77*, 730-741.
- Blank, T. O. (2009). Cancer from both sides now: combining personal and research perspectives on survivorship. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 24* (Supplement 2), S425-S428. DOI 10.1007/s11606-009-1018-5.
- Asencio, M., Blank, T., Descartes, L., & Crawford, A. (2009). Prospect of prostate cancer: a challenge for gay men’s sexualities as they age. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy: Journal of NSRC, 6*, 38-51.
- Blank, T.O., Schmidt, S. D., Vangsness, S. A., Monteiro, A. K., & Santagata, P. V. (2010). Differences among breast and prostate cancer online support groups. *Computers in Human Behavior, 26*, 1400-1404.
- Park, C. L., Chmielewski, J., & Blank, T. O. (2010). Post-traumatic growth: Finding positive meaning in cancer survivorship moderates the impact of intrusive thoughts on adjustment in younger adults. *Psycho-Oncology, 19*, 1139-1147.

## **PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS SINCE 2001**

### **2001**

“Narratives of Control and Coping by Middle-aged and Older Cancer Survivors.” (With B. N. Singley, C. D. Stelle, K. M. Bellizzi, & S. Schaperow). International Congress on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.

“Social Comparison Processes in Autobiographies of Midlife and Older Cancer Survivors.” (With K. M. Bellizzi, C. E. Oakes, and C. D. Stelle). International Congress on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.

Chair of Session, “Coping with Cancer: Exceptional Experiences,” International Congress on Gerontology, Vancouver, BC.



“Cancer Talk on the Web: Contributors and Issues of Breast and Prostate Cancer Messages.” (With M. Adams-Blodnieks & J. Schaperow). Gerontological Society of America, Chicago.

## **2002**

“Examining the Convergence of Control Processes and Social Comparison Theory in Midlife and Older Adult Cancer Survivors.” (With K. M. Bellizzi, C. E. Oakes). Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, April 2002.

“Resilience in Prostate Cancer Survivors: A Comparison among Primary Treatment Modality, Severity of Diagnosis, and Hope and Optimism across the Second Half of Life.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). American Cancer Society/National Cancer Institute Conference on Resilience and Cancer Survivorship. Washington, June 3, 2002.

“After Prostate Cancer: Health and Functioning among Prostate Cancer Survivors.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). Gerontological Society of America, Boston.

“Age at Diagnosis and Psychosocial Aspects of Prostate Cancer.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). Gerontological Society of America, Boston.

## **2003**

“Differentiating Age, Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Scores, Personality Dispositions, and Coping on Psychological Distress in Prostate Cancer Survivors.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). Society of Behavioral Medicine, Salt Lake City.

“Beyond Survival: Men Dealing with Prostate Cancer Survivorship.” Yale University School of Public Health, New Haven, CT.

“How do Men “Make Sense” of their Prostate Cancer?: Age and Treatment Factors.” (With K. Murphy, K. Ryan, & K. M. Bellizzi). Gerontological Society of America, San Diego.

“Control and Attribution Processes in Prostate Cancer Survivors: Across the Adult Lifespan.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). Gerontological Society of America, San Diego.

“Impotence and incontinence following treatment for prostate cancer: Men’s perspectives.” (With C. Oakes). Gerontological Society of America, San Diego.

## **2004**

“Prostate cancer survivors: Copers, non-copers, and intensity of psychological effects.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

“Gay men and prostate Cancer: An invisible health issue. (With M. Asencio). SAGE Conference on GLBT Aging, New York.

“Internet newsgroups as outlets for information, support, and self-expression for breast cancer and prostate cancer survivors.” (With D. Belair). Gerontological Society of America, Washington, DC.

## **2005**

“Coping strategies in the years of prostate cancer survival: Differential impacts on well-being.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). American Psychosocial Oncology Society, Phoenix.

“Cancer support group participation and quality of life: A matter of intensification.” Society of Behavioral Medicine, Boston.

“Dimensions of spirituality and quality of life in young to midlife cancer survivors.” (With Park, C. L., Fenster, J., McGuinn, K., Santorelli, R., McGarrity, M., & Robertson, T. W.) Society of Behavioral Medicine, Boston.

