

# Eilon Caspi

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## Education

- 2010 – [PhD in Gerontology](#) – University of Massachusetts Boston
- 2003 – MA in Gerontology, Haifa University, Israel
- 1999 – BSW, Tel Aviv University, Israel (Aging concentration)

## Current Position

- Founder and director, [Dementia Behavior Consulting](#), LLC (2015 – present)
- Assistant Research Professor, Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy, [University of Connecticut](#) (August 2020 – Present)

## Previous Positions

- Research Associate, University of Minnesota, School of Nursing (2018-2019)
- Postdoctoral Fellow, VA Geriatrics & Extended Care Data & Analysis Center (2013-2015)
- Consultant. Secure dementia care home, Tzahalon Geriatric Center, Jaffa, Israel (2010 - 2011)
- Postdoctoral Fellowship. Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit, Baycrest, Toronto (2010)
- Research Assistant, Productive Aging research program, UMass Boston (2004-2008)

## Work and Research Experience

- Worked for 30 years in the aging field, including as a nurse aide, social worker, consultant, educator, applied researcher, author, poet, documentary film director, & human rights advocate in long-term care (LTC) homes.
- Extensive experience working with older adults and direct care staff with low income in the community and LTC homes (during my work as a nurse aide, social worker, educator, and consultant).
- Led several qualitative studies to improve understanding of various forms of behavioral expressions among residents with dementia (during my 10-month doctoral dissertation study in two secure dementia care homes in Massachusetts) and elder mistreatment (such as abuse, neglect, self-neglect, fatal resident-to-resident incidents, financial exploitation, theft of opioid pain medications, fear or retaliation, privacy violations and mistreatment through social media) in nursing homes and assisted living residences. I have substantial experience analyzing and distilling complex qualitative data and publishing them in academic journals and reports. I also have extensive experience using the Qualitative Analysis software NVivo.
- Gained extensive experience in developing, conducting, and analyzing semi-structured interviews, direct observations, and focus groups in LTC homes and the community. In addition, for my MA thesis (2002-2003), I interviewed 100 family care partners of community-dwelling older adults with dementia about their daily coping strategies and perceptions of their loved one's brain disease.

- Led and published quantitative studies using large nationally representative datasets on elder mistreatment in nursing homes (using CMS state survey deficiency citations) and among community-dwelling older adults with dementia (using data from the Health and Retirement Study).
- Collaborated on studies on Productive Aging where I gained substantial experience in study design, instrument development, survey administration, analysis, and write up of journal articles.
- Served as a reviewer of dozens of research grant applications as a member of the Advisory Committee of Donaghue Foundation's *Another Look: Research to Improve Health for Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities* (2015 – present). The invaluable experience significantly improved my expertise as a researcher.
- Delivered dozens of presentations, webinars, and podcasts to thousands of health care professions at the local, state, national, and international (USA, Canada, Israel) professional and scientific conferences. Examples: American Society on aging, Gerontological Society of America, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care, Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Society of Canada, Veterans Administration, Long Term Care Community Coalition, Elder Voice Family Advocates, Care Providers of Minnesota, & the United Nations.
- Developed and delivered educational programs to thousands of direct care staff, nurses, social workers, and administrators of LTC homes, Ombudsman programs, state surveyors as well as support groups for family care partners of older adults with dementia across the U.S., Canada, and Israel. Common topics include communication techniques with people with dementia and psychosocial strategies for prevention of various forms of distressing behaviors expressions in this population. For example, I delivered eight 3-hour staff training sessions on prevention of resident-to-resident incidents to dozens of direct care staff and managers in two cities in Ontario, Canada.
- Published a dozen peer-reviewed [journal articles](#), numerous articles in professional magazines (McKnight's *Long-Term Care News*), guest blog posts (*ChangingAging*), editorials (*JAMDA*), book reviews, film review (*The Gerontologist*), & poems.
- My work and research have been frequently featured in the media (over 60 times in the past 5 years) such as in the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *The Conversation*, *The Marshall Project*, *STAT News*, *HealthNewsReview*, *AARP*, *Star Tribune*, *KARE 11*, *Fox9*, *The Arizona Republic*, *McKnight's Long-Term Care News*, and abroad in *The Canadian Press*, *CBC News* (Canada), *Japan Today*, and *Stuff* (New Zealand).

## Other Roles

- Founding member, consultant, and board member – Elder Voice Family Advocates, MN (2017 – present)
- Board member – Long Term Care Community Coalition, NYC (2020 – present).

## Expert Consulting Services

- Alzheimer's Society of Canada. Consulted on the development of an evidence-based educational booklet on the prevention of resident-to-resident incidents in dementia in LTC homes (2018-2020).
- Institute for Life Course & Aging, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 1-day meeting with researchers, practitioners, and care advocates to develop a research agenda on resident-to-resident "aggression" in LTC homes in Canada. Funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (2014).

## Editorial Boards

*Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect* (2020 – present), *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (2022 – present). I also regularly serve as an ad hoc reviewer for other journals such as *The Gerontologist*, *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias*, *Research on Aging*, and *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*.

## Volunteer Experience

Alzheimer's Speaks [Dementia Chats](#) Monthly Webinar Series (2013-2022), Family Advisory Council, HealthPartners' Center for Memory and Aging (2013-2019), Minnesota Act on Alzheimer's Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer's Disease Task Force (2012-2018), Dementia Action Alliance' Leadership Advisory Council (2014-2016).

## Professional Development

Administration of Homes for Elders Course, Bar-Ilan University, Israel (420 hours), 1999 – 2001.

## Teaching Experience

- Instructor – Psychology of Elders with Dementia. Psychology Department, UMass Boston (Spring 2012).
- Teaching Assistant – Qualitative Research Methods course. UMass Boston (Fall 2006).

## Other Accomplishments

- Policy. My research on neglect of healthcare (culminating in the *report Inhumane and Deadly Neglect Revealed in State Assisted Living Residences*) was instrumental in passing the first assisted living licensure in Minnesota during the 2019 legislative session (the licensure went into effect on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021).
- Led the first study in U.S. and Canada on fatal resident-to-resident incidents: <https://tinyurl.com/2yjhr3d6>
- Published the 1<sup>st</sup> book on the prevention of resident-to-resident incidents in dementia (*Health Professions Press*, 2022): <https://tinyurl.com/ytvjdb84> The book won the National Mature Media Award – Silver Award
- Co-directed the 1<sup>st</sup> documentary called *Fighting for Dignity* on injurious and fatal resident-to-resident incidents (*Terra Nova Films*, 2020): <https://tinyurl.com/2s3d47t8>
- Started and led the process of bringing the [Validation Method](#) to Israel (where a Validation Authorized Organization is now established, workshops regularly delivered, and books and films translated to Hebrew).

## Awards and Honors

2006 – Massachusetts Gerontology Association Annual Student Paper Competition. Title: “Whether or not specialized regulations for persons with Dementia/Alzheimer’s disease/cognitive impairment who reside in Assisted Living Residences in Massachusetts should be implemented.”

2003 – High Honor Award and Scholarship for Excellent Academic Achievement from the Dean of Graduate Studies. University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel. Masters in Gerontology.

## Hobbies

I enjoy woodcarving and recently hand carved a large sunflower (in support of the people of Ukraine), baseball bats, a baseball, a 7-foot [pencil](#), several brain hemispheres, and educational signs such as *SEE ME Not my Dementia*, *Elder Voice*, *Justice for Elders*, and *Heroes Work Here*.