

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**DAVID OKECH, MSW, PhD**

University of Georgia School of Social Work  
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### EDUCATION

2008	University of Kansas School of Social Welfare <i>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</i>	Lawrence, KS
2004	University of New Hampshire Department of Social Work <i>Master of Social Work (MSW)</i>	Durham, NH
2004	University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability <i>Graduate Certificate, Leadership in Children's Health and Disability</i>	Durham, NH
1995	University of Nairobi Department of Sociology and Social Work Bachelor of Arts in Social Work	Nairobi, Kenya

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Evidence-informed programs and policies for victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking in the global context
- The cross-section of poverty, victimization, and human trafficking
- Mechanisms for building household and community assets that have long-term social, economic, and psychological benefits to vulnerable children
- Cross-national development and validation of instruments to identify and assist suspected trafficking survivors in the global context
- The long-term health, social, psychological, emotional and economic impacts of the trafficking experience among survivors of trafficking
- International and global social work

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2014-present	<i>Associate Professor</i> University of Georgia School of Social Work
2008-2014	<i>Assistant Professor</i> University of Georgia School of Social Work

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

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2014-2019	<b><i>Director of the Masters of SocialW Program</i></b> University of Georgia School of Social Work  <i>Major Highlights</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led the revision and reorganization of the MSW curriculum (2016)</li> <li>• Helped in writing the MSW self-study for the CSWE re-accreditation (2018)</li> <li>• Established intake and exit interviews for MSW students (2014-19)</li> <li>• MSW program ranking moved from 38 in 2014 to 22 in 2019</li> <li>• Improved retention of minority and disadvantaged MSW students through federal grants that provided scholarships to over 500 students</li> </ul>
2013-2016	<b><i>Director of Global Engagement</i></b> University of Georgia School of Social Work  <i>Major Highlights</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned and executed World Social Work Days in 2014, 2015, and 2016</li> <li>• Formed the International Social Work Student Association (ISWSA)</li> <li>• Co-led education abroad programs to Ghana and the Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Initiated international research collaboration with faculty at the University of Ghana University of Liverpool on human trafficking in West Africa</li> <li>• Organized various symposia and lunch-and-learn sessions on global social work issues (immigration, international social work, human trafficking, refugees, globalization, and religious tolerance and understanding)</li> </ul>

## RESEARCH AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

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2015-date	Director, The African Programming Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES) - a consortium of interdisciplinary faculty from the University of Georgia-USA, University of Liverpool-UK, and Makerere University-Uganda. To date, managed over \$4.3 million in human trafficking research in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). APRIES developed a community-based participatory research mixed methods
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research that includes in-depth interviews and the network scale-up method of interviewing hard to find populations.

- 2014-2020 Director, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students – providing financial support to MSW clinical students who are academically, economically, and environmentally disadvantaged. Managed over \$ 3.5 million, supporting over 500 MSW students from economically, academically, and socially disadvantaged backgrounds in completing the MSW program.
- 2008-2013 Principal Investigator, The Effects of the Deep Recession on Vulnerable Populations Research – led and completed research on how the recent deep recession affected households in the lowest rungs of the economic ladder.

### **FUNDED GRANTS**

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- 2018-2023 Principal Investigator  
*Anti-trafficking Research and Programming in West Africa*  
US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons  
\$4,000,000  
Grant #: SSJTIP18CA0015
- 2018 – 2019 Co-Principal Investigator  
*Strategies to understand and document local and international frameworks to reduce human trafficking in West Africa: A UGA/University of Liverpool (UOL) Faculty Exchange Program.*  
UGA Office of Global Engagement and University of Liverpool International Program's Office  
\$10,000
- 2017-2018 Principal Investigator  
*Global research collaboration on human trafficking research, policy, and programming.*  
UGA Office of Global Engagement  
\$8,000
- 2017-2019 Principal Investigator  
*Developing evidence-based reintegration programming for female victims of trafficking in West Africa*  
UGA Office of the President, UGA Presidents' Interdisciplinary Seed Grant  
\$140,162
- 2015-2017 Principal Investigator  
*Reintegration of female victims of trafficking in Ghana*  
Owens institute of Behavioral Research  
\$12,400

