

## CURRICULUM VITA

**Sarita K. Davis**

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### EDUCATION

1991 – 1994

Doctor of Philosophy in Program Evaluation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

1987 – 1989

Master of Social Work, University of California at Los Angeles.

1981 – 1985

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, California State College, Bakersfield.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have the training and expertise needed to conduct culturally relevant program evaluation affecting marginalized communities. I have over 23 years of program evaluation experience in a variety of contexts including but not limited to bio-medical education, environmental health, faith-communities, health, foster-care, and HIV prevention education. I have conducted evaluation research involving African American women at risk of HIV living in high burden communities with an emphasis on the intersectional effects of race, class, and gender on health. More recently co-PI on an NIH funded HIV and religion grant. The HIV prison re-entry project assessed the efficacy of HIV+ prisoners achieving stable health outcomes and the HIV and religion project (impact) explored the obstacles and opportunities of using church-based social services as a conduit to delivering HIV services in marginalized communities. As a result of these projects, I have an informed understanding of the problems and opportunities involved in conceptualizing, designing, implementing, and evaluating community-based research in distressed black communities in urban Atlanta. In addition, I have collaborated with multiple scholars and produced several peer-reviewed publications from each project. As a result of these projects, I am aware of the importance of authentic involvement of all program stakeholders in articulating and creating meaningful program indicators and outcomes.

### EMPLOYMENT

**2013 to present**

*Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of African American Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**2008 to 2012**

*Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of African American Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**2006-2008**

*Associate Professor, Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**2005 to 2006**

*Director, Doctoral Program, Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**1997-2006**

*Assistant Professor, Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**1996 – 1997**

*Adjunct Professor, School of Social Work, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia*

**1994 – 1997**

*Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Centers for Disease Control/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta, Georgia*

**1993 –1994**

*Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, Human Services Studies, Ithaca, New York*

**1990 – 1991**

*Project Manager, Watts Health Foundation, Los Angeles, California*

**1989 – 1990**

*Case Manager, Youth and Family Center, Los Angeles, California*

**REFERRED PUBLICATIONS****Manuscripts**

2017

Hamilton- Dyson, **Davis**, Counts-Spriggs, and Smith-Bankhead. Gender, Race, Class, and Health: Interrogating the Intersection of Substance Abuse and HIV through a Cultural Lens. *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, November, volume 32(4) 531-542. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109917713975>

Davis (2017) The Relationship between HIV, Maternal Childhood Sexual Abuse Survival, and Parental Sexual Communication among African American Women 18-24, *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, volume 28(2) 24-32. DOI: [10.1353/hpu.2017.0050](https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2017.0050)

Davis (2017) Understanding Barriers and Solutions to the Black Church Providing HIV Services in a Southern Urban City, *FIRE*. [http:// www.jstor.org/stable/10.5323/fire.3.1.0116?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5323/fire.3.1.0116?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

2014

Davis, S. (2014). Health-Information Seeking Behavior of Black Women at high-risk of HIV in the South. *Journal of Social Work and Public Health*, volume 29 (7): 641-655. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2013.869788>

Davis, S., Forge, N., Adams, M., and Rothenberg, R. (2014). Obstacles and Options to Faith-based HIV Service Delivery to Low- Income Inner City Residents: Perspectives of Black Clergy with Commuter Congregations, *Journal of Black Studies*, volume 45(8): 731-757. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934714555184>

Davis, S. African-centered Research Frameworks: Expanding the Boundaries of Cultural Competence in Evaluation. *Journal of Pan African Studies*.

2013

Davis, S., Gervin, D. W., White, G., Williams, A. D., & Taylor, A. Bridging the gap between research, evaluation, and evidence-based practice. *Journal of Social Work Education*, volume 49 (14): 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2013.755099>

Davis, S. and Tucker-Brown, A. “The Effects of Social Determinants on Black Women's HIV Risk: HIV is Bigger than Biology.” *Journal of Black Studies*, volume 44, 273-289. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934713481805>

Davis, S., & Tucker-Brown, A. Effects of Black Sexual Stereotypes on Sexual Decision Making among African American Women. *Journal of Pan African Studies*, volume 5(9), 111-128.

2012

Davis, S. The Heightening Effect of Race, Class, and Gender on HIV Exposure among low-income Black Women. *Journal of Race and Policy*, Spring/Summer, 8 (1): 67-86.

