**Alexis McGhee-Dinvaut**

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**Education**

*Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology* Expected, Spring 2028

Kent State University. Kent, Ohio

*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Honors* Earned, Spring 2020

The University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas

Undergraduate Research Certificate

McNair Scholar

GPA: 3.8/4.0

**Research Interest**

Broadly, I am interested in mental health among minority communities, stigmatization, and treatment. Specifically, I aim to study the differences in which minority groups develop, treat, and perceive mental illnesses like depression. I aim to study and design culturally specific treatment models that account for the role of race and other social factors on mental well-being and treatment experiences. Additionally, I aim to better understand treatment seeking behaviors and treatment avoidance given the effect of social factors. My ultimate goal is to improve minority mental health and reduce racial health disparities.

**Research Experience**

***Graduate Research Assistant /Graduate Student Therapist*** *Fall 2022- Spring 2024*

Program for Research on Anxiety Disorders among African Americans, Kent, Ohio

**Title:** Written Exposure Therapy and The Spirit of Motherhood

**Principal Investigator:** Angela Neal-Barnett, Ph.D.

**Description:** Chronic race-related stress has been identified as a hidden risk factor that contributes to alarming infant mortality rates among Black women. The Spirit of Motherhood and Written Exposure Therapy are a culturally infused trauma-based intervention that provides treatment for Black expectant and postpartum mothers to help improve infant and maternal health. Interventions was completed by the graduate student therapists and community health workers.

***Graduate Research Assistant*** *Fall 2022- Spring 2023*

Program for Research on Anxiety Disorders among African Americans, Kent, Ohio

**Title:** Grief Behaviors and Experiences in Black Americans

**Principal Investigator:** Angela Neal-Barnett, Ph.D.

**Description:** Black Americans experience more grief over their lifetime due to the effects of

environmental racism and more recently since the rise in deaths due to COVID-19. This

study investigates the ways in which grief is experienced and what behaviors are used to

cope with grief in Black communities.

***Assistant Researcher/Project Manager*** *Oct 2020-Oct 2021*

Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Lawrence, Kansas

**Title:** MIECHV Fiscal Year 19 Research Evaluation

**Principal Investigator**: Neil Rowe, Ph.D.

**Description:** The purpose of this evaluation study will be to observe recordings of virtual home visits across all evidence-based home visiting models (EHS, PAT, HFA) for home visiting programs in both Wyandotte (WyCo) and Southeast Kansas (SEKS) MIECHV communities to better understand who is present and interacting during the sessions, the content of the interactions, the nature of what the home visitor is doing (e.g. observing, coaching, providing information, listening, etc.) during the visit, and the variability of the process across home visitors.

***Assistant Researcher/Primary Data Analyst***  *June 2020-December 2020*

Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Lawrence, Kansas

**Title:** MIECHV Fiscal Year 18 Research Evaluation

**Principal Investigator:** Pegah Naemi Jimenez, Ph.D.

**Description:** The primary aims of this evaluation was to examine home visitors’ perceptions of: the effectiveness of training programs, the content from trainings transferring to practice, best practices for common programmatic practices and skills, and families’ perceptions about how home visitor skills (e.g., goal setting, conducting screenings, etc.) influence relationships with families and engage and empower them to participate in home visiting services.

***Primary Student Investigator*** *Fall 2019 – Spring 2020*

Honors Thesis, University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas

**Title:***“**The Effects of Racial Group Membership and Religious Beliefs on Treatment-Seeking Behavior for Mental Illness”*

**Mentor:** Stephen Ilardi, Ph.D.

**Description:** This study aimed to examine differences in treatment-seeking for mental illness among White and African Americans, and to explore the degree to which such differences may be accounted for on the basis of religious belief. While the rate of treatment-seeking for mental illness is low in general, it is particularly low among African-Americans. On the other hand, African-Americans are more likely than White Americans to be involved in a faith community, and more inclined to participate in church-based programs. Little research has been conducted thus far, to investigate the extent to which African-Americans might use church-based programs to treat various health problems, including mental illness. Therefore, this study presented a racially diverse sample of adults with hypothetical scenarios regarding the occurrence of clinical depression (at varying levels of severity and disability), and examined their willingness to seek treatment for this common form of mental illness via both traditional medical and non-traditional/church-based resources. Group differences between White and Black Americans were analyzed, along with mediational analyses aimed at exploring the hypothesized role of religion in the treatment-seeking behavior of African Americans.