“Positive life changes in young and middle-aged cancer survivors.” (With C. L. Park). NCI National Small Grants Conference, Bethesda, MD, May 21, 2005.

“Perceived exchange of social support in senior housing. (With M. Guzzardo). Gerontological Society of America, Orlando.

“Feeling Changed (or Not) by prostate cancer: Coping, well-being, and self-reported change.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). Gerontological Society of America, Orlando.

“Influence of chronic health conditions on grandparents’ experiences.” (With K. Petrovic). Gerontological Society of America, Orlando.

“Aging gay men and prostate cancer: Invisible diversity.” Gerontological Society of America, Orlando.

## **2006**

“Existential well-being as a reliable predictor of HRQOL in cancer survivors.” (With Edmondson, D., Park, C. L., Mills-Baxter, M. A., & Fenster, J. R.) Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco.

“Relationship between previous life trauma, coping, and health-related quality of life in young men and women cancer survivors.” (With Edmondson, D., Park, C. L., & Fenster, J. R.) Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco.

“Psychosocial and coping correlates of cancer survivors’ positive and negative behavior changes.” (With C. L. Park, D. Edmondson, J. R. Fenster). Presented at Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco.

- “Adaptive changes following treatment for prostate cancer and their association with quality of life.” (With K. Bellizzi). ASCO 2006 Prostate Cancer Symposium, San Francisco.
- “Psychosocial resources and coping as facilitators of positive health behavior changes in breast cancer survivors.” (With C. L. Park, D. Edmondson, J. R. Fenster). Breast Cancer: Survive and Conquer, Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Symposium, Hartford CT.
- “Patterns of psychological change in breast cancer survivorship.” (With C. L. Park, D. Edmondson, J. R. Fenster). Breast Cancer: Survive and Conquer, Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Symposium, Hartford CT.
- “Meaning Making Processes and Adjustment to Cancer Survivorship.” (With C. L. Park and J. R. Fenster). UICC World Cancer Congress, Washington, D. C.
- “Spirituality, Meaning, and Well-being in Young to Middle Aged Cancer Survivors.” (With C. L. Park, D. Edmondson, & J. R. Fenster). UICC World Cancer Congress, Washington, D. C.
- “What is the "New Normal?": Cancer Survivors' Descriptions of Challenges and Changes.” (With C. L. Park and K. K. McGuinn). UICC World Cancer Congress, Washington, D. C.
- “How do men with Prostate Cancer Self-identify and do these Labels Influence their Quality of Life?” (With K. Bellizzi). UICC World Cancer Congress, Washington, D. C.
- “Resolution of Prior Trauma and its Influence on Negative Affect and Coping with Cancer.” (With J. R. Fenster, C. L. Park, A. Gaffey, and R. Rudek). American Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA
- “Age, Aging and Psychological Impacts of Prostate Cancer Survivorship.” NCI/ACS/LAF Cancer Survivorship Conference, Washington, D. C.
- “Self Identity following Cancer: Implications of “Victim” vs. Patient” vs. “Survivor.” (With J. R. Fenster, C. L. Park). NCI/ACS/LAF Cancer Survivorship Conference, Washington, D. C.
- “Adaptive Changes following Prostate Cancer and their Associations with Quality of Life.” (With K. M. Bellizzi). NCI/ACS/LAF Cancer Survivorship Conference, Washington, D. C.

## **2007**

- “Distinguishing spiritual and religious well-being in cancer patients: Differential effects (With Edmondson, D., Park, C. L., Mills, M. A., & Fenster, J. R.) Paper presented at Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

“Predictors of positive life changes in the personal and health behavior domains.” (With Park, C., and Fenster, J.) Poster presented at American Psychosocial Oncology Society, Austin TX.

“Trauma Exposure and Religiousness/Spirituality in Cancer Survivors.” (With Park, C, Fenster, J. R., and Edmondson, D.). Paper presented at International Society on Trauma Studies, Baltimore, MD.

