

GABRIEL LEE JOHNSON

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, School of Public Health

Doctor of Philosophy, Health Behavior Health Education

August 2024

Dissertation: Exploring the Relationship Between Black Masculinities and Mental Health Among Black Sexual Minority (BlaQ) Men in Southeast Michigan.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gary Harper

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Daphne Watkins, Dr. Enrique Neblett, Dr. Ryan Wade

University of Michigan, School of Public Health

Master of Public Health, Health Behavior Health Education

April 2019

University of California, Davis

Bachelor of Arts, Economics with a minor in Global Disease Biology

May 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University

Instructor – People and the Environment (ISS 310)

Jan 2025 – Current

- Newly developed course integrating public health, sociology, anthropology, and gender studies with a focus on practical, group-based, project-oriented delivery of course content and assessment.

Goshen College

Instructor – Introduction to Public Health

Sept 2022 – Dec 2022

- Developed and delivered instruction to 20 students interested in entering the public health major.
- Adapted curriculum to incorporate additional equity-oriented content.
- Assigned and graded homework that was inclusive of varying modalities such as multiple-choice quizzes, podcasts, and essays.

University of Michigan, Student Opportunities for AIDS/HIV Research

Instructor – Graduate Preparation Course

May 2022 – May 2024

- Developed, delivered, and evaluated course to prepare historically underrepresented undergraduate students to apply and attend master's and doctoral programs.
- Coordinated 20 interdisciplinary speakers, including a continual parental engagement throughout program.

University of Michigan, School of Public Health

Graduate Student Instructor – LGBTQ+ Health Promotion

Jan 2022 – April 2022

- Coordinated partnerships between students and 19 sub-Saharan African non-governmental organizations focused on sexual and gender minority health.
- Evaluated and consulted students on the development of information, education, and community products that the NGOs would use with their respective communities.

*University of Michigan, School of Public Health***Graduate Student Instructor –Introduction to Public Health**

Sep 2021 – Dec 2021

- Delivered supplemental lectures to over 100 students weekly, focused on the core functions of public health.
- Restructured how the course addressed race and ethnicity requirements by incorporating new texts, including new instructional models.

*University of Michigan, Health Sciences Scholar Program***Graduate Student Instructor – Health and Healthcare I & II**

Sept 2018 – April 2020

- Developed supplemental lecture material to be delivered in three weekly discussion sections and provide academic support to first year pre-health students through office hours.

*Sacramento Unified School District***7th Grade Mathematics Teacher**

Oct 2016 – June 2017

- Developed syllabus, lesson plans, and provided in class instruction to 120 students daily to reach proficiency in developmental benchmarks established by the district.
- Facilitated sexual and gender minority student organization.

Undergraduate Mentees:

Adrian Breyer, Academic Mentor

Feaven Gebrezghi, Academic and Professional Mentor

Darrell Tubbs, Academic and Professional Mentor

Myla Lyons, Academic and Professional Mentor

PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

Johnson, G. L., Harper, G. W., Neubauer, L. C., Bennett, H., Kirkland, A. R., Harper, G. W. (2025) “The Students Opportunities for AIDS/HIV Research (SOAR) Program: Promoting Public Health Leadership and Transformation for Undergraduate Students Through a Principles-Driven, Cohort-Based Model”. *Frontiers in Public Health*. 13:1601175.

Johnson, G. L., Ubong, I-A., Parker, R., Popoff, E. E., Price, M., Harper, G. W. (2025) “Listening to the Voices of Black Transmasculine People in Detroit: Community Strengths and Challenges” *International Journal of Transgender Health*. In Press.

Jadwin-Cakmak, L., Jauregui, J. C., McDowell, H., Davis, K., LaBoy, R., **Johnson, G. L.**, Hosek, S., Harper, G. W. (2024) “They’re not feeling the love they need to feel”: HIV Stigma and other intersecting stigmas among Black gay and bisexual men and transgender women in house and ball communities”. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 28(3).

