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Micah E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Sociologist, Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy

Work Address: Department of Mental Health Law and Policy
College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33612

Email: MicahJohnson3000@gmail.com

Education

- 2017 Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville, FL (4.0/4.0 GPA)
Dissertation: *Childhood trauma among justice-involved youth: predicting achievement, violence, and suicidal ideation*
- 2014 M.A., Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville, FL (4.0/4.0 GPA)
- 2008 B.A. in Social Science Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Areas of Concentration: *Underserved pediatric populations*

Positions

- 2019- Present Assistant Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.
- 2017- 2019 National Institute on Drug Abuse, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Epidemiology, College of Public Health and Health Professionals and College of Medicine, UF, Gainesville, FL.
- 2013-2017 McKnight Fellow, Department of Sociology, Criminology and Law, UF
- 2014-Present Graduate Teacher, Principles of Sociology, Social Inequalities, and Applied Research Methods, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF
- 2011-2013 Teacher, The School District of Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL.

Research Interests: Stress processes of adverse health and behavioral outcomes

- **Stress: Psychological trauma, race, and other social stress processes**
- **Criminology: The sociology and social epidemiology of youth violence and drug abuse**
- **Mental health among underserved pediatric populations (i.e. justice-involved children)**

Teaching Interests: Childhood trauma, youth violence, and juvenile justice

Publications

Psychological Trauma and Substance Abuse among Justice-Involved Children

1. **Johnson ME** (2017). Trauma, race and risk for violent felony arrests among FL juvenile offenders. *Crime and Delinquency*, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128717718487>
2. **Johnson ME** (2017). Childhood trauma and risk for suicidal ideation in justice-involved children. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 83: 80-84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.10.034>
3. **Johnson ME** (2017). The effects of traumatic experiences on academic relationships and expectations in justice-involved children. *Psychology in the Schools*, 55(3):240-249. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pits.22102>
4. **Johnson ME** (2018). Analyzing optimism and opioid misuse among Florida justice-involved children. *Health and Addiction Research*. 3: <https://doi.org/10.15761/MHAR.1000169>
5. **Johnson ME**, Shaw D, and Warren T (2019). Family structure and opioid misuse among justice-involved children. *Substance Use and Misuse* (forthcoming).
6. **Johnson ME** and Cottler LB (2019). Interaction effects of trauma, race/ethnicity and SU and SUD among justice-involved children. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (forthcoming).
7. **Johnson ME** and Alejandro A (2019). Homegrown: Parent and sibling substance abuse linked to opioid misuse among justice-involved children. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* (forthcoming).

Race/Ethnicity

8. **Johnson ME**, Zsembik, B, and Peek CW (2016). Black dads matter! The effects of ambition and parental education on high math achievement. *African American Success Foundation*.
9. **Johnson ME** (2016). The paradox of black patriotism: Double consciousness. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1332378>
10. **Johnson ME**, Gu JA (2019). Multiple systems pedagogy: A method of teaching white privilege in black skin. *Journal of Black Studies* (forthcoming).

Papers Under-Review/In-Progress

1. Elliott AL, **Johnson ME**, and Cottler LB. Racial disparities in referrals for assessment for substance use disorder among FL justice-involved children. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*
2. **Johnson ME**, Lloyd SL, Elliott AL, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. Intersectionality: Black girls are half as likely as White boys and girls to be referred for SUD screening among current users in the juvenile justice system. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment and Policy*.

Papers Under-Review/In-Progress (Continued)

3. **Johnson ME**, Lloyd SL, Gu JA, Gisel R, and Cottler LB. Opioid use and suicidal distress among justice-involved children. *Archives of Suicide Research*
4. **Johnson ME**, Lloyd SL, Gu JA, Rosel G, Otufowora AA, Barnett R. Smith ND. Runaway/throwaway experiences and past 30-day opioid misuse in justice involved children.

Reports/Media

1. **Johnson ME** (2018). "The stigma of mental health with a focus in the African American community and other marginalized groups". Media Report. United States Senator Bernie Sander's Office.
2. **Johnson ME** (2018). "Stress proliferation: The lasting and widespread effects of childhood trauma". Expert Report. Federal Public Defenders Office.
3. **Johnson ME** (2017). "Questions remain after Spencer." *Gainesville Sun*.
4. **Johnson ME** (2017). "Black patriotism." *Gainesville Sun*.
5. **Johnson ME** (2016). "Childhood trauma and violent behavior: The role of risk and protective factors". Expert Report. State Public Defenders Office.
6. **Johnson ME** (2007). "Campus segregation." *FSView*.

