**CURRICUM VITA**

**Donna J. Smith**

**1842 E. Ramble Ct.**

[**donnajsmith@gsu.edu**](mailto:donnajsmith@gsu.edu)

**404-273-5523**

**EDUCATION**

**University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

College of Education

Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methodologies

Ph.D. program, graduationAug., 2021

**Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts

Ph.D. program, (ABD, 1993)

**University of California, Berkeley, CA**

Humanities, Honors,1986

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2020- Evaluator, Covid Emergency Grant Evaluation, Georgia Health Policy Center, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

20102020 Academic Professional, School of Public Health, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

20072010 Senior Research Associate, Institute of Public Health, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

20032007 Research Associate, Division of Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

20022003 Senior Research Project Coordinator, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

**RECENT TEACHING &TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

**Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University** (Adjunct Faculty)

Health Equity 2021

**HealthHIV** (Trainer)

Community Engagement for Health Professionals 2021

**Georgia State University School of Public Health & Elton John Foundation** (Trainer/Facilitator)

Linkage to Care HIV Peer Navigation Training Program 2015-2018

**Georgia State University** (Faculty)

7522, Qualitative Methods for Health Sciences 2010-2020

4300, Controversies in Public Health (online and F2F) 2017-2020

3800, Special Topics: HIV in the City 2018

**SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

**Journal Articles (submitted/in press)**

**Smith, D**., Dillard, K., Habte, B., Gause, J., & Penn, N. There Is No ‘Us’ And ‘Them’ – Only ‘Us’: A Culturally Responsive Evaluation of the Linkage to Care Peer Navigation Training Program, submitted to *Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved, (under review).*

**Journal Articles (in progress)**

**Smith, D**. “Re-thinking Standards of Evidence in Public Health Evaluations: The Challenges of Utilizing Randomized Controlled Trials for HIV Linkage and Retention Interventions.” Targeted journal: Critical Public Health*.*

**Smith, D**. “Using Narrative Inquiry to Explore the Experiences of Young Black Gay Men and Black Transgender Women Accessing HIV Medical Care.” Targeted Journal: Qualitative Health Research.

**Smith, D**. “Case Studies of Black Gay and Transgender Peer Navigators Living with HIV: Critical Narrative Analyses.” Targeted Journal: Culture, Health and Sexuality.

**Journal Articles (published)**

Osborne Jelks, N., **Smith, D.**, Fuller, C. and Stauber, C. “Participatory Research in Northwest Atlanta’s Proctor Creek Watershed: Using Photovoice to Explore Environmental Health Risks at the Water’s Edge,” *Health and Place*, Vol. 66, November, 2020

Wakasiaka, S., **Smith, D**., Hoang, T., Jaoko, W., Anzala, O. and Priddy, F., “Health-Care Providers Perceptions of Intravaginal Rings for HIV Prevention in Nairobi, Kenya,” African Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health, Vol 7, Number 3, 2013.

Priddy. F, Hoang, T., **Smith, D.**, Wakasiaka, S., del Rio, C., Bwayo, J., "Anal Sex, STIs, HIV Incidence and Vaginal Practices in Female Sex Workers in Urban Kenya: Implications for Development of Intravaginal HIV Prevention Methods." AIDS Research Human Retroviruses, Volume 27, Number 10, 2011.

Smith, D.K., Toledo, L., **Smith, D.**J., Adams, M.A., Rothenberg, R. "Attitudes and program preferences of African-American urban young adults about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)", AIDS and Behavior, Volume 24, Number 5, 2012.

Buehler, J., Whitney, E., **Smith, D**., Prietula, M., Stanton, S., Isakov, A. “Situational Uses of Syndromic Surveillance.” Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science, Volume 7, Number 2, 2009.

**Smith, D**., Wakasiaka, S., Hoang, T., del Rio, C., Bwayo, J., Priddy. F. “Acceptability of Intravaginal Rings as a Potential HIV Prevention Device among Female Sex Workers and Male Clients inNairobi, Kenya,” Journal of Women’s Health, July/August 2008.