Lewis, K. A., Jadwin-Cakmak, L., Walimbwa, J., Ogunbajo, A., Jauregui, J. C., Onyango, D. P., Moore, Darius M., **Johnson, G.L.**, Odero, Wilson., Harper, G. W. (2023). “You’ll be chased away”: sources, experiences, and effects of violence and stigma among gay and bisexual men in Kenya. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 20(4), 2825.

Harper, G. W., LaBoy, R., Castillo, M., **Johnson, G. L.**, Hosek, S. G., Jadwin-Cakmak, L. (2022) “It’s a Kiki!: Developmental benefits of the Kiki scene for Black gay/bisexual/transgender adolescents/emerging adults”. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 19(1).

Harper, G. W., Crawford, J., Lewis, K., Mwochi, C. R., **Johnson, G.**, Okoth, C., Jadwin-Cakmak, L., Onyango, D.P., Kumar M., Wilson, B. D. (2021). “Mental health challenges and needs among sexual and gender minority people in western Kenya”. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(3), 1311.

Manuscripts Under Review

Johnson, G. L., Wade, R. M., Harper, G. W. “*BlaQ on Both Sides: A De/Construction of Masculinities among Black Sexually Minoritized Men*”. Men and Masculinities. *Under Review*.

Johnson, G.L., Wade, R.M., Harper, G.W. “Black Masculinities & Mental Health of BlaQ men: An Overlooked Intersection”. American Journal of Men’s Health. *Under Review*.

Johnson, G.L. “*A Critical Literature Review of Masculinity Among Cisgender BlaQ Men Using an Intersectionality Framework*”. Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health. *Under Review*.

Miles, A. F., Barrita, A. M., & Johnson, G. L. From Science to Policy: Mapping the Workplace DEI Scholarship Cited in Public Policy. *Invited Article*.

Jifi, N., Jadir, D. S., Sprick, N., Harvey, N., Alkazir, B., **Johnson, G. L.**, Anderson Jr., K. D. “The Role of Insurance Type and Housing Security in Substance Use Treatment Gap Disparities between Heterosexual and Sexual Minority Adults in the United States” *Submitted. Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment. (Impact Factor 3.9)*

Manuscripts in Preparation

Harper, G. W., **Johnson, G. L.** “*WEMA: Development of a Community Engaged Critical LGBT+ Mental Health Intervention in Kenya*”. *In Preparation*.

Johnson, G.L., Ribeiro-Brown, B., Ward, M. “A Case for Gendered Racist Microaggression Scale for Black Men” *In Preparation*.

Ribeiro-Brown, B., **Johnson, G.L.**, Ward, M. “Exploratory Scale Development and Testing of the Gendered Microaggression Scale for Black Men” *In Preparation*.

SERVICE

Sexual and Gender Minority Consortium. Member. Michigan State University.

Sept 2024—Current

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Conference Presentations

Johnson, G; Harper, Gary W.; Bennett, Heidi; Hussen, Sophia; Bolivar, Andrea; Neubauer, Leah; Kirkland, Anna. (June 2023). “*An Intersectional Feminist Approach to Critical Undergraduate*

Research Mentoring: The Student Opportunities for AIDS/HIV Research (SOAR) Program". 19th Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action. Morehouse College.

Johnson, Gabriel L. (October 2019) "*Wema: The Participatory Development of a LGBTI+ Mental Health Program in Western Kenya*" – American Public Health Association – **Poster**

Invited Talks

Keynote Speaker. (April 2025). "Sankofa: Leveraging Histories to meet the current moment and rooting self in the mist of a turbulent climate."

Guest Lecturer. (April 2025) "Content and methodological questions when interrogating experiences of Black men across identities" George Washington University.

Keynote Speaker (October 2024). *The Power of Community in Exploring the Academy, a Black Perspective*. National Council on Black American Affairs for Western Region Conference – Mesa, AZ.

Guest Lecturer. (November 2024). "Trajectories into Public Health, a unique narrative." University of Michigan.

Guest Lecturer. (November 2023). *BlaQ Health: Expanding definitions of health*. Undergraduate Public Health Program, Goshen College.

