# Smith-Ruiz: Current Vita

**DOROTHY SMITH-RUIZ**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Department of Africana Studies

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# Education

Ph.D. Michigan State University, Department of Sociology, 1976

Dissertation: Mental Health Opinions and Stigma of Mental Disorder

M.A. Michigan State University, Department of Sociology, 1972

B.A. Fort Valley State College, Department of Sociology, 1970

# Academic Positions

2023-Present Full Professor, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

1996 – 2022 Associate Professor, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

1992 - 1995 Assistant Professor, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

1990 - 1992 Academic Coordinator, University of the District of Columbia,

Washington, D.C.

1977 -1990 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Howard University,

Washington, D.C.

# Administration

2018 - 2020 Graduate Coordinator, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

2015 - 2016 Interim Chair, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

2013 - 2017 Undergraduate Coordinator and Faculty Advisor for all Majors and

Minors, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

1. - 2008 Interim Chair, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte
2. - 2017 Coordinator, Undergraduate Advising, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

1997 - 1998 Interim Chair, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte1981 - 1984 Director, Honors College, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

# Publications

## Books

Smith-Ruiz, D. *Older African American Women: Systematic Racism, Health Disparities, and Caring Responsibilities.* New York, NY: Routledge, 2024.

Smith-Ruiz, D and Kopak, A. *Black Families and Recession in the United States: The Impact of the Great Recession of 2007-2009.* New York, NY: Routledge, 2021.

Smith-Ruiz, D., Sherri Lawson Clark, Marcia J. Watson. *Contemporary African American*

*Families: Achievements, Challenges, and Empowerment Strategies in the Twenty- First Century.* New York, NY: Routledge, 2017.

Smith-Ruiz, D. *Amazing Grace: Custodial African American Grandmothers as Caregivers and Conveyers of Traditional Values.* Westport, CT. Praeger, 2004.

Smith-Ruiz, D. *Handbook of Mental Health and Mental Disorder among Black*

*Americans*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1990. Smith-Ruiz. D. The

## Book Chapters

Smith-Ruiz. D. The intersectionality of race, class, and mass incarceration. In Ray Von Robertson (Ed.). *Blacks Behind Bars: African Americans, Policing, and the*

*Prison Boom.* San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Press, 2014. pp. 141-150.

Smith-Ruiz, D. The impact of mass incarceration on African American women. In Scott Wm. Bowman (Ed.). *Color Behind Bars: Racism in the U.S. Prison System.* Santa Barbara: CA: Praeger, 2014. pp. 291-305.

Smith-Ruiz, D., Zhu, C.W., and Crowther, M.R. Personal and situational characteristics of custodial African American grandmothers. In Charisse Coston (Ed.). *Victimizing Vulnerable Groups: Images of Uniquely High Risk Crime Targets*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004. pp, 36-52.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Traditional helping roles of older African American women: The concept of self-help. In I.Carlton-LaNey (Ed.). *African American Leadership: An Empowerment Tradition in Social Welfare History.* Annapolis JCT, MD: NASW Press*,* 2001. pp. 215-228.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Demographic and epidemiologic profile of ethnic elderly. In D. Padgett (Ed.). *Handbook of Ethnicity, Aging, and Mental Health*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1995. pp. 3-22.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Social profile of Black Americans. In D. Ruiz (Ed.). *Handbook of Mental Health and Mental Disorder of Black Americans*. Westport, Ct, Greenwood Publishing Group, 1990. pp. 1-15.

## Articles in Refereed Journals

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Jason, K. In Progress. The Psychological and Physical Well-Being of African American Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren: Examining the Influence of Intersectionality and Systemic Racism

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Jason, K. (2021). Addressing the needs of African American grandparents: An intersectionality perspective. The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 48(4) 406-411.

Kopak, A.M. and Smith-Ruiz, D. (2015). Criminal justice involvement, drug use, and depression among African American children of incarcerated parents. *Race and Justice*, 6(2) 89-116.

Kopak, A.M. and Smith-Ruiz, D. (2014). DSM-5 Substance use disorders and offense types among women in the criminal justice system. *Journal of Offender*

*Rehabilitation,* 53(6), 433-454, DOl: 10.1080/10509674.931748.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (2014). The consequences of parental incarceration on African American mothers, children, and grandparent caregivers. *Journal of Pan African Studies.* Special Edition. Editor. Ray Von Robertson. 7(6) 9- 24.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (2008). African American grandmothers providing extensive care to their grandchildren: Socio-demographic and health determinants of life satisfaction. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, XXXV (4) 29-52.

Smith-Ruiz, D.  **(**2008). The changing roles of African American grandmothers raising grandchildren: The results of an exploratory study in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, 32(1) 62-71.

