

Shemeka Thorpe, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Kentucky, College of Education
Department of Kinesiology & Health Promotion
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EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. in Community Health Education

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dissertation: *A Sex Positive Investigation of the Sexual Development of Black Women from Adolescence to Early Adulthood*

2016 M.S. in Family and Child Sciences

Florida State University

Thesis: *Predicting Sexual Behaviors among African American College Students: The Role of Gender, Family Context, and Sexual Attitudes*

2011 B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies

Minors in Health Studies and Psychology

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|-----------|---|
| 2024- | Assistant Director of Community Engagement, UNITE Research Priority Area, University of Kentucky |
| 2024- | Core Faculty, Center for Health, Engagement, and Transformation (formerly Health Equity Transformation), University of Kentucky |
| 2022- | Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion, University of Kentucky |
| 2022- | Faculty Affiliate, African American and Africana Studies Program & The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies, University of Kentucky |
| 2020-2022 | Lyman T. Johnson Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology, University of Kentucky |

AWARDS, HONORS, & NOMINATIONS

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|------|---|
| 2025 | Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Award , American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists |
| 2025 | 2024 Outstanding Article of the Year Honorable Mention , Sexual & Relationship Therapy (journal) |
| 2024 | Outstanding Young Professional Award Nominee , American Public Health Association Sexual and Reproductive Health Section |
| 2024 | Research Mentor Recognition Award Nominee , University of Kentucky's Center for Clinical and Translational Science |
| 2023 | Kathy Charmaz Prize , Qualitative Health Research (journal) |

- 2023 **The Dr. Irwin Goldstein Best Abstract Award**, International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health
- 2023 **Research Mentor Recognition Award Nominee**, University of Kentucky's Center for Clinical and Translational Science
- 2022 **Equity Changemaker Award**, University of Kentucky's Center for Health, Engagement (formerly Equity) Transformation
- 2020 **National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Award**, NICHD, 4-year award
- 2021 **Emerging Leader Alumni Award**, UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences
- 2018 **Sexual Health Equity Rising Star Award**, NC Sexual Health Conference to The Minority Sex Report, LLC

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Currently Funded

- 2026-2027 **Assisted Reproductive Technologies (A.R.T) for Hope: Experiences of Black Sexual Minority Women Couples**
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Extramural Loan Repayment Program Award
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2025-2026 **A Mixed-Method Exploration of Sexual Pain Experiences and Measurement in Black Canadian Womxn**
Direct Cost: \$100,000
Canadian Institutes of Health Research, *Role: Co-Investigator*
- 2024-2029 **Assessing Differential Dyadic Mechanisms of Black and White Women's Sexual Functioning**
Direct cost: \$3,695,227
R01-HD114116; NICHD; *Role: Co-Investigator*

Pending

- Mar 2025 **Sexual Health, Behavior, and Emerging Practices in a U.S. Probability Sample of Adolescents and Adults**
Direct cost: \$2,697,261
R01 renewal application; NICHD; *Role: Co-Investigator*
Scored: 38 in Oct 2024; Resubmitted
- Jan 2025 **Optimizing A Tailored Multi-Level Trauma-Informed Intervention to Enhance PrEP Utilization Among Substance-Using Cisgender Black Women at Risk of Violence in Kentucky**
Direct Cost: \$450,000
R34 application; NIDA; *Role: Co-Investigator*

Previously Funded Grants

- 2023-2025 **The Influence of Psychological Factors and Minority Stressors on Black Women's Sexual Functioning**. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Extramural Loan Repayment Program Award (\$33,810)
Role: Principal Investigator

- 2024 **The Assisted Reproductive Technology (A.R.T.) for Hope Project**
Direct cost: \$49,993
University of Kentucky, UNITE High Impact Pilot Grant; *Role: Principal Investigator*
- 2022-2023 **A Multi-Level Community-Based Approach to PrEP Uptake for African American Women**
Direct cost: \$1,200,000
U54-MD007602-34S2; NIMHD; *Role: Co-Investigator*
- 2022 **Generational Genital Hygiene Messages Study.** University of Kentucky's UNITE Research Priority Area Small-Scale Funding (\$3000)
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2021-2023 **Experiences of Dyspareunia, Sexual Anxiety, and Sexual Pleasure Among Pre-Menopausal Black Women in the South.** National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Extramural Loan Repayment Program Award (\$45,080)
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2020 **Center for Positive Sexuality, Race & Sexuality Research Grant (\$1000)**
To support a mixed methods study of premenopausal, Southern Black women's experiences of sexual pain and pleasure.
- 2020 **Doug Kirby Adolescent Sexual Health Grant Recipient (\$1000)**
To support dissertation research on Black adolescent girls' sexual development and the dissemination of findings.
- 2020 **Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship from the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education (\$1000)**
To support dissertation research on Black adolescent girls' sexual development and the dissemination of findings.
- 2018 **Summer Assistantship UNCG Graduate School (\$3000)**
Assessed the alcohol outcome expectancies of Black first-year college students.
- 2017 **Summer Assistantship UNCG Graduate School (\$3000)**
Assessed sexual sensation seeking among first-year college students and hookup behaviors.
- 2011 **Summer Assistantship, UNCG Undergraduate Research Office (\$3000)**
Examined the relationship between maternal sensitivity and parental closeness and the moderating effects of race.

