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University of Georgia School of Social Work

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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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2008 | *Ph.D.*, University of Kansas | Lawrence, KS |
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| 2004 | *MSW,* University of New Hampshire | Durham, NH |
|  | *Graduate Certificate*, Leadership in Children’s Health and Disability, University of New Hampshire | Durham, NH |
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| 1995 | *B.A.,* University of Nairobi  Major: Social Work  (summa cum laude, First Class Hons.) | Nairobi, Kenya |

# ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2023-date | *GA Athletics Association Endowed Professor* | Athens, GA |
| 2020-2023 | *Professor*  University of Georgia, School of Social Work | Athens, GA |
| 2014-2020 | *Associate Professor*  University of Georgia, School of Social Work | Athens, GA |
| 2008-2014 | *Assistant Professor*  University of Georgia, School of Social Work | Athens, GA |

# UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2021-Present | Director, *Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach*   * 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 | Director, *African Programming Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES)*   * 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 | Director, *Masters of Social Work Program*   * 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*, 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) | Athens, GA |

# FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS (\*Graduate student training grants)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2022-2028 | Principal Investigator, *Reducing Trafficking through Financial Capability in Sub-Saharan Africa.* US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,  Grant # SSJTIP22CA0029  [Phase 1, October 1, 2022-24, $2.2m. Phase 2, 2024-26, $5.2m. Phase 3, 2026-28, $2.8 m] | $10,320,000 |
| 2022-2026 | Co-Principal Investigator, *Standard tools for measuring trafficking in persons (STATIP):* A collaboration between the UGA, ILO, UNODC, and IOM.  Grant # SJTIP22CA0028 | $317,138 |
| 2023-2025 | Co-Principal Investigator, *Evaluating the Move with HaRT intervention on improving the mental health of human trafficking survivors in Uganda*  (PI- Catherine Carlson, University of Alabama; *Pro Bono* support from myself)  Innovations for Policy Action, Washington D.C.  Grant #: USDOS-20-10001-X17 | $450,000 |
| 2022 | Investigator, *Mandela-Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative,* International Research & Exchanges Board,  Grant # FP00025375 | $185,929 |
| 2022-2023 | Co-Principal Investigator, *Human trafficking and public health: Domestic abuse and child trafficking in Africa.* A UGA/University of Munich Faculty Exchange Program,UGAOffice of Global Engagement and University of Munich, Germany | $4,500 |
| 2020-2025 | Principal Investigator, *Measuring the Prevalence of Trafficking around the World: Implications for Research, Programming, and Policy,* US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,  Grant # SSJTIP18CA0032MD | $4,000,000 |
| 2019-2024 | Principal Investigator, *Measuring the Prevalence of Trafficking around the World: Implications for Research, Programming, and Policy,* US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,  Grant # SSJTIP18CA0032 | $15,750,000 |
| 2018-2023 | Principal Investigator, *Anti-trafficking Research and Programming in West Africa****,*** US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,  Grant #: SSJTIP18CA0015 | $4,000,000 |
| 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,* UGAOffice of Global Engagement and University of Liverpool International Program’s Office | $10,000 |
| 2017-2019 | Principal Investigator**,** *Developing evidence-based reintegration programming for female victims of trafficking in West Africa*, UGA Presidents’ Interdisciplinary Seed Grant | $140,162 |
| 2017-2018 | Principal Investigator**,** *Global research collaboration on human trafficking research, policy, and programming,* UGAOffice of Global Engagement | $8,000 |
| 2015-2017 | Principal Investigator**,** *Reintegration of female victims of trafficking in Ghana,* Owens Institute of Behavioral Research, UGA | $12,400 |
| 2016-2020\* | Principal Investigator & Program Director,*Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Disadvantaged Students,* DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration**,**  Grant #: T08HP30171 | $2,600,00 |
| 2014-2017\* | Co-principal Investigator**,** *Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro-Specialization MSW Students,* DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration, Grant #: T08HP30171 | $1,301,125 |
| 2012-2016\* | Principal Investigator (From 2014-16), *Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Micro Specialization MSW Disadvantaged Students,* DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration**,**  Grant #: T08HP30171 | $900,000 |
| 2010-2011 | Co-principal Investigator**,** *Effects of the 2007/2008 Economic Recession on Poorer Households Incomes and Assets,* University of Georgia School of Social Work | $15,000 |
| 2009-2010 | Principal Investigator**,** *Poverty and the Economy Grant: Low-Income Persons, Savings, and Economic Outcomes,*  University of Georgia Office of the Vice President for Research: Poverty and the Economy Grant | $25,476 |

# PUBLICATIONS

***Under Review***

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.

