**DARLINGTINA K. ESIAKA, Ph.D., CPG, CPH**

Email: [dkesiaka@uky.edu](mailto:dkesiaka@uky.edu); Tel: +1 859-218-7010; Lab website: [www.hamplab.org](http://www.hamplab.org)

**ACADEMIC & AFFILIATE POSITIONS**

2023- present Center for Health Equity Transformation

Department of Behavioral Sciences

University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Position: Post-Doctoral Scholar

2023- present Brain Aging and Mental Health Lab

Nathan Kline Institute

Position: Visiting Research Scientist

2022-present Center for Translation and Implementation Research (CTAIR)

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Position: Research Scholar

2022-present Emancipatory Sciences, Institute for Health & Aging

University of California San Francisco

Position: Affiliate Researcher

2022-2023 Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Position: Post-Doctoral Associate

2022-2023 Department of Biology

Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn

Position: INSPIRE Teaching Fellow

2021-2022 Aging and Brain Health Alliance

Center for Molecular & Behavioral Neuroscience

Rutgers University, Newark

Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow

2019-2021 Department: Psychology

Union College, Schenectady. NY

Position: Visiting Assistant Professor

Affiliate Faculty – Africana/Black Studies

2016-2019 Department: Psychology

University of Kansas

Position**:** Assistant Instructor

2015-2016 Department: Psychology

University of Kansas

Position**:** Graduate Teaching Assistant

2014-2015 Department: Behavioral Sciences

Arkansas Tech University

Position:Visiting Lecturer of Psychology

**EDUCATION**

2023 Post-Doctoral training in Neuroimaging, Department of Behavioral Sciences. The University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Project: *Characterization of determinants of cognitive status in older Black men.*

Mentor: Dr. Jiang Yang

2022-2023 *NIH/IRACDA* *Post-Doctoral* *training in Biomedical Sciences,* Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Rutgers University.

Project: Early *characterization of cognitive status and Alzheimer’s disease risk in African American men.*

Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Luth

2021-2022 *NIH/IRACDA* *Post-Doctoral* *training in Biomedical Sciences*. Center for Molecular & Behavioral Neuroscience. Rutgers University.

Project: *Brain health and Alzheimer’s Disease risk in Yoruba people of Nigeria and African Americans*

Mentor: Dr. Mark A. Gluck

2015-2019 *Dual-Title Ph.D*., Psychology and Gerontology, University of Kansas

Dissertation: “*Cultural Psychology of Relationality: Implications for Elder Care*”

Committee: Tamara Baker (Chair), Glenn Adams (Co-chair), David Ekerdt, Omri Gillath, and Peter Ojiambo

2017-2018 *Graduate Certificate*, African Studies, University of Kansas

2016-2017 *Graduate Certificate*, Health Psychology**,** University of Kansas

2013-2014 *Master of Science*, Psychology, Arkansas Tech University

2004-2008 *Bachelor of Science,* Psychology (First Class Honors), University of Nigeria Nsukka

2001-2003 *Associate Degree,* Social Work and Community Development, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

**SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS**

2022-2023 Scholar, Black Men’s Brain Health Fellowship. An NIH/NIA-funded training in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, the NFL Alumni Association, and the University of Southern California (USC) Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging.

2021-2022 Fellow, Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality (MIWI) Training Program. Centre for Social Epidemiology and Public Health. University of Michigan.

2019-2020 Fellow, Research Career Institute in Mental Health and Aging (CIMA). Weill Cornell Medicine. Cornell University

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES**

2022 Certified in Public Health (CPH), National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).

2022 Credentialed Professional Gerontologist (CPG), National Association for Professional Gerontologists (NAPG).

2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom. Course Certificate. Union College.

**SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS**

***Extramural Funding***

**Current/Ongoing**

2023-2027 Early characterization of determinants of brain health and AD risk in older African American men

*National Institute on Aging K99/R00.*

Role: Principal Investigator

2023-2025 Sleep and Alzheimer’s disease risk among older African Americans

*Alzheimer’s Association - 23AARFD-1029261*

Role: Principal Investigator

2022-2023 Cross-validation of risks for Alzheimer’s disease in African Americans with Yoruba people of West Africa

*National Institute on Aging RO1 supplement.*

Role: Co-Investigator; PIs, Mark Gluck and Adesola Ogunniyi

2022-2024 Exploring the pathways to Alzheimer’s Disease in older African American men

*Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer’s Disease (MCCFAD).*

Role: Principal Investigator

**Under Review**

2023-2027 Elevating efforts to recruit and retain HBCU scholars in the aging field

*National Institute on Aging R13*

Role: MPI; MPI: Tamara Baker-Thomas and Candidus Nwakasi

**Completed Grants**

2022-2023 A University-Church Partnership to Promote Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness, Risk Reduction, and Research Participation in Older African American Men

*New Jersey Health Foundation*

Role: Co-Investigator; PI, Mark Gluck.

2022-2023 Comparison of Alzheimer’s Disease risk between African Americans and Yoruba people of West Africa. *Rutgers Global International Collaborative Research Grants.*

Role: Co-Investigator; PI, Mark Gluck

2021-2023 An evaluation of cancer survivorship in Black and Latinx cancer survivors in Rhode Island

*NIH-Rhode Island IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (RI-INBRE)*

Role: Consultant; PI, Candidus Nwakasi

**SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS**

2020 OpEd Project full scholarship for the Virtual Core "Write to Change the World" Series.

2018 Doris Sheets Award.

2018 Louise Julie Doehring McClendon Scholarship in Gerontology. University of Kansas.

2016/9 Social Psychology Graduate Awards, University of Kansas.

2016 Designated Alternate Fellow, Association of America University Women’s International Fellowship

**SELECTED AWARDS**

2021 Arkansas Tech University’s 19 of the Last 9 years award.

2019 Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett Woman Mentoring Women Award. Emily Taylor Centre for Women & Gender Equity, Kansas.

2018 Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Mentoring and Career Development Technical Assistance Workshop and Junior Investigator Diversity Fellow Award.

2018 Kenneth P. Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award.

2017 Graduate Research Competition Award, University of Kansas.

**SELECTED RECOGNITIONS**

2022 April volunteer spotlight by The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) President, Dr. Peter A. Lichtenberg.

2022 International Women’s Day spotlight by Project PinkBlue and the Network of People Impacted by Cancer in Nigeria.

2021 Gerontological Society of America (GSA)’s Member Spotlight, June membership newsletter.

2018 Research Team of the Year and Journal Article Publication of the Year nominee. Man Cave Health awards for outstanding achievements in the field of Men’s Health.

2017 Association of Psychological Sciences Student Committee’s Research Spotlight.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

published under ATAKERE 2016 – 2019

\*student co-author; +senior author, ~co-first author, †corresponding author when not the first author

**Peer-reviewed Journal Publications**

1. **Esiaka, D.,** Wilson, G., & Gluck, M. Strategies for recruiting older Black men into aging and Alzheimer’s research (In press). Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action.
2. **Esiaka, D.,** & Luth, E. (2023). Different interpretations of "honor your parents": Implication for obligation of parental caregiving. The Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences.
3. **Esiaka, D**. Nwakasi, C., Nnamele, V., Idu, A., Egwuonwu, J.\* & Mahmoud, K. (2023) Pathways to health outcomes after cancer diagnosis: A systematic review of cancer survivorship in Nigeria. *Psycho-Oncology*. 1‐10. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.6167>
4. Booker, S., Baker, T., **Esiaka, D.,**Minahan, J., Engel, I., Banerjee, K & Poitevien, M. (2023). A historical review of pain disparities research: Advancing toward health equity and empowerment. *Nursing Outlook,* 71(3), 101965. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2023.101965>
5. Chidebe, R.C.W., Leibel, L., Orjiakor, T., Shrestha, A., Agha, A.A., Dindar, A.D., Kisakol, B., Ipiankama, C., Okoye, I., Malcom, M., Auguste, A., & **Esiaka, D.**+(2023). Promoting cancer prevention through World Cancer Day in Nigeria. *The Lancet Oncology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(22)00692-1>