Research Grants and Fellowships

Awarded:

2018-2019

\$298,782

The Study of Non-Oral Administration of Prescription Stimulants (SNAPS)
ArborPharma LLC (00104390)
Role: PI-proxy and Project Coordinator

2018-2019

\$20,000

Trauma, Race and SUD Treatment in the Juvenile Justice System
National Institute on Drug Abuse, Pediatric Research Division
National Institute of Health Loan Repayment Program
Role: PI/Applicant

2017-2019

\$318,894

UF Substance Abuse Training Center in Public Health
National Institute on Drug Abuse (T32DA035167-02S1)
National Institute of Health
Role: Cottler, P.I.: Johnson 1.0 FTE

Research Grants and Fellowships (Continued)

2013-2018

\$95,000

Understanding How Context Impacts Children

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

FL Education Fund

Role: Johnson, Student Applicant

2015-2016

\$3,000

The Social Geometry of Youth Violence

Sociology Research Grant

Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF

Role: Borg, PI. Johnson, Co-PI.

2016

Childhood Trauma Among Justice-Involved Youth

Dissertation Grant

UF, Office of Graduate Affairs

Role: Johnson, PI.

Awarded:

2014-2015

\$5,000

The Psychosocial Blueprint of African American Success

Lydia Donaldson Tutt-Jones Memorial Research Grant

African American Success Foundation

Role: Johnson, PI

2006

\$10,000

Each One, Teach One

FL Fund for Minority Teachers Grant (completed)

Role: Johnson, PI

Submitted (not funded)

2016

\$1,980,000

Gainesville's Childhood Trauma Coalition

Communities Addressing Childhood Trauma (ACT) (MP-CPI-16-002)

Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Role: Johnson, PI

2016

\$75,000

Childhood Trauma among Justice-Involved Children

OJJDP Studies on Trauma and Justice-Involved Youth (OJJDP-2016-10040).

Role: Johnson, PI

Research Travel Grants

2016

UF: Dissertation Dissemination Grant (\$700)

2015

Student Government Grant: Police Student Dialogue (\$1,000)

Research Travel Grants (Continued)

- 2015 UF South Regional Education Board Scholar (\$4,000)
- 2015 FL Society of the Social Sciences (\$250)
- 2015 Graduate Minority Programs Professional Travel Scholarship (\$900)
- 2015 Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law (\$250)
- 2015 McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Research Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2015 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS Grant) (\$300)
- 2015 Departmental Travel Grant: CLAS Supplement (\$250)

- 2014 Graduate School Travel Scholarship (\$600)
- 2013 Graduate School Travel Grant (\$400)
- 2013 Board of Education, Summer Fellowship (\$3,600)

Forensic Services: Expert Witness Testimony

- 2019 State of Florida vs. Michael Shane Bargo, Jr., Case No. 200 (Orange County, FL) Capital Sentencing Proceedings, Testimony on the Effects of Childhood Trauma

- 2018 United States of America vs. Bakari McCant, Case No. 6:17-cr-00237-PGB-KRS (United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orange County, FL). Sentencing Proceedings, Testimony on Childhood Trauma and Extreme Disadvantage

- 2015 State of Florida vs. Raymond Morris, Case No. 1997-CF-991-AXXX-MA (Duval County, FL). Capital Postconviction Appeal, Testimony on Childhood Trauma and Extreme Disadvantage

Select Peer Reviewed Research Presentations

- 2018 Elliott A, **Johnson ME**, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. “Racial/Ethnic disparities in referral for assessment for substance abuse and addiction treatment services among florida justice-involved children” The College on Problems of Drug Dependence 80th Annual Scientific Meeting, Montreal, CA, (June).

- 2018 **Johnson ME** and Cottler LB. “Trauma, race and risk for substance use and substance use disorder among FL justice-involved children.” American Psychopathological Association Annual APPA Pre-Meeting, New York, NY (March).

- 2018 Elliott A, **Johnson ME**, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. “Racial disparities in referrals for assessment for substance use disorder among FL justice-involved children.” The UF College of Public Health and Health Professions Annual Diversity Day, Gainesville, FL (February).

- 2018 **Johnson ME**, Lloyd SL Elliott AL, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. “Gender disparities in referrals for SUD screen: Black girls half as likely as White males.” The UF College of Public Health and Health Professions Annual Diversity Day, Gainesville, FL (February).

