

Jerel M. Ezell PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University

/ Phone: (248) 214-5361 / Email: jme246@cornell.edu / Website: www.jerelezell.com

AREAS

Social Inequality; Health Disparities; Psychological Trauma; Race and Ethnicity; Environment; Mixed Methods Research; Social Networks; Spatial Analysis

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago
Ph.D. Dissertation: "Theater of crisis: A mixed methods examination of planning, power and penalty during the Flint Water Crisis." *Committee: Kristen Schilt (University of Chicago, Sociology, Co-Chair); Anna Mueller (Indiana University, Sociology, Co-Chair); and Bruce Link (University of California – Riverside, Sociology)*
- 2018 M.A., Sociology, University of Chicago
- 2010 M.P.H., Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University
M.P.H. Thesis: "A qualitative assessment of practices, barriers and recommendations around physical healthcare service integration and coordination for individuals with serious mental illness: How do we bridge the quality chasm?" *Advisor: Bruce Link (Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences)*
- 2008 B.A., Anthropology, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

POST-GRADUATE PROFESSORSHIP/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020-current *Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University, Assistant Professor*
Educator and researcher in health disparities and social inequality, with a focus on (post) industrial Middle America.

GRADUATE-LEVEL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (ALL AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

- 2020, Spring Quarter *TA for Pandemics and Urban Space (Program in Global Environment)*
- 2020, Spring Quarter *TA for Sustainable Urban Development (Program in Global Environment)*
- 2020, Winter Quarter *TA for Sustainable Urban Development (Program in Global Environment)*
- 2019, Spring Quarter *Preceptor for Public Policy BA Thesis Seminar (Public Policy Studies)*
- 2019, Spring Quarter *TA for Qualitative Field Methods (Sociology)*
- 2019, Spring Quarter *Independent Study w/Undergrad Student, Sierra Espinosa (Public Policy Studies)*
- 2019, Spring Quarter *Independent Study w/Undergrad Student, Sarah Wasik (Public Policy Studies)*
- 2019, Winter Quarter *TA for Policy Implementation (Public Policy Studies)*
- 2019, Winter Quarter *Preceptor for Public Policy BA Thesis Seminar (Public Policy Studies)*
- 2018, Fall Quarter *TA for Contemporary Issues in Human Rights (Human Rights)*
- 2018, Fall Quarter *Preceptor for Public Policy BA Thesis Seminar (Public Policy Studies)*

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2020-current University of Chicago Hospital, *Consultant*
Leader of qualitative research core involved in participant recruitment, guide development, interviewing, and analysis.
- 2017-2020 University of Chicago Hospital, *Research Coordinator*
Provided general research coordination for an NIH-funded study on nonmedical opioid use study, including leading the qualitative core, developing research protocols and IRB documentation, and analyzing collected data.
- 2017-2019 Umoja Student Development, *Program Evaluator*
Served as a technical resource for the evaluation of data from a restorative justice intervention at 10 public Chicago high schools, conducting interviews with school staff, managing databases, and assessing longitudinal performance metrics.

