

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2010 Sociology, North Carolina State University
 Concentrations: Crime, deviance, and social control (criminology)
 Inequality: Class, race, and gender

Doctoral Dissertation [Black Political and Socioeconomic Status Attainment and the Direction of Lethal Violence: Comparing the Suicide of Young Black and White Males in U.S. Counties](#)

M.S. 2003 Criminal justice, Virginia Commonwealth University
 B.A. 1999 Political science, criminal justice minor, pre-law, University of Richmond

SPECIALIZATIONS

Community advocacy
 Medical and health equity
 Suicide and suicidal self-harm
 Mental health
 Epilepsy
 Disabilities
 Black Childfree
 Police-court-penal
 K-12 curriculum and course materials
 College curriculum and course materials
 Academic program evaluations and assessments
 Policy, procedure, budget, law evaluations and assessments

CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS

Dennis, Kimya Nuru and Rutledge M. Dennis. Summer 2025. "The Poetic in Du Bois's Sociological Imagination," Association of Black Sociologists. <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9decaa3f-e027-48c7-8f23-a99a0247d475/downloads/29e14b89-7268-42aa-8a7e-44cf9ff4a30b/Kimya%20Nuru%20Dennis%20and%20Rutledge%20M.%20Dennis%20The%20P.pdf?ver=1751055304417>

Dennis, Rutledge M. and Kimya Nuru Dennis. 2024. "Alma Barlow: Grassroots Leadership and the Rise of the Richmond Tenants Organization." Virginia Social Science Association. Spring: Vol. 72, pp. 1-18. https://www.virginiasocialscience.org/uploads/1/3/5/1/135131919/vssj_volume_57_2024.pdf

Dennis, Rutledge M. and Kimya Nuru Dennis. 2024. "Harold Cruse, Black Intellectuals, and Reconstructing Black America." The Sociologist, February. <https://thesociologistdc.com/all-issues/harold-cruse-black-intellectuals-and-reconstructing-black-america/>

Kendra J. Jason, Sonyia Richardson, Kimya Nuru Dennis. Fall 2022. "Relieving the Burden of Self-Reliance: Centering the Experiences of Black Women Graduate Students in Predominantly White Institutions." *Journal of African American Women and Girls in Education*. 2(3): 8-33.

Patrick Webb, Jason Chin, Cynthia-Lee Williams, Kimya Nuru Dennis. 2021. "Technological Advocacy and Crime Reporting in an HBCU Setting: Addressing the Prospect of Legal Cynicism in the Ebony Tower." *Journal of Black Studies*. 53(2).

Kimya N. Dennis. 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=IwAR1QGtQgbOuKKk6GCiDY0LLODPjBir53b0LNc51aLkfcWFECDF9P8xb8Q>

Kimya Nuru Dennis and Kendra J. 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>

CURRENT RESEARCH

Kimya Nuru Dennis and Sia Seko, "Part 2: Integrating Suicide and Homicide for Black Political and Socioeconomic Status Attainment and the Direction of Lethal Violence for Young Black Males and White Males in U.S. Counties"

Kimya Nuru Dennis, "2013-2023: 10th anniversary of Kimya Nuru Dennis Conducting the First Childfree Black Research and Creating and Teaching the First Childfree College Course."

Kimya Nuru Dennis and Ibrahim Bahati, "Black Men's Beliefs and Experiences, 2016-2024"

Kimya Nuru Dennis and Rutledge M. Dennis, "The Intellectual Legacy of Harold Cruse"

CERTAIN PUBLIC WRITINGS

January 2026. "Never abandon women's empowerment and women's economic development." Pp.63-64. Sheconomy Magazine. She Rises Studios.