2016 – 2020	Principal Investigator/Program Director <i>Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Disadvantaged Students</i> DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration \$2,600,000 Grant #: T08HP30171
2014 – 2017	Co-principal Investigator <i>Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Students</i> DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration \$1,301,125 Grant #: T08HP30171
2012 – 2016	Principal Investigator (From 2014-16) <i>Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Disadvantaged Students</i> DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration \$900,000 Grant #: T08HP30171
2010-2011	Co-principal Investigator <i>Effects of the 2007/2008 Economic Recession on Poorer Households Incomes and Assets</i> University of Georgia School of Social Work \$15,000
2009-2010	Principal Investigator <i>Poverty and the Economy Grant: Low-Income Persons, Savings, and Economic Outcomes</i> University of Georgia Office of the Vice President for Research: Poverty and the Economy Grant \$25,476

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***In Process and Under Review***

1. Giselle, B., Okech, D., & Callands, D. *The experiences and perceptions of interventions among trafficked and at-risk trafficking survivors*
2. Burns, A., Okech, D., *A meta-analysis of human trafficking research*
3. Okech D., et al. *A cultural adaptation of the Hopkins Symptoms Scale among survivors of human trafficking*

4. Saasa, K., Okech, D., & Choi, Y.J. Social capability of African immigrants in the US
5. Lee, S., Rai, A., & Okech, D. *The application of structural equation modeling in social work research*
6. McGarity, S., & Okech, D. *Factors associated with social capability among people with disabilities*

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

1. Okech, D., Hansen, N., Burns, A.C., & Howard, W., & Anarfi, J. (2018). Social support, dysfunctional coping, and community reintegration as predictors of PTSD among human trafficking survivors. *Behavioral Medicine, 44*(3), 209-218. DOI: 10.1080/08964289.2018.1432553
2. Barner, J.R., Okech, D., & Camp, M.A. (2018). One size does not fit all: A proposed ecological model for human trafficking intervention. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work, 15*(2), 137-150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23761407.2017.1420514>
3. Okech, D., Choi, Y.J., Elkins, J., & Burns, A.C. (2018). Seventeen years of human trafficking research in social work practice: A review of the literature. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work, 15*(2), 103-122. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23761407.2017.1415177>
4. Okech, D., McGarity, S. V., Hansen, N., Burns, A.C., & Howard, W. (2018). Financial capability and sociodemographic factors among survivors of human trafficking. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work, 15*(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23761407.2017.1419154>
5. Okech, D., Kim, J., & Little, T.D. (2015). Recent developments in structural equation modeling research in social work publications. *British Journal of Social Work, 45*(2), 685-704. DOI: 10.1093/bjsw/bct154
6. Barner, J. R, Okech, D., & Camp, M. (2014). Socio-economic inequality, human trafficking, and the global slave trade. *Societies, 4*(2), 148-160. DOI: 10.3390/soc4020148
7. Okech, D. & Barner, J. (2014). Motivations for studying international social work among social work graduate students. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 34*(2), 167-181. DOI: 10.1080/08841233.2014.892051
8. Okech, D., Ottenweller, M.D., Elkins, J., Caldwell, E., & Segoshi, M. (2014). Kenya's new constitution and social development. *Social Development Issues, 35*(3), 1-15
9. Katiuzhinsky, A. & Okech, D. (2014). Human rights, cultural practices, and State policies: Implications for global social work practice and policy. *International Journal of Social Welfare, 23*(1), 80-88. DOI: 10.1111/ijsw.12002

