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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 and human trafficking
- 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
- Mechanisms for building household and community assets that have long-term social, economic, and psychological benefits to vulnerable children
- Global social work practice and policy interventions

EDUCATION

2008	<i>Ph.D.</i> , University of Kansas	Lawrence, KS
2004	<i>M.S.W.</i> , University of New Hampshire	Durham, NH
	<i>Certificate</i> , Leadership in Children's Health and Disability, University of New Hampshire	Durham, NH
1995	<i>B.A.</i> , University of Nairobi Major: Social Work (summa cum laude)	Nairobi, Kenya

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-2023	<i>Professor</i> University of Georgia, School of Social Work	Athens, GA
2014-2020	<i>Associate Professor</i> University of Georgia, School of Social Work	Athens, GA
2008-2014	<i>Assistant Professor</i> University of Georgia, School of Social Work	Athens, GA

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

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|--------------|---|------------|
| 2021-Present | <p>Center Director, <i>Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Center at the University of Georgia approved by the Georgia Board of Regents consisting of international and domestic projects focused on advancing human trafficking science• Administering of Prevalence Research Innovation Forum, a consortium of 7 international research projects, each conducting prevalence data research in global trafficking hotspots | Athens, GA |
| 2015-2021 | <p>Director, <i>African Programming Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-created a consortium of interdisciplinary faculty from the University of Georgia (USA), University of Liverpool (UK), and Makerere University (Uganda).• Managed over \$4.3 million in human trafficking research in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).• Implemented a novel community-based participatory research mixed methods research in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Senegal that include in-depth interviews and the network scale-up method of interviewing hard-to-reach populations. | Athens, GA |
| 2014-2019 | <p><i>Director of Masters of Social Work Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led the revision and reorganization of the MSW curriculum (2016)• Helped in writing the MSW self-study for the CSWE re-accreditation (2018)• Established intake and exit interviews for MSW students (2014-19)• MSW program ranking moved from 38 in 2014 to 22 in 2019• Improved retention of minority and disadvantaged MSW students through federal grants that provided scholarships to over 500 students | Athens, GA |

2013-2016

Director of Global Engagement

- Planned and executed World Social Work Days in 2014, 2015, and 2016
- Formed the International Social Work Student Association (ISWSA)
- Co-led education abroad programs to Ghana and the Northern Ireland
- Initiated international research collaboration with faculty at the University of Ghana and University of Liverpool on human trafficking in West Africa
- 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)

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

2023-2025	Co-Principal Investigator, <i>Evaluating the Move with HaRT intervention on improving mental health of human trafficking survivors in Uganda</i> (PI- Catherine Carlson, University of Alabama) Innovations for Policy Action, Washington D.C. 2023-2025	\$450,000
2022-2028	Principal Investigator, <i>Reducing Trafficking through Financial Capability in Sub-Saharan Africa</i> . US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Grant # SSJTIP22CA0029 [Phase 1, October 1, 2022-24, \$2.2m. Phase 2, 2024-28, \$7.8m]	\$10,320,000
2022-2024	Co-Principal Investigator, <i>Standard tools for measuring trafficking in persons: A collaboration between the UGA, ILO, UNODC, and IOM</i> .	\$181,648
2022	Investigator, <i>Mandela-Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative</i> , International Research & Exchanges Board, Grant # FP00025375	\$185,929
2022-2023	Co-Principal Investigator, <i>Human trafficking and public health: Domestic abuse and child trafficking in Africa</i> . A UGA/University of Munich Faculty Exchange Program, UGA Office of Global Engagement and University of Munich, Germany	\$4,500
2020-2025	Principal Investigator, <i>Measuring the Prevalence of Trafficking around the World: Implications for Research, Programming, and Policy</i> , US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Grant # SSJTIP18CA0032MD	\$4,000,000
2019-2024	Principal Investigator, <i>Measuring the Prevalence of Trafficking around the World: Implications for Research, Programming, and Policy</i> , US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Grant # SSJTIP18CA0032	\$15,750,000
2018-2023	Principal Investigator, <i>Anti-trafficking Research and Programming in West Africa</i> , US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Grant #: SSJTIP18CA0015	\$4,000,000

2018-2019	Co-Principal Investigator, <i>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</i> , UGA Office of Global Engagement and University of Liverpool International Program's Office	\$10,000
2017-2019	Principal Investigator, <i>Developing evidence-based reintegration programming for female victims of trafficking in West Africa</i> , UGA Presidents' Interdisciplinary Seed Grant	\$140,162
2017-2018	Principal Investigator, <i>Global research collaboration on human trafficking research, policy, and programming</i> , UGA Office of Global Engagement	\$8,000
2015-2017	Principal Investigator, <i>Reintegration of female victims of trafficking in Ghana</i> , Owens institute of Behavioral Research, UGA	\$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, Grant #: T08HP30171	\$2,600,00
2014-2017*	Co-principal Investigator, <i>Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Students</i> , DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration, Grant #: T08HP30171	\$1,301,125
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, Grant #: T08HP30171	\$900,000
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

*Graduate student training grants

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review

Kawashima, T., Clay-Warner, J., & Okech, D. *The Protective Effect of Parents' Network-based Social Capital on Child Labor Exploitation in Guinea*

Okech, D., et al. *Stakeholder perceptions of gaps and solutions in addressing child trafficking.*

Balch, A., Cody, A., Okech, D., Callands, T., Fofanah, U., Wurie, H.R., *Unveiling Child Trafficking: Local Perspectives and Context in Addressing Sustainable Development Goals in Sierra Leone"*

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Vincent, K., Yi, H., Okech, D., Clay-Warner, J., & Dioh, F. A Novel Respondent-Driven Sampling Estimation Methodology Applied to a Sex-Trafficked Population in the Kédougou Region of Senegal. (in press).

