

# Shemeka Thorpe, PhD

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Assistant Professor

University of Kentucky, College of Education  
Department of Kinesiology & Health Promotion  
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## Education

- 2020 PhD in Community Health Education, The University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Dissertation: *A Sex Positive Investigation of the Sexual Development of Black Women from Adolescence to Early Adulthood*
- 2016 M.S. in Family and Child Sciences, Florida State University  
Thesis: *Predicting Sexual Behaviors among African American College Students: The Role of Gender, Family Context and Sexual Attitudes*
- 2011 B.S., Human Development and Family Studies with Minors in Health Studies and Psychology, The University of North Carolina Greensboro

## Professional Experience

- 2022-current **Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**  
Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion  
University of Kentucky
- 2020-2022 **Lyman T. Johnson Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology  
University of Kentucky
- 2017-current **Co-Founder, The Minority Sex Report, LLC**  
Sexuality Educator and Consultant

## Research Experience

### University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

#### ***Generational Genital (Gen<sup>2</sup>) Messages Study, Principal Investigator***, May 2022-present

- Develop interview protocols for four generational cohorts
- Recruit and interview 24 Black cisgender men and women across four age cohorts
- Manage and mentor doctoral students who aided in the interview and analysis process.

#### ***Pro Sisters Study, Co-Investigator***, June 2022-present

NIMHD [3U54MD007602-34S2]

- Facilitate Healthy Love, a CDC approved evidence-based HIV prevention intervention, to high risk women in Louisville, KY
- Assist with the adaption of Healthy Love to include PrEP components
- Supervise Community Health Worker

#### ***REFOCUS Research Team Member***, July 2020-July 2022

PI: Dr. Danelle Stevens-Watkins

REFOCUS [Research Examining Factors Associated with the Opioid Crisis Among African Americans]

NIDA [R01 DA049333]

- Recruit participants in local Lexington communities to participate in a mixed methods study on the use of prescription opioids among African Americans

***RISE<sup>2</sup> Research Team Member***, July 2020-May 2022

PI: Dr. Candice Hargons

- Recruit and organize a community expert panel of Black sexologist for The Big Sex Study
- Cleaned and coded the data for the largest study on Black sexuality -The Big Sex Study (approximately 454 participants)
- Designed and finalized the online survey tool for data collection

***Pain and Pleasure Study PI***, October 2020-April 2021

PI: Dr. Shemeka Thorpe

- Led a mixed methods study on sexual pain, pleasure, and anxiety among Black women in the South
- Recruited and trained three doctoral students to assist with data collection
- Recruited over 300 participants within three weeks and conducted 25 interviews
- Organize writing groups to disseminate data

***SPEAK Research Team Member***, July 2020-July 2021

PI: Dr. Danelle Stevens-Watkins

SPEAK [Support Peers for Breastfeeding Expansion among African American Kentuckians]

Funder: Center for Health Equity Transformation Health Equity Pilot Grant

- Recruited Black mothers for and led qualitative interviews on breastfeeding disparities
- Assist with focused coding of interview transcripts and manuscript preparation
- Coordinated peer lactation consultant training for 25 Black mothers

**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC**

***itMatters Graduate Assistant***, June 2017- May 2020

Co-PIs: Drs. David Wyrick & Linda M. Collins

NIAAA [R01- AA022931]

- Implemented and managed a R01 online alcohol and STI intervention for first-year college students
- Developed survey instruments and modules on alcohol and sex expectancies, norms, protective behavioral strategies, and knowledge.
- Provided technical support during RCT implementation to over 25,000 students
- Managed an RCT incentive budget of over \$85,000

***Graduate Research Assistant***, August 2016-June 2017

PI: Dr. Nancy Hoffart, RN

- Conducted literature reviews concerning accelerated nursing programs
- Analyzed data and co-authored manuscripts on the RWJF New Careers in Nursing program