Apostolopoulos, Y., Sonmez, S., **Smith, D**., McClendon L. “STI/HIV Risks for Mexican Migrant Laborers: Exploratory Ethnographies.” Journal of Immigrant & Minority Health, Vol. 8, Number 3, p. 291- 302, 2006.

Frank, E., **Smith, D**. and D. Fitzmaurice. “A Descriptive & Qualitative Assessment of a Four- Year Intervention to Improve Patient Counseling by Improving Medical Student Health.” Medscape General Medicine, Vol. 7, #2, 2005.

**Book Chapters**

Apostolopoulos, Y., Sonmez, S., **Smith, D**. and Kronenfeld, J. “Cruising America’s Highways” *21st Century Sexualities: Contemporary Issues in Health, Education and Rights*, Routledge, 2007.

**Smith, D**. "Same Difference: My Southern/Lesbian Stories.” *Out in the South: Lesbians and Gay Southerners Write About the South*, ed. Carlos Dews and Caroline Law, Temple University Press, 2001.

**Smith, D**. "Queering the South: Theorizing Southern Lesbian/Gay Identities," in *Carryin' On In The Lesbian and Gay South: Historical Essays*, ed. John Howard, New York University Press, 1997.

**National Convention Presentations:**

* "There Is No 'Us and Them.' Only 'Us:'" A Culturally-Responsive Evaluation of the Linkage to Care Peer Navigation Training Program,” poster presentation, National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 31-June 1, 2019.
* “Recruiting and Training HIV+ Transgender Women and Black Gay Men to work as Peer Navigators: Successes and Challenges,” oral presentation, American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. Nov. 6th, 2017.
* “Gender-Queering Linkage to Care: An Auto-ethnographic Assessment of a Novel Peer Navigator Training Program,” 12th Annual International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Champaign- Urbana, IL, May 21st, 2016.
* “An Evaluation of an Innovative Reentry Intervention with HIV Positive Former Georgia State Prisoners.” American Public Health Association, San Francisco, CA, 2012.
* "Linking HIV+ Reentrants to Care: A Qualitative Evaluation of the Pre-Release Planning Program for Georgia State Prisoners." 17th Qualitative Health Research Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, October 25-27, 2011.
* “Exploring Social and Sexual Networks in Western Kenya via Qualitative Methods.” International Network for Social Network Analysis, San Diego, CA 2009.

**Regional Convention Presentations:**

* “Training Transgender Women and Black Gay Men Living with HIV to work as Peer Navigators,” oral presentation, Fulbright Global Health Conference: ‘Reducing Inequalities in Vulnerable Populations,’ Georgia State University Atlanta, GA, Mar. 2nd, 2018.
* “The Linkage to Care Peer Navigation Training Program: An Internal Assessment.” LGBT Institute Symposium, Center for Civil and Human Rights, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. November 20, 2016.
* “Community Connections: An Evaluation of an Innovative Reentry Intervention with HIV Positive Former Georgia State Prisoners,” at Metro Atlanta Testing and Linkage Consortium, Jan.27th, 2014.
* "Queering the South - Who Cares?" Southeastern American Studies Association Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March, 2011.
* "Attitudes and Program Preferences Regarding Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among Inner City Young Adults at Risk for HIV/AIDS." GSU/CDC Research Symposium, Atlanta, Nov., 2009.

**RESEARCH**

***Ongoing:***

***Evaluating Practice-based Programs, Policies, and Practices from CDC’s Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program: Expanding the Evidence to Prevent Sexual Violence Centers for Disease Control,* CE20-001, Award 1 U01CE003215-01-00, Centers for Disease Control**

**P.I.: Prof. Dennis Reidy, Georgia State University**

**Role: Co-Investigator, 2020-2022**

This grant provides a rigorous process and outcomes evaluation of ***Step up. Step in.* (SUSI)**, a sexual bullying and violence prevention campaign developed through a partnership between the Georgia Department of Public Health (GA-DPH) and the Georgia Network to End Sexual Violence (GNESA). SUSI has been implemented in 42 schools across 19 counties in Georgia since 2014. On this grant, I provide support for qualitative research design, data collection and analysis.

