N. JACOB AGWU

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Quantitative and Mixed Methods Researcher with expertise in sociology, medical sociology, health disparities, and environmental studies. Skilled in leveraging data from policy analysis, community engagement, and academic scholarship.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology (ABD), University at Albany, Albany, NY — ***Aug 2021 – Present***
Graduate Study in Health Disparities, University at Albany, Albany, NY — **May 2025**
Master of Arts, Sociology, University at Albany, Albany, NY — ***May 2023***
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology & Communication, University at Albany, Albany, NY — ***May 2021***

SKILLS

Technical: SAS, R, STATA, SPSS, ArcGIS, Linguistic Analysis, Task Analysis, Usability studies, Card sorting, Persona building, Diary Studies, Contextual Interviews, Critical Discourse Analysis.

Functional: Strategy planning and analysis, Project/ Program Management, Stakeholder management and facilitation, User-centered design with diverse audiences, Equity-focused design, design thinking, Community-based participatory research, Collaborative design, Contextual inquiry, Policy analysis.

EXPERIENCE

Research and Advocacy Member, Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities (CEHD) Albany Minority Health Task Force, University at Albany, Albany, NY

Oct 2023- Present

- Collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to address minority health disparities through research and community engagement initiatives.
- Conducted data analysis and literature reviews to support the development of health equity strategies.
- Organized community forums and stakeholder meetings to identify and address barriers to minority health.
- Supported community-engaged research that is scientifically rigorous, culturally appropriate, and beneficial to Communities of Color in the Capital Region.
- Provided recommendations for policy changes aimed at improving health outcomes for marginalized populations.
- Aided in disseminating research findings to strengthen community capacity for achieving health and well-being.

Research Project Assistant, Research Foundation of the State University of New York, Albany, NY

Jan 2022- Present

- Conducted qualitative and quantitative research using statistical software (Stata, R, SPSS), analyzing large datasets to uncover trends and insights.
- Designed and implemented survey instruments and interview protocols for community-based studies.
- Coordinated participant recruitment and scheduling for interviews and focus groups, ensuring diverse representation
- Authored sections of grant proposals and prepared detailed progress reports to meet funding agency requirements.
- Developed visual data presentations and dashboards to communicate research findings to stakeholders and collaborators

Operations Manager, Chi STEM Toys Inc., Bronx, NY

Jan 2017 - Present

- Developed and launched STEM and entrepreneurship programs tailored for underrepresented youth in NYC and Lagos, focusing on accessible learning resources and workshops.
- Created culturally relevant STEM curricula integrating hands-on activities to inspire interest in science and business among marginalized communities.
- Partnered with local organizations and schools to extend program outreach, impacting over 1,000 youth participants annually.
- Designed organizational branding materials, including brochures, flyers, and digital content, to enhance community engagement and visibility
- Managed program budgets, overseeing funding allocation for staff, materials, and event execution, ensuring fiscal accountability.

NYACP Health Disparities Fellow, New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (NYACP), REMOTE
Oct 2024 – Sep 2025

- Conducted policy analysis on diabetes disparities through social determinants of health, focusing on access to care, housing, and food security.
- Evaluated existing public health policies to identify gaps and opportunities for addressing health inequities in urban populations.
- Facilitated virtual stakeholder interviews and focus groups with healthcare professionals and public health officials to gather diverse perspectives.
- Developed detailed reports and policy briefs providing actionable recommendations for NYACP's urban advocacy strategies.
- Collaborated on educational initiatives, including webinars and podcasts, to raise awareness of health equity issues among broader audiences.

Research Support Specialist, Research Foundation of the State University of New York, Albany, NY
Jun 2021 – Jun 2023

- Conducted extensive literature reviews and synthesized findings to support various research projects across multiple disciplines.
- I assisted in designing research methodologies, including data collection instruments and protocols, to ensure accurate and reliable data.
- Managed and analyzed large datasets using statistical software (e.g., R, Stata, SPSS) to identify trends, patterns, and insights relevant to research objectives
- Collaborated with principal investigators and research teams to prepare comprehensive research reports, presentations, and publications.
- Ensured compliance with institutional review board (IRB) guidelines and maintained ethical standards in all research activities.

