

WHITNEY CLARKE

(she/her/hers)

wclarke2@illinois.edu | (985)-778-8171

EDUCATION

University of Illinois (UIUC), Urbana-Champaign, IL **Anticipated May 2028**

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology (APA-Accredited)

Advisors: Jarrett Lewis, Ph.D. and Helen Neville, Ph.D.

University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, MD **Awarded May 2022**

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Honors

Certificate (21-credit concentration) in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Minor in Black Women's Studies

GPA: 3.8/4.0

CLINICAL INTERESTS

Black populations specifically Black women and girls' mental health issues, radical healing and hope, cultural humility within therapy and healing spaces, increasing access to therapy for the Black community, Black immigrant issues (acculturation and assimilation)

SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Department of Educational Psychology, UIUC **January 2023-Present**

Pre-Practicum Student

- Provide individual counseling to one undergraduate client over the course of six hour-long counseling sessions
- Receive one hour of individual supervision per week
- Present case presentations and conceptualizations during class and receive feedback
- Engage in administrative work such as writing clinical notes, watching recording of sessions, and formulating treatment plan

HELPING EXPERIENCE

The Hopeful Project, MD **November 2020-August 2022**

Vice President

Partner: Noble Uprising Inc

- Curated a project to build a food pantry in response to homelessness in the DMV area
- Partner with a nonprofit organization that center their work around homeless women, specifically Black women, highlighting work in intersectionality
- Speak to women in the community about their experiences and needs that the pantry can alleviate
- Wrote up 15 page grant proposal describing the purpose, in-depth plan, materials, and aspirations of the project to receive funding
 - Awarded the University of Maryland's *Do Good Grant* to help fund the project

Homeless Children's Playtime Project, DC

January 2020 – August 2022

Volunteer Counselor

Supervisor: Karen M. O'Brien, Ph.D

- Facilitated a safe environment for play in homeless shelters with children whose mothers are victims of domestic violence by modeling healthy relationships, and communication, and talking them through their feelings (including past experiences) enriching my experience in counseling.
- Created education materials for mothers in the shelters regarding the needs their children have expressed to volunteers

University HELP Center, UMD**August 2019-December 2021***Peer Crisis Counselor*

- Counseled callers and walk-ins through their crises such as different feelings, pregnancy, eating disorders, rape, abuse, or even suicide providing me experience in Counseling Psychology.
- Supported campus community through non-judgemental, client-centered, humanistic helping skills
- Initiated reform and programs in organization for members to be better allies to the Black community during BLM protests
- Supervised training of new members by following standardized protocols and role-playing exercises

Project FIAT, El Salvador**August 2017-Present***Missionary*

- Build houses for neighborhoods of single mothers, and serve the community of Las Delicias, with a special focus on the children resulting in building stronger relationships with its people each year and my Spanish proficiency

St. Peters Church Youth Ministry, Olney, MD**Fall 2014 – December 2020***Peer Minister, Volunteer*

- Planned, organized, and served on domestic mission trips
- Ministered to all youth and acted as a peer to listen to and advise enriching my knowledge in helping practices
- Lead the Music Department for a Vacation Bible School during Mission trip to Philadelphia, PA
- Decided to create hand motions for the Bible songs, which encouraged more kids to engage with the music and to better retain and recall the lyrics, leading to higher rates of participation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**The Trauma Race Identity and Development Lab (TRIAD), UIUC****August 2022- Present***Graduate Research Assistant*

Principal Investigator: Jarrett Lewis, Ph.D.

- Collaborate with PI, Unit 4 school district, school counselors, students, and families on community participatory research study to implement mental health services into Franklin Middle School to improve conditions for Black students
- Oversee a team of undergraduate research assistants, helping them understand constructs within research project and monitoring their work
- Collaborate with PIs and undergraduates on radical healing systematic review of literature
- Lead psychoeducation nights to inform parents about the basics of trauma and facilitate a space for parents to share their feelings and thoughts for the study

McNair Scholars Program, UMD**June 2021-May 2022***Principal Investigator*

Faculty Advisor: Edward Bernat, Ph.D.

- Designed a quantitative data-based research study to explore the relationship between gender and race in the types of coping strategies used among Black females when facing discrimination
- Applied an intersectional framework to understand racial and gendered discrimination
- Conducted statistical analyses (EFA, t-tests, and ANOVA) new to the topic of coping to fill the gap in literature

Maryland Psychotherapy Clinic and Research Lab, UMD**May 2019- January 2022***Undergraduate Research Assistant*

Principal Investigator: Clara E. Hill, Ph.D.

- Participated with a team of behavioral coders conducting a Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) study on how therapists have seen and helped clients make meaning in the loss of a loved one
- Ran administrative side of clinic (e.g., managing calendar, preparing measures, answering the phone)

- Transcribed therapy sessions to code them for behavior for further research on effectiveness of the therapist's helping skills
- Participated in data collection for several dissertations and master's theses

PUBLICATIONS

Rim, K., Hill, C., An, M., Pesme, M., Lin, S., Topaltzas, E., Cygrymus, E., **Clarke, W.**, Ahamed, A. (2022). *Meaning-Making in Psychotherapy After Traumatic Loss: Therapists' Perspectives*. Manuscript submitted.