“Resolution of Trauma Predicts Adaptive Coping and Adjustment in Young Cancer Survivors.” (with Fenster, J.R., Park, C., Jiminez, L., and Edmondson, D.) Poster presented at International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Baltimore, MD, November, 2007.

“Why and How I and My Fellow Survivors Need Basic Science.” Invited presentation at CDMRP (Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs—Prostate Cancer Research Program) IMPaCT (Innovative Minds in Prostate Cancer Today) conference, Atlanta, GA.

“Comparisons of Usage of Internet Support Groups for Breast and Prostate Cancer.” (With S. A. Walker, P. Santagata, A-K. Montiero). Poster presented at Gerontological Society of America annual meeting, San Francisco.

“Prostate Cancer, Aging, and Heteronormative and Age-biased Mythologies.” Paper presented at Gerontological Society of America annual meeting, San Francisco.

## 2008

**Blank, T. O.** (April 11, 2008), Cancer’s Impact: Age and Diversity of the (Prostate) Cancer Experience. Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department Grand Rounds presented at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.

**Blank, T. O.,** Park, C. L., Bristow, S., Carpino, M., & Piascik, A. (June, 2008). Perceiving changes in views of cancer and life among younger adult cancer survivors. Poster presented at NCI/ACS/LAF Fourth Biennial Cancer Survivorship Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Park, C. L., **Blank, T. O.,** Edmondson, D., & Fenster, J. R. (July, 2008). Determinants and meaning of growth in cancer survivorship. Paper presented in symposium, Meaning and personal growth in the context of cancer (C. L. Park, Chair), XXIX International Congress of Psychology, Berlin, Germany.

Edmondson, D., Park, C. L., **Blank, T. O.,** Moccia, C., Messier, S., & Polewarczyk, A. (August, 2008). [Spirituality and Religiousness and Health Behaviors in Younger Adult Cancer Survivors](#). Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Boston.

**Blank, T. O.** & Park, C. L. (November 24, 2008). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, National Harbor, MD.

**Blank, T. O.** (November 22, 2008). Symmetry and Concordance: Couples' Perceptions of Prostate Cancer's Impacts. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, National Harbor, MD.

## 2009

**Blank, T. O.,** Asencio, M., Descartes, L., & Crawford, A. (April 23, 2009). Gay Men's Knowledge and Attitudes about the Prostate and Prostate Cancer. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec.

**Blank, T. O.** (April 24, 2009). Aging and Cancer Symposium: Discussant. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec.

Park, C. L., Edmondson, D., & **Blank, T. O.** (April 23, 2009). Religious and Non-Religious Pathways to Stress-Related Growth in Younger Adult Cancer Survivors. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec.

Zlateva, I., Park, C. L., & Blank, T. O. [Self-Identities After Cancer: Predictors and Determinants of Adjustment](#). Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, August, 2009.

**Blank, T. O.,** Descartes, L., Asencio, M., & Crawford, A. "The Intersection of Aging, Sexuality, and the Prostate: Gay and Bisexual Men's Perspectives." Presented in a symposium at Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA: November 18, 2009.

**Blank, T. O.** Discussant for Symposium: Family Caregiver Involvement: A Creative Future Direction in Cancer Care (Youngmee Kim, Chair). Presented in a symposium at Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA: November 18, 2009.

## 2010

Descartes, L., Hart, S., **Blank, T.,** Asencio, M., Crawford, A., Latini, D., Coon, D. "Prostate cancer and gay men." Presented at the annual meeting of Rainbow Health Ontario, Toronto, ON: March, 2010.

**Blank, T. O.,** & Dick, N. E. "To Vaccinate or Not? Healthcare Providers and the HPV Controversy." Presented at Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA: April 10, 2010.

Descartes, L., **Blank, T.,** & Asencio, M. "Prostate cancer and gay men." Presented at Queer Research Day, University of Western Ontario, London, ON: April 13, 2010.

Park, C. L., & **Blank, T. O.** (September, 2010). Personal characteristics and coping as predictors of using yoga to deal with cancer among midlife cancer survivors. Poster presented at the Symposium on Yoga Therapy and Research. Himalayan Institute, Honesdale, PA.