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Zhu, C. (2006). Families maintained by African American grandmothers: Household Composition and childcare Experiences*. The Western Journal of Black Studies,* 28(3) 415-423.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (2004). Custodial African American grandmothers: Reasons for caregiving and assumption of the caregiver role. *African American Perspectives*, 10(1) 152159.

Smith-Ruiz, D., Zhu, C.W., and Crowther, M.R. (2003). *Not* on their own again: psychological, social, and health characteristics of custodial American grandmothers. *Women and Aging*, December, 15 (2/3), 167-184. Published in Jenkins, Carol (Ed.) *Widows and Divorce in Later Life: On Their Own Again*. New York, New York: The Haworth Press, Inc. 2003.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (2002). Increase in incarcerations among women and its impact on the grandmother caregiver: Some racial considerations. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare,* 29(3)179-197.

Carlton-LaNey, I., Hamilton, J**.,** Ruiz, D.S., and Alexander, S.C. (2001). Sitting with the sick: African American women’s philanthropy. *Affilia,* 16(4)447-466.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (2000). Guardian and caretaker: African American grandmothers as primary caregivers in intergenerational families. *African American Perspectives*, 6(1)1-12.

Smith-Ruiz, D. S. (2000). Intergenerational households maintained by African American grandmothers: New roles and challenges for the 21st century. *African American*

*Perspectives*, (2)57-68.

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Carlton La-Ney, I. (1999). The increase in intergenerational African American families headed by grandmothers. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, (4)71-86.

Shenk, D., Croom, B., and Ruiz, D.S. (1998). The voices of wise older women: African American women after Jim Crow. In R.J.F. Elsner (ed.) *Voices of Experience:*

*Listening to the Elders.* Symposia from the Ninth Annual Student Convention in Gerontology and Geriatrics. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Gerontology Center.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1995). Chronic disease epidemiology among elderly Black Americans. *Western Journal of Black Studies*, 19(1)37-47.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1994). Health promotion and disease prevention among African American elderly. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 86(4), 303-315.

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Cumming, R. (1993). Cultural ideology and the Moynihan Report. *Western Journal of Black Studies*, 17(2)65-72.

Smith-Ruiz, D.S. Cumming, R.G. and Ruiz, D.S**.** (1992). Revisiting the tangle of pathology. *Psychiatrists of America Newsletter*, August 5, 1992.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1985). Relationship between depression, social support and physical illness among elderly blacks. Research notes. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 77(12)1017-1019.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1985). Depressive symptomatology in a non-clinical sample of elderly

Blacks: the effects of marital status. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 77(11)879-994.

Smith-Ruiz, D.and Herbert, T. (1984). The economics of health care of elderly blacks. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 76(9)849-853.

Griffith, E.H., Young, J.L., and Smith (Ruiz), D. (1984). An analysis of the therapeutic elements in a Black church service. *Hospital and Community Psychiatry,* 35*(*5)464-469*.*

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1982). Epidemiology of Schizophrenia: Some diagnostic and cultural considerations. *Phylon*, March, 315-326.

Smith-Ruiz, D. (1982). Social meanings versus the psychiatric concept of mental illness*. Journal of the National Medical Association,* 74(9)917-920.

Olmsted, D.W. and Smith (Ruiz), D. (1980). The socialization of youth into the mental health belief system. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, June (22)181-194.

Howard, C. and Smith (Ruiz), D. (1980). Social support networks for Adolescents. Published proceedings of the Regional Conference of Social Workers, Howard University, Washington, DC.

## Articles in Progress

Manuscript: *Resilience and Health: How caregiving influences African American*

*Grandmothers’ outlook on life and health*. Data collected and analysis completed. Literature review in progress.

## Book Manuscript under Contract

*African American Women: Systematic Racism, Health Disparities, and Caring Responsibilities.* Routledge, 2024.

# Invited Lectures

Guest Speaker, “Author Meets Legacy: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Joyce Ladner’s “Tomorrow’s Tomorrow.” The Annual Conference of the Association of Black Sociologists: *Black Capital.* August 4-6, 2021.

Guest Speaker, “Grandparent Caregiving and its Impact on the Black Family.” University of Rochester, Crozier School of Divinity, April, 2015, Rochester, NY.

Guest Speaker, “The impact of mass incarceration on families, children, and grandparents” - A Conference on *Challenging Punishment: Race, the People’s Health and the War on Drugs*. Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, October 4-5, 2013.

Guest Speaker: “Climbing Jacobs Ladder: The Enduring Legacy of

African American Families: Using Billingsley’s Scholarship in the Classroom.” A life of the Mind: Honoring the Leadership, Scholarship, and Service of Andrew Billingsley, The University of South Carolina, April 8-9, 2010.