PRESENTATIONS

- Clarke, W.** *Black Girls Cope: Coping strategies utilized by Black females dealing with discrimination*. (2022, April). Poster presentation at University of Maryland annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Day.
- Clarke, W.** *Black Girls Cope: Coping strategies utilized by Black females dealing with discrimination*. (2022, April). Poster presentation at University of Maryland Undergraduate Research Day.
- Clarke, W.** *Black Girls Cope: Coping strategies utilized by Black females dealing with discrimination*. (2022, March). Oral and Poster presentation at 2022 National Ronald E. McNair Conference.
- Clarke, W.** *Black Girls Cope: Coping strategies utilized by Black females dealing with discrimination*. (2021, November). Oral and Poster presentation to University of Maryland's Psychology Research Empowerment Program.
- Clarke, W.** *Black Girls Cope: Coping strategies utilized by Black females dealing with discrimination*. (2021, July). Oral and poster presentation at Maryland McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of African-American Studies, UMD **January 2022-May 2022**
Teaching Assistant Course Instructor: George Kintiba, Ph.D
Course: Introduction to African-American Studies, Honors Introduction to African-American Studies

- Assisted in teaching course materials and curriculum within classes
- Lead discussion sections each week to further and expand student's knowledge
- Provided academic and personal support via office hours to students

Department of Psychology, UMD **August 2020- May 2022**
Teaching Assistant Course Instructor: Nazish M. Salahuddin, Ph.D
Courses: Introduction to PREP, PREP for Research, PREP for Graduate School

- Assisted in course planning, curriculum development, and grading for the Psychology Research Empowerment Program (PREP) courses
- Taught basic statistical methods, research methodological designs, and how to approach research
- Provided resources, advice, and opportunities for historically underrepresented students to have the ability to apply to a PhD in Psychology

WORK EXPERIENCE

Department of Psychology, UMD **August 2021- August 2022**
Undergraduate Program Manager Supervisors: Nazish M. Salahuddin, Ph.D. & Lori Kader, MA

- Created and executed programs for undergraduate students to connect to the Psychology Dept.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to implement programs on behalf of students acting as a bridge between faculty and students
- Advised students on course selection and planning
- Aided in administrative tasks such as grading students' exams and answering phones

Department of Psychology, UMD

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assistant

August 2020- August 2022

Supervisor: Nazish M. Salahuddin, Ph.D

- Created new procedures and ideas to place anti-racism in the center of academia within curricula and within the community
- Advocated for students of marginalized identities to feel seen, heard, and protected
- Lead Annual Multicultural Climate Town Hall facilitating discussion between faculty and students to allow faculty to improve the atmosphere of equity and inclusion within the department
- Facilitated a safe space and community within the Psychology department for diversity and inclusion.
- Facilitated course discussions and community building among PREP students
- Provided mentorship to students in the PREP program

Division of Technology: Classroom Support, UMD

Student Administrator

February 2019-August 2022

- Oversaw hundreds of student workers for Classroom Support and acted as their intermediary between them and our managers strengthening my leadership skills
- Responded to calls from professors experiencing technical difficulties in the classroom enriching customer service skills
- Developed new COVID-19 procedures for working online in order to continue remote work
- Collaborated with other techs and instructors strengthening verbal communication skills

Instagram

Content Creator

December 2018- Present

- Share educational information on weight-lifting at no cost utilizing creative production software such as IGTV, Reels, iMovie, and Canva
- Provide representation of bigger-bodied Black women to start discussions of oppression within social media and the fitness community
- Collaborate with brands to promote products that benefit wellness

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022 Student Scholar Award, Awardee

Awarded to a single student in the University of Maryland's Honors College who has demonstrated a significant commitment to research and scholarship within and/or outside of their primary field of study. Must demonstrate an openness to new ideas, a commitment to learning, and an interest in exploring research or scholarship opportunities.

May 2022

Outstanding Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion Award, Awardee

Awarded by the Department of Psychology at University of Maryland to a single student who has made tremendous efforts towards diversity and inclusion inside and outside of the department.

May 2022

Outstanding PSYC Terp, Awardee

Awarded to students with remarkable academic achievements, scholarly contributions, and community service, nominated by faculty members in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maryland

May 2022

2022 Student of the Year, Awardee

Awarded to a single student for commitment to inspiring, educating, and empowering individuals towards ensuring social justice and equity for all by the Social Justice Alliance: Healing from Hate

April 2022

Silver Award, Awardee

Awarded for outstanding research poster at the University of Maryland's Psychology Undergraduate Research Day

April 2022

Daniel and Carly Rochkind Award for Individual Research, Awardee

Awarded \$500 to support and advance student studies and an individual research study

April 2022

Behavioral and Social Sciences Experience Fund, Recipient

Awarded \$1,000 to fund independent research study

January 2022

Distinguished Dean's List of Outstanding Students, Recipient

Awarded to students earning a semester GPA of 4.0

November 2020-May 2022

OMSE Academic Excellence, Awardee
Awarded to student earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or above
Semester Academic Honors, Awardee
Awarded to student earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or above

December 2018-May 2022

December 2018-May 2022

HONORS AND MEMBERSHIPS

University of Illinois Black Graduate Student Association	August 2022-Present
University of Illinois Graduate Employees' Organization	August 2022-Present
Ronald E. McNair Academic Achievement Program, <i>McNair Scholar</i>	April 2021- Present
National Society of Collegiate Scholars	March 2019- May 2022
Psychology Research Empowerment Program	January 2019-May 2022
Academic Excellence Society, Office of Multiethnic Education	August 2018-May 2022
University of Maryland Honors College	August 2018- May 2022
University of Maryland Caribbean Student Association	August 2018- May 2022
University of Maryland Black Student Union	August 2018- May 2022

CERTIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

Certificates: Collaborative Institutional Training Institute (CITI)- Social & Behavioral Research and Research with Children
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Laboratory: *Advanced:* Data entry; *Advanced:* Transcription; *Advanced:* Behavioral Coding; *Intermediate:* CQR Coding

Programming Languages: *Intermediate:* JASP; *Intermediate:* SPSS; *Intermediate:* Jamovi; *Beginner:* R Studio

Vocal Languages: *Intermediate:* Spanish; Home Language: Jamaican Pataois