

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**State University of New York at Stony Brook**  
**Health Sciences Center**

**Name:** Ijeoma Opara, PhD, LMSW, MPH

**Mailing Address:**

Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare  
101 Nicolls Road  
Health Sciences Center, Level 2-093Q  
Stony Brook, NY 11794

**Office Telephone:**

**Higher Education**  
**(Including internship, residency and other formal professional training)**

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Institution &amp; Location</u>	<u>Field</u>
2016	2019	PhD	Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	Family Science & Human Development
2018	2019	NIDA T-32 Predoctoral Fellowship	New York University, Rory Meyers College of Nursing New York, NY	Behavioral Sciences in Drug Abuse Research
2013	2014	MSW	New York University, Silver School of Social Work New York, NY	Primary & Behavioral Integrated Care
2009	2011	MPH	New York Medical College Valhalla, NY	Epidemiology
2007	2009	BA	New Jersey City University Jersey City, NJ	Psychology
2004	2007	AA	Union County College, Cranford NJ	Psychology

**Certification & Licensure**  
**(ECFMG, FLEX, National & Professional Boards & Licenses)**

Licensed Social Worker, New Jersey  
Licensed Master of Social Work, New York  
Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Certificate, Medical University of South Carolina

**Appointments**  
**(Academic Appointments)**

<u>Dates</u> <u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status*</u>	<u>Institution &amp; Location</u>
2019	Present	Assistant Professor	Full-Time (S)	Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
2019	Present	Visiting Research Faculty	Part-Time (V)	Yale University, School of Public Health, New Haven, CT
2017	2019	Adjunct Professor	Part-Time (S)	Columbia University, School of Social Work, New York, NY

Status: Voluntary (V) Salaried (S) Tenured (T)

**Other Academic Appointments**

<u>Dates</u> <u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Institution &amp; Location</u>
2018	Present	Affiliate Faculty	Part-Time (V)	New York University, Center for Drug Use, HIV/HCV Research, New York, NY
2016	2019	Doctoral Research Assistant	Part-Time (S)	Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
2010	2011	Research Assistant	Part-Time (S)	Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
2010	2010	Summer Research Assistant	Part-Time (S)	Kennedy Krieger Institute, Center for Autism Disorders, Baltimore, MD

**Research Support: Grants, Contracts, & Collaborations**

2020-2025	<p><b>“Understanding the Role of Neighborhoods on Substance Use and Mental Health Among Urban Youth: A Community Based Substance Use Prevention Project”</b>                      Role: Principal Investigator                      NIH Director’s Early Independence Award                      Award amount: \$1,848,275</p>
2020-2022	<p><b>“The Dreamer Girls Project: Adaptation of the SIHLE/SISTA Intervention to Develop an HIV/AIDS, STI, and Drug Use Prevention Intervention for Black Adolescent Girls”</b>                      National Institute of Mental Health R25-funded (R25-MH087217; PI: Dr. Trace Kershaw &amp; Dr. Barbara Guthrie)                      Role: Pilot Study Principal Investigator                      Award amount: \$20,000</p>
2020-2022	<p><b>“A Digital Intervention for HIV Prevention in Black Adolescent Girls”</b>                      National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (1R21HD098031-01; PI: Dr. Kimberly Hieftje, Yale University, School of Medicine)</p>

Role: Co-Investigator

2020

**“The impact of social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak on mental health and substance use outcomes: Examining risk and protective factors in young adult populations in New York”**

SUNY COVID-19 Rapid Seed Grant

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Award amount: \$4,960

### **Publications in Refereed Journals Articles**

#### **Peer reviewed publications**

*\*indicates collaboration with a student*

**27. Opara, I.,** Lardier Jr., D.T., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. [Accepted]. Measuring Intrapersonal Empowerment and Ethnic Identity: Highlighting Strengths of Urban Black Girls. *Youth & Society*

**26. Opara, I.,** Rivera Rodas, E., Garcia-Reid, P. & Reid, R.J. (2020). Ethnic Identity, Empowerment, Social Support, and Sexual Risk Behaviors among Black Adolescent Girls: Examining Drug Use as a Mediator. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*. Advanced online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10560-020-00706-z

**25. Opara, I.,** Lardier Jr. D.T., \*Fernandez, Y., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. [Accepted]. Intrapersonal Psychological Empowerment Profiles on Ethnic Identity, Social Support, and Lifetime Drug Use among Hispanic Adolescent Girls. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*. doi: 10.1080/15332640.2020.1803780

**24. Opara, I.,** Scheinfeld, L., \*Pierre, K., & Assan, A. (2020). Protocol for a systematic review of HIV/AIDS, STI, teen pregnancy, and substance use prevention interventions for Black adolescent girls. *The International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews: Prospero*