***Evaluation: The Linkage to Care Peer Navigation Training Program***

**Elton John AIDS Foundation and Georgia State University School of Public Health**

**Role: Principle Investigator, 2017-2021**

This evaluation draws upon multiple data sources, including a range of curricular documents, in-depth interviews with the 17 participants from the 1st and 2nd cohorts, and semi-structured phone interviews with collaborating agency representatives. For this project, I led a team of 5 evaluators (3 internal and 2 external). We are utilizing a culturally-responsive approach, with critical feminism and intersectionality as the primary lens through which we are analyzing this data.

***Completed:***

***The Linkage to Care Peer Navigation Training Program***

**Elton John AIDS Foundation**

**Role: Principle Investigator, 2015-2017**

With this EJAF grant, I designed and facilitated a Peer Navigation training program that led to 3 cohorts of graduates’ certification as Linkage to Care Peer Navigators, and ultimately to their service and employment in local HIV service organizations, community-based organizations and research institutions. This program recruited persons living with HIV who represented groups experiencing highest prevalence rates in Atlanta, or young Black gay and bisexual men, transgender women of color, and persons who have experienced and overcome histories of incarceration and/or addiction. I was responsible for grant development and management, securing MOUs with 9 collaborating agencies, for all aspects of course design including recruitment and curriculum development for the 11-week classroom training. I also secured participants’10-week, 150 hour internship placements, and was responsible for staff supervision and grant reporting.

***Evaluation of Community Connections: A Mentoring Intervention for HIV Positive Former GA State Prisoners,* Bureau of Justice Affairs**

**School of Public Health, GSU**

**Role: Principle Investigator, 2013-2015**

For this project, I managed an evaluation of Community Connections, a pilot intervention designed to support formerly incarcerated HIV positive persons reentering the Atlanta metropolitan area. Data sources include in- depth qualitative exit interviews with 16 program participants and 3 project staff, 2 focus groups with Peer Navigators, Peer Navigator logs and monthly meeting check-in notes. Results suggest that the support provided participants via mobile phones and monthly MARTA transportation cards were core strengths of this program and facilitated participants’ re-integration into their families, communication with their Peer Navigators and health care providers, and linkage to other critical social services. For this evaluation, I supervised the interviewing, coding, analysis, presentations and publications of all data collected.

***Sampling Atlanta Networks Study***

**R01-DA031171-02 National Institute of Health**

**P.I.: Betsy Costenbader, Ph.D., FHI360**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D., MPH (GSU)**

**Role: Project Director, 2012 - 2017**

For the Atlanta site of this international research study, we conducted cross-sectional behavioral and network surveys and HIV tests with 625 participants in three areas of Atlanta: Midtown, English Avenue/Vine City, and Decatur. A primary objective of this study was to collect information that would inform understanding of the prevalence, behavioral and demographic characteristics of the most-at-risk populations in Atlanta. For this project, I managed all aspects of IRB protocol submissions, NIH progress reports, and qualitative data collection, which included focus groups and ethnography. I supervised three full-time staff and three graduate research assistants as they conducted ethnography, interviewed and tested participants in these 3 different, high-burden neighborhoods in Atlanta.

***Impact of Religious Organizations on HIV and Drug Use Prevention: Sub-project in Georgia State University Center of Excellence: Syndemics of Disparities***

**National Center of Minority Health and Disparities, NIH P20 MD004806-01**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D., MPH**

**Role: Qualitative Data Manager, 2011-2016**

This research project investigated the role of religious organizations in prevention of HIV and drug use, with particular attention to missed synergism. We conducted focus groups and in-depth interviews with key informants, including clergy members and local citizens who utilized the services provided by many churches and faith-based community organizations throughout metro Atlanta. For this project, I managed the ethnographic and qualitative research process, including data collection, transcription, analysis and reporting.

