

**Northeastern
University**

**2024-2025
Academic Year**

IHESJR ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by

Noah Burra, Devin Kantu, and Suzanne Garverich

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Message from Directors

01



Dr. Alisa Lincoln
Director



Dr. Idia Thurston
Associate Director

We are excited to share this report which describes the exciting work of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research and Affiliated Labs. We are so proud of the work of our community - including faculty, students, staff, affiliates, and community partners. The IHESJR remains firmly committed to engaging research as a powerful tool to advance health equity and social justice. We continue to do this critical work in partnership with communities most impacted by poor health outcomes, to inform and develop policies and practices that promote equitable health for all community members. We know that public health and health equity efforts face many challenges in this political moment. Thus, we will continue to support our Faculty Scholars and student researchers, in their efforts to shape population health and well-being, across the life-course, through community-engaged, inter-disciplinary, and innovative research. The scientific evidence of the need for thoughtful and intentional solutions to address health equity has not changed and so we will continue to respond to the needs of our communities, locally and across the global network. We are here, we remain committed to this work, and look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

In solidarity,
Alisa and Idia

About the Institute



The Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research's (IHESJR) mission is to generate scientific knowledge needed to promote health equity and social justice and reduce disparities in health, mental health, and well-being. The IHESJR is focused on the social determinants of health, the promotion of health equity, and the elimination of health disparities. The Institute is dedicated to tackling complex health and social issues through real-world research. We do this by engaging in research that focuses on 1) refugee, immigrant, and global health, 2) violence prevention and trauma, 3) public mental health and potentially harmful substance use, 4) health promotion and disease prevention, and 5) training and workforce development.

Contact Us

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02115

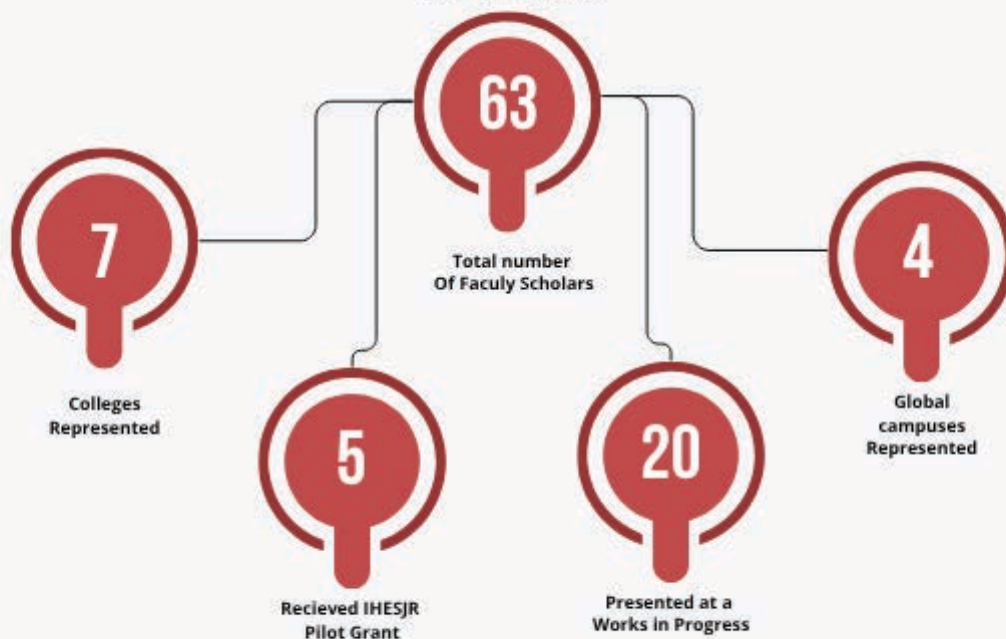
Community Partners

Community engagement and partnership are of the utmost importance and integral to the research and scholarship at IHESJR. Our IHESJR faculty, staff, and students work with a wide range of community partners within the Boston area and beyond. We want to thank all of our community organizations that engage and partner with us to promote health equity and reduce disparities in the populations these organizations serve. Here are some of the organizations that we collaborate with.



Faculty Scholars Program

Faculty Scholars Program 2024-2025



About

Our Faculty Scholar Program consists of faculty across colleges and campuses who are pursuing research in health equity and social justice. These faculty members not only have a research agenda that coincides with the Institute's vision and mission, but they also work with graduate and undergraduate students in training and mentoring the next generation of researchers.

Welcome to the Institute

05

The Institute is continuing to grow and we were very excited to bring on new Faculty Scholars this past academic year.



Anjanette Chan Tack



Zhenghan Qi



Danielle Scott



Lily Song



Briana Taylor



Maira Elena Villar



Taylor Cruz



Cali Collin

Advancing Health Equity Pilot Awards

06

As part of the Faculty Scholar Program, the Institute has an Advancing Health Equity Pilot Award Program where we grant seed funding for Faculty Scholars working on issues that reduce health disparities and promote health and well-being. Recipients and their research projects are listed.



Dr. Rachel Rodgers

Developing an intervention to Increase Food Industry Literacy



Lorna Hayward

Increasing equitable opportunities for power wheelchair adaptive team sport involvement by adults with disabilities: An evidence-based approach to understanding sport impact on cardiovascular fitness and wellbeing.



Anulia Albuja

The Effect of Changing United States Demographics on White/Black, White/Asian, and White/Latine Biracial People's Identity and Well-Being



Dr. Mi-Kyung "Miki" Hong

California Tobacco Control Policies in the Comprehensive Plan: Connecting Public Health to Urbanism



AC Goldberg

Proposal for Startup Grant to Study the Impact of Financially Accessible Gender-Affirming Voice Services



Amy Helburn

Benefits on rates of pregnancy, birth, and voluntary termination of parental rights (2017-2024)

Works in Progress Series

IHESJR Works in Progress Series

A series sponsored by the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research to learn about our colleagues' work and provide a space for discussion and feedback.

September:

Bouvé College of Health Sciences and cross college collaborations research focusing on aging and isolation.

Dr. Carmen Sceppa, MD, PhD
Dr. Tiana Yom, Ed.D., CHES
Dr. Miso Kim, PhD
Dr. Moka Yoo-Jeong, PhD, RN
Dr. Bilge Erten, PhD

October:

Dr. Dani Snyder-Young - **Sticking Stigma: Affect, Performance, and the Movement of Social Norms**

Dr. Herman Saksono - **Socio-Cognitive Framework for Personal Informatics: A Preliminary Framework for Socially-Enabled Health Technologies**

November:

Dr. Meryl Alper - **TikTok as a Forum and Mediator of Autistic Food Issues and Eating Disorders**

Dr. Analia Albuja - **The Effect of Changing United States Demographics on Biracial People's Identity and Political Behavior**

January:

Dr. Bilge Erten - **The Spillover Effects of Opioid Policies on Intimate Partner Violence**

February:

Dr. Jeanne Madden
Dr. Ning Zhang
Dr. Lichuan Ye

March:

Dr. Chieh Li - **Applying Critical Consciousness in the Promotion of Psychological Wellbeing of Minoritized Youths: A New Self-help Tool**

Dr. Danielle Crookes - **Sanctuary policies and immigrant health**

April:

Dr. Lorna Hayward - **Power Wheelchair Adaptive Team Sport Involvement: Experiences, Impact on Quality of Life, and Physical Fitness**

Prof. Mi-Kyung Hong - **The Intersectionality and Health Equity: Urban Policy and Planning as Tobacco Control**

Dr. Amy Helburn - **Effects of Variation in U.S. State-Level Perinatal Benefits**

Rachel Rodgers - **Online resources to improve food industry literacy and decrease disordered eating**

Dr. A C Goldberg and Nicholas Felice - **The Impact of Financially Accessible Gender-Affirming Voice Services on TGNC Wellbeing**