Schroeder, E., Okech, D., Yi, H., Bolton, C., & Aletraris, L. *Do social service interventions for human trafficking survivors work? A systematic review and meta-analysis* (in press)

Cody, A., Okech, D., Yi, H., Aletraris, L., Clay-Warner, J., & Calland, T. *When child trafficking and Informal fostering intersect: A mixed methods study* (in press)

Yi, H., Vincent, K., Okech, D., Kewashima, T., Edgemon, T., Clay-Warner, J., & Aletraris, L. An empirical comparison of a traditional strategy and network scale-Up method for prevalence estimation of child trafficking in Sierra Leone. *Crime & Delinquency*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287231170122>

Balfour, G., Callands, T., Okech, D., & Kombian, G. (2022). A qualitative analysis of the intervention experiences of trafficking survivors and at-risk women in Ghana. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 8(3), 334-348. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2020.1806186>

Rai, A., Lee, S., Jang, J., & Eunhye, L., & Okech, D. (2022). Utility of structural equation modeling in social work research: a call to strengthen doctoral social work education. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. 42(5), 538-570, DOI: 10.1080/08841233.2022.2120161

Schroeder, E., Edgemon, T. E., Kagotho, N., Aletraris, L., Clay-Warner, J., & Okech, D. (2022). A Review of Prevalence Estimation Methods for Human Trafficking Populations. *Public Health Reports*, 137(1), 465-525. DOI: 10.1177/00333549211044010

Saasa, S., Okech, D., Choi, J.Y., Nackerud, L. (2022). The impact of social exclusion on mental health and social well-being among African immigrants in the United States. *International Social Work*, 65(4), 787-803 DOI: [10.1177/0020872820963425](https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872820963425)

Clay-Warner, J., Edgemon, T.E., Okech, D., & Anarfi, J.K. (2021). Violence predicts physical health

consequences of human trafficking: Findings from a longitudinal study of labor trafficking in Ghana. *Social Science and Medicine*, 279, 1-7. DOI: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113970](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113970)

- Okech, D., & Matthew, R. (2020). The effects of sociodemographic factors on the economic behavior of poorer households in the U.S. and Kenya. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 541-559. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02589001.2020.1825648>
- Balfour, G., Callands, T., Okech, D., & Kombian, G. (2020). Lifeline: A qualitative analysis of the post intervention experiences of trafficking survivors and at-risk women and girls in Ghana. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work*, 332-346. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/26408066.2020.1729920>
- McGarity, S., & Okech, D., Risler, E., & Clees, J. (2019). Factors associated with social capability among people with disabilities. *Journal of Social Work*, 20(5), 657-672. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468017319860308>
- 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
- 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>
- 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>
- 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), 123-136. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23761407.2017.1419154>
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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.
- 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
- 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
- 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.chilyouth.2013.03.002
- 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.
- 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
- 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
- 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.13652206.2012.00861.x
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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/s10834010-9234-z
- 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
- 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
- Beverly, S.G. & Okech, D. (2005). A case for measures of asset poverty. *Measurement: Interdisciplinary Research and Perspectives*, 3(4), 242-247.

Books

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*, (6th edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 978-0-205-64771-2

Book Chapters

Okech, D., Wurie, H., Schroeder, E., & Lewis, R. *Cross-Sectoral Models to Inform Policy and Promote Sustainability in Global Social Work* (in press)

Okech, D., Bolton, C., & Schroeder, E. (2021). *Financial education in human trafficking interventions: Implications for research, programming, and policy* (p. 223-238), DOI: 10.4324/9781003025221-20, In G. Nicolini, & B.J. Cude, (Eds). *Handbook on Financial Literacy*. Routledge, Milton Park Abingdon (UK). ISBN 978036745778

Lowe, T.B., Okech, D., & Washington, T. (2017). *Preparing to intervene in child trafficking: Interdisciplinary Ghana Study Abroad Program*. In S. Chamos (Ed.) *Creating successful bridges through study abroad: An international social work and cultural competency approach* (p. 95-118). Nova Science Publishers: NY. ISBN 9781536136524

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. ISBN 9780367352226

Okech, D. (2017). *Child development accounts*. In K. Corcoran (Ed.), *Social Work Desk Reference* (5th edition) (pp. 300-310) NY, New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780199329649

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

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., Clay-Warner, J., Balch, A., Callands, T., Yi, H., Cody, A., & Bolton, C. (2022). *Severe forms of sex trafficking in the gold mining areas of Kedougou, Senegal*. Center for Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA. [160-page report]. https://cenhtrou.uga.edu/_resources/documents/SN%20BASELINE%20REPORT%20C.pdf

Okech, D., Clay-Warner, J., Balch, A., Callands, T., Yi, H., Cody, A., & Bolton, C. (2022). *Child*

- Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Guinea: A Mixed Methods Study*. Center for Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA. [233-page report]. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/_resources/documents/Guinea%20Baseline%20.pdf
- Okech, D., Kelly, J., Mame Soukeye, M., Cronberg, A., Yi, H., Cody, A., Clay Warner, J., Woubedle, A., Nupur, K., Shiyun, M., Cheikh Moussa, N., Alioune Badara, T., Balch, A., Bolton, C., Onyioha-Clayton, N., et Diagne Barre, A. (2022). *Formes graves de trafic sexuel dans les zones aurifères de Kédougou, Sénégal*. Centre de recherche et de sensibilisation sur la traite des êtres humains, Université de Géorgie, Athens, GA, USA. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/_resources/documents/SN%20BASELINE%20REPORT%20FR.pdf
- Okech, D., Aletraris, L., & Kagotho, N. (2022). *Statistical indicators for human trafficking researchers*. Center for Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA
- Okech, D., Clay-Warner, J., Balch, A., Callands, T., Yi, H., Cody, A., & Bolton, C. (2021). *Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Sierra Leone: A Mixed Methods Study*. Center for Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA. [193-page report].
- Delta 8.7 Justice policy guide. (2021). United Nations University Center for Policy Research. Okech, D.- Working group member. <https://delta87.org/resources/policy-guides/policy-guide-working-groups/justice/>
- Bermudez, L.G.; Okech, D.; & Prakash, M. (Eds.). (2021). *Prevalence estimation methods brief*. GFEMS/Norad. Washington D.C. [French version available].
- Okech, D., Aletraris, L., & Schroeder, E. (2020). *Human trafficking statistical definitions: Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum*. University of Georgia African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery & The US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.
- Okech, D. et al. (2019). *A training manual on collecting data to identify service and policy gaps for human trafficking survivors*. The African Programming and Research initiative to End Slavery. Athens, GA: USA & Makerere University, Uganda.
- Okech, D. et al. (2017). *Social, psychological, and economic outcomes of formerly trafficked women who received intervention and reintegration services*. The African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery. Athens, GA: USA
- Okech, D. et al. (2017). *The new MSW curriculum document: philosophy and organization*. The University of Georgia School of Social Work. Athens, GA.

High Impact Creative Scholarly Activities

Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (2020-2023)

Dr. Okech is the convener and director of the first global Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF) that brings together leading researchers in the field of human trafficking to extend the science of existing and novel techniques in prevalence estimation. Among the PRIF partners include NORC at the University of Chicago, Stanford University, the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Columbia University, John Jay College, and the Freedom Fund. Other partners are Ohio State University and Oregon State University. See, <https://apries.uga.edu/prif/>. As director of PRIF, Dr. Okech will work with the research teams to establish prevalence of human trafficking in selected hotspots in the following countries: Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Tunisia. This is the first known initiative globally to test two methods or more in establishing prevalence in human trafficking

The first PRIF Conference was held in May 20-22, 2020 virtually (because of the COVID 19 pandemic). Over 700 people attended virtually and it was addressed by senior federal officials from the US Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, and Department of Labor.

The second PRIF conference, where researchers presented their findings was in May 23-25, 2023 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. This meeting was also attended by members of the UNODC, ILO, IOM, as well as the Provost, who officially opened the conference.

Regional Conference of ECOWAS States on Ending Human Trafficking, 2023

Dr. Okech brought together cabinet ministers, the ECOWAS President, and the Sierra Leone President in April 24-26, 2023 in Freetown, Sierra Leone to find ways of empirically reducing human trafficking in the ECOWAS region. The conference was attended by 600 people including government, NGO, UN, private sector, academics, survivors, and community leaders to identify causes, vulnerabilities, and potential solutions for cross-border trafficking in the Economic Community of West African States –ECOWAS. See, <https://ecowas.int/ecowas-commits-to-ending-human-trafficking-in-the-region/>.

US Department of State Ambassador-at-large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Cindy Dyer addressed the conference. See, <https://www.state.gov/united-states-ambassador-at-large-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons-cindy-dyer-to-deliver-pre-recorded-remarks-at-the-inaugural-regional-conference-on-ending-human-trafficking-of-the-econ/>.

The outcome of the conference is the Freetown Roadmap that committed itself to cooperate to a systematic approach to address cross-border trafficking. See, <https://thecalabashnewspaper.com/ecowas-regional-conference-on-ending-human-trafficking-ends-in-sierra-leone/>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Peer-reviewed Conference Presentations

- Datta, S.G., Li, J., Yi, H., Clay-Warner J., Okech D. (2023, August 5-10). *Small area prevalence estimation of child trafficking at lower administrative levels of a country*. Joint Statistical Meetings, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Cody, A.M., Callands, T. A., & Okech, D. (2023, May 17-20). *Using an Ecological Lens to Explore Child Trafficking Vulnerabilities in Sierra Leone: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis*. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Urbana, Illinois, United States.
- Okech, D., Balch, A., Hansen, N., Callands, T., Bolton, C., & Aletraris, A. (2023, January 12-16). *International implementation research: Community-based research on hard-to-reach populations during a global pandemic*. A roundtable. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Callands, T., Okech, D., & Cody, A. (2023, January 12-16). *Enhancing Rigor, Transparency and Impact of Multi-Source, Multi-Methods Qualitative Analysis: A Workshop Exploring the Use of Framework Matrices as a Practical, Organizational and Analytical Tool Supporting Comparative Thematic Analysis*. A workshop. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