***Community Connections: Facilitating Re-entry of HIV Positive Persons from Prison to the Community.* Bureau of Justice Affairs, #2009-D1-BX-0332**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, MD, MPH**

**Role: Program Director, 2010-2013**

Community Connections was a pilot intervention designed to support formerly incarcerated HIV positive persons reentering 7the Atlanta metropolitan area, through pairings with peer navigators, supplemental case management, MARTA cards and cell phones. The goal of Community Connections was to ensure linkage to medical care and other essential social services for this population. I was responsible for all aspects of project management, including monitoring the progress of the 20+ Peer Navigation-Participant pairings, supervising 2 fulltime project staff and 4 graduate student assistances, negotiating MOUs with Georgia Department of Corrections and multiple Atlanta-based social service organizations and providers.

***Network-Informed Screening for HIV,* NIH/NIDA**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D.**

**Role: Project Manager, 2010-2012**

This project tested the ability of different network-directed methods for screening persons in three high- burden zip codes within metro Atlanta, in the spirit of efforts to 'seek, test, treat and retrain in treatment.' I supervised three fulltime field staff, a data manager and five graduate research assistants, as we tested and surveyed 900 persons throughout metro Atlanta for HIV via the rapid test, with confirmatory and NAT (recent infection testing).

***A Qualitative Evaluation of the Pre-Release Planning Program (PRPP) for HIV Positive Georgia State Prisoners,* Bureau of Justice Affairs**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D.**

**Role: Project Manager, 2008-2010**

The process of re-entry into the community for HIV positive inmates who have served their time is particularly difficult. Maintaining continuity of treatment outside of prison is essential for disease management and the prevention of further transmission. Through support of the Ryan White Program, Georgia Department of Corrections implemented a Pre- Release Planning Program (PRPP) in 2004, serving roughly one-third of Georgia State Prisons. In 2008, the Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University evaluated the effectiveness of PRPP by examining barriers to successful re-entry from the perspective of recently released inmates through face-to-face interviews. Twenty-five PRPP participants were followed-up approximately 6 months post-release to evaluate housing, employment, medical, mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS service utilization. I was responsible for the design, facilitation, analysis and dissemination of this two-year qualitative evaluation.

***The Epidemiologic Substrate for HIV transmission in Western Province, Kenya: a Pilot Ethnographic Study,* International Strategic Initiatives Grant**

**GSU P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D.**

**Role: Investigator and Project Manager, 2008-2009**

This pilot ethnographic study provided exploratory data in support of an RO1 NIH grant submission. The research proposal tested the concept of "low degree, high concurrency" networks as a significant factor in driving the HIV epidemic in Western Province, Kenya. We conducted focus groups and key informant interviews in Webuye and Bungoma, Western Province, Kenya. The GSU/University of Nairobi (U.o.N.) team collected data on the willingness of participants to discuss sexual matters and to talk about their sexual contacts. My responsibilities included qualitative data design, management and analysis, manuscript development, maintaining compliance with GSU IRB and U.o.N Ethics Board, facilitating effective and regular communication with our U.o.N. collaborators, training field ethnographers and supervising graduate student support staff.

***Geography and Risk Networks.* NIH-NIDA**

**P.I.: Richard Rothenberg, M.D.**

**Role: Qualitative Data Manager, 2005-2010**

This study delineated the behavioral, network, and geographic characteristics of persons who are at risk because of their drug-using and sexual activity in five high-burden and five low-burden HIV areas within metro Atlanta. I was responsible for the design, facilitation and management of all qualitative components of this four-year project.