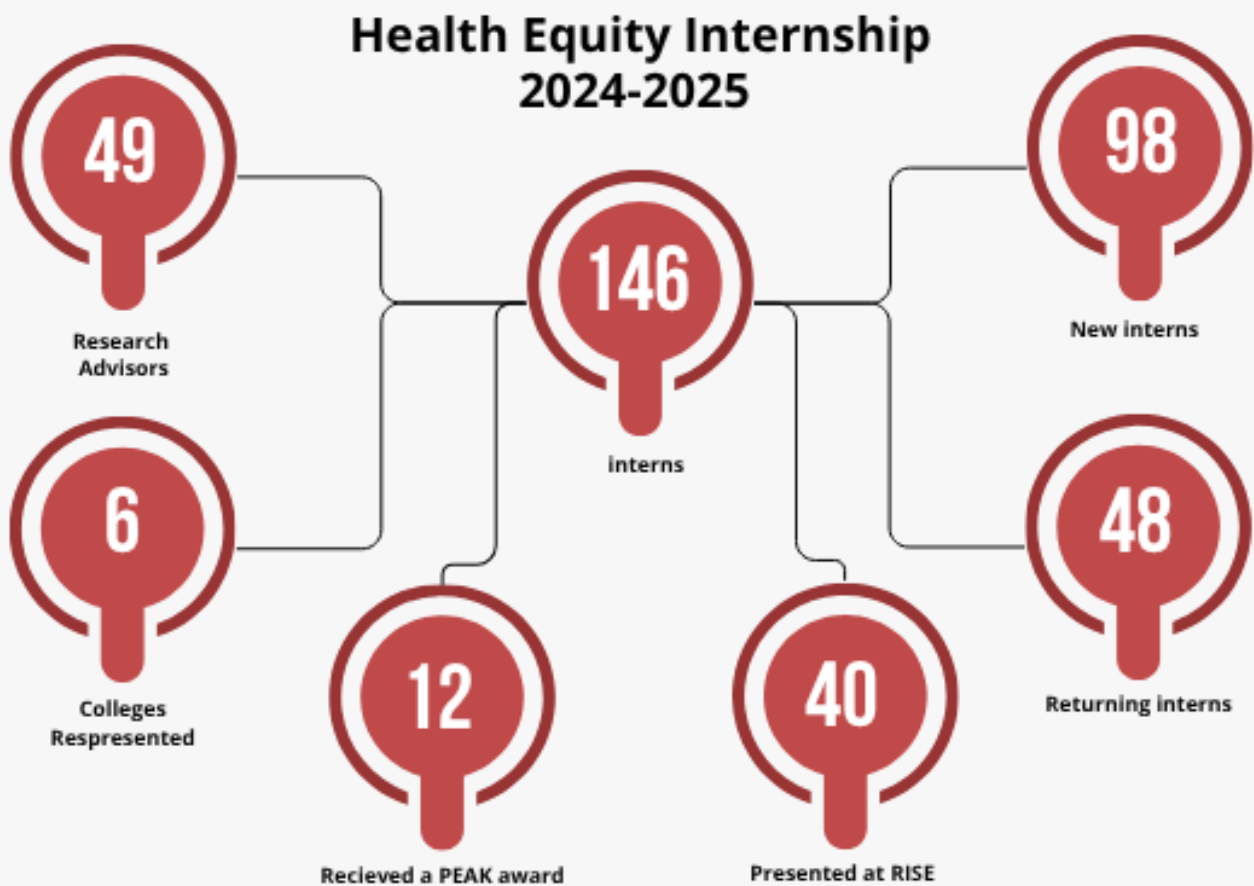
Northeastern University

**Institute for Health Equity
and Social Justice Research**

Every year we have a monthly speaker series from September through April, where Faculty Scholars share their research in progress. This is a time for presenters to get feedback about their work and inform the Institute community about health equity and social justice research being conducted.

Health Equity Internship

We just completed our 7th year of the Health Equity Internship Program. These interns were matched with Research Advisors working on research related to reducing health disparities and promoting health equity. Each of the interns worked experientially with Research Advisors on their research, as well as received training in health equity research related skills.



Peak Awardees

09

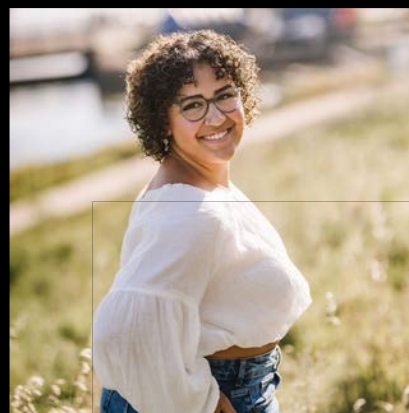
Health Equity Interns and IHESJR-affiliated lab members, supported by Research Advisors were awarded The Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) from the Undergraduate Research and Fellowship Office. These grants supported the research that students worked on with their faculty mentors.



Noah Brenman
Mentor, Nasim Ferdows
Alzheimer's Disease and Disparity: A Rural Undercounting



Rohan Chopra
Mentor, Winston Kennedy
Building an LLM-Driven Chatbot to Support and Empower Transgender Individuals Facing IPV



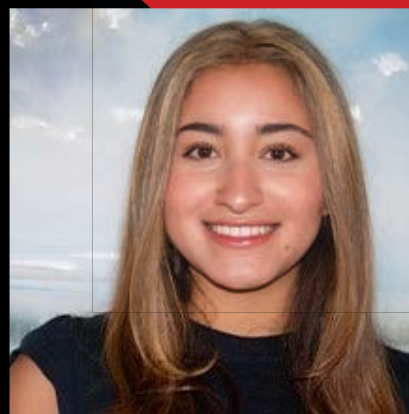
Mia Cain
Mentor, Idia Thurston
STAR: Stimulating Training and Access to HIV Research



Ariana Eisemen
Mentor, Tamara Jimah
Assessing the Antimicrobial Stewardship Practices of a Leading Tertiary Hospital in Ghana



Ami Farrell
Mentor, Katherine Hazen
Youth Advisory Board



Jasmine Elsayed
Mentor, Amantia Ametaj
Identifying Positive and Negative Association Terms in Narrative Recalls from Trauma Victims



Laila Harruna
Mentor, Idia Thurston
An Examination of Multi-Level Predictors of Youth Social Competence



Jaidene Henry
Mentor, Dr. Idia Thurston
STAR: Stimulating Training and Access to HIV Research Experiences



Vivian Lin
Mentor, Nasim Ferdows
Covid-19's Impact on Stroke Mortality Rates in Rural vs Urban Areas



Jade Lozewski
Mentor, Dr. Idia Thurston
Youth Advisory Board



Ria Mukhopadhyay
Mentor, Katherine Hazen
Salus Populi Evaluation



Joud Rai
Mentor, Katherine Hazen
Judicial Training Program Survey Development and Management



John Signorile
Mentor, Beth Molnar
Early Childhood Mental Health Families Independence, Resilience, and Training (ECMH FIRST)



Chloe Strawn
Mentor, Lorna Hayward
Adaptive Sport Involvement by Adults with Disabilities: Experiences, Fitness, and Health Outcomes



Anthony Trinidad
Mentor, Idia Thurston
An Examination of Multi- Level Predictors of Youth Social Competence



Samadhi Wijethunga
Mentor, Dami Ko
Synuclein-Based Isolation of Pathological Human Neurons for Single Cell Analysis

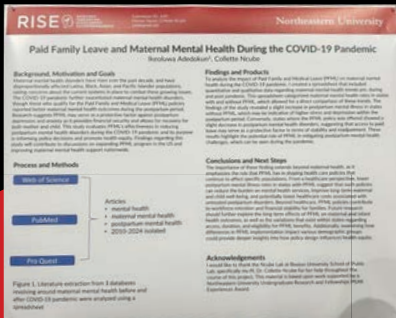


Emily Wu
Mentor, Patrice Williams
Fostering Community- Engagement in Operationalizing Climate Gentrification

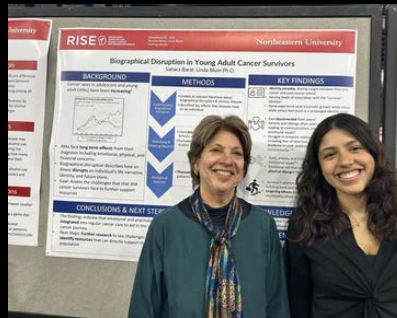
RISE Expo

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Many of the undergraduate students affiliated with the IHESJR, worked with their Faculty Advisors to submit and be accepted to showcase a research poster at the Northeastern Research and Creative Endeavor, Innovation, Scholarship, and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Expo. This Expo highlighted the work of Northeastern University undergraduate and graduate students. We had an unprecedented participation from our students, with over 40 undergraduate students presenting posters at RISE this year.



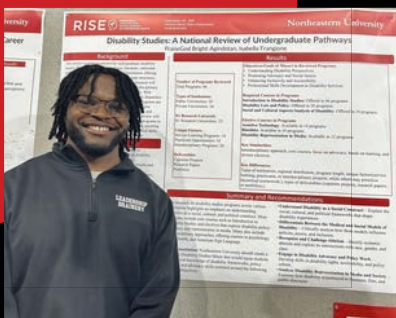
Ikeoluwa Adedokun and Research Advisor Dr. Collette Ncube



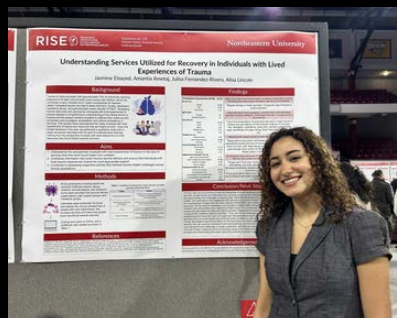
Sahara Baral and Research Advisor Dr. Linda Blum



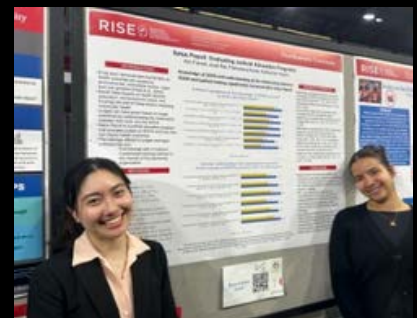
Mia Cain, Elizabeth Hill, and Research Advisors Dr. Ida Thurston and Krystal Abbott



