

# UDODIRI R. OKWANDU

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## EDUCATION

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**Harvard University** **Cambridge, MA**  
***Doctor of Philosophy, History of Science*** **Expected May 2024**

Dissertation: Transgressive Motherhood: Maternal Mental Illness, Diagnostic Privilege, and Race in American Psychiatry, 1890 - 1970

General Exam Fields: Race, Science, and Society (Prof. Evelyn Hammonds); History of Medicine (Prof. David Jones); The Body and the (In)human (Prof. Robert Reid-Pharr); Evaluation: Excellent

**Harvard University** **Cambridge, MA**  
***Bachelor of Arts, History and Science, cum laude*** **May 2017**

Secondary Area of Study: Global Health and Health Policy

Honors Thesis: Violence and the (Black) Brain: Law and Order Politics and the Biomedicalization of Urban Rioting and Violence, 1960 – 1975

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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2022 – 2023: Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Research Fellow

2022: Commission on Women and Gender Studies Agnodike Travel Research Fellowship

2022: University of Buffalo Visiting Future Faculty Program (VITAL) Scholar

2022: Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching of Undergraduates

2022: Harvard Merit/Graduate Society Research Fellowship

2022: Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History Term-Time Fellowship

2021: Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Fall)

2021: Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Spring)

2020: Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (Honorable Mention)

2020: Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Fall)

2019 – 2020: Junior Fellow, Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies

2018 – 2024: Presidential Scholar, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

2017: Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences

## PRESENTATIONS

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### ***Forthcoming Conference Presentations***

2023, January: “Maternal Mental Illness and the Preservation of the (White) Nuclear Family: Grete Bibring’s Studies on the Psychology of Pregnancy.” American Historical Association 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Symposium Presentation, Philadelphia, PA.

### ***Conferences***

2022, November: “Classifying Maternal Mental Illness: Race and Diagnostic Categories in the Early Twentieth Century.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Symposium Presentation, Chicago, IL.

2022, September: “Mad or Bad?: Race and the Medico-Legal Construction of Maternal Mental Illness in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Montgomery, AL.

2022, April: “Defending Anne Bradley: Race and the Medico-Legal Construction of Maternal Mental Illness in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” American Association for the History of Medicine 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Symposium Presentation, Saratoga Springs, NY.

2022, April: “Carceral Psychiatry, Abolitionist Psychiatry.” American Association for the History of Medicine 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Lunch Workshop, Saratoga Springs, NY.

2021, May: “Madness and Mothering: Diagnostic Privilege, Race, and Reproductive Insanities in American Medicine, Science, and Law.” American Association for the History of Medicine 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (Virtual).

2021, April: “The (Violent) Black Brain and the Politics of Knowing: The Case of Drs. Vernon Mark, Frank Ervin, and William Sweet.” The Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Biology (Virtual).

### ***Invited Lectures***

2022, October: “Racism and Medicine: Reconciling the Past and Present.” California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Featured Speaker for 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Community and Campus Dialogue on Race.

2022, February: “Violence and the (Black) Brain: Race, Law and Order Politics, and the Medicalization of Civil Rights Protest, 1960 – 1975.” Stanford University, Guest Lecturer for General Adult Psychiatry Training Program, taught by Dr. Matthew Edwards (virtual).

2021, February: “Racism and Medicine: Reconciling the Past and Present.” Emory Musculoskeletal Center, Emory University School of Medicine (Virtual).

2021, February: “Racism and Medicine: Reconciling the Past and Present.” Harvard Black Health Matters Conference, Harvard Undergraduate Black Health Advocates, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2021, January: “Racism and Reproductive Medicine: Reconciling the Past, Present, and Future.” San Francisco Gynecological Society (Virtual).

2020, December: “The History of Racism in Medicine, Public Health, and Science and Why it Matters for Physicians.” American Medical Women’s Association New England Regional Conference (Virtual).

2020, October: “The History of Scientific Racism and Why it Matters for STEM Educators.” Public Broadcasting Service’s NOVA at WGBH Forum Network (virtual).