***An Assessment of the Acceptability of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among Inner City Persons at risk for HIV/AIDS,* CDC-GSU Social & Behavioral Science Collaborative Research Grant**

**Co P.I.'s: Richard Rothenberg, MD (GSU) and Dawn K. Smith, MD (CDC)**

**Role: Investigator, 2007-2010**

This study investigated the efficacy of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for prevention of HIV among African American youth, ages 18-24, in zip codes with high HIV prevalence in metropolitan Atlanta. We conducted 12 focus groups regarding the acceptability and potential effects of PrEP in Atlanta, GA. I was responsible for design and management of the project, as well as data analysis, reporting and publication.

***Feasibility and Acceptability of Intravaginal Rings to Prevent HIV in Resource- Poor Countries,***

**CDC Woodruff Foundation**

**P.I., Fran Priddy, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Role: Investigator, 2005 –2008**

This study included an ethnographic assessment and a cohort study designed to evaluate the acceptability of an intravaginal microbicide ring in a ‘lower-risk’ cohort of sexually-active HIV-uninfected women and their male partners in Kibera, and in a ‘higher-risk’ cohort of female commercial sex workers in Mukuru – informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya. I served as both Investigator and U.S.-based Project Manager for this study. My responsibilities included data management and analysis, manuscript development, maintaining compliance with Emory IRB and University of Nairobi (U.o.N.) Ethics Board, facilitating effective and regular communication and site visits with our U.o.N. collaborators, training field ethnographers in Nairobi, and supervising U.S. support staff.

***RSPH Emory BioSense and Biosurveillance Evaluation,* Centers for Disease Control**

**P.I., James Beuhler, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Role: Investigator, 2007-2009**

Through case studies, this project described current public health practice (assessment, investigation, response) during public health emergencies, particularly those aspects of emergency public health practice that may be informed, shaped, facilitated, or hastened by information from BioSense and other biosurveillance systems. On this project, I provided expertise in qualitative methods, consulting on the design of interview instruments and analysis of over 60 interviews. I also managed the coding and analysis of the data and participated in drafting publications.

***Trucker Networks, Drug Use, and Disease Transmission,* NIH/NICHHD**

**P.I., Sevil Sonmez, Ph.D.**

**Role: Manager, Qualitative Research Projects, 07/01/02 – 10/31/05**

This study performed ethnographic evaluations of long-haul truckers and populations that surround them, with special emphasis on drug use and high-risk sexual activity, followed by formal network interviews and evaluations for HIV/STIs/BBIs. For this project, I conducted online, phone and in-person interviews with long-haul truckers, sex workers, gay and bisexual men, and other populations that interact with truckers in high-risk environments. I supervised field ethnographers and performed quality control on their interviews. I also managed graduate student staff who helped code and analyze over 100 in-depth interviews, utilizing QSR’s NVivo qualitative analysis software.

***Cancer Prevention Behavior and Attitudes of U.S. Medical Students,* American Cancer Society**

**P.I. Erica Frank, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Role: Qualitative Research Associate 09/1/01- 05/01/02**

This project was a national study of the effect of encouraging medical students’ healthy behaviors on their personal and clinical habits. I facilitated and analyzed focus groups that evaluated the effectiveness of the intervention component of this study, analyzed this data and wrote the summary and results for publication.

***Club Drugs: Ecstasy Use Patterns and HIV Risks,* NIH/NIDA**

**P.I. Claire Sterk, Ph.D.**

**Role: Ethnographic Data Analyst 01/01/02-09/30/02**

This project explored the then ‘club drug’ presence on the local drug market, to identify physical and health consequences, and to investigate the extent to which club drug use may result in HIV/AIDS risk taking among a variety of users in a wide range of settings. I participated in designing the coding schema and analyzing interviews, utilizing Nudist qualitative data software.