**Book Chapters**

1. **Esiaka D.** (2021)Obligation of Eldercare in the Context of Pentecostal Charismatic Churches. In: Abidogun J.M., Recker S. (eds) *Africa and the Diaspora*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-73415-2_6>
2. Baker, T.A.,Minahan, J.A., **&** **Atakere, D.** (2019). Pain and Men. In R.J. Thorpe (Ed.). *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics*: *Men’s Health and Aging.* (Vol 39, pp. 95-106). New York: Springer Publishing.
3. Baker, T., **Atakere, D.** & Minahan, J. (2018). Chronic illnesses. In M. Bornstein (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopaedia of Lifespan Human Development* (pp. 351-353). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Ltd. doi: 10.4135/9781506307633.n132
4. Baker, T. A., **Atakere, D.,** Minahan, J., Kuofie, A. A., & Dirth T. (2017). Diversity in Aging Community. In D. Maller (Ed.) & K. Langsam (Ed.), *The Praeger Handbook of Community Mental Health and the Aging Community* (pp. 93-112). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger/ABC-CLIO.

**SELECTED INVITED TALKS**

***Colloquium***

1. **Esiaka, D.** (2023, February). Leveraging secondary data as an early career researcher. [Virtual presentation]. Center for Translation and Implementation Research (CTAIR). Enugu, Nigeria.
2. **Esiaka, D.** (2022, April). Quality vs. Quantity: Sleep and Cognitive Decline in older African American men. Department of Psychology. Siena College, Loudonville. NY.
3. **Esiaka, D.** (2022, February). Factors associated with support for government actions against COVID-19. Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta. South Tangerang, Indonesia.
4. **Esiaka, D.** (2020, February). The “dark” side of modernity: Obligation in the context of Eurocentric global modernity. Psychology Visiting Speakers Series, Union College. Schenectady, NY.

***Community Engagement and Public Scholarship***

1. **Esiaka, D.** (2022, June 22). Community-engaged research as a tool for social justice in ADRD research. [Panel Discussion] Alzheimer’s Association Addressing Health Disparities conference. Washington, DC.
2. **Esiaka, D.** (2022, May 13). Alzheimer’s Disease: Aging smart for improved brain health. [Webinar discussion]. Women and the Alzheimer’s Crisis Script. Alzheimer’s Association, Tennessee Chapter.
3. Mann, M., Narayanan, S., Walker, E., & **Esiaka, D.** (2021, June 16). “Black Family Cancer Awareness: Engaging the Generations to Reduce Health Disparities” [Webinar discussion]. The Society for Integrative Oncology.
4. Diaz, A., Lynn, T., **Esiaka, D.,** Brown-McClure, F., Greaves, T., & Gamble-Eddington, T. (2021, March). “Social Determinants of Health” [Webinar discussion]. The Student National Medical Association of Union College and Union College Caribbean Students Association. Schenectady, NY.

**SELECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES/PARTICIPATION**

**Conferences and Pre-conference Workshops Organized/Co-organized/Planning Committee**

2022 Pathways to equity-based aging research and practice. Preconference workshop chair/organizer. Annual conference of Gerontological Society of America. Indianapolis, IN. November 2.

2022 The annual engagement week of the Black in Gerontology and Geriatric Inc. Organizer. Virtual. October 30-November 2.

**Roundtable Discussant**

2023 The Meaning of Dementia: How Cultural Narratives Shape Experience, Expectations, and Social Change. Health Humanities Consortium Conference. Cleveland, OH. March 17.

2020 Critical Approaches to Internationalizing Teaching and Learning in Psychology. Co-discussant. Annual conference of the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI). June, 29. \*Conference cancelled due to COVID.