10. Okech, D., Miller, S. E., Tetloff, M.L., Beatty, S., Barner, J., Holosko, M.J., & Clay, K.S. (2013). Economic recession and coping with poverty: A case study from Athens, Georgia. *Journal of Policy Practice, 12*(4), 273-295. DOI: 1080/15588742.2013.827089
11. Okech, D. (2013). The independent effects of socio-demographic and programmatic factors on economic strain among parents in a Child Savings Accounts program. *Children and Youth Services Review, 33*, 950-959. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2013.03.002
12. Okech, D., Mimura, Y., Mauldin, T., & Kim, J. (2013). The influence of financial factors on motivation to save among poor individuals. *Journal of Policy Practice, 12*(2), 107-124. DOI: 10.1080/15588742.2013.766947.
13. Smith, B., Lowe, T.B., Hunter, P., Okech, D., & Blalock, E. (2013). The Lifeline Program: A case study of work-force education combating poverty for females in Ghana. *International Education, 43*(1), 50-64
14. Okech, D., Barner, J., Segoshi, M., & Carney, M. (2013). MSW student experiences in on-line vs. face-to-face teaching formats. *Social Work Education: The International Journal. 33*(1), 121-134, DOI: 10.1080/02615479.2012.738661
15. Okech, D., Howard, W. J., & Kim, J. (2013). Efficacy and Agency among poor Families with and without Children. *Child & Family Social Work, 18*(4), 417-428. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2206.2012.00861.x
16. Okech, D., Howard, W. J., Mauldin, T., Mimura, Y., & Kim, J. (2012). The effects of economic pressure on the resilience and strengths of families living in extreme poverty. *Journal of Poverty: Innovations on Social, Political & Economic Inequalities, 16*(4), 429-446. DOI: 10.1080/10875549.2012.720659
17. Okech, D., Morreau, W., & Benson, K. (2012). Human trafficking: Improving victim identification and service provision. *International Social Work, 55*(4), 488-503. DOI: 10.1177/0020872811425805
18. Barner, J. & Okech, D. (2012). Teaching globalization to social work graduate students in and out of the classroom. *Social Work Education: The International Journal. 32*(8), 1061-1074. DOI: 10.1080/02615479.2012.730514
19. Okech, D. (2012). Reporting on multiple group mean and covariance structures across groups. *Research on Social Work Practice, 22*(5), 567-577. DOI: 10.1177/1049731512446709
20. Okech, D. (2012). The effects of participation in a Child Savings Accounts program on parental wellbeing. *Research on Social Work Practice, 22*(4), 357-366. DOI: 10.1177/104973151244018
21. Okech, D. (2011). Parental savings in a Children's Account Program for college education. *Journal of Policy Practice, 10* (2), 144-164. DOI: 10.1080/15588742.2011.555325

22. Okech, D. (2011). Enrollment decisions in a Child Development Accounts program for low-income families. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 32(3), 400-410. DOI: 10.1007/s10834-010-9234-z
23. Okech, D. & Little, T.D., Williams Shanks, T. R., & Adams, D. (2011). Self-efficacy and joining a savings program for children's education. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 21(4), 442-451 .DOI: 10.1177/1049731510389079
24. Okech, D., Little, T. D. & Williams Shanks, T. (2011). Early savings for children's higher education: A comparison between savers and non-savers in a Child Development Accounts Program. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33, 1592-1598. DOI: 10.1.16/j.chilyouth.2011.03.025
25. Beverly, S.G. & Okech, D. (2005). A case for measures of asset poverty. *Measurement: Interdisciplinary Research and Perspectives*, 3(4), 242-247

### **Books**

1. Hopps, J., **Okech, D.**, & Gray, K. (2010). *Instructors' manual and test bank for American social welfare policy, A pluralist approach, H.J. Karger & D. Stoesz*, (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

### **Book Chapters**

1. Lowe, T., **Okech, D.**, & Washington, T. (2018). Child trafficking in West Africa., *in press*
2. **Okech, D.**, & Danikuu, A. (2017). Providing a Lifeline for female survivors of human trafficking in Ghana. In M. Gray (ed.). *The handbook of social work and social development in Africa* (pp. 203-214). NY: Routledge.
3. **Okech, D.** (2017). Child development accounts. In K. Corcoran (Ed.), *Social Work Desk Reference* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) (pp. 300-310) NY, New York: Oxford University Press.
4. **Okech, D.**, & McGarity, S. (2015). *TIP Curves*. In M. Odekon (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (Vol. 5, p. 1546). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. doi:10.4135/9781483345727.n800
5. **Okech, D.** (2013). Online teaching for beginners: It is not the technology; it is the instructor (pp. 19-22). In F. Teague, & P. D. O'Neill (Eds.), *Chalk Talk II*. University of Georgia Press: Athens, GA.