- Okech, D., Yi, H., Clay Warner, J., & Aletraris, L. (2023, January 12-16). *Using the Network Scale-up Method for estimating child trafficking prevalence in a low-resourced country*. A workshop. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Okech, D., Laursen, S., Galez-Davis, C., Lane, E., Cook, H., Todorova, I., & Jasi, P. (2023, January 24-26). *New standards and frameworks for measurement of trafficking in person (IFMS 2023)*. The International Forum on Migration Statistics Conference. Santiago, Chile.
- Cody, A.M., Callands, T. A., Okech, D. (2022, May 18-22). *Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Approach to Analyzing Big Multi-Methods Qualitative Data while Centering Perspectives of Potentially Vulnerable Populations*. [Conference presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Urbana, Illinois, United States.
- Cody, A.M., Callands, T. A., Schroeder, E.L., Okech, D. (2022, February 17-18). *Responding to Child Trafficking in Sierra Leone: A Qualitative Analysis Centering Survivors, Parents, Community Members and Professional Perspectives in Identifying Gaps in Policy and Service Initiatives* [Conference presentation]. Northern Colorado Human Trafficking Symposium, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States.
- Okech, D., Clay Warner, J., Yi, H., Li, J., & Kewashima, T. (2022, January 12-16). *Estimating the prevalence of child trafficking in a low-resourced country: Nesting the network scale-up method on a household survey*. A workshop. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington D.C. [Not presented due to COVID-19].
- Okech, D., Callands, T., Balch, A., Konteh, F., & Bolton, C. (2022, January 12-16). *Community-based international implementation research on a hard-to-reach population in the midst of a pandemic*. A Roundtable. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington D.C., [Not presented due to COVID-19].
- Schroeder, E. & Okech, D. (2021, November). *Assessing the Importance of Trafficking Survivors' Perception of Residential Services on Long-term Outcomes: A Hierarchical Regression Model*. [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Schroeder, E. & Okech, D. (2021, January). *Factors associated with physical and mental health outcomes among female trafficking survivors: A hierarchical regression model* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work Research Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Okech, D., Balch, A., Clay Warner, J., Tumuhameye, N., & Mayega, R. (2020, January 15-20). *Innovations in Human Trafficking Research: Locating Hard-to-Reach Populations*. [A workshop]. 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Rai, A., Lee, S., & Okech, D. (2020, January 15-20). *Recent developments in the use of structural equation modeling in social work research*. [Poster Presentation]. 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Okech, D., Salas-Wright, C., & Thyer, B. (2020, January 15-20). *Predatory Conferences: Are the Flight and Hotel Costs Worth the Effort?* [A workshop]. 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Callands, T., Hansen, B., Elkins, J., Kogan, S., Clay Warner, J., & Okech, D. (2018, November 14-17). *Pathways to trafficking victimization*. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- Clay-Warner, J., Callands, T., Okech, D., Hansen, N., Elkins, J., & Kogan, S. (2018,

- November 14-17). Physical and psychological health consequences of human trafficking. Pathways to trafficking victimization. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- Kogan, S.M., Topple, T., Okech, D., Callands, T., Clay-Warner, J., & Elkins, J. (2018, November 14-17) PTSD among survivors of trafficking: the influence of community support and adverse childhood experiences. Pathways to trafficking victimization. American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- Miller, S.E., Okech, D., Cornelius, L., & Scheyett, A. (2018, November 8-11). Identifying and releasing power blocks to enacting lived Social Justice. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Saasa, S., & Okech, D. (2018, November 8-11). 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.
- Okech, D. (2018, January 10-14). 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.
- Salas-Wright, C., Thyer, B., Okech, D., & Maynard, D. (2018, January 10-14). *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.
- Waylon, H., & Okech, D. (2018, January 10-14). *How are they doing? Mapping Female Survivors of Trafficking to Prevent Re-Trafficking*. [Poster Presentation]. 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research Washington. DC.
- Sunwoo, L., & Okech, D. (2018, January 10-14). *A Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Hopkins Symptom Checklist with Ghanaian Female Survivors of Trafficking*. [Poster Presentation]. 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC,
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Kim, J., & Okech, D. (2013, January). *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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- Okech, D. (2023, June 22). *Compelling funding proposals: Reflections from funders. Equity in Evidence: Fusing lived experience and community knowledge into research to end human trafficking.* Barber-Surgeon's Hall, London, UK.
- Okech, D. (2023, May 23). *Keynote address – Human trafficking prevalence estimation.* The Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum. University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA, USA.
- Okech, D. (2023, May 23). *Closing address – Human trafficking prevalence estimation – The way forward.* The Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum. University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA, USA.
- Okech, D. (2023, April 25). *Plenary address – Child trafficking in Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS.* Regional Conference of ECOWAS States on Ending Human Trafficking, 2023. Government of Sierra

- Leone, the International Organization of Migration, the US Department of State, the University of Georgia, and the ECOWAS Commission. Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Okech, D. (2023, April 25). Plenary address – *Child trafficking: Emerging trends and solutions*. Regional Conference of ECOWAS States on Ending Human Trafficking, 2023. Government of Sierra Leone, the International Organization of Migration, the US Department of State, the University of Georgia, and the ECOWAS Commission. Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Schroeder, E., Fofanah, U., Bruder, J., & Okech, D. (2022, November 11). *Developing a decentralized approach to program evaluation in child protection programs*. UNICEF Global Evaluation Meeting. NY: USA
- Okech, D. (2022, July 7). *Counter-trafficking policies across the globe*. Presentation to the Mandela-Washington Fellows. The Fanning Institute, University of Georgia.
- Okech, D. (May 12, 2022). *Using research to influence counter-trafficking efforts: A public health approach*. Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, College of Public Health, Germany.
- Okech, D. (2022, April 20). *Preliminary findings of sex trafficking among women in the Kedougou area, Senegal*. Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar, Senegal.
- Okech, D. (2022, April). *Panel on sex trafficking and government policy in Senegal*. Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar, Senegal.
- Okech, D., Yao, M., Sworn, H., Mukwaya, G., & Turay, L. (2022, March 27). *Covid-19 and modern slavery. A panel*. 9th Annual Global Freedom from Slavery Forum. Marrakech, Morocco.
- Okech, D., Dang, M., Larsen, J., Semione, J. R., & Gurung, B.Y. (2022, March 28). *Effective research engagement in human trafficking. A panel*. 9th Annual Global Freedom from Slavery Forum. Marrakech, Morocco.
- Okech, D. (2022, February 27). *Child Trafficking and child labor in Sierra Leone: The role of CenHTRO*. National Conference on Trafficking in Persons, Freetown, Sierra Leone. A presentation before the President of Sierra Leone and other dignitaries.
- Okech, D. (2022, February 27). *Protecting children against child trafficking and child labor*. National Conference on Trafficking in Person, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Schroeder, E., Balfour, G., & Okech, D. (2021, November 15). *Reintegration of human trafficking survivors: Using data to improve outcome*. US Department of State, Washington DC.
- Okech, D. (2021, August 12). *Panel on the sex trafficking of girls and women in Senegal. Panel consisted of senior government, NGO, and academics from Senegal* (virtual).
- Okech, D. (2021, July 6). *Human trafficking and COVID-19 in Africa, Keynote Address*. The Freedom Fund, Washington, D.C.
- Okech, D. (2021, June 18). *Human trafficking research and programming*. University of Alaska (virtual).
- Okech, D. (2021, March 2). *Prevalence data on child trafficking and child labor; drivers and facilitators*. Launch of Sierra Leone Programming (virtual).
- Okech, D. (2020, February 5). *Issues and challenges in human trafficking prevalence estimation*. Multi-agency Federal Stakeholders Conference on Human Trafficking. Washington, D.C.
- Okech, D. (2019, October 8). *Human trafficking and financial capability: Reducing vulnerability through economic development*. Thirteenth Annual One Team Conference, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA). Athens, Georgia.
- Okech, D. (2019, May). *Human trafficking and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities for Research*. Atlanta, GA.

