

ASHLEY RENÉE HOUSTON

Doctoral Candidate
Northeastern University • Boston, MA
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Research Interests

Migration • Health • Policy • Employment
Qualitative Methods • Mixed Methods

Education

PhD Population Health, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, 2022
Concentration: Social Epidemiology, Migration, Health Policy
MS Medical Anthropology, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, 2016
BA Anthropology *Cum Laude*, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, 2013

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern, University 2018—2022

Institute of Health Equity & Social Justice Research

- Somali Youth Longitudinal Study (PIs: Dr. Alisa Lincoln & Dr. Heidi Ellis)
- Sanctuary Policy and Immigrant Wellbeing (PI: Dr. Alisa Lincoln)
- Suicide Prevention among Adolescence (PIs: Dr. Matt Miller & Dr. Carmel Salhi)

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

2019—2022

- Health Policy and Immigrant Healthcare Access (PI: Dr. Tiffany Joseph)

College of Arts, Media, & Design

2020—2022

- Applied Theatre and Substance-Use Recovery (PI: Dr. Dani Snyder-Young)

Project Coordinator, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

2016–2019

Center for Healthcare Organization & Implementation Research

Qualitative Research Consultant, Boston Medical Center

2016

Department of Family Medicine & Pediatrics

Research Assistant, Boston University School of Medicine

2014—2016

Department of Medical Anthropology

- Legislative Outreach and War-related Syndemics (PI: Dr. B. Ostrach)
- Intimate Partner Violence Among Immigrant Muslim Women (PI: Dr. Lance Laird)

Teaching Experience

Northeastern University, Department of Health Sciences

Instructor

PHTH 4120 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health
HSCI 1000 Introduction to College

Fall 2021, Summer 2022
Fall 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Co-Instructor

PHTH 5230 Global Health

Spring 2022

Updated April 2022

Invited Guest Lectures •

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

Publications

Houston, A., Lincoln, A., Gillespie, S., Da Fonseca, T., Issa, O., Ellis, H., Salhi, C. (2021). 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>

Houston, A., Lynch, K., Ostrach, B., Isaacs, Y. S., Nvé Díaz San Francisco, C., Lee, J. M., Emard, N., & Proctor, D. A. (2021). 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>

Synder-Young, D., **Houston, A.**, Moyer Bell, A.B., Short, A., Lincoln, A. (2021) "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>

Academic Newsletters:

Ostrach, B., Lynch, K., **Houston, A.**, Carney, M. (2020) Conditions of Immigrant Detention Increase Risk of COVID-19 Disease Interactions. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. [7 September 2020](#)

Ostrach, B., **Houston, A.**, Singer, M. (2016) 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).

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.

Under Review and In Preparation:

Houston, A., Da Fonseca, T., Joseph, T., Lincoln, A. "Challenging Federal Exclusion: Immigrant Safety, Health, and Healthcare Access in Sanctuary Cities" under review at *Health and Place*.

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*.

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., 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." *In draft*.

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*.

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.” *In draft*.

Oral Presentations

*presenter

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, March 2021. Virtual

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, November 2019. Philadelphia, PA

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, November 2019. San Francisco, CA

Laird L* and **Houston, A***. “Improving Care for Muslim Immigrant Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Boston” Annual Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, April 2018. Philadelphia, PA

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

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, April 2016. Boston, MA

Houston, A* “Embodied Values in Diaspora: Body Ideals Among Somali Women in Boston” 24th Annual Boston University Graduate Student Conference in African Studies, March 2016. Boston, MA

Houston, A* “Self-identification among Muslim students at the University of Louisville: How perception and politics influence identification.” Undergraduate Thesis Defense: University of Louisville, April 2013. Louisville KY

Posters & Abstracts

*presenter

Mentee

Moulton G*#, **Houston A**, Lincoln A. “The intersections of Immigration, Employment, and Healthcare Access” Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE), April 2022. Boston, MA

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), April 2021. Boston, MA

Nguyen TD*#, Alves E#, **Houston A***, Lincoln A. “Immigrant Health and Wellbeing in Places of Sanctuary Policy” Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE), April 2020. Boston, MA

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

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, June 2019. Chicago, IL

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, June 2019. Washington DC

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, June 2018. Seattle, WA

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, October 2017. Baltimore, MD

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, April 2017. Arlington, VA

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, April 2017. Chicago, IL

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, December 2016. Washington DC

Programming Skills

NVivo • STATA • SAS

Relevant 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

Other 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*

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