**The Better Health and Life Center for Underserved Populations, Tallahassee, FL**

***Program Assistant Consultant***, January 2015-April 2016

PI: Dr. Penny Ralston

- Collected, coded and analyzed quantitative data from health behavior interventions
- Co-facilitated Youth Health Leadership health campaign planning sessions
- Developed a mixed-methods research project entitled Leadership Readiness of Youth Participating in a Community-based Youth Health Leadership Program

**Florida State University, Family and Child Sciences Department, Tallahassee, FL**

***Graduate Research Assistant***, January 2015- April 2016

PI: Dr. Bethany Blair

- Researched literature on social emotional development of children through their friendships and parental influences
- Coded and organized qualitative data from a longitudinal study
- Developed a reliability spreadsheet for codes

**Triad Child Study, UNCG Human Development & Family Studies Department, Greensboro, NC**

**Triad Child Study Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Aug 2010- Dec 2013  
NICHD [R01 HD058578]

PI: Dr. Esther M. Leerkes

- Assisted lead experimenter with data collection
- Transcribed and coded interviews and observations
- Created a study newsletter to deliver to participants

## Research Support

### FUNDED GRANTS

2022, **United In True racial Equity (UNITE) Research Priority Area Small-Scale Funding, (\$3000)**

- To support a qualitative multigenerational study on genital self-image and messages about genital hygiene an image among Black heterosexual men and women

2021-2023, **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Extramural Loan Repayment Program (\$48,081) Role: PI**

- Barriers to Partner and Provider Communication about Dyspareunia among Black Women Living in the South

2020, **Center for Positive Sexuality Race and Sexuality Research Grant (\$1000)**

- To support a mixed methods study on the sexual well-being of premenopausal Black women living in the Southern United States.

2020, **Doug Kirby Adolescent Sexual Health Grant Recipient (\$1000)**

- To support dissertation research on adolescent sexual health and the dissemination of findings.

2020, **Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship from the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education (\$1000)**

2018, **Summer Assistantship UNCG Graduate School (\$3000)**

- Assessed the alcohol outcome expectancies of Black first-year college students. Role: PI

2017, **Summer Assistantship UNCG Graduate School (\$3000)**

- Assessed sexual sensation seeking among first-year college students and hookup behaviors. Role: PI

2011, **Summer Assistantship, UNCG Undergraduate Research Office (\$3000). Role: PI**

- Examined the relationship between maternal sensitivity and parental closeness and the moderating effects of race.

### UNFUNDED GRANTS

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Equity Scholars for Action**

Adapting A Sexual Health Intervention for Black Women Focused on Improving Partner and Provider Communication about Dyspareunia (\$250,000) LOI accepted. Full proposal rejected.

Role: PI

## Scholarly Publications

### PUBLISHED/IN PRESS

34. **Thorpe, S.**, Stevens-Watkins, D, Thrasher, S., Malone, N., & Dogan, J.N. (2022) Religion, psychiatric symptoms, and gender role conflict among incarcerated Black men. *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*.
33. Stevens-Watkins, D., Hargons, C., Dogan, J., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., **Thorpe, S.**, & Linares, A.M. (2022) Social healthcare determinants of breastfeeding among Black women in Kentucky: A multigenerational study. *Breastfeeding Medicine*.
32. **Thorpe, S.**, Iyiewuare, P., Ware, S., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., Dogan, J.N., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) "Why would I talk to them about sex?": Exploring patient-provider communication among Black women experiencing sexual pain. *Qualitative Health Research*.
31. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Dogan, J.N., Cineas, M., Vigil, K., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Differences in heterosexual and queer Black women's sexual experiences through a Black queer feminist lens. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*.

