

TIFFANY N. FORD, MPH, PhD

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[Google Scholar](#)

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Fellow, Brookings Institution, Future of the Middle Class Initiative, August 2021 to present.

Health Equity Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cornell University, Politics of Race, Immigration, Class and Ethnicity (PRICE) Research Initiative (Dr. Jamila Michener), August 2021 to present.

Doctor of Philosophy in Policy Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, School of Public Policy, May 2021. Concentration in Social Policy.

Master of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, May 2016. Community Health Sciences division.

Bachelor of Science in Education, University of Miami, May 2014, *cum laude*. Double majored in Human and Social Development (community track), Economics. Minored in Health Sector Management and Policy.

RESEARCH

Dissertation, Exploring complexity in well-being: A mixed methods examination of the Black women's well-being paradox ([Digital Repository at the University of Maryland](#))

- Committee:
 - Chair: Carol Graham, PhD, College Park Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy; Leo Pasvolsky Senior Fellow and Research Director, Brookings Institution
 - Alana Hackshaw, PhD, Associate Clinical Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy
 - Rashawn Ray, PhD, Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland; David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Brookings Institution
 - Apolonia Calderon, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy
 - Claire Dunning, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

Lab member and consultant, Social Epidemiology to Eliminate Disparities (SEED) Lab, Social Engagement to Combat Unjust Residential Evictions (SECURE) study (PI: Shawnita Sealy-Jefferson, PhD, MPH), September 2019 to present.

- This mixed methods community-based participatory research study explores the impact of formal and informal evictions on the health of Black families in Detroit.

Masters Capstone, Predatory Lenders and Their Prey: A Spatial Analysis of Payday Lending Sites in the City of Chicago, May 2016

Public writing

- [“July jobs report shows Black teens struggling with the highest unemployment rate.”](#) The Avenue: Brookings Institution. August 9, 2021. Broady, K., Ford, T., & Romer, C.
- [“Testimonial: The Deadly Intersection of Race and Policing in America.”](#) State of Black America 2021: Structural Racism. National Urban League. July 15, 2021. Ford, T.
- [“Investing in a New Normal: Reimagining Public Health and Safety.”](#) State of Black America 2021. National Urban League. July 15, 2021. Ford, T. & Broady, K.
- [“Mitigating the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Black Communities through Fintech.”](#) State of Black America 2021: Economic Collapse. National Urban League. July 15, 2021. Broady, K., Ford, T., & Perry, A.
- [“No Time to Spare: Exploring the middle class time squeeze.”](#) Time and the Middle Class: Brookings Institution. February 16, 2021. Ford, T., Silva, J., Welch, M., & Sawhill, I.
- [““What if something happens?”: A Qualitative Study of the Hopes and Anxieties of the American Middle Class Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”](#) Brookings Institution. November 17, 2020. Silva, J., Sawhill, I., Welch, M., & Ford, T.
- [“Navigating race and injustice in America’s middle class.”](#) Race in American Public Policy: Brookings Institution. October 29, 2020. Silva, J. & Ford, T.
- [“Black essential workers’ lives matter. They deserve real change, not just lip service.”](#) Report: Brookings Institution. June 24, 2020. Kinder, M. & Ford, T.
- [“Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear.”](#) Up Front: Brookings Institution. June 16, 2020. Ford, T., Reber, S., & Reeves, R.
- [“COVID-19 much more fatal for men, especially taking age into account.”](#) Up Front: Brookings Institution. May 15, 2020. Reeves, R. & Ford, T.
- [“College for people like me: How majority-Black campuses boost social mobility.”](#) Up Front: Brookings Institution. March 2, 2020. Ford, T. & Reeves, R.
- [“How are communities making housing more affordable for middle-income families?”](#) Policy 2020: Brookings Institution. November 8, 2019. Ford, T. & Schuetz, J.
- [“Workforce housing and middle-income housing subsidies: A primer.”](#) : Brookings Institution. October 29, 2019. Ford, T. & Schuetz, J.
- [“Tackling zoning to help the middle class: 5 policy approaches.”](#) Up Front: Brookings Institution. July 17, 2019. Ford, T. & Schuetz, J.
- [“A Qualitative Review of Chicago’s West Suburban Safety Net: Consequences, Adaptation, and Recommendations for Future Reform.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. March 2018. Ford, T., Epplin, W., & Schaps, M.
- [“Beyond the Clinic: A National Health Equity Review, Implications for our local safety net.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. March 2018. Epplin, W. & Ford, T.
- [“Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce Series.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. July 2018. Nzinga-Johnson, S., Ford, T., & Powell, S.
- [“Report Release: Efficient Health Workforce Data Collection in Illinois.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. July 2017. Ford, T. & Epplin, W.
- [“Everything is health: Tracking Legislation in the Illinois General Assembly.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. May 2017. Epplin, W., Ford, T., & Spees, C.
- [“Strengthening the Safety Net in Illinois After Health Reform.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. February 2017. Darnell, J., Mora, N., Cahn, S., [and 5 others, including Ford, T.]
- [“Recommendations for Measuring Structural Racism in Chicago.”](#) Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. December 2016. Nzinga-Johnson, S., Epplin, W., Ford, T., & Alvarez, R.

