

TIFFANY N. FORD, MPH, PhD

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[Google Scholar](#)
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EDUCATION

- Postdoctoral Fellow** Aug 2021 to present
Center on Children and Families, Future of the Middle Class Initiative
Brookings Institution
- Health Equity Postdoctoral Research Associate** Aug 2021 to July 2022
Politics of Race, Immigration, Class and Ethnicity Research Initiative
Cornell University, Department of Government
Advisor: Jamila Michener
- Doctor of Philosophy in Policy Studies** May 2021
Concentration in Social Policy
University of Maryland College Park, School of Public Policy
Advisor: Carol Graham
Dissertation: Exploring complexity in well-being: A mixed methods examination of the Black women's well-being paradox
- Master of Public Health** May 2016
Community Health Sciences division
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health
Capstone: Predatory Lenders and Their Prey: A Spatial Analysis of Payday Lending Sites in the City of Chicago
- Bachelor of Science in Education, cum laude** May 2014
University of Miami
Double major in Human and Social Development (community track), Economics
Minor in Health Sector Management and Policy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor (tenure track)** Aug 2023 to present
Department of Community Health Sciences
University of Illinois Chicago, School of Public Health
- Adjunct Professor** Spring 2020, Fall 2020
PLCY 201: "Leadership for the Common Good" (Public Leaders and Active Citizens)
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

Adjunct Professor Spring 2020
PLCY 309: “Internships in Political Institutions”
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

Graduate Teaching Assistant Fall 2019
PLCY 640: “Microeconomics and Policy Analysis”
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

Adjunct Professor Spring 2019
PLCY 302: “Examining Pluralism in Public Policy”
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research

Consultant May 2021 to present
Lab member Sept 2020 to May 2021

Social Epidemiology to Eliminate Disparities (SEED) Lab, Social Engagement to Combat Unjust Residential Evictions Study (PI: Shawnita Sealy-Jefferson)

- Conducting surveys with research participants over the phone
- Co-developed focus group moderator guide and data management tools
- Conducted qualitative data collection training for SEED lab and community advisory board members

Research Analyst Feb 2019 to July 2021

Brookings Institution, Future of the Middle Class Initiative

- Led the development, implementation, and analysis of the qualitative [American Middle Class Hopes and Anxieties Study](#)
- Co-authored blog posts and research reports in collaboration with senior research staff using qualitative, mixed methods, and descriptive statistical analysis

Graduate Research Assistant I May 2014 to June 2015

NORC at the University of Chicago

- Generated new and enhanced existing field interviewer training modules and maintained a database of field interviewer questions for use in the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey field interviewer training curriculum
- Developed and organized field interviewer and respondent communication materials for mass printing and distribution
- Maintained multiple large electronic databases to ensure accuracy in data collection and respondent communication

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

- 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 a program evaluation process

Assessor and FUEL Facilitator

June 2015 to May 2016

Community Outreach Intervention Projects: IMARA

University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health

- 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

Prosperity Health Intern

Jan 2014 to May 2014

Catalyst Miami

- 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

June 2012 to Aug 2012

Detroit Community Health Connection, Inc.

University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Summer Enrichment Program

- 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

Research Assistant

April 2013 to Dec 2013

Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: El Centro

Coordinated Victims Assistance Center Health Education Study

University of Miami, School of Nursing and Health Studies

- 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

Oct 2011 to May 2013

Race, Ethnicity, Culture and Promoting Strengths (RECAPS) Lab

University of Miami, School of Education and Human Development

- 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

Policy

Senior Fellow

May 2021 to Aug 2021

Chicago United for Equity, [People's Budget Chicago](#)

- Worked in partnership with local organizers and community-based organizations to coordinate ten pop-up discussions with Chicago community members on the south and west side to determine their priorities for the Chicago city budget
- Built new and maintained existing relationships with the goal of building a collaborative of local organizations advocating for a city budget that is responsive to the voices of marginalized Chicagoans

Senior Policy Analyst for Health Reform and Health Equity

May 2016 to Aug 2018

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

- 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 agenda 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 Practicum Intern

June 2015 to Sept 2015

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

1. Michener, J. & **Ford, T.** *Under Review*. Systemic Racism and Health: Three Core Principles. *Milbank Quarterly*.
2. **Ford, T.** *In Preparation*. “Trying to make a change”: How Black middle-class women support their own well-being in the U.S.
3. **Ford, T.** *In Preparation*. Exploring race-gender-class complexity in subjective well-being: A detailed examination of the Black women’s well-being paradox.

