

Natasha M. Lee-Johnson, PhD, MSW, MEd
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EDUCATION

2025 **Ph.D.**, Social Work – Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, LA
2021 **MSW.**, Social Work – LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
2017 **M.Ed.**, Education Administration and Policy – University of Georgia (UGA), Athens, GA
2015 **B.S.**, Psychology, LSU – Baton Rouge, LA

CERTIFICATIONS

Present Certified Social Worker (#18463), Louisiana
2022 Certificate in Mixed Methods, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2017 Certificate in Law and Policy, UGA, Athens, GA
2017 Certificate in Disability Studies, UGA, Athens, GA

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Title: *“I Don’t Want No Body to Henrietta Lacks Me:” A Mixed Methods Study on the Relationship Between Perceived Risk of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Decision-Making Among Black Women*
Committee: Jennifer Scott (Chair), Michelle Livermore, James Canfield, Elaine Maccio

RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Maternal Health	Community-Based Participatory Research	Healthy Equity
Disability Justice	Social Determinants of Health	Social Capital
Mixed Methods	Cultural Competency	

EXPERIENCE

2026–Present University of Texas—Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Population Research Center & Dell Medical School
Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) – NIH (T32HL140290)

- Primary Mentor: Catherine Cubbin, PhD

Responsibilities

- Investigating structural determinants of reproductive and cardiovascular health outcomes, including racialized economic segregation and environmental exposures
- Research training in cardiovascular and cardiometabolic health disparities, multilevel modeling, propensity score analysis, and spatial methods
- Preparing and submitting first-authored manuscripts and a career development grant application (K-award)

2022–2026 Louisiana State University, **Research Manager**
COPE (Communities Organizing for Power through Empathy) Project

- Funding Source: National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (Gulf Research Program)
- Funding Amount: \$999,992
- Principal Investigators: Jennifer L. Scott, PhD & Tara Powell, PhD

Responsibilities:

Data Management

- Managed all aspects of qualitative (interviews, focus groups) and quantitative (time series surveys) data collection (n=300) over five-time points for a community mental health intervention for disaster resilience.
- Interviewed community facilitators, captured field notes, monitored fidelity, and distributed physical and electronic surveys.
- Cleaned and managed quantitative datasets using Stata; conducted qualitative coding and thematic analysis of interview, fidelity, and focus group transcripts using MAXQDA

Research Translation and Application

- Provided technical assistance to resolve the for challenges community facilitators for data related issues.
- Collaborated on survey development with the project's community advisory board
- Collaborated with Together Baton Rouge to implement the intervention, support data collection, and promote sustainability of the mental health curriculum
- Drafted reports and manuscripts, presenting findings to stakeholders and academic audiences (SSWR, Gulf of Mexico conference, University of Alabama, LSU School of Social Work) and publication.

2022-2025

Louisiana State University, **Doctoral Researcher (Dissertation)**

Title: "I Don't Want No Body to Henrietta Lacks Me:" A Mixed Methods Study on the Relationship Between Perceived Risk of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Decision-Making Among Black Women

- Funding Sources: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Health Policy Research Scholars); American Association of University Women

Responsibilities:

- Designed and led a sequential mixed methods to examine perceived risk of pregnancy and decision-making
- Conducted autoethnography, 13 in-depth qualitative interviews, and a state-wide survey with 300+ women across Louisiana
- Created and collaborated with panel of 4 community experts to co-develop research tools, guide recruitment, and interpret findings
- Managed all phases of IRB protocol development, data collection, qualitative coding (MAXQDA), and quantitative analysis (Stata, R)

Accomplishments:

- Secured and managed over \$34,000 in external funding for research expenses (\$9,800; RWJF) and dissertation writing expenses (\$25,000; AAUW)
- Received the 2025 Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Doctoral Fellows Award at the national conference for the dissertation proposal

2019 – 2021 Louisiana State University, **Graduate Research Assistant**

Louisiana State Opioid Response Project

- Funding Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Funding Amount: \$17,000,000

- Principal Investigator: Aimee Moles, PhD

Responsibilities:

- Conducted focus group and interviews with Louisiana Tribal members
- Transcribed and analyzed data
- Co-authored report to Louisiana Department of Health
- Submitted proposal to CSWE national conference

BR Bytes (Computer Science for All) Project:

- Funding Source: National Science Foundation
- Funding Amount: \$1,000,000
- Principal Investigator: Leanna Cupit, PhD

YV Lifeset Project:

- Funding Source: Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services
- Funding Amount: \$50,000
- Principal Investigator: Laura Ainsworth, PhD

Responsibilities:

- Conducted literature review for permanency for youth aging out of foster care
- Assisted with the development of a permanency stakeholder survey
- Assisted with focus groups for YV Lifeset and DCFS workers.