RESEARCH IMPACT

- **Conference Presentations**:
    - *The Impact of State-Level Political Ideology on Children's Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2008–2024*
        - Co-authored paper presented at the **121st Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association**, Medical Sociology Section Roundtables (Session 30259, Table 22: Health Insurance), New York Hilton Midtown, New York, NY. August 9, 2026.
    - *Leveraging Data Science and Community-Validated Knowledge to Strengthen State-Level Health Advocacy for Social Determinants of Health.*
        - Paper presented at the **5th International Conference of the Society for the Advancement of ICT & Comparative Knowledge (SOCTHADICKconf'25)**, Faculty of Computing, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. November 16-19, 2025.
    - *Fostering Gender Equity and Capacity Building in STEM Through NiWARD Mathematical Storytelling*
        - Co-authored paper presented at the NiWARD 2024 Conference, Ibadan, Nigeria.
        - Also presented at the 4th International Conference of the Society for the Advancement of ICT & Comparative Knowledge (SOCTHADICKconf'24), University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. December 2024.
    - *Racialized Labor Markets and Unequal Employment Opportunities*
        - Co-authored paper presented with Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana and Tawnee Crews at the **119th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association**, Regular Session on Labor Market (Session 30819), Palais des congrès de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada. August 11, 2024. Contribution to Dr. Zawadi Rucks–Ahidiana's research on Labor Market Racialization, supported by the Russell Sage Foundation (RSF).
    - United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 69th Session – NGO CSW Parallel Event | Paradise Mission for Widows and Teenage Girls: Review and Assessment of the Implementation of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action.

- Invited Speakers. Presented insights on gender equity and global justice advocacy. Church Center for the United Nations, New York, NY. March 2025.

- **Publications:**
  - **Kalu**, O. U., **J**. **Agwu**, and **J**. **Highsmith**. 2026. *Dispossession as Education Policy: A Review of Research on Racial Capitalism, Gentrification, and School Resegregation in the United States*. **Under review**, *Review of Research in Education*.

  - **Ocasio**, **Samuel**, Jr., and **N**. **Jacob Agwu**. 2026. *The Impact of State-Level Political Ideology on Children's Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2008–2024*. Paper presented at the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Medical Sociology Section Roundtables, New York, NY, **August 9, 2026**.

  - **Agwu, N. Jacob**. 2025. *Strengthening NYACP's State-Level Policy and Program Strategies: A Comparative Review of Local Advocacy Models Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Mitigate Diabetes Prevalence in New York City*. Final Research Report (NYACP Health Disparity Fellowship), Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities (CEHD), University at Albany, SUNY. Submitted to the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (NYACP), **May 21, 2025**.

  - **Agwu, N. Jacob**, and **Nkechi Madonna Agwu**. 2025. *Leveraging Data Science and Community – Validated Knowledge to Strengthen State–Level Health Advocacy for Social Determinants of Health*. In *Proceedings of the 2025 5th International Conference of the Society for the Advancement of ICT & Comparative Knowledge (SOCTHADICKconf'25*), Faculty of Computing, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, 17-21 November 2025, pp. 429-445. ISBN: 978-978-694-252-0.

  - **Rucks-Ahidiana**, **Zawadi**, **N**. **Jacob Agwu**, and **Tawnee Crews**. 2024. *Racialized Labor Markets and Unequal Employment Opportunities*. Paper presented at the 119th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Regular Session on Labor Market, Montréal, Québec, Canada, **August 11, 2024**.

  - **Agwu**, **Nkechi M**., Stella **Williams**, **Olabukunola Williams–Rosen**, and **N**. **Jacob Agwu**. 2024. "Fostering Gender Equity and Capacity Building in STEM-Related Fields Through NiWARD Mathematical Storytelling." Conference paper manuscript.

- **Awards and Fellowships:**
  - **Member,** *Albany Minority Health Task Force*, Albany, NY
    (**October 2023** – **Present**)

  - **Fellow**, *Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities* (*CEMHD*), University at Albany, SUNY
    (**Ended 2024**)

  - **NYACP Health Disparities Fellow**, *New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians* (*NYACP*)
    (Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)

  - **Current Fellow,** *Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities* (*CEHD*), University at Albany, SUNY
    (Oct 2025 - **Present**)

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Certificate of Graduate Study in Health Disparities, University at Albany, State University of New York** (May 2025)
- **Public Health Disparities, The State University of New York at Albany** (2021)
- **Quantitative Research Methods, University at Albany** (2022)

REFERENCES

- **Christopher Salami**
  - Clinical Chemist/Public Health Specialist
  - Contact: (347) 210- 1228
  - Email: csalami@bmcc.cuny.edu
  - Relationship: Mentor

- **Henry Ukazu**
  - Legal Coordinator, NYC Department of Corrections
  - Contact: (646) 399-4443
  - Relationship: Mentor

- **Loretta A. Ponesse, CAE**
  - Executive Director, New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (NYACP)
  - Office Phone: 518-427-0366
  - Email: Lponesse@nyacp.org
  - Address: PO Box 387237, Albany, NY 12203
  - Relationship: Supervisor / Fellowship Coordinator