### **Technical reports**

Okech, D. et al. (2017). *Social, psychological, and economic outcomes of formerly trafficked women who received intervention and reintegration services*. The University of Georgia School of Social Work and Owens Institute for Behavioral Research. Athens, GA: USA

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### *Peer-reviewed Conference Presentations*

1. Okech, D. (May, 2019). *Human trafficking and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities for Research*. The International Conference on Human Trafficking Research (ICHTR). Omaha, Nebraska. May 28-30, 2019
2. Callands, T., Hansen, B., Elkins, J., Kogan, S., Clay Warner, J., & Okech, D. (2018, November). Pathways to trafficking victimization. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA., November 14-17.
3. Clay-warner, J., Callands, T., Okech, D., Hansen, N., Elkins, J., & Kogan, S. Physical and psychological health consequences of human trafficking. (2018, November). Pathways to trafficking victimization. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA., November 14-17.
4. Kogan, S.M., Topple, T., Okech, D., Callands, T., Clay-warner, J., & Elkins, J. PTSD among survivors of trafficking: the influence of community support and adverse childhood experiences. (2018, November). Pathways to trafficking victimization. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA., November 14-17.
5. Miller, S.E., Okech, D., Cornelius, L., & Scheyett, A. (2018, November). Identifying and releasing power blocks to enacting lived Social Justice. Council on Social Work Education Annual program Meeting Orlando, FL, November 8-11, 2018.
6. Saasa, S., & Okech, D. (2018, November). The effects of social exclusion and socio-demographic covariates on the psychological and social wellbeing of African immigrants in the United States. Council on Social Work Education Annual program Meeting Orlando, FL, November 8-11, 2018.
7. Okech, D. (2018, January). Predictors of Financial Capability Among Female Survivors of Human Trafficking in Ghana, West Africa; In, *Financial Capability across the Globe: Results from Canada, China, and Ghana Symposia*. (Symposium Convener). 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2018.
8. Salas-Wright, C., Thyer, B., Okech, D., & Maynard, D. (2018, January). *Workshop on Peer Review for Academic Journals: What It Is, and How to Do It Well*. 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2018.
9. Sunwoo, L., & Okech, D. (2018, January). *A Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Hopkins Symptom Checklist with Ghanaian Female Survivors of Trafficking*. 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2018.



10. Waylon, H., & Okech, D. (2018, January). *How are they doing? Mapping Female Survivors of Trafficking to Prevent Re-Trafficking*. 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2018.
11. Okech, D. (2015 April). *Financial capability, economic strain, and purchasing behavior among poorer households in the U.S. and Kenya*. *Financial Capability and Asset Building Conference: Advancing Education, Research and Practice in Social Work*. St. Louis, MO.
12. Okech, D. (2015 January). *The interaction effect of age and gender on financial capability: A cross-national analysis*. 19th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
13. Mimura, Y. & Okech, D. (2014 May). *Prevalence of Food insufficiency and health care access limitations among low-income immigrant families*. Population Association of America Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
14. Okech, D., Miller, S.E, Choi, Y.J., & Elkins, J. (2014 January). *Human trafficking literature in the past decade: A review of the literature*. 18th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX
15. Okech, D. & Barner, J. (2013 November). *Ecological approaches to human trafficking: Implications for social work education*. 59th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX
16. Okech D. (2013, January). *Parental well-being effects in a Children's Savings Accounts Program*. 17th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.
17. Okech, D. (2013, January). *Economic strain, the recent recession, and sources of financial support among lower income families in Kenya and the U.S.* [Symposium: Interventions and policies to improve the well-being and stability of families around the world: Evidence from China, Kenya, Uganda, and the United States]. San Diego, CA.
18. Okech, D. & Barner, J. (2011 October). *Why are students taking international social work elective courses?* 57th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
19. Okech, D. & Howard, W. (2011 January). *Down but not out: Resilience among poor households*. 15th Society on Social Work and Research Annual conference, Tampa, FL.
20. Barner, J., Tetloff, M, Okech, D., Miller, S.E., Clay, K. & Beatty, S. (2011 January). *Tough times: The impacts of the recession in Athens, GA*. 15th Society on Social Work and Research Annual conference, Tampa, FL.
21. Okech, D. (2010 October). *Comparison between savers and non savers in a Child Development Accounts Program*. 56th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Portland, Oregon.

