

# ASHLEY RENÉE HOUSTON

Institute of Health Equity and Social Justice Research  
Northeastern University • Boston, MA  
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## Education

- 2022 PhD Population Health (Epidemiology), NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Dissertation: *Structures of Exclusion: Migration, Policy, and Health in the U.S.*  
Committee: Alisa Lincoln, Carmel Salhi, Tiffany Joseph
- 2016 MS Medical Anthropology, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- 2013 BA Anthropology & Middle East and Islamic Studies *cum laude*, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

## Research Experience

- 2018—2022 Graduate Research Assistant, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
**Institute of Health Equity & Social Justice Research**
- Somali Youth Longitudinal Study (Alisa Lincoln & Heidi Ellis)
  - Sanctuary Policy and Immigrant Wellbeing (Alisa Lincoln)
  - Suicide Prevention among Adolescence (Matt Miller Carmel Salhi)
  - Applied Theatre and Substance-Use Recovery (Dani Snyder-Young)
- Department of Anthropology & Sociology**
- Health Policy and Immigrant Healthcare Access (Tiffany Joseph)
- 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**
- Legislative Outreach and War-related Syndemics (Bay Ostrach)
  - Intimate Partner Violence Among Immigrant Muslim Women (Lance Laird)

## Teaching Experience

**Northeastern University**, Department of Health Sciences

- Summer 2022, Fall 2021  
Fall 2021
- Instructor**  
PHTH 4120 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health  
HSCI 1000 Introduction to College
- Spring 2022
- Teaching Assistant, Co-Instructor**  
PHTH 5230 Global Health

Fall 2020

PHTH 4120 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health

### Invited Guest Lectures

April 2022 CHLH 485 Internship Seminar, University of Illinois-Urbana Champagne  
April 2022 PHTH 2351 Community and Public Health, Northeastern University  
November 2018 Migration & Mental Health Graduate Seminar, Boston University School of Medicine

### Publications

- 2022 **Houston, A.**, Da Fonseca, T., Joseph, T., Lincoln, A. "Challenging Federal Exclusion: Immigrant Safety, Health, and Healthcare Access in Sanctuary Cities" publication forthcoming in *Health and Place*.
- 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>

### In Preparation or Under Review

**Houston, A.**, Salhi, C., Lincoln, A. "Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S. Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing" submitted invited publication for special issue in *Migration Studies*.

**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." to be submitted to *Community Mental Health*.

**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 *Social Science and Medicine*.

Da Fonseca, T., **Houston, A.**, Issa, O., Miller, A., Ellis, H., Lincoln, A. "Somali American Young Adults' Experiences and Understandings of Discrimination and Health" to be submitted to *Society and Mental Health*.

Salhi, C., **Houston, A.**, Miller, M. et al. "Caregiver Lethal Means Counselling" to be submitted to *Journal of American Academic of Child & Adolescent Health*.

**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." *In draft*.

Updated May 2022

## 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.

## Oral Presentations

\*presenter

- 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

# Mentee

- 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

*Received the College of Social Science and Humanities Illuminating Complex Problems Award for 2020*

- 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

## **Programming Skills**

NVivo • STATA • SAS

## **Research Activities & Service**

- 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*

## **Community Involvement**

- 2014-2017 Intern, Outreach Chair • GREATER BOSTON MUSLIM HEALTH INITIATIVE, Boston MA
- 2015 Volunteer • BROOKLINE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, Brookline MA
- 2011-2013 Volunteer • KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES, Louisville KY
- 2012 Youth Program Intern • KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES, Louisville KY

## **Honors & Awards**

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