Bharadwaj, A. K, Park, C. L., & **Blank, T. O.** (May, 2010). Illness centrality, disclosure, and well-being in younger adult cancer survivors. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Boston.

**Blank, T. O.** (November, 2010). Discussant in Symposium, "Transition to Informal Caregiving across the Cancer Trajectory," (Youngmee Kim, Chair). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.

**Blank, T. O.** (November, 2010). Being a Prostate Cancer Survivor: Stories of Changes and Challenges related to Masculinity. Paper presented in Symposium, "Men's Experiences with Cancer," (Edward Thompson, Chair) at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.

**Blank, T. O.** (December, 2010). GLBT Health Issues: Broad Overview and the Example of Gay and Bisexual Men's Perspectives on Prostate Cancer. Paper presented at the ICC Regional Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved, and Cancer, New York, NY.

## 2011

**Blank, T.**, Park, C. L., & Schmidt, S. D. (April, 2011). Fear of Recurrence as a Challenge reported by Young Adult Cancer Survivors. Paper presented in Symposium, "Qualitative Accounts of Fear of Cancer Recurrence," (Gozde Okacinzi, Chair) at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Park, C. L., Azarian, A., & **Blank, T. O.** (April, 2011). Emotion Approach Coping and Well-Being in Cancer Survivorship: Gender effects? Poster presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, D.C.

Schmidt, S. D., **Blank, T. O.**, Bellizzi, K. M., & Park, C. L. (April, 2011). Examining the Relationship of Coping Strategies, Social Support, and Attachment Style with Posttraumatic Growth in Cancer Survivors. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Wortmann, J. H., Park, C. L., Albanese, B. J., **Blank, T. O.** & Gorin, A. (April, 2011). Targeted Teachable Moment Lifestyle Intervention for Breast Cancer Survivors: Pilot Study Results. Poster presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, D.C.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

**1988-present      University of Connecticut, School of Family Studies (since 2006-  
Department of Human Development and Family Studies) and  
Travelers Center on Aging/ Center on Aging and Human  
Development.**

Director of Graduate Studies, School of Family Studies, 1995-2001; Department of Human Development and Family Studies, 2006-2008.

Graduate Admissions Committee, Chair, 1995-2001, 2006-2008, 2009-2010.

Courses and Curriculum Committee, School of Family Studies, 1988-1994 (Chair 1989-1994).  
2004-2006.

Doctoral Review Committee, School of Family Studies, 1997-2001, 2003-2006

Dean's Advisory Council, School of Family Studies, 1993-1994.

Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment/Merit Committee, School of Family Studies, 1989-1992,  
1995-1997, 2002-2005; Department of Human Development and Family Studies, 2010-.

Dissertation Committees: 7 completed as major advisor; Associate Advisor on approximately 35  
completed dissertations in Family Studies, Anthropology, Psychology

Masters Committees: approximately 45; 14 as major advisor completed

Search Committee for Associate Dean, School of Family Studies, Chair 2004-2005

Search Committee, Marriage and Family Therapy faculty member, HDFS, 2007-2008

Search Committee, Hartford and Waterbury Regional Campuses, HDFS, 2010-2011

Division Director, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Travelers Center on Aging, 1990-1994.

Research Fellowship in Gerontology Advisory Committee, Travelers Center on Aging, 1988-  
2005.

Geriatric Education Module Coordinator for Family Studies, Travelers Center on Aging, 1988-  
1991.

Steering Committee, Travelers Center on Aging, 1988-1994.

### **University level**

Individualized Major Advisory Committee, 2009-present.

University Graduate Faculty Council, 1995-2001, 2006-2011 (elected terms).

Steering Committee, Social Science Research Institute Planning, CLAS, 2006-2008

Facilities Long Range Master Plan Revision Committee, 1995-1999.

Member, University Peace Education Committee, 1989-1997.

**1980-1987      Lehigh University, Department of Social Relations and Center for Social  
Research**

Graduate Program Advisor, Social Relations, 1987-1988.