**Invited Panel/Session Chair**

2023 Sex and gender specific risk factors for cognitive decline and neurodegeneration. Session Chair. Annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherlands. July, 19.

2022 Community-engaged research as a tool for social justice in ADRD research. Panelist, Lightning Rounds: Panel of Early Career Researchers. Annual Addressing Health Disparities Conference. Washington, DC. June 21.

**Podium Presentations and Published Abstracts**

*\* undergraduate student collaborators,* +*presenting author when not first author*

1. **Esiaka, D.,** & Nwakasi, C (2023, July). Association between sleep difficulties, bodily symptoms, and subjective cognitive decline in urban Black men. Presented at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherland.
2. **Esiaka, D.** (2023, March). A pilot study to identify correlates of brain health and cognitive health in urban African American men. Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) annual meeting. Los Angeles, CA.
3. Leibel, L. L., Chidebe, R. C., Ipiankama, C., Altinok Dindar, D., Auguste, A., Agha, A. A., Shrestha, A., Kisakol., B. & **Esiaka, D.** (2022, June). Step up to health, Nigeria! utilizing information from Abuja's world cancer day walks for equity-based cancer prevention interventions. American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting. e22508-e22508.
4. Arciero, P., Ferguson, I., Sadek, S., **Esiaka, D.**, Arciero, J.P., Saulnier, T., Merrill, D., Panos, S., & Anderson-Hanley, C. (2022, April) Lower protein, fiber intake and physical activity are associated with more impaired cognitive status among enrollees in the trial of the interactive Physical and Cognitive Exercise System (iPACES) for mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Virtual presentation at the International Conference on Frailty & Sarcopenia Research (ICFSR).
5. Arciero, P., **Esiaka, D.,** Ferguson, I., Merril, D., Panos, S., & Anderson-Hanley, C. (2021, December). Neuro-exergaming for mild cognitive impairment (MCI): Nutrition and diversity status of pilot enrollees in the interactive Physical and Cognitive Exercise Study (iPACES). Virtual presentation at the International Conference on Neuroprotection by Drugs, Nutraceuticals, and Physical Activity.

**Posters and Published Abstracts**

1. **Esiaka, D.** (2023, July). Recalibrating narratives of gender differences in ADRD research: Lessons and opportunities from the Global South. Presented at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherland.
2. Egwuonwu, J.,\* & **Esiaka, D.+** (2023, July). Neighborhood contextual factors and sleep measures as predictors of subjective cognitive decline in Black American men living in urban areas. Presented at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherland.
3. Brown, M., **Esiaka, D.,** & Viswanathan, J. (2023, July). Gender differences in the mediational pathway between trauma, depression and subjective cognitive decline. Presented at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherland.
4. Nwakasi, C., & **Esiaka, D.** (2023, July). Dementia caregiving in Nigeria: is stigma a motivator for care, a barrier to care, or both? Presented at the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Amsterdam, Netherland.
5. Egwuonwu, J.,\* & **Esiaka, D.** (2023, June). Predicting Subjective Cognitive Decline in Black American Men Living in Urban Areas Using Neighborhood Problems and Sleep Difficulties. Presented at the Risk and Resilience to Alzheimer’s Disease in African Americans. Newark, NJ.

**COURSE INSTRUCTION/TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Medgar Evers College**

2022 – 2023 Module Developer, Assistant Instructor

* General Biology

**Union College**

2019 – 2021 Course Developer, Instructor of Record

* Social Psychology
* Social Determinants of Health & Lifecourse
* Culture & Psychology
* Research Practicum
* Critical Perspectives and Actions on Inequality, Power & Privilege
* First Year Preceptorial – Decolonizing Human Knowledge

**University of Kansas**

2016 – 2019 Course Developer, Instructor of Record

* Social Psychology General Psychology
* Psychological Significance of Physical Illness and Disability
* Social Psychology
* General Psychology