Cody, A., Poon, R., Okech, D., Eng., C. Addressing otherness in human trafficking interventions

Okech, D., Hui, Y. et al. Disability and child trafficking: What do we know?

***Peer-reviewed Journal Articles***

Yi, H., Lee, J., Okech, D., Datta, G. A Novel Application of Small Area Estimation Methodology to Study Child-Trafficked Population in Sierra Leone*. Journal of Quantitative Criminology,* in press

Okech, D., Cody, A. M., Callands, T.A., Afroz, F., Balch, F., Bolton, C., Fofana, U., & Aletraris, L. Stakeholder perceptions of gaps and solutions in addressing child trafficking*, Children and Youth Service Review. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107475.*

Edgemon, T., Clay-Warner, J., Kewashima, T., Okech, D., & Anarfi, J., Violent victimization increases psychological distress among women trafficking survivors in Ghana. *Violence Against Women.* 10.1177/10778012241231780

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" *Global Policy,* [**https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13322**](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13322)

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*, *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse,* <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380231204885>

Cody, A., Okech, D., Yi, H., Aletraris, L., Clay-Warner, J., & Calland, T. *When child trafficking and informal fostering intersect: A mixed methods study Social Work and Social Sciences Review,* <https://doi.org/10.1921/swssr.v24i2.2026>

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://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/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](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/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.childyouth.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](http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/preview.cgi?article=1205&context=internationaleducation) 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.childyouth.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 G. Chowa (Ed.),* Global Social Work: Preparing Globally Competent Social Workers for a Diverse and Interconnected World. Springer Publishers., 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., Bryant, H., Bolton, C., Konteh, F., & Jalloh, A. (2023). *Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Kambia, Sierra Leone: A Mixed Methods Study.* Center for Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/\_resources/documents/Kambia\_Summary\_APRIES\_Update.pdf

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. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/\_resources/documents/Senegal\_Baseline\_Final\_24.pdfhttps://cenhtro.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. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/\_resources/documents/HT%20Statistical%20Definitions%20Updated.pdf

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. https://cenhtro.uga.edu/\_resources/documents/Sl-Baseline-Report-2022-Update%202.pdf

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***

**Founding of the Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach -2020**

Dr. Okech is the founding director of the Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, see <https://cenhtro.uga.edu/>. CenHTRO was established in 2020 and officially approved by the University Council in 2021 as a collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and international research hub in the global effort to combat human trafficking. CenHTRO draws upon three decades of cumulative research and practice by its faculty in Sub-Saharan Africa. The mission of CenHTRO is to conduct research, develop programming, and influence policies that drastically and measurably reduce human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Our vision is to become the leading hub for human trafficking research, policy, and programming development across the globe. The aims of CenHTRO are:

* Enhance the science of human trafficking prevalence measurement across the world.
* Implement policies and programs that protect victims, prevent trafficking, strengthen prosecution, and enhance partnerships.
* Equip the next generation of human trafficking researchers with competencies that can enhance social justice for trafficking survivors and victims.

Please see our 5-year strategic plant at https://cenhtro.uga.edu/\_resources/documents/CenHTRO%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf

**Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (2020-2024)**

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 the 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 the prevalence of human trafficking

The first PRIF Conference was held on May 20-22, 2020 virtually (because of the COVID-19 pandemic) and US Department of State Ambassador-at-large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, John Richmond gave the keynote. 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 PRIF Technical Conference where researchers presented their findings was on May 23-25, 2023 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. This meeting was also attended by members of the UNODC, ILO, and IOM, as well as the UGA Provost, who officially opened the conference.

