

ASHLEY RENEE HOUSTON

Researcher
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Education

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

Research & Organizing Experience

Strategic Researcher-Organizer, Boston Teachers Union

November 2023-Present

American Federation of Teachers

Boston MA

- Research, develop, and implement organizing campaign plans
- Monitor and maintain database for bargaining, organizing, and tracking membership status
- Work directly with members to engage in gathering data and completing research
- Analyze data from site visits, surveys, and other sources to develop strategic campaigns
- Prepare materials, reports, and presentations for use in organizing, bargaining, and training
- Collaborate with coalition allies to research impacts of current or proposed policy
- Collect and analyze data related to budgets, compensation, economics including contract costing
- Support participants and facilitators in the AFT/BTU Teacher Leadership Program

Affiliated Faculty, Northeastern University

June 2022-Present

Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

Boston MA

- Mentor and train undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in conducting and analyzing research findings at the Institute for Health Equity & Social Justice Research
- Collaborate with academic research partners on relevant qualitative and quantitative analyses

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Boston College

August 2022-October 2023

Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology

Chestnut Hill MA

- Collaborated with community partners
- Supervised and trained graduate and undergraduate students in data collection and analysis
- Developed research protocols and trainings
- Managed data collection and data systems
- Disseminated research findings to diverse stakeholders

Doctoral Research Assistant, Northeastern University

September 2018-May 2022

Department of Health Sciences; Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Boston MA

- Managed data collection and data systems across various projects
- Developed research protocols and trainings
- Supervise data collection
- Led statistical and epidemiological analyses using STATA and SAS
- Conducted evaluations in collaboration with state health departments
- Examined and analyzed Immigrant and Health policies related to projects
- Disseminated research findings

Research Project Coordinator, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

October 2016-March 2019

Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research Bedford MA

- Managed data collection and data systems across various projects
- Conducted evaluations in collaboration with VA hospitals
- Led one-on-one interviews for data collection
- Disseminated research findings for government and academic audiences

Research Assistant, Boston University School of Medicine September 2014-May 2016
Department of Anthropology and Cross Cultural Practice Boston MA

- Contacted local and state representatives for a project examining the health effects of War
- Conducted policy analysis
- Disseminated research findings

Program Skills

STATA, SAS, NVivo, MAXQDA, Temi, Qualtrics, REDcap, Tableau, Microsoft Office, Google Suite

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record & Teaching Assistant, Department of Health Sciences at Northeastern University
Fall 2020, Summer 2022, Fall 2021 Global Perspectives on Discrimination & Health (PHTH 4120)
Fall 2021 Introduction to College (HSCI 1000)
Spring 2022 Global Health (graduate; PHTH 5230)

Invited Guest Lectures

Spring 2022 Internship Seminar, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign
Spring 2022 Community & Public Health, Northeastern University
Fall 2018 Migration & Mental Health (graduate), Boston University

Mentorship

Undergraduate

- o Gretchen Moulton (2022)
- o Marian Flassen (2021)
- o Grace Cordonzo (2021)
- o Debby Nguyen (2020)
- o Emily Alves (2020)
- o Megan Jose (2019)

Graduate and Doctoral

- o Jenna Strauss (2023)
- o Francesca Korte (2021-2022)
- o Gizem Kaftan (2019)
- o Scott Jennings (2019)

Academic & Departmental Service

2022—Present Co-chair, Boston College Postdoctoral Association, Boston College
2023 Reviewer, *Health Education Research*
2018—2022 Co-chair, Population Health Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University
2018—2022 Organizing Committee, Population Health Student Seminar, Northeastern University
2017 Reviewer, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*
2014 Co-reviewer with Dr. Lance Laird, *Journal of Religion and Health*

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles:

Student Mentee

1. Salhi, C., Beatriz, E., Berrigan, J., Azrael, D., **Houston, A.**, Runyan, C., Barber, C. Betz, M., Miller, M. (2023)

‘Your son needs help...and we’re gonna help him’: Experiences with Lethal Means Counseling for Gun-owning Caregivers of Adolescents in the ED.” *Social Science and Medicine*. doi: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116218](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116218)

2. **Houston, A.**, Salhi, C., Lincoln, A. (2023) “Messaging Inclusion with Consequence: U.S. Sanctuary Cities and Immigrant Wellbeing” *Journal of Migration and Health*. doi: [10.1016/j.imh.2023.100199](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imh.2023.100199)
3. **Houston, A.**, Flassen, M.[#], Cordonza, G.[#], Lincoln, A., Synder-Young, D. (2023) “You Gotta Love Yourself Back to Health: Applied Theatre and Storytelling as Substance Use Recovery” *Community Mental Health*. doi: [10.1007/s10597-023-01089-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-023-01089-y)
4. **Houston, A.**, Da Fonseca, T., Joseph, T., Lincoln, A. (2022) “Challenging Federal Exclusion: Immigrant Safety, Health, and Healthcare Access in Sanctuary Cities” *Health and Place*, 75(102811). doi: [10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102822](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102822)
5. **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. doi: [10.1177/10497323211010159](https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323211010159)
6. **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. doi: [10.1080/17441692.2021.1919737](https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2021.1919737)
7. 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” *Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*. doi: [10.1080/13569783.2021.1949973](https://doi.org/10.1080/13569783.2021.1949973)

Academic Newsletters:

8. 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](#)
9. 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).
10. 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.