2017- 2019

University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, **Assistant Director** of Women's Resource Center
The Women's Resource Center is a campus-based support and advocacy hub dedicated to advancing gender equity, providing resources for survivors of interpersonal violence, and promoting holistic well-being for women and gender-diverse students.

- Assisted with the development and oversight of a departmental budget of approximately \$250,000
- Led research-driven assessment, implementation, and evaluation of over 30 initiatives
- Designed and implemented training and strategic programs for faculty, staff, and student workshops utilizing strength-based and skill-building approaches to student development
- Served on and led campus committees (e.g., Multicultural Network Committee, Health and Wellbeing Committee)
- Fostered and maintained collaborative relationships with community organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club, Planned Parenthood, AAUW, etc.)
- Recruited, trained, and supervised 7 part-time staff and 3 interns to the information, skills, and expectations associated with providing direct support services to students
- Delivered campus training workshop Bringing in the Bystander, designed to increase student advocacy and proactive response to sexual violence
- Provide individualized information and support to students seeking personal assistance, including direct counseling or crisis intervention, active referral, and institutional advocacy, while in compliance with Title IX policies.

- 2014-2015 Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, **Mental Health Technician**
- Assisted with patient activities of daily living for patients on acute, geriatric, juvenile, and substance use units
 - Monitored adults and youth with mental disorders to ensure the safety of themselves and others
 - Promoted emotional regulation techniques to diffuse hostile and/or agitated patients
 - Participated in trauma-informed trainings with specific focuses on depression, violent outbursts and suicidal ideations

PUBLICATIONS

- Kattari, S. K., Wernick, L. J., **Lee-Johnson, N. M.**, & Weed, A. (in press, anticipated 2026). "Nothing about us without us": Using disability justice as a framework for critical quantitative research. In *Decolonizing quantitative methods: Anti-oppressive approaches to social work research* (Section 4: Considerations for research with traditionally marginalized populations). Oxford University Press.
- Powell T.P., Scott, J.L., & **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2025). Reflections on two decades of disaster mental health: lessons from Hurricane Katrina and beyond traumatology. *Traumatology*.
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.**, Scott, J.L., & Powell, T. (2025). Mapping collective action: A case study of utilizing community mental health workshops to agitate action for environmental justice. *Social Sciences Community & Urban Sociology*.
- Scott, J.L., Powell, T. & **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2025). The communities organizing for power through empathy (COPE) community-based intervention to improve adult mental health in disaster-related crisis: Protocol for a stepped wedge cluster randomized trial. *Journal of Medical Internet Research (Research Protocols)*.
- Wernick, L. J., Singh, R. C. B., **Lee-Johnson, N. M.**, Kattari, S. K., & Holloway, B. T. (2024). Action steps toward dismantling ableism in social work education. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.
- Scott, J. L., **Lee-Johnson, N. M.**, & Danos, D. (2022). Place, Race, and Case: Examining Racialized Economic Segregation and COVID-19 in Louisiana. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 1-13.
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** & Mtanous, N. A. (2023). Racialization of Disability and Sexuality: A Historical and Contemporary Perspective. Chapter in *Exploring sexuality and Disability: A guide for academics and health and human service professionals*. Eds Kattari S.K.
- Chaney, C. D., **Lee-Johnson, N. M.**, Wooten, C. C., Doub, D. C., & George Tilley, E. C. (2023). "The Hidden Figure of a Global Crime": From Human Trafficking to Human Rights: Complexities and Pitfalls. In *Politics Between Nations: Power, Peace, and Diplomacy* (pp. 423-447). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Scott, J. L., **Lee-Johnson, N. M.**, & Danos, D. (2022). Place, Race, and Case: Examining Racialized Economic Segregation and COVID-19 in Louisiana. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 1-13.

REPORTS

- Ainsworth, L., **Lee-Johnson, N.M.**, Moon, C., & Robison S. (2021). Examining permanency and worker retention within the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services and the Youth Villages LifeSet model. Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Social Research and Evaluation Center.
- Moles, A., **Lee, N.M.**, Thomas-Smith, J. R., & Rhodes, J. L. F. (2021). Louisiana state opioid response II, Native American Tribal voices: Perceptions and knowledge of opioid and stimulant abuse and

- resources. Baton Rouge, LA: Social Research and Evaluation Center.
- Rhodes, J. L. F., Colomb, K., Thomas-Smith, J., & **Lee, N.M.** (2019). United Houma Nation: Understanding the perceptions, resources, and challenges involving opioid use disorder. Baton Rouge, LA: Social Research and Evaluation Center.
- Lee, N. M.** (2017). EmpowerMENTORS: A culturally responsive curriculum to evidence-based mentoring in inclusive post-secondary education programs. *AUCD Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit*. http://www.implementdiversity.tools/uploads/2016_2017_DF_Projects/NatashaLee-Lee_Project_Report.pdf
- Scott, J., Chen, Z. & **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (in progress). The pedagogy of policy practice: A systematic review of policy education literature. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

TEACHING

Experience supporting and guest lecturing in undergraduate, master's, and doctoral courses on social policy, medicine, and disability studies.