Peer Reviewed Research Presentations (Continued)

- 2018 Elliott AL, **Johnson ME**, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. “Racial disparities in referrals for assessment for substance use disorder among FL justice-involved children.” The UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research, Gainesville, FL (February).
- 2018 **Johnson ME**, Lloyd SL, Elliott AL, Gu JA, and Cottler LB. “Gender disparities in referrals for SUD screening: Black girls half as likely as White males.” The UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research, Gainesville, FL (February).
- 2018 Liu Y, **Johnson ME**, Setlow B, and Cottler LB, “Cannabis use increases cocaine dependence in female cocaine users but does not increase its progression speed.” The UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research, Gainesville, FL (February).
- 2017 **Johnson ME**. “Death around the corner: Suicidal ideation in hip-hop ethnography.” 12th Annual Conference of the Social Sciences, Gainesville, FL (April).
- 2017 **Johnson ME**. “The interconnectedness of Activism and Art.” 12th Annual Conference of the Social Sciences, Gainesville, FL. (April)
- 2016 **Johnson ME**. “Do hurt girls run differently?: Analyzing maltreatment, runaway behavior, and gender among juvenile offenders.” American Sociological Association 111th Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. (August).
- 2016 **Johnson ME**. “A pedagogy that cultivates movements, like Mizzou: applying MSP to awaken antiracist activism.” Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education at Yale University, New Haven, CT. (April).
- 2015 **Johnson ME**, Zsembik BA, and Peek CW. “Black ambition, resiliency, and success: analyzing aspirations, expectations, and risk among high math achievers.” The Mid-South Sociological Association, Mobile, AL. (October)
- 2015 **Johnson ME**. “Victimized and institutionalized: cumulative disadvantage among black males in the juvenile justice system.” The Mid-South Sociological Association, Lafayette, LA. (October)
- 2015 **Johnson ME**. “The moderating effects of school climate and poly victimization on high school completion among juvenile offenders.” The Mid-South Sociological Association, Lafayette, LA. (October)
- 2015 **Johnson ME**, Zsembik BA, and Peek CW. “Ambition is priceless: the effect of parental and student aspirations on African American achievement,” American Sociological Association 110th Meeting, Chicago, IL. (August)
- 2014 **Johnson ME** and Borg M. “Conceptualizing bullying as social control.” The Mid-South Sociological Association, Mobile, AL. (November)

Invited Presentations

- 2017 **Johnson ME.** “Diversity and Inclusion: The Promises and Perils of a Culturally Informed Perspective.” SMART Couples Staff Training, Gainesville, FL. (September)
- 2017 **Johnson ME.** “Black dads matter! Analyzing ambition, parent education, and high math achievement.” African American Success Foundation’s National Success Summit, Orlando, FL. (November)
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “Toward a stress process model of adolescent violent criminality.” Panel on Adverse Childhood Experiences: Mental Health, Offense Seriousness and Violence among Juvenile Offenders. The American Society of Criminology 72nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. (November)
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “The trauma of being poor and black: How concentrated disadvantage gets under your skin.” Peace Immersion, River-Phoenix Center For Peace Building, Gainesville, FL. (October).
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “Defining male feminism: A beginners guide to being an ally.” She’s the First Conference, UF, Gainesville, FL. (October).
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “The consequences of chronic stress in adolescence.” Safer Child Symposium, Salem State University, Salem, MA. (April)
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “Leveraging data to diagnose educational inequalities.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. (April)
- 2016 **Johnson ME.** “Introduction to allyship: Using male privilege to empower women,” Become StrongHer Women’s Empowerment Conference, UF, Gainesville. (January)
- 2015 **Johnson ME.** “The Sociology of Religion: Race,” Kennesaw State University, Research Symposium, Kennesaw, GA. (March)
- 2015 **Johnson ME** and M. Borg. “The social geometry of school violence.” 2015 McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research & Writing Conference, Tampa, FL. (February)
- 2014 Gibson CL, **Johnson ME**, et al. “Exploring the multiple contexts of interpersonal discrimination and its association with mental and physical health: an examination of youth.” Institute for Child Health Policy’s Second annual Highlighting Children’s Health Research Conference, Gainesville, FL. (November)

Awards and Honors

- 2019 2019 NIDA Diversity Scholars Network program
- 2016 The 2016 Russell V. Ewald Award for Academic Excellence, FL Education Fund, McKnight Fellows Program
- 2016 Distinguished Urban Sociologist Elijah Anderson’s Guest Scholar Award, Symposium on the inner city school, Yale University

Awards and Honors (Continued)

- 2015 J. Michael Rollo Diversity Impact Award, UF
- 2015 Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholar
- 2015 Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honors Society Scholar (top 2% of graduate students)
- 2014 Selected by the Graduate School for the Provost Outstanding Achievement Award (Only 3 representatives from over 16,000 graduate/professional students).
- 2012 Favorite Teacher Award/Award of Excellence, School District of Osceola County, FL
- 2011 Best Presentation Award, The School District of Osceola County, FL
- 2008 College of Education Scholar, Florida State University
- 2008 Member of the Year Award, Mu Epsilon Chapter, The Florida State University
- 2006 New Member of the Year, National PanHellenic Council, The Florida State University
- 2016 The 2017 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award for Academic and Civic Achievement, Association of American Colleges and Universities (Nominated)