***Primary Student Investigator*** *Spring 2019 – Summer 2019*

McNair Scholars Program Research Fellowship, University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas

**Title:** *“Racial Group Membership and Discrimination History Salience on Mental Illness Stigmatization”*

**Mentor:** Nyla Branscombe, Ph.D & Charlotte Moser

**Description:** This study aimed to assess whether members of different racial groups when reminded of their own group’s history of experiencing or perpetrating discrimination against African Americans affects the extent to which those who suffer from mental illnesses are stigmatized. The focus was on White and Black communities and analyzing patterns of how those groups negatively or positively viewed mental illness based on whether racial discrimination is salient or not. This study used Amazon Turk Prime to manipulate one’s own group’s discrimination history salience and compared Black Americans and White Americans responses about people with mental illnesses. This study found no difference in groups’ perceptions of mental illness on the basis of discrimination history.

***Conservation Lab Assistant***  *Spring 2019-Spring 2020*

Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas

**Manager:** Roberta Woodrick

**Description:** Iworked to preserve materials from collections in all research libraries on campus such as books, maps, photos, and campus memorabilia for research, history courses, and alumni. I learned various technical skills such as re-inserting ripped out pages, making new covers for books, mending ripped maps, and using aesthetic/hand skills daily.

***University Scholar*** *Spring 2019*

University Scholars Program

**Title:** *“Black Student Union’s Work and Impact on the University of Kansas’s Campus”*

**Mentor:** Shawn Alexander

**Description:** This study explained and analyzed the impact of Black Student Union on the University of Kansas’s campus. The history of the organization, their successes, struggles, and actions are examined along with their positive impact on the black community at the University of Kansas. Materials were obtained from the Spencer Research Library and online library database.

***Student Investigator***  *Fall 2017 – Spring 2018* Statistics in Psychological Research, University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas

**Title:** *“How GPA relates to Personal College Life”*

**Research Co-Investigators:** Hunter Lindquist, Courtney Leiter, Cassidy Bee

**Mentor:** Renae Mitchell, M.S.

**Description:** This study aimed to challenge the notion that a students’ success in school is determined by whether or not they join a Greek-life organization. Greek-life organization promote the higher GPAs of their members and attribute that to the fact that these organizations push for academic achievement. However, our group believed that which year a student is in school, how many drinks per week they consume, how many hours worked per week, and grade point average were all interrelated in more complex ways than merely Greek-life or not Greek-life.

**Leadership, Work, and Volunteer Experience**

**Adoption Case Manager** *Oct 2021-July 2022*

*KVC Health Systems Inc-Organization helping families and children with various services*

Providing direct, in-home services to children and families through the adoption process, helping connect children with mental health services, leading children through behavioral techniques to help with mental, education, and emotional needs, and leading case planning conferences with families using the strengths-based approach to assist clients in developing goals and objectives

**Assistant Researcher** *June 2020-Oct 2021*

*Center* *for Public Partnerships and Research- Community/Mental Health Research Center*

Completing research and evaluation work for educational, community and mental health programs throughout the state, facilitating data collection, quantitative/qualitative analysis, organizing data and paperwork, writing technical reports/documents, presenting to community partners/members, managing projects, and communication with partners

**Program Creator, Peer Mentor** *April 2021-Oct 2021*

*McNair Residency Program-Program to help recent college graduates*

Assisted with creating framework and objectives for the program to help recent undergraduates gain work and research experience for graduate school in gap years, created mentorship guidelines for peer mentors in the program, developed interview questions/was present during interviews for candidates, and serves as a peer mentor for hired candidates

**Research Associate** *April 2020-Feb 2021*

*SSRS-National marketing research firm*

Collecting data and directly interviewing participants for federal-funded research, various organizations such as CNN, The US Department of State, Vanderbilt University, Harvard School of Medicine and companies around the country

**Volunteer Coordinator** *Fall 2017-Spring 2018*

*Active Minds- Organization fighting mental illness stigma*

Facilitated volunteer opportunities for members of the organization, organized and tracked everyone’s community services, and informed campus community about mental health resources