Submitted Grants

- 2024 **Community Voices to Reduce Black Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Disparities**
Direct Cost: \$33,609
UK Center for Clinical and Translation Science Pilot Grant; *Role: Principal Investigator*
- 2023 **R21 submission in response to NOT-HD-22-045; NICHD**
Exploring Genito-Pelvic/Penetrative Pain Disorder Symptomology among Black Adolescent Girls and Women Who Are Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse
Direct costs: \$275,000; Role: Principal Investigator; Status: Not Discussed

- 2023 **Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research**
Parent Project: *REFOCUS: Research Examining Factors Associated with the Opioid Crisis among Underserved African Americans* [R01-DA049333] (\$178,475)
- 2021 **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Equity Scholars for Action**
Adapting A Sexual Health Intervention for Black Women Focused on Improving Partner and Provider Communication about Dyspareunia (\$250,000)
Role: Principal Investigator; LOI Accepted, Full Grant Rejected.
- 2021 **Organization for Autism Research**
Exploring the Sexual Health Knowledge, Experiences, and Needs of College Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Views of Sexual Health Promotion Staff
Role: mPI
- 2020 **American Psychological Association Division 45 Community Partnership Grant**
& Still I Rise Retreat for Black Women Survivors of Sexual Assault (\$14,700)
Role: Co-Investigator

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Published/In Press

**Student first author/ +Award winning/ #Invited manuscript/ [special issue title]*

1. *Palomino, K. A., Malone, N., Iyiewuare, P., Forest, J., Duroseau, B., & **Thorpe, S.** (under review). "I know that it exists, but will I ever achieve pleasure?": Black women's evolving perceptions of sexual pleasure after experiencing sexual pain. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
2. **Thorpe, S.**, Vigil, K. E., Duroseau, B., Iyiewuare, P., Malone, N., Dogan-Dixon, J. N., & Ross, J. (in press). Superwoman Schema and relationship satisfaction among Black women in the U.S.: The mediating role of relationship attachment. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*.
3. Iyiewuare, P., Palomino, K.A., Duroseau, B., **Thorpe, S.** (2025). "It was the best sex of my life": A qualitative analysis of Black women's most pleasurable sexual experiences. *Journal of Sex Research*.
4. *Mizelle, D., **Thorpe, S.**, Savage, H., & Hargons, C.N. (2025) "Nobody ever sat me down to talk about that kind of stuff": A thematic analysis of heterosexual Black men's genital hygiene messages. *Health Communication*.
5. #**Thorpe, S.** (in press) Risk factors of genito-pelvic pain/penetration disorder among Black women living in the US. [Accelerating Innovative Strategies for Greater Equity and Inclusion in Pain Care and Research] *Health Psychology*.
6. *Malone, N., Vigil, K., Palomino, K. A., Duroseau, B., & **Thorpe, S.** (2025). The mediating role of sexual mindfulness on the relationship between Black women's psychological well-being and sexual functioning. *Mindfulness*.
7. **Thorpe, S.**, Duroseau, B., Iyiewuare, P., Palomino, K.A. (2025) Causes of sexual anxiety among US Southern Black women. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*
8. *Jester, J.K., Verty, V., Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2025) God did for me what I couldn't do for myself": Understanding Black Americans who use opioids views of religiosity, spirituality, and locus of control. *Journal of Religion and Health*.

9. #Miller-Roenigk, B.D., **Thorpe, S.**, Palomino, K.A., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (in press) Breastfeeding barriers among Black mothers: Maternal guilt, shame, and other affective stressors. [Intersectional Feminism, Parenthood, and Mental Health] *Women & Therapy*.
10. *Malone, N., Johnson, J.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Kerney, M.A., Duroseau, B. Stewart, M.R., Coston, N., Vigil, K., & Hargons, C.N. (2024). "It felt sexually liberating": Examining Black women's engagement with kink and BDSM. *Journal of Sex Research*. Advance online publication.
11. #**Thorpe, S.**, Iyiewuare, P., Duroseau, B., Malone, N., Palomino, K.A. (2024) "It's Easy To Be Burned Out In This Line of Work": Experiences of burnout among Black women pelvic floor therapists in the US. [Who Cares for Black Women in Health and Healthcare]. *Women's Health*.
12. #Hargons, C.N. & **Thorpe, S.** (2024) Sexual healing: Qualitative methods as radical pleasure intervention against anti-Black sexology.[Qualitative Methodologies to Advance Anti-Racism Scholarship] *Qualitative Psychology*. Advance online publication.
13. #*Mizelle, D.L., Peterson, R.L., Murphy, J., **Thorpe, S.**, & Hargons, C.N. (2024) "My playlist is too (damn) long": The impact of Black men's favorite sex songs on sexual socialization. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, 10(3-4), 327-354.
14. #*Malone, N., **Thorpe, S.**, Iyiewuare, P., Dogan-Dixon, J., McCoy, J., Howard, S., Jester, J.K., & Hargons, C.N. (2024) "My mom would always say pussy rules the world": A qualitative exploration of Black Southern women's sexual messages. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, 10(3-4), 299-325.
15. **Thorpe, S.**, Vigil, K., Iyiewuare, P., Malone, N., Peterson, R.L., Hargons, C.N. (2024) "Make sure you wash your monkey": Multigenerational vaginal hygiene messages from Black women. *Health Communication*.40(1), 128-140.
16. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Vigil, K., Duroseau, B., Iyiewuare, P., & Palomino, K.A. (2024) Minority stressors and psychological correlates of sexual distress among Black queer and heterosexual women. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*, (39)4, 1423-1444.
17. **Thorpe, S.**, Orphé, P., Pitcher, G., McLeod, K. Malone, N., Stevens-Watkins, D. (2024) Correlates of transactional sex among Black men and women who misuse opioids. *Health Education and Behavior*, 51(3), 416-424. <https://doi.org/10.1187/10901981231225440>
18. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Peterson, R.L., Iyiewuare, P., Mizelle, D.L., & Hargons, C.N. (2024) The influences of pornography on heterosexual Black men's and women's genital self-image & grooming. *Body Image*, Advanced online publication.
19. **Thorpe, S.**, Palomino, K.A., Malone, N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2023) Adverse childhood experiences and psychological correlates of substance use disorders among Black sexual minority women. *Health Promotion Practice*, 23(6) 945-950. doi:10.1177/15248399231213041
20. Dogan-Dixon, J., Thrasher, S., **Thorpe, S.**, Wheeler, P., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2023). The role of vicarious trauma in codeine syrup use among Black male prisoners. [Drug Use and Associated Harms Among People in Contact with Criminal Justice Systems] *Journal of Community Psychology*, (52)8, 1078-1090. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.23093>
21. Hargons, C.N., Wright, C. J., **Thorpe, S.**, Mizelle, D.L., Vigil, K., Savage, H.A., Annett, J., Malone, N., & Peterson, R.L. (2023) "It's What Boys Do": Valence, content, and sources of Black men's masturbation messages. *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*, 25(1), 33-43. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000456>
22. **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Malone, N., Dogan-Dixon, J., & Hargons, C. N. (2023). Listen to Black women: The power of Black women's collective sexual wisdom about strategies to promote sexual pleasure and reduce sexual pain. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 1-15.

23. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Dogan-Dixon, J. & Palomino, K.A. (2023) “Just be strong and keep going”: The influence of superwoman schema on Black women’s perceived expectations of coping with sexual pain. *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*, 26(3), 346-361. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2023.2210199
24. *Malone, N., Dogan-Dixon, J., **Thorpe, S.**, Thrasher, S., Wheeler, P., Oser, C., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2023). Flourishing despite HSV status: Cultural correlates of self-esteem among Black women with criminal justice involvement and herpes simplex virus. *Health Promotion Practice*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/15248399231171951
25. Townes, A., Wright, B., Fu, J., **Thorpe, S.**, & Herbenick, D. (2023) Past year and lifetime sexual experiences among Black heterosexual adolescents and adults in the United States: Findings from a nationally representative study. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*.19(1), 1-22. doi: 10.1080/15546128.2023.2187501
26. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Peterson, R., Iyiewuare, P., Kerney, M., & Hargons, C.N. (2023) Black queer women’s pleasure: A review. [Sexual Orientation and Identity] *Current Sexual Health Reports*, 15, 100-106, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11930-023-00357-y>
27. +**Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N, Malone, N., Iyiewuare, P., Jester, J.K., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) An interpretative phenomenological analysis of Black women’s meaning and experiences of sexual anxiety. *Journal of Sex Research*, 61(4), 614-628. doi:10.1080/00224499.2022.2156449
28. *Malone, N., Jester, J.K., **Thorpe, S.**, Dogan, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) “Anger, Embarrassment, less than a Woman”: The Emotional Responses of Black Women’s Sexual Pain. *Women & Health*, 63(1), 17-26, DOI: 10.1080/03630242.2022.2155899
29. **Thorpe, S.**, Peterson, R.L., Malone, N., Coleman, M.N., Annett, J., Hargons, C.N. (2022) From sin to sexual self-awareness: Black women’s reflection on lifetime masturbation messages. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 52, 1403-1415, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-022-02473-7>
30. *Bohmer, C., Sullivan, Q., Sanchez, A., **Thorpe, S.**, & Hargons, C. (2022) Intersectional masturbation: A content analysis on female masturbation studies through a sex positive and intersectional lens. *Journal of Positive Sexuality*, 8(2), 31-58.
31. **Thorpe, S.**, Stevens-Watkins, D, Thrasher, S., Malone, N., & Dogan, J.N. (2022) Religion, psychiatric symptoms, and gender role conflict among incarcerated Black men. *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*. 24(1), 76–82. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000409>
32. Stevens-Watkins, D., Hargons, C., Dogan, J., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., **Thorpe, S.**, & Linares, A.M. (2022) Social healthcare determinants of breastfeeding among Black women in Kentucky: A multigenerational study. *Breastfeeding Medicine*, 17(8), 666-672. <https://doi.org/10.1089/bfm.2021.0258>
33. +**Thorpe, S.**, Iyiewuare, P., Ware, S., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., Dogan, J.N., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) “Why would I talk to them about sex?”: Exploring patient-provider communication among Black women experiencing sexual pain. *Qualitative Health Research*, 32(10), 1527-1543. doi:10.1177/10497323221110091
34. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Dogan, J.N., Cineas, M., Vigil, K., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Differences in heterosexual and queer Black women’s sexual experiences through a Black queer feminist lens. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy* [Gender Diversity].39(2), 403-421 doi: 10.1080/14681994.2022.2077927
35. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Wright, C.J., Dogan, J.N., Mizelle, D.L., Stuck, J.L., Sullivan, Q., Sanchez, A., Bohmer, C., Stage, M., Bruther, K., Vigil, K., Cineas, M., & Gilbert, T. (2022) Black people's constructions of good sex: Describing good sex from the margins. *Sexualities*, 27(3), 457-474 <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634607221>
36. *Dogan, J.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Jester, J., Stevens-Watkins, D., & Hargons, C. (2022) “My

partner will think I'm weak or overthinking my pain": How being superwoman inhibits Black women's sexual pain disclosure to their partners. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*, 25(5), 567-581.
doi: 10.1080/13691058.2022.2072956