- Okech, D. (2018, October 9). *Issues and opportunities in human trafficking research*. The International Slavery Museum. Liverpool, UK.
- Okech, D., Callands, T., & Clay-Warner, J. (2018, May 16). *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.
- Okech, D. (2017, September 6). *Human trafficking in Ghana: Social, health, and economic implications*. APERO Lectures. Organized by the UGA ASI.
- Balfour, G., Afroz, F., & Okech, D. (2017, October 20). *The Trafficking of Women in the W. African Context: Findings from Trafficking Survivors*. Women's Rights as Human Rights Conference. Organized by UGA Globis.
- Okech, D., & Kogan, S.M. (2017, July 5). *Writing a quantitative research doctoral dissertation: From beginning to end*. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies, Legon Accra, Ghana. [Workshop on dissertation writing].
- Okech, D., & Danikuu, A.D. (2017, July 5). *Human trafficking in Ghana: Preliminary findings*. University of Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies, Legon-Accra, Ghana.
- Okech, D. (2014, March 18) *The world in your time: Globalization and social work*. University of Georgia Honors Program.
- Okech, D. (2015, April 7) 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.
- Okech, D. (2012, May 5) *University of Georgia School of Social Work Keynote Commencement Address*. Athens, GA.
- Okech, D. (2011, April 26) *Individual Development Accounts Strategies for Athens, GA*. Athens First Bank.
- Okech, D. & Mauldin, T. (2009, November 19) *Asset-building among lower-income households: The role of household characteristics and institutional factors*. UGA Brown Bag Series.
- Adams, D., Okech, D., Beverly, S.G., & Clancy, M. (2008, April 11-14) *Overview of the Savings for Education, Entrepreneurship and Downpayment (SEED)*. SEED Semi-annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Okech, D. (2007, September 5) *Community development from an international perspective*, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Community and Administrative Practice Class for Mark Ezell, PhD.
- Okech, D. (2007, May 2) *International social work and opportunities for MSWs*. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Policy. Invitation by Deborah Adams, PhD.
- Okech, D. (2007, March 15) *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.
- Okech, D. (2005, October 2022) *Child welfare policies and services around the world*. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, International Social Policy Class for Judy Postmus, PhD.
- Mwashuruti, J. & Okech, D. (2005, February 16) *Transformation of Kenyan politics and constitutional agitation after the referendum: What's next?* University of Kansas, Kansas African Studies Centre.

- Okech, D. (2003, March 28) *Disability in Kenya and the U.S: Comparative analysis of services, culture, and policies*. University of New Hampshire, NHMCH-LEND Program 2002 Class.
- Okech, D. (2002, December 1) *Keynote address on the 2002 World AIDS Day*, University of New Hampshire Student Health & Seacoast Health Clinic, Durham, NH.

IMPACT OF RESEARCH ON COMMUNITIES, PROFESSION, & GRADUATE STUDENTS

Community Impact

- Collected the largest scale baseline surveys with thousands of household samples on child trafficking and child labor in Guinea and Sierra Leone
- Contributed through the Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Sierra Leone and key stakeholders to pass the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Bill 2021 of Sierra Leone, which has a new focus on cross-border trafficking
- Commended by the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone on our efforts to combat Child trafficking in the country. See, <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/president-bio-renews-commitment-to-help-combat-people-trafficking/>
- Using data to inform programming and policy work by our implementing partners in Sierra Leone and Guinea including the UNODC, Free the Slaves, and World Hope International
- Brought together the first stakeholders conference in Senegal including government, NGOs, survivors, and academics in April 2022
- Currently collaborating with the UNODC, ILO, and IOM in developing global standard measures for modern slavery across the globe-in recognition of stature in the space

Professional Impact

- Designed and executed the first ever global Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF)-a global project to test and validate the various prevalence estimation methods in human trafficking. See, https://apries.uga.edu/prif/about_prif/
- Established an interdisciplinary and international center on human trafficking research and programming. See, <https://cenhtro.uga.edu/>
- Awarded seed grants to two faculty to begin domestic trafficking research. See, https://cenhtro.domain-account.com/about/domestic_projects/
- Currently mentoring three Research Scientists at the Center

Impact on Graduate Students

- Through CenHTRO, mentored and funded over 20 graduate students to date through the Future Leaders Program, see https://cenhtro.uga.edu/about/domestic_projects/
- Funded over 500 MSW student scholarships between 2010-2016 totaling \$4.8 million who are mostly working in medically underserved rural communities in the state of Georgia

- Student success outcomes include Fulbright Fellowship and the International Labor Organization fellowships
- Data used by doctoral students for dissertation research

