



365 Diversity: Discuss Diversity Daily

I am not your typical diversity training

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Dr. Kimya Nuru Dennis is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary criminologist and sociologist. As an educator and results-focused facilitator, trainer, and evaluator, Dr. Dennis helps local, national, and international communities, schools, for-profit organizations, and non-profit organizations implement measurable and lasting inclusion, equity, and justice. Dr. Dennis specializes in a range of demographic and cultural identities and experiences that shape every component of people's lives and every component of for-profit organizations and non-profit organizations. Emphasis is on measurable and lasting improvements within for-profit and non-profit organizations and for people reached by for-profit and non-profit organizations.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Measurable outcomes: inclusion, equity, and justice
Demographic and cultural variance
Power disparities: differential control and ownership
Culturally connecting businesses and consumers/customers
Education-school system
Police-legal system
Health-medical system
Suicide and suicidal self-harm
Mental health and mental illness

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2010 Sociology, North Carolina State University
Concentrations: Crime, deviance, and social control (criminology)
Inequality: Class, race, and gender
M.S. 2003 Criminal justice, Virginia Commonwealth University
B.A. 1999 Political science, pre-law, criminal justice minor, University of Richmond

RECENT CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Connections Capstone
2010, 2019 SafeZone LGBTQ+ awareness and ally training
2018 WRAP: Wellness Recovery Action Plan
2018 Policy Engagement Training for Researchers: How to Build Relationships for Long-term Impact,
Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy and SSN: Scholars Strategy Network
2010, 2017 Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (A.S.I.S.T.), NC AFSP
2016 Wake Forest School of Medicine Health Equity Research Opportunity (HERO) Fellowship

RECENT SPEAKING, TRAINING, AND FACILITATING

April 2020, “Code Switching or Soul Switching,” Webinar, Black Women in STEM.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mfOvzMXUT6uct1y3ktSiFg

January 2020, Three-Day Gender Discrimination Trainings for Guilford County Schools Principals and Assistant Principals, Greensboro, NC.

December 2018, “Understanding gender and reducing gender discrimination,” Guilford County Schools, Guilford County Program.

August 2018, “Understanding mental health: Reach K-12 children and families,” Guilford County Schools, Annual Conference of School Social Workers and School Counselors, Greensboro, NC.

September 2018, “Throughout College and Careers: Teaching and Training about Demographic and Cultural Variance for Health Students, Health Professionals and Health Practitioners,” 15th Annual Statewide Training Conference, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Inc. (MACC), Columbus, OH <http://www.maccinc.net/training-conference/>

September 2018, “Difference between personal preference and official policy: School dress code,” Guilford County Schools, Greensboro, NC.

July 2018, “Personality or mental illness? Demographic and cultural variance in mental health,” Guilford County Schools, Annual Conference of School Social Workers and School Counselors, Greensboro, NC.

July 2018, “Community mental health,” Summer Youth Employment Program, Winston-Salem Urban League.

RECENT COMMITTEES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors, The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County

Board of Directors, NC Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Education Committee, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic

Contributor, Mental Health America of Virginia, February

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Kimya N. Dennis and Kendra Jason. 2018. “Black women academics: Artistic expression through teaching, research, and activism,” Association of Black Sociologists, Issues in Race & Society: An Interdisciplinary Global Journal. <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9decaa3f-e027-48c7-8f23-a99a0247d475/downloads/Kimya%20N.%20Dennis.pdf?ver=1577659556976>

Kimya N. Dennis. November 2018. “Black Male Suicide: Inward-Expressed Frustration and Aggression” of Part 5 “The Criminal and Social Justice” In Ransaw, Gause, and Majors (eds.) Handbook of Research on Black Males. Michigan: Michigan State University Press.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.14321/j.ctv4g1qgh?fbclid=IwAR1QGtQgbOuKKk6GCiDY0LLODPjBiiir53b0LNc5IaLkCiWFECDF9P8xb8Q>

RECENT PUBLIC WRITINGS

MHA Virginia Blog, “From the Desk of Dr. Kimya Dennis: Connecting Our Communities with Medical-Health Professionals,” January 2019 <https://mhav.org/1529-2/>

MHA Virginia Blog, “Minority Mental Health: Important Every Month and Every Day,” July 2018 <https://mhav.org/minority-mental-health-important-every-month-and-every-day/>

“Suicide isn’t just a ‘white people thing,’” The Conversation: Academic rigor, journalistic flair, February 2018 <https://theconversation.com/suicide-isnt-just-a-white-people-thing-77367>

Featured <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/5-important-stories-that-have-nothing-to-do-with-the-trump-kim-summit>

MHA Virginia Blog, “Demographic and Cultural Variance in this ‘Opioid Crisis,’” November 2017 <https://mhav.org/demographic-and-cultural-variance-in-this-opioid-crisis/>

MHA Virginia Blog, “First Responders Need Mental Health Too,” July 2017 <http://mhav.org/first-responders-need-mental-health/>

MHA Virginia Blog, “Mental Health and Substance Abuse,” April 2017 <http://mhav.org/mental-health-substance-abuse/>

MHA Virginia Blog, “How will Virginia Address Mental Illness in Jails and Prisons?” March 2017 <http://mhav.org/will-virginia-address-mental-illness-jails-prisons/>

RECENT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Interviewed for “One size doesn’t fit all: The alarming rates of suicide in the Black community,” RTV6 Indianapolis, September 2019 <https://www.theindychannel.com/lifestyle/health/one-size-doesnt-fit-all-the-alarming-rates-of-suicide-in-the-black-community>