30. Bohmer, C., Sullivan, Q., Sanchez, A., **Thorpe, S.**, & Hargons, C. (in press) A content analysis on female masturbation studies through a sex positive and intersectional lens. *Journal of Positive Sexuality*
29. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Wright, C.J., Dogan, J.N., Mizelle, D.L., Stuck, J.L., Sullivan, Q., Sanchez, A., Bohmer, C., Stage, M., Bruther, K., Vigil, K., Cineas, M., & Gilbert, T. (2022) Black people's constructions of good sex: Describing good sex from the margins. *Sexualities*.
28. Dogan, J.N., **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Jester, J., Stevens-Watkins, D., & Hargons, C. (2022) "My partner will think I'm weak or overthinking my pain": How being superwoman inhibits Black women's sexual pain disclosure to their partners. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*  
**Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Black sexual minority women's social well-being and psychological distress. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.
27. Hargons, C.N. & **Thorpe, S.** (2022) #HotGirlScience: A liberatory paradigm for intersectional sex positive scholarship. *Journal of Positive Sexuality*.
26. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., & Hargons, C.N. (2022) Sexual identity and minority stressors: Healthcare stereotype threat and access to healthcare among Black sexual minority women. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*. Advanced online publication.
25. **Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N., Tanner, A.E., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) Perceived HIV Invulnerability and PrEP knowledge and attitudes among Black sexual minority women. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*.
24. **Thorpe, S.**, Miller-Roenigk, B., Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J.N., Thrasher, S., Wheeler, P., Oser, C., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2022) HIV knowledge and perceived risk among Black men and women who are incarcerated in Kentucky. *Health Promotion and Practice*.
23. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J.N., & Jester, J.K. (2022) The peak of pleasure: US Southern Black women's definitions and feelings toward pleasure. *Sexuality & Culture*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-021-09934-6>
22. Malone, N., **Thorpe, S.**, Jester, J.K., Dogan, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Pursuing pleasure despite pain: A mixed-methods investigation of Black women's responses to sexual pain and coping strategies. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623X.2021.2012309>
21. **Thorpe, S.**, Dogan, J.N., Townes, A., Malone, N., Jester, J.K., & Hargons, C.N. (2021) Black women's pleasure mapping. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, 7(4), 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1353/bsr.2021.0008>
20. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., Dogan, J.N., Jester, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Correlates of Sexual Self-Consciousness Among Black Women in the South. *Sexuality and Culture*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-021-09916-8>
19. **Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N., Dogan, J., Thrasher, S., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Incarcerated Black men's restrictive emotionality: The influence of parental closeness and childhood abuse. *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*. 22(4), 844-849. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000342>
18. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., Nichols, T.R., Kuperberg, A.T., & Payton Foh, E. (2021) Black female adolescents' sexuality: Pleasure expectancies, sexual guilt, and age of sexual debut, *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 16(2), 199-220. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15546128.2021.1892005>
17. Tanner, A.E., Guastaferrro, K., Wyrick, D.L., Milroy, J.J., Bhandari, S., Rulison, K., **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Miller, A.M., & Collins, L.M. (2021) Simultaneous evaluation of an intervention targeting the intersection of alcohol and sex and test of a potential sexual violence component among first year college students: A hybrid evaluation-optimization trial of *itMatters*. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 55(12), 1184-1187. <https://doi.org/10.1093/abm/kaab003>
16. Townes, A., **Thorpe, S.**, Parmer, T., Wright, B., & Herbenick, D. (2021) Partnered sexual behaviors, pleasure, and orgasms at last sexual encounter: Findings from a US probability sample of Black women ages 18 to 92 years. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 47(4), 353-367.