The final PRIF Conference was held on November 28, 2023. Teams presented their findings. The virtual conference had a registration of 300 people and was addressed by the US Ambassador-at-Large for Trafficking in Persons, Cindy Dyers as well as UGA provost S. Jack Hu. From that conference, a Learning Series was developed where teams present non-technical parts of the research to a more general audience. The first Learning Series was held on December 4, 2023, and these will continue throughout the fall of 2024.

**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 which committed itself to cooperating to a systematic approach to address cross-border trafficking. See, <https://thecalabashnewspaper.com/ecowas-regional-conference-on-ending-human-trafficking-ends-in-sierra-leone/>.

**Collaboration with UN Bodies on Standardizing Definitions on Human Trafficking Concepts**

I am co-PI in an innovative global collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the University of Georgia (UGA) to develop a robust methodology to estimate the prevalence of trafficking in persons leveraging on their complementary skills, knowledge and competence. The project will be implemented by the ILO, with sub-grants to IOM, UNODC, and the University of Georgia. The support of the Member States will be crucial throughout the implementation of the project, particularly for the development, establishment, and acceptance of international standards as well as for the testing of suitable instruments and methodologies for measuring trafficking in persons, forced labor, and trafficking for forced labor. In addition, civil society, academia, survivors, and other experts will be consulted to deepen the knowledge and assess the relevance of the project results. The title of the project is the Standard Tools for Measuring Trafficking in Persons (STATIP).

# CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

# Peer-reviewed Conference Presentations

Waswa, A., Cody, A., Yi, H., Goulart, P., & Okech, D. (2024, June 20-21). *How can emerging data-driven technologies improve the global response to human trafficking?”: New advancements in the prevalence estimation in West Africa.* Human Trafficking Research Network (HTRN) Conference ‘Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Human Trafficking from Research and Practice. University of A Coruña, Spain.

Cody, A., Okech, D., & Ager, M. (2024, January 12-16). *Rapid qualitative analysis: Addressing the research to practice implementation gap.* A workshop. 28th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Okech, D., Anna Cody, A., Fofanah, U., & Onyioha-Clayton, N. Organizer: Schroeder, E. (2024, January 12-16). *Lessons learned and recommendations for long-term research partnerships in low and middle-income countries.* A roundtable. 28th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Callands, T., Cody, A., & Okech, D. (2024, January 12-16). *Child trafficking vulnerabilities in Sierra Leone: A qualitative thematic analysis.* Oral Presentation. 28th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Okech, D., Hui, Y., Goulart, P., Aletraris, L., Clay-Warner, J., Waswa, A. Vulnerability of children with disabilities in trafficking: A low-resourced country study. (2023, November 12-15). *Lessons learned and recommendations for long-term research partnerships in low and middle-income countries.* A roundtable. American Public Health Association Conference. Atlanta, GA

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.

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 ion 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., Tumuhamye, 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. (2024, July 30). Keynote: The future of human trafficking in Senegal: Lessons from our work in Kedougou. World Day Against Trafficking. UNODC. Dakar, Senegal

## framework: A panel. Free the Slaves European Conference. Brussels, Belgium.

## Okech, D. (2024, June 12). Lessons from the science of combatting modern slavery and the SDG 8.7

## framework: A panel. Free the Slaves European Conference. Brussels, Belgium.

## Okech, D. (2024, June 12). Best practices in research on modern slavery and trafficking: A panel.

## Free the Slaves European Conference. Brussels, Belgium.

Okech, D. (2024, February 29). *Human trafficking as a global public health issue*. University of Georgia College of Public Health, Global Health Institute, Lecture Series (virtual).

Okech, D. (2024, February, 6-8). *What to look for in trafficking in persons indicators*. Expert group meeting on questionnaire development for surveys on trafficking in persons. Lima, Peru

Okech, D. (2023, November 11). *The role of parliament in fighting trafficking in persons: Address to the parliament of Sierra Leone - Plenary.*  Freetown, Sierra Leone (virtual).

