

# ALEXIS CHRISTINE DENNIS

MAY 2020

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Department of Sociology & Carolina Population Center  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Office:** 168 Hamilton Hall  
**Mail:** 155 Hamilton Hall CB 3210  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

**Email:** [acdennis@live.unc.edu](mailto:acdennis@live.unc.edu)  
**Mobile:** XXX-XXX-XXXX

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, expected 2022
- MA Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2018
- MPH Health Behavior, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014
- BA Communication Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (*with Highest Honors*), 2011
- Certificate Documentary Studies, Duke University, 2011

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Population Health; Mental Health; Medical Sociology; Race / Class / Gender; Social Stratification; Life Course; Race and Ethnicity

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed

- 2018 McCarraher, Donna R., Catherine Packer, Sarah Mercer, **Alexis C. Dennis**, Harry Banda, Namakau Nyambe, Randy M. Stalter, Jonathan K. Mwansa, Patrick Katayamoyo, and Julie A. Denison. "Adolescents living with HIV in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia: Their reproductive health needs and experiences." *PLOS ONE*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0197853>
- 2017 Velloza, Jennifer, Melissa H. Watt, Laurie Abler, Donald Skinner, Seth C. Kalichman, **Alexis C. Dennis**, and Kathleen J. Sikkema. "HIV-risk behaviors and social support among men and women attending alcohol-serving venues in South Africa: Implications for HIV prevention." *AIDS and Behavior*. 21(Suppl 2):144-154.

Watt, Melissa H., **Alexis C. Dennis**, Karmel W. Choi, Nonceba Ciya, John A. Joska, Corne Robertson, and Kathleen J. Sikkema. "Impact of Sexual Trauma on HIV Care Engagement: Perspectives of Female Patients with Trauma Histories in Cape Town, South Africa." *AIDS and Behavior*. 21(11):3209-3218.

2016 **Dennis, Alexis C.**, Sarah M. Wilson, Mary V. Mosha, Gileard G. Masenga, Kathleen J. Sikkema, Korrine E. Terroso, and Melissa H. Watt, "Experiences of Social Support among Women Presenting for Obstetric Fistula Repair Surgery in Tanzania." *International Journal of Women's Health* 8:429-439.

2015 Watt, Melissa H., Lisa A. Eaton, **Alexis C. Dennis**, Karmel W. Choi, Seth C. Kalichman, Donald Skinner, and Kathleen J. Sikkema. "Alcohol Use During Pregnancy in a South African Community: Reconciling Knowledge, Norms, and Personal Experience." *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 20(1):48-55.

Sikkema, Kathleen J., **Alexis C. Dennis**, Melissa H. Watt, Karmel W. Choi, Tatenda Yemeke, and John A. Joska. "Improving Mental Health Among People Living with HIV: A Review of Intervention Trials in Low- and Middle-income Countries." *Global Mental Health* 2:e19-42.

**Dennis, Alexis C.**, Clare Barrington, Sayaka Hino, Michele Gould, David Wohl, and Carol E. Golin. "'You're in a World of Chaos:' Experiences Accessing HIV Care and Adhering to Medications After Incarceration." *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care* 26(5):542-555.

Grewe, Mary Beth, Arianna Taboada, **Alexis Dennis**, Elizabeth Chen, Kathryn Stein, Sable Watson, and Alexandra F. Lightfoot. "'I learned to accept every part of myself': the transformative impact of a theatre-based sexual health and HIV prevention programme." *Sex Education: Sexuality, Society, & Learning* 15(3):202-217.

Denison, Julie A., Harry Banda, **Alexis C. Dennis**, Catherine Packer, Namakau Nyambe, Randy M. Stalter, Jonathan K. Mwansa, Patrick Katayamoyo, and Donna R. McCarragher. "'The sky is the limit': Adhering to Antiretroviral Therapy and HIV Self-management from the Perspectives of Adolescents Living with HIV and their Adult Caregivers." *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 18(1):19358.

Grodensky, Catherine A., Carol E. Golin, Chaunetta Jones, Meheret Mamo, **Alexis C. Dennis**, Melinda G. Abernethy, and Kristine B. Patterson. "'I Should Know Better': The Roles of Relationships, Spirituality, Disclosure, Stigma, and Shame for Older Women Living with HIV Seeking

Support in the South.” *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care* 26(1):12-23.

2012 **Dennis, Alexis C.** and Julia.T. Wood. “We’re not going to have this conversation but *you get it!*: Black Mother-Daughter Communication about Sexual Relationships.” *Women’s Studies in Communication* 35(2):204-223.

### **Manuscripts in Submission**

**Dennis, Alexis C.** “Those Left Behind: Socioeconomic Predictors and Social Mediators of Psychological Distress among Working-aged African Americans in a Post-industrial City” (Revise and Resubmit – *Du Bois Review*)

**Dennis, Alexis C.,** Esther O. Chung, Evans K. Lodge, Rae Anne Martinez, and Rachel E. Wilbur. “Looking Back to Leap Forward: A Framework for Operationalizing the Structural Racism Construct in Minority Health Research.” (Under Review)

Hargrove, Taylor W., **Alexis C. Dennis,** Lauren M. Gaydosh. “Educational Gradients in CMR by Race/ethnicity, Nativity, and County-level Characteristics.” (Under Review)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

**Dennis, Alexis C.,** Taylor W. Hargrove, Sadie E. Emch, and Robert A. Hummer. “The Influence of Early Life Dis/Advantage and Socioeconomic Mobility on Early-to-Mid Life Depressive Symptom Trajectories among African American Women and Men”

**Dennis, Alexis C.** “Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Life Course Indicators of Socioeconomic Status and Depressive Symptomatology Among Young Adults”

**Dennis, Alexis C.** “Racial/Ethnic-Gender Differences in the Reciprocal Relationship Between Socioeconomic Wellbeing and Depressive Symptoms Across The Early Life Course”

**Dennis, Alexis C.** “How do we respond to stress? Assessing the Contribution of Coping to Racial/Ethnic-Gender Disparities in Mental Health”

**Dennis, Alexis C.,** Esther O. Chung, Evans K. Lodge, Rae Anne Martinez, and Rachel E. Wilbur. “Considering the Role of Structural Racism in the Development, Evolution, and Maintenance of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Implications for Future Research”

### **Other Publications**

2012 **Dennis, Alexis**, Chanelle Pearson, and Carla Saporta. *Filling in the Gaps: A Racial Equity Framework for Successful Implementation of the Affordable Care Act*. The Greenlining Institute. Retrieved: <http://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GIREFLayout.pdf>

Saporta, Carla, Nicole Roscoe, **Alexis Dennis**, Jeremy Cantor, and Jason Wurtz. *Health, Equity, and the Bottom Line: Workplace Wellness and California Small Businesses*. The Greenlining Institute & Prevention Institute. Retrieved: <http://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GIWWPBrief.pdf>

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

2016-2020 NIH/NICHD National Research Service Award (NRSA) Predoctoral Traineeship, Carolina Population Center, UNC Chapel Hill

2019 Poster Award, Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science  
Travel Award, Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

2016-2017 Initiative for Minority Excellence Award, UNC Chapel Hill  
UNC Sociology Department Merit Award, UNC Chapel Hill

2013–2014 FHI-UNC Public Health Fellowship, FHI 360 and UNC Chapel Hill Office of Global Health

2012–2013 Hatch-Barnhill Award, Dept. of Health Behavior, UNC Chapel Hill

2011 Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship Award Recipient, Dept. of Communication Studies, UNC Chapel Hill  
Public Service Scholar, UNC Chapel Hill

2010 Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, UNC Chapel Hill  
Order of the Golden Fleece (Honor Society) Inductee, UNC Chapel Hill  
Lambda Pi Eta (Communication Honor Society) Inductee, UNC Chapel Hill

2009 LeaderShape Palmer Award Recipient, National LeaderShape Conference

2007-2011 Robertson Scholars Leadership Program Scholar, UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University

2007 Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient, Girl Scouts of America