Opinion

- “[8 Ways To Support The Protests And #BlackLivesMatter Movement From Home.](#)” Blavity. June 4, 2020. Ford, T.
- “[Juneteenth is African American Independence Day and it’s past time we celebrate it.](#)” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. June 6, 2018. Ford, T.
- “[Does Chicago really need more police officers?](#)” Letter to the editor, Chicago Tribune. October 6, 2017. Ford, T. & Epplin, W.
- “[CPS, Health Equity, and Illinois’ Revenue Problem.](#)” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. April 3, 2017. Ford, T. & Epplin, W.
- “[Ending Police Violence is a Public Health Responsibility.](#)” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. March 24, 2017. Ford, T. & Epplin, W.
- “[More police? What about more teachers?](#)” Letter to the editor, Crain’s Chicago Business. October 1, 2016. Nzinga-Johnson, S., Ford, T., & Epplin, W.

Oral Presentations, Panels, Roundtables, Conference Materials

- “**The Brookings Debrief: Black Americans and the middle class**” February 25, 2021. Guest on Instagram Live show, [recorded here](#), held by the Brookings Institution.
- “**How to support Black women in economics**” February 11, 2021. Panelist for 2021 Sadie T.M. Alexander conference research reception organized by the Sadie Collective.
- “**Reimagining Healthy Communities**” August 24, 2020. Panelist for webinar on reimagining community health with abolitionist values organized by the Faith in Place Action Fund and Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation and facilitated by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. Webinar [recorded here](#).
- “**Are Police in Schools Keeping Us Safe?**” August 13, 2020. Panelist for community event organized by Mt. Rainier Organizing for Racial Equity (MORE), Public Health Awakened, and P.G. Change Makers
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2018, “**A Qualitative Review of Chicago’s West Suburban Safety Net: How political fear shapes healthcare action,**” Ford, T. & Epplin, W.
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2017, “**#ThisIsPublicHealth: Bridging the Gap Between Public Health Professionals and Social Movements,**” Ford, T., Dougherty, A., Mays, A., & Howard, K.
- DePaul University Health Disparities & Social Justice Conference, August 2017, “**Health Equity Praxis: Practical Examples from Health & Medicine Policy Research Group,**” Ford, T., Alvarez, R., Epplin, W., Nzinga-Johnson, S., & Powell, S.
- DePaul University Harry Potter and the Pop Culture Conference, May 2017, “**Liberal Racism and Where To Find It: A Critical Examination of Prejudice in the Wizarding World**” and “**From the Order of the Phoenix to Dumbledore’s Army: Understanding Our Trauma and Building an Intergenerational Response,**” Ford, T. & Dougherty, A.
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2016, “**Preparing Students to Pursue Health Equity: Unpacking Structural Determinants of Health Inequities in the Classroom,**” Ford, T., Epplin, W., Gurin-Sands, C., Goldstein, A., & Hebert-Beirne, J.
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2016, “**Teaching the Causes of the Causes: Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and Structural Oppression,**” Roundtable discussion facilitated by: Holmes, S., Hansen, H., Kennedy, S., Smith, S. J., Saleh, S. Selassie, S. Fay-Bequist, A., Ford, T., Epplin, W., Gurin-Sands, C., Goldstein, A., & Hebert-Beirne, J.
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2015, “**Radical Curriculum: Breaking Bad Political Economics of Neoliberalism and #BlackLivesMatter to Public Health,**” Epplin, W., Goldstein, A., Russell, J., & Ford, T.

- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2015, “**Separate and Not Equal: the Impact of Modern Day Segregation on Health Inequities,**” Ford, T., Raymond, E., Mays, A., & Dougherty, A.
- Housing in an Unequal World Conference, September 2015 and American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2015, “**A City of Neighborhoods: A Self-Guided Tour on Chicago's Green Line,**” San Miguel, C., Castillo, E. & Ford, T.
- Undergraduate Education for Public Health Summit, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Annual Meeting, November 2013, “**Student Engaged Research Contributing to the Development of a Community Health Practicum for Bachelors of Science in Public Health Students,**” Lorenzo, D., Gonzalez Guarda, R., Munoz Rojas, D. Zdanowicz, M., Ford, T.
- Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting, May 2012, “**Transactional theory of coping: What works for whom and under what circumstance,**” Smith, L. E., Ford, T., Birichi, D. & Razak, P.

Awards, Grants, & Fellowships

- Innovative Research Award, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, May 2021
- Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, Sadie Collective, February 2021
- Seed Grant on Race, Policy, Equity, and Social Justice, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Spring 2021
- Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, Graduate School, Spring 2021
- Dean’s Fellowship, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, 2018-2020
- Joseph W. Rogers Fellowship award, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

PLCY 201: “Leadership for the Common Good” (Public Leaders and Active Citizens), a course which engages students in the theory and practice of public leadership from the local to the national to the global level.

Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Spring 2020

PLCY 309: “Internships in Political Institutions,” a course that provides a basis for reflection upon and evaluation of student’s practical, hands-on work experience interning in a public policy and public leadership environments.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Fall 2019.

PLCY 640: “Microeconomics and Policy Analysis,” a course that introduced graduate students to an intermediate level of microeconomic analysis with a special application to public policy.

- Led a weekly discussion session in which I reviewed the problem sets and taught related microeconomics concepts to students
- Graded problem sets

Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Spring 2019

PLCY 302: “Examining Pluralism in Public Policy,” a course which examined the ways in which the diverse experiences of race, gender, ethnicity, class, orientation, identity, and religion impact the understanding of and equitable delivery of public policy.

Research Volunteer, University of Miami, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro, Project: Coordinated Victims Assistance Center (CVAC) Health Education Study, April 2013 to December 2013

- Transcribed and conducted qualitative content analysis on key informant interviews to inform a health education program for victims of domestic violence
- Developed and disseminated culturally tailored interventions to improve the health of the women we served, who were disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, intimate partner violence, and mental disorders

- Back-translated informed consent forms (English to Spanish) to ensure data quality

Research Assistant, University of Miami, School of Education and Human Development, Race, Ethnicity, Culture and Promoting Strengths (RECAPS) Lab, October 2011 to May 2013

- Transcribed focus group data and participated in thematic content analysis to generate knowledge on stress and the coping experience of Black and Latino women in Miami

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Analyst, Brookings Institution, Future of the Middle Class Initiative, February 2019 to July 2021.

- Providing research leadership on the development, implementation, and analysis of a qualitative study of American middle-class well-being ([American Middle Class Hopes and Anxieties Study](#) or AMCHAS)
- Co-authoring blog posts and research reports in collaboration with senior research staff
- Conducting qualitative and mixed methods analysis, as well as descriptive statistics and related analysis with large-N datasets
- Preparing STATA programming code, database files, and regression estimates

Senior Policy Analyst for Health Reform and Health Equity, Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, May 2016 to August 2018.