Guest Speaker: “African American Families in the 21st Century: Transformation in Family Structure and new Roles for Grandmothers.” Womanist Scholars Program, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA. January 28, 2010.

Guest Speaker: “I am a Sparrow in a Tree: Custodial African American Grandmothers Providing the Foundation for Family Strength and Endurance in the Twenty-first Century.” Twenty-ninth Banks-Pierro-Rutland-Bellamy Social Sciences Colloquium. Fort Valley State University, April 3, 2009.

Guest Speaker. “African American Families in the 21st Century.” Chapel Hill Baptist Church. February 2002

Guest Speaker. “Building Strong Families: The Old and the Wise Must set the

Standards.” Bellefonte Presbyterian Church. Harrisburg, NC. December 2001.

# Conference Presentations

Smith-Ruiz, D and Jason, K. “Resilience and Health: How Caregiving Influence African American Grandmothers’ Outlook on Life and Health Status.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference. April 20-23, 2021.

Smith-Ruiz, D. and Jason, K. “Race, Health, and Knowledge: Addressing Custodial African American Grand-Parenting Needs.” *Diversity and Caring: Issues and Considerations*. Southern Gerontological Society Annual Meeting. Webinar, August 5, 2020.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Workshop Session Leader. “Combating Racial Injustice: Eliminating Racial

Inequality within the Criminal Justice System.” Race and Social Policy Research Center Annual Workshop. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. November 9, 2019.

Jason, K, and Smith-Ruiz, D. “Filling the gap: Addressing custodial grandparenting needs in African American families. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, April 10-14, 2019.

Smith-Ruiz, D. 80th Annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Theme: “Diversity: Inclusion, Equality, and Resistance.” March 29- April 1, 2017. Hyatt Regency, Greenville, S.C. 2017.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Theme: Politics of Marriage: From Intimacy to Public Policy. 79th Annual Meeting, Buckhead, Atlanta, Ga. April 13-16, 2016.

Smith-Ruiz, D. The Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists Annual Meeting (ASBS).

Theme: ASBS 1935 – 2015: Eighty Years of Responding to the Call. Embassy

Suites, Fayetteville, NC, March 19-21, 2015.

Kopak, Albert and Smith-Ruiz, D. “Substance use disorders: Key factors in women offending” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, February 19-22, 2014.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The impact of parental incarceration on school age children.” International Conference on Urban Education. Montego Bay, Jamaica, November 2014.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “How incarceration is affecting mothers and children.” Association of Black Sociologist Annual Conference. Charlotte, NC, September, 2014.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The impact of mass incarceration on families, children, and grandparents”— A Conference on *Challenging Punishment: Race, the People’s Health and the War on Drugs*. Guest Speaker: Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, October 4-5, 2013.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Organizer: “Contemporary African American Families.” Annual Conference in Africana Studies. Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte, 2013.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Cultural Context: The missing piece of HIV prevention in the African American community.” The 24th National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS. Miami, May 24-27, 2012.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “African American grandmothers caring for special needs grandchildren.” NC Conference on Aging. Charlotte, NC. October 18-19, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health disparities among older African American women: A project.” NC Conference on Aging. Charlotte, NC. October 18-19, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Invited participant: 2011 Summer Workshop on African American Aging. Michigan Center for Urban and African American Aging Research. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. June 6-8, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Moderator: The Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Inc. 76th Annual Conference. Embracing the Challenges of the 21st Century: Sustaining Black Social, Educational, Political, and Economic Institutions. Jackson, MS. March 912, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Mental health disparities among older African women: Best practices for optimum mental health.” The Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Inc.

76th Annual Conference. Embracing the Challenges of the 21st Century:

Sustaining Black Social, Educational, Political, and Economic Institutions.

Jackson, MS. March 9-12, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Session Chair: American Sociological Association. Association of Black Sociologists 40th Annual Meeting. “Re-Positioning Race through Prophetic Research, Teaching, and Service.” Atlanta, August 11-17, 2010.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Co–Organizer: “Families in Society.” Annual Conference, Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists, Charlotte, NC, March, 2010.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Transformation in Family Structure and new Roles for African American Grandmothers.” Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC, March, 2010.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Organizer and Moderator**:** “African American Males and the Prison Industrial

Complex.” Lecture by Dr. Earl Smith, Arnold A. Sio Visiting Professor of

Diversity and Community in Sociology and Anthropology, Colgate University; in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Africana Studies Department, February