<https://www.sherisesstudios.com/post/never-abandon-women-s-empowerment-and-women-s-economic-development>

Full January 2026 edition: (Download the file to open or save)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xdLgNERNfGAXKoOsayuOqFxnV7wJFvw/view?usp=drive_link
<https://www.sherisesstudios.com/product-page/sheconomy-magazine-january-2026-edition>

Winter 2025, pp. 9-11, "Integrating Harold Cruse and Marcus Garvey", Kimya Nuru Dennis, The Griot, Association of Black Sociologists

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/aca48f100a.html#page/9>

Winter 2023, "Harold Cruse: Cooperative Economic Association," the economic section of "The Intellectual Legacy of Harold Cruse," Kimya Nuru Dennis and Rutledge M. Dennis, The Griot, Association of Black Sociologists

Winter 2022, "Sociology of Black health," pp. 18-19, The Griot, Association of Black Sociologists

<https://blacksociologists.wildapricot.org/resources/Pictures/The%20Griot%20-%20Winter%202022.pdf>

Summer 2022, "Black suicide and Black suicidal self-harm: Holding suicide prevention and mental health students and professionals accountable for centuries of medical racism and scientific racism," The Griot, Association of Black Sociologists

March 2022, "Art and Black Health," FotoShoot Magazine

<https://www.fotoshootmagazine.com/post/ifotc-art-and-black-health>

2017-2019, Guest Writer, MHA Virginia

<https://mhav.org/?s=kimya+dennis>

January 2019, Guest Column, "Connecting our communities with medical-health professionals"

<https://www.wschronicle.com/2019/01/connection-our-communities-with-medical-health-professionals/>

February 2018, “Suicide isn’t just a ‘white people thing,’” The Conversation: Academic rigor, journalistic flair <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>

Republished https://tonic.vice.com/en_us/article/evmzxn/suicide-research-underrepresents-people-of-color

Republished https://www.salon.com/2018/02/15/suicide-is-not-just-a-white-people-thing_partner/

2013-2016, Black childfree interviews and guest writing, Laura Carroll

https://lauracarroll.com/?s=kimya+dennis&et_pb_searchform_submit=et_search_process&et_pb_include_posts=yes&et_pb_include_pages=yes

October 2016, Guest Column, “Resources available to reduce stress, violence”

<http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2016/oct/31/resources-available-reduce-stress-violence/>

September 2016, Guest Column, “How communities decide ‘enough is enough’”

<http://www.wschronicle.com/2016/09/34953/>

June 2016, Guest Column, “Obstacles to mental health care”

<http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2016/jun/17/obstacles-mental-health-care/>

June 2016, Guest Column, “Commentary: Devon Davis and mental health in our community”

<http://wschronicle.com/33671/>

June 2016, Guest Column, “Criminal InJustice: The Meaning of Juneteenth in the 21st Century”

<http://criticalmassprogress.com/2016/06/22/criminal-injustice-the-meaning-of-juneteenth-in-the-21st-century/>

April 2016, Guest Column, “Mental-health outreach, spiritual communities can work together”

http://www.journalnow.com/opinion/columnists/kimya-n-dennis-mental-health-outreach-spiritual-communities-can-work/article_cf46ceb8-3b7b-501d-9d88-7fb947dd5cfa.html

March 2016, Guest Column, “Self-Harm and Suicide among Blacks: Redefining and Re-Categorizing Behaviors”

<http://criticalmassprogress.com/2016/03/16/criminal-injustice-self-harm-and-suicide-among-blacks-redefining-and-re-categorizing-behaviors/>

March 2016, Guest Column, “The larger implications of the death of Darryl Hunt”

http://www.journalnow.com/opinion/columnists/kimya-n-dennis-the-larger-implications-of-the-death-of/article_cc1188c3-1937-50cd-bc02-b52fe5adfl56.html?mode=story

September 2015, Guest Column, Basic Facts: “The Complexities of Black Youth Suicide”

<https://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/content/complexities-black-youth-suicide>

Republished <http://blackdoctor.org/486961/the-complexities-of-black-youth-suicide/>

Republished <http://milwaukeeblack.us/2016/04/21/the-complexities-of-black-youth-suicide/>

March 2015, Guest Column, Basic Facts: “Debunking Myths about Mental Illness among Blacks”

<http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/content/debunking-myths-about-mental-illness-among-blacks>

RECENT CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

2023 Baltimore County Department of Health, Baltimore County Peer Conference

2023 District of Columbia Department of Health Narcan (Naloxone) Community Education Course

2022 American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED

2019 Inaugural Cohort, Connection Academy Scholars Program, Cone Health

2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Connections Capstone

2019 SafeZone, North Star LGBT, Winston-Salem, NC

2018 WRAP: Wellness Recovery Action Plan, Mental Health Association in Forsyth County and Cardinal Innovations
 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
 2016 Advanced Issues in Suicide Intervention, Northwest AHEC and Wake Forest School of Medicine
 2016, Certificate, Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research, Wake Forest School of Medicine
 2016, Training for Trainers, Soul Shop: Ministering to Suicidal Desperation
 2016, Trainee, Soul Shop: Ministering to Suicidal Desperation, Northwest AHEC
 2016, Mental Health First Aid Certification Training, CenterPoint
 2016, Community Contributor, safeTALK, NC AFSP
 2015, Community Contributor, safeTALK, NC AFSP
 2015, Trainee, safeTALK, NC AFSP

