

## Intellectual Rigor Statement

### Dr. Leo Gilling

My academic and professional journey is grounded in a multidisciplinary commitment to critical inquiry, applied knowledge, and systemic transformation. With expertise that spans criminology, public safety, education, diaspora development, and business leadership, I bring an integrated and pragmatic lens to scholarship and practice—one that recognizes the complexity of human systems and the necessity for actionable knowledge.

My doctoral research, *“The Impact of Body-Worn Cameras on Citizen Complaints: A Longitudinal Study of the NYPD”*, reflects a data-driven approach to policy evaluation and accountability in law enforcement. Through rigorous longitudinal analysis, I examined how surveillance technology intersects with police behavior, citizen perceptions, and systemic reform. This research contributes to the evolving discourse on transparency, trust, and equity in policing.

Complementing my academic work, I have taught **Contemporary Issues in Domestic Violence** at Jamaica Theological Seminary and **Forensic Psychology** at Washington Adventist University. These courses allowed me to engage students with theory-to-practice frameworks on topics such as trauma, offender profiling, and community intervention, helping them think critically about justice through both psychological and sociological lenses.

A significant yet often-overlooked aspect of my intellectual framework is the 15 years I spent owning and operating insurance agencies under the Allstate and State Farm brands. This experience shaped my strategic thinking and deepened my understanding of risk analysis, compliance, and ethical decision-making in complex regulatory environments. It also cultivated a disciplined approach to operational systems, leadership development, and financial accountability, skills I continue to apply in academic and community-based leadership roles.

Through my work as the Founder of the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN), I have translated academic insights into real-world programming, developing mentorship models, emotional literacy initiatives, and national task forces that support educational advancement and systemic development in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

To me, intellectual rigor is not solely academic; it is the capacity to apply evidence-based reasoning, lead across disciplines, and design interventions that are both principled and practical. My commitment to this standard informs every facet of my work—from research and teaching to leadership and institution building.