

# Public Health Critical Race Praxis Institute

## Scholar Bios



Winston Abara, PhD, MBBS

### Winston Abara, PhD, MBBS

My research primarily focuses on the primary prevention of HIV/AIDS, social determinants of health and HIV/AIDS disparities, and correlates of sexual risk among racial and sexual minorities, marginalized groups, and older ( $\geq 50$  years) populations. I also have an emerging interest in health policy and its influence on access to treatment and healthcare among people living with HIV/AIDS. I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

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Ndidiamaka Amutah, PhD,  
MPH

### Ndidiamaka Amutah, PhD, MPH

I am an Assistant Professor at Montclair State University in the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences. I focus on mixed methods research around HIV prevention in African American adolescent girls, HIV medication adherence in women of color, and how the social determinants of health impact infant mortality in women of color. I am also a Visiting Research Scientist affiliated with the Yale University Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS. I am also an alumna of the Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program and was a post-doctoral fellow at Morgan State University.



Natasha A. Brown PhD,  
MPH

### Natasha A. Brown PhD, MPH

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I received my Ph.D. in social and behavioral sciences from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and completed a postdoctoral training program focused on bioethics and community-engaged health disparities research at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. I have expertise in using qualitative methods to examine sociocultural influences on dietary and physical activity decision-making. My current research investigates urban-rural differences in extended family influences on African American children's weight-related behaviors.

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### **Typhanye Penniman Dyer, PhD, MPH**

I am a research assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at The University of Maryland School of Public Health. My research interests include exploring social, cultural and structural determinants of infectious disease disparities. Specifically, my research explores HIV/AIDS disparities, sexuality, mental health, and substance use with an emphasis in racial/ethnic and gender disparities among marginalized populations, as well as their families. Research in HIV/AIDS also examines syndemics and HIV prevalence among Black men who have sex with men and women (MSMW), and how sex and drug risk networks of MSMW translates into risk for their male and female partners. Additionally, areas of research include exploring stigma, engagement in HIV care and medication adherence among Black women living with HIV. Population based research takes an interdisciplinary approach involving social epidemiology and community based research to reduce health disparities.

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### **LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH**

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the School of Public Health at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. I received my DrPH from the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health, and completed the postdoctoral Health Policy Leadership Fellowship at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine. As a community-engaged, qualitative researcher, I focus on the relationship between adolescent development and processes of the built and social environment, such as gentrification, foreclosures, and violence. My recent work investigates how youth in distressed neighborhoods navigate through them safely.

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### **Rachel R. Hardeman, PhD, MPH**

I received my Ph.D. in Health Services Research Policy & Administration from the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. I also hold an MPH in Public Health Administration and Policy. I am currently a Postdoctoral Trainee in Health Services Research at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. I am interested in the application of intersectionality theory to health disparities research. My current research focuses on the ways in which socioeconomic status; race and gender affect medical education. I also conduct research related to disparities in women's reproductive health, particularly the role of non-traditional medical personnel (doulas and midwives) in improving adverse birth outcomes for women of color.

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### **Anika L. Hines, PhD, MPH**

I am currently a Research Leader at Truven Health Analytics. I received my PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an MPH from the Yale School of Public Health. I currently serve as a task leader on various healthcare quality and disparities research and information-transfer projects, including statistical briefs, research manuscripts, and web tool design. My ongoing research has focused on disparities in mental healthcare, including the influence of patients' perceptions of mental health conditions, patients' preferences for care, and communication with providers regarding depression treatment

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### **Shannon Jette, PhD**

Dr. Jette is an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology. Her research focuses on socio-cultural aspects of health, physical activity, gender and the body, with a particular interest in health disparities experienced by marginalized communities. She uses a range of qualitative research methodologies (including media and discourse analysis, in-depth interviews, ethnographic techniques) and social theory to critically examine the power relations at play in the production, dissemination and interpretation of knowledge in the disciplines of kinesiology and public health. Her current research focuses upon how various groups of women that are considered 'at risk' in the context of the obesity epidemic understand dominant messages about health, as well as how they experience health, physical activity and weight gain in their everyday lives. The goal of her research is to provide insight into the complex intersection of race, gender, and social class in shaping women's health in order to better inform health care policy and programming. Dr. Jette has published in such journals as *Qualitative Health Research*, *Journal of Aging Studies* and *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*.