CERTAIN AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Black Sociologists, Life Member
 Taking Care of Us Committee, Maryland Behavioral Health Administration, 2025—current
 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS): 2008-2020; Public Policy Committee 2015-2018, 2019—2020; Elections & Nominations Committee 2017
 The American Society of Criminology (ASC): 2008-2020
 Scholars Strategy Network <https://scholars.org/scholar/kimya-dennis>

CERTAIN COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION CONTRIBUTIONS

2025, Presenter, “Black Thinkers and Black Capitalism,” Profs & Pints, Guilford Hall Brewery, September 7, Baltimore, MD.

2025, Panelist, “Equity at Work: Mental Health Advocacy for Black Professionals,” session for a webinar series presented by the Association of Black Charities, Baltimore, August 26.

2025, Presenter: Financial Advice for Youth Ages 14-18, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center + Sweet Hope Summer, Baltimore, July-December.

2025, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Donnell’s Day, Herring Run Park, Baltimore, June.

2025, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Juneteenth Resource Event, The Weinberg Y in Waverly, Baltimore, June.

2024, Communiversity Presenter: Harold Cruse and the Intersection of Black Health, Education and Economic Development. TNAT Holistic Wellness Center, Baltimore, April.

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, 20th Annual Happy Nappy Day, Baltimore

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-concert-poor-righteous-teachers-tickets-657308737127?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

2023, Livestream, Demystifying the Mind: Understanding Mental Health vs. Mental Illness, Black Mental Health Matters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9JCGtHsxvs&t=1s>

2023, Livestream, Social Media and Cognitive Overload: Understanding the Impact on Mental Well-Being, Black Mental Health Matters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay2XQKeIvPA>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Justice4Donnell Community Event, Baltimore

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-honor-of-donnell-we-will-celebrate-who-he-was-tickets-637827307647?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Spring Mini-Health & Beauty Expo, Baltimore

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sis-building-a-better-youspring-mini-health-beauty-expo-2023-tickets-592062774697?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

2023, Virtual Mental Health Panel, Divine 9 NC Legislative Day, NC Black Alliance

<https://ncblackalliance.org/nc-divine-9-legislative-day-sets-record-participation/>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, IBW21 State of the Black World Conference, Baltimore <https://ibw21.org/sobwcv/>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Community Block Party, Baltimore

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/generation-now-easter-block-party-extravaganza-egg-hunt-tickets-571921672117?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, B'More Healthy Expo

<https://bmorehealthyexpo.com/>

2023, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, UNIA-ACL Division 106 Barca-Clarke, Harlem Theater, Baltimore

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-story-365-event-supporting-african-culture-and-black-entrepreneurs-tickets-555985827577?aff=efbneb>

2022, Co-Planner and Co-Presenter, “[Part 2: Afrikans with Epilepsy](#),” BeMoreGreen, Baltimore, October.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reUI-E98s88&t=34s>

2022, Co-Planner and Co-Presenter, “[Part 1: Afrikans with Epilepsy](#),” TNAT Holistic Wellness Center,

Baltimore, July. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-RpQq30TA0>

2022, Co-Planner and Co-Presenter, “To Thine Own Cellf be Trill: Black Families and Black Communities,” BeMoreGreen, Baltimore, May.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/274576063397>

2022, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, ChinYer event, BeMoreGreen, Baltimore

2022, HEALTH—EDUCATION—ECONOMICS Resource Table, Small Business Saturday Pop Up, Greater Baltimore Urban League, Langston Hughes Community Business and Resource Center

2019, Black Mental Health Resource Table, Annual Happily Natural Day, Richmond, VA

<https://thenaturalfestival.com/>

2013-2019, Black Health Resource Tables, community events, Winston-Salem, NC

2016-2019, Medical and Health Committee. Juneteenth Annual Festival, Triad Cultural Arts, Inc. Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-celebrates-freedom/>

