

AUGUST (A.J.) JENKINS

Human Development and Family Science

Auburn University

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RESEARCH FOCUS

My research situates and disentangles the development of Black Americans' psychological health and intimate relationships in the context of multi-level, intersecting oppressive system (i.e., racism, sexism, classism, etc.). Further, utilizing a risk/resilience-based approach, I investigate how Black individuals and families leverage available socio-cultural capital and coping resources to maintain health over time. Through my work, I aim to illuminate opportunities for addressing complex issues related to wellbeing & health, families, and relationships by using socially conscious frameworks and data-driven approaches to ultimately benefit individuals, communities, practice, and policy.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024-present **Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Science**
Auburn University, Auburn, AL

EDUCATION

2022-2024 **Visiting Postdoctoral Research Associate in Family Diversity**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana-Champaign, IL

2016-2022 **Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

2016-2018 **M.S. Human Development and Family Studies**
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

2012-2016 **B.A., Psychology**
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Minors: Linguistics; Cognitive Science

FELLOWSHIPS

2022-2024 Illinois DRIVE Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

2020-2022 NRSA F31 Pre-doctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Research from the *National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities*
Project Title: Daily Associations between Psychological Well-Being and Relationship Functioning among African Americans ([F31MD015215](#))

2016-2018 **Sponsor:** Steffany Fredman, Ph.D.; **Co-Sponsor:** David Almeida, Ph.D.
Graduate Ford Fellowship, *The Pennsylvania State University*

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024	Invited Participant, Health Disparities Research Institute, <i>National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities</i>
2023	Invited Attendee, <i>University of Denver Romantic Relationships Collaborative Data Conference</i>
2022	John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award, <i>Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section of the National Council on Family Relations</i>
2022	Dissertation Award, <i>International Association of Relationship Research</i>
2022	Small Grant Awards, <i>Marriage Strengthening Research & Dissemination Center (MAST Center)</i>
2019	Douglas Endowment, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2018	Philip J. Burlingham Advocate for the Arts Award, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016-2017	Bunton-Waller Graduate Award, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016-2017	Graham Scholarship, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016-2017	Hintz Scholarship, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016	<i>Magna cum laude</i> , <i>Michigan State University</i>
2016	Phi Beta Kappa, <i>Michigan State University</i>
2016	Outstanding Senior Award, <i>Michigan State University</i>
2016	Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize, <i>Michigan State University</i>
2014-2016	Ernest and Phyllis Green Michigan State University Black Alumni Scholarship, <i>Michigan State University</i>
2012-2015	Dean's List, The College of Social Science, <i>Michigan State University</i>
2012	Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, <i>Michigan State University</i>

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Published/In Press Manuscripts

- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Surachman, A., & Armendariz, M. (2024). Where I'm livin' and how I'm feelin': Associations among multiple measures of community stress, gender, and mental-emotional health among Black Americans. *Social Science & Medicine*, 348 (116763), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116763>
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Gamaldo, A. A., King, V., & Almeida, D. M. (2023). Love, health, and the 'hood: An examination of romantic relationship adjustment and perceived neighborhood quality as predictors of partnered Black Americans' long-term psychological health. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*, 132(5), 531–541. <https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000821>
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Le, Y., Surachman, A., Almeida, D. M., & Fredman, S. J. (2023). Associations among financial well-being, daily relationship tension, and daily affect in two adult cohorts separated by the Great Recession. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 40(4), 1103-1125. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075221105611>
- Rice, T. M., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, McNeil Smith, S., Alexander, C., & McGregor, C. M. (2023). Racial discrimination and romantic relationship dynamics among Black Americans: A systematic review. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 15(4), 793–821. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12535>. Advanced online publication.
- Barton, A. W., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Gong, Q., Sutton, N. C., & Beach, S.R.H. (2023). The protective effects of perceived gratitude and expressed gratitude for relationship quality among African American couples. *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships*, 40(5), 1622-1644. <http://doi.org/10.1177/02654075221131288>
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Le, Y., Mogle, J. A., & McHale, S. M. (2022). Religious coping and gender moderate trajectories of marital love in Black couples. *Family Process*, 61(1), 312-325. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12645>