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Classes

SOWK 8176*	Data Analysis and Inferential Statistics in Social Work I, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 8309	Independent Social Work Study, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 8428	Comprehensive Exams, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 8240	Dissertation Prospectus, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 9000	Doctoral Research, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 9300	Doctoral Dissertation, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA

Master of Social Work Classes

SOWK 6011	Data Analysis and Inferential Statistics in Social Work I, University of Georgia	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 7121*	Social Welfare Policy, Programs, and Issues, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 7225	Advanced Social Work Field Education, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA

SOWK 7340*	Global Social Work Policy and Practice, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 7411	Advanced Policy Analysis, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
SOWK 7387	Topics in Social Problems, 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

Bachelor of Social Work Classes

SOWK 5326	Social Work Research Methods, University of Georgia School of Social Work	Athens, GA
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

*New courses created by Dr. Okech

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Social Work Experience

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 2003-2004 | Graduate Trainee, <i>Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)</i> | Durham, NH |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• 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 | |
| 2000-2002 | National Program Coordinator, <i>A Million United Against AIDS/UNICEF</i> | Nairobi, Kenya |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program focused on HIV voluntary testing and counseling for youth using sports and drama outreach• 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• Ran a health clinic that was also involved in public education and outreach through local forums and organizations | |
| 1997-2000 | Child Development Program Director, <i>FH International</i> | Nairobi, Kenya |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Major emphasis on primary, secondary, and post-secondary education for female children as well as health and well-being• Program doubled during my tenure and evaluated as one of the best managed child development programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America | |

Nairobi, Kenya

1994-1997

Case Manager, *New Life Home*

- 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
 - Mentored many young people who were struggling to head their families after losing both parents to HIV/AIDS
-

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & HONORS

- 2022 International Labor Organization's International Advisory Board, Fundamentals Branch, Evidence Gap Map on Human Trafficking Workgroup Expert Member
- 2022 Helped pass the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Bill 2021 of Sierra Leone, signed into law in April 2022
- 2021 Expert Committee, ILO/UNODC/Government of Norway technical expert on human trafficking in the fishing industry
- 2021 Keynote address, Freedom from Slavery Forum for Africa
- 2020 One of the three highest-funded University of Georgia (UGA) faculty
- 2019 UGA Provost's Club of \$2 Million
- 2019 MSW Program Re-accreditation
- 2018 Distinguished Scholar, Owens Institute on Behavioral Research, UGA
- 2018 Nominee for Vice President of the Society for Social Work Research Board
- 2018 Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Future Leaders Program
- 2017-18 CSWE Leadership Institute Fellowship, CSWE Program Director Academy Fellowship
- 2017-18 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellowship (SEC-ALDP)
- 2017 Top 10 Reviewer for the *Social Work* journal
- 2017 Fellow, Society for Social Work Research
- 2015-17 Revision and reorganization of the MSW Curriculum
- 2014-17 Transformation of Global Engagement Program
- 2014-16 Research Mentoring Fellowship, UGA, *Owen Institute for Behavioral Research*
- 2013 Most Read Article, SAGE-U.K. *Social Work and Social Policy Journals on World Social Work day*
- 2011-12 UGA Teaching Academy Fellowship
- 2011 UGA School of Social Work, MSW Instructor of the Year
- 2008-21 Professor of Impact, UGA Career Center. Mentioned by students as a professor who made an impact in their career.
- 2000 Best Managed Child Development Program Worldwide, FH International

1995

First Class Honors, B.A. (Social Work) - Top Student in Class

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Dumbuya, I. (2022, August 10). Child Trafficking on the increase in Eastern Province. *Concord Times Newspaper*. 17(140250709). Freetown, Sierra Leone. <https://slconcordtimes.com/digital-publication-181/>
- Gallant, A. (2022, July 6). Fulbright helps UGA researcher improve outcomes of child trafficking Survivors. *UGAResearch*. <https://research.uga.edu/news/fulbright-helps-uga-researcher-improve-outcomes-of-child-trafficking-survivors/>
- New Sierra Leone Think Tank on anti-trafficking (2022, May 20). *Concord Times Newspaper*. Freetown, Sierra Leone. <https://slconcordtimes.com/new-sierra-leone-think-tank-on-anti-trafficking/>
- Sexual exploitation and human trafficking in eastern Senegal: the fight is on. (2022, April 22). *Ouestaf News, Senegal*. <https://www.ouestaf.com/exploitation-sexuelle-et-traite-des-etres-humains-dans-lest-du-senegal-la-lutte-est-lancee/>
- Postcard: Collaborating to End Modern Slavery in Sierra Leone. (2022, April 11). *University of Liverpool News*. <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2022/04/11/postcard-collaborating-to-end-modern-slavery-in-sierra-leone/>
- Kapadia, K. (2022, March 22). UGA professor works to combat human trafficking. *The Red & Black*. https://www.redandblack.com/uganews/uga-professor-works-to-combat-human-trafficking/article_d71901d2-a962-11ec-94d5-5fef6cebbaeb.html
- Politico Staff Writer. (2022, March 8). Massive Child Trafficking in the east *Politico, Sierra Leone*. <https://www.politicosl.com/articles/massive-child-trafficking-east-sierra-leone>
- Human trafficking is an act of slavery- President Bio. (2022, March 1). *Concord Times Newspaper*. Freetown, Sierra Leone. <https://slconcordtimes.com/human-trafficking-is-an-act-of-slavery-president-bio/>
- Thomas, A.R. (2022, March 1). President Bio renews commitment to help combat people trafficking. *Sierra Leone Telegraph*. <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/president-bio-renews-commitment-to-help-combat-people-trafficking/>
- High number of Sierra Leone children trafficked before 18th birthday. (2022, February 25). *University of Liverpool News*. <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2022/02/25/high-number-of-sierra-leone-children-trafficked-before-18th-birthday/>
- Gallant, A. (2022, February 15). David Okech talks combatting human trafficking, globally and locally. *UGAResearch*. <https://research.uga.edu/news/david-okech-talks-combatting-human-trafficking-globally-and-locally/>
- New Center to Combat Global Human Trafficking. (2021, October 22). *SWHelper News*. <https://swhelper.org/2021/10/22/new-center-to-combat-global-human-trafficking/>
- Beeson, L. (2021, May 26). Modern Slavery: Faculty and alumni are working to end the \$150B human trafficking industry. *UGA Today*. <https://news.uga.edu/battling-modern-slavery/>
- Matheny, M. (2021, April 1). UGA Creates New Center on Human Trafficking. *WUGA, NPR* <https://www.wuga.org/local-news/2021-04-01/uga-creates-new-center-on-human-trafficking>