<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-includes-serious-discussions/>

<https://wschronicle.com/33567/>

2016-2019, Black Health Resource Table. Juneteenth Annual Festival, Triad Cultural Arts, Inc. Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-celebrates-freedom/>
<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-includes-serious-discussions/>
<https://wschronicle.com/33567/>

2016-2019, Co-Presenter, Black Health Presentation. Juneteenth Annual Festival, Triad Cultural Arts, Inc. Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-celebrates-freedom/>
<https://wschronicle.com/juneteenth-festival-includes-serious-discussions/>
<https://wschronicle.com/33567/>

2016-2018, Board of Directors, LEAD Girls of NC, Winston-Salem, NC

2014-2019, Board of Directors, The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County, North Carolina (MHA Forsyth)-Contribution: Chair, Community Health Advocacy, community presentations and resource sharing

2014-2017, Board of Directors, North Carolina Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (NCAFP)-Contribution: Community Outreach, Black Suicide, and starting the Salem College OOTD Walk

<https://wschronicle.com/2015/04/salem-college-students-hold-walk-raise-awareness-suicide/>

2019, Co-Planner and Co-Presenter, “Collard Greens, Salsa & Gumbo: Colorism Affects Africans’ Opportunities around the World.” Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC.

2018, Planner and Presenter, “Stress in Our Lives and Communities: Open Discussion and Relaxing Introductory Yoga,” Triad Cultural Arts, Winston-Salem, NC.

2018, Support Speaker, “Ways Patients and Consumers Can Communicate with Mental Health Practitioners and Medical Professionals,” Greentree Peer Center, Winston-Salem, NC.

2018, Support Speaker, “Self-Expression and Self-Improvement,” The Salvation Army Center of Hope Transitional Housing, Winston-Salem, NC.

2018-2019, Standing Strong Committee, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, North Carolina
Contribution: Community outreach, Black sexual and reproductive freedoms-rights-resources

2018-2019, Education Committee, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, North Carolina
Contribution: Community outreach, Black sexual and reproductive freedoms-rights-resources

2018, Planner and Presenter, two sessions of “Bring Your Lunch and Let’s Discuss: How Housing Conditions Affect Us,” Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, Winston-Salem, NC.

2018, Evaluations for academic programs (history, psychology, sociology, political science, interdisciplinary studies, master’s in criminal justice, master’s in urban affairs, PhD in clinical psychology), 2017-2018 Annual Outcomes Assessment Report Evaluation, Department of History and Interdisciplinary Studies, Norfolk State University.

2018, Interviewee, RadioCamp, 88.5 WFDD, Wake Forest University

<https://www.wfdd.org/tags/radio-camp?page=24>
<https://www.wfdd.org/radio-camp-2025>

December 2017-January 2018, Megan Regan and Kimya N. Dennis, Visiting Fellows, “It is Expensive to be Poor,” Winston-Salem State University Center for the Study of Economic Mobility (CSEM).

2017-2018, Mental Health Contributor, FaithHealth Committee, Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem, and Vicinity.

2017, Honorarium Speaker, "Health and Freedoms: Sociocultural Identities and Experiences," Maya Angelou Center for Women's Health and Wellness: International Women's Health Summit 2017 - A Global Priority, Winston-Salem, NC.

2017, Co-Presenter, "Community event to address mental health and suicide", Sunrise Towers N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Winston-Salem, NC.

2017, Co-Presenter, "Suicide outreach and awareness," Stokes County Wellness Center, NC.

2017, Guest Speaker, "Just Keep Swimming: A Discussion on Mental Health in the Black Community and Coping with Stress and Anxiety", WSSU Sociology Club.

2016, Community Scorecard Advisory Council, Pro Humanitate Institute/Anna Julia Cooper Center, Wake Forest University.

2016, Presenter, "Self-Harm and Suicide among Blacks: Redefining and Re-Categorizing Behaviors", Lunch and Learn on Mental Health, Community Outreach, and Resource Availability, CenterPoint Human Services, Eden, NC.

2016, Panelist, Community Relations with Police, North State Law Enforcement Association Conference, Winston-Salem, NC.

2016, Speaker, WSSU Homecoming Colloquium, "Health Disparities in America: Working toward Social Justice," Winston Salem State University.