15. Dogan, J.N., Thrasher, S., **Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2021) Cultural race-based stress and cannabis use among incarcerated African American men. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 35(3), 320-325. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000694>
14. Armstrong, J., **Thorpe, S.**, & Williams, D. (2020) Sexual attitudes, religious commitment, and sexual risk behaviours among college-aged women. *Journal of Gender Studies*. 30(8), 875-886. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2020.1838888>
13. **Thorpe, S.** & Kuperberg, A.T. (2020) Social motivations for college hookups. *Sexuality and Culture*, 25(2), 623-645. doi: 10.1007/s12119-020-09786-6 [Media coverage in Men's Variety]
12. **Thorpe, S.**, Nichols, T.R., Tanner, A.E., Kuperberg, A.T., & Payton Foh, E. (2020) Relational and partner-specific factors influencing Black heterosexual women's initiation of sexual intercourse and orgasm frequency. *Sexuality and Culture*, 25(2), 503-524. doi: 0.1007/s12119-020-09780-y
11. Hargons, C.N, Dogan, J.N. Malone, N., **Thorpe, S.**, Mosley, D.W. & Stevens-Watkins, D. (2020). Balancing the sexology scales: A content analysis of Black women's sexuality research. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*. 23(9), 1287-1301. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2020.1776399>
10. Wyrick, D.L., Tanner, A.E., Milroy, J.J., Guastaferrro, K.M., Bhandari, S., Kugler, K.C., **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Miller, A.M., & Collins, L.M. (2020). *itMatters*: Optimization of an online intervention to prevent sexually transmitted infections in college students. *Journal of American College Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2020.1790571>
9. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Dyson, Y.D. (2020) "Knowing that you're pleasing the other person makes it even better": Perceived pleasure and condom use among heterosexual Black college men in the south. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*. 6(3), 49-69. doi: 10.1353/bsr.2020.0000
8. McCoy, T.P., Hoffart, N., Lewallen, L. & **Thorpe, S** (2020). The validity and reliability of professional self-concept in nursing in accelerated bachelor's and master's nursing students. *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 28(2), 382-403. doi: 10.1891/JNM-D-18-00107
7. **Thorpe, S.**, Ware, S., Tanner, A.E., Kugler, K.C., Guastaferrro, K.M., Milroy, J.M., & Wyrick, D.L. (2020) Sexual sensation seeking, hookups, and alcohol consumption among first-year college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 23(1), 68-84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2020.1713136>
6. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., Ware, S, Guastaferrro, K.M., Milroy, J.M., & Wyrick, D.L. (2020) First-year Black college students' alcohol expectancies. *American Journal of Health Education*, 51(2), 78-86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2019.1688868>
5. **Thorpe, S.**, Tanner, A.E., Kugler, K.C., Chambers, B.D., Ma, A., Jenkins Hall, W., Ware, S., Milroy, J.J., & Wyrick, D.L. (2019) First year college students' alcohol and hookup behaviors: Sexual scripting and implications for sexual health promotion. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*. 31(1), 68-84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2019.1688868>
4. Oakes, L.R., & **Thorpe, S.** (2019) A mixed methods investigation of sexual health needs: Perspectives of college students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their support staff. *Sexuality & Disability*, 37(4), 587-598. doi: 10.1007/s11195-019-09602-6
3. **Thorpe, S.** & Oakes, L.R. (2019) Supporting the sexual health of college students with IDD: A call for trainings for inclusive postsecondary education program staff. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*. 1(2), 1-13. doi: <https://doi.org/10.13021/jipe.2019.2411>
2. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Tanner, A.E. (2019) Sexual health interventions for Black women in the United States: A systematic review of the literature. *International Journal of Sexual Health*. 31(2), 196-215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19317611.2019.1613278>
1. Hoffart, N, McCoy, T.P., Lewallen, L, & **Thorpe, S.** (2019) Differences in gender related profile characteristics and outcomes of accelerated nursing students. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 35(2), 93-100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2018.10.003>

**UNDER REVIEW**

**Revise and Resubmit.**

1. **Thorpe, S.**, Hargons, C.N, Malone, N., Iyiewuare, P., Jester, J.K., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (under review) A phenomenological investigation of Black women's experiences of sexual anxiety. *Journal of Sex Research*.
2. Malone, N., Jester, J.K., **Thorpe, S.**, Dogan, J., Hargons, C.N., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (under review) "Anger, Embarrassment, less than a Woman": The Emotional Responses of Black Women's Sexual Pain. *Women & Health*.
3. **Thorpe, S.**, Peterson, R.L., Malone, N., Coleman, M.N., Annett, J., Hargons, C.N., (under review) From sin to sexual self-awareness: Black women's reflection on lifetime masturbation messages. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