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- 2013-2018 *Children's Trauma Assessment Center* at Western Michigan University, *Program Evaluator*
Conducted semi-structured interviews with court officials and social workers and program evaluation services for a statewide, SAMHSA-funded child welfare intervention
Provided survey design and instrument validation, coordination of data collection, and analysis and interpretation of data in structured reports.
- 2016-2017 *West Health Institute, Research Coordinator*
Carried out semi-structured interviews with social services and healthcare professionals, addressing case management and care coordination practices for older adults.
Provided general program coordination support and logistics management, including scheduling meetings and developing programming materials.
- 2015-2016 *Sinai Urban Health Institute* at Mount Sinai Hospital, *Grant and Program Administrator*
Developed and executed Institute's primary development and fundraising strategies, helping seek, write and review grant/funding applications.
Facilitated *post* award processes, managing financial accounts and budget activities, and generated status reports for funders.
- 2011-2013 *Henry Ford Hospital, Research Program Manager/Epidemiologist*
Created study protocol and managed data collection team in the recruitment and retention of study participants for NIH-funded research (P01, R01 and R21) addressing primary prevention and management of various chronic diseases.
Produced empirical reports on research findings, and prepared and analyzed results for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- 2010 *Common Ground, Health Coordinator for Street-to-Home Program*
Liaised with community health providers to create efficient provider referral systems for medically-vulnerable homeless individuals in need of primary and specialty care services.
Developed, led and evaluated comprehensive health education seminars which addressed wellness promotion topics, including healthy eating, physical activity and preventive screening.
- 2009-2010 *NY State Psych Institute Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence, Research Assistant*
Assisted in overall research project development and Center expansion and promotion efforts through federal grant-writing initiatives and systematic literature reviews.
Conducted semi-structured interviews and focus groups with racially and ethnically diverse consumers of mental health services and their healthcare and social services providers.
- 2009-2010 *NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Research Consultant*
Developed training materials for patient navigators at local public and private hospitals and created and executed an evaluation plan addressing program performance.
- 2008-2009 *New Destiny Housing Corporation, Program Assistant*
Engaged and recruited prospective program advocates and donors, and supported coordination of organizational fundraising and sponsor appreciation events.
Executed marketing campaign aimed at educating survivors of domestic violence on financial independence, creating informational materials to be distributed and discussed with these clients.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Ezell JM et al. [The Blueprint of Disaster: COVID-19, The Flint Water Crisis, and Unequal Ecological Impacts](#). The Lancet Planetary Health. 2021 May.
- Ezell JM et al. [How Urban and Rural Built Environments Influence the Health Attitudes and Behaviors of People Who Use Drugs](#). Health & Place. 2021 May.
- Ezell JM. [A population-based assessment of physical symptoms and mental health outcomes among adults following the Flint Water Crisis](#). Journal of Urban Health. March 2021.
- Ezell JM, Salari S, et al. [Intersectional Trauma: COVID-19, the Psychosocial Contract, and America's Racialized Public Health Lineage](#). Traumatology. 2021.
- Ezell JM. [Empathy plasticity: decolonizing and reorganizing online spaces to address racial equity](#). Ethnic and Racial Studies. 2021 Jan 5. 1-13.

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- Ezell JM**, Walters SM, et al. [Stigmatize the use, not the user? Attitudes on opioid use, drug injection, treatment, and overdose prevention in rural communities.](#) Social Science & Medicine. 2020 Nov 113470.
- Ellis K, Walters SM, Friedman SR, Ouellet LJ, **Ezell JM**, Rosentel K, & Pho MT. [Breaching trust: A qualitative study of healthcare experiences of people who use drugs in a rural setting.](#) Frontiers in Sociology. 2020 Nov 5(98).
- Muncan B, Walters SM, **Ezell JM**, Ompad DC. [“They look at us like junkies”: influences of drug use stigma on the healthcare engagement of people who inject drugs in New York City.](#) Harm Reduction Journal. 2020 Dec;17(1):1-9.
- Jenkins WD, Bolinski R, Bresett J, Van Ham B, Fletcher S, Walters S, Friedman SR, **Ezell JM**, Pho M, Schneider J, Ouellet L. [COVID-19 During the Opioid Epidemic-Exacerbation of Stigma and Vulnerabilities.](#) The Journal of Rural Health. 2020 Apr 11.
- Ezell JM.** [First, do no harm to self: Perspectives around trauma-informed practice and secondary traumatic stress among rural child protective services workers.](#) Journal of Child Custody. 2019 Oct 2;16(4):387-407.
- Ezell JM.** [Understanding the situational context for interpersonal violence: A review of individual-level attitudes, attributions, and triggers.](#) Trauma, Violence, and Abuse. 2019 Aug 15:24-49.
- Bolinski RB, Ellis K, Zahnd WE, Walters S, McLuckie C, Schneider J, Rodriguez C, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Social norms associated with nonmedical opioid use in rural communities: A systematic review.](#) Translational Behavioral Medicine. 2019 Aug 23.
- Ezell JM**, Schneider J, et al. [Are skin color and body mass index associated with social network structure? Findings from a male sex market study.](#) Ethnicity and Health. 2019 Mar 14:1-16.
- Ezell JM**, Schneider J, et al. [The sexual and social networks of Black transgender individuals: Results from a representative sample.](#) Transgender Health. 2018 Dec 18;3(1):201-9.
- Ezell JM**, Richardson M, et al. [Implementing trauma-informed practice in juvenile justice systems: What can courts learn from child welfare interventions?](#) Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma. 2018 Jul 28:1-13.
- Ezell JM**, Choi CJ., et al. [Measuring recurring stigma in the lives of individuals with mental illness.](#) Community Mental Health Journal. 2017 Aug 17.
- Joseph CL, Zoratti EM, Ownby DR, Havstad S, Nicholas C, Nageotte C, Misiak R, Enberg R, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Exploring racial differences in IgE-mediated food allergy in the WHEALS birth cohort.](#) Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. 2016 Mar;116(3):219-224.e1.
- Joseph CL, Baxa D, Kaljee L, Brar I, Scott C, Dakki H, Lubetsky S, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Communication patterns among juvenile detainees: A high-risk population for transmission of human immunodeficiency virus \(HIV\) and other sexually transmitted diseases.](#) Journal of Juvenile Justice. 2015 Oct;4(2).
- Ezell JM**, Peters RM, et al. [Association between one-hour oral glucose tolerance test values and delivery mode in non-diabetic, pregnant Black women.](#) Journal of Pregnancy. 2015 May; (Vol 2015).
- Ezell JM**, Ownby DR, et al. [Using a physician panel to estimate food allergy prevalence in a racially diverse longitudinal birth cohort.](#) Annals of Epidemiology. 2014 Jul;24(7):551-53.
- Ezell JM**, Cassidy-Bushrow AE, et al. [Prenatal dog-keeping practices vary by race – Speculations on implications for disparities in childhood health and disease.](#) Ethnicity and Disease. 2014 Feb;24(1):104-09.
- Ezell JM**, Wegienka G, et al. [A cross sectional analysis of pet-specific IgE sensitization and allergic symptomatology and household exposure to pets in a birth cohort study.](#) Journal of Allergy And Asthma Proceedings. 2013 Nov-Dec;34(6):504-10.
- Ezell JM**, Siantz E, et al. [Contours of usual care: Meeting the medical needs of diverse persons with serious mental illness.](#) Journal of Health Care For The Poor And Underserved. 2013 Nov;24(4):1552-73.
- Ezell JM**, Saltzgaber J, et al. [Reconnecting with urban youth enrolled in a randomized controlled trial and overdue for a 12-month follow-up survey.](#) Clinical Trials. 2013 Oct;10(5):775-82.
- Joseph CL, Havstad S, Bobbitt K, Woodcroft K, Zoratti EM, Nageotte C, Misiak R, Enberg R, Nicholas C, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Transforming growth factor beta \(TGFβ1\) in breast milk and indicators of infant atopy in a birth cohort.](#) Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. 2014 May; 25(3):257–63.