2016, Panelist, "Suicide: A Public Health Issue in Adolescents & Young Adults," Old Salem Visitors Center, James A. Gray Auditorium.

2016, Guest Expert, "Mental Health Promotion & Suicide Prevention: Black Youth Suicide," Blackdoctor.org Facebook Q&A: <https://blackdoctor.org/black-children-suicide-prevention-a-call-to-action/>
Republished <http://blackdoctor.org/506662/black-children-suicide-prevention-a-call-to-action/>
Partially Republished <http://www.afro.com/rates-for-black-kids-increase/>

2016, Honorarium Speaker, Plenary Session "Expanding Perspectives of Black Suicide and Black Suicidal Self-Harm." Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Project (UMADAOP), Cleveland, Ohio.

2016, Honorarium Workshop Presenter, "Ways to Reach 'Our People' for Mental Health Outreach." Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Project (UMADAOP), Cleveland, Ohio.

2016, Co-Planner and Co-Moderator, Winston Salem Urban League Black & Blue Town Halls
<http://www.wsurban.org/community-partners-host-community-police-town-hall-series/>
http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/civilians-police-officers-have-racial-bias-against-black-males-researcher/article_44997bbc-0d77-5a29-a2ba-057bd88aa754.html
<http://www.wschronicle.com/2016/11/final-urban-league-town-hall-tackles-implicit-bias/>

2017, Panelist, Childfree, TheNotMom Summit
<https://www.thenotmom.com/notmom-summit>

2015-2016, Committee for [Working America NC](#): Living/family wage and social inequities.

2015, Presenter, Mental Health and the Black Community, 9th Annual Nutrition, Health and Wellness Fair, NC A&T, Greensboro, NC.

2015, Panelist, MLK Day Town Hall: Solutions for Improving Police - Community Relations, WSSU, sponsored by The Minister's Conference.

2014-2015, Consulting Group and Working Group, NC Suicide Prevention Plan, Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) Branch and UNC Department of Health Behavior, Raleigh, NC.
<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/preventionResources/docs/2015-NC-SuicidePreventionPlan-2015-0505-FINAL.pdf>

2014, Co-Presenter, "Need for understanding between civilian CIT trainers and law enforcement CIT trainees," NC CIT State Advisory Committee, Raleigh, NC.

2014, Co-Organizer and Discussant, My Brother's Keeper: Black Violence Breakfast Symposium, sponsored by Diggs Memorial Unity Holy Church, Winston-Salem, NC.

2014, Panelist, Stop the Violence: Community Meeting and Forum, sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem, Winston Salem State University.

2013, Co-Planner and Panelist, Gun Violence: A Campus and Community Discussion. Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
https://journalnow.com/news/local/article_512e0e42-2198-11e3-9bae-0019bb30f31a.html

2012-2015, Volunteer, Forsyth County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Trainings for first responders, mental health professionals, and law enforcement, MHA Forsyth, North Carolina.

2012-2014, Living Wage Subcommittee, Program in Community Engagement and Implementation, Wake Forest School of Medicine.

CERTAIN MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES

July 2024 Release, WTTS 4 Epilepsy Presents a Docuseries about Epilepsy and the Families Impacted by Epilepsy.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auPxXqkycNo>

January 2022, featured in "In 'My So-Called Selfish Life,' Therese Shechter Tackles What It Means to Be Child-Free," Ms. Magazine
<https://msmagazine.com/2022/01/25/child-free-my-so-called-selfish-life-therese-shechter/>

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

2019, "The Cycle: Generational Curses." Black Experiences & Black Mental Health. Terrence Graham, 5FT Productions, LLC, North Carolina.

2019, "Bullied," documentary, writer and director Thomas Keith
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10597490/>

October 2018, "It doesn't have to make sense to other people: An interview with African Diaspora Childfree Sociologist, Dr. Kimya N. Dennis," Black Youth Project
<http://blackyouthproject.com/it-doesnt-have-to-make-sense-to-other-people-an-interview-with-african-diaspora-childfree-sociologist-dr-kimya-n-dennis/>

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

April 2018, "Benefits of yoga at Triad Cultural Arts," Winston-Salem Chronicle
<https://wschronicle.com/benefits-yoga-triad-cultural-arts/>