22. Okech, D. (2010 January). *Enrollment in a savings program for lower-income households*. 14th Society on Social Work and Research Annual conference, San Francisco, CA.
23. Okech, D. (2010 January). *Saving in children's college savings account program for lower-income households*. 14th Society on Social Work and Research Annual conference, San Francisco, CA.
24. Kim, J., & Okech, D. (January 2013). *A systematic review of the use of structural equation modeling in social work journals between 2007 and 2012*. 17th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.
25. Okech, D. & Banner, J. (2012 November). *Teaching community practice online vs. face-to-face: What are MSW students saying?* 58th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington D.C.
26. Beatty, S., Miller, S. E., Okech, D., & Tetloff, M. L. (2010 October). *A collaborative, action-oriented approach to research education across the continuum*. 56th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Portland, Oregon.
27. Okech, D., Shanks, T.W., & Adams, D. (2007 January). *College savings accounts for low income children: Measuring parental well-being between account-openers and non-openers*. 11th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
28. Adams, D., Wheeler-Brooks, J., Okech, D. & Scanlon, E. (2006 June). *Children's savings accounts: Research rationale and methods*. The Policy Conference, Washington, D.C.

#### ***Invited presentations***

1. Okech, D. (May, 2019). *Human trafficking and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities for Research*. Atlanta, GA. April 26, 2019
2. Okech, D. (2018). *Issues and opportunities in human trafficking research*. The International Slavery Museum. Liverpool, UK. October 9, 2018
3. Okech, D., Callands, T., & Clay-warner, J. (2018). *Seminar to doctoral students and faculty in Ghana on writing dissertations, conducting research and writing research grants*. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies, Legon-Accra, Ghana. May 16, 2018.
4. Okech, D. (2017). *Human trafficking in Ghana: Social, health, and economic implications*. APERO Lectures. Organized by the UGA ASI. September 6, 2017.
5. Balfour, G., Afroz, F., & Okech, D. (2017). *The Trafficking of Women in the W. African Context: Findings from Trafficking Survivors*. Women's Rights as Human Rights Conference. Organized by UGA Globis. October 20, 2017

6. Okech, D., & Kogan, S.M. (2017). *Writing a quantitative research doctoral dissertation: From beginning to end*. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies, Legon-Accra, Ghana. July 5, 2017. [Workshop on dissertation writing].
7. Okech, D., & Danikuu, A.D. (2017). *Human trafficking in Ghana: Preliminary findings*. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies, Legon-Accra, Ghana. July 5, 2017.
8. Okech, D. *The world in your time: Globalization and social work*. University of Georgia Honors Program. March 18, 2014.
9. Okech, D. (Discussant). *Human Trafficking in the State of Georgia: Challenges and Solutions*. UGA Miller Learning Center. Conference Panelists: Camila Wright-GA's statewide prosecutor for human trafficking; Monica Khant-Executive director of the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network and an Immigration Attorney, and David Smythe-former researcher with Polaris and Attorney. April 7, 2015.
10. Okech, D. *University of Georgia School of Social Work Keynote Commencement Address*. Athens, GA. May 5, 2012
11. Okech, D. *Individual Development Accounts Strategies for Athens, GA*. Athens First Bank, April 26, 2011.
12. Okech, D. & Mauldin, T. *Asset-building among lower-income households: The role of household characteristics and institutional factors*. UGA Brown Bag Series, November 19, 2009.
13. Adams, D., Okech, D., Beverly, S.G., & Clancy, M. *Overview of the Savings for Education, Entrepreneurship and Downpayment (SEED)*. SEED Semi-annual Meeting, April 11-14, 2008, San Francisco, CA.
14. Okech, D. *Community development from an international perspective*, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Community and Administrative Practice Class for Mark Ezell, PhD. September 5, 2007.
15. Okech, D. *International social work and opportunities for MSWs*. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Policy. Invitation by Deborah Adams, PhD. May 2, 2007.
16. Okech, D. *U.S. immigration laws and its effects on international students with families*, ElCentro Inc. & University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. Invitation by Rupaleem Bhuyan, PhD, March 15, 2007.
17. Okech, D. *Child welfare policies and services around the world*. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, International Social Policy Class for Judy Postmus, PhD. October 22, 2005.