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Havstad SL, Johnson CC, Zoratti EM, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Tobacco smoke exposure and allergic sensitization in children: A propensity score analysis](#). *Respirology*. 2012 Oct;17(7):1068-72.

Cabassa LJ, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Lifestyle interventions for adults with serious mental illness: A systematic literature review](#). *Psychiatric Services*. 2010 Aug;61(8):774-82.

Manuscripts Currently In-Press/Under Review

Ezell JM. Addressing the non-medical services needs of older adults. *Research on Aging*. 2021. **Revise-and-Resubmit**

Selected ad hoc manuscript reviewer assignments: American Journal of Public Health; American Journal of Sociology; Child Abuse & Neglect; Ethnicity and Disease; Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved; Psychiatric Services; Psychological Medicine; Qualitative Health Research; Social Problems

INVITED TALKS, PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE POSTERS

2019

"Theater of Crisis: A mixed methods examination of planning, power and penalty during the Flint Water Crisis." Invited Talk. *Future of Sociology Talk Series*. Hosted by University of Washington, Department of Sociology. December 3, 2019. Seattle, WA.

"Stigma and Social Support Networks among Rural Individuals Who Use Opioids Nonmedically: A Descriptive Analysis." *Annual meeting of the American Public Health Association*. November 4, 2019. Philadelphia, PA. **(Presenting Abstract as First Author)**

"Stigma around opioid use, treatment and overdose prevention among people who use drugs in rural communities." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association*. August 11, 2019. New York, NY. **(Roundtable)**

"The networks of people who use opioids nonmedically: Reports from rural southern Illinois." Invited Talk. *Duke Social Networks and Health Workshop*. May 13, 2019. Durham, NC. **(Oral Presentation)**

"The social and sexual networks of Black transgender women and Black men who have sex with men: Results from a Representative sample." Poster Section. National Transgender Health Summit. April 13, 2019. San Francisco, CA. **(Presenting Abstract as First Author)**