- Thomas, A.R. (2021, March 6). Vice president Jalloh welcomes new U.S. anti-trafficking program in Sierra Leone. *Sierra Leone Telegraph*. <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/vice-president-jalloh-welcomes-new-u-s-anti-trafficking-program-in-sierra-leone/>
- Thomas, A.R. (2021, February 28). University of Georgia to host virtual launch of anti-trafficking program in Sierra Leone. *Sierra Leone Telegraph*. <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/university-of-georgia-to-host-virtual-launch-of-anti-trafficking-program-in-sierra-leone/>
- Anderson, L. (2020, October 27). UGA awarded additional \$4 million for human trafficking program. *UGAResearch*. <https://research.uga.edu/news/uga-awarded-additional-4-million-for-human-trafficking-program/>
- Beeson, L. (2020, January 11). UGA-founded consortium seeks end to human trafficking. *Savannah Morning News*. <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/education/campus/2020/01/11/uga-founded-consortium-seeks-end-to-human-trafficking/1916470007/>
- Beeson, L. (2020, January 11). UGA-founded consortium seeks end to human trafficking. *Athens Banner Herald*. <https://www.onlineathens.com/story/news/education/campus/2020/01/11/uga-founded-consortium-seeks-end-to-human-trafficking/1916470007/>
- Slavery project boosted by \$15.75m from US State Department. (2019, December 16). *University of Liverpool News*. <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2019/12/16/slavery-project-boosted-by-15-75m-from-us-state-department/>
- Salerno, A. (2019, December 13). Athens News Matters: UGA Researcher Receives Grant for Human Trafficking Research. *WUGA, NPR*. <https://www.wuga.org/local-programs/2019-12-13/athens-news-matters-uga-researcher-receives-grant-for-human-trafficking-research#stream/0>
- Beeson, L. (2019, December 4). Working to end modern slavery in Africa and beyond. *UGAResearch*. <https://research.uga.edu/news/working-to-end-modern-slavery-in-africa-and-beyond/>
- Stirgus, E. (2019, November 20). UGA gets \$15.75 million to research and reduce human trafficking. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. <https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/uga-gets-million-research-and-reduce-human-trafficking/U4MGEyV6oeVH3NBAAtFpeP/>
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- Anderson, L. (2019, August 27). Human trafficking in Georgia: The need for data. *UGA Today*. University of Georgia. <https://news.uga.edu/human-trafficking-georgia-need-data/>
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- Morehead, J.W. (2019, January 15). UGA Research Making an Impact. *Statements & Remarks from the Office of the President*. University of Georgia. https://president.uga.edu/statements_remarks/detail/messages/uga-research-making-an-impact/
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STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Supervision of Doctoral Dissertations

- 2022 Fahmida Afroz, *Resilience in human trafficking victims: Evidence from Sierra Leone. In process.*
Chair
- 2021 Violet Nkwanzu (University of Alabama), *Exploring the rates of childhood vulnerabilities and their association with mental health symptoms among female survivors of human trafficking in Ghana: The moderating role of social support. In process.*
External Committee Member
- 2021 Elyssa Schroeder, *Comparison of the efficacy of shelter-based versus non-shelter-based reintegration services for formerly trafficked children in Sierra Leone. In process.*
Chair.
- 2021 Kevin Dumolga, PhD, *The usage of cell-phones in disease surveillance and control in West Africa*, Committee Member
- 2020 Jana Pruett, PhD, *The Affordable Care Act's early impacts on treatment for substance use disorders*, Committee Member
- 2020 Sunwoo Lee, PhD. *The Dynamics of Social Exclusion among Immigrants to the United States: Anti-immigrant Attitudes, Immigrant's Exclusion Experiences, and the Rescission of DACA*, Committee Member
- 2019 Sherina Saasa. PhD. *Social exclusion among Africans living in the US.*,
Committee Member
- 2018 Stephen McGarity, PhD. *Financial capability among poor individuals with disability*, Dissertation Committee Chair
- 2018 Giselle Balfour, PhD. *Lifeline: The intervention and reintegration experiences of trafficked and at-risk women and girls in Ghana*, Dissertation Committee Chair
- 2016 Stephen M. Young, PhD. *Barriers to ethical decision-making for HIV/AIDS treatment providers around the globe*, Committee Member
- 2016 Brendan G. Beal, PhD. *The internet, technology, and social work education*,
Committee Member
- 2015 James T. Gurney. PhD. *Nos Propres efforts: A case study of educational policies and practices in schools in Akebou, Togo, West Africa*, Committee Member
- 2015 Jaewon Lee, PhD. *Analysis of perceptions of successful aging among older Korean immigrants and the role of resilience and acculturation as predictors*,
Committee Member

