

# Jerel M. Ezell PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University

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

## AREAS

Health Disparities; Drug Use; Environmental Health; Urban Planning; Social Inequality; Psychological Trauma; Race and Ethnicity; 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 EXPERIENCE

- 2021-current Director, *Cornell Center for Cultural Humility* at Cornell University | [humility.cornell.edu](http://humility.cornell.edu)
- 2021-current Director, *ReLateral Lab* at Cornell University | [www.relateral.com](http://www.relateral.com)  
ReLateral Lab is an interdisciplinary research lab that focuses on providing graduate and undergraduate students with opportunities to conduct community-based research on health disparities and social inequities. The lab was established in 2020 at Cornell University and currently employs 14 students who are conducting research and outreach in Michigan, Illinois, New York, and California.
- 2020-current Assistant Professor, *Africana Studies and Research Center* at Cornell University, Educator and researcher in health disparities and social inequality, with a focus on (post) industrial Middle America.  
Courses taught:
- *Diasporic and Indigenous Health (Undergraduate)*
  - *Doing Mixed Methods Research With Marginalized and Hidden Populations (Graduate)*

## 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)*

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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 Consultant, *Infectious Diseases and Global Health Unit*, University of Chicago Hospital  
Leader of qualitative research core involved in participant recruitment, interview question guide development, interviewing, and coding and analysis.

2017-2020 Research Coordinator, *Infectious Diseases & Global Health Unit*, University of Chicago Hospital  
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 Program Evaluator, Umoja Student Development  
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.

2013-2018 Program Evaluator, *Children's Trauma Assessment Center* at Western Michigan University  
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 Research Coordinator, West Health Institute  
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 Grant and Program Administrator, *Sinai Urban Health Institute* at Mount Sinai Hospital  
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 Epidemiologist, Henry Ford Hospital  
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 Health Coordinator for *Street-to-Home Program*, Common Ground  
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 Research Assistant, NY State Psych Institute Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence  
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

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and focus groups with racially and ethnically diverse consumers of mental health services and their healthcare and social services providers.

2009-2010 Research Consultant, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Developed training materials for patient navigators at local public and private hospitals and created and executed an evaluation plan addressing program performance.

2008-2009 Program Assistant, New Destiny Housing Corporation  
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

*\*Denotes a graduate student / \*\* denotes an undergraduate student*

1. **Ezell JM**, Olson B\*\*, Walters SM, Friedman SR, Ouellet LJ, Pho MT. A [Sociology of Empathy and Shared Understandings: Contextualizing Beliefs and Attitudes on Why People Use Opioids](#). Rural Sociology. 2022 Apr.
- 2.
3. **Ezell JM**, Alsmadi I\*, Gosnell N\*\*, Kaur A\*. [The racial and cultural ecology of Home and Community-Based Services coordination for diverse homebound older adults](#). Journal of Aging Studies. 2022. 61,101023.
4. **Ezell JM**, Torres-Beltran A\*, Hamdi S\*. [Defining and finding an endgame in education on race](#). Power and Education. 2022 Mar.
5. **Ezell JM**. [The medicalization of freedom: how anti-science movements use the language of personal liberty and how we can address it](#). Nature Medicine. 2022; 28(2), 219.
6. **Ezell JM**, Barhwaj S\*\*, Chase EC\*. [Child lead screening behaviors and health outcomes following the Flint Water Crisis: A cross-sectional analysis](#). Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. 2022 Jan.
7. Friedman SR, Williams LD, Guarino H, Mateu-Gelabert P, Krawczyk N, Hamilton L, **Ezell JM**, Khan M, Dilorio J, Yang LH, Earnshaw VA. [The stigma system: How sociopolitical domination, scapegoating, and stigma shape public health](#). Journal of Community Psychology. 2022 Jan. 50(1), 385-408.
8. **Ezell JM**. [Environmental health capital: A paradigm for environmental injustice prevention and truth and reconciliation](#). Local Environment. 2022; 27(2), 131-141.
9. **Ezell JM**. ["Trickle-Down" Racial Empathy in American Higher Education: Moving Beyond Performative Wokeness and Academic Panels to Spark Racial Equity](#). Journal of Education. 2021 Dec.
10. **Ezell JM**, Hamdi S\*, Borrero N. [Approaches to Addressing Nonmedical Services and Care Coordination Needs for Older Adults](#). Research on Aging. 2022; 44(3-4), 323-333.
11. **Ezell JM**, Griswold D\*, Chase EC\*, Carver E. [The Blueprint of Disaster: COVID-19, The Flint Water Crisis, and Unequal Ecological Impacts](#). The Lancet Planetary Health. 2021; 5(5), e309-e319.
12. **Ezell JM**, Ompad D, Walters S. [How Urban and Rural Built Environments Influence the Health Attitudes and Behaviors of People Who Use Drugs](#). Health & Place. 2021; 69, 102578.