April 2017, "Interdisciplinary work in suicide, self-harm and mental health," Ourselves Black
<https://ourselvesblack.com/journal/2017/4/29/ourselves-black-professional-spotlight-and-dialogue-dr-kimya-dennis>

March 2017, "Why a 15-year-old Girl's Death Should Raise Alarm Bells among Black Parents," The Reporters
<http://www.thereporters.org/article/african-american-suicide/#more-1318>

February 2016, "Why Are So Many Black Kids Dying from Suicide?" Think Progress
<https://archive.thinkprogress.org/why-are-so-many-black-kids-dying-from-suicide-6145b78764f6/>

December 2015, "The Mental Cost of Violence," Capital Community News
<http://www.capitalcommunitynews.com/content/mental-cost-violence-0>

November 2015, "Cultural Variations in Healing: Mental Health Outreach," Huffington Post
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/minaa-b/cultural-variations-in-he_b_8478822.html

CERTAIN AUDIO AND VISUAL RECORDINGS

October 2025, "Women explain how they decided whether to have kids," NPR Series [Population Shift: How Smaller Families Are Changing the World](#), Here & Now, Robin Young, NPR
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/10/29/small-families>

October 2020, "This week in the conversation: The Breonna Taylor investigation is over. Now What?" 89.3 WFPL, Louisville, Kentucky NPR station
<https://music.amazon.com/es-co/podcasts/cf8e2129-d0ff-4097-b039-ca134f68292f/episodes/e2ec7eba-f002-401b-a34a-aa147762fe12/in-conversation-the-breonna-taylor-investigation-is-over-now-what>

August 2019, "Assessing 2020 Presidential Candidates on Criminal Justice Reform," Here & Now, Susan Davis, NPR
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/08/27/2020-candidates-criminal-justice-reform>

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

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

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

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

February 2018, “Demographic and Cultural Variance in Suicide and Mental Health,” All Sides with Ann Fisher, WOSU-NPR

<http://radio.wosu.org/post/wellness-wednesday-exercise-science-and-suicide-demographics>

<http://radio.wosu.org/programs/all-sides-ann-fisher#stream/0>

CERTAIN SPEAKINGS, TRAININGS, PRESENTATIONS

February 2026, Kimya Nuru Dennis, “Comparing Suicide and Homicide: Black Political and Socioeconomic Status Attainment and the Direction of Lethal Violence,” New International Virtual Association, Spring Virtual Conference, Ethnic Studies Session.

February 2026, Rutledge M. Dennis and Kimya Nuru Dennis, “The Socialization of Black Academic Intellectuals,” New International Virtual Association, Spring Virtual Conference, Ethnic Studies Session.

October 2025, Rutledge M. Dennis and Kimya Nuru Dennis, “The Making of Black Urban Entrepreneurs,” New International Virtual Association, Fall Virtual Conference, Ethnic Studies Session.

December 2023, “Increasing Preventive Measures and Deterrents on College Campuses,” Campus Safety Online Summit.

<https://campussafetysummit.com/>

May 2023, Virtual Presenter, “Ways to Prepare Black People for Mental Health Services and Physical Health Services,” ClinicianFest.

<https://www.clinicianfest.com/>

<https://www.clinicianfest.com/2023-presenter/dr.-kimya-nuru-dennis>

February 2023, Presenter, “Our lives are more than data representation: The urgency of substance use and suicide,” [Students Recover](#) online recovering community.

October 2021, Co-Planner and Co-Presenter, “Virtual Lunchtime Discussion: Black Suicide and Black Life Stressors.”

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/168035513745>

October 2021, Presenter, “How Predominantly White and White-Controlled Local and National Suicide Prevention Organizations Must Go Beyond Surface-Level Racial Equity,” Maryland 33rd Annual Suicide Prevention Conference.

July 2021, Presenter, Epilepsy Health Disparities, Health Equity, and Cultural Competency, Epilepsy Foundation, AAP Community Health Workers ECHO.

April 2021, Presenter, “Racial equity and epilepsy,” National Public Health Week (NPHW), Epilepsy Foundation, AAP Community Health Workers ECHO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_A1ZcXbFPs

March 2021, Trainer, “Redefining suicide and suicidal self-harm,” Race and Mental Health Training, Suicide Prevention Training, Maryland Department of Health.

December 2020, Trainer, Systemic racism in all aspects of medical-health system, Acadia Healthcare Maryland, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA), Baltimore, MD.