"Planning, Power and Penalty: Environmental Justice Intersections and Gaps During The Flint Water Crisis." Poster Section. *National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program*. March 12, 2019. Washington D.C. **(Presenting Abstract as First Author)**

["Adopting Cultural Sensitivity in Substance Use and Mental Health Programming."](#) Invited Talk. Webinar delivered to the Florida Department of Children and Families on behalf of the Florida Drug and Alcohol Abuse Association. March 7, 2019. **(Oral Presentation/Training)**

2017

"Addressing the social needs of older homebound adults: A qualitative investigation." Presidential Poster Section. *Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society*. May 19, 2017. San Antonio, TX. **(Presenting Abstract as First Author)**

2016

"Addressing the social needs of older homebound adults: A qualitative analysis of practices and barriers, as reported by medical and social services providers." *Chicago Network & Learning Collaborative Meeting*. Invited Talk. Hosted by Rush University Medical Center. September 29, 2016. Chicago, IL. **(Oral Presentation/Panel)**

2013

"Prevalence of milk, peanut and egg allergies in a socioeconomically diverse cohort of infants: Identifying cases of food allergy for field studies using an expert panel." *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*. February 23, 2013. San Antonio, TX. **(Presenting Abstract as the First Author)**

"African American race is a robust risk factor for food, but not aeroallergen sensitization."

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Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. February 23, 2013. San Antonio, TX. **(Presenting Abstract as a Co-Author)**

2010

“Sociocultural elements in health care for people with serious mental illness.” *American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting and Expo*. Monday, November 8, 2010. Denver, CO. **(Presenting Abstract as a Co-Author)**

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Trained in the organization and coding of qualitative data using MAXQDA, Atlas Ti and NVivo.

Versed in multivariate data management and analysis using Stata and SPSS.

Proficient formal grant-writing, with an expertise in conducting literature reviews, developing research agendas, drafting biographical sketches, and creating IRB protocol and consent documentation.

Experienced in geographic mapping and spatial analysis using GIS (ArcGIS).

Skilled in the development and management of surveys and other quantitative instruments using Salesforce and REDCap.

Proficient in social media marketing, website design (WordPress) and creation of marketing collateral.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021 President's Council of Cornell Women (\$10,000)
2020 New York State Water Resources Institute (\$10,000)
2020 Engaged Cornell (\$50,000)
2020 Cornell Center for Social Sciences (\$12,000)
2020 Cornell Rural Humanities Initiative (\$10,000)
2019-2020 Fulbright scholarship for study in Port of Spain, Trinidad (\$23,500)
2019 University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture (\$2,500)
2019 University of Chicago Social Sciences Division Travel Award (\$2,500)
2018-2019 Duke University Social Networks & Health 2018-2019 Fellowship (Two-Year Training)
2018 University of Chicago Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation (\$4,000)
2019 University of Chicago Graduate Council Travel Fund Award (\$600)
2018 National Environment Justice Conference and Training Program Award (One-Year Training)
2018 Pozen Center for Human Rights Fellowship (\$1,000)
2018 Creative Connections Coalition (C3) Award (\$500)
2017 Pozen Center for Human Rights Doctoral Research Grant (\$5,000)
2016 University of Chicago *Social Sciences Division Doctoral Fellowship* (\$27,000 – 5 years)
2010 U.S. Office of Personnel Management *Presidential Management Fellowship* (Declined)
2008 Columbia University *Mailman School of Public Health Merit Scholarship* (\$7,000)

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2017 University of Chicago Qualifying Exam for PhD in Sociology: *Pass Plus*
2010 Columbia University *Master's Thesis Award: Honorable Mention*
2008 University of Michigan - Ann Arbor: *University Honors (Academic)*
2007 University of Michigan - Ann Arbor: *University Honors (Academic)*

SERVICE/ VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENTS

2017 Chicago Ethnography Conference
Served on the planning committee for designing and organizing the conference.
2015-2016 Chicago Youth Centers/ABC Polk
Tutored underserved youth between the ages of 13 and 18 in North Lawndale, Chicago, in math, science and English, and provided mentorship on college planning and the associated application processes.

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2013

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Provided general grant-writing assistance, social media strategy expertise, and website management for a Principal Investigator (Dr. Harold Neighbors) and his team in the *Department of Health Behavior and Health Education* on a web-based mental health intervention (“Man-Up/Man-Down”) which aims to remove stigma around help-seeking among Black males.