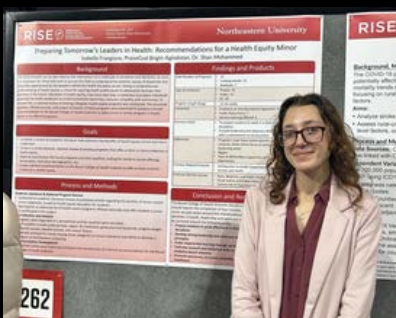
PraiseGod Bright-Agindotan, Isabella Frangione, and Research Advisor Dr. Shan Mohammed



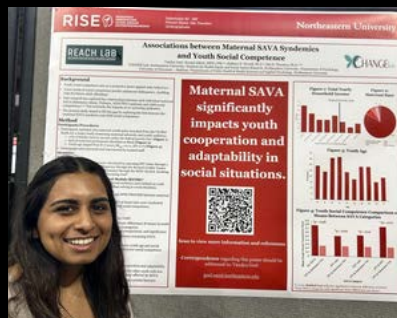
Jasmine Elsayed and Research Advisors Dr. Amanita Ametaj and Julisa Fernandez-Rivera



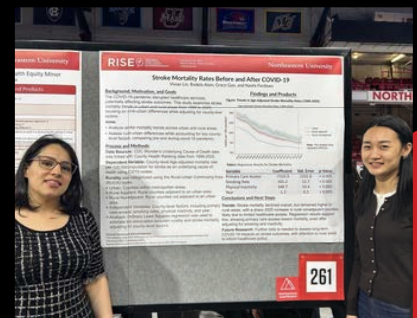
Ami Farrell, Joud Rai, and Research Advisors Dr. Katherine Hazen and Francesca Korte



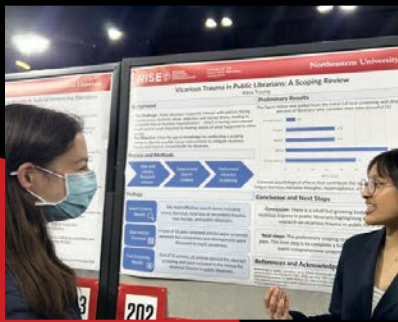
Isabella Frangione, PraiseGod Bright-Agindotan, and Research Advisor Dr. Shan Mohammed



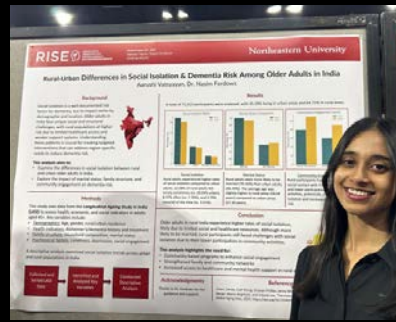
Vandya Goel with Research Advisors Dr. Ida Thurston and Krystal Abbott



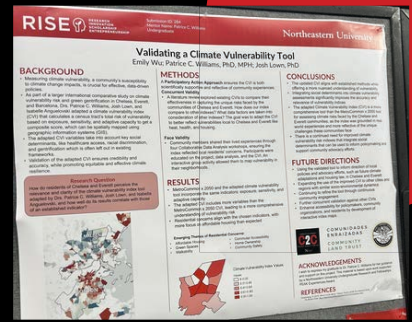
Grace Guo, Vivian Lin, and Rodela Alam, and Research Advisor Dr. Nasim Ferdows



Kiera Truong and Research Advisor Dr. Beth Molnar and Megan Souza



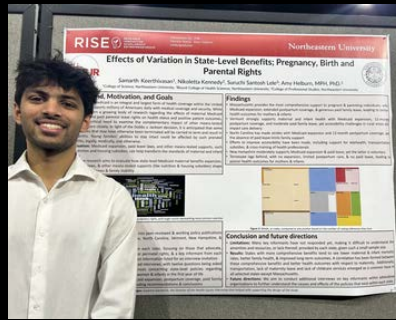
Aarushi Vatsyayan and Research Advisor Dr. Nasim Ferdows



Emily Wu with Research Advisors Dr. Patrice Williams and Dr. Josh Lown



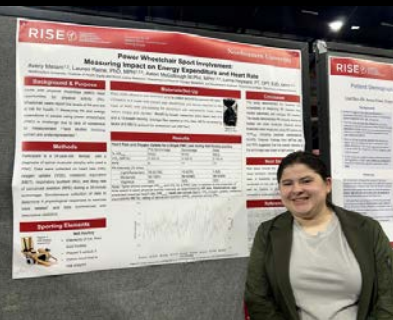
Rachel Halvorsen and Research Advisor Suzanne Garverich



Samarth Keerthivasan, Nicoletta Kennedy and Research Advisor Dr. Amy Helburn



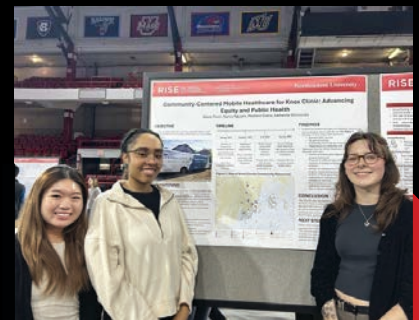
Yeongju Lee and Research Advisor Dr. Benita Bangbade



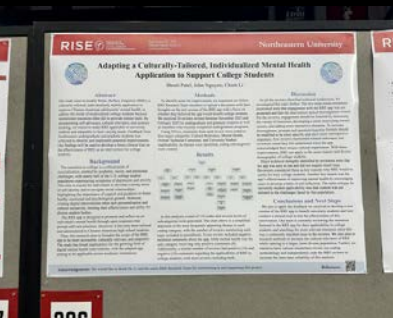
Avery Melam, Lauren Raine and Research Advisor Dr. Lorna Hayward



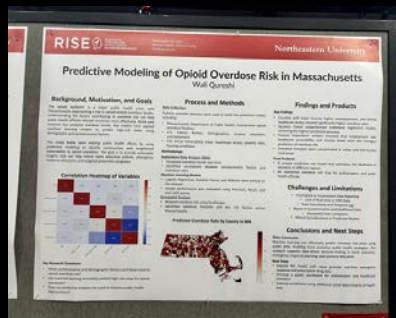
Ria Mukhopadhyay and Kayon Morgan with Research Advisor Katherine Hazen



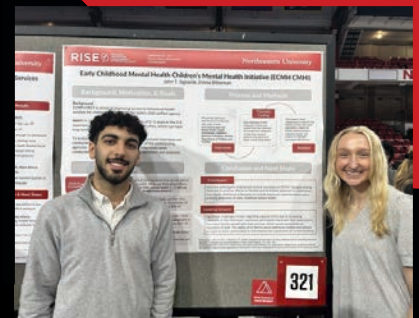
Nancy Nguyen, Madison Evans, Alexis Thom and Research Advisor Dr. Katherine Simmonds



Shruti Patel, John Nguyen and Research Advisor Dr. Chieh Li



Wali Qureshi and Research Advisor Sunyou Kang



John Signorile, Emma Bitterman and Research Advisor Dr. Beth Molnar

Institute Affiliated Research and Labs



Salus Populi

The *Salus Populi* judicial education program (JEP), with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation, provides judges with the tools they need to recognize how the social determinants of health (SDOH) impact the issues that come before courts, the court's impact on the SDOH, and tools to engage with research relating to the SDOH. The program is a collaboration of the Center for Health Policy and Law and the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research including the NU-PEL. *Salus Populi* is led by Profs. Wendy Parmet and Alisa Lincoln, and Prof. Katherine Hazen leads the evaluation team with many IHESJR students. The *Salus Populi* initiative IHESJR Faculty Scholars including Profs. -Danielle Crookes, Beth Molnar and Associate Director Idia Thurston have all contributed as Guest Lecturers. To date the *Salus Populi* team has trained more than 1500 judges nation-wide.

The IHESJR continues to lead the Broad Trauma Initiative (BTI) Community Engagement Core (PI: Lincoln). This work allows us to provide support and guidance to BTI affiliated investigators seeking to explore or increase community-engaged research practices. In addition, the group is conducting the PaTH Study to improve our understanding of how community members who have experienced a wide range of traumas, think about and make meaning of how trauma impacts their health and well-being. This qualitative study is driven by our active community-advisory board (CAB) with members from our partner organizations.



Broad Trauma Initiative



ACES

The ACE Resource Network (ARN) works to build awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and to prevent and mitigate the impacts of childhood adversity and toxic stress. NU-PEL partnered with ARN to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all components of this initiative, including the evaluation of ARN-funded initiatives at five Sacramento-based CBOs and the implementation and analysis of a community survey conducted at two time-points with a representative sample of adults living in Sacramento County.

Institute Affiliated NIH K-Awards

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We are excited to be continuing to grow our training efforts including support of NIH K-awards and Doctoral Student Fellowships.



Dr. Jordon Bosse

Title: Evaluating the Feasibility and Acceptability of Mindful Self-Compassion Among Gender Minority Young Adults

Award: K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

Reason for Grant: Independently conduct rigorous complementary and integrative health research to improve mental health and wellbeing among GMYA.



Dr. Danielle Crookes

Title: Understanding immigrants' cardiovascular disease utilization: An epidemiological and system dynamics approach

Award: K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

Reason for Grant: Uses epidemiologic, system dynamics, and community-engaged methods to understand how individual and multiple components of the sociopolitical environment affect Black and Latinx immigrants' CVD preventive care utilization.