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### **Vera Lopez, PhD**

I received my Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, completed my clinical internship at the Institute for Juvenile Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and completed a postdoctoral training program at Arizona State University's Prevention Research Center. I am currently an associate professor in the School of Social Transformation at ASU. My research areas include sexual risk taking, substance abuse, and prevention research with a major focus on adolescent girls and Latino/a youth.

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**Dara Mendez, PhD, MPH**

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at University of Pittsburgh. I earned my MPH and PhD at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology. I am a perinatal and social epidemiologist with expertise and background in social and racial inequities related to maternal and child health. My work explores how stress, neighborhood contexts, racism and other forms of discrimination lead to racial/ethnic health inequities in pregnancy/birth outcomes and body weight among women. In addition to my academic work, I serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Women's Health Network based in Washington, DC.

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**Krista D. Mincey, DrPH, MPH**

I am an Assistant Professor at Xavier University of Louisiana, Department of Public Health Sciences. My research focuses on Black men's health, particularly the elements (masculinity, relationships, education, etc.) that impact the health and health behaviors of Black men. I am particularly interested in the health of Black male college students.

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**Dawne Marie Mouzon, PhD, MPH**

I am an Assistant Professor at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Trained as a quantitative sociologist, my research focuses on the "Black-White paradox in mental health," or the unexpected finding that Black Americans exhibit better mental health outcomes than Whites despite lower socioeconomic standing and greater exposure to discrimination. I also examine race and social class differences in the mental health benefits of marriage and the social-structural causes (and mental health implications) of the Black marriage decline.

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### **Rashawn Ray, PhD**

I am an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology from Indiana University in 2010. From 2010-2012 I was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley/UCSF. My research addresses the mechanisms that manufacture and maintain racial and social inequality. My work also speaks to ways that inequality may be attenuated through racial uplift activism and social policy. Broadly, my research interests include social psychology, race and ethnic relations, and race-class-gender focusing on three key areas: the determinants and consequences of social class identification, men's treatment of women, and how racial stratification structures social life. I edited *Race and Ethnic Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: History, Theory, Institutions, and Policy* and my work has appeared in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Journal of Higher Education*, and *Journal of African American Studies*. I have been awarded funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Mental Health, American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program, Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Ford Foundation.

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### **Brandon N. Respress, PhD, RN, MSN, MPH, PNP**

I completed my PhD in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, and a dual Master's in Nursing and Public Health from The Ohio State University with a concentration in Pediatrics and Health Services Management and Policy. My research is focused on understanding effects of discrimination, prejudice and racism, as social determinants, on adolescent risk behaviors and mental health outcomes. I utilize the Social Determinants of Adolescent Risk Behaviors model to explore the interrelationships among sociological factors and individual behaviors to understand mental health disparities among adolescents utilizing community-based participatory research (CBPR) and mixed methodology.

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### **Lynn Roberts, PhD**

I hold a PhD in Human Services Studies (Program Evaluation/Public Policy) from Cornell University. I am an Assistant Professor in the CUNY School of Public Health and affiliated faculty in Women and Gender Studies at Hunter College. In previous positions, I oversaw the development, implementation and evaluation of several programs for women and youth in New York City. My current scholarship examines the intersection of race, class and gender in adolescent dating relationships, juvenile justice and reproductive health policies; as well as the impact of models of collaborative inquiry and teaching on civic and political engagement.

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### **Marta Sánchez, PhD**

I am a Research Scientist at the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University, where I conduct educational research, advise students on research, and participate in interinstitutional research teams to develop proposals and studies. I contribute with expertise in interdisciplinary approaches, qualitative and participatory research designs, conceptual, theoretical and research perspectives on the Latino/a experience, including CRT and LatCrit; knowledge of additive models of schooling for Latino/as, Latina cultural intuition and embeddedness in Latino/a communities. My primary focus is the Mexican experience.