Guest Lecturer. (October 2023). *Engaging in Applied Public Health in Sub-Saharan African Contexts*. Institute for Global Health and School of Professional Studies MSGH Degree Program, Northwestern University.

Panelist. (October 2023). *Current topics and interests in queer life, history, and theory*. Black Queer Kinship Histories Conference, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.

Panelist. (February 2023). "*Mental Illness in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Communities*". United Nations Economic and Social Council, Sikh Human Rights Group. – **Panelist**

Keynote Speaker. (April 2022). "*Expanding our understanding of Masculinities and its implications on health*". Convocation and Lecture. Goshen College. – **Keynote speaker**

Guest Lecturer. (February 2022). "*Social Determinants of Black Men*". Goshen College.

Guest Lecturer. (November 2021). "*BlaQ Men and Mental Health: Hidden Determinants*". Goshen College.

Guest Lecturer. (November 2021) "*Engaging Sub-Saharan Africa LGBT+ Community Work*". Master of Science in Global Health Program, School of Professional Studies, Northwestern University.

Podcast Guest. (February 2021) "*Black Families and Mental Health*". Population Healthy Podcast. University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Guest Lecturer. (December 2019) "*Going Beyond Lip Service to Inclusivity: Ethical Obligations*

to Science, Health, and Society” – Diversity Equity and Inclusion for Epidemiology.

Keynote Speaker. (November 2019) “*Public Health Awakened*” - WK Kellogg Grantees Convening.

Guest Speaker. (September 2019) “*Black Disability and Ableism within Institutions*”. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Building Power Against White Supremacy Conference.

Presentation. (July 2018) “Wema project: A community informed intervention.” Kenya Medical Research Institute and Centers for Disease Control.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Latino Research Institute – Intersectional Research June 2023
Methods Institute for Advanced Doctoral Students,
University of Texas – Austin

EVALUATION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, School of Public Health Sept 2019–Aug 2024

Doctoral Candidate (Dissertation)

- Reviewed over 600 peer reviewed articles to conduct critical literature review.
- Developed screener for qualitative participants.
- Interviewed 30 participants for an average of 90 minutes each interview.
- Developed, submitted IRB for approval.
- Recruited and conducted meetings with community consultants.
- Awarded over \$9000 to conduct dissertation.
- Co-created recruitment flyer
- Developed measures to assess identity centrality for prospective participants.
- Managed and budgeted payment of participants, including community consultants.

NuiiWaav Brotherhood

Nov 2021 – Current

Program Developer and Implementation

NuiiWaav Brotherhood is a community organization serving transgender men in Detroit, MI.

- Develop, implement, and facilitate a support group focusing on the relationship between mental health and masculinity among Black transgender men living in Detroit for 10 weeks.
- Manage programmatic modules are focused on building skills to reduce depressive and anxiety symptomatology.

Washtenaw County My Brother's Keeper.
2024

July 2021 – June

Program Evaluator

- Evaluate program effectiveness and reach of implemented programs.
- Engage with board of directors, present data, and reshape direction of organization using evidence-based practices.

University of Michigan, School of Public Health and Nyanza Rift Valley and Western Kenya LGBTI Coalition (NYARWEK)

Program Developer

Jan 2018 – Jan 2021

- Conduct 10 focus groups and develop manualized mental health intervention with Dr. Gary Harper, Laura Jadwin-

Cakmak, MPH, NYARWEK executive team tailored for western Kenya LGBTI population.

Public Health Action Support Team and Coastal Plains Community Center and University of Texas

Program Evaluator

Dec 2017

- Developed and disseminated 4 surveys evaluating the emergency preparedness of Coastal Plains Community Center's response to Hurricane Harvey
- Presented findings to the board of directors.

Children, Family, Health International

Program Evaluator

Dec 2017

- Delivered HIV counseling, through Blue Roof Clinic in Durban, South Africa, to 30 patients daily to improve patient disease management and decrease viral load to become undetectable.