Moka Yoo-Jeong

Title: A Mixed-methods Approach to Understand the Interplays of Social and Physical Environments, Loneliness, and Cognition among Older People with HIV

Award: K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award from the National Institute on Aging

Reason for Grant: Determine the longitudinal patterns of loneliness and cognition over time; identify social and physical environment-level factors related to loneliness and cognition; and elicit perspectives of how person- and social/physical environment-level factors affect cognitive health and how narratives of loneliness subgroups vary.



Benita Bamgbade

Title: Understanding Oral Anticoagulation Use and Success Among Patients with Psychiatric Multimorbidity in Atrial Fibrillation

Award: K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

Reason for Grant: Explore the prevalence of specific dyad and triad combinations of psychiatric multimorbidity; how psychiatric multimorbidity affects oral anticoagulant use and outcomes; and factors that influence successful anticoagulation in patients with psychiatric multimorbidity.



Challenging **H**ealth Inequity in **A**dolescents
& Nurturing **G**lobal **E**mpowerment

Social Media

LinkedIn: [CHANGE Lab](#)

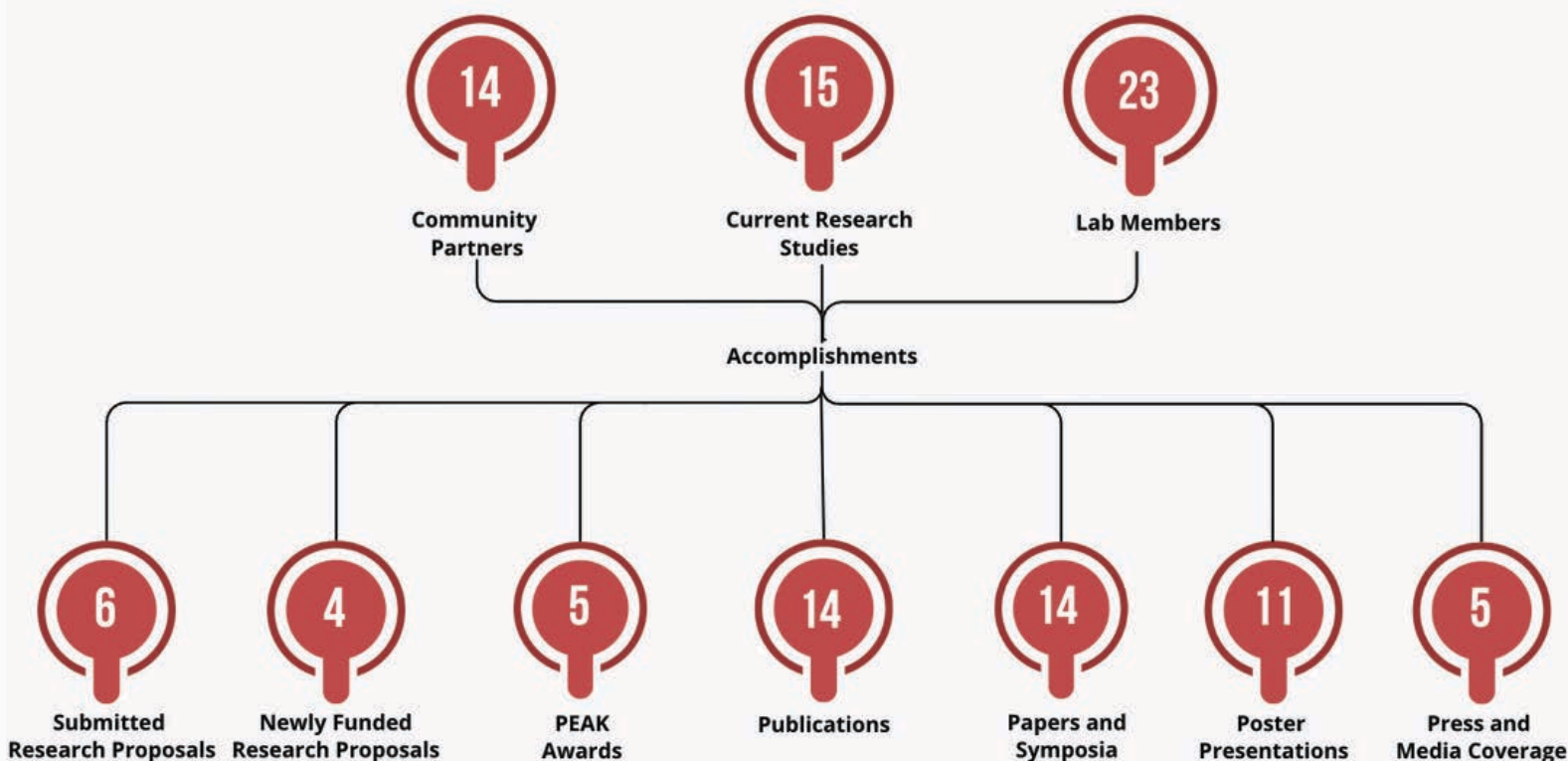
BlueSky: [@changelab.bsky.social](#)

Instagram: [@changelabboston](#)



Collectively known as butterflies, the lab consists of the principal investigator, research staff, and undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students.

The overall vision of the CHANGE lab is to support adolescents to have fair and just opportunities to be as healthy as possible. The CHANGE lab's mission is to engage in community-academic partnerships to assess, co-develop, and disseminate health equity science, programs, and policies that support adolescents and their families. The CHANGE lab focuses on 1) adolescents and their families, 2) multilevel risk and protective factors contributing to health inequities, and 3) community-engaged & responsive methods. Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.changelabboston.com/>





STAR is an NIH-funded training program in partnership with Washington University St. Louis, Northeastern University, Georgia State University, and UNC Chapel Hill, that offers undergraduate and graduate students hands-on research experience, skill-building, mentorship, and leadership development in HIV and implementation science research. Northeastern University's '24-25 STAR cohort, comprised of Alia Saleebaan, Heather Omoruyi, Jamira Collins, & Krystal Amihere, presented "The (HIV)e: HIV Education Program for Youth" at the STAR Designathon in February, earning 'Audience Choice', 'Most Innovative', and 1st runner up.

STAR (Stimulating Training and Access to HIV Research Experiences)

This project is part of a British Academy-funded initiative, to bring together partners from the UK, USA, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Uganda, with the first convening held in Durban, South Africa in summer 2023. As one of several research teams within the initiative, the CHANGE Lab has partnered with collaborators in Uganda and Ethiopia to focus on decolonizing approaches to understanding African refugee experiences. The project challenges dominant illness-based narratives by centering wellness, resilience, and growth.



Decolonizing Psychology



Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA):
Youth Speaks Boston

CHANGE Lab partnered with OYEA on Youth Speaks Boston. Boston's first comprehensive youth needs assessment for ages 14–25, focusing on gaps in after-school and after-work resources. To learn more about Youth Speaks Boston, please visit this link: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/youth-engagement-and-advancement/youth-speaks-boston>



You Got It Girl (YGIG)

CHANGE Lab partnered with Boston Public Schools Special Programs (Coach Shantell) on the You Got It Girl (YGIG) program. A summer camp for girls ages 6–16 that empowers young women through basketball, leadership development, and building confidence. Along with basketball training, campers engaged in yoga, mindfulness, resilience training, and social skills development. The CHANGE lab also taught research skills to the girls!



Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab

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The Northeastern University Public Evaluation (NU-PEL) lab is an interdisciplinary, multigenerational lab that utilizes culturally-responsive (CRE) and community-based participatory research (CBPR) frameworks to provide evaluation-research training and services both within and beyond the Northeastern University global system.