Research Reports

1. **Ford, T.**, Silva, J., Welch, M., & Sawhill, I. February 2021. “No Time to Spare: Exploring the middle class time squeeze.” Time and the Middle Class: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
2. Silva, J., Sawhill, I., Welch, M., & **Ford, T.** November 2020. ““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. Available [here](#).
3. **Ford, T.**, Reber, S., & Reeves, R. June 2020. “Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear.” Up Front: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
4. Reeves, R. & **Ford, T.** May 2020. “COVID-19 much more fatal for men, especially taking age into account.” Up Front: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
5. **Ford, T.** & Reeves, R. March 2020. “College for people like me: How majority-Black campuses boost social mobility.” Up Front: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
6. **Ford, T.**, Epplin, W., & Schaps, M. March 2018. “A Qualitative Review of Chicago’s West Suburban Safety Net: Consequences, Adaptation, and Recommendations for Future Reform.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
7. Epplin, W. & **Ford, T.** March 2018. “Beyond the Clinic: A National Health Equity Review, Implications for our local safety net.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
8. Darnell, J., Mora, N., Cahn, S., [and 5 others, including **Ford, T.**]. February 2017. “Strengthening the Safety Net in Illinois After Health Reform.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).

Policy Briefs

1. **Ford, T** and Michener, J. “Medicaid Reimbursement Rates Are a Racial Justice Issue.” The Commonwealth Fund. June 2022. Available [here](#).

2. **Ford, T** & Goger, A. October 2021. “The value of qualitative data for advancing equity in policy.” Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
3. Broady, K., **Ford, T.**, & Romer, C. August 2021. “July jobs report shows Black teens struggling with the highest unemployment rate.” The Avenue: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
4. **Ford, T.** July 2021. “Testimonial: The Deadly Intersection of Race and Policing in America.” State of Black America 2021: Structural Racism. National Urban League. Available [here](#).
5. **Ford, T.** & Broady, K. July 2021. “Investing in a New Normal: Reimagining Public Health and Safety.” State of Black America 2021. National Urban League. Available [here](#).
6. Broady, K., **Ford, T.**, & Perry, A. July 2021. “Mitigating the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Black Communities through Fintech.” State of Black America 2021: Economic Collapse. National Urban League. Available [here](#).
7. Silva, J. & **Ford, T.** October 2020. “Navigating race and injustice in America’s middle class.” Race in American Public Policy: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
8. Kinder, M. & **Ford, T.** June 2020. “Black essential workers’ lives matter. They deserve real change, not just lip service.” Report: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
9. **Ford, T.** & Schuetz, J. November 2019. “How are communities making housing more affordable for middle-income families?” Policy 2020: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
10. **Ford, T.** & Schuetz, J. “Workforce housing and middle-income housing subsidies: A primer.” : Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
11. **Ford, T.** & Schuetz, J. July 2019. “Tackling zoning to help the middle class: 5 policy approaches.” Up Front: Brookings Institution. Available [here](#).
12. Nzinga-Johnson, S., **Ford, T.**, & Powell, S. July 2018. “Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Sentencing & Incarceration.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
13. Nzinga-Johnson, S., **Ford, T.**, & Powell, S. December 2017. “Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Arrests & Detainment.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
14. Nzinga-Johnson, S., **Ford, T.**, & Powell, S. August 2017. “Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
15. **Ford, T.** & Epplin, W. July 2017. “Report Release: Efficient Health Workforce Data Collection in Illinois.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
16. Epplin, W., **Ford, T.**, & Spees, C. May 2017. “Everything is health: Tracking Legislation in the Illinois General Assembly.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
17. Nzinga-Johnson, S., Epplin, W., **Ford, T.**, & Alvarez, R. December 2016. “Recommendations for Measuring Structural Racism in Chicago.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).