- 2013 Kerri J. Steele, PhD. *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
- 2013 Junghyun Kim, PhD. *Factors in productive aging of East Asian immigrants in the United States: An exploratory study of productive aging attributes*, Committee Member
- 2012 Christine A. Carr, PhD. *Some is better than none: perspectives of educators working in nongovernment schools in the Mathare Valley slums of Nairobi, Kenya*, Committee Member
- 2012 Dione M. King, PhD. *The role of adolescent risk factors in the development of a predictive model for female perpetration of teen dating violence*, Committee Member

Supervision of Undergraduate Research (Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunity - CURO at UGA)

- 2020 Emily R. Bumgarner, *Statistical and graphical analysis of sex trafficking within Atlanta, GA*
- 2020 Alyssa Kiss, *Data compilation on sex trafficking in Atlanta, GA: Focusing on significant determining variables*
- 2019 Rara Reines, *Gender and China-Africa relations: how female migrants navigate changing gender norms within Chinese and African societies*
- 2018 Elina Acosta, *A policy analysis of Georgia's anti-human trafficking laws*
- 2018 Rara Reines, *The wellbeing economy and cooperative market economics: Backcasting a future from within and beyond neoliberalism*
- 2017 Rara Reines, *Agency in policy and project autonomy: An analysis of investment promotion in Rwanda, Botswana, and Lesotho.*

Supervision of Masters-level Independent Studies

2010-2021 Over 100 Masters-level independent studies supervised

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2022-23	Leading Large Integrative Research Teams (L2-IRT) Fellowship
2018	CSWE-EPAS Re-accreditation training
2017-2018	Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellowship (SEC-ALDP)
2017-2018	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Leadership Institute Fellowship, CSWE Program Director Academy Fellowship
2017	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) <i>Accreditation Training</i> . CSWE Office. Alexandria: VA.

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Community & Professional Service

2022-date	International Labor Organization, International Advisory Board for the Human Trafficking Evidence Gap Map
2022	Freedom from Slavery Africa Regional Conference in Rwanda, Conference Planning Committee Chair
2021	Norway Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Fisheries, the ILO, the IOM, the UNDP, Blue Fairness and Integrity Research Compact Project on the exploitation in the fishing and marine industry across the globe, Consultant.
2020-2023	Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF), Research and Conference Convener & Director
2020-date	Freedom Fund, Program Advisor for Research Methods
2020	US Department of Homeland Security Customs & Border Protection, Consultant
2020-2021	EnCompass LLC, Research & Prevalence Expert Panel
2019-date	Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, Research Methods Advisory Panel
2018-date	Antislavery Knowledge Network, International Advisory Council
2018-2021	Georgia Governor's Anti-Trafficking Taskforce, Research Subgroup
2015	Lifeline Anti-trafficking Program, Ghana, <i>Pro bono</i> consultant
2015	Northern Ireland Study Abroad Program, Faculty
2011-2014	Timothy Road Elementary School, Athens, GA, Board of Advisors
2011-2012	Kumasi Children's Home, Ghana, Fundraising

2011-2018	Family Counseling Services of Athens, Inc., Athens, GA, Board of Directors
2011	Athens Area Community Foundation, Athens, GA, Individual Development Accounts Programs Consultant
2010	ChildFinance, Amsterdam, Consultant
2010-2012	Whatever it Takes, Athens, GA, Resource Mapping & Inventory Team
2009-2014	Kenya Self Help Project, Advisor and Consultant
2007	ElCentro, Inc., Kansas City, MO, Consultation on the Effects of Immigration Laws on International Students

Academic Society Service

2019-2021	Cluster Co-Chair, Research Methods and Design Section, Society for Social Work and Research
2018-2021	Elections and Nominations Committee of the Society for Social Work and Research
2010-Present	Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Fairfax, VA. Abstract Reviewer and Presentations Moderator
2010-Present	Council on Social Work Education, Alexandria, VA, Abstract Reviewer

School of Social Work Committees

2022-2023	Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
2022-2025	Faculty Personnel Committee
2021-2022	Chair, Faculty Personnel Committee
2021-2024	Doctoral Program Committee
2021-2022	SSW Dean Search Committee
2021-2023	SSW Faculty Search Committee
2014-2019	MSW Program Director
2014-2020	Director of the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
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
2013-2022	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

University Service & Committees

2021-2022	Provost's Working Committee on Faculty Evaluation Policies and Practices
2021-2022	Provost's Working Committee on Faculty Evaluation Policies and Practices; the Review of Administrators Sub-Committee
2018-date	The University Faculty Affairs Committee
2020-2021	Chair, Faculty Grievance Committee
2020	UGA Committee on Truman Scholars Campus Interview Committee
2020	Faculty Search, UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences
2020	Faculty Search, UGA College of Public Health
2019-2020	UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences Search Committee
2019	Panelist, <i>UGA First Look</i> for aspiring freshmen
2018-2021	The University Human Resource Committee
2018-2019	UGA Office of Global Engagement, Internal grant reviewer on the Global Research Collaboration Grant Program
2019-2021	Mentor, Mandela Washington Fellowship Program for African Leaders
2017-2018	The Owens Institute of Behavioral Research, Five-Year Institutional Review
2016-2019	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

Service to Student Groups & Organizations

2013-2019	MSW Student Faculty Committee Advisor
2014-2017	International Social Work Student's Association Advisor

JOURNAL EDITORIAL SERVICE

Editorial Board

2013-Present	<i>Education Law and Policy Review</i>
2013-2019	<i>Research on Social Work Practice</i>

Consulting Editor

2017-Present	<i>Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research</i>
2015-Present	<i>Social Work</i>
2015-Present	<i>Social Work Research</i>

Special Issue Guest Editor

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

2012	<i>Economics of Education Review: Savings for Higher Education</i>
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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

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
SSWR Human Trafficking Special Interest Group