

ASHLEY RENEE HOUSTON

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Boston College • Boston, MA
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Academic Positions

- 08/2022—Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Counseling, Development, & Educational Psychology
- 06/2022—Present Affiliated Faculty, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Institute of Health Equity and Social Justice Research

Education

- 2022 PhD – Population Health, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Concentration: Epidemiology
- 2016 MS – Medical Anthropology, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- 2013 BA – Anthropology, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Research & Teaching Interests

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| Health Equity | Mixed Methods |
| Migration and Immigrant Health | Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods |
| Health Policy | Community Engaged Research |
| Employment and Labor | Social Movements and Health |

Research Experience

- 2018—2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
- Institute of Health Equity & Social Justice Research
 - Public Evaluation Lab
 - Department of Anthropology & Sociology
- 2016—2019 **Project Coordinator**, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- Center for Healthcare Organization & Implementation Research
- 2016 **Qualitative Research Consultant**, BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
- Department of Family Medicine & Pediatrics
- 2014—2016 **Research Assistant**, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- Department of Medical Anthropology

Teaching Experience

Department of Health Sciences, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Instructor of Record

- PHTH 4120 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health—*Summer 2022, Fall 2021*
- HSC I1000 Introduction to College—*Fall 2021*

Co-Instructor

- PHTH 4120 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health—*Fall 2020*

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- PHTH 5230 Global Health—*Spring 2022*

Invited Guest Lectures

CHLH 485 Internship Seminar (undergraduate), University of Illinois-Urbana Champagne—April 2022

PHTH 2351 Community and Public Health (undergraduate), Northeastern University—April 2022

Migration & Mental Health Seminar (graduate), Boston University School of Medicine—November 2018

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- 2023 **Houston, A.**, Flassen, M., Cordonza, G., Lincoln, A., Synder-Young, D. “You Gotta Love Yourself Back to Health: Applied Theatre and Storytelling as Substance Use Recovery.” Forthcoming in *Community Mental Health*.
- 2022 **Houston, A.**, Da Fonseca, T., Joseph, T., Lincoln, A. “Challenging Federal Exclusion: Immigrant Safety, Health, and Healthcare Access in Sanctuary Cities” *Health and Place*, 75(102811). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102822>
- 2021 **Houston, A.**, Lincoln, A., Gillespie, S., Da Fonseca, T., Issa, O., Ellis, H., Salhi, C. “You have to pay to live: Somali young adult experiences with health, healthcare, and employment.” *Qualitative Health Research*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323211010159>
- 2021 **Houston, A.**, Lynch, K., Ostrach, B., Isaacs, Y. S., Nvé Díaz San Francisco, C., Lee, J. M., Emard, N., & Proctor, D. A. “United States immigration detention amplifies disease interaction risk: A model for a transnational ICE-TB-DM2 syndemic.” *Global Public Health*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2021.1919737>
- 2021 Synder-Young, D., **Houston, A.**, Moyer Bell, A.B., Short, A., Lincoln, A. “Recovery Capital and Collaborative Theatre Making: How actors in recovery from substance addiction value their participation in addiction prevention plays” *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13569783.2021.1949973>

Newsletters and Other Publications

- 2020 Ostrach, B., Lynch, K., **Houston, A.**, Carney, M. “Conditions of Immigrant Detention Increase Risk of COVID-19 Disease Interactions.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. [7 September 2020](#)
- 2016 Ostrach, B., **Houston, A.**, Singer, M. “Insularity & Impenetrability – what happens to health funding and policy when voters cannot reach lawmakers.” *Newsletter of the Society of Medical Anthropology*, Second Opinions column 4(1).
- 2015 Ostrach, B., **Houston, A.**, Singer, M. (2015) “Syndemics & Legislative outreach: An experiment in educating Congress about the health effects of war” *Anthropology News* 56(6): e12.

In Preparation and Under Review

1. **Houston, A.**, Lincoln A, Salhi C “Mental Health Scares Me the Most: Employment Discrimination and Mental Health Among Somali Young Adults in the U.S.” Under Review at *Ecological and Social Psychology*.
2. **Houston, A.**, Salhi, C., Lincoln, A. et al. “At the Intersection of Racism and Nativism: Somali Young Adult Refugees’ Experiences with Police and Social Belonging in the U.S.” To be submitted to *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.
3. **Houston, A.**, Salhi, C., Lincoln, A. “Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S. Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing” To be submitted to *International Journal of Public Health*.
4. Salhi, C., Beatriz, E., Berrigan, J., Azrael, D., **Houston, A.**, Runyan, C., Barber, C. Betz, M., Miller, M. ‘Your son needs help...and we’re gonna help him’: Experiences with Lethal Means Counseling for Gun-owning Caregivers of Adolescents in the ED.” To be submitted to *Social Science and Medicine*.
5. Da Fonseca, T., **Houston, A.**, Issa, O., Miller, A., Ellis, H., Lincoln, A. “Somali American Young Adults’ Experiences and Understandings of Discrimination and Mental Health: A Qualitative Study.” To be submitted to *Society and Mental Health*.