- Developed advocacy recommendations to advance public health and health equity discourse in the city of Chicago, Cook county, and the state of Illinois
- Led qualitative projects and co-authored reports which explored how the local healthcare safety net shifted in response to the Affordable Care Act
- Convened stakeholders and built institutional partnerships to develop policy and advocacy agendas in Chicago and Cook county
- Led teams in the planning and facilitation of public forums on health reform, public health, and health equity
- Identified the barriers to employment that arise among Black and Latino aspiring health students within the Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC) catchment areas and develop both an immediate stopgap and a policy agendas to address
- Served as data coordinator for Chicago AHEC data and oversaw the evaluation process in accordance with organizational and federal requirements
- Developed and implemented standard operating procedures for data collection and evaluation in order to assess and communicate the effectiveness of Chicago AHEC programming for state and federal reporting

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urban Medicine (UMed) program, June 2015 to May 2016.

- Managed logistics and ensured successful implementation of 20 UMed educational seminars and events over one academic year for over 90 medical students
- Communicated regularly with 8 community-based organization partners and coordinated Longitudinal Community Projects for 24 first year medical students
- Pioneered standard operating procedures for the Longitudinal Community Project matching process for future cohorts of UMed students
- Executed program logistics and implemented comprehensive two-week long Policy and Advocacy Forum for 24 fourth year medical students
- Maintained virtual communications (including website, UMed email inbox, and course Blackboard site) and implemented evaluation process

Assessor and FUEL Facilitator, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Community Outreach Intervention Projects: IMARA, June 2015 to May 2016.

- Conducted baseline assessments for a 2-arm randomized control trial study
- Applied the control intervention, FUEL, a health promotion program for African American mothers and daughters
- Facilitated a series of 2-day workshops with 14 women recruited from multiple outpatient mental health clinics in Chicago, focusing on nutrition, exercise, violence prevention, and substance use

Graduate Practicum Intern, Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, June 2015 to September 2015.

- Reviewed national and state health workforce policy which led to co-authoring of a policy brief recommending the state of Illinois collect data at the point of license renewal for all licensed health professionals; The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for agreed to pilot this recommendation in 2018
- Authored research brief on health workforce grants from the Affordable Care Act in Illinois
- Developed relationships with representatives of Federal and State agencies whose input contributed to the data collection policy recommendation
- Recorded and identified themes among over 15 key informant interviews to inform the development of a policy and advocacy leadership education program

Graduate Research Assistant I, NORC at the University of Chicago, May 2014 to June 2015

- Generated new and enhanced existing training modules for use in the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) field interviewer training curriculum
- Maintained virtual database of field staff's training-related questions to be answered by the Central Office team
- Developed and organized field staff and respondent communication materials for mass printing and distribution
- Ensured accuracy in data collection and respondent communication through maintenance of multiple large electronic databases
- Designed visual representations of MCBS questionnaire pathways to inform field staff training materials using Microsoft Visio

Prosperity Health Intern, Catalyst Miami, January 2014 to May 2014

- Identified and facilitated relationships with community-based organizations whose clients would benefit from Prosperity Campaign resources
- Streamlined the Prosperity Campaign intake process and improved overall client experience through the development of a Prosperity Health Resource Guide, which continues to be utilized

Patient Satisfaction Intern, University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Summer Enrichment Program, Interned at Detroit Community Health Connection, Inc., June 2012 to August 2012

- Conducted a barrier analysis of the existing patient satisfaction surveying methodology within the federally qualified health center's various sites throughout Detroit in order to pinpoint the various disconnects that led to disproportionately low numbers of patient satisfaction surveys collected
- Increased patient satisfaction survey response rate by 28.6% by transforming the nature of survey collection within the organization from paper and pencil to an automated system
- Enhanced the satisfaction survey data collection process through the development of a survey toolkit and standard operating procedures

SOFTWARE & CORE COMPETENCIES

- Qualitative analysis in NVivo, Dedoose, Atlas.ti
- Econometrics in STATA
- Mapping in ArcGIS
- Mixed methods research
- Focus group methodology and moderation

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Chicago United for Equity, Senior Fellow, [People's Budget Chicago](#)
- [Queen's Rising](#), Board member
- [Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues](#) (SAAPHI), Secretary
- [Public Health Awakened](#), Founding board member
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management