37. **Thorpe, S.,** Malone, N., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Black sexual minority women's social well-being and psychological distress. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 92(4), 505-515. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000617>
38. #Hargons, C.N. & **Thorpe, S.** (2022) #HotGirlScience: A liberatory paradigm for intersectional sex positive scholarship. [Race & Sexuality] *Journal of Positive Sexuality*, 8(1), 3-11.
39. **Thorpe, S.,** Tanner, A.E., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Sexual identity and minority stressors: Healthcare stereotype threat and access to healthcare among Black sexual minority women. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, 35(2), 183-203. doi: 10.1080/10538720.2022.2056398
40. **Thorpe, S.,** Hargons, C.N., Tanner, A.E., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) Perceived HIV Invulnerability and PrEP knowledge and attitudes among Black sexual minority women. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 17(3), 400-413. doi: 10.1080/15546128.2022.2035291
41. **Thorpe, S.,** Miller-Roenigk, B., Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J.N., Thrasher, S., Wheeler, P., Oser, C., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) HIV knowledge and perceived risk among Black men and women who are incarcerated in Kentucky. *Health Promotion and Practice*. 24(3), 566-570.
doi:10.1177/15248399211069091
42. **Thorpe, S.,** Malone, N., Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J.N., & Jester, J.K. (2022) The peak of pleasure: US Southern Black women's definitions and feelings toward pleasure. *Sexuality & Culture*. 26, 1115-1131.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-021-09934-6>
43. *+Malone, N., **Thorpe, S.,** Jester, J.K., Dogan, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Pursuing pleasure despite pain: A mixed-methods investigation of Black women's responses to sexual pain and coping strategies. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*. Advanced online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623X.2021.2012309>
44. **Thorpe, S.,** Dogan, J.N., Townes, A., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., & Hargons, C.N. (2021) Black women's pleasure mapping. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, 7(4), 1-23.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/bsr.2021.0008>
45. **Thorpe, S.,** Malone, N., Dogan, J.N., Jester, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Correlates of sexual self-consciousness among Black women. *Sexuality and Culture*. 26 (2), 707-728.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-021-09916-8>
46. **Thorpe, S.,** Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J., Thrasher, S., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Incarcerated Black men's restrictive emotionality: The influence of parental closeness and childhood abuse. *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*. 22(4), 844-849. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000342>
47. **Thorpe, S.,** Tanner, A.E., Nichols, T.R., Kuperberg, A.T., & Payton Foh, E. (2021) Black female adolescents' sexuality: Pleasure expectancies, sexual guilt, and age of sexual debut, *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 16(2), 199-220. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15546128.2021.1892005>
48. Tanner, A.E., Guastafarro, K., Wyrick, D.L., Milroy, J.J., Bhandari, S., Rulison, K., **Thorpe, S.,** Ware, S., Miller, A.M., & Collins, L.M. (2021) Simultaneous evaluation of an intervention targeting the intersection of alcohol and sex and test of a potential sexual violence component among first year college students: A hybrid evaluation-optimization trial of *itMatters*. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 55(12), 1184-1187. <https://doi.org/10.1093/abm/kaab003>
49. Townes, A., **Thorpe, S.,** Parmer, T., Wright, B., & Herbenick, D. (2021) Partnered sexual behaviors, pleasure, and orgasms at last sexual encounter: Findings from a US probability sample of Black women ages 18 to 92 years. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 47(4), 353-367.
DOI: 10.1080/0092623X.2021.1878315

50. *Dogan, J.N., Thrasher, S., **Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Cultural race-based stress and cannabis use among incarcerated African American men. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 35(3), 320-325. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000694>
51. Armstrong, J., **Thorpe, S.**, & Williams, D. (2020) Sexual attitudes, religious commitment, and sexual risk behaviours among college-aged women. *Journal of Gender Studies*. 30(8), 875-886. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2020.1838888>
52. **Thorpe, S.** & Kuperberg, A.T. (2020) Social motivations for college hookups. *Sexuality and Culture*, 25(2), 623-645. doi: 10.1007/s12119-020-09786-6 [Media coverage in Men's Variety]
53. **Thorpe, S.**, Nichols, T.R., Tanner, A.E., Kuperberg, A.T., & Payton Foh, E. (2020) Relational and partner-specific factors influencing Black heterosexual women's initiation of sexual intercourse and orgasm frequency, *Sexuality and Culture*, 25(2), 503-524. doi: 0.1007/s12119-020-09780-y
54. Hargons, C.N, Dogan, J.N. Malone, N., **Thorpe, S.**, Mosley, D.W. & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2020). Balancing the sexology scales: A content analysis of Black women's sexuality research. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*. 23(9), 1287-1301. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2020.1776399>
55. Wyrick, D.L., Tanner, A.E., Milroy, J.J., Guastaferrero, K.M., Bhandari, S., Kugler, K.C., **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Miller, A.M., & Collins, L.M. (2020). *itMatters*: Optimization of an online intervention to prevent sexually transmitted infections in college students. *Journal of American College Health*. 70(4), 1212-1222. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2020.1790571>
56. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Dyson, Y.D. (2020) "Knowing that you're pleasing the other person makes it even better": Perceived pleasure and condom use among heterosexual Black college men in the south. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*. 6(3), 49-69. doi: 10.1353/bsr.2020.0000
57. McCoy, T.P., Hoffart, N., Lewallen, L. & **Thorpe, S** (2020). The validity and reliability of professional self-concept in nursing in accelerated bachelor's and master's nursing students. *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 28(2), 382-403. doi: 10.1891/JNM-D-18-00107
58. **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Tanner, A.E., Kugler, K.C., Guastaferrero, K.M., Milroy, J.M., & Wyrick, D.L. (2020) Sexual sensation seeking, hookups, and alcohol consumption among first-year college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 23(1), 68-84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2020.1713136>
59. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., Ware, S, Guastaferrero, K.M., Milroy, J.M., & Wyrick, D.L. (2020) First-year Black college students' alcohol expectancies. *American Journal of Health Education*, 51(2), 78-86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2019.1688868>
60. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., Kugler, K.C., Chambers, B.D., Ma, A., Jenkins Hall, W., Ware, S., Milroy, J.J., & Wyrick, D.L. (2019) First year college students' alcohol and hookup behaviors: Sexual scripting and implications for sexual health promotion. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*. 31(1), 68-84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2019.1688868>
61. Oakes, L.R., & **Thorpe, S.** (2019) A mixed methods investigation of sexual health needs: Perspectives of college students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their support staff. *Sexuality & Disability*, 37(4), 587-598. doi: 10.1007/s11195-019-09602-6
62. **Thorpe, S.** & Oakes, L.R. (2019) Supporting the sexual health of college students with IDD: A call for trainings for inclusive postsecondary education program staff. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*. 1(2), 1-13. doi: <https://doi.org/10.13021/jipe.2019.2411>
63. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Tanner, A.E. (2019) Sexual health interventions for Black women in the United States: A systematic review of the literature. *International Journal of Sexual Health*. 31(2), 196-215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19317611.2019.1613278>