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13. **Ezell JM**, Chase EC\*. [A population-based assessment of physical symptoms and mental health outcomes among adults following the Flint Water Crisis](#). Journal of Urban Health. 2021; 98(5), 642-653.
14. **Ezell JM**, Salari S, Rooker C\*, Chase EC\*. [Intersectional Trauma: COVID-19, the Psychosocial Contract, and America's Racialized Public Health Lineage](#). Traumatology. 2021; 27(1), 78-85.
15. **Ezell JM**. [Empathy plasticity: decolonizing and reorganizing online spaces to address racial equity](#). Ethnic and Racial Studies. 2021; 44(8), 1324-1336.
16. 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.
17. 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),593925.
18. **Ezell JM**, Walters SM, Friedman SR, Ouellet LJ, Jenkins WD, Link BG, Pho MT. [Stigmatize the use, not the user? Attitudes on opioid use, drug injection, treatment, and overdose prevention in rural communities](#). Social Science & Medicine. 2021; 268, 113470.
19. 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. 2021; 37(1), 172-174.
20. **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; 16(4), 387-407.
21. **Ezell JM**. [Understanding the situational context for interpersonal violence: A review of individual-level attitudes, attributions, and triggers](#). Trauma, Violence, and Abuse. 2021; 22(3), 571-587.
22. 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; 9(6), 1224-123
23. **Ezell JM**, Pasquale D, Poudyal S, Azhar S, Monk E, Vidula M, Yeldandi V, Laumann E, Liao C, Schneider J. [Are skin color and body mass index associated with social network structure? Findings from a male sex market study](#). Ethnicity and Health. 2021; 26(6), 863-878.
24. **Ezell JM**, Ferreira MJ, Duncan DT, Schneider J. [The sexual and social networks of Black transgender individuals: Results from a representative sample](#). Transgender Health. 2018; 3(1), 201-9.
25. **Ezell JM**, Richardson M, Salari S, Henry JA. [Implementing trauma-informed practice in juvenile justice systems: What can courts learn from child welfare interventions?](#) Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma. 2018; 11(4), 507-519.
26. **Ezell JM**, Choi CJ, Wall MM, Link BG. [Measuring recurring stigma in the lives of individuals with mental illness](#). Community Mental Health Journal. 2018; 54(1), 27-32.