2015 – 2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant

* + - * General Psychology

**Arkansas Tech University**

2014 – 2015 Course Developer, Lead Teacher, and Instructor of Record

* + - * General Psychology

1. – 2014 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Guest Instructor
   * + History of Psychology
     + Psychology of Perception
     + General Psychology
     + Multicultural Issues
     + Cognitive Psychology

**PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Academic Journals/Conference Ad Hoc Reviewer**

* Psycho Oncology
* Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare
* Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease
* Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences
* Alzheimer’s & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions
* Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance
* Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
* AAIC Advancements: Toward Health Equity in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias.
* Journal of Aging and Longevity
* Alzheimer’s Association International Conference
* International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
* Group Processes & Intergroup Relations
* Nigerian Journal of Psychological Research
* Scientific African
* Ethnicity & Health
* Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved
* Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Conference
* Journal of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
* Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Conference
* Journal of the National Medical Association
* Journal of Geriatric Nursing
* Society for Psychological Studies of Social Issues (SPSSI) Conference
* Journal of Social and Personal Relationships (as Reviewer in Training)
* International Association of Gerontology and Geriatric Conference

**Selected Positions in Professional Organizations**

2022 Lead, Webinar Task Force, Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

2022 – 2024 Council member, Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI).

2021 Member, Policy/Governance Board, Black in X Network ([www.blackinx.org](http://www.blackinx.org)).

2021 – 2022 Member, Health Equity and Inclusion Task Force, Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO).

2021 Co-lead, Webinar Task Force, Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

2021 Webinar Liaison Officer, International Task Force, Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

2020 Founder & Program Manager, Black in Gerontology & Geriatrics ([blackingeron.org](https://blackingeron.org/))

**SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE**

**Research**

1. National Institute on Aging (2022, November 28). [Recruit & Retain Participants](https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/alzheimers-dementia-outreach-recruitment-engagement-resources/term/recruit-retain). A mini-review of strategies for recruiting older African Americans to Alzheimer’s disease research. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/alzheimers-dementia-outreach-recruitment-engagement-resources/mini-review-strategies?utm_source=nia-eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=adore-20221228>
2. Oguntade, S. (2022, July 7). Study To Compare Risk Factors For Alzheimer’s Disease Among Africans Starts In Nigeria. Nigerian Tribune. <https://tribuneonlineng.com/study-to-compare-risk-factors-for-alzheimers-disease-among-africans-starts-in-nigeria/>
3. Stelter, C (2022, June 8). Rutgers-Newark Research Team Compares Risk Factors for Alzheimer’s Disease Among African Americans and the Yoruba of Nigeria. Rutgers Newark News. <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/news-events/news/rutgers-newark-research-team-compares-risk-factors-alzheimers-disease-among-african-americans-and-yoruba-nigeria>
4. Rutgers News (2022, February 2). The Aging Brain and Health Alliance to Distribute $25,000 Award to Community Churches. <https://www.newark.rutgers.edu/news/aging-brain-and-health-alliance-distribute-25000-award-community-churches>
5. Ohene, S. (Host, 2021). The management of chronic conditions is not a one size fits all process. Chronicity care Africa’s Researcher of the Month series (Audio Podcast). <https://chronicitycareafrica.com/2021/07/01/the-management-of-chronic-conditions-is-not-a-one-size-fits-all-process/>

**HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

2022 – present International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART)

1. – present Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO)

2020 – present Black in Gerontology and Geriatrics (BIGG)

2017 – present National Association of Professional Gerontologists (NAPG)

2017 – 2021 Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS)

2017 – 2019 African Studies Association (ASA)

2017 – 2018 Association for Psychological Sciences (APS)

2016 – present Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

2016 – present Society for Psychological Studies of Social Issues (SPSSI)

2016 – 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

2014 – 2016 Society for Health Psychology (SHP)

2013 – 2017 American Psychological Association (APA)

2013 – 2015 South Western Psychological Association (SWPA)

2009 – 2011 British Psychological Society (BPS)

2008 – present Nigerian Psychological Association (NPA)

2008 – 2011 Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

2004 – 2011 Chartered Institute for Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM)