

Enoch Azasu, PhD, MSW, MBA
NIMH Global Vista Award Winner
Assistant Professor
University at Buffalo School of Social Work
The State University of New York
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EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work – May 2023

Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri, USA)

Master of Social Work (MSW) – May 2019

Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri, USA)

Master in Business Administration (MBA) – May 2016

University of Professional Studies (Accra, Ghana)

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology – May 2010

University of Ghana (Accra, Ghana)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Data Analytics (Excel, SQL, Python, Power BI)
- Data Visualization and Communication (Excel, Tableau)
- Project Management; Data Collection and Analysis
- Human Resource Management

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Teaching Assistant – University of Buffalo School of Social Work

Facilitated online discussion sessions for MSW students

Summer 2024

2. Research Mentor - Students at SLU Medical School

Work with students on their research topics, publications, posters and Capstone.

Summer 2023 till date

3. Guest Lecture, Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Course: Global Health and Language

Topic: The intersection of language and Suicide Research: Lessons from a study in Ghana

Spring 2023

4. Teaching Assistant, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Course: Differential Diagnosis

Spring 2021

5. Teaching Assistant, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Course: Social Welfare Policy and Services (Course 1 and 2)

Fall 2020

6. Teaching Assistant, Psychology Department, University of Ghana

Course: Cognitive Psychology

Fall 2010

7. Teaching Assistant, Psychology Department, University of Ghana

Course: Research Methods and Statistical Applications

Fall 2010

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Lateef, H., **Azasu, E. K.**, Boahen-Boaten, B. B., Szlyk, H. S., Frempong, M. K., & Cavazos-Rehg, P. (2024). Afrocentric Norms and Substance Use Behaviors Among Black Young Adults. *Social Work in Public Health*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2024.2376834>
2. Aturi, C., Afful, E., Zeto, R., Che, I., Li, X., & **Azasu, E.** (2024). Sociodemographic Determinants of Psychological Distress Among Adult Informal Caregivers. *Cureus*. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.64154>
3. Lin, P.-I., Wu, W. T., **Azasu, E. K.**, & Wong, T. Y. (2024). Pathway from Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder to Suicide/Self-Harm. *Psychiatry Research*, 115936. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2024.115936>
4. **Azasu, E.**, Quarshie, E., Messias, E., Larnyoh, M., Ali, E., Joe, S. (2024). Psychological and Socio-ecological correlates of 12-month Suicide behavior among Junior High school students in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-024-02613-5>
5. **Azasu, E.** (2024). Exploring Suicide Stigma Among Adolescents in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana: The Role of Age, Mental Health Stigma, and Traditional Beliefs. *Mental Health and Prevention*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mhp.2023.200314>
6. Baiden, P., **Azasu, E.**, LaBrenz, C. A., Baiden, J. F., Gobodzo, E. C., Mets, V. E., & Broni, M. N. (2024). Exposure to neighborhood violence and insufficient sleep among adolescents in the United States: Findings from a population-based study. *Children & Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107351>
7. **Azasu, E. K.**, & Joe, S. (2023). Correlates of Suicide Among Middle and High School Students in Ghana. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 72(5, Supplement), S59-S63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2022.09.036>
8. Richardson, S. C., Gunn, L., Phipps, M., & **Azasu, E.** (2024). Factors associated with suicide risk behavior outcomes among Black high school adolescents. *Journal of Community Health*. DOI: 10.1007/s10900-023-01312-7

9. Messias, E., Ugarte, L., **Azasu, E.**, & White, A. J. (2023). A Tsunami of Concern: The Lasting Impacts of COVID Isolation and School Closures on Youth Mental Health. *Missouri Medicine*, 120(5), 328–332. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10569389>
10. **Azasu, E. K.**, Frempong, M. R. K., Boahen-Boaten, B. B., Nartey, C., Achulo, S., Appiah, D., Mbalida, C. B., & Aturi, C. (2023). Psychosocial Correlates, Risk, and Protective Factors of Substance Use Among Middle School Students in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. *Global Social Welfare*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-023-00309-3>
11. Donte, B., Adams, B., Lateef, H., **Azasu, E.**, & Sean, J. (2022). Investigating the role of suicidality and ethnic identity among Black adolescents: A latent profile analysis. *Archives of Suicide Research*. DOI: 10.1080/13811118.2022.2114868
12. Motley, R., Simmons, E., **Azasu, E.**, Clifton, M., Walker, D. T., & Carnayla Johnson. (2022). Utilizing a Mediation-Moderation Model to Examine Exposure to Videos of Police use of Force in Media, Police Contact Anxiety, Grit, and Suicidality among Black Emerging adult College Students. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. DOI: 10.1086/722584.
13. Szlyk, H., Motley, R., Joe, S., Nonas-Barnes, L., & **Azasu, E.** (2022). An Examination of Suicidal Behavior among Black College Students. *Social Work*. DOI: 10.1093/sw/swac046.
14. Adams, L., Igbinedion, G., DeVinney, A., **Azasu, E.**, Nestadt, P., Thrul, J., & Joe, S. (2021). Assessing the Real-time Influence of Racism-Related Stress and Suicidality Among Black Men: Protocol for an Ecological Momentary Assessment Study. *JMIR Res Protoc*, 10(10), e31241. <https://doi.org/10.2196/31241>
15. Szlyk, H. S., **Azasu, E.** & Joe, S. (2019). Firearm Suicide as a Human Rights Priority for Prevention. *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy*, 60, 133-146. https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/law_journal_law_policy
16. Atindanbila, S. & **Azasu, E.** (2011). The types and occurrence of Psychosocial problems of Distance Education (DE) students: A study of a University in Ghana. *Journal of Business Research*, 5(1-2), 38-49. DOI: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jbr/article/view/77936>

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. 2024 **Azasu, E. K.**, & Joe, S. Correlates of Suicide Among Middle and High School Students in Ghana. Presented at Society for Social Work Conference, Washington DC United States.
2. 2024 Joe, S., **Azasu, E.**, & Motley, R. Types of Racism-Based Experiences and Suicide Risk Among Black Emerging Adults. Presented at Society for Social Work Conference, Washington DC United States.
3. 2024 **Azasu, E. K.**, Quarshie, E., Woodjerry, L. & Joe, S. Examining the significance of socio-cultural factors on suicide behavior: Testing a contextually enhanced Interpersonal psychological theory of suicide behavior among junior high school students in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. Presented at Society for Social Work Conference, Washington DC United States.

4. 2024 **Azasu, E. K.**, Quarshie, E., Messias, E., & Joe, S. Testing the Applicability of the Interpersonal Psychological Theory of Suicide Behavior Among Middle School Students in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Poster presented at Society for Social Work Conference, Washington DC United States.
5. 2024 **Azasu, E.**, Quarshie, E., Messias, E., Larnyoh, M., Ali, E., Joe, S. Psychological and Socio-Ecological Correlates of Suicide Behavior Among Middle School Students in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Poster presented at Society for Social Work Conference, Washington DC United States.
6. 2023 **Azasu, E. K.**, Quarshie, E., Woodjerry, L. & Joe, S. Examining the significance of socio-cultural factors on suicide behavior: Testing a contextually enhanced Interpersonal psychological theory of suicide behavior among junior high school students in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. Presented at 12th NIMH Global Mental Health Conference, Maryland United States.
7. 2023 **Azasu, E. K.**, Quarshie, E., Woodjerry, L. & Joe, S. Examining the significance of socio-cultural factors on suicide behavior: Testing a contextually enhanced Interpersonal psychological theory of suicide behavior among junior high school students in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. Presented at International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP IASR) Monthly Webinar Series, held in the United Kingdom.
8. 2023 **Azasu, E. K.**, & Joe, S. Correlates of Suicide Among Middle and High School Students in Ghana. Presented at Youth Suicide Research Consortium Fourth National Conference, held in the United States.
9. 2023 Motley, R., Simmons, E., Clifton, M., **Azasu, E.**, Walker, D., & Johnson, C. Utilizing a Mediation-Moderation Model to Examine Exposure to Videos of Police use of Force in Media, Police Contact Anxiety, Grit, and Suicidality among Black Emerging adult College Students. Accepted for oral presentation at the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood 11th Annual Conference, held in San Diego, CA.
10. 2022 **Azasu, E.** University of Buffalo - Global to Local Speaker Series. Sociocultural risks of suicide among Ghanaian Adolescents.
11. **Azasu, E.**, Zulu, G., Alfred, D. & Frederick, J. (2018, March). Factors contributing to higher student success in low-income schools.
 - a. Poster presented at regional conference of Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC.
 - b. Poster presented at Brown School Research Without Walls, St Louis, MO.
 - c. Poster presented at 7th International Symposium of McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Beijing, China.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

1. NIMH Global Mental Health Visionary Innovators Shaping Tomorrow's Advancements Award Winner – 2023.
2. Awarded ICHAD Research Resiliency Training Fellow in 2020.
3. Won the [McDonnell International Scholars Academy](#) award for Ghana in 2019.
4. Won the [McDonnell International Scholars Academy](#) award for Ghana in 2017.
5. Awarded full Government of Ghana scholarship to Ada Senior High School by Ministry of Education in 2003
6. Awarded one year scholarship to Ada Senior High School by the Dangme East District Assembly in 2002.
7. Awarded by Ada Concerned Citizens Forum (ACCF) for best result in 2002 Basic Education Certificate Exam for Ada District.
8. First runner up award in Ada Okorli-Akpe (UK & Ireland) essay competition in 2005.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow – July 2023 to July 2024

Psychiatric Epidemiologist

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience (Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Missouri)

I am responsible for designing, developing, conducting, and disseminating research projects in psychiatric epidemiology. Psychiatric epidemiology is a specialized area of research using large populational datasets to answer questions regarding risk and protective factors for mental disorders. Also responsible for conducting research on mental health disorders, with a focus on the prevalence, incidence, risk factors, and outcomes of these disorders in various populations.

Data Manager – August 2021 to July 2024

Navigating Resource-Constrained Systems and Communities to Promote the Behavioral health of Black Youth

R01 Grant (Washington University in St Louis, Missouri)

I help to identify potential participants for our studies and take them through screening process in line with the protocol as well as determine their eligibility and consent them for the studies. I use redcap and excel as well as other tools for this process. In case any potential participant is unable to finish the process I do follow ups for up to three contacts after which I don't contact. For those enrolled, I help to explain the procedures for them and help them complete the consent and enrollment process. All data is collected using redcaps or sometimes in person using tablets.

Research Associate – August 2018 to June 2023

RACE AND OPPORTUNITY LAB (Washington University in St Louis, Missouri)

Part of research team for Homegrown STL and other projects. I performed literature review, reviewed data, created charts, wrote reports, participated in team meetings, wrote manuscripts, participated in presentations and other related activities. I am currently the data manager for the lab on the various projects where I oversee survey and questionnaire design, data collection training, actual data collection and data analysis. I also supervise practicum students in the lab and train research assistants for data collection as well as ethical research training (CITI trainer). At the Race and opportunity lab, I also assist in preparation of data for analysis using SPSS, SAS, R or STATA. I analyze data in line with the aims of the report or manuscript being prepared. I use data visualization tools to prepare the results for presentation and dissemination.

Journal Reviewer for Psychology and Behavioral Sciences SPG (2023 – date)

As a journal reviewer for Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, my role is crucial in maintaining the quality and integrity of the published research in the field. My responsibilities include evaluating the scientific rigor of submitted manuscripts, providing constructive feedback to authors for improvement, and ensuring adherence to ethical guidelines. I play a pivotal role in peer validation, offering an objective assessment of the research findings and contributing to the credibility of the journal. By completing timely reviews and engaging in collaborative communication, I support the editor in making informed decisions regarding manuscript acceptance, revision, or rejection. Through my expertise and contributions, I actively contribute to the advancement of knowledge in psychology and behavioral sciences while upholding the standards of the academic publishing community.

Research Resiliency Training Fellow (RRT 2020)

Underwent a one-year NIH funded research training for advanced doctoral students or early career investigators of African descent and other underrepresented minorities who are interested in child-focused behavioral health. I received hands on research experience with the centers associated with the program, mentoring networks with other minority scholars and professors.

Research Assistant – January to May 2018

MISSOURI INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (St. Louis, Missouri)

Part of research team for Mental Health First Aid, AWARE, Collegiate Behavioral Health Grant and other projects. I performed literature review, created return on investment models, data entry and analysis, presentations, participated in team meetings, led supervision meetings and other related activities.