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2020 **Dennis, Alexis C.**, Esther O. Chung, Evans K. Lodge, Rae Anne Martinez, Rachel E. Wilbur. Structural Racism and the Development and Maintenance of U.S. Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Accepted for presentation, meeting cancelled due to COVID-19
- Hargrove, Taylor W., **Alexis C. Dennis**, Lauren Gaydosh. Contextualizing the Gradient: Educational Disparities at the Intersection of Race/ethnicity, Nativity, and County-level Characteristics. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Accepted for presentation, meeting cancelled due to COVID-19
- Dennis, Alexis C.**, Taylor W. Hargrove, Sadie E. Emch, Robert A. Hummer. The Influence of Early Life Dis/Advantage and Socioeconomic Mobility on Early-To-Midlife Depressive Symptom Trajectories among African American Women and Men. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Accepted for presentation, meeting cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2019 **Dennis, Alexis C.** Racial Differences in the Socioeconomic Correlates of Depression among U.S.-Born Young Adults. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- IAPHS Conference Poster Award Winner
- Dennis, Alexis C.**, Julie S. Olson, Robert A. Hummer. Associations between Life Course Indicators of Socioeconomic Status and Depressive Symptomatology Among African American Adults. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2018 **Dennis, Alexis C.** Those Left Behind: Socioeconomic Status and Psychological Distress among African Americans in a Post-industrial City. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Dennis, Alexis C.**, Julie Olsen, Robert A. Hummer. Socioeconomic Trajectories and the Mental Health Status of African American Adults. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
- 2013 Katayamoyo, P., Packer, C., Banda, H., Stalter, R., Namakau, N., Mercer, S., **Dennis, A.**, McCarragher, D., Denison, J. "Antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and reproductive health (RH) among adolescents living with

HIV (ALHIV) in Ndola and Kitwe, Zambia.” 7<sup>th</sup> National Health Research Conference, Government Complex, Lusaka, Zambia.

Griffith, T., Golin, C., Turner, K., Grodensky, C., Fogel, C., Whol, D., Gould, M., Knight, K., Flynn, P., & **Dennis, A.** (2013). “Meeting our medical needs after prison release: Views of formerly incarcerated people living with HIV.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition. Boston, MA.

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor of Record**

Sociology of Mental Health (Fall 2020)

### **Teaching Assistant**

Health and Society (Fall 2018)

Introduction to Population Health (Spring 2019)

### **Undergraduate Mentees**

Sadie Emch  
Dalton Kern  
Princess Collins  
Marcus McKay Jr.

## **CONSULTING**

April – Sept. 2019      Dr. Kurt Ribisl, Health Behavior Department  
UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

## **OTHER RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

May 2019 - Present      Research Assistant for Dr. Taylor Hargrove  
Sociology Department and Carolina Population Center  
UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Dec 2019 – Feb 2020      Photographer  
*Pens, Lens, and Soul: The Story of the Beautiful Project*  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

May-Dec 2018      Research Assistant for Dr. Liana J. Richardson  
Sociology Department and Carolina Population Center  
UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

June 2014–June 2016 Associate in Research, Duke Global Health Institute,  
Duke University, Durham, NC

April 2013–May 2014 Capstone, Health Behavior Department,  
UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Aug 2012–May 2013 Research Assistant, UNC Center for AIDS Research Social  
and Behavioral Sciences Core,  
UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Sept 2011–July 2012 Health Fellow, The Greenlining Institute, Berkeley, CA

May–June 2011 Research Assistant for Dr. Jon Hussey  
Maternal and Child Health Department and Carolina Population  
Center, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

## **SERVICE**

### **Profession**

April 2019 Session Chair, “Intersectionality Approaches in Demography”  
PAA Annual Meeting, Austin TX

### **Ad Hoc Peer Review**

*Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, AIDS and Behavior, Journal of  
Infectious Diseases*

### **Department / University**

Jan 2020 – Present Executive Director Search Committee  
Robertson Scholars Leadership Program, UNC Chapel Hill and  
Duke University

Sept – Nov 2019 Faculty Search Committee  
Sociology Department, UNC Chapel Hill

Dec 2016–March 2018 Recruitment Planning Committee  
Sociology Department, UNC Chapel Hill

June – July 2017 Alumni Board Selection Committee  
Robertson Scholars Leadership Program, UNC Chapel Hill

April 2013–March 2014 Co-Chair, Exhibitor Committee  
Minority Health Conference, UNC Chapel Hill

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science  
Population Association of America