2010

Davis, S., Williams, A., & Akinyela, M. An African-centered Approach to Building Cultural

Competence in Social Work Research. *Journal of Black Studies*, November, 41 (2): 338-350.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934709343950>

Gervin, D., **Davis, S.**, Counts-Spriggs, M., Jones, J., and Farris, K. Evaluation Development and Use in Social Work Practice. *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*, Vol., 6, No. 15. [journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde\\_1/article/download/277/289/](http://journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/article/download/277/289/)

## **Book Chapters**

2020

When Black Scholars Embrace Ourselves in our Research We Reclaim our Power, in *Black Women and Public Health: Regenerative History, Practice, and Planning*. Editors - Stephanie Evans, Kia Caldwell, Camara Jones, **Sarita Davis**, Leslie Hinkson, Linda Murray, Deanna Wathington, and J.Ward. SUNY Press (forthcoming).

2019

Ways of Knowing: Cultural Bias Pitfalls to Avoid when Using Research to Inform Practice, in *Re-visioning Therapy*. Editors, Monica McGoldrick and Ken Hardy, 3rd Edition, Guilford Press. ISBN 9781462531936. <https://www.guilford.com/books/Re-Visioning-Family-Therapy/McGoldrick-Hardy/9781462531936/contents>

2017

Power and Research. Edited Volume in *The Power Theory*. Editors, Elaine Pinderhughes and Vanessa Jackson, NASW Press. ISBN: 978-0-87101-505-1. Item #5051. 274 pages.

2015

Are we asking the right question? Reflections on Asa Hilliard and the notion of Objectivity in Research. Editor, Jim Young, African American Images Press.

2008

Centering the Folder. A chapter in *Evaluation Ethics for Best Practice: Cases and Commentaries*. Edited by Michael Morris, Guilford Press. ISBN 9781593855697. <https://www.guilford.com/books/Evaluation-Ethics-for-Best-Practice/Michael-Morris/9781593855697/contributors>

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

2019

*Book Proposal.* While women only represent 19% of new HIV diagnoses in the United States, African American women constitute 61% of all women affected (CDC, 2015). That being said, the intersection of HIV prevention research, black female sexuality, culture, and history provides the perfect contextual storm for this research conversation. The primary reason I am writing this book is to show how research on the sexual and reproductive health of the Black female body has been far from objective and fueled in large part by oppressive stereotypes, patriarchy, misinformation, and internalized controlling images. These factors have led to underfunded prevention education programs and anemic public policies targeting black women and girls. To tell this story, I use my own personal experiences coupled with empirical research findings from my own research as well as from the research of other social scientists in the field. In this book, I examine the epidemic of HIV/AIDS among African American women as less a cause of stereotypical promiscuous behavior and more the effect of evolved Jane Crow practices and policies. I use my own life story to illustrate the point that teen pregnancy, STI's, and HIV are not inevitable consequences of being black and female. Rather, disproportionate negative sex-related health outcomes among black women are a result of environmentally induced biological receptivity, imposed and internalized racial stereotypes, and intersectional structural oppression. I believe these historical and deeply rooted barriers are more at fault for the rising epidemic in the Black community. Consequently, any intervention that fails to embrace culturally relevant and historically informed approaches is doomed to failure.

*Grant.* I am proposing a mixed-methods study that will be conducted in Atlanta, Georgia over a two-year period. Atlanta was selected as the study site because of the severity of the local HIV epidemic. Georgia has the 6th highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the United States, and Blacks comprise approximately 65% of the cumulative HIV/AIDS cases. Moreover, the 2015 Georgia Minority AIDS report stated that African Americans made up 96% of the total AIDS cases in metropolitan Atlanta, women comprising 98% of overall female cases. Because of these facts, the need for exploratory data to describe and understand the dynamics of sexual decision-making, substance use, and intergenerational transference of risk is especially urgent. The goal of this study is to provide in-depth descriptions and explore the social context of CSA and how it influences mal/adaptive substance use and sexual decision-making from mother to daughter and affects HIV risk. The study will be conducted using strategies derived from Grounded Theory, which offers a set of tools for generating explanatory theories of human behavior. This explanatory theory is discovered, developed, and then verified through systematic data collection and analysis of data related to an identified phenomenon. This approach is ideal when exploring complex topics for which little is known.