December 2020, Trainer, demographic and cultural diversity-inclusion. NAMI Metro Baltimore, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA), Baltimore, MD.

October 2020, Co-Facilitator and Co-Consultant, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA), Baltimore, MD.

July 2020, Presenter, A conversation: health equity, healthcare systems and next steps to achieve progress, Novant Health.

July 2020, Trainer, What behavioral health professionals must do to support Blacks disproportionately targeted and harmed by police, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA).

June 2020, Training Creator and Trainer: 365 Diversity's We Need H.E.L.P.: Introduction and July 2020, trainer, 365 Diversity's We Need H.E.L.P.: Train the Trainer, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA).

November 2019, Presenter and Chair, session "Perils and Promises of Mental Health and Health Services," presentation "Lack of Cultural Awareness and Inclusiveness in Health Services Contributes to Disproportionate Representation of African Americans in Criminal Justice System," American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

May 2019, Keynote Lunch Presenter, Mental Health Seminar: User-Friendly Service, Winston-Salem Urban League, Continuing Education Credits provided by Northwest AHEC.

April 2019, Presenter, Redefining suicide and suicidal self-harm: Cultural consciousness to better reach communities and better teach-train health students and health professionals-practitioners. American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

March 2019, Presenter, Does CIT Training Help African Americans with Mental Illness? Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

December 2018, Presenter, "Redefining mental health and behavioral outcomes: Cultural consciousness to better reach communities and better teach-train health students and health professionals-practitioners," six-hour training, South Central Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC.

November 2018, Panelist, Discussion of Law Enforcement and Community Engagement, "Black Superhero Magic Mama," NC Black Repertory Company, UNC School of the Arts.
https://www.journalnow.com/relishnow/events/community-discussion-will-follow-reading/article_dc410868-dfcf-11e8-8c8d-ff2a216948c6.html

November 2018, Guest Lecturer, "Urban farming, food access, poverty, crime, and health outcomes," Green Infrastructure: The Functional Role of Plants in Urban Areas course, NCSU Department of Horticultural Sciences.

November 2018, Presenter, "Black men, mental health, and suicidal self-harm: Not 'criminals' and 'thugs'," American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

September 2018, Presenter, "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, Panelist, "The Black Health Forum: Embracing Black Mental Wellness." North Carolina Chapter of National Association of Health Services Executives. UNC Chapel Hill.

September 2018, Presenter, Mental Health Breakout Session, "The state of mental health among African Americans," State of Black Health National Conference. Atlanta, GA.

August 2018, Presenter, "Understanding Mental Health: Reach K-12 Children and Families," Guilford County Schools, Annual Conference of School Social Workers and School Counselors, Greensboro, NC.

July 2018, Presenter, "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, Presenter, "Mental health for mothers and daughters," Honorable Youth, SG Atkins Community Development Corporation, Winston-Salem, NC.

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

June 2018, Presenter, "Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT): Connecting Communities and Law Enforcement," Conference Banquet for Furniture City Chapter of North State Law Enforcement Officers Association.

May 2018, Co-Presenter and Co-Facilitator, "Providing services for children/families in homes with substance use," Break Out Session for State and Research University Partnerships in the Opioid Crisis, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy. <https://www.appam.org/member-forum-state-and-research-university-partnerships-in-the-opioid-crisis/>

April 2018, Presenter, "No, we are NOT all the same: Being of African diaspora and childfree-by choice," Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.

April 2018, Presenter, "Mental health and gender identity," Intersectional Feminist Exploration Day, UNC Charlotte.

March 2018, Co-Presenter, "'You Feel Me?' Social-Emotional Intelligence and Mental Health among Men of Color," North Carolina Community College System, Minority Male Mentoring Conference, Bridging the Gap: Innovative Approaches to Minority Male Success, Durham, NC.

March 2018, Co-Presenter, "Suicide as the Ultimate Social Risk: Mental health and cultural correlates and how this impacts the juvenile justice population," North Carolina Juvenile Services Association Conference, Carolina Beach, NC.

February 2018, Presenter, Open Seminar, "Black 'Boys II Men': Masculinity shapes, and is shaped by, mental health and suicidal self-harm," Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

November 2017, Co-Presenter with Economist Dr. Megan Regan, "Racial and Economic Segregation: A Spatial Perspective of Persistent, Concentrated Poverty," Class, Power, Gender, and Poverty Session. Southern Economic Association Conference.