Social Media

LinkedIn: Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab

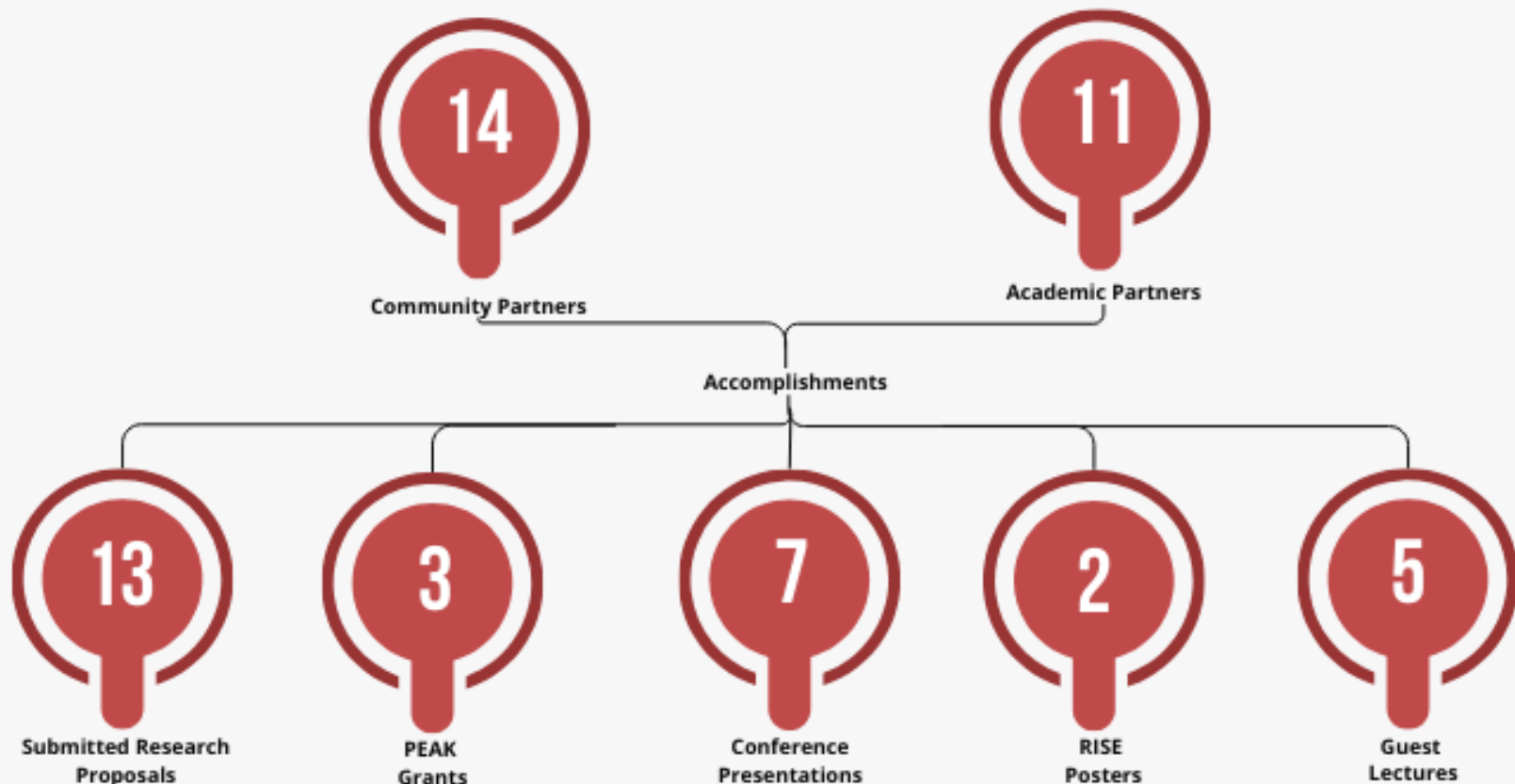
Bluesky: @nupublicevallab.bsky.social

Instagram: @nupublicevallab

Linktree: @NU-PEL

NU-PEL's three core aims are to:

1. Provide evaluation and consultative services to the Northeastern University community and community-based organizations committed to improving the health, wellbeing, and safety of the people they impact.
2. Build collaborations and share evaluation knowledge and expertise across Northeastern University's colleges.
3. Train undergraduate and graduate students in the techniques of program evaluation through a wide array of learning opportunities.



Research Evaluation Course (PPUA 6509)

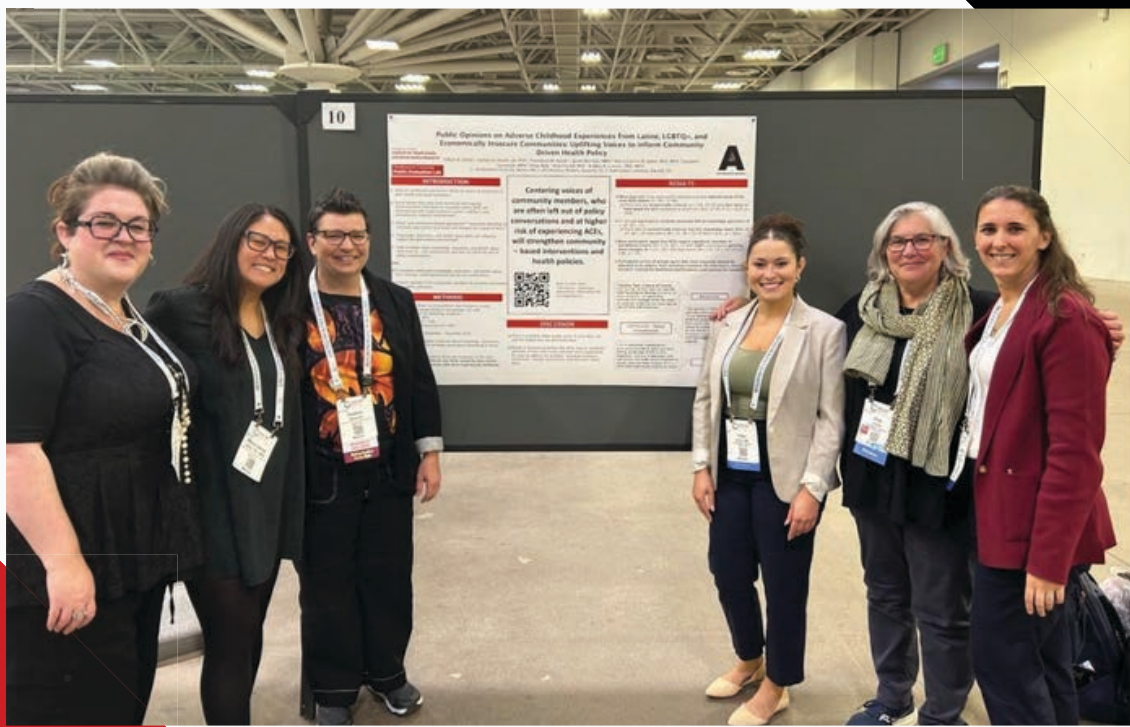
NU-PEL offers a graduate-level service-learning course in program evaluation through the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs (PPUA6509) in both the Fall (in-person) and Spring (online, asynchronous) semesters. A community-academic collaboration, the course enabled 20 students to co-create tailored evaluation plans with and for 8 community-based organizations across the country.

Monthly Open Lab Meetings

NU-PEL integrated community building and educational opportunities by holding monthly open lab meetings. Through this vehicle, students interested in evaluation research connected with each other and with NU-PEL staff and faculty, while also gaining relevant knowledge and skills.



NU-PEL open-lab meeting (From left to right) Dr. Wendy Friedman, Francesca Korte, Dr. Katherine Haze, Kayon Morgan, Ami Farrel, Ria Mukhopadhyay, Joud Rai. (Bottom, from left to right) Marhya Bonilla, Krista Caasi, Anna Vasaturo, Michel-Ango Siaba, Tiffany Hidalgo.

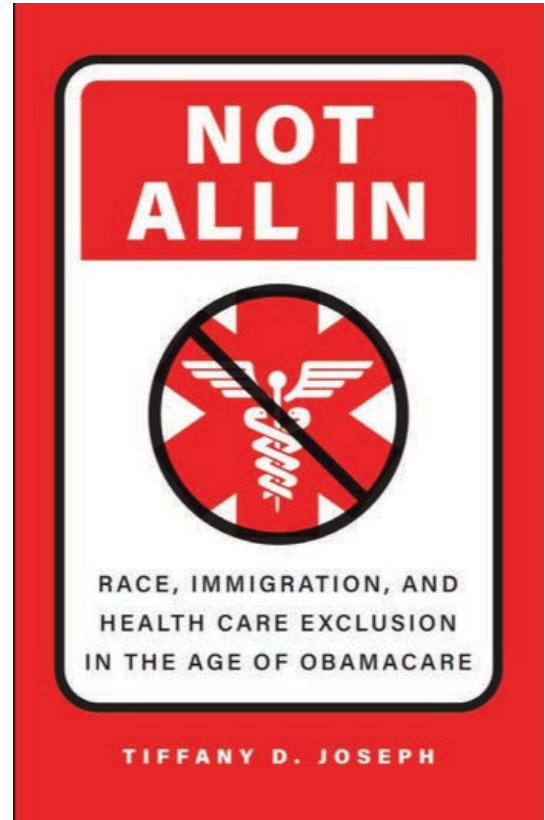


NU-PEL poster presentation at APHA. (From left to right) Joy Thomas (ACE Resource Network); Dr. Catrina Jaime (Mills); Suzanne Garverich (IHESJR); Tiffani Elliot (PhD candidate); Dr. Alisa Lincoln; and Dr. Katherine Hazen.



RISE Expo (From left to right) Dr. Katherine Hazen with students Joud Rai, Ami Farrel, Ria Mukhopadhyay, and Kayon Morgan.

Faculty Scholar Tiffany Joseph's New Book Launch



As part of Northeastern's International Affairs Program and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tiffany Joseph discussed and presented insights from her new book, *Not All In: Race, Immigration, and Health Care Exclusion in the Age of Obamacare*. She was joined by a special guest discussant, Anahi Viladrich, the professor of Sociology at the City University of New York, who contributed distinct perspectives to the discussion.

Molnar Violence and Trauma Research Lab

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The Molnar Violence and Trauma Research Lab conducts research on the effects of trauma on children and youth, and on those who work with survivors of violence/trauma, with a focus on sexual violence, prevention, vicarious trauma, and early childhood mental health. Our goal is to devise strategies that foster health equity and build safer communities. In addition to the two projects named below, we have others in various stages of research too.



Members of the Molnar Lab presenting at RISE, 2025

Healthy Relationship Project ↙

Full Title: Evaluation of the School-Based Healthy Relationships Project for Primary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse among Children Pre-K through 5th Grade

About: HRP is a child sexual abuse prevention initiative being implemented in D.C. schools to educate students about healthy relationships. NEU researchers evaluate the program via data collection on cases of child abuse, surveys about what caregivers are learning from the program, and interviews with school teachers, administrators, and caregivers.