Task Force on Aging/Program in Aging member, Center for Social Research, 1980-1988.

Subject Pool Request Committee for Psychology and Social Relations, 1981-1988.

Departmental Graduate Training Committee, Social Relations, 1982-1988.

College of Arts and Sciences Subcommittee on Admissions, 1982-1985.

Course and Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 1985-1986.

Dissertation Committee Member for six Ph.D. candidates in Psychology, 1982-1988 and one Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology, Temple University, 1986-1987.

Master's Thesis Committee Member for twelve candidates in the Departments of Social Relations and Psychology (Chair of seven Committees), 1981-1988.

**1978-1980 University of Missouri-Kansas City and Institute for Community Studies.**

Professional Development Committee, Institute for Community Studies.

Member of two M.A. Thesis committees, Department of Psychology.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

1979-1981 Associate Editor, *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*

2006-present Associate Editor, *Psychology and Health*

Within last five years—Reviewer, approximately 60, *Journals of Gerontology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Psychology and Aging, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Integrated Cancer Therapies, International Journal of Aging and Human Development, International Journal of Behavioral Development, Social Science and Medicine, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Psychological Reports, Ethos, Annals of Behavioral Medicine, Family Relations, Psycho-oncology, Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology, Cancer, Journal of Close Personal Relationships, Psychology and Health, Journal of Urology, Future Oncology, Urology.*

1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 Reviewer for Behavioral and Social Sciences Section and/or Social Research, Planning, and Practice Section, Gerontological Society program.

2001-present Reviewer for Society of Behavioral Medicine and American Psycho-social Oncology Society programs

2004-present Member, Steering Committee for Society of Behavioral Medicine Cancer Interest Group

2006, 2008 Reviewer for NCI/ACS/LAF Survivorship Conference

1991 Reviewer for Administration on Aging Grant Program

1994-1995 Constitution Committee, International Network on Personal Relationships.

2003, 2004 Reviewer of Proposal to Retirement Research Foundation

2006 Reviewer of Research Development Grant Applications for Michael Smith Foundation



2011 Reviewer of Proposals on End of Life/Palliative Care for Connecticut State Department of Public Health and CT Cancer Partnership

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 Consumer Reviewer for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program on Prostate Cancer, Department of Defense

Elected member, Board of Trustees, Connecticut Cancer Partnership

Steering Committee, Hartford Hospital Prostate Cancer Support Group, 1998-present.

Member, Survivorship Committee, Hartford Hospital, 2008-present

Co-Chair, Education Committee, Connecticut Cancer Partnership, 2008-present

Member, National Advisory Board on CHESS- Prostate Cancer (CHESS= Comprehensive Health Education and Support System), 2001-2005.

Founding Steering Committee Member, C-CREST-MH, a program sponsored by the Eastern Region of the Department of Mental Health to develop training for service providers to elderly about mental health, 1989-1993.

Consultant, Manchester Elderly Outreach, Town of Manchester, CT, 1988-1989.

Consultant on elderly, retirement, housing issues, and cancer survivorship to local and national media, including newspapers, magazines, radio, and television.

### **TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE SINCE 1988:**

#### Undergraduate Courses:

Aging in American Society;

Adulthood and Aging;

Death, Dying, and Bereavement;

Living with Chronic Illness;

Independent and Honors on eldercare policies, HIV/AIDS research, friendships and acclimation to university, cancer survivorship research, HPV attitudes, widowhood in young adulthood, and other topics

#### Graduate Courses:

Social Gerontology;

Aging: Physiological, Cognitive, and Perceptual Changes;

Aging: Personality and Social Interaction;  
Theories of Human Development;  
Adaptation and Adjustment in Adulthood;  
Lifespan Human Development Models and Concepts;  
Living with Chronic Illness  
Human Development and Family Relations over the Life Span;  
Research Fellowship Seminar in Gerontology;  
Independent Studies on housing for the elderly, lifespan development,  
theories in social gerontology, psychosocial aspects of cancer, etc.