Teaching Experience

- 2018 Teaching Assistant, Epidemiology Writing Circle, Department of Epidemiology, UF, Gainesville, FL (Spring)
- 2017 Graduate Teacher, Sociology of Mental Health, Department of Sociology and Criminology and Law, UF, Gainesville, FL (Spring; Online)
- 2016 Graduate Teacher, Methods of Social Science Research Lab, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville, FL.
- 2014-2015 Graduate Teacher, Principles of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville, FL.
- 2015 Graduate Teacher, Applied Research: Qualitative Study of Race, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville (Spring).
- 2015 Guest Lecturer, Marriage and Family: Sociology of Children and Youth, UF, Gainesville, FL.
- 2015 Graduate Teacher, Applied Research: Qualitative Study of Race, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF, Gainesville (Fall).
- 2014 Subject Matter Expert and Course Designer, Social Inequality, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF (Online)

Teaching Experience (Continued)

- 2014 Guest Lecturer, Marriage and Family: Sociology of Education, UF, Gainesville.
- 2014 Invited Lecturer, Sociology of Religion: Race and Religion, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw.
- 2013 Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Sociology: Stratification, UF, Gainesville.
- 2013 Guest Lecturer, Academic Writing: Poverty, Resiliency, and Achievement, UF, Gainesville
- 2009,
2011-2012 Teacher- Civics, American History, and Advanced Via Individual Achievement (AVID) Neptune Middle School, Kissimmee.

Research Mentorship

- 2018 UF NIDA Substance Abuse Training Center in Public Health
Role: T32 Mentor to Pre-doctoral students (5 pre-doctoral students)
- 2018 Study of Teen Opioid Misuse and Prevention (STOMP) Research Lab
Role: Creator and Research Mentor to 16 undergraduate and pre-doc research trainees
- 2018 Health Disparities Research Lab for Undergraduate Investigators
Role: Creator and Mentor (5 undergraduate students)
- 2014-2017 Honors Research Team
Role: Creator and Mentor (10 undergraduate students)

Service

University and Department

- 2018 Advisory, Academic Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board, UF.
- 2016 Search Committee member, Sociology and African American Studies Faculty, UF.
- 2014 Research Symposium Coordinator, the Aggregate and F3S, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, UF.
- 2014 MA Sociology Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Council, Department of Sociology, UF.
- 2013 Co-chair, Programing Committee, Board of Education Summer Fellowship Program, UF.

Service (Continued)

Professional

- 2015 Panel Chair and Session Organizer, Sociology of Education Session, Mid-South Sociological Association
- 2015 Session Presider, Children and Youth Session: Educational Achievement and Attainment, American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Panel Chair, Sociology, Sociology Session, the FL Education Fund, Tampa, FL.
- 2014 President, FL Society of the Social Sciences and Conference Organizer.
- 2013 Vice President and Symposium Organizer, FL Society of the Social Sciences.

Community

- 2016 President, Friendly Neighbors Incorporated (501c3). Gainesville, FL.
- 2015 Committee member, Mayor Ed Braddy's Community Response Council, City of Gainesville.
- 2013-2015 Committee member, Road to Zero: HIV/Aids Awareness and Anti-bullying Initiative, with Gainesville Police Department, MLK Commission, etc., Gainesville.
- 2014 Creator/founder, think-tank and forum, *Building Bridges, Overcoming Adversity and Moving Forward*, UF, Gainesville.
- 2010 Vice President, Take-Action Mentoring Group, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2008 President, Mu Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated
- 2008 Executive Board, National Pan-Hellenic Council. The Florida State University, Tallahassee
- 2007 Founder of the "Annual HIV/Aids Awareness Rally", Florida State University, Tallahassee
- 2007 Student Government, Greek Week Director and Service Coordinator, Second Harvest Food bank, Tallahassee. Raised over 2,000 pounds of food for Impoverished Children

Professional Organizations/Memberships

- The College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- American Public Health Association
- American Sociological Association
- American Society of Criminology

References

Professional Mentors:

Henry Frierson, PhD (Mentor for 6 years)
Associate Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School
164 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115500
Gainesville, FL, 32611-5500
Phone: 352-392-6622
E-mail: hfrierson@ufl.edu

Brian Starks, PhD (Mentor for 13 years)
Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Kennesaw State University
bstarks3@kennesaw.edu

Academic Mentors:

Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE (Postdoc Mentor; 2 years)
Dean's Professor and Founding Chair
Department of Epidemiology
College of Public Health and Health Professions
University of FL
Email: lbcottler@ufl.edu

Isabel Garcia DDS, MPH (Mentor for 3 years)
Dean
College of Dentistry
P.O. Box 100405
Gainesville, FL 32610-0405
Phone: 352-273-5801
Fax: 352-392-3070
E-mail: aigarcia@dental.ufl.edu