64. Hoffart, N, McCoy, T.P., Lewallen, L., & **Thorpe, S.** (2019) Differences in gender-related profile characteristics and outcomes of accelerated nursing students. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 35(2), 93-100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2018.10.003>

Under Review

**Student first author/ +Award winning/ #Invited manuscript [Special Issue Title]*

Revise and Resubmit

1. *Vigil, K.E., Duroseau, B., Savage, H., Foster, L., Doyle, C., Collazo, I., **Thorpe, S.**, & Hargons, C.N. (under review). Brief report: Assessing the sexual desire questionnaire factor structure among a sample of Black men and women. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
2. Palomino, K.A., **Thorpe, S.**, Verty, V.P.A., Malone, N., Stevens-Watkins, D. (under review). "I'm going to use the formula God gave me": The role of the Black church in breastfeeding support for Black mothers. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.
3. *Duroseau, B., Vigil, K., Murdock, L., Iyiewuare, P., & **Thorpe, S.** (under review). "You Shoot It Up Your Vagina and That's Supposed to Heal It?": Black Women's Perspectives on Vaginal Steaming Across Generations. *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*.

Initial Review

4. **Thorpe, S.**, Bass, T.M., Ossai, U., Uloko, M, Gibson, R. (under review) "All topics from adolescent sexual health to post-menopause": The sexual health training needs of Black women pelvic floor therapists. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*.
5. Iyiewuare, P., Rohan, K., Castillo Cruz, R., **Thorpe, S.** (under review). Individual Level Risk and Resilience: Exploring Savoring and Overgeneral Memory as Moderators of the Relationship between Childhood Maltreatment and Mental Health Symptoms among Black Sexual Minority Women in the United States. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*.
6. Hargons, C.N., Vigil, K.E., **Thorpe, S.**, Herbenick, D., Mark, K. P., Finzi-Adams, Z., Stevens-Watkins, D., Byrd, A., Ostebo, V., & Thomas, M. (Under Review). Comparing Black and White women's self-reported relationship correlates of sexual functioning. *Psychology & Sexuality*.

In Preparation

1. **Thorpe, S.**, Watson-Singleton, N. N., Malone, N., Iyiewuare, P., Palomino, K. A., Fraizer, J., Forest, J., & Duroseau, B. (2025). Black women's feelings and facilitators of joy. Manuscript in preparation.
2. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Palomino, K. A., Ross, J, Iyiewuare, P., & Watson-Singleton, N. N. (2025). What is it like to be queer in your state?: The lived experiences of LGBTQ* Black women in the US. Manuscript in preparation.
3. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Stevens-Watkins, D., Herbenick, D., Mark, K., Vigil, K., Jemmott, J. (in preparation) Why we ADD SEX FUN: Centering Black women in sexual functioning science. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.
4. Jester, J. K., Palomino, K. A., Ntego, T., **Thorpe, S.**, & Stevens-Watkins, D. (in progress). "You're supposed to help me, but I guess I'm not worthy": Exploring healthcare experiences of Black women who use opioids.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Townes, A. & **Thorpe, S.** (2023) Sex positivity and culturally affirming sexuality education. In R. Davis (Eds.) *Black Women's Reproductive Health and Sexuality: A Holistic Public Health Approach*. APHA Press.

2. **Thorpe, S.,** Malone, N., & Iyiewuare, P. (under editorial review) “People Say I Look Like Janet Jackson”: Black women’s body image and desirability politics in 90s movies and shows. In A. Halliday *In A 90s Kind of World: Black Girls’ and Women’s Popular Culture*. University of Illinois Press.

WHITE PAPERS/REPORTS

1. **Thorpe, S.,** Malone, N., Ross, J., & Palomino, K. A. (2025). The Black pelvic floor therapist perspectives study: Professional experiences and training needs among U.S. Black women certified as pelvic floor therapists.
https://www.drshemeka.com/_files/ugd/92ea97_124a0b99d3654556bc730f091ae612ac.pdf

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Oral Presentations (*=keynote/plenary session)

1. APHA Partner Symposium: Black Caucus of Health Workers. *Prioritizing Black women’s health intersectionally: lessons from intracategorical health equity research*. APHA Annual Meeting. November 2025.
2. APHA Partner Symposium: A Holistic Approach to Black Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health. *Sex positivity and culturally affirming sexuality education*. APHA Annual Meeting. November 2025.
3. Queering Infertility Conversation. 2nd Annual SisterSong (in)Fertility Awareness Week. Atlanta, Georgia. August 2025.
4. Community-Academic Partnerships to Promote Research Excellence, University of Kentucky Office of the Vice President for Research Lunch and Learn Series [Virtual]. April 2025
5. How To Write A Lot..., AppalTRUST Scholar Enrichment Session (U54-DA058256) [Virtual]. February 2025
6. How To Write A Lot..., Faculty ACCESS Program (R25-GM147296) Lunch and Learn, [Virtual]. January 2025
7. Black Queer Women Couples’ Experiences Using Assisted Reproductive Technologies, University of Louisville Public Health Seminar Series. [Virtual] September 2024
8. *The Vulnerability and Danger of Sexual Desire for Black Girls, Fact Forward Summer Institute, Charleston, SC. June 2024
9. Black Feminisms & Sexuality Studies, 4th Summer Session in Gender/Sex/uality In/Justice. Queens University, Canada. [Virtual] May-July 2024
10. Black Women’s Sexual Well-Being. University of California, San Diego. [Virtual] PSYC 127. May 2024
11. Black Women’s Experiences of Sexual Pleasure and Pain. Bloomington Sex Salon. Indiana University at Bloomington. February 2024
12. *Listen To Black Women: Black Women’s Collective Sexual Wisdom. The American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. June 2023
13. *Pleasure Justice. The North Carolina Sexual Health Conference. Cary, NC. May 2023
14. *Black Queer Women’s Sexual Pleasure. The Conference on Contemporary Relationships. Lexington, KY. May 2023
15. Intersections of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Reproductive Justice: Deepening the Dialogue. American Public Health Association Annual Conference. Sexual and Reproductive Health Special Interest Group. Boston, MA. November 2022
16. *Building Providers’ Pleasure Toolkits. The 4th Annual Reproductive Health within Primary Care Conference. Irvine, CA. November 2022