- Macdonald, A., Fredman, S. J., Taylor, D. J., Pruiksma, K. E., Blount, T. H., Hall-Clark, B. N., Fina, B. A., Dondanville, K. A., Mintz, J., Litz, B. T., Young-McCaughan, S., Le, Y., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Monson, C. M., Yarvis, J. S., Keane, T. M., & Peterson, A. L. for the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (2022). Secondary individual outcomes following multi-couple group therapy for PTSD: An uncontrolled pilot study with military dyads. *Journal of Traumatic Stress, 35*(1), 321-329. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.22729>
- Surachman, A., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Santos, A. R., & Almeida, D. M. (2021). Socioeconomic status trajectories across the life course, daily discrimination, and inflammation among Black and white adults. *Psychoneuroendocrinology, 127*, 105193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2021.105193>
- Fredman, S. J., Le, Y., Macdonald, A., Monson, C. M., Rhoades, G. K., Dondanville, K. A., Blount, T. H., Hall-Clark, B. N., Fina, B. A., Mintz, J., Litz, B. T., Young-McCaughan, S., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Yarvis, J. S., Keane, T. M., & Peterson, A. L. for the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (2021). A closer look at relational outcomes from a pilot study of abbreviated, intensive, multi-couple group cognitive-behavioral conjoint therapy for PTSD with military dyads. *Family Process, 60*(3), 712-726. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12654>
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Le, Y., Sun, X., Brick, T. R., Skinner, O. D., & McHale, S. M. (2020). Prospective associations between depressive symptoms and marital satisfaction in Black couples. *Journal of Family Psychology, 34*(1), 12-23. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000573>

Manuscripts in Revision, Under Review, and in Preparation

- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Rice, T. M., McNeil Smith, S., Barton, A. W., & Beach, S.R.H. (2024). *We Gon' Be Alright: Examining Culturally-Relevant Coping Strategies As Protective Factors For Black Romantic Relationships*. Manuscript under review.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**,* A., Fredman,* Gamaldo, A.,* Hall-Clark, B. N., Le, Y., Mogle, J. A., Monson, C. M., Gamaldo, C. E., Thorpe, R. J., Blount, T. H., Fina, B. A., Buxton, O. M., Engeland, C. G., Rhoades, Galena K., Stanley, S.M., Macdonald, A., Dondanville, K. A., Taylor, D. J., Pruiksma, K. E., Litz, B. T., Young-McCaughan, S., Yarvis, J. S., Keane, T. M., & Peterson, A. L. for the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD. (2024). *An Initial Examination of Couple Therapy for PTSD Outcomes Among Black Adults: Findings From an Uncontrolled Trial of Intensive, Multi-Couple Group Treatment Of PTSD*. Manuscript in preparation.
- Rice, T. M., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, & McNeil Smith, S. (2024). *General and racism-specific support as moderators of the link between racial discrimination and wellbeing*. Manuscript in preparation.

*Represents co-first authored manuscript.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Research Talks

- Jenkins, A. I. C.** (2024, February 12). *Healthy relationships in the Black community*. Women's Resource Center, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.** (2022, April 29). *Love and Happiness: Black relationships and well-being across contexts and time*. University of Texas at Austin Couples in Context Symposium, online.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Rice, T. M. & Ogolsky, B. S. (2024). *Got me in my feelings: Relational predictors of Black Americans' emotion variability*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations. Bellevue, WA.

- Brown, A. M., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**(2024). Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations. Bellevue, WA.
- Rice, T. M., Weber, D., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Mahoney, E. , Lenger, K., & Whitton, S. (2024, July). *Discrimination and wellbeing among Black SGM AFAB in same-race and interracial relationships*. [Paper Presentation]. International Association of Relationship Research. Boston, MA
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Rice, T. M. & McNeil Smith, S. (2024, July). *Superwoman is tired: The Strong Black Woman Schema, racism-specific support, and distress*. [Paper presentation]. International Association of Relationship Research Main Conference, Boston, MA.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.** & Rice, T. M. (2023, November). *'Hood love: Links between multiple measures of neighborhood disadvantage and romantic relationship functioning*. In **A. Jenkins** (Chair), *Bringing focus to the picture: Enhancing our understanding of racism's effects on Black intimate relationships* [Symposium]. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations. Orlando, FL.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Rice, T. M., McNeil Smith, S., Barton, A. W., & Beach, S.R.H. (2023, May). *We gon' be alright: Examining culturally-relevant coping strategies as protective factors for Black romantic relationships* [Conference paper presentation]. International Association of Relationship Research Mini-Conference. Tempe, AZ.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Gamaldo, A. A., & Almeida, D. M. (2022, November). Discrimination, relational tension, and emotional health among partnered Black Americans. In S. McNeil Smith (Chair), *The light of romantic relationships in the shadows of discrimination* [Symposium]. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN.
- Rice, T. M., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, McNeil Smith, S., Alexander, C., & McGregor, C. (2022, November). Racial discrimination and romantic relationship functioning among Black Americans: A systematic review. In S. McNeil Smith (Chair), *The light of romantic relationships in the shadows of discrimination* [Symposium]. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN.
- Rice, T. M., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, & McNeil Smith, S. (2022, November). General and racism-specific support as moderators of the link between racial discrimination and wellbeing. In S. McNeil Smith (Chair), *The light of romantic relationships in the shadows of discrimination* [Symposium]. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations. Minneapolis, MN.
- Barton, A. W., Gong, Q., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Sutton, N. C. & Beach, S.R.H. (2022, November). *The protective effects of felt gratitude and expressed gratitude for relationship quality among African American couples*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations. Minneapolis, MN.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Gamaldo, A. A., & Almeida, D. M. (2021, November). The effect of partnered Black Americans' relationship interactions on daily positive affect depends on experiences of discrimination and gender. In C. Sloan (Chair), *Utilizing national data to examine romantic relationships across diverse samples, eras, timescales, and contexts* [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, online.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Gamaldo, A. A., & Almeida, D. M. (2021, July). Black Americans' romantic relationship interactions, daily well-being, and discriminatory experiences. In N. Van Doren (Chair), *Beyond the individual: Racial environments and their impact on health* [Symposium]. Biennial American Psychological Association Division 45 Research Conference, online.
- Jenkins, A. I. C.**, Fredman, S. J., Gamaldo, A. A., & Almeida, D. M. (2020, November). Love, health, and the 'hood: Associations among partnered Black Americans' relationship quality, psychological well-being, and neighborhood quality. In T. Rice & E. McKnight