**Friendly Visitor** *Spring 2019-Spring 2020*

*Catholic Charities- Organization serving minority and low SES communities*

Visit designated resident at The Windsor senior citizen home weekly, help resident adjust well to their new living situation, ensure they are maintaining health nutrition and social behavior as well as develop and implement creative activities to enhance their living experience

**Internal Audit Chair, Financial Secretary, Program Creator** Spring *2018-present*

*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.- Black Service Sorority*

Managing and checking all recipients for the chapter bank account, turning in quarterly audit reports to the national office, and creating, planning, and hosting monthly events and service projects in the Lawrence community

**Research Ambassador** *Fall 2019-Spring 2020*

*Center for Undergraduate Research- Office in University of Kansas*

Inform students about the importance of research for academic and career development, and ways to be involved in research through classroom talks and other events.

**Research Presentations**

McGhee-Dinvaut, A., Neal-Barnett, A., Johnson, F., Somerville, K., Lally, J., (2023) *Grief Behaviors and Experiences in Black Americans.*

Association for Psychological Science, International Convention of Psychological Science

 Brussels, Belgium, March 2023

Neal-Barnett, A., Somerville, K., McGhee-Dinvaut, A., Lally, J., (2023) *PTSD in Black Pregnant Women: Under-Diagnosed, Under-Assessed, and Under-Treated*

Association for Psychological Science, International Convention of Psychological Science

 Brussels, Belgium, March 2023

Oliphant, V.N., McGhee, A., Sylvester, K., Clement, D., Wingate, L.R., *Defeat and Suicide as Predictors of Entrapment Among Black Women*.

53rd Annual ABPsi International Convention

Virtual, July, 2022

McGhee-Dinvaut, A., Cox,O., Stuhlsatz, G., Boyd, M., (2021) *The Children’s Initiatives Fund​*

Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Kansas Children's Cabinet

 Lawrence, KS, March 2021

McGhee-Dinvaut, A (2020). *The Effects of Racial Group Membership and Religious Beliefs on Treatment-Seeking Behavior for Mental Illness.*

University of Kansas, Online Undergraduate Research Symposium

Lawrence, KS, April 2020

McGhee-Dinvaut, A (2019). *Racial Group Membership and Discrimination History Salience on*

 *Mental Illness Stigmatization.*

University of Kansas, Center for Undergraduate Research Summer Poster Session

Lawrence, KS, July 2019

McGhee-Dinvaut, A (2019). *Racial Group Membership and Discrimination History Salience on*

 *Mental Illness Stigmatization.*

University of Kansas, McNair Scholars Research Symposium

Lawrence, KS, July 2019

McGhee-Dinvaut, A (2019). *Racial Group Membership and Discrimination History Salience on*

 *Mental Illness Stigmatization.*

University of Kansas, Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium

Lawrence, KS, May 2019

**Awards & Scholarships**

*Terry James Social Science Award,* Fall, 2017 $1,000

*University of Kansas Rock Chalk Scholarship,* Fall 2017-Spring 2020 $4,000

*Multicultural Scholars Program Scholarship,* Fall 2017-Spring 2020 $7,000

*University Scholars Program Award,* Spring, 2019 $1,000

*McNair Scholars Program Internship,* Spring 2019-Spring 2020$2,800

*Beulah Morrison Scholarship,* Fall 2019$1,000

*Undergraduate Research Award,* Fall 2019$1,000

*Greek Senior of the Year*, Spring 2020

*Research Experience Certificate:* Earned Spring 2019

*Graduate Dean’s Award*, Fall 2022 $5,000

*Special Contingency Award, Spring 2023* $1750

*Frieman Travel Scholarship, Spring 2023* $100

**Academic and Professional Affiliations**

*Multicultural Diversity Council: Fall 2022- present*

*McNair Scholars Program: Spring 2019- present*

*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.: Spring 2018-present*

*Multicultural Scholars Program: Fall 2017-Spring 2020*

*University Honors Program: Spring 2019-Spring 2020*

*University Scholars Program: Spring 2019*

**Competencies**

Written Exposure Therapy

CAPS-5 Assessment

Data Organization and Management

Proficient in MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel

Adobe Programs

Google Programs

Presentations

SPSS and Statistical Analysis

Planning Community Health Programs

Spanish (Basic Reading and Writing)

Writing

**References**

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