2020, October: “Violence and the (Black) Brain: Law and Order Politics and the Biomedicalization of Urban Rioting and Violence, 1960 – 1975.” New York University, Gallatin School for Individualized Study (virtual).

2020, October: “Violence and the (Black) Brain: Law and Order Politics and the Biomedicalization of Urban Rioting and Violence, 1960 – 1975.” New York University, Guest Lecturer for IDSEM-UG1961: The Western History of Madness from the Bible to DSM-V, taught by Prof. Orna Ophir (virtual).

2019, December: “Violence and the (Black) Brain: Law and Order Politics and the Biomedicalization of Urban Rioting and Violence, 1960 – 1975.” Dewitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY.

2019, May: “The History of Medical and Scientific Racism in America.” Tufts Chapter of Student National Medical Association, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA.

2019, April: “The History of Racism in Medicine, Public Health, and Science and Why it Matters.” Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Boston, MA.

2019, February: “The History of Medical and Scientific Racism in the United States.” NOVA’s CafeSci Boston at WGBH Forum Network, Boston, MA.

### ***Panels***

2021, February: “Race in the Public Dialogue: The Coronavirus Exposes America’s Public Health Crisis: Racism.” Museum of African American History in Boston (virtual).

2021, February: The Making and (Mis)Application of Race in Medicine and Science.” Racial Equity in Healthcare Panel, Yale Health Law and Policy Society (virtual).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Book Reviews***

Okwandu, U.R. (2022), Administration of Lunacy: Racism and the Haunting of American Psychiatry at Milledgeville Asylum by Mab Segrest. New York, NY: The New Press, 2020. 416 pp. ISBN 9781620972977. *Journal of the History of Behavioral Sciences*, 58: 108 – 110. <https://doi-org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/10.1002/jhbs.22140>

### ***Work in Progress***

“Violence and the (Black) Brain: Law and Order Politics, Race, and the Biomedicalization of Urban Rioting, 1960 – 1975.” (to be submitted for publication in the Fall of 2022)

## **TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE**

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2022, Summer: Course Instructor, HSCI P-13225: Race, Science, and Society, Harvard Summer School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2021, Fall: Head Teaching Fellow, GENED1116: Medical Ethics and History (Course Head: Prof. David Jones), General Education Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

- Awarded the 2022 Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching of Undergraduates

2021, Spring: Teaching Fellow, HISTSCI148: Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: A History of Health Disparities in America (Course Head: Prof. Evelyn Hammonds), Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

- Awarded the 2022 Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching of Undergraduates

2021, Spring: Teaching Fellow, GENED1014: Ancestry: Where Do We Come from and Why Do We Care? (Course Head: Prof. Maya Jasanoff), General Education Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2020, Fall: Teaching Fellow, HISTSCI172: Mental Health Matters: Recurring Themes and Unfinished Business (Course Head: Prof. Anne Harrington), Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.

2018, December – 2020, May: Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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2021, June – Present: Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Science Education Project Fellow, LabXChange, Cambridge, MA.

2020, November – Present: Creative and Content Consultant, Ancestry, Lehi, UT, virtual.

2017, July – 2018, July: Research Analyst, Information Technology Practice, Gartner, Arlington, VA.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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2020, June – 2021, January: Research Historian, The HistoryMakers, Chicago, IL, virtual.

2019, June – 2019, September: Summer Research Assistant to Professor Evelyn Hammonds, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

### **LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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2022, September – Present: Student Representative, Harvard Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility

2022, August – Present: Graduate Student Representative, Forum for the History of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences

2020, June – 2021, May: Social Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2019, November – Present: Student Leader, History of Science Graduate Association, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA.

2019, August – 2020, May: Coordinator, History of Medicine Working Group, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

### **REFERENCES**

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Evelyn Hammonds, Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University

Anne Harrington, Franklin L. Ford Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University

David S. Jones, A. Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine, Harvard University

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Association for the History of Medicine

Association for Black Women Historians

American Historical Association  
Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
History of Science Society