Graduate Assistant

- Spring 2024 7202: Issues and Research Problems in Social Policy (Louisiana State University)
- Assisted with course development by drafting classroom policies (e.g., Artificial Intelligence usage), updating syllabus language, and identifying new readings on poverty and social policy.
- Spring 2017 6001E: Introduction to Disability (University of Georgia—Athens)
- Supported course delivery and facilitated communication between professor and students; assisted with grading and instructional support.

Invited Lectures

- Spring 2026 20555: Carceral Medicine (Undergrad), University of Notre Dame
- Fall 2024 40698: Contemporary Concerns in Medicine (Undergrad), University of Notre Dame
- Fall 2024 941: Applied Methods in Community Settings (Doctoral), Wichita State University
- Spring 2024 7504: Advance Social Policy (Master), Louisiana State University
- Spring 2023 7504: Advance Social Policy (Master), Louisiana State University
- Spring 2017 6001E: Introduction to Disability Studies (Undergrad), University of Georgia

PRESENTATIONS *denoting student presenter

National

- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (January 2026). Toward Reproductive Justice: A Community-Informed Mixed-Methods Model for Social Work and Maternal Health Research. *Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Washington D.C. Oral Presentation.
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (Accepted January 2026). "We Are Not Treated Softly": Black Women's Perceived Pregnancy Risk and Experiences with Social Workers. *Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Washington D.C. Oral Presentation.
- Aidoo, R.*, Scott, J., **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** & Powell, T. (January 2026). *Preparing for COPE: A mixed methods study on Community Facilitators' experiences in leading psychoeducational group interventions*. Poster to be presented at Society for Social Work Research. Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
- Scott, J.L., Powell, T. & **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (January 2025). Communities Organizing for Power through Empathy (COPE): Community-Based Participatory Research to Improve Community Disaster-Resilience and Equity. *Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Seattle, WA. Oral Presentation.

- Lee-Johnson, N.M.**, Scott, J.L., Powell, T. (January 2025). Community-Based Participatory Research as a Community Organizing Tool Mapping Assets, Taking Action. *Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Seattle, WA. Poster Presentation.
- Lee-Johnson, N. M.** & Coleman, L. (June 2024). The RJ Way: Centering People and Transforming Reproductive Health Policy. *RWJF HPRS Summer Institute*. Baltimore, Maryland. Oral Presentation.
- Scott, J., Chen., Z., & **Lee-Johnson, N. M.** (January 2023). Policy Practice Pedagogy: A Systematic Review of Literature on Teaching Social Work Policy. *Society for Social Work Research Conference*. Phoenix, AZ. Oral Presentation.
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** & Scott, J. (January 2023). Understanding the Political Attitudes on Paid Family and Medical Leave throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Society for Social Work and Research*. Washington D.C. Poster presentation.
- Scott, J.L. & **Lee-Johnson, N. M.** (January 2022). Spatial Analysis of Racial & Economic Disparities in COVID-19 Infection in Louisiana. *Society for Social Work and Research*. Washington D.C. Oral Presentation.

Regional

- Lee-Johnson, N.M.**, Scott, J.L., & Johnson, J.L. (October 2024). A model for using CBPR & community organizing to improve community mental health. *LSU School of Social Work Conference*. Oral Presentation.
- Scott, J., **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** & Powell, T. (February 2024). Communities organizing for power through empathy. *P Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON)*. Tampa, FL. Oral Presentation.
- Scott, J.L, **Lee-Johnson, N.M.** & Pickett, A. (2024). Communities Organizing for Power through Empathy (COPE): Community-Based Participatory Research to Advance Mental Health Equity. *UAB Health Equity Research Symposium*. Birmingham, Alabama
- Lee, N. M.** (2019). A Black feminist and creative approach to radical wellness. *Black Feminist Symposium*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.
- Lee, N. M.** (2017). Empowermentors: A culturally responsive curriculum to evidence-based mentoring in inclusive post-secondary education programs. *Association of University of Centers on Disability*, Washington D.C.
- Lee, N. M.** (2014). Bullying, mental health, and schooling: effects of bullying behaviors on academic performance, academic efficacy, and anxiety. *University of New Mexico McNair Research Conference*, Albuquerque, NM.
- Lee, N. M.** (2013). College student subjective wellbeing questionnaire: Multidimensional measure of college student co-vitality. *Louisiana State University Undergraduate Research Conference*, Baton Rouge, LA.