(Chairs), *Black intimacies matter: Black Americans' romantic relationships across societal levels* [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, online.

Bhat, A. C., **Jenkins, A. I. C.**, & Almeida, D. M. (2020). *Housing insecurity and the emotional and physical health of African Americans*. Poster presented at the annual Gerontological Society of America Scientific Meeting, online.

Jenkins, A. I. C., Fredman, S. J., & McHale, S. M. (2019, November). *Gender differences in the links between religious coping and marital quality in African American couples*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Fort Worth, TX.

Jenkins, A. I. C., Fredman, S. J., Le, Y., Sun, X., Skinner, O. D., & McHale, S. M. (2018, November). Links between depressive symptoms and marital satisfaction in African American couples. In E. Alfaro (Facilitator), *Race, discrimination, and well-being* [Symposium]. Lightning Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, San Diego, CA.

Invited Community Presentations

Jenkins, A. I. C. (2024, March 7). Keynote speaker at Women's Empowerment Dinner.

Hermanos of La Unidad Latina Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc., Urbana, IL.

Jenkins, A. I. C. (2023, January 21). Keynote speaker at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. K-12 Creative Expressions Contest. *University of Illinois Urbana Champaign*, Urbana, IL.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Aceves, L. (Host). (204, February 23). *Black Excellence in Academia with Dr. August Jenkins and Dr. TeKisha Rice* (No. 36) [Audio podcast episode]. In Vida De Ph.D.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5SrVURXqMpConxWbzc91e7?si=14f9ec9e62eb4ec6>

Public engagement playlist for Rice, Jenkins et al. (2023) publication: *Black Love vs. the World*.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3wVTXv6P7npRFKN0uo1cXA?si=8e2f576a27a84c6d>

RelTalk Public Scholarship Series. (2021, Mar. 25). *Racism is more than color: The role of context in Black families' experiences*. <https://youtu.be/cbSZ68vuJ-c>

MEDIA COVERAGE (RESEARCH FEATURES AND INTERVIEWS)

NIMHD Insights Blog. (2024, February 16). Love, health, and the hood: Neighborhood effects on Black couples' functioning. https://blog.nimhd.nih.gov/insights-2024/news_feed/love-health-and-the-hood-neighborhood-effects-on-black-couples-functioning

Stein, Marianne. (2023, May 11). How love, health, and neighborhood intersect for Black Americans. Retrieved from: <https://aces.illinois.edu/news/how-love-health-and-neighborhood-intersect-black-americans>

Edna Bennet Pierce Prevention Research Center. (2021, Feb. 23). Trainee Spotlight: August Jenkins' research on discrimination and neighborhood context. Retrieved from: <http://ow.ly/uCmD50DNU3y>

Dolan, Eric. (2020, June 19). New study highlights important links between depressive symptoms, Black identity and marital satisfaction in African-American couples. Retrieved from: <https://www.psypost.org/2020/06/new-study-highlights-important-links-between-depressive-symptoms-black-identity-and-marital-satisfaction-in-african-american-couples-57083>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Course Instructor, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
HDFS 523: Ethnic Families (Spring, 2023)

Redeveloped and redesigned the course to focus on family structure (e.g., single-parent, same-sex families), relationships (e.g., parent-child, siblings), and processes (e.g., racial-ethnic socialization, coping) across various ethnic-racial groups and the ways that socio-historical conditions, structural forces, and oppressive systems intersect with families' social positions and micro-level forces. Infused issues of intersectionality and positionality, curated reading lists to maximize content from minoritized authors and on minoritized populations, and facilitated scholarly discussion of diverse media (e.g., academic readings, videos, podcasts, infographics).