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### **Abigail A. Sewell, PhD**

Abigail Sewell is a Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity in the Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Emory University (deferred). Her research examines the political economy of health disparities, the critical bioethics informing blacks' view of physicians, and quantitative approaches for studying institutional racism. Her research has been published in the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, the *Journal of Negro Education*, and *Rethinking Race and Ethnicity in Research Methods* (edited by John H. Stanfield). Her work has garnered both quantitative and qualitative paper awards and received support through the Office of Vice Provost for Research at the University of Pennsylvania, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, and the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity (UC Berkeley's Boalt School of Law). She graduated with a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Indiana University and *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Sociology (Minors in Women's Studies and English) from the University of Florida. She has taught at Indiana University, the Universität of Mannheim (Germany), and the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods for Social Research.

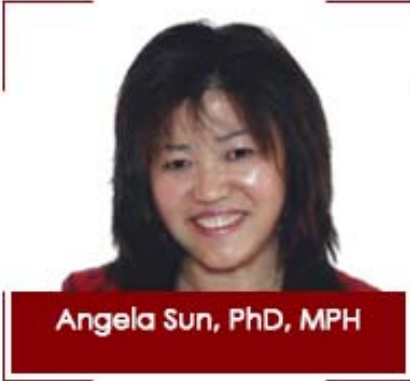
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### **Ida Johnson Spruill, PhD, RN, FAAN**

I am an Associate Professor and Diversity Officer at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Nursing. I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Iowa in Clinical Genetics. I received my PhD from Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. My research interests include, management of chronic diseases health and genetic literacy, and reducing health disparities among marginalized groups. I was awarded my first R01 in 2012 from NIH-NINR, "Ethno-Cultural barriers to health literacy and disease management. Most recently, I received the 2012 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

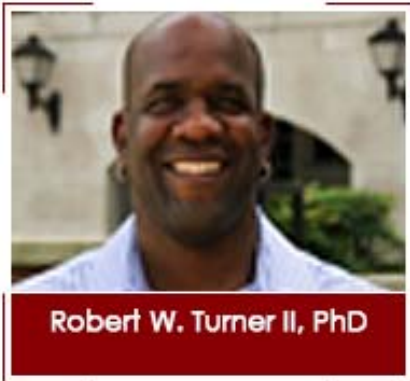
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### **Angela Sun, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Angela Sun is the Executive Director the Chinese Community Health Resource Center (CCHRC) and has been serving the Asian American community for over 20 years. She dedicated her professional career to identify, develop, implement, and evaluate effective health communication strategies for the immigrant communities. CCHRC's mission is to build a healthy community through culturally competent preventive health, disease management, and research programs. CCHRC has come to be recognized as a leader in providing culturally competent health education programs for the underserved communities. Dr. Sun also served as a Principal Investigator for numerous community-based participatory research projects and authored many publications.

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### **Robert W. Turner II, PhD**

I am a Research Associate in the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland, College Park. I earned a PhD in sociology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. My scholarly interests include applying an interdisciplinary approach to investigate social inequality and health disparities. Over the past 8 years I have focused on examining the social worlds of black men and in particular, on athletes that view sports as a means for upward mobility. My passion for this nuanced examination of institutions, masculinity, race, life course, and health outcomes, originates, in part, from my personal experience as a former professional football player.

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### **Sacoby Wilson, PhD, MS**

I am an Assistant Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland. I am Director of the Program on Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH). I focus on studying and understanding environmental injustice and environmental health disparities through community-university partnerships and community-based participatory research (CBPR). I am currently working to understand exposure and health risks for urban fishers and recreationalists in the Anacostia river region. I lead NIH funded projects to understand and address exposure to environmental stressors in Metropolitan Charleston and environmental health disparities in the state of South Carolina.

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### **Staci A. Young, PhD**

I am an Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Department of Family & Community Medicine, with a secondary appointment in the Institute for Health and Society. I am a medical sociologist that uses qualitative methodology to investigate how health organizations and systems influence provider behaviors and health outcomes. My research interests include health professions advocacy for vulnerable patients and populations, the organization of work among health professionals in traditional and community-based clinical settings, and the relationship between the urban environment, acute and chronic life stressors, and health status.

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