11, 2009.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Factors Influencing Life Satisfaction among African American Grandmothers.” Challenges and Hierarchies: Nation, Race, Class, Sexuality and Gender: The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Black Sociologists, July 29 – August 4, 2008.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Invited Participant and Panel Discussant: 4th Biennial Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora. “Interrogations of Freedom: Memories, Earnings, Migration.” October 9-12, 2007, Barbados.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Discussantand Local Volunteer: 92nd Annual Conference of the

Association of African American life and History. “Africans in the Americas.” October 3 – 7, 2007, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Invited Participant and Discussant: “Research on African Americans.” Michigan

Consortium for Urban African American Aging Research. Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology, summer 2007, Detroit, Michigan, Summer

2007.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “DuBois, Century 21 and the Continuing Problem of the Colorline:

Assessing How Katrina, New Orleans, and the Lower 9th Ward are Metaphors for what it means to be Black in America.” The Association of Social and Behavior Scientists, 71st Annual Conference, March 8-10, 2006, Jackson, MS.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Reasons for Caregiving and the Physical and Psychological Impact of the Caregiver Role on African American Grandmothers.” Paper presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association, October 2005, Atlanta, GA.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Social and health indicators of depression among African American grandmothers raising grandchildren.” Paper presented at the Sixty-Seventh Annual Conference, The Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Inc. Looking to the Future of the United States: Social, Political, Economic, and Moral Priorities, March 20-23, 2002.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “An analysis of factors affecting achievement levels of students attending

America’s schools”. Organizer and Presider at the Sixty-Seventh Annual

Conference, Smith-Ruiz, D. The Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Inc. Looking to the Future of the united States: Social, Political, Economic, and Moral Priorities, March 20-23, 2002.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Role-Stress Relationships among African American Grandmothers who are Primary Caregivers in Intergenerational Families,” Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black

Colleges and Universities, Winston-Salem, NC, February 2000.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “African American Grandmothers’ Role as Custodial Caregivers.” Cultural Competence: Making it Happen. State Conference, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, NC, April 2000.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention among African American Elderly,” Annual Conference, Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists, Cleveland, Ohio, March 1993.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Mental Health and Mental Disorder among African Americans,” Annual Conference, Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists, Cleveland, Ohio, March 1993.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Ideology and the Black Family: The Moynihan Report,” Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Psychiatrists, November 1992.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Elderly Black Women,” Annual Meeting of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Washington, DC, July 1991.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The Influence of Social and Structural Factors on Clinical Practice,” Annual Symposium of Clinicians, Liberty Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland, September 1991.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Factors Affecting Development in Liberia,” Conference on the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Program, Monrovia, Liberia, 1985.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Death and Dying,” Annual Meeting, Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1984,

Smith-Ruiz, D. **“**Problems and Issues of Honors Programs,” National Honors Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1983.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The Meaning of Honors Programs,” National Honors Conference, Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, 1982.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The Utilization of Mental Health Services by Adolescents,” Annual Proceedings of the Social Work Conference, Mental Health Institute, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1978.

# Extra-Mural Lectures and Community Presentations

**Mentor: Research and Mentoring Program: Association of Black Sociologists**

2023 Mentoring Responsibilities: Two Students: Lauren Taylor and Sade Williams.

**Description of the Program:**

**Mentor, Association of Black Sociologist:**

**The Research and Mentorship Program (RAMP) provides structured mentorship and project funding for African American/Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Islander medical students. The HVTN, in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, is investing in the next generation of HIV prevention researchers with opportunities for independent research along with structured mentoring, project and salary funding, training, and professional development activities.**

**Each year, the HVTN accepts up to 9 RAMP scholars who meet the following criteria:**

* **Self-identify as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Islander**
* **Student attending an accredited US medical school conferring MD and DO degrees**
* **In good academic standing**
* **US citizen or US permanent resident**
* **Interested in pursuing a future career in HIV research**

Smith-Ruiz, D. Invited participant: 2011 Summer Workshop on African American Aging. Michigan Center for Urban and African American Aging Research. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. June 6-8, 2011.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Organizer and Moderator**:** “African American Males and the Prison Industrial

Complex.” Lecture by Dr. Earl Smith, Arnold A. Sio Visiting Professor of

Diversity and Community in Sociology and Anthropology, Colgate University; in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Africana Studies Department, February

11, 2009.

Smith-Ruiz, D. Invited Participant and Discussant: “Research on African Americans.” Michigan

Consortium for Urban African American Aging Research. Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology, summer 2007, Detroit, Michigan, Summer

2007.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “I am a Sparrow in a Tree” – What it Means to be a Custodial Grandparent Caregiver in the 21st Century.” Charlotte Military Entrance Processing Station, In Celebration of Black History Month, February 2006, Charlotte, NC.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “African American Grandmothers’ Role as Custodial Caregivers.” Cultural Competence: Making it Happen. State Conference, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, NC, April 2000.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “African American