This project proposes conducting questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with 30 women affected by CSA - 15 adult survivors of CSA and 15 daughters whose mother's experienced CSA. The mothers and daughters need not be related. Interviews will be guided by con-

cepts relevant to the mothers' CSA experiences and sexual/substance use attitudes and practices of mothers and daughters, as well as themes generated from the PI's pilot research. These data are expected to inform our understanding of the subjective lived experiences of African American women affected by CSA, as well as the social context which influences substance use and sexual decision-making.

*Manuscript.* Hamilton-Dyson, Rawley, **Davis**, Smith-Bankhead, and Count-Spriggs. Understanding the Impact of Power and Intimate Relationships on the perception of risk for STI and HIV among Incarcerated Black Women. *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work* (under review)

## **EVALUATION /RESEARCH PROJECTS**

2017- present (Awarded - \$325,000)

Clark Atlanta University GLS Taskforce on Suicide Prevention  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

PI: Counts-Spriggs

Role: Evaluator (Davis)

2017- present (Awarded - \$126,000)

Title III – BSW Research Methods Experimental Project

PI: Jones

Role: Evaluator (Davis)

2010-2013 (Awarded - \$500,000)

A Qualitative Evaluation of 'Community Connections' -- An Intervention Targeting HIV+ Former Georgia State Prisoners PI: Rothenberg

Role: Evaluator (Davis)

2010-2013 (Awarded - \$500,000)

NIH/NIMHHD

The Impact of Religious Organizations on HIV Prevention, Subproject in: Georgia State University Center of Excellence: Syndemics of Disparities, P20 MD004806-01

PI: Rothenberg

Role: Investigator (Davis)

2008-2010 (Awarded - \$60,000)

NIH/NIDA

The Sojourner Study, 3R01DA019393-04S1

PI: Davis

2008 (Awarded - \$5,000)

The Foster Parent Home Closure Study, East Point Community Action, Team, Inc. Atlanta, GA  
Role: Evaluator (Davis)

2006-2008 (Awarded - \$200,000)

The Healthy Love Project: An HIV Prevention Education Study – SisterLove, Inc. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PI: Diallo

Role: Evaluator (Davis)

2005-2008 (Awarded - \$500,000)

Black Women in Ministry Leadership. Interdenominational Theological Center, Black Women in Church and Society. The Lily Foundation

PI: Grant

Role: Evaluator (Davis)

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

2019

Distorted Images and HIV Risk Among African American Women, November, 15, 2019, African American Studies Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Story of Black Female Bodies and Sexual Trauma: Healing ourselves, National Council of Black Studies Conference, New Orleans, March 6-9.

2018

Hard to Reach Populations, Culturally Responsive Evaluation, Health Equity, Health Evaluation. American Evaluation Association. November 1-3, Cleveland, Ohio.

Maternal Intergenerational Transmission of Historical Trauma and African American Women: Reclaiming My time and My Body. National Council of Black Studies. March 14-17, Atlanta, Georgia.

2017

Childhood Sexual Abuse, Parental Sexual Communication, and HIV: Black Girls at Risk. National Council of Black Studies. March 9-11. Houston, Texas.

2016

Between a Mother and Daughter: The Relationship Between CSA and HIV. National Council of Black Studies Conference. March 16-19. Charlotte, North Carolina.

2015

The Role of the Black Church in HIV Prevention Education and Testing. National Council of Black Studies Conference. March 7-9. Los Angeles, California.

Obstacles and Options to Faith-based HIV Interventions in the Black Church, Association for the Society of African American Life and History. February, Atlanta, Georgia.

2014

African-centered Research Frameworks: Expanding the Boundaries of Cultural Competence in Evaluation. National Council of Black Studies Conference. March 7-9. Miami, Florida.

2013

African-centered Research Frameworks: Expanding the Boundaries of Cultural Competence in Evaluation. National Council of Black Studies Conference. March 7-9. Indianapolis, Indiana.

2012

Research Methods in Africana Studies: Expanding the Boundaries of Evaluation Praxis. American Evaluation Association Conference. October 24-27. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Effects of High Burden Living in High-burden Communities on Substance Abuse and Sexual Decision-making among African American Women. Africana Women's Research Symposium. Georgia State University. March, Atlanta, Georgia.

Valuing HIV Prevention Education Evaluation. National Council on Black Studies Conference. February. Atlanta, Georgia.

2011

Valuing HIV Prevention Education Evaluation. American Evaluation Association Conference. November. Anaheim, California.

