

Leslie-Ann C. R. Toney **MS**

Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

- 2019** **Virginia Polytechnic and State University**, Blacksburg, VA
Doctorate, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies
Expected graduation date: May 2023
- 2005** **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY
Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
- 1999** **Howard University**, Washington DC
Double major, *cum laude*:
Bachelor of Science in Psychology &
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

CERTIFICATES

- 2017** Level A Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Group
Teachers College Global Health Summer Institute
Columbia University, New York, USA
- 2017** Certificate of Completion, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) & World Health Organization
Analyzing Disruptive Health Systems in Conflict Situations
Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Black, Caribbean, and Transnational Feminisms, Sociology of Sexuality and Reproductive Health, Qualitative Methodology, Race and Technology, Gender and Health Systems in the Caribbean and Latin America.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2020 Research Assistant, Caribbean Migration Project, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- 2020-2021 Research Assistant, Reimagining DiVersiTy Project, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- 2016-2017 Technical Officer, Child, Adolescent and Maternal Mental Health Report, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), World Health Organization, Cairo, Egypt.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Courses: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies.

- 2019-2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Courses: Introduction to Sociology; Systems of Justice; Introduction to African American Studies
- 2013-2014 Lecturer, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Department of Psychiatry, MSc in Clinical Psychology Programme. Champ Fleurs, Trinidad, West Indies. Courses: Clinical Interviewing; Caribbean Psychology; Clinical Supervision.

TRAINING AND CONSULTATION

- 2018 Medical Research Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago (MRF) Youth Health Partnership. Consultant and trainer for medical staff treating youth living with HIV. Courses: Motivational Interviewing for Non-Adherent Youth Living with HIV; Clinical Case Management for Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- 2017 Americares, Emergency Response Team, Champaign IL, and Oaxaca, Mexico. Trainings: *Primera Ayuda Psicológica* (Mental Health First Aid); *Resilience and Coping for Healthcare Workers (RCHC)* workshops (in Spanish). Crisis intervention skills for psychologists and social workers in the aftermath of Oaxacan earthquakes.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2019 Psychologist, The Children Court, Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies.
- Conducted psychological evaluations, assessments and interventions for children and families referred to the Social Services Unit of the Children Court and external agencies.
 - Prepared reports and provided treatment updates as evidence for the Court.
 - Defined performance standards, policies and procedures for psychologists in the SSU.
 - Supported social workers and group facilitators by providing consultation on high-risk and emergency mental health cases.
 - Designed and facilitated clinical training and professional development exercises in SSU.
- 2013-2016 EAP Counsellor, Petrotrin EAP Services, Pointe-a-Pierre, Trinidad, West Indies.
- Administered cognitive based therapeutic interventions, parent-child education, assessments, referrals and wellness training to employees of stakeholder companies through employee assistance program.
 - Coordinated crisis-intervention and training response as needed and provide critical incident stress management and debriefing (CISM, CISD) services.
 - Managed client organization account, coordinating psychotherapeutic and training services for 600 employees and dependents and drafted annual and quarterly reports.
- 2006-2012 Senior Therapist, Department of Community and Human Services, Adult Outpatient Unit, Alexandria Community Services Board, Alexandria, VA, USA
- Provided evidence-based individual and group psychotherapy, emergency and crisis intervention services to English and Spanish-speaking individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders.
 - Administered clinical intakes for adult mental health programs and Opioid Treatment Program; assessed need for medical, psychiatric, and psychological evaluations.

- Developed education materials, conducted screenings, and facilitated groups for individuals participating in social detoxification program, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills training, and individuals diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder and acute trauma histories.
- Participated in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Intensive Short-term Psychodynamic Therapy (ISTDP) skills training and consultation teams for clinicians.
- Collaborated with multi-disciplinary teams, external providers, partner agencies, and state and local government officials as a client advocate and to fulfil reporting obligations.

POLICY AND PROJECT COORDINATION

2016-2017 Technical Officer for Mental Health & Substance Abuse Programs, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), World Health Organization, Cairo, Egypt.