18. Mwashuruti, J. & Okech, D. *Transformation of Kenyan politics and constitutional agitation after the referendum: What's next?* University of Kansas, Kansas African Studies Centre, February 16, 2005.
19. Okech, D. *Disability in Kenya and the U.S: Comparative analysis of services, culture, and policies.* University of New Hampshire, NHMCH-LEND Program 2002 Class, March 28, 2003.
20. Okech, D. *Keynote address on the 2002 World AIDS Day*, University of New Hampshire Student Health & Seacoast Health Clinic, Durham, NH. December 1, 2002.

***International Consultation***

1. ChildFinance, Amsterdam, Netherlands. *Consultation on the Development of an Instrument for Children's Financial Knowledge and Education* (2010)
2. Lifeline, Accra Ghana. Development of evidence-informed intervention and reintegration program for female victims of trafficking (2015-date)

***Monographs***

Gutter, M., Mauldin, T., Mimura, Y., Moorman, D., & Okech, D. (2010 March). *Early results from the NC 1172 Regional research project "The complex nature of savings: Psychological and economic factors."* The 2010 Eastern Family Economics and Resource Management Association Conference Proceedings. Chattanooga, TN.

Okech, D. (April 2016). *Does being raised in poverty have consequences for children in adulthood?*  
<https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-underprivileged-children/5403/#david-okech>

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Instructor**

*Doctoral Program*

SOWK 8176: Data Analysis and Inferential Statistics in Social Work I  
 University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

*MSW Program*

SOWK 6011/7121: Social Welfare Policy and the Social Work Profession  
 University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 6066: Social Work Research Methods  
 University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 6074: Theories of Community and Agency Practice  
 University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 6903: Programs and Policies with Disadvantaged Populations in the U.S.

University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7000: Capstone Project for Advanced Standing Students  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7411: Advanced Policy Analysis  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7397: International Social Work  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7837: Global Perspectives in Social Welfare Issues  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7357: Children and Family Services in Ghana (Education abroad  
in Ghana)  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SOWK 7358: Conflict Resolution and Trauma in Northern Ireland  
(Education abroad in NI)  
University of Georgia School of Social Work, Athens, GA

SW 740: Research Methods in Social Work  
University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS

*BSW Program*

SW 540: Fundamentals of Social Work Research  
University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS

SW 541: Social Work Research Seminar  
University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS

**SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

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2003 – 2004

**Graduate Trainee, LEND**  
Durham, NH

Through the Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) training, I developed practice excellence in the most current knowledge regarding neurodevelopmental disabilities, the process of interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership, and strategies for continuous improvement of effective leadership. A key component of this graduate certificate program was working with families that included

children with disabilities as a member of an interdisciplinary team consisting of trainees and faculty representing the disciplines of communication disorders, early childhood education, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pediatrics, psychology, social work, and special education. I conducted home visits with families and school visits prior to and after their participation in the NH-LEND interdisciplinary developmental clinical evaluation. As a LEND trainee, I completed a research on the challenges that international students at the UNH with children face in accessing quality pre- and post-natal services. This research project offered me a first-hand experience in developing a survey instrument, collecting and analyzing data, and making a presentation to colleagues. In addition, I did a policy project that involved identifying an issue around disability and presenting the issue face-to-face to legislators at both the state and federal capitals.

2000 - 2002

**National Program Coordinator, AMUAA**  
Nairobi, Kenya

Liaison between the program and UNICEF-program funder. Helped in proposal development and fund-raising as well as writing annual progress reports for local and international donors. Focus of the program was on HIV voluntary testing and counseling for youth using sports and drama outreach. In addition, the program ran a health clinic that was also involved in public education and outreach through local forums and organizations.