Black Women, HIV, and Substance Abuse: Informing Public Health Education through Intersectional Research. National



## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

2013

Living Stones for Sacred Waters: Celebrating Achievements and Strategizing for the Future. The National Black Women in Ministerial Leadership Conference, May 2013, Atlanta, Georgia.

2012

The Effects of Social Determinants on Black Women's HIV Risk. Urban Health Seminar, Georgia State University, October 11, Atlanta, Georgia.

Addiction Research Training Institute (ARTI), National Institutes of Health, Morehouse School of Medicine, July 16, Atlanta, Georgia.

2010

Developing and Funding Faith-based Initiatives Capacity Building Education for Effective Church Leadership and Service Programs. Interdenominational Theological Center, January 23, Atlanta, Georgia.

2008

HIV and Culturally Relevant Praxis. Center of Excellence -Grand Rounds, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.

2007

HIV/AIDS and the African-American Family: Telling Our Story. Invited Presentation. The Center for Afrikan Biblical Studies, Lithonia, Georgia.

2005

An Evaluation Makeover. Community-Based Evaluation Meeting. Morehouse School of Medicine. Atlanta, Georgia.

2002

Taking Evaluation to the Community. Keynote address - Kelly Conference. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

2001

margin to center: repositioning culture in evaluation. A presentation at the Atlanta Area Evaluation Association Quarterly Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia.

1994

The State of Youth Job Search. Invited paper presentation at the State of New York Youth Employment Conference. Albany, New York.

## **BOARDS/ COMMITTEE'S**

2017 - present

Forever Family - Evaluation Research Advisory Committee

2010-present

AID Atlanta, Inc. – Prevention Education Evaluation Committee

Graduate Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University

WEAVE Assessment, Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University

2009

American Evaluation Association – Nominations and Elections Committee

Aid Atlanta, Inc. – Evaluation Committee

Graduate Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University

WEAVE Assessment, Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University

2008

American Evaluation Association – Nominations and Elections Committee

AID Atlanta, Inc. – Evaluation Committee

Graduate Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia State University

2007-2008

American Evaluation Association – Nominations and Elections Committee

Clark Atlanta University - Academic Council

2006

AID Atlanta, Inc. –Prevention Education Committee Clark Atlanta University - Academic Council

2002-2005

American Evaluation Association - Board member, Chair of the Finance Committee, Diversity Committee, and Liaison to Local Affiliates

AID Atlanta, Inc. – Board member, Prevention Education Committee

2001

Clark Atlanta University - Academic Program Review Committee

Atlanta-area Evaluation Association (AaEA) – Professional Development Committee

1999-2005

AID Atlanta, Inc. – Prevention Education Committee American Evaluation Association Program  
Chair, Teaching Evaluation Topical Interest Group

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

2018

Graduate Faculty Mentor Award (AAS GSU student founded)

2013

Junior Faculty Award – Georgia State University (Nominated)

2009

NSAA Award for Cultural and Educational excellence. The Center for Afrikan Biblical Studies.  
Lithonia, Georgia

2007

W.E.B. Dubois Student Mentor Award. Clark Atlanta University

1999, 2000, & 2005

Claudette Rivers-King award for student mentoring. Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social  
Work, Clark Atlanta University.

2002

Pioneer Award: Bringing Technology into the Classroom.

Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work, Clark Atlanta University.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Evaluation Association
- Atlanta Area Evaluation Association
- Council on Social Work Education

- National Council of Black Studies

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Quantitative Research Methods (Masters and Doctoral level)

Doctoral Seminar

Qualitative Research Methods (Masters level)

Thesis and Dissertation Supervision

Human Behavior in the Social Environment Doctoral Seminar

Issues in the African American Community (Undergraduate level)

## *References*

*Akinyela Umoja, Ph.D., Chair Department of African American Studies Georgia State University  
1 Park Place, Suite #962  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Email: [aadaku@gsu.edu](mailto:aadaku@gsu.edu)  
Phone: 404.513.5133*

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Department of African American Studies Georgia State University  
1 Park Place, Suite #962  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
email: [jgayles@gsu.edu](mailto:jgayles@gsu.edu)  
Phone: 404.413.5132*

*Richard Rothenberg, MD  
Professor Emeritus and Associate Dean of Academics School of Public Health  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Email: [rrothenberg@gsu.edu](mailto:rrothenberg@gsu.edu)  
Phone: 404.413.1144*