**23. Opara, I.,** \*Assan, M.A., \*Pierre, K., Gunn, J III., Metzger, I., \*Hamilton J., & \*Arugu, E. (2020). Suicide among Black children: An integrated model of the interpersonal-psychological theory of suicide and intersectionality theory for researchers & clinicians. *Journal of Black Studies*. doi: 10.1177/0021934720935641

**22. Opara, I.,** Lardier Jr., D.T., Metzger, I., Herrera, A., \*Franklin, L., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. [Accepted]. “Bullets have no names”: A qualitative exploration of community trauma among Black and Latinx Youth. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*

**21. Opara, I.,** Chandler, C., Alcena-Stiner, D, Nnawulezi, N., & Kershaw, T. (2020). When Pandemics Call: Community-Based Research Considerations for HIV Scholars. *AIDS and Behavior*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10461-020-02878-2

**20. Amutah-Onukagha, N., Mahadevan, M., Opara, I.,** Rodriguez, M., Kelly, J., & Trusdell, M. [In press]. Commentary on Project THANKS. *Journal of International Associations of Providers of AIDS Care*

**19. Doamekpor, L.A., Gleason, J.L., Opara, I., & Amutah-Onukagha N.** (2020). Nativity and Cardiovascular Dysregulation: Evidence from the 2001-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Disparities*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00765-z

**18. Metzger, I., Cooper, S., Griffin, C. B., Golden, A., Opara, I., & Ritchwood, T.** [In press]. Parenting profiles of academic and racial socialization: Associations with academic engagement and perception of academic ability of African American adolescents. *Journal of School Psychology*

17. Lardier Jr., D.T., **Opara, I.**, Reid, R.J., & Garcia-Reid, P. (2020). The role of empowerment-based protective factors on substance use among youth of color. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10560-020-00659-3
16. Lardier Jr., D.T., **Opara, I.**, Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. (2020). The mediating role of ethnic identity and social justice orientation between community civic participation, psychological sense of community and cognitive and psychological empowerment among adolescents of color. *The Urban Review*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s11256-020-00573-z
15. Lardier Jr., D.T., **Opara, I.**, Garcia-Reid, P. & Reid, R.J. (2020). Multigroup confirmatory factor analysis of the cognitive empowerment scale among African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx urban youth. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. Advance online publication: 10.1007/s10560-019-00647-2
14. **Opara, I.**, Rivera Rodas, E.I., Lardier, Jr. D.T., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. (2020). Validation of the abbreviated socio-political control scale for youth among girls of color. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. 37, 83-95. doi: 10.1007/s10560019006249
13. **Opara, I.** & \*Santos, N. (2019). A conceptual framework exploring social media, eating disorders, and body dissatisfaction among Latina adolescents. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*. doi:10.1177/0739986319860844
12. **Opara, I.**, Lardier Jr., D.T., Herrera, A., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. (2019). Increasing viral hepatitis knowledge among urban ethnic minority youth: Findings from a community-based prevention intervention. *Journal of Community Health*. Advance online publication: 10.1007/s10900-019-00740-8
11. Lardier Jr., D.T., **Opara, I.**, Herrera, A., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. (2019). Sexual negotiation skills and risky behavior on sexual partnerships, HIV knowledge, and risk perception among urban youth of color: A latent class analysis. *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*. doi: 10.1080/15381501.2019.1632237
10. **Opara, I.**, Lardier, Jr. D.T., Reid, R.J., & Garcia-Reid, P. (2019). “It all starts with the parents”: A qualitative study on the protective factors for drug use prevention among Black and Hispanic girls. *Affilia: Journal of Women & Social Work*. Advance online publication: doi:10.1177/0886109918822543
9. Lardier Jr., D.T., **Opara, I.**, Berguson, C., Herrera, A., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. (2019). A study of neighborhood sense of community as a mediator between supportive social systems, school belongingness, and outcome behaviors among urban youth of color. *Journal of Community Psychology*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1002/jcop.22182
8. Beverly, H.K., Castro, Y., & **Opara, I.** (2019). Age of first marijuana use and its impact on education attainment and employment status. *Journal of Drug Issues*. Advance online publication: doi:10.1177/0022042618823007
7. Amutah-Onukagha, N., **Opara, I.**, Hammonds, R., & Guthrie, B. (2018). Missed opportunities for HIV prevention: Results of a qualitative study on mother-daughter communication. *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, doi: 10.1080/15381501.2018.1502708
6. Amutah-Onukagha, N., Mahadevan, M., **Opara, I.**, Rodriguez, M., Kelly, J., & Trusdell, M. (2018). Project THANKS: Examining HIV-related barriers and facilitators to care in African American women: A community perspective. *AIDS Patient Care & STDs*, 32(4). doi: 10.1089/apc.2017.0215
5. Garcia-Reid, P., Lardier, Jr. D.T, Reid, R.J., & **Opara, I.** (2018). Understanding the influence of sexual risk-taking, ethnic identity, and family and peer support on school importance among Hispanic adolescents. *Education & Urban Society*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0013124518787827