1997 – 2000

**Child Development Program Director, FH International**  
Nairobi, Kenya

Served as the national country director for a child development program with over 3,000 children and 1,800 families in rural Kenya. Administered all aspects of the program, including financial and human resources. Outcomes for children included health, educational, psychological, and social as well as similar outcomes for families. Major emphasis on primary, secondary, and post-secondary education for the girl child as well as health and well-being. Program more doubled during my tenure and was evaluated to be best managed across child development programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

1994 – 1997

**Case Manager, New Life Home**  
Nairobi, Kenya

Worked as a case manager and outreach officer in an economically depressed location in Nairobi, Kenya among HIV/AIDS orphans by

providing psycho-social and economic support to child-headed households or unaccompanied children. Liaised with the school system to ensure that children stayed in school, ensured their fees were paid, and monitored their progress through home visits, case files, and group activities. I also mentored many young people who were struggling to head their families after losing both parents to HIV/AIDS.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & HONORS**

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2018	Focus on Faculty, <a href="https://news.uga.edu/david-okech/">https://news.uga.edu/david-okech/</a>
2018	Fellow, <i>Owens Institute of Behavioral Research</i>
2018	Nominee for Vice-President of the SSWR Board
2017	Top 10 Reviewer for the <i>Social Work</i> journal
2017	Fellow, <i>Society for Social Work and Research</i>
2008-2016	Professor of Impact, <i>University of Georgia Career Center</i> . Mentioned by students as a professor who has made impact in their career.
2014-2016	Research Mentoring Fellowship, University of Georgia, <i>Owen Institute for Behavioral Research</i>
2013	Most Read Article, SAGE-U.K. <i>Social Work and Social Policy Journals on World Social Work day</i> .
2011-2012	The University of Georgia Teaching Academy Fellowship
2011	The University of Georgia School of Social Work MSW Instructor of the Year
2010	Invited Doctoral Student Panelist, 14th Society on Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
2000	Best Managed Child Development Program Worldwide, FH International
1995	First Class Honors, B.A. (Social Work) - Top Student in Class

## **SUPERVISION OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS**

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### ***Supervision of Doctoral Dissertations***

1. Sunwoo Lee, (in progress). *Social exclusion among Asians in the U.S.* (Committee Member).
2. Kevin Dumolga, (in progress). *The usage of cell-phones in disease surveillance and control in West Africa.* (Committee Member).
3. Stephen McGarity, PhD. (2018). *Financial capability among poor individuals with disability.* (Dissertation Committee Chair)
4. Giselle Balfour, PhD. (2018). *Sex trafficking and access to service among girls in Atlanta.* (Dissertation Committee Chair)
5. Stephen M. Young, PhD. (2016). *Barriers to ethical decision-making for HIV/AIDS treatment providers around the globe.* (Committee Member).
6. Brendan G. Beal, PhD. (2016). *The internet, technology, and social work education.* (Committee Member).
7. James T. Gurney. PhD. (2015). *Nos Propres efforts: A case study of educational policies and practices in schools in Akebou, Togo, West Africa.* (Committee Member).
8. Jaewon Lee, PhD. (2015). *Analysis of perceptions of successful aging among older Korean immigrants and the role of resilience and acculturation as predictors.* (Committee Member).
9. Kerri J. Steele, PhD. (2013). *The evolution of employment and training programs for the homeless: An evaluation of a community outreach response to the one-stop career model.* (Committee Member).
10. Junghyun Kim, PhD. (2013). *Factors in productive aging of East Asian immigrants in the United States: An exploratory study of productive aging attributes.* (Committee Member).
11. Christine A. Carr. PhD. (2012). *Some is better than none: perspectives of educators working in nongovernment schools in the Mathare Valley slums of Nairobi, Kenya.* (Committee Member).
12. Dione M. King, PhD. (2012). *The role of adolescent risk factors in the development of a predictive model for female perpetration of teen dating violence.* (Committee Member).

***In addition to doctoral dissertations, I have supervised over 30 Masters-level independent studies as well as over 5 undergraduate honors research projects.***

### **PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

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May 2017	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) <i>Accreditation Training</i> . CSWE Office. Alexandria: VA.
2017 – 2018	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Leadership Institute Fellowship, CSWE Program Director Academy Fellowship
2017 – 2018	Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellowship
2018	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Future Leaders Program