### **Initial Review**

4. Malone, N., Dogan, J., **Thorpe, S.**, Thrasher, S., Wheeler, P., Oser, C., & Stevens-Watkins, D. (under review). Flourishing despite HSV status: Cultural correlates of self-esteem among Black women with criminal justice involvement and herpes simplex virus. *Health Promotion Practice*.
5. Townes, A., Wright, B., Fu, J., **Thorpe, S.**, & Herbenick, D. (under review) Past year and lifetime sexual experiences among Black heterosexual adolescents and adults in the United States: Findings from a nationally representative study. *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*.
6. **Thorpe, S.**, Malone, N., & Dogan, J.N. (under review) "Just be strong and keep going": The influence of superwoman schema on Black women's perceived expectations of coping with sexual pain". *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*.
7. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, & Stevens-Watkins, D. (under review). Comparing partnered and unpartnered Black people's sexual pleasure and desire. *International Journal of Sexual Health*.

## **Presentations**

### **INVITED ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. Black Women's Experiences of Sexual Anxiety. Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health Webinar. July 2022.
2. Pleasure Mountain: Black Women's Descriptions of Sexual Pleasure. Invited Talk for The Center for Positive Sexuality's Monthly Lecture Series. Virtual. May 2022.
3. Exploring Patient-Provider Communication Among Black Women Experiencing Sexual Pain. UNITE Research Expo. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. May 2022.
4. Black Women's Sexual Well-Being: Sex Positive Implications for Nursing Professionals. Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health's Reproductive Justice Series. Virtual. February 2022
5. Exploring the Essences of Black Women's Sexuality and Pleasure in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. National Sex Ed Conference. Virtual. September 2021.
6. Guilt, Pain, and the Absence of Pleasure: The Sexual Socialization of Black Female Adolescents. Sex Ed Lecture Series hosted by the Sex Ed Network. Virtual. July 2021
7. "It's My Burden To Carry": Black Women and Sexual Pain. Invited talk for ANTE UP! Professional Development Series Black Sweat. Virtual. May 2021.
8. Let's Not Forget: Historical and Reproductive Trauma among Black and Native Women. Sexuality Liberators and Movers (S.L.A.M.) II Conference. Virtual. May 2021.
9. Pleasure Expectancies of Black Female Adolescents. Tennessee Alliance for Sexual Health. May 2021.
10. Black Women's Pleasure and Orgasms. Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health. Virtual. April 2021.
11. Pleasure, positivity, and promotion: A focus on pleasure to reduce sexual risks. Presented at SHIFTNC Adolescent Sexual Health Conference. Greensboro, NC. May 2019.