- Lead liaison to country focal points to collect, validate and analyze data for Maternal, Child and Adolescent Mental Health ATLAS, country profiles. Drafted final report.
- Finalized the Life Skills Education package for schools in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Assisted Health of Special Groups teams piloting school mental health package.
- Supported the mental health program in conducting consultations on mental health initiatives in the Region and drafting summary reports.
- Integrated evidence-based mental health research to develop and edit manuals for therapeutic interventions in primary care.
- Assisted the MNH team with draft review for the curriculum for mental health in primary care and Helping Adolescents Cope packages.
- Coordinated draft review and provided technical assistance for finalization of the individualized treatment manual on Interpersonal Counselling for Primary Care (IPC).

2015-2017 Founder/Director, Creative Wholeness Programme, Lumination Challenge Social Innovation Project, Trinidad, West Indies.

- Trained and supervised community workers in mental health interventions, mandatory reporting, confidentiality, supervised screenings, assessments and clinical interventions.
- Supervised over 20 part-time therapeutic staff, administrative and research assistants and art instructors, coordinated all procurement, recruitment and remuneration.
- Spearheaded assessment of baseline measures of mental health, collected pre- and post-intervention measures for 160 participants, to conduct analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

Toney, L., Harris, C. (Forthcoming, November 2021). School Violence in Trinidad: A Case Study. In S. Morris-Francis (Ed) *Youth and Gender Violence and Crime in the Caribbean*. Lexington, KY, Lexington Books.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

PANELS ORGANIZED

Caribbean Women and Girls: Manifesting Agency in Patriarchal Society. 44th Annual National Conference of the National Council for Black Studies, Atlanta, Georgia.

PRESENTED PAPERS

Toney, L. (2019) The Role of Psychosocial Uncertainty in Trinidadian Women's Innovative Approaches to Reproductive Healthcare: An Intersectional Analysis. Paper presented at the National Council for Black Studies 44th Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Toney, L. (2018) Using Culture to Transform the Mental Health Landscape. Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Havana, Cuba.

Toney, L. (2018). (Exhibit and paper) Faith in the Open: African traditional religious practice of Orisha in Trinidad & Tobago. 43rd Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Havana, Cuba.

INVITED TALKS

2021 Moderator: Colonial Currents: Black Women, Water, Trauma, and Baptism. Artist Talk with Alexis Caputo. Women's History Month Event, Virginia Tech

2021 Keynote Speaker: Creating Community Mental Health Interventions to Support Adjudicated Youth. Youth Development Dialogue on the Continuity of Care for Youth in Conflict with the Law. Promoting Agency Trust and Hope (PATH) Project, Institute of Gender Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

2019 Panelist: "We can all make a difference: Community Approaches to Prevention." Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence, Families and Communities. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Trinidad & Tobago.

GRANT AWARDS

2020 Virginia Tech Dept. of Sociology Graduate Student Research Grant. Awarded \$3240

2020 Virginia Tech Dept. of Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies Research Grant. Awarded \$500

2015 Ministry of Sustainable Planning, Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Lumination Challenge Award. Awarded TT \$193,600 (US \$30,000).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020-2021 President, Sociology Graduate Students Organization, Virginia Tech

2021 Reviewer, Child Welfare League of America's Child and Family-Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice.

2021 Judge, Barbara Ellen Smith Essay Prize, Women's and Gender Studies Symposium, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech

2019 CEDAW Committee Expert Panelist, Stakeholder Engagement Session with the Special Select Committee, Trinidad & Tobago Senate

2014-2016 Volunteer, Coalition Advocating for the Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO), Trinidad, West Indies.

AFFILIATIONS

2020 – 2021 National Council for Black Studies (NCBS)

2019 – 2021 Southern Sociological Society (SSS)

2019 – 2020 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

2016 – 2020 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

2013 – 2019 American Psychological Association (APA)

LANGUAGES

English – Native Proficiency

Spanish – Full Professional Proficiency

French – Limited Working Proficiency (lower intermediate)