17. Black Women's Experiences of Sexual Anxiety. Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health Webinar [Virtual] July 2022.
18. Pleasure Mountain: Black Women's Descriptions of Sexual Pleasure. Invited Talk for The Center for Positive Sexuality's Monthly Lecture Series [Virtual] May 2022.
19. Exploring Patient-Provider Communication Among Black Women Experiencing Sexual Pain. UNITE Research Expo. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. May 2022.
20. Black Women's Sexual Well-Being: Sex Positive Implications for Nursing Professionals. Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health's Reproductive Justice Series [Virtual] February 2022
21. Exploring the Essences of Black Women's Sexuality and Pleasure in the 21st Century. National Sex Ed Conference [Virtual] September 2021.
22. Guilt, Pain, and the Absence of Pleasure: The Sexual Socialization of Black Female Adolescents. Sex Ed Lecture Series hosted by the Sex Ed Network [Virtual] July 2021
23. "It's My Burden To Carry": Black Women and Sexual Pain. Invited talk for ANTE UP! Professional Development Series Black Sweat [Virtual] May 2021.
24. Let's Not Forget: Historical and Reproductive Trauma among Black and Native Women. Sexuality Liberators and Movers (S.L.A.M.) II Conference. [Virtual] May 2021.
25. Pleasure Expectancies of Black Female Adolescents. Tennessee Alliance for Sexual Health. May 2021.
26. Black Women's Pleasure and Orgasms. Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health [Virtual] April 2021.
27. Pleasure, positivity, and promotion: A focus on pleasure to reduce sexual risks. Presented at SHIFTNC Adolescent Sexual Health Conference. Greensboro, NC. May 2019.

Peer Reviewed (selected primary presenter only)

1. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., & Iyiewuare P. Qualitative Methods As A Radical Pleasure Intervention for Anti-Black Sexology. Conference Symposium. World Association of Sexual Health Annual Conference. Brisbane, Australia.
2. **Thorpe, S.** (2025) Steps for developing a Black feminist qualitative reproductive justice-based project: The A.R.T. for Hope study. Poster Presentation. Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences Annual Conference. Lexington, KY.
3. **Thorpe, S.**, Iyiewuare, P., Ware, S., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., Dogan, J.N., & Hargons, C.N. (2025) "Why would I talk to them about sex?": Exploring patient-provider communication among Black women experiencing sexual pain. International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health. Atlanta, GA.
4. **Thorpe, S.** (2024) Differences in heterosexual and queer Black women's sexual experiences through a Black queer feminist lens. Poster Presentation. National LGBTQ Health Conference. Atlanta, GA.
5. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., & Palomino, K. (2024) Minority stressors and psychological correlates of sexual distress among Black queer and heterosexual women. American Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
6. **Thorpe, S.** (2023) Black Women's Experiences of Sexual Anxiety. Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference. Oral Presentation. New Orleans, LA.
7. **Thorpe, S.** & Malone, N. (2023) "Knowing My Body and What Makes Me Feel Good": Black Women's Sexual Pleasure and The Benefits of Mindfulness. The Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians Spring Roundtable. Montego Bay, Jamaica.
8. **Thorpe, S.** (2023) Black Women's Experiences of Sexual Anxiety. The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health Annual Conference. Podium Presentation. St. Louis, MO.
9. Malone, N., Jester, J., & **Thorpe, S.** (2022) Examining Black Women's Sexual Pain and Treatment. Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health's #ITalkSexualHealth Conference. Atlanta, GA.
10. **Thorpe, S.** & Townes, A. (2022) Kiss Me Here, Lick Me There: Black Women's Pleasure Mapping. Research Talk at the Society for Sex Therapy and Research Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

11. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, & Bohmer, C. (2021). Intersectionality and Sexual Pleasure. Symposium Brief Talk at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
12. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Malone, M. (2021) Spirituality and Intimacy: Center Black Bodies and Pleasure. Cultivating Joy and Collective Restoration: (Re)Imagining and (Re)claiming Pleasure and Liberation Conference. Hosted by Harvard University. Virtual.
13. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2020) Circles of Sexuality: Implications for Black and Native Women's Sexuality Research. Presented at the Association for Women in Psychology Annual Conference. Austin, TX.
14. **Thorpe, S.** & Kuperberg, A.T. (2019) Hookup motivations and methods of post-hookup communication among college students. Poster presented at the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA
15. **Thorpe, S.** & Oakes, L. (2019) Let's talk about sex: Access to sexual health information and experiences of postsecondary education program students and staff. Poster presented at the UNCG Graduate Research Expo. Greensboro, NC.
16. Oakes, L.R., **Thorpe, S.**, & Evans, G.S. (2019) Self-advocates: An interactive discussion about relationships and sex. Presented at the ARC Advocacy Conference. Winston Salem, NC.
17. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G. E. (2019) The absence of pleasure and sex positivity in sexuality education: A look at African American sexual health promotion. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Convention Sexuality Preconference. Portland, Oregon.
18. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Tanner, A.E. (2018) Sexual health interventions for African American women: A systematic review of the literature. Presented at the Society for Analysis of African American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI) annual meeting. San Diego, CA.
19. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2018) Putting it to Practice: Utilizing Sex-Positive Approaches for Adolescents of Color. Presented at the Conference on Adolescent Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
20. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2017) Risky and Invisible: The Representation of Black and Native Female Teens in Sexual Health Research. Presented at the Annual Conference on Adolescent Sexual Health, Greensboro, NC
21. **Thorpe, S.** & Gonzales-Backen, M.A. (2017) Black College Students' Sexual Behaviors: The Role of Gender and Socioeconomic Status. Presented at North Carolina Central University's Women & Gender Studies Symposium, Durham, NC.
22. Benbrook, A. & **Thorpe, S.** (2016) Redefining College Sexual Health: Creating a SAFE Space for Capacity Building of Sex-Positive Programming on College Campuses. Presented at the North Carolina Sexual Health Conference. Cary, NC.
23. **Thorpe, S.**, Murray, K., & Gonzales-Backen, M.A. (2015) The Effects of Gender and Condom Usage on Relationship Desire Pre- and Post-Hookup and Communication Awkwardness. Poster Presented at Florida State University's Research and Creativity Day, Tallahassee, FL and 2016 Society of Research on Adolescence (SRA) Conference, Baltimore, MD.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2023-2024 | Community Advisory Board Member, University of Washington
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
<i>Sexual Assault Recovery Among Sexual Minority Women: A Longitudinal Multilevel Study</i>
National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities [R01-MD017573]
PI: Dr. Emily Dworkin |
| 2017-2020 | Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Department of Public Health Education
<i>Engineering an Online STI Prevention Program.</i> National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism [R01- AA022931] (\$2,584,835)
Co-PIs: Drs. David Wyrick & Linda M. Collins |

- 2016-2017 Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Greensboro**
College of Nursing
Impact of Gender on New Careers in Nursing Program. American Association of College of Nursing/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (\$1000)
PI: Dr. Nancy Hoffart
- 2015-2016 Program Assistant Consultant, The Better Health and Life Center for Underserved Populations.** Co-facilitated Youth Health Leadership health campaign planning sessions.
- 2015-2016 Graduate Research Assistant, Florida State University.** Researched literature and coded longitudinal qualitative data on the socioemotional development of children through their friendships and parental influences.
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bethany Blair
- 2010-2013 Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Greensboro**
Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Origins of Maternal Sensitivity to Infant Distress. National Institute of Child and Human Development [R01 HD058578] (\$1,400,000)
PI: Dr. Esther Leerkes

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University	Course [class size]	Semester
University of Kentucky	KHP 488: Professional Seminar in Health Promotion [online]	Spring 2025
	KHP 679: Health Promotion Internship	Spring 2025
	KHP 576: LGBTQ+ Health Promotion [online]	Spring 2024
	KHP 674- Foundations in Health Promotion [hybrid]	Fall 2022; 2023;2024
	KHP 220- Sexuality Education [online and in-person]	Spring 2023; 2024
University of North Carolina-Greensboro	HEA 260-Human Sexuality [online and in-person]	Summer 2019; Spring 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apr 2025	UK Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) Using AI to Research Skills
Feb 2025	CCTS Entering Mentoring Training Program
Dec 2024	UK Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) Designing Slides to Reduce Cognitive Load & Support Memory Workshop
April 2024	UK Racial Equity Initiative Coordinating Center Spring Networking Event, Morehouse School of Medicine
July 2023	The Intersectionality Training Institute Summer Intensive

July 2023

20th Annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive, Research Talk

Aug 2022

UK Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), Setting the Tone & Fostering Inclusion Workshop

Dec 2021- June 2022

Morehouse School of Medicine, National Research Mentoring Network, Strategic Empowerment Tailored for Health Equity Investigators

SERVICE

Professional

- National Institute of Health Loan Repayment Program Ambassador (Aug 2022-present)
- The International Society of the Study of Women's Sexual Health (Aug 2022-present)
 - Member, Research Grants Committee
 - Mentor, Scholars in Women's Sexual Health Research Grant, Brenice Duroseau, Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
- North Carolina Sexual Health Conference, Planning Committee Member (Jan 2017-present)
- National Sex Ed Conference Planning Team Member (Jan 2020-Dec 2021)
- NC Division of Public Health, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant Reviewer (2016-2017)

Editorial Board Member

1. Culture, Health, & Sexuality (2024-present)
2. Journal of Sex Research (2024-present)
3. Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness (2021-2024)
4. American Journal of Sexuality Education (2021-2023)

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

1. The Journal of Health Education and Behavior
2. Journal of American Medicine
3. Sexuality Research and Social Policy
4. Psychology of Women Quarterly
5. Journal of Family Psychology
6. Sexuality and Culture
7. Women's Health Reports
8. AIDS and Behavior
9. Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
10. Racial, Ethnic, & Health Disparities

Abstract Reviewer

- International Society for the Study of Women's Health
- North Carolina Sexual Health Conference
- The National Sex Ed Conference

Membership

- Black Feminist Futures (Jan 2025-present)
- Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (Oct 2022-present)
- The International Society of the Study of Women's Sexual Health (Sept 2022-present)
- American Association for Sexuality Educators, Counselors, & Therapists (June 2018-present)
- Women of Color Sexual Health Network (Oct 2016-present)

- The American Public Health Association (Sept 2022-Sept 2023)
- Society for African American Public Health Issues (Feb 2017-2020)
- Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society (April 2016)
- Society of Research on Adolescence (Jan 2016- Dec 2016)
- North Carolina Society for Public Health Education (May 2016-Oct 2017)