***Substance Abuse: Family, Friend, Community and Young Adults and Drug Use: Career and Family Factors,* NIH/NIDA**

**P.I. Claire Sterk, Ph.D.**

**Role: Ethnographic Data Analyst 01/01/02 - 09/30/02**

The main goals of this study were to explore the link between individual, family/household and community risk and protective factors to drug use and mental health challenges. The study combined a social epidemiological and ethnographic methodological approach and centered on drug use careers or use trajectories. I participated in designing the coding schema for use in analyzing in-depth interviews collected.

**ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT**

*Doctoral thesis committee member:*

* R. Lillianne Macias, “Lideres Comunitarias: Evaluation of Community Workshops on Domestic Violence,” Department of Community and Clinical Psychology, 2015

*M.P.H. thesis committee member:*

* Laura Elizabeth Anderson, “A Qualitative Content Analysis of Crisis Pregnancy Center Websites to Assess Medical Misrepresentation in Georgia,” 2019
* Joshua Renfroe, “Comparing HIV Risk Among Individuals Living in High and Low HIV Burden Zip Codes in Atlanta Using Different Risk Assessment Models,” 2016
* Kasarah Phillips, “An Evaluation Design for the Linkage to Care Peer Guide Training Program,” 2015
* Rene’ Meadors, “The Challenges of Addressing Co-Occurring Conditions among HIV Positive former GA State Prisoners,” 2014
* Akele Jeffers, “Perceived Risk of HIV among High Risk Individuals: A Comparison of Adolescents and Adults,” 2012
* Alison McCullough, "An Evaluation of the Pre-Release Planning Program of the Georgia Department of Corrections and a Qualitative Assessment of Reentry Experiences of Program Participants," 2011
* Claire Williford, **"**Effectiveness of a Pre-Release Planning Program for HIV-Positive Offenders Exiting Georgia Prisons: A Qualitative Evaluation Approach," 2010
* Christine Kibui, **"**Exploring Culturally Specific Practices that Might Exacerbate the Spread of HIV/AIDS in the Luhya Community of Western Kenya," 2009

*Graduate Student Internship Supervision:*

* Bethel Habte, May 2018-August, 2019. 2nd year Masters of Public Policy Intern, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. Graduate Research Assistant with the Linkage to Care Peer Navigator Training Program, School of Public Health
* Karimah Dillard, MA, RDT/BCT, Aug., 2017-May, 2018, 2nd year MSW candidate. Graduate Research Assistant with the Linkage to Care Peer Navigator Training Program, School of Public Health

**COMMUNITY / ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Consultant, Atlanta Metro LGBTQ Housing Coalition

Consultant, Living Walls, Atlanta, History of HIV in the South

Fulton County Commission HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, and Policy Advisory Committee

Consultant, “Out in the Archives” Exhibit, Special Collections and Archives, GSU

Reviewer, AIDS and Behavior

Reviewer, Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved

Reviewer, Journal of the International AIDS Society

Reviewer, APHA Annual Meeting, Section: Community Health Workers

LGBT Health Equity Speakers Series Committee, GSU School of Public Health

MPH Admissions Committee, GSU School of Public Health

GSU Bachelors in Public Health Curriculum Development Committee

**RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

* Paradigm Shift 2.0: Black Women Confronting HIV, Health and Social Justice. Feb. 6-7, 2020, Atlanta, GA
* Sexual & Gender Minority Research Workshop, NIH Pre-Conference Institute, Emory University Conference Center, May 30, 2019, Atlanta, GA
* Academic Writing Workshop, Fall, 2019, Decatur Writers Studio, Decatur, GA
* Quality Matters, An Immersive Approach to Rapid Blended Course Design, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Georgia State University, Summer, 2018, Atlanta, GA
* A Public Health Response to Incarceration: Opportunities for Action, 2014, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, N.Y.
* Whose Beloved Community? Black Civil and LGBT Rights Conference, 2014, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
* Qualitative Research Summer Intensive, 2013, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**HONORS**

* Outstanding Performance Award, School of Public Health, 2017
* 'Change Agent,' Office of LGBT Life Award, Emory University, 2012