Teaching and Research Assistant – August 2010 to July 2011*

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA (Accra, Ghana)

Conducted tutorials at both main and city campuses for Level 400 and Level 200 in courses such as Cognitive Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Organizational Psychology and Research methods. Performed marking duties, supervised project works, conducted Practicals in Cognitive Psychology for students in topics such as [Focused Attention](#), Memory, Recall, Selective Attention and Learning. I also taught them how to write reports and make presentations for such practicals. I also wrote reports on [“The effect of Focused Attention on recall of Attended and Unattended Auditory Information”](#); [“The effect of serial and random presentation of Nonsense syllables on learning”](#) among others.

Research and Data analyst – August 2012 to August 2014 (Part time)

DIBEST CONSULT LTD (Accra, Ghana)

Performed Data analysis for Ghana Export Promotion Council on behalf of Dibest Consult Accra as well as for other individuals and corporate bodies.

OTHER WORK AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Convener for Journal Club on Race and Science – 2019 to 2022

The journal club is an opportunity for a group of individuals to meet regularly to critically examine recent books or articles in the academic literature that includes: the concept of race as a measure of human difference, the intersection of racism and health, or race in the social lives of American populations. This is an interdisciplinary intellectual space in which doctoral students, postdocs and faculty can critically examine racial statistics, ethnicity, and culture in social and behavioral research. Additionally, the journal club is an opportunity for participants planning on using the concept of race in their research to receive feedback on their work (e.g., papers, manuscripts, or scientific aims) and career development concerns.

Founder – January 2018 to date

YOUTH AWAKE TO SUICIDE - STAY (Accra, Ghana)

[Stay Ghana](#) is a non-profit organization that addresses suicide and trauma issues among Ghanaian youth. We are currently committed to amending the Mental Health Act of Ghana to include suicide and behavioral health policies. I conducted a [needs assessment](#) in summer 2018 to assess the behavioral health needs of Ghanaian youth including possible risk factors and gaps in services. The main goal of the organization is to create awareness, advocate for policy change to decriminalize suicide in Ghana, promote help seeking behavior among the youth as well as establish support groups in communities and schools.

Student Therapist (Practicum) – September 2018 to May 2019

MERCY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & CASA DE SALUD (St Louis, Missouri)

Mercy Professional and Casa de Salud offer therapeutic counselling services for individuals, couples and families who are dealing with a variety of issues such as depression, anxiety or problematic behaviors. I work with these organizations as a practicum student where I provide counselling for clients who come in with these concerns. I also take part in group and individual supervision, record session notes as well as well as write reports for records purposes.

Secretary, Student Co-ordinating Council – December 2017 to August 2018

BROWN SCHOOL (Washington University In St Louis, Missouri)

SCC is the student-led governing body of the Brown School. SCC oversees school-wide events and aids in facilitating activities hosted by other student groups. I participate in council meetings, help to organize events as well as the day to day running of the council.

Co-Chair, African Students Association – August 2018 to May 2019

BROWN SCHOOL (Washington University In St Louis, Missouri)

Brown School African Students Association provides a network for both African and non-African Brown School students interested in African and to increase awareness of African issues. I led the group, helped to organize events as well as the day to day running of the association.

Administrator – August 2011 to July 2017

VINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Accra, Ghana)

I performed general administrative duties related to Academics, Human resource, Accounting, Staff, Logistics, Admissions and Public relations. Was responsible for the day to day running of the school. Increased school population from 65 to 130 within a year in office. Organized several in-house projects such as a Music School, a Robotics Camp, Sports festival, Practical Science Projects and Summer School. Generally supported to make the school a recognized institution in the country. Worked with softwares such as Xero Accounting software and School Admin software.

Head of Projects/Programs and Logistics Manager – April 2009 to April 2010

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS (Accra, Ghana)

President, Ada Students Union – August 2008 to August 2009

University of Ghana, Legon-Accra

Organized the first Parliamentary debate for aspirants in the Dangme East district. Organized Educational Outreaches to Senior High schools and Junior High Schools in the Dangme East district. Conducted thorough research of the Dangme East district by meeting populates of principal villages and towns to ascertain problems and device solutions. The [report](#) was published and it led to World Bank building a new classroom block for one of the villages. I also organized free vacation classes for JHS and SHS students in the Ada District. Initiated the formation of the National Ada Students Union.