Funder: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

Partnerships: Safe Shores – The DC Children’s Advocacy Center, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Children’s Mental Health Initiative ↙

Full Title: Early Childhood Mental Health: Boston Children’s Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

About: The ECMH: Boston CMHI project enhances mental health for children (0-48 months) primarily from low-income families. It aims to improve access to quality, culturally sensitive behavioral health services, led by the Boston Public Health Commission and evaluated by NEU researchers.

Funders: Boston Public Health Commission

Partnerships: BPHC Division of Healthy Start Systems, Children’s Services of Roxbury DCF



Migration and Health Initiative

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In its second year, this initiative, led by Dr. Carmel Salhi, continued to develop interdisciplinary collaborations between academic and community scholars who work in the field of migration and its relationship to health and well-being.

The following are events and programing from this initiative that took place this academic year.



LZC Coffee Chat on Intersectionality: Resist Immigrant Othering in the Current Climate



This was a panel event and Q&A moderated by graduate student and LZC fellow Sima Bou Jawde. The panelists discussed immigration systems and policies put in place after 9/11 that continue to shape immigrant women's experiences today. The speakers also discussed tools to combat essentialization and exclusion in your everyday work and life.

Picture left to right: Sima Bou Jawde, Fatima Ahmed, Dr. Carmel Salhi, Dr. Jessica Santos

Research and Clinical Practice in Global Health: Small Group Discussion with Graduate Students



This was a small group discussion with Dr. Alexandra Chen and graduate students. She discussed lessons learned in starting an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) and appealing to funders in sustaining evidence-based practice and research.

Research and Clinical Practice in Global Health: Building Intentional Careers in Humanitarian Emergencies

This was a talk by United Nations advisor and child trauma psychologist Dr. Alexandra Chen. Dr. Chen shared profound lessons on grappling with ethics, privilege, power, voice, data, and mobilizing for change in humanitarian emergencies and development aid. Targeted towards undergraduate and graduate students, she shared their implications of starting and building a career in global health, with a focus on global mental health. Dr. Chen also shared insights on navigating upcoming research, clinical, and field-practice opportunities in humanitarian aid. Picture left to right: Dr. Alexandra Chen and Dr. Carmel Salhi

Journal Club

The journal club is a reading-based discussion group that brings together doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty at Northeastern University. Readings focus on works that provide critical analyses of migration and migration-related issues from a range of disciplines; past readings have been drawn from public health, psychology, international policy, English, sociology, and anthropology.

Reading Day Open House

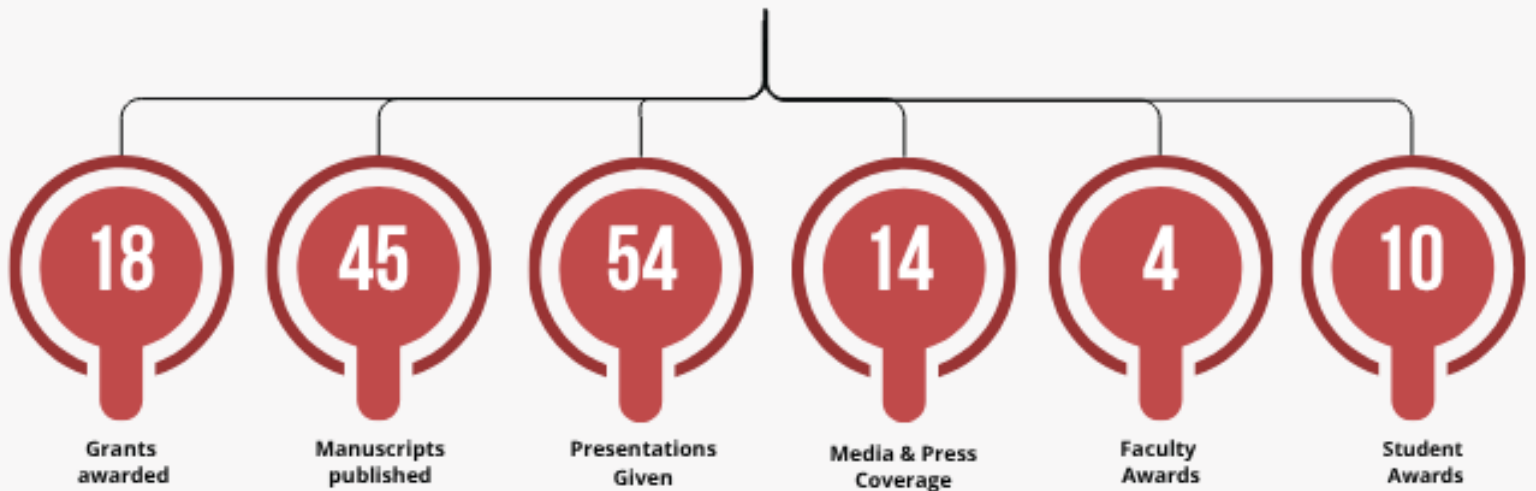
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We continued our tradition where we held an open house at the end of the fall and spring semesters, at the IHESJR for faculty, staff, and students to be able to come together, meet one another, socialize, and have some downtime before finals begin. This is also a way for us to thank the IHESJR community for all of their work they have done during the semester.

Professional Accomplishments

Professional Accomplishments and Impact 2024-2025



Faculty Awards



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Faculty Scholar, Dr. Benita Bamgbade, was awarded Bouvé's Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Award



Faculty Scholar Dr. Lorna Hayward, was awarded the Bouvé Distinguished Undergraduate Educator Award and the Northeastern University's Excellence in Teaching Award



Faculty Scholar Dr. Shan Mohammed, was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Fellow (FNAP) from the National Academies of Practice Public Health Academy



IHESJR Associate Director and CHANGE Lab PI Dr. Idia B. Thurston, was awarded the Distinguished Contributions to Diversity in Pediatric Psychology by the Society of Pediatric Psychology

Student Awards



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Former Co-op student Sebastian Caicedo, was awarded Northeastern University's Compass Award



Health Equity Intern Rohan Chopra, was awarded the The Barry Goldwater Scholarship



Health Equity Intern Migue Darcera was inducted as a Northeastern University Huntington 100 member. Migue was also the recipient of the 2025 Wendy Breen Kline Award



Health Equity Intern Madison Haywood, was inducted as a Northeastern University Laurel and Scroll 100 member



Health Equity Intern Darryna Guy-Williams, was inducted as a Northeastern University's Huntington 100 member



Health Equity Intern Nikoletta Kennedy, was inducted as a Northeastern University's Huntington 100 member

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Health Equity Intern Elizabeth Lattanzi, was inducted as a Northeastern University's Huntington 100 member



Health Equity Intern Katherine O'Brien, was inducted as a Northeastern University Laurel and Scroll 100 member



Health Equity Intern Julia Papasodoro, was inducted as a Northeastern University Laurel and Scroll 100 member



Health Equity Intern Madison Seymour, was inducted as a Northeastern University's Huntington 100 member

Grants

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Faculty Grants ↙

Dr. Miki Hong
Intersectionality and Health Equity: Urban Policy and Planning as Tobacco Control

The Mills Institute **Northeastern University**

Dr. Miki Hong
Grant from the Russel Women in Science Leadership Scholar Program at Mills Institute

Dr. Cassie McMillan
Simulation Analyses to Optimize Workplace Social Network Interventions for Improving Health Behaviors in Midlife



Drs. Analia Albuja, Tamara Jimah, and IHESJR Associate Director and CHANGE Lab PI, Idia Thurston
Grant-in-Aid, Using AI to identify protective factors for immigrant youth health & wellbeing” from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Drs. Idia Thurston, Tamara Jimah, Analia Albuja, and Brianna Taylor
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues grant



Northeastern University

Dr. Briana Taylor
Northeastern University's Provost Tier 1 Grant

Drs. Sara Carr and Katherine Simmonds
Northeastern University's Provost Tier 1 Grant

Dr. Leanne Chukoski
Northeastern University's Provost Tier 1 Grant



Dr. Danielle Crookes
5-year NIH K01 career development grant

Dr. Idia Thurston
NIAID R25 STAR: Stimulating Training and Access to Research Experiences for Minority and Underrepresented Populations



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dr. Idia Thurston and Dr. Maggie Alegria
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant, Dissemination of Actionable Evidence and Data from the Learning Assessment to Inform and Catalyze Institutional Change and Inform the Public Discourse

Dr. Idia Thurston and Dr. Maggie Alegria
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Raising awareness of and disseminating evidence-based strategies for increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion across the academic health sciences



Dr. Idia Thurston
British Academy Grant

Drs. Idia Thurston and Winston Kennedy
Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund grant



Dr. Winston Kennedy
NIDILRR Switzer Fellowship

Student Grants ↙



Katherine Trice, PhD candidate
NIH F31 Predoctoral fellowship



Dr. Natalia Coriano
Health Policy Research Scholars Dissertation Grant



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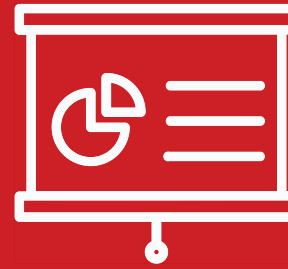
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Presentations



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Alegria, M., Thurston, I.B., Herrera, C., Markle, S., Cheng, M., & Fukuda, M. (2024, March). Evidence-Based Strategies to Recruit, Retain, and Sponsor a Diverse Public Health Student Body and Workforce. [Conference presentation]. 2024 ASPPH Annual Meeting for Academic Public Health, Arlington, VA.