University

Internal Mentorship Programs

Year	Role	Program	Student Name	Degree Program
2023-2024	Mentor	Center for Health Equity Transformation Students Participating as Ambassadors for Research in Kentucky (SPARK)	Jade Forest	BS in Public Health, Department of Public Health
2023-2025	Mentor	UNITE Predoctoral Research Enhancement Program Mentor	Jasmine Jester	PhD in Counseling Psychology, Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
2020-2021	Co-Mentor	Center for Health Equity Transformation Students Participating as Ambassadors for Research in Kentucky (SPARK)	Alexis James	BS in Health Human Sciences

Workshops, Presentations, & Student Engagement

- April 2025: VPR Lunch & Learn Panelist, Community-Academic Partnerships to Promote Research Excellence
- Jan 2025: College of Education Ignite Series Panelist, Engaging Students in Research & Student Research Spotlight
- Oct 2024: UNITE Ongoing Member Engagement, Speaker, Black Queer Women Couples' Experiences Using Assisted Reproductive Technologies
- Sept 2023: Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives, Panelist, A Panel Discussion on Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum Panelist
- Sept 2022 & 2023: EPE 174: Meet the Researcher Interviewee

Committees & Boards

- The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies Funding Committee, Member, 2024-present
- KHP Graduate Faculty Committee, Health Promotion Representative, 2024-present
- KHP Advisory Board, Health Promotion Representative, 2023-present
- Evaluation Center Advisory Board, Member, 2023-present

Student Committees

*committee chair or co-chair

Name	Year in Program	Program	School	Service Years	Role
DEPARTMENTAL					

Alandra Ricci	Incoming PhD student	Health Education	University of Kentucky	Aug 2025	Chair
Ensieh Shahrjooihaghi	3 rd year PhD Student	Physical Education	University of Kentucky	Feb 2025-present	Member
Leah Murdock*	2 nd year PhD Student	Health Education	University of Kentucky	Aug 2024-present	Co-Chair
Jade Forest*	2 nd year MS Student-Thesis	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	Aug 2024-present	Chair
Maranda Brooks	3 rd year EdD Student	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	Oct 2024-present	Co-Chair
Lindsey Mullis	10 th year PhD Candidate	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	Oct 2024-present	Member
Erin Aiello	6 th year PhD Candidate	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	June 2024-present	Member
EXTERNAL					
Marian Trattner	3 rd year PhD Student	Community Health Education	University of North Carolina-Greensboro	April 2025-present	Member
Courtney Johnson-Benson	2 nd year PhD Student	Human Sexuality	California Institute of Integral Studies	Aug 2024-present	Member
Brittany Broaddus-Smith	3 rd year PhD Candidate	Organizational Leadership	Lancaster Bible College/Capital Seminary	July 2024	Second Reader
Edward Wooten	2 nd year PhD Student	Education Policy Sciences-Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry	University of Kentucky	April 2024-present	Member
Shadeen Francis	5 th year PhD Student	Clinical Sexology	Modern Sex Therapy Institutes	Jan 2022-present	Member
Kasey Vigil	3 rd year PhD Candidate	Counseling Psychology	University of Kentucky	October 2022-present	Member
FORMER STUDENTS					
Praise Iyiewuare	PhD Graduate	Clinical Psychology	University of Vermont	Jan 2022-May 2024	External Member
Jermisha Fraizer	PhD Graduate	Human Sexuality	California Institute of Integral Studies	May 2022-Dec 2024	External Member
Hannah Brown	MS Graduate (thesis track)	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	Aug 2024-May 2025	Member

Masters Committee Member Non-Thesis Track (*Chair/+Online Student)

1. Tanisha Bowen- MS Health Promotion (2024 – present)*+
2. Jania Martin- MS Health Promotion (2024-present)*+
3. Brenna Swan- MS Health Promotion (2024-present)*
4. Harry Smith-MS Health Promotion (2023-present)*+
5. Maddison Kuehne-MS Health Promotion (2023-2025)*
6. Camille Dant- MS Health Promotion (2022-2025)*+
7. Laura Cuevas Melendez- MS Health Promotion (2022-2024)*
8. Excel Andy- MS Health Promotion (2022-2024)*
9. Bryce Huston- MS Health Promotion (2022-2024)*
10. Kaylee Palomino- MS Sport & Exercise Psychology (2022-2023)

Postdoctoral Scholar Mentor

- 2024-2026, Lyman T. Johnson Postdoctoral Research Fellow Mentor, Dr. Praise Iyiewuare

MEDIA

Links to University Articles

November 1, 2024: [Thorpe Quoted in Essence](#)

July 7, 2023: [UNCG Inspires Researcher to Become Sexuality Educator](#)

April 12, 2023: [Kentucky and Georgia researchers partner to reach Black women](#)

March 30, 2023: [Education professor work centers Black women's voices](#)

June 27, 2022: [UK Scholars Recognized As Equity Changemakers](#)

May 17, 2022: [UK Research Team Uniquely Poised to Reach Black American Communities, Reduce Health Disparities](#)

December 21, 2021: [University of Kentucky Research Team Uniquely Poised To Reach Black Communities, Fight Health Disparities](#)

Links to Online Features

March 29, 2025 [Thorpe Quoted in Essence](#)

November 1, 2024 [Thorpe Quoted in Essence](#)

May 1, 2024 [Thorpe Cited in Essence: Girls United](#)

October 15, 2023 [Thorpe Cited in The New York Times](#)

March 7, 2023 [Thorpe Listed in BuzzFeed](#)

July 18, 2021 [Thorpe Cited in Men's Variety](#)

April 12, 2020 [Thorpe Listed in Elite Daily](#)