Talks		*presenter	# Student Mentee
2022	Korte F ^{**} , Houston A , Lincoln A. "The role of social belonging in the physical health of Somali young adults resettled in North America" American Public Health Association. Boston, MA		
2022	Houston, A* , Lincoln A, Salhi C. "Mental Health Scares Me the Most: Employment Discrimination and Mental Health Outcomes Among Somali Young Adults in the US." Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences. Minneapolis, MN		
2021	Houston, A* , Salhi C, Lincoln A. "Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S. Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing." The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPASS) Spring Conference, University of Oxford. Virtual		
2019	Houston, A* , Kaftan G [#] , Jose M [#] , Jennings S [#] , Farrell A, Lincoln A. "Immigrant safety and wellbeing through economic security." American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA		
2019	Jennings S [#] , Farrell A*, Lincoln A, Houston, A , Jose M [#] , Kaftan G [#] . "How Sanctuary City Policies Impact Local Perceptions of Safety and Security" Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA		
2018	Laird L* and Houston, A* . "Improving Care for Muslim Immigrant Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Boston" Annual Society for Applied Anthropology Conference. Philadelphia, PA		
2017	Houston, A* and Hasan F. "Somali Reproduction and Health in Diaspora: Ethical Limitations of Biomedical Care" Reproductive Ethics: New Ideas and Innovations, April 2017. Albany, NY		
2016	Houston, A* "(In)Visible Embodiment in Diaspora: Somali Perspectives of Diabetes and Mental Health" Research in Progress Department of Family Medicine: Boston University School of Medicine. Boston, MA		
2016	Houston, A* "Embodied Values in Diaspora: Body Ideals Among Somali Women in Boston" 24th Annual Boston University Graduate Student Conference in African Studies. Boston, MA		
2013	Houston, A* "Self-identification among Muslim students at the University of Louisville: How perception and politics influence identification." Undergraduate Thesis Defense: University of Louisville, Louisville KY		

Posters & Abstracts		*presenter	# Student Mentee
2022	Korte F ^{**} , Houston A , Lincoln A. "The role of social belonging in the physical health of Somali young adults resettled in North America" Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences. Minneapolis, MN		
2022	Moulton G ^{**} , Houston A , Lincoln A. "The intersections of Immigration, Employment, and Healthcare Access" Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE). Boston, MA		
2021	Flassen, M ^{**} , Cordonza G ^{**} , Houston A , Synder-Young D. "Let Others Love You Back to Health: Exploring the Role of the Arts in Mutual Support Recovery" Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE). Boston, MA		
2020	Nguyen TD ^{**} , Alves E [#] , Houston A* , Lincoln A. "Immigrant Health and Wellbeing in Places of Sanctuary Policy" Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE). Boston, MA <i>Received the College of Social Science and Humanities Illuminating Complex Problems Award for 2020</i>		
2019	Houston A* , Hahn E*, Gillespie S, Issa O, Ellis H, Lincoln A. "Self-reported health status and concerns of young adult Somali refugees resettled in North America" Society for Community Research and Action. Chicago, IL		
2019	Bolton R*, Houston A , Clark V, Nash P, Hartmann C, Snow AL. "Achieving resident-centered care through teamwork in high performing VA nursing homes." Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Washington DC		
2018	Hyde J*, Bolton R, Houston A , Bokhour B, Helmer D, Chiusano C, Santos A, McAndrew L. "I Know It's Not All in My Head: Understanding the experience of healthcare for Veterans with Chronic Multi-symptom Illness" Academy Health. Seattle, WA		

- 2017 Bokhour B*, Fix G, Bolton R, **Houston A**, Orner M, Frankel R, Rattray N. "Evaluating Clinician Use of a Whole Health Approach to Care in Clinical Encounters: Tool Development" Annual International Conference on Communication in Healthcare & Health Literacy. Baltimore, MD
- 2017 Fix G*, Bokhour B, Gifford A, Kressin N, Goetz M, Elwyn G, Skolnik A, **Houston A**. "A Patient-Centered Approach to Comorbidity Management in Aging Vets with HIV" Annual Health Services Research and Design Conference. Arlington, VA
- 2017 Pierre-Joseph N*, Resnick K, Lambert J, **Houston A**, Gardiner P, Damus K, Laird L "Provider and Parent Attitudes Toward Integrating Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Promotion Initiative with Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention Initiatives in Primary Care Settings" NASPAG 31st Annual Clinical Research Meeting. Chicago, IL
- 2016 Bolton R*, Fix G, Hyde J, Hogan T, **Houston A**, Barker A, Bokhour B. "Mapping the Implementation of Evolving Complex Multicomponent Whole Healthcare Programs in VA" Annual Dissemination and Implementation Conference. Washington DC

Research Activities & Service

- 2022 Co-Editor for Special Issue, *International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health*
- 2022—Present Co-chair, Boston College Post-Doctoral Association
- 2018—2022 Population Health Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University
- 2018—2022 Organizing Committee for Population Health Student Seminar, Northeastern University
- 2017 Ad-hoc Reviewer, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*
- 2014 Co-reviewer with Dr. Lance Laird, *Journal of Religion and Health*

Honors & Awards

- 2022 Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences (IAPHS) Conference Travel Award
- 2020 Illuminating Complex Problems Award, RISE Conference, Northeastern University
- 2019 Travel Award to Attend Conference (APHA), Northeastern University
- 2019 Travel Award to Attend Conference (SCRA), Northeastern University
- 2014—2016 Provost's Merit Scholarship, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2013 Lambda Alpha National Scholarship Candidate, University of Louisville
- 2012—2013 Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society, University of Louisville
- 2012 Anthropology International Travel Award to Amman, Jordan, University of Louisville
- 2012 Modern Languages Travel Scholarship, Arabic Instruction in Jordan, University of Louisville
- 2010 Henry Ford Merit-based Scholarship, University of Louisville