Presentations

*Presenter # Student Mentee

1. Texeira, S, Coley, RL, Leer, J, **Houston, A**, Samios, T, Kelly, N. (2023) “Reflections on Civically Engaged Collaboration” Boston Area Research Initiative Conference. Boston, MA
2. Korte F*[#], **Houston, A**, Lincoln A. (2022) “The role of social belonging in the physical health of Somali young adults resettled in North America” American Public Health Association. Boston, MA
3. **Houston, A***, Lincoln A, Salhi C. (2022) “Mental Health Scars Me the Most: Employment Discrimination and Mental Health Outcomes Among Somali Young Adults in the US.” Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences. Minneapolis, MN
4. **Houston, A***, Salhi C, Lincoln A. (2021) “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
5. **Houston, A***, Kaftan G[#], Jose M[#], Jennings S[#], Farrell A, Lincoln A. (2019) “Immigrant safety and wellbeing through economic security.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA
6. Jennings S[#], Farrell A*, Lincoln A, **Houston, A**, Jose M[#], Kaftan G[#]. (2019) “How Sanctuary City Policies Impact Local Perceptions of Safety and Security” Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA

7. Laird L* and **Houston, A.*** (2018) "Improving Care for Muslim Immigrant Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Boston" Annual Society for Applied Anthropology Conference. Philadelphia, PA
8. **Houston, A*** and Hasan F. (2017) "Somali Reproduction and Health in Diaspora: Ethical Limitations of Biomedical Care" Reproductive Ethics: New Ideas and Innovations, April 2017. Albany, NY
9. **Houston, A*** (2016) "(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
10. **Houston, A*** (2016) "Embodied Values in Diaspora: Body Ideals Among Somali Women in Boston" 24th Annual Boston University Graduate Student Conference in African Studies. Boston, MA

Posters & Abstracts

Student Mentee

1. Korte F[#], **Houston A**, Lincoln A. (2022) "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
2. Moulton G[#], **Houston A**, Lincoln A. (2022) "The intersections of Immigration, Employment, and Healthcare Access" Northeastern Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship (RISE). Boston, MA
3. Flassen, M[#], Cordonza G[#], **Houston A**, Synder-Young D. (2021) "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
4. Nguyen TD[#], Alves E[#], **Houston A**, Lincoln A. (2020) "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*
5. **Houston A**, Hahn E, Gillespie S, Issa O, Ellis H, Lincoln A. (2019) "Self-reported health status and concerns of young adult Somali refugees resettled in North America" Society for Community Research and Action. Chicago, IL
6. Bolton R, **Houston A**, Clark V, Nash P, Hartmann C, Snow AL. (2019) "Achieving resident-centered care through teamwork in high performing VA nursing homes." Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Washington DC
7. Hyde J, Bolton R, **Houston A**, Bokhour B, Helmer D, Chiusano C, Santos A, McAndrew L. (2018) "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
8. Bokhour B, Fix G, Bolton R, **Houston A**, Orner M, Frankel R, Rattray N. (2017) "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
9. Fix G, Bokhour B, Gifford A, Kressin N, Goetz M, Elwyn G, Skolnik A, **Houston A**. (2017) "A Patient-Centered Approach to Comorbidity Management in Aging Vets with HIV" Annual Health Services Research and Design Conference. Arlington, VA
10. Pierre-Joseph N, Resnick K, Lambert J, **Houston A**, Gardiner P, Damus K, Laird L (2017) "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
11. Bolton R, Fix G, Hyde J, Hogan T, **Houston A**, Barker A, Bokhour B. (2016) "Mapping the Implementation of Evolving Complex Multicomponent Whole Healthcare Programs in VA" Annual Dissemination and Implementation Conference. Washington DC

Additional Training

2024	AFL-CIO Strategic Corporate Research Summer School, Cornell University
2023	New England Future Faculty Workshop, Northeastern University

2022-2023	Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences Mentorship Program (Mentee)
2021	Panel on Social Justice in the Classroom, CATLR, Northeastern University

Honors & Awards

2022	Boston College Knowledge Dissemination Program Award for Conference Travel
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