**4. Opara, I.** (2018). Examining African American parent-daughter HIV risk communication using a Black feminist-ecological lens: Implications for Intervention. *Journal of Black Studies*, 49(2), 134-151. doi: 10.1177/0021934717741900

**3. Respress, B., Amutah-Onukagha, N., & Opara, I.** (2018). The effects of school-based discrimination on adolescents of color sexual health outcomes: A social determinants approach. *Social Work in Public Health*, 33 (3), 1-16. doi:10.1080/19371918.2017.1378953

**2. Amutah-Onukagha, N., Rodriguez, M., Opara, I., Gardner, M., Assan, M., Hammond, R., Plata, J., Pierre, K., & Farran, E.** (2017). Progresses and challenges in utilizing traditional birth attendants in maternal and child health in Nigeria. *International Journal of Maternal and Child Health & AIDS*, 6(2), 130-138. doi: 10.21106/ijma.204

**1. Awosan, C. I., & Opara, I.** (2016). Socioemotional factor: A missing gap in theorizing and studying Black heterosexual coupling processes and relationships. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, 3(2), 25-51. doi: 10.1353/bsr.2016.0027

**Book review**

**Opara, I.** (2018). Black girls and adolescents: Facing the challenges. *Journal of Black Studies*, 49(5). 520-523. doi: 10.1177/0021934718773738

**Publications in Non-Refereed Journals and Papers**

**Opara, I.** (2019, January). Marijuana legalization: Is decriminalization a better option? *USA Today*. Retrieved from: <https://www.app.com/story/opinion/columnists/2019/01/25/nj-marijuana-legalization-decriminalization-better-option/2666792002/>

**Opara, I., Lee, S., James, A., Allen, W., & Price, L.** (2018, April). Improving community-police relations through dialogue: Creating healthier neighborhoods for Black families. *National Council on Family Relations, Ethnic Minorities Section Post Conference Newsletter Spring 2018*, 1(5).

**Opara, I.** (2016, September). Empowering Sierra Leonean girls to change the world. *Applause Africa Magazine*. Retrieved at <http://applauseafrica.com/2016/09/26/empowering-sierra-leonean-girls-to-change-the-world/>

<b><u>Professional Practice &amp; Services</u></b>			
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Institutional</u></b>
<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>			
2019	Pre-Diem Child & Family Therapist	Cranford, NJ	Internal Affairs Child and Family Therapy Center
2014-2016	Child & Family Therapist	New York, NY	Esperanza NY
2014	Assistant Director of Supportive Housing	Valhalla, NY	The Children’s Village
2013-2014	SAMHSA Student Intern	New York, NY	Institute for Community Living
2007-2013	Care Coordinator and Supervisor	Westfield, NJ	Griswold Home Care

**Professional and Scientific Societies**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Initial Membership</u>	<u>Leadership Position (s) and Dates</u>
Society on the Analysis of African American Issues (SAAPHI)	2019-present	Elected Board Member 2019-2021
National Council of Family Relations	2016-current	Elected 2020-2022 New Professional and Student Representative
American Public Health Association	2010-present	Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Section (Member; 2017-present) HIV/AIDS (Member; 2017-2019) Public Health Social Work (Member; 2019-present) Epidemiology Student Leader (2010-2012); Member
National Association of Social Workers	2013-present	Union County Unit Co-Chair (2013-2015); Member
International AIDS Society	2016-present	Member
University of Michigan Diversity Scholars Network	2016-present	Member

**Academic & Professional Honors**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Honor</u>
2020	NIDA Diversity Scholars Network Program (deferred)
2019	NIH National Research Mentoring Networking Grantsmanship Program
2019	John D. Slade, MD Memorial Advocacy Award Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) section American Public Health Association (APHA)
2019	Community Mobilizer of The Year Paterson Coalition Against Substance Abuse
2019	NIDA Women & Sex/Gender Differences Junior Investigator Travel Award College on Problems of Drug Dependence 2019 Annual Meeting
2019-2021	Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholar (REIDS), Yale University
2018	John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award National Council on Family Relations
2018	Outstanding Student Poster Award on Drug Use Prevention

	Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs section American Public Health Association Annual Meeting
2018	Summer Workshop Travel Award Program for Research on Black Americans Institute of Social Research University of Michigan School of Social Work
2018	Student Research and Conference Travel Fund College of Education and Human Services Montclair State University
2018	Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society Montclair State University chapter
2017	New Writers' Initiative Fellowship Family Process Institute
2017	POZ Top 100 Women Committed to Ending the HIV Epidemic Honoree POZ Magazine
2017	Student Travel Award Montclair State University
2017	Student Travel Scholarship Black Infant Mortality in New Jersey Conference Partnership of Maternal & Child Health/Rutgers University
2017	Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Student Montclair State University
2017	Population Health Scholar AcademyHealth
2016	Student Travel Award Montclair State University
2013-2014	Student Scholarship for Academic Excellence New York University
2013-2014	Primary and Behavioral Integrated Health Care Fellowship SAMHSA/HRSA MSW Fellowship, New York University

**Courses Directed and Taught**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Enrollment</u></b>
Spring 2020	Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare	Advanced Practice II with Children and Families	31
Spring 2020	Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare	Advanced Practice II with Children and Families	17

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(Manhattan Campus)

Fall 2019	Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare	Advanced Practice I with Children and Families	30
Fall 2019	Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare (Manhattan Campus)	Advanced Practice I with Children and Families	17
Spring 2019	Columbia University School of Social Work	Adolescent Development	26
Summer 2018	CUNY Hunter College School of Social Work	Social Welfare Policy: Substance Abuse	32
Fall 2018	Columbia University School of Social Work	Human Behavior & Social Environment I	10
Fall 2017	Columbia University School of Social Work	Adolescent Development	19

**Stony Brook University Service\***

<b><u>Date</u></b> <b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>
2020	Present	PhD Program Committee
2019	Present	Member, Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare Families, Youth, & Transition into Adulthood Specialization Committee
2019	Present	Member, Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare, Field Education Committee

**National Service**

*New Professional & Student Representative, (2021-2023).* Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section, National Council on Family Relations

*Harriett and John McAdoo Dissertation Awards Committee Member (2020).* Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section, National Council on Family Relations

*Students & New Professional Representative (2020-2022).* Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section, National Council on Family Relations

*Policy Fellow Mentor (2019-2020).* The Network for Social Work Management Policy Fellows Program

*Facilitator.* (2019, November). “Being intentional with your time in graduate school”. Ethnic Minorities Section Roundtable Discussion. National Council on Family Relations. Fort Worth, Texas

*Moderator.* (2019, November). “Community-Engaged Anti-Racism Practice: Community Health Activism from Local to Global”. Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health (SAAPHI) Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium, Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA.

*Abstract reviewer.* (2019). Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs section, American Public Health Association



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*Elected Board Member* (2018-2020). Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health (SAAPHI)

*Invited Public & Population Health Theme Co-Chair*, (2017-2018). AcademyHealth 2018 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) Planning Committee

*Organizer and Moderator* (2017, October). “HIV, Drugs, & Violence” Community Empowerment Forum & Expert Panel, Project C.O.P.E., Paterson, NJ

*Application reviewer* (2017, October). Mandela Washington D.C. Fellowship for Young African Leaders

*Proposal Reviewer* (2017). Feminism Section, National Council of Family Relations

*Abstract Reviewer* (2017). Ethnic Minorities Section, National Council of Family Relations

*Co-chair of Union County Unit* (2013-2016). National Association of Social Workers

*Student Leader* (2009-2011). Epidemiology Section, American Public Health Association (APHA)

### **Journal Reviewer**

AIDS & Behavior; Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness; Journal of Social and Personal Relationships International Journal of Maternal and Child Health & AIDS; SAGE Open; Journal of Urban Health; Youth & Society; Substance Use & Misuse; Behavioral Medicine; Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness; Child & Youth Services Review; Sexuality & Culture; Journal of Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities; Social Work in Mental Health

### **Other Service**

2018, Invited Panelist, Spring 2018 Graduate School Open House Student Panel, Montclair State University

2017, Invited Panelist, Macro and Mezzo Level Social Work Careers Alumni Session. Silver School of Social Work, New York University

2017- present Interviewer & Alumni Representative, NYU Torchbearer, New York University Office of Undergraduate Admissions Program

2017 Invited Panelist, Fall 2017 Graduate School Open House Student Panel, Montclair State University

2017 Organizer and Moderator, Improving Police-Community Relations Through Dialogue Panel, Montclair State University

2017, Invited Panelist, Spring 2017 Graduate School Open House Student Panel, Montclair State University

2017-2019, Student Ambassador Ph.D. Program in Family Science & Human Development, Montclair State University

2016-2019 Representative for the 2016 Ph.D. Cohort. Department of Family Science & Human Development, Montclair State University

2013, Invited Panelist, Integrating Primary & Behavioral Health MSW Student Panel: Educational Seminar. Institute of Community Living, New York University, Manhattan, NY.

2013-2014 Student Member, New York University Black Social Work Student Collective Association

2010-2011 President, Student Healthcare Executives, New York Medical College

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\*Standing University Committees, major ad hoc committees