Community

- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2025) LEND Summer Orientation: Cultural Responsiveness. Oral presentation to LSU-HS Human Development Center. New Orleans, LA
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2024). Community-Based Participatory Research. Oral presentation to organizing institute, Together Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2022) LEND Summer Orientation: Cultural Competency LSU-HS Human Development Center. New Orleans, LA
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2022) *Disability, Race, and Gender: Solutions for Addressing Reproductive Healthcare Needs*. Boston University- School of Social Work
- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2021) Engaging in Discourse: A Brief Examination of White Supremacy and Our Relationship to It. LSU-HS Student Occupational Therapy Association.

- Lee-Johnson, N.M.** (2021) Cultural Competency for LEND trainees. LSU-HS Human Development Center. New Orleans, LA
- Lacy, M., Milton, A., and **Lee, N. M.** (2019). Teaching for Multicultural Inclusion and Equity, *Teaching Development Workshop*. University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.
- Lee, N. M.** & Lacy, M., (2019). Social Entrepreneurship, Justice & Equity Compact Module. *TRIO Upward Bound Summer Bridge Workshop*, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.
- Lee, N.M.** (2019). Bystander Training Intervention. *University of Wisconsin Workshop Series*.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

SSWR 2025 Doctoral Fellows Award

- Amount: \$3,000
- Date: January 2025
- Funder: Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR)

Student Travel Award

- Amount: \$2,500
- Date: November 2024
- Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (HPRS)

American Dissertation Fellowship

- Amount: \$25,000
- Date: August 2024 – May 2025
- Funder: American Association of University Women

Dissertation Research Award

- Amount: \$9,800
- Date: August 2023 – May 2025
- Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Graduate Research Assistantship Award

- Amount: \$75,000
- Date: January 2022 – May 2025
- Funder: National Academies of Science, Medicine & Engineering

Health Policy Research Scholar (HPRS) Award

- Amount: \$124,000
- Date: August 2021 – May 2025
- Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

LEND Trainee Award

- Amount: \$8,000
- Date: August 2020 – May 2021
- Funder: HRSA—Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Graduate Assistantship Award

- Amount: \$57,000
- Date: August 2019 – December 2021
- Funder: Social Research and Evaluation Center, LSU

Diversity Fellow Award

- Amount: \$15,000
- Date: August 2016 – May 2017
- Funder: Institute on Human Development and Disability, UGA

Advanced Material Research Institute (AMRI) Summer Research Program

- Amount: \$4,000

- Date: Summer 2008, Summer 2009
- Funder: AMRI, University of New Orleans

OTHER DISTINCTIONS

2025	Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Disability Manuscript Award
2024	AASECTS Professionals Book Award (chapter in book)
2022	LSU College of Human Sciences & Education Hall of Distinction Honoree
2022	Delta Sigma Theta May Week's Visionary Brunch En Rouge Honoree

SERVICE

University Service

• LSU SSW Diversity Committee Diversity Committee, <i>PHD Representative</i>	2023- 2024
• LSU SSW Policy Practice Advisory Council, <i>Member</i>	2021- 2025
• LSU CHSE President's Show Case, <i>Representative</i>	2021
• LSU CHSE Anti-Racism Panel, <i>Panelist</i>	2020
• UWM Bystander Training Intervention (Sexual Violence), <i>Facilitator</i>	2019, 2018
• UWM Boys and Girls Club Human Trafficking, <i>Panelist</i>	2019, 2018
• UWM Teaching for Multicultural Inclusion and Equity Workshop, <i>Facilitator</i>	2019
• UWM Greek Life (Sorority/Fraternity), <i>Panelist</i>	2019
• UWM Social Entrepreneurship, Justice & Equity Compact, <i>Facilitator</i>	2019
• UWM LGBTQ+ Pride Discovery Workshop, <i>Facilitator</i>	2018
• UWM IGNITE Leadership Training, <i>Facilitator</i>	2018

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

2025-Present	Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Member
2022-Present	Together Baton Rouge, Member
2021-Present	RWJF Health Policy Research Scholars, Alumna
2021-Present	Society for Social Work Research
2014-Present	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Physical and Mental Health Committee Member Social Action Committee Member

PRESS AND OTHER LINKS

https://www.lsu.edu/chse/socialwork/news/natasha-lee_rwjf.php
<https://healthpolicyresearch-scholars.org/scholars/natasha-m-lee-johnson/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/natasha-m-lee-johnson-msw-m-ed-b0582257/>