Anikamadu, O., Ojo, T., Nwaozuru, U., Gyamfi, J., Takenaka, B., Tang, W., Olusanya, O., Herrera, C., Ameen, K., Patrick, T., Onyeama, O., Ezike, C., Kokelu, E., Oladele, D., Day, S., BeLue, R., Thurston, I. B., Tucker, J., Airhihenbuwa, C., & Iwelunmor, J. (2024, December). Project-based design and implementation science training with under-represented minority students in the US to end the HIV epidemic: A case-study of NIAID-STAR program. [Conference presentation]. 17th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation, Academy Health, Arlington, VA.

Andrade, S., Judge, A., Sullivan, M., Vaughan, J., & Hazen, K. (2025). Building trust on the street: Supporting women at the intersection of substance use disorder & commercial sexual exploitation. [Panel]. Research + Action: Scaling Models to Center Community in the Criminal Justice System, C2C Impact Engine Annual Policy Forum, Boston, MA.

Bennett, C. (2024, June). Racial disparities in diabetes: The role of technology and structural factors predict continuous glucose monitor (CGM) use [Poster presentation]. Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), Austin, TX.

Bennett, C. (2025, June). Challenges in Evaluating the Impact of CGMs on Racial Disparities: Design Considerations for a Target Trial Emulation using All of Us Data. [Poster presentation]. Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), Boston, MA.

Berlin, K., Sampilo, M. L., McTate, E., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, April). Social Justice and Health Equity Education and Training across the Career Span. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Braasch, J. L. G., Clark, T., Irving, M., Allen, L., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, February). Promoting Undergraduate Students' Critical Thinking About Epistemic Injustice in Educational Psychology. [Conference presentation]. Georgia State University Adult Literacy Research Center Mini Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Brenman, N. (2024, November). Rural and Urban Differences in Mortality from Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Catlin, P., McTate, E., Thurston, I. B., & Crosby, L. (2025, April). Hope through Advocacy: Best Practice Pathways for Advancing Health Equity in Pediatric Psychology. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Cheng, M., Kennedy, W., & Ferdows, N. (2024, November). Racial and Rural-Urban Disparities in Discharge Among Medicare Patients Hospitalized for Ischemic Stroke. [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Elliott, T., Hazen, K., Korte, F., Marikos, S., Jaime, M. C., Garverich, S., Mak, C., Farrell, A., & Lincoln, A. (2024, October). Public Opinions on Adverse Childhood Experiences from Latine, LGBTQ+, and Economically Insecure Communities: Uplifting Voices to Inform Community Driven Health Policy. [Poster presentation]. APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, Minneapolis, MN.

Engelhart, A., Takenaka, B., Nwaozuru, U., Herrera, C., Abbott, K., Anikamadu, O., Kokelu, E., Dillman, C., Olusanya, M., Kipp, B., Monks, S., Petaway, M., Makanjuola, N.K., Ojo, T., Thurston, I.B., & Iwelunmor, J. (2024, December). The LIGHT global crowdsourcing open call contest: Using creativity as a catalyst for equity-driven dissemination strategies. [Conference presentation]. 17th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation, Academy Health, Arlington, VA.

Erten, B. (2024). From Addiction to Aggression: The Spillover Effects of Opioid Policies on Intimate Partner Violence. [Paper presentation]. Economics of Violence Against Women, Coventry, UK, Barcelona, Spain.

Friedman, W. (date). Community Engaged Research. [Guest lecture]. Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

Friedman, W. (date). A discussion on Program Evaluation in Research Methods (INSH 3101). [Panelist]. Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

Friedman, W., & Hazen, K. (date). Introduction to evaluation: what, why, and how. [Guest lecture]. Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

Goel, V., Hoang, C., Mancera-Sortillon, G. (2024, October). The Association between Youth Perceptions of Parental Behavior and Ethnic Identity. [Poster presentation]. New England Psychological Association (NEPA) Conference, Springfield, MA.

Goel, V., Hoang, C., Mancera-Sortillon, G., Herrera, C., Howell, K. H., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, October). The association between youth perception of parental behavior and ethnic identity. [Presentation]. The New England Psychological Association, Springfield, MA.

Goel, V., Hoang, C., Mancera-Sortillon, G., Herrera, C., Howell, K. H., & Thurston, I. B. (2025, August). The Association between Youth Perception of Parental Behavior and Ethnic Identity. [Presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Goglichidze, S. (2024, September). Sanctuary Policies and Type 2 Diabetes Medication Prescription Trends Among Community Health Center Patients. [Conference presentation]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Harruna, L., Trinidad, A. (2024). An Examination of Multi-Level Predictors of Youth Social Competence. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Harruna, L., Trinidad, A., Herrera, C., Howell, K. H., Thurston, I. B. (2024, October). An examination of multi-level predictors of youth social competence. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Hayward, L. (2025, February). Exploration of Teaching for Effective PT-PTA Teams: Alignment with the Competency-Based Framework for Educational Research. [Conference presentation]. American Psychical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting, Houston, TX.

Hazen, K.P. (date). Community-engaged evaluation: What, why and how (PHTH 2350). [Co-lecture]. Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

Hazen, K.P., Geisler, I., Marshall, E., Korte, F.M., Martinez, L.V., Parmet, W.E., & Lincoln, A. E. (2024, October). How judges approach their cases with a public health lens: An evaluation of a public health judicial education program. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Hazen, K.P., Lincoln, A. (2024, October). Salus Populi: Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating a Judicial Education Program on Social Determinants of Health. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Hazen, K.P., Marshall, E., Kane, A., Martinez, L.V., Geisler, I., Haywood, M., Abbott, K.A., Butt, M., Parmet, W., & Lincoln, A. (2024, June). Social determinants of health judicial education program: Implementing and evaluating a sociolegal judicial intervention to disrupt health inequities and illustrate the role population health evidence can play in judicial decisions. [Conference presentation]. Law and Society Association, Denver, CO.

Howell, K.H., Garza, A., Herrera, C., & Thurston, I.B. (2024, April). Mothers' and children's reports of strengths related to children's resilience in families exposed to adversity. [Paper presentation]. Resilience Conference, Nashville, TN.

Korte, F.M. (2024, October). The impact of ACEs knowledge on attitudes and behaviors in Sacramento County, CA: A place-based assessment focused on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Korte, F.M., Geisler, I., Marshall, E., Hazen, K.P., Parmet, W., & Lincoln, A.K. (2024, September). Understanding the Experiences and Impact of Salus Populi: Qualitative Interviews with Participants of a Judicial Education Program on the SDOH. [Conference presentation]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Research, St. Louis, MO.

Korte, F.M., Hazen, K.P., Elliott, T., Marikos, S., Jaime, M.C., Suzanne, G., Farrell, A., & Lincoln, A.E. (2024, October). The impact of ACEs knowledge on attitudes and behaviors in Sacramento County, CA: A place-based assessment focused on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). [Roundtable discussion]. American Public Health Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Lin, V. (2024, November). Comparing Stroke Mortality Trends in Rural and Urban Areas During and Before the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Poster presentation]. Gerontological Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Lincoln, A.E. (2025, April). Adapting your Research Strategy in Uncertain Times. [Panelist]. ADVANCE Virtual Panel, Boston, MA.

Lincoln, A.E., Marshall, E., Hazen, K.P., Parmet, W.E., & Alden, A. (2024, October). Salus Populi: Teaching judges about SDOH. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Marks, L.R., Howell, K.H., & Thurston, I.B. (2025, June). Building Well-being and Resilience across the Lifespan via Community and Interdisciplinary Partnerships. [Conference presentation]. Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology (CRCP 2025), Barbados.

Marks, L.R., & Thurston, I.B. (2024, January). Leaving and Living in Politically Hostile University Environments. [Conference presentation]. National Multicultural Conference and Summit, Sante Fe, NM.

Maye, C.E., Howell, K.H., Ahmed, A.M., Garza, A., Hippolyte, D., & Thurston, I. B. (2025, April). The Impact of Multisystemic Risk and Protective Factors on Sleep Health in Black Adolescents with High Body Weights. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Modi, A., Lim, P.S., Stiles-Shields, C., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, April). Pushing our science ahead: Deliberate strategies to incorporate JEDI throughout pediatric psychology research and publishing. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Molnar, B. (2025, August). Implementation of a school-based child sexual abuse prevention program: Results from an evaluation study of the Healthy Relationships Project in Washington, DC, USA [Oral presentation]. Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) National Conference, Portland, OR, United States.