## **VOLUNTEER & SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Community and Outreach***

2019 – Date	<u>Research Methods Advisory Panel</u> . Global fund to End Modern Slavery. Washington D.C.
2018 – Date	<u>The Antislavery Knowledge Network</u> . International Advisory Council, The Antislavery Knowledge Network: Community-Led Strategies for Creative and Heritage-Based Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, Liverpool, UK
2018 – 2021	<u>Society for Social Work and Research</u> . Nominations Committee of the Society for Social Work and Research.
2011 – Date	<u>Family Counseling Services of Athens, Inc</u> , Athens, GA. Board of Directors; Vice-President
2011 – 2014	<u>Timothy Road Elementary School</u> , Athens, GA. Board of Advisors
2011 – 2012	<u>Kumasi Children’s Home</u> , Kumasi, Ghana. Initiative to Provide a Physical Facelift for Institution
2010 – 2012	<u>Boys and Girls Clubs of Athens</u> , Athens, GA. Program Development and Extramural Fundraising
2009 – Date	<u>Kenya Self Help Project</u> , Colleyville, VT., Project Advisor and Consultant on Development and International Engagement
2010 – Date	<u>Society for Social Work and Research</u> , Fairfax, VA. Abstract Reviewer and Presentations Moderator.
2010 – Date	<u>Council on Social Work Education</u> , Alexandria, VA, Abstract Reviewer

- 2010 – 2012 Whatever it Takes, Athens, GA. Community of Practice on Resource Mapping/Fiscal Inventory Team
- 2011 Athens Area Community Foundation, Athens, GA. Consultation on Initiatives to Develop Individual Development Accounts programs
- 2007 ElCentro, Inc. Kansas City, MO. Consultation on the Effects of Immigration Laws on International Students

***University-Related Service***

*University-Wide Committees*

- 2019 Mentor, Mandela Washington Fellowship Program for Young African Leaders, see <https://yali.state.gov/MWF/>
- 2019 Panelist, UGA First Look
- 2018 - 2021 The University Faculty Grievance Committee
- 2018 - 2021 The University Human Resource Committee
- 2017 - 2018 The Owens Institute of Behavioral Research Five-Year Review
- 2016 - 2018 The University Curriculum Sub-Committee on Cultural Competence
- 2016 - 2018 The University Curriculum Sub-Committee on Global Education
- 2016 - 2018 The University Curriculum Sub-Committee on Social Sciences
- 2015 - 2018 The University Curriculum Committee
- 2015 - Date The University Council
- 2014 - 2016 The UGA International Advisory Council
- 2014 - 2016 The UGA Career Center
- 2014 - 2015 The Graduate Council, Recruitment and Retentions Sub-Committee
- 2013 - 2015 The Graduate Council
- 2013 - 2014 The Graduate Council, Programs Sub-Committee

*School of Social Work-wide Committees*

- 2016 Chair, MSW Gwinnett Coordinator Search Committee

2014 - 2019	Chair, MSW Academic Adviser Search Committee
2014	MSW Field Coordinator Search Committee
2013 - 2019	Chair, MSW Program Committee
2013 - Present	SSW Administrative Committee
2013 - 2015	Faculty Executive Committee
2012 - 2014	Doctoral Program Committee
2012 - 2013	Faculty Search Committee
2011 - 2015	Management of Non-Profit Programs Committee
2011 - 2013	Faculty Personnel Committee
2011 - 2012	Director of Field Practicum Search Committee
2009 - 2010	MSW Student Faculty Committee

Service to Other Units within the University

2016 – 2017	Faculty Search Committee, UGA College of Public Health
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**JOURNAL EDITORIAL SERVICE**

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Editorial Board:

2017 – Present	<i>Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research</i>
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2013 – Present	<i>Education Law and Policy Review</i>
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Consulting Editor:

2015 - Present	<i>Social Work</i>
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2015 - Present	<i>Social Work Research</i>
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2013 – Present	<i>Research on Social Work Practice</i>
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Special Issue Guest Editor:

2017-2018	<i>Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work</i> Research on the Identification, Intervention, and Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking
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Special Issue Reviewer:  
2012

*Economics of Education Review*  
*Savings for Higher Education*

Ad hoc Reviewer:

*British Journal of Social Work,*  
*Children and Youth Services Review*  
*International Social Work*  
*Journal of Social Work*  
*Journal of Policy Practice*  
*Journal of Poverty*  
*Affilia*  
*Journal of Contemporary African Studies*  
*Journal of Family and Economic Issues*

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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Council on Social Work Education

National Association of Social Workers

Society for Social work and Research

Financial Capability and Asset Building Research Group

Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars

Co-convener, SSWR Human Trafficking Special Interest Group