### **PEER REVIEWED (selected) \*=student co-presenter**



1. **Thorpe, S.**, Peterson, R.\*, Malone, N\*. (2022) "How Will Anyone Know Your Body If You Don't": Black Women's Reflection on Lifetime Masturbation Messages. Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference. Oral Presentation. Vancouver, BC, Canada.
2. Malone, N.\*, Jester, J.\*, & **Thorpe, S.** (2022) Examining Black Women's Sexual Pain and Treatment. Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health's #ITalkSexualHealth Conference. Atlanta, GA.
3. **Thorpe, S.** & Townes, A. (2022) Kiss Me Here, Lick Me There: Black Women's Pleasure Mapping. Research Talk at the Society for Sex Therapy and Research Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
4. Hargons, C.N., **Thorpe, S.**, & Bohmer, C. (2021). Intersectionality and Sexual Pleasure. Symposium Brief Talk at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
5. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Malone, M. (2021) Spirituality and Intimacy: Center Black Bodies and Pleasure. Cultivating Joy and Collective Restoration: (Re)Imagining and (Re)claiming Pleasure and Liberation Conference. Hosted by Harvard University. Virtual.
6. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2020) Circles of Sexuality: Implications for Black and Native Women's Sexuality Research. Presented at the Association for Women in Psychology Annual Conference. Austin, TX.
7. **Thorpe, S.** & Kuperberg, A.T. (2019) Hookup motivations and methods of post-hookup communication among college students. Poster presented at the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA
8. **Thorpe, S.** & Oakes, L. (2019) Let's talk about sex: Access to sexual health information and experiences of postsecondary education program students and staff. Poster presented at the UNCG Graduate Research Expo. Greensboro, NC.
9. Oakes, L.R., **Thorpe, S.**, & Evans, G.S. (2019) Self-advocates: An interactive discussion about relationships and sex. Presented at the ARC Advocacy Conference. Winston Salem, NC.
10. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G. E. (2019) The absence of pleasure and sex positivity in sexuality education: A look at African American sexual health promotion. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Convention Sexuality Preconference. Portland, Oregon.
11. Ware, S., **Thorpe, S.**, & Tanner, A.E. (2018) Sexual health interventions for African American women: A systematic review of the literature. Presented at the Society for Analysis of African American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI) annual meeting. San Diego, CA.
12. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2018) Putting it to Practice: Utilizing Sex-Positive Approaches for Adolescents of Color. Presented at the Conference on Adolescent Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
13. **Thorpe, S.** & Evans, G.S. (2017) Risky and Invisible: The Representation of Black and Native Female Teens in Sexual Health Research. Presented at the Annual Conference on Adolescent Sexual Health, Greensboro, NC
14. **Thorpe, S.** & Gonzales-Backen, M.A. (2017) Black College Students' Sexual Behaviors: The Role of Gender and Socioeconomic Status. Presented at North Carolina Central University's Women & Gender Studies Symposium, Durham, NC.
15. Benbrook, A. & **Thorpe, S.** (2016) Redefining College Sexual Health: Creating a SAFE Space for Capacity Building of Sex-Positive Programming on College Campuses. Presented at the North Carolina Sexual Health Conference. Cary, NC.
16. **Thorpe, S.**, Murray, K., & Gonzales-Backen, M.A. (2015) The Effects of Gender and Condom Usage on Relationship Desire Pre- and Post- Hookup and Communication Awkwardness. Poster Presented at Florida State University's Research and Creativity Day, Tallahassee, FL and 2016 Society of Research on Adolescence (SRA) Conference, Baltimore, MD.

## Selected Media Coverage

Buzzfeed

**22 Black Sex Educators and Sex-Positive Influencers You Should Give A Follow**

[tps://www.buzzfeed.com/negestikaudo/black-sex-educators-and-sex-positive-influencers?origin=web-hf&fbclid=IwAR0qdirRTiCv0uv0N28Tm-mfIYzQ0-EqIMe\\_RnxG4P6rZ\\_F3IIVNjfisNAU](https://www.buzzfeed.com/negestikaudo/black-sex-educators-and-sex-positive-influencers?origin=web-hf&fbclid=IwAR0qdirRTiCv0uv0N28Tm-mfIYzQ0-EqIMe_RnxG4P6rZ_F3IIVNjfisNAU)

Linktree

**Shattering the Stigma: Meet the Educators Taking on Sexual Health**

<https://linktr.ee/blog/sexual-health-social-media-content-sex-education-influencers>

O.School

**Sexual Performance Anxiety: What Is It and How To Overcome It**

<https://www.o.school/article/sexual-performance-anxiety>

Men's Variety

**Here's Why College Students Hookup, Says Science**

<https://mensvariety.com/college-hookup-motivation-718/>

Sex with Dr Jess  
Podcast

**Episode 211: Sexual communication and research with Dr. Shemeka**

<https://www.sexwithdrjess.com/2021/04/episode-211-sexual-communication-research-with-dr-shemeka/>

Cosmopolitan

**5 Experts on How to Make Your First Time a \*Super\* Comfortable and Safe Experience**

<https://www.cosmopolitan.com/sex-love/a34874111/breathless-novel-empowering-first-time/>

Elite Daily

**10 Sexperts on Instagram You're Going To Want to Bookmark**

<https://www.elitedaily.com/p/10-sex-experts-on-instagram-to-follow-asap-22597169>

Flare

**Here's How Students Are Hooking Up During the Pandemic**

<https://fashionmagazine.com/wellness/how-students-are-hooking-up-covid-pandemic/>

Green Condom Club

**5 Inspiring Female Sex Experts to follow on Instagram**

<https://www.greencondom.club/blog/5-sex-experts-follow-instagram>

Astroglide Australia

**Black and Indigenous Sexual Health Experts and Healthcare Providers You Should Know**

<https://www.astroglideaustralia.com/blog/black-and-indigenous-sexual-health-experts-and-healthcare-providers-you-should-know>