November 2017, Presenter, Policy Panel: Transitions in Public Policy for Mental Health, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2017, Session Chair and Presenter, "'Violent Criminals' or Suicidal: Re-conceptualizing Suicide and Suicidal Self-harm," American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

September 2017, Presenter, "African Diaspora Life Stressors Contribute to Mental Health and Suicide," Black Mental Health Symposium, UNC-Charlotte.

September 2017, Presenter, "Freedom and Expression for the Childfree," North Carolina Sexual Health Conference, Raleigh, NC.

March 2017, Presenter, Open Seminar, "Ways to Reduce the Mental-Illness-to-Incarceration Pipeline", Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.

March 29-April 2, 2016, Presenter, Roundtable, "Black Suicide and Self-Harm", Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

February 2016, Presenter, “Mental Health Outreach and Cultural Correlates.” North Carolina Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Winston-Salem, NC.

November 2015, Thematic Panel Discussant, “Socio-Historical Explanations for Race and Perceptions of Criminality,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.

March 2015, Presenter, Roundtable, “Felon Disenfranchisement and Tension between Black Men and Law Enforcement: Illustrations of Disconnect between Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice”, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

December 2014, Presenter, “CIT Training: Law Enforcement Practices and Mental Health Consumers.” Presenters: Kimya Nuru Dennis, Andy Hagler (MHA Forsyth), and Louise Whealton (NAMI NW Piedmont), NC CIT Committee, Raleigh, NC.

February 2014, Presenter, “CIT Training: Police Practices and Mental Health Consumers,” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting Philadelphia, PA.

January 2014, Trainer, Stokes County Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Six-Hour Seminar: “Proposed Transfer of 16-18 Years Old Offenders to Adult Courts in NC” and “Juvenile Recidivism and Rehabilitation,” Pilot Mountain, NC.

November 2013, Presenter, Roundtable, “Second Phase of a Preliminary Analysis of Forsyth County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

October 2013, Presenter, “A Preliminary Analysis of Forsyth County CIT Training,” Presenters: Kimya Nuru Dennis, Andy Hagler (MHA Forsyth), Louise Whealton (NAMI NW Piedmont), NAMI NC Conference, Raleigh, NC.

March 2013, Co-Presenter, “A Preliminary Analysis of Forsyth County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training,” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX.

CERTAIN PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Adjunct Faculty	Baltimore City Community College Sociology Spring 2023 Fall 2023
Adjunct Faculty	University of West Georgia Sociology Spring 2021—Fall 2024
Adjunct Associate Professor	Wake Forest University School of Medicine The Roots of Health Inequity Summer 2019
Department Chair	Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies Salem College Spring 2019
Tenured Associate Professor	Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies Salem College Fall 2017—Spring 2019

Academic Tutor	Student Athletes Services Wake Forest University Fall 2012—Fall 2018
Creator and Coordinator	Criminal Studies Program Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies Salem College Fall 2011—Spring 2019
Assistant Professor	Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies Salem College Fall 2010—Spring 2017
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, teaching courses began in 2004

CERTAIN ACADEMIC AWARDS

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

2017, Tenured Associate Professor, Salem College

December 2017-January 2018, Economics Faculty Megan Regan and Sociology and Criminal Studies faculty 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, Economics faculty Megan Regan, Sociology and Criminal Studies faculty 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 Summer Research Sabbatical

COURSES TAUGHT

American Class System
Corrections in America
Criminological and Criminal Justice Theory
Criminal Studies Senior Seminar
Cultural Anthropology
Gender and Crime
Independent Study: Applied Qualitative Research
Introduction to African American Studies

Introduction to Criminal Justice
Introduction to Criminology
Introduction to Sociology
Juvenile Delinquency
Media and Crime
Medical Sociology/Sociology of Medicine
Mental Health: Cultural Competence and Community Outreach
Race and Crime
Race and Ethnic Relations
Race, Class, and Gender
Roots of Health Inequity
Serial Killers
Social Problems
Social Stratification
Sociological Theory
Sociology of Family
Sociology of Gender
Sociology of Mental Health
Sociology of Race
The Childfree
The Sociology of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture
Urban Community