Interviewed for “Wake’s yearbook had blackface, KKK images in 1970s,” Winston-Salem Journal, February 2019 https://www.journalnow.com/news/local/wake-s-yearbook-had-blackface-kkk-images-in-s/collection_cd0e2b1c-2cd4-11e9-88df-5b947a755505.html#5

Interviewed for “USA leads world in gun-related suicides, study says,” USA Today, August 2018 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/08/28/new-study-shows-u-s-leads-world-gun-suicides/1128184002/>

RECENT VISUAL RECORDINGS

Interviewed for Suicide Prevention Social Media (SPSM): Suicide in Marginalized Communities, September 2019 <https://www.pscp.tv/w/1OwxWdybvAKQ?t=57s>

Interviewed for American Association of Suicidology FB Live, August 2019 <https://www.facebook.com/AASuicidology/videos/join-us-live-now-for-a-courageous-conversation-regarding-suicide-in-the-african-/2331875037059289/>

RECENT AUDIO RECORDINGS

Interviewed for “Assessing 2020 presidential candidates on criminal justice reform,” NPR Here & Now, 90.9 WBUR Boston, August 2019. <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/08/27/2020-candidates-criminal-justice-reform>

Diversity 365 with Dr. Kimya Dennis, Leading in Color with Sarah Morgan Podcast, Season 1: Episode 6, May 2019 <http://leadingincolorpodcast.libsyn.com/website/diversity-365-with-dr-kimya-dennis-leading-in-color-s1-ep6>

Suicide and Black America, Scholars Strategy Network, No Jargon, August 2018 <https://scholars.org/podcast/suicide-and-black-america>

Shattering Mental Health Stereotypes, Susan Lambert, LCSW: In the Balance Podcast, August 2018
<http://liftingtheself.libsyn.com/shattering-mental-health-stereotypes-a-conversation-with-dr-kimya-n-dennis>
<https://player.fm/series/in-the-balance-1485269/shattering-mental-health-stereotypes-a-conversation-with-dr-kimya-n-dennis>

Suicides across Cultures, The Matt Townsend Show, BYU Radio, May 2018
<http://www.byuradio.org/episode/b7c00a8d-1815-4454-b700-359b7afd4c0d?playhead=752&autoplay=true>

Mental Health and Minority Communities, All Sides with Ann Fisher, WOSU-NPR, March 2018
<http://radio.wosu.org/post/mental-health-and-minority-communities>

Seeing Suicide Through A Non-White Lens, Straight Fruit: 89.3 WFPL, March 2018
<http://wfpl.org/strange-fruit-seeing-suicide-through-a-non-white-lens/>

Demographic and Cultural Variance in Suicide and Mental Health, All Sides with Ann Fisher, WOSU-NPR, February 2018
<http://radio.wosu.org/post/wellness-wednesday-exercise-science-and-suicide-demographics>
<http://radio.wosu.org/programs/all-sides-ann-fisher#stream/0>

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Minority Speakers <https://www.namspeakers.com/featured-speakers>
Washington Women in Public Relations <https://wwpr.org/>
American Evaluation Association <https://www.eval.org/>
NAACP, Baltimore City Chapter <https://www.naacp.org/>
Black Speakers Network, Silver Member, <https://www.blackspeakersnetwork.com/>
Innovation Women, Speaker, <https://innovationwomen.com/>
Black Mental Health Alliance, <https://blackmentalhealth.com/>
Gate City Chapter, North State Law Enforcement Officers Association <http://www.nsleoagatecity.com/>
Scholars Strategy Network, <https://scholars.org/>
Current, Baltimore, Maryland
Previous, Triad-Triangle NC
Association of Black Sociologists, Life Member, <http://www.associationofblacksociologists.org/>
American Society of Criminology, <https://www.asc41.com/>
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, <https://www.acjs.org/>
Law and Public Policy Section
Police Section

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

With 15 years as academic faculty and staff, Dr. Dennis has experience with program and curriculum development, course creation and evaluation, faculty evaluation, and annual assessments. Dr. Dennis implements demographic and cultural variance in every aspect of education—recruitment and trainings of academic faculty and staff, student recruitment and development, and course design and materials.

Adjunct Associate Professor Wake Forest University School of Medicine
The Roots of Health Inequity
Summer 2019

Creator and Coordinator of Criminal Studies Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies
Salem College
Fall 2011—spring 2019

Associate Professor Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies
Salem College
Tenured, Fall 2017—spring 2019

Assistant Professor	Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies Salem College Fall 2010—Spring 2017
Academic Tutor	Student Athletes Services Wake Forest University Fall 2012—Fall 2018
Adjunct Faculty	Department of Sociology and Social Work Meredith College Fall 2009
Visiting Instructor	Department of Sociology and Anthropology North Carolina State University Spring 2006-spring 2009/spring 2010
Teaching Assistant	Department of Sociology and Anthropology North Carolina State University Fall 2003-fall 2005

RECENT ACADEMIC AWARDS

2018, Salem College Distinguished Professor Award: teaching, community work, conference presentations, and qualitative research.

December 2017-January 2018, Megan Regan and Kimya N. Dennis, Visiting Fellows, Winston-Salem State University Center for the Study of Economic Mobility (CSEM): surveys and interviews of residents of East Winston to address component of housing costs, housing conditions and poverty in East Winston.

2017, Megan Regan, Kimya N. Dennis and Salem College student Keiry Bonilla Valladeres, Patricia Flynt C'57 Faculty/Student Summer Research Project Grant.

2015, Faculty Summer Research Sabbatical

2014, Faculty College Summer Research Sabbatical