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27. 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; 116(3), 219-224.e1.
28. Joseph CL, Baxa D, Kaljee L, Brar I, Scott C, Dakki H, Lubetsky S, **Ezell JM**, Zhang L, Schultz L, Markowitz N. [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; 4(2), 27-36.
29. **Ezell JM**, Peters RM, Shill JE, Cassidy-Bushrow AE. [Association between one-hour oral glucose tolerance test values and delivery mode in non-diabetic, pregnant Black women](#). Journal of Pregnancy. 2015; 2015, 835613.
30. **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; 24(7), 551-53.
31. **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; 24(1), 104-09.
32. **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; 34(6), 504-10.
33. **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; 24(4), 1552-73.
34. **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.
35. 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; 25(3), 257–63.
36. Havstad SL, Johnson CC, Zoratti EM, **Ezell JM**, et al. [Tobacco smoke exposure and allergic sensitization in children: A propensity score analysis](#). Respiriology. 2012;17(7), 1068-72.
37. Cabassa LJ, **Ezell JM**, Fernandez R. [Lifestyle interventions for adults with serious mental illness: A systematic literature review](#). Psychiatric Services. 2010 Aug;61(8), 774-82.

## In Press/Revise and Resubmit

38. **Ezell JM**, Pho MT, Olson B, Kaur A, Jenkins WD, Schneider J, Walters SM. “You’re friends until everybody runs out of dope”: Contextualizing the type, purpose, and value of social networks of people who use drugs. Social Networks. 2022. Revise and Resubmit.

## Selected *ad hoc* manuscript reviewer assignments

American Journal of Public Health; American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; Child Abuse & Neglect; Ethnicity and Disease; Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved; Psychiatric Services; Psychological Medicine; Qualitative Health Research; Social Problems

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## INVITED TALKS

### 2022

"A Sociomedical Autopsy of the Flint Water Crisis: Race, Class, and All of the Above." University of Missouri, Black Studies. February 16, 2022. **(Oral Presentation/Training)**

"Using Cultural Humility to Better Engage People Who Use Opioids." *Southern Illinois University Medicine: Rural Opioid Prescribers Series*. January 13, 2022. **(Oral Presentation/Training)**

### 2021

"Creating Spaces for Youth in Our Work: Supporting Their Growth in Community Leadership." *Waterway Stories: 2021 Conference. New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program*. November 17, 2021. **(Moderator)**

"Negative Attitudes Toward Opioid Use and Drug Injection in Rural Communities: Is it Classic Stigma or Something More?" *Maryland Rural Opioid Technical Assistance*. July 13, 2021. **(Oral Presentation/Training)**

"Racism in America: Health." *American Studies Program*. Hosted by Cornell University. March 29, 2021. **(Panelist)**

### 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.

"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)**

["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)**

### 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/Panelist)**

## MEDIA

["PTSD in Flint shows the cost of ignoring mental health during crises"](#) published in *The Hill* on May 20, 2021

## GRANTS

2021	Cornell Center for Social Sciences NIH Training Grant (\$15,000)
2021	President's Council of Cornell Women (\$10,000)
2021	New York State Water Resources Institute (\$10,000)
2020	Engaged Cornell (\$50,000)
2020	Cornell Center for Social Sciences COVID-19 Research Grant (\$12,000)
2020	Cornell Rural Humanities Initiative (\$10,000)
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	University of Chicago Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation (\$4,000)
2019	University of Chicago Graduate Council Travel Fund Award (\$600)
2018	Creative Connections Coalition (C3) Award (\$500)
2017	Pozen Center for Human Rights Doctoral Research Grant (\$5,000)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2021-2022 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Scholars Network Fellowship

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2019-2020 Fulbright scholarship for study in Port of Spain, Trinidad  
2018-2019 Duke University Social Networks & Health Fellowship  
2018 National Environment Justice Conference and Training Program Award  
2018 Pozen Center for Human Rights Fellowship  
2016 University of Chicago *Social Sciences Division Doctoral Fellowship*  
2010 U.S. Office of Personnel Management *Presidential Management Fellowship* (Declined)  
2008 Columbia University *Mailman School of Public Health Merit Scholarship*

## 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

2021 Cornell University  
Faculty Search Committee for Africana Studies  
Faculty Search Committee for Cornell Population Center  
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.  
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 men.

## 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.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### 2019

"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 social and sexual networks of Black transgender women and Black men who have sex

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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)**

## 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)**

## 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)**