Opinions and Editorials

1. **Ford, T.** June 2020. “8 Ways To Support The Protests And #BlackLivesMatter Movement From Home.” Blavity. Available [here](#).
2. **Ford, T.** June 2018. “Juneteenth is African American Independence Day and it’s past time we celebrate it.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
3. **Ford, T.** & Epplin, W. October 2017. “Does Chicago really need more police officers?” Letter to the editor, Chicago Tribune. Available [here](#).

4. **Ford, T.** & Epplin, W. April 2017. “CPS, Health Equity, and Illinois’ Revenue Problem.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
5. **Ford, T.** & Epplin, W. March 2017. “Ending Police Violence is a Public Health Responsibility.” Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Available [here](#).
6. Nzinga-Johnson, S., **Ford, T.**, & Epplin, W. October 2016. “More police? What about more teachers?” Letter to the editor, Crain’s Chicago Business. Available [here](#).

SELECT INVITED LECTURES & PANELS

1. **“Time as a determinant of well-being”** November 9, 2021. University of the District of Columbia-Brookings lecture series, Discovery Civics.
2. **“Let’s Talk: Innovating the Education of Economics”** November 16, 2021. Moderating panel for 2021 Research and Networking Reception by the Sadie Collective.
3. **““Trying to make a change”: Black middle-class women’s subjective well-being and what that means for policy”** October 27, 2021. Brookings Institution Economic Studies Lunch and Learn.
4. **“Exploring Complexity in Well-being: A mixed methods examination of the Black women’s well-being paradox”** July 15, 2021. Brookings Institution Opportunity for All lecture series.
5. **“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.
6. **“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](#).
7. **“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.

SELECT MEDIA & PUBLIC SPEAKING

1. **“Let’s talk about health policy with Dr. Tiffany N. Ford, MPH, PhD.”** April 12, 2022. Interview with Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC) virtual speaker series, [recorded here](#).
2. **“The state of the Black middle class”** October 1, 2021. Live interview for WBOK 1230 am radio show, The Good Morning Show.
3. **“The Brookings Debrief: Black Americans and the middle class”** February 25, 2021. Guest on Instagram Live show, [recorded here](#), held by the Brookings Institution.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

1. Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research, November 2021, **“What the “outsider within” can teach us about policy: A mixed methods exploration of well-being among Black middle-class women”**

2. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2018, **“A Qualitative Review of Chicago’s West Suburban Safety Net: How political fear shapes healthcare action**
3. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2017, **“#ThisIsPublicHealth: Bridging the Gap Between Public Health Professionals and Social Movements”**
4. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2016, **“Preparing Students to Pursue Health Equity: Unpacking Structural Determinants of Health Inequities in the Classroom”**
5. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2016, **“Teaching the Causes of the Causes: Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and Structural Oppression”**
6. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2015, **“Radical Curriculum: Breaking Bad Political Economics of Neoliberalism and #BlackLivesMatter to Public Health”**
7. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2015, **“Separate and Not Equal: the Impact of Modern Day Segregation on Health Inequities,”**
8. Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting, May 2012, **“Transactional theory of coping: What works for whom and under what circumstance”**

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Scholar, Michigan Integrative Well-being and Inequality University of Michigan School of Public Health, NCCIH (R25-AT010664)	Apr 2022 - Apr 2023
Scholar, Summer Mentoring Workshop University of Michigan, Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research, NIH (P30 AG015281)	June 2022
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 University of Maryland, School of Public Policy	Fall 2018, Fall 2019

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

[Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues](#)

Secretary

2021 to present

[Public Health Awakened](#)

Founding national steering committee member

2017 to 2018

Founded DC local chapter

2018

American Public Health Association

2014 to present

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2018 to present