Muhammed, M., Thurston, I.B., McQuaid, E., Williford, D., Hood, A. M., Mitchell, M., & Crosby, L. (2024, April). Practical Considerations of Community Engagement in Research: Moving the Needle in Pediatric Psychology. [Conference presentation]. The Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

O'Brien, K., Papasodoro, J. (2024, October). The Links Between HIV, Climate Change, and Sexual and Gender Minority Populations: A Scoping Review. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Owens, H. A., Ahmed, A. M., Soto, D., Howell, K. H., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, November). Associations between maternal depression, adverse childhood experiences, and resilience. [Poster presentation]. Texas Psychological Association Annual Convention Poster Competition, Fort Worth, TX.

Pamintuan, I., & Elliott, T. (2024, October). Culture is Mental Health Project: Using a culturally responsive, intergenerational approach to elevate community stories. American Evaluation Association (AEA) Conference, Portland, Oregon.

Pamintuan, I., Marshall, E., Elliott, T., Friedman, W., & Hazen, K.P. (2024, October). Culture is Mental Health Project: Using a culturally responsive, intergenerational approach to elevate community stories. [Conference presentation]. American Evaluation Association, Portland, OR.

Pamintuan, I., Williams, A. (2024, October). Examining Educator's Experience of a Trauma-Informed Classroom Design Training. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Porter, D. V., Howell, K. H., Garza, A., Herrera, C., & Thurston, I. B. (2024, April). Individual Resilience, Caregiver Resilience, and Exposure to Maternal Syndemics among Black Youth. [Conference presentation]. Society for Research on Adolescence 2024 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Maye, C.E., Howell, K.H., Ahmed, A.M., Garza, A., Hippolyte, D., & Thurston, I. B. (2025, April). The Impact of Multisystemic Risk and Protective Factors on Sleep Health in Black Adolescents with High Body Weights. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Souza, M. (2025, April). Integration of enhanced early childhood mental health services into the child welfare system: A qualitative evaluation of the ECMH FIRST program [Poster presentation]. 2025 Massachusetts Early Childhood Policy Summit, Wellesley, MA, United States.

Todorova, I. (2025, February). Interrogating Inequities in Cancer Prevention. [Virtual presentation]. Department of Applied Psychology Speaker Series, Boston, MA.

Thurston, I. B. (2024, August). Reimagining Pediatric Psychology Research through a Liberation Psychology Lens. In J. Williams (Chair), Moving Forward: Liberation Psychology in Pediatric Psychology Supervision, Practice, and Research [Symposium]. American Psychological Association 2024 Annual Convention, Washington, DC.

Thurston, I. B. (2024, August). Reimagining a diverse psychological science: The power of cross disciplinary methods. In R. Walker (Chair), Are we ready to accept methods a diverse science will require [Symposium]. American Psychological Association 2024 Annual Convention, Washington, DC.

Thurston, I. B., & Davis, A.M. (2024, April). Pathways to Becoming an APA Fellow in Division 54: The Society of Pediatric Psychology. [Conference presentation]. The Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Thurston, I. B., Patel, P., & Fabrett, F. C. (2025, August). Our Culture is Our Strength: Culturally-Centered Prevention and Treatment Strategies for Youth. [Presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Wagner, A. (2024, October). Addressing Discrimination: Examining Healthcare Experiences for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Williams, J., Sampilo, M., Litzenburg, C., Upshaw, N., & Thurston, I. B. (2025, April). Integrating Liberation Psychology into Pediatric Psychology: A Paradigm Shift for Culturally Responsive and Socially Just Practice, Supervision, and Research. [Conference presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Press and Media Coverage



Dr. Samantha Garbers

US abortion restrictions are causing widespread harm

Policy makers must prioritise the lives and health of women and children

Terry McGovern,¹ Ira Memaj,¹ Samantha Garbers²

Faculty Scholar, Dr. Samantha Garbers published an editorial, US abortion restrictions are causing widespread harm, in the BMJ that reviewed emerging data on the harm of abortion restrictions.

Dr. Maria Catrina Jaime

Empowering communities through research: How Maria Catrina Jaime found her path in public health

An associate clinical professor on Northeastern's Oakland campus, Jaime bridges science and storytelling to evaluate grassroots healing programs.



by Kate Rix
March 25, 2025



featured in Northeastern Global News article published in March 2025.

Rohan Chopra & Paige DePasquale



Broad Trauma Initiative

Health Equity Intern Rohan Chopra and PhD candidate Paige DePasquale were featured in the Broad Institute's Biology of Trauma (BTI) newsletter.

Dr. Tiffany Joseph

States That Have Made the Most Racial Progress

Adam McCann, WalletHub Financial Writer • Jan 14, 2025



Tiffany D. Joseph. 2025, States That Have Made the Most Racial Progress, Expert Commentary, Wallet Hub, January 14, https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-most-and-least-racial-progress/18428#expert=Tiffany_Joseph.

The Republican plan to dismantle the Affordable Care Act

BY TIFFANY D. JOSEPH, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 03/24/25 2:30 PM ET



Tiffany D. Joseph. 2025, The Republican Plan to Dismantle the Affordable Care Act, The Hill, March 24, <https://thehill.com/opinion/5209757-gop-medicaid-cuts-aca/>.



Tiffany Joseph. Podcast, Healthcare in Hostile Times, Episode 7, Badly Governed Podcast, March 12, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-JG4ttM6rg&t=1s>.

Dr. Idia B. Thurston



WBTB. (2024, February 27). Strategies to increase diversity in healthcare [Video]. WBTB. <https://www.wbtv.com/video/2024/02/28/strategies-increase-diversity-healthcare/>



City of Boston. (2024, November 13). Mayor Wu launches 'Youth Speaks Boston,' a youth needs assessment survey. Boston.gov. <https://www.boston.gov/news/mayor-wu-launches-youth-speaks-boston-youth-needs-assessment-survey>

IHESJR Associate Director, Dr. Idia Thurston was interviewed for the cover story of the November/December installment of the American Psychological Association's Monitor on Psychology. The article, How psychological science can advance racial equity, details how psychologists can aid in efforts to promote health equity and social justice.

The Boston Globe

Post-affirmative action, colleges grapple with the numbers
Drop in Black student enrollment is a gut punch for those already on campus

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/letters/2024/09/21/post-affirmative-action-colleges-grapple-with-the-numbers>

Palmer, K. (2024, April 23). Will free medical school diversify the physician workforce? Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/diversity/race-ethnicity/2024/04/23/will-free-medical-school-diversify-physician-workforce>

Thurston, I. B. (2025, January 20). A roadmap for diversifying the nation's academic health programs [Audio podcast episode]. The Academic Minute. <https://academicminute.org/idia-binitie-thurston-northeastern-university-a-roadmap-for-diversifying-the-nations-academic-health-programs/>

Graduation

41



We want to acknowledge all the undergraduate and master's students who graduated in the 2024-25 academic year. We wish you the best in your journey!



Ikeoluwa Adedokun



Rodela Alam



Emma Albert



Ashvika Boopathy



Krista Caasi



Simran Chatani



Samuel Cho



Fatimah Dan Salley



Rashika Sai Devarajan



Jazmine Eadie Dixon



Ariana (Ari) Eiseman



Jasmine Elsayed



Madison Evans



Carrie Gilmore



Vandya Goel



Laila Harruna



Jaidene Henry



Cayla Hoang



Lia Horkenbach



Erica Jackson



Aminata Kante



Janelle Lardizabal



Yarendy Lopez



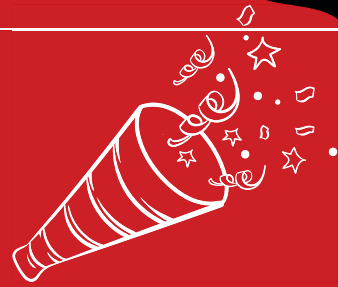
Niccola Lutri



Melanie Maldonado

Graduation

42



We want to acknowledge all the undergraduate and master's students who graduated in the 2024-25 academic year. We wish you the best in your journey!



Neirja Mehta



Glenn Mensah



Katherine O'Brien



Kara Orsini



Shavani Patel



Julia Papasodoro



Nicole Rodriguez



Isabel Roman



Jolan Schluter



Emma Shek



Alexis Thom



Angelina (Angie) Varon



Kia Vilchez Erickson



Samadhi Wijethunga



Emily Wu



Nancy Zheng

Not Pictured:

Alyxandria Carmichael
Matthew Chu
Kadidja Dembele
Katherine Soule

Looking Ahead

The Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research is excited for the 2025-2026 academic year. Our plans are filled with efforts to promote health equity and reduce health disparities. We will continue our previous year's work by conducting innovative research, training students at all levels, and engaging and sponsoring programming that addresses health equity with a social justice lens. We will continue the important work of building community within Northeastern as well as with community partners who are external to the university.

Gratitude

There are many faculty, staff, students, and community partners who enable the IHESJR to be as far reaching in its mission as possible. We would not be where we are today without the Faculty Scholars conducting research and mentoring students at all levels.

Without undergraduate and graduate students, we would not be able to accomplish our research goals and continue to learn and grow. Many of our IHESJR affiliated students will continue this work after their time with us and become the next generation of health equity changemakers.

We are grateful to our staff who keep our mission of social justice and health equity in the forefront of our daily work. We also deeply appreciate our community partners work with us to engage in research to promote health equity and hold us accountable, reminding us everyday why we must persist in this work.

We also want to acknowledge the support of the Dean's office in Bouve College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. We are grateful for the support, in it's many different forms, that this office provides to IHESJR each year.