Okech, D. (2023, November 3). *The Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward.*  The UN Interagency Coordination Team against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), Vienna, Austria (virtual). See, https://icat.un.org/events/11-2023/webinar-5-estimating-prevalence-trafficking-persons

Okech, D. & Aletraris, D. (2023, August 31). *The state of human trafficking research questionnaires.* UNODC, Vienna, Austria.

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. The Freedom Fund. 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, Washing ton 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** (\*New courses created by Dr. Okech)

***Doctoral Classes***

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| SOWK 8307  SOWK 8176\* | Doctoral Research Practicum II  Data Analysis and Inferential Statistics in Social Work I, University of Georgia School of Social Work | Athens, GA  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***

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| 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***

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| 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 |

# SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

***Social Work Experience***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2003-2004 | Graduate Trainee, *Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)*   * 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 | Durham, NH |
| 2000-2002 | National Program Coordinator, *A Million United Against AIDS/UNICEF*   * 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 | Nairobi, Kenya |
| 1997-2000 | Child Development Program Director, FH International  * 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 | Nairobi, Kenya |

# FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & HONORS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | University of Georgia, Team Impact Research Award.  Led CenHTRO to win the award that recognizes a team for excellence in innovative and impactful scholarship that either has or soon promises to fundamentally advance knowledge, understanding, and/or applications in ways not achievable by individual investigators or single disciplinary approaches alone. |
| 2024 | US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Advisory Panel on Methodologies to Estimate the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in the US |
| 2024 | The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, Scientific Advisory Committee on the UNODC Global Report in Trafficking in Persons – 2024 Edition |
| 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  2021 | Expert Committee, ILO/UNODC/Government of Norway technical expert on human trafficking in the fishing industry  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 |
| 2017 | Top 10 Reviewer for the *Social Work* journal |
| 2017 | Fellow, Society for Social Work & Research |
| 2013 | Most Read Article, SAGE-U.K. *Social Work and Social Policy Journals on World Social Work day* |
| 2011-12 | UGA Inaugural 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/*](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*](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/U4MGEyV6oeeVH3NBAtFpeP/](https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/uga-gets-million-research-and-reduce-human%20trafficking/U4MGEyV6oeeVH3NBAtFpeP/)

Anderson, L. (2019, August 31). UGA researcher seeks data on human trafficking in Georgia.

*Athens Banner Herald.* <https://www.onlineathens.com/story/news/education/campus/2019/08/31/uga-researcher-seeks-data-on-human-trafficking-in-georgia/4296726007/>

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/>

Social Justice Wanted: Social Justice at the UGA School of Social Work 2019-2020. (2019,

August 27). University of Georgia School of Social Work.

<https://issuu.com/ugasocialwork/docs/social_justice_at_the_university_of>

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/>

# STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISION

## Supervision of Doctoral Dissertations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2022 | Fahmida Afroz, *Resilience in human trafficking victims: Evidence from Sierra Leone. In process.*  Chair |
| 2021 | Violet Nkwanzi (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 |
| 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) *Accreditation Training*. CSWE Office. Alexandra: 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 Reginal 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. |
| 2021-date | Pro bono Director of Fundraising, The Starehe Foundation |
| 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, *Pro bono* 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  2022-2025 | Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  Faculty Personnel Committee |
| 2021-2022  2021-2024 | Chair, Faculty Personnel Committee  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***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024  2023-2026  2021-2022 | Search Committee, Director of ASPIRE Clinic at UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences  University Promotion and Tenure Committee  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, *UGA First Look* 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 | *Education Law and Policy Review* | | 2013-2019 | *Research on Social Work Practice* |   ***Consulting Editor***   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2017-Present | *Journal of the Society for Social Work and* *Research* | | 2015-Present | *Social Work* | | 2015-Present | *Social Work Research* | |  |

***Special Issue Guest Editor***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2023-24  2017-2018 | *Journal of Human Trafficking: Prevalence Research on Human Trafficking: Latest Innovations*  *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work:* Research on the Identification, Intervention, and Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking |

***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

# 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