Fat Women of Color  
Friday Fat Chat

**Sex Positivity and Sexual Health for Fat Women of Color**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEJqllh4Cn0>

The Intimacy Firm  
My Vulva and Me Season 2

**WAP, WAP, WAP: (Black) Women and Pleasure, (Black) Women and Power, (Black) Women and Privilege**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwCI31uoElo>



Dr. Candice Nicole	<b>What is Good Sex?</b> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CNLxQT9Dgm_/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CNLxQT9Dgm_/</a>
Dr. Nikki Knows	<b>Black Women, Sex, and Pleasure with Dr. Shemeka</b> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CIqpEDjDpIo/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CIqpEDjDpIo/</a>
Sex Stuff with Shani	<b>Expert Interview with Dr. Shemeka</b> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/tv/CNsVqanD24R/">https://www.instagram.com/tv/CNsVqanD24R/</a>
Dr. Ashley Townes Tuesdays with Dr. Townes	<b>Black Women, Pleasure, and Orgasms</b> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CMx80rflxWc/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CMx80rflxWc/</a>

## Teaching Experience

### *Instructor of Record*

- 2022 KHP 510- Community Organizing  
Course Size: 20  
KHP 673- Foundations of Health Promotion  
Course Size:
- 2019 HEA 260- Human Sexuality [online]  
Course Size: 34
- 2018 HEA 260- Human Sexuality  
Course Size: 30

### *Graduate Teaching Assistant*

- 2014 CHD 2220- Child Growth and Development [online], Class Size: 150

## Awards and Honors

- 2022 University of Kentucky, Center for Health Equity Transformation Equity Changemaker Award
- 2022 PleazeMe Top 100 Rockstar Sexpert List (#11)
- 2021 HHS Emerging Leader Alumni Award, UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences
- 2018 Sexual Health Equity Rising Star Award, Presented at the NC Sexual Health Conference to The Minority Sex Report, LLC

## Professional Development

Morehouse School of Medicine, National Research Mentoring Network, Strategic Empowerment Tailored for Health Equity Investigators, December 2021-May 2022

## Professional Organizations, Societies, and Service

### EDITORIAL

- **Editorial Board Member:** The American Journal of Sexuality Education, Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness
- **Journal Reviewer:** The Journal of Health Education and Behavior, Journal of American Medicine, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Psychology of Women Quarterly, Journal of Family Psychology, Sexuality and Culture, Women's Health Reports, AIDS and Behavior, Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
- **Abstract Reviewer:** North Carolina Sexual Health Conference, The National Sex Ed Conference, Society of Public Health Education Conference

## MEMBERSHIPS

- American Association for Sexuality Educators, Counselors, & Therapists, June 2018-present
- Women of Color Sexual Health Network, Oct 2016-present
- North Carolina Society for Public Health Education, May 2016-October 2017
  - Student Member at Large, Research Committee Member

## DOCTORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

<b>Doctoral Committee Chair</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Year in Program</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Service Years</b>
Erika Karle	1st year PhD Student	Health Promotion	University of Kentucky	August 2022-present
<b>Doctoral Committee Member</b>				
Jermisha Fraizer, M.Ed	2 <sup>nd</sup> year PhD Student	Human Sexuality	California Institute of Integral Studies	May 2022-present
Shadeen Francis, LMFT, CST	4 <sup>th</sup> year PhD Student	Clinical Sexology	Modern Sex Therapy Institutes	Jan 2022-present
Praise Iyiewuare, MS	4 <sup>th</sup> year PhD Student	Clinical Psychology	University of Vermont	Jan 2022-present

## SERVICE

- National Sex Ed Conference Planning Team Member, Continuing Education Committee Member
- North Carolina Sexual Health Conference, Planning Committee Member
  - Social Media Committee Member and Evaluation Committee Chair, Jan 2017-present
- NC Division of Public Health, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant Reviewer, 2016-2017