Graduate Lab Instructor, *The Pennsylvania State University*

Led recitation labs each week to review concepts and skills related to the dyadic helping relationship within a multicultural context, aided students in learning and applying counseling techniques covered in lecture, supervised and provided feedback as students practiced basic counseling skills, graded exams, and recorded dyadic helping interactions, and managed a team of undergraduate teaching assistants.

HDFS 411: The Helping Relationship (Fall, 2018; Spring, 2019)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, *The Pennsylvania State University*

Aided students in learning and applying key concepts, provided feedback on student research papers, met with students individually during office hours, graded research papers and exams, created in-class activities to facilitate student learning and retention, helped curate content for exams, and assisted in classroom management.

HDFS129: Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies (Summer, 2018)

HDFS229: Infant and Child Development (Spring, 2018)

HDFS239: Adolescent Development (Fall, 2017)

HDFS301: Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions (Fall, 2017)

Guest Lecturer, *The Pennsylvania State University*

University of Tennessee CFS 672: Professional Seminar 2

“Postdoctoral Positions Families” (Spring, 2024)

University of Illinois Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center: Circuit Pre-Orientation Program

“Introduction to Black Families” (Summer, 2023)

Penn State HDFS 411: The Helping Relationship

“Black Families and the Mundane Extreme Environmental Stress Theory” (Spring, 2019; Spring 2020)

Penn State HDFS 525: Introduction to Family Studies

“Intimate Partnerships” Presentation with Dr. Steffany Fredman (Fall, 2019; Fall, 2020; Fall, 2021)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

2022-2024	Secretary/Treasurer, National Council on Family Research (NCFR) Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section
2022- Present	Member, National Black Postdoctoral Association (NBPA)
2021- Present	Member, American Psychological Association (APA) Division 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race
2021- Present	Member, International Association for Relationship Research, Research

	(IARR)
2017- Present	Member, National Council on Family Research (NCFR)
2017-Present	Member, National Council on Family Research (NCFR) Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section
2016-Present	Member, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)
2016-Present	Member, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Couples Special Interest Group (SIG)
2016	Member, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

TRAININGS

2023	Intersectionality Summer Intensive, <i>Intersectionality Training Institute</i>
2019	Analysis of Intensive Longitudinal Data: Experience Sampling and Ecological Momentary Assessment, <i>American Psychological Association Advanced Training Institute</i>
2019	Translational Research Summer Institute, <i>Cornell University</i>

SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2023	Panelist for "How to Apply and Choose a Postdoc Position," <i>National Black Postdoctoral Association</i>
2022-2023	Member of Human Development and Family Studies Department Inclusion and Diversity Committee Community Service Sub-Committee, <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>
2022	Panelist for Human Development and Family Studies Professional Brown Bag on Postdoc Experiences, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2022	Panelist for the Readying Illinois Students for Excellence program, <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>
2022	Panelist for the Inbound summer program, <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>
2021	Presenter at Improving Access to Research and Training (IMPACT) summer program, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2020-2021	HDFS Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2019-2020	Departmental Admissions Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2019-2020	HHD Graduate Diversity Student Social Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2019	Student Representative on Graduate Council Joint Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2018, 2019	Presenter at "Navigating the Graduate School Process as an Underrepresented Students Workshop," College of Health and Human Development Office of Diversity and Inclusion, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2018-2020	Panelist for Graduate Student Panel for Health and Human Development STEM Diversity Open House, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2018-2019	Graduate Student Association Representative on HDFS Graduate Student Steering Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2017-2019	Student Representative on Graduate Council, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2017-2019	Student Representative on Graduate Council Joint Circular Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2017-2019	Student Representative on Graduate Council Committee on Committees,

2017-2019	<i>The Pennsylvania State University</i> Delegate on Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Student Caucus, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2017-2018	Member of GPSA Community Service Sub-Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2017-2018	Student Liaison to the Center for Performing Arts, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016-Present	Member, <i>Black Graduate Student Association</i>
2016-Present	Human Development and Family Studies Student Steering Committee, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016	Presenter at “Healthy People Penn State Conference,” <i>College of Health and Human Development, Pennsylvania State University</i>
2016	Panelist for BluePrints Panel on Graduate School, <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i>

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Ethnicity & Health
Journal of Child and Family Studies
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships
Journal of Family Psychology
Journal of Family Issues
Family Relations (co-reviewed with Yunying Le, Ph.D.)
Family Process
National Council on Family Relations (Conference Proposal Reviewer)

REFERENCES

Shardé McNeil Smith, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies & African American Studies
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 The Pennsylvania State University
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 dma18@psu.edu

Susan M. McHale, Ph.D.
 Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and Professor of Demography
 Associate Director, Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute
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