POSSE Project

Qualitative Interviewer

Nov 2017 – Dec 2017

- Conducted qualitative interviews following the conclusion of participant's involvement in the POSSE project, an HIV prevention and reduction program for the House and Ball community.
- Conducted two rounds of interviews involving community leaders and community members.

Public Health Action Support Team, Center of Disease Control, and US Virgin Islands Department of Public Health

Surveyor

Oct 2017

- Surveyed over 300 people using door to door knocking.
- Conducted Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) in collaboration with the CDC and St. Croix Health Department to assess community needs following Hurricane Maria.

MENTORSHIP/LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Student Opportunities for AIDS/HIV Research (SOAR)

Graduate Mentor Coordinator

Sept 2021 – May 2024

SOAR is a program to diversity HIV scholars by recruiting undergraduates and supporting them in pursuit of doctoral degree in behavioral social sciences fields.

- Recruited students to SOAR program, resulting in a 60% growth of applicant pool year over year.
- Coordinated mentorship for SOAR students, pairing students with current doctoral students based on individual characteristics.
- Develop and evaluate curriculum effectiveness in preparing students for graduate school, retention in the doctoral pipeline, and overall practicality of curriculum.

*Glide Memorial Church and Foundation***Emerging Leaders Intern**

Aug 2017

June 2016 –

- Distributed approximately 4,000 clean syringes weekly to intravenous drug users.
- Developed and revamped a hygiene resource center for homeless individuals in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco.
- Co-facilitated a weekly LGBT+ substance use support group for 3 months.

*Associated Students of the University of California, Davis***Senator**

Jan 2015 – Oct 2015

- Proposed policies, advocated, and voted on behalf of the 30,000 undergraduate students attending the University of California, Davis.
- Elected first transfer student to senator in college history.

*Associated Students of Solano College***President**

Sept 2013 – May 2014

- Convened weekly student senate body to make regulatory, policy, and curriculum decisions on behalf of the student body for the academic year.
- Served as a student representative for faculty meetings and community college board meetings.
- Supported advocacy and implementation of law school pipeline program for underrepresented students.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE*University of California Davis Center for Poverty Research***Research Intern**

Jan 2016 – June 2016

- Synthesized and shared research regarding safety net programs.
- Developed first live twitter event for poverty research, including coordination and evaluation of poverty research symposium.

*Imani Clinic***Clinic Volunteer**

Nov 2014 – June 2016

- Volunteered over 200 hours at weekly student run clinic focused on outreach and providing free primary care to Black community members in the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento, CA.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE*Best Buy***Best Buy Mobile Manager**

Oct 2007 – June 2014

- Managed a 1-million-dollar budget and led department to second in the company out of over 1,000 stores in revenue.
- Trained leadership resulting in improvement from worst to best in the district in employee satisfaction.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

National Institutes of Health Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, And Accessibility Mentorship Supplement ((NOSI) NOT-OD-22-057) \$150,000

- Administrative supplement to support mentorship and support research related to supporting historically underrepresented undergraduates matriculate into doctoral degrees and careers.

Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Dissertation Award \$10,000

- Support for conducting dissertation research.

Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar \$120,000

- Fellowship to provide training in order to translate health research into policy at local, state, and federal levels

Comic Relief Fund \$500,000

- Funding to support improving mental health of over 10,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Kisumu, Kenya through cultural sensitization of mental health practitioners, policy change, intervention implementation, and social change media campaign.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Honored Instructor Award	March 2019
Deans Scholarship	Sept 2017 – April 2019
Student's Choice Award for Poster	Sept 2018
Scott K. Simonds Scholarship (Declined)	May 2018
Gelman Scholar	April 2018
International Institute – African Studies	April 2018
University of Michigan – Health Behavior Health Education Funding.	Feb 2018 – April
2018 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mini-grant	Sept 2018 – Dec
2018	
Leslie Campbell Community Service Award	April 2016
Associated Students of University of California, Davis Senator.	Feb 2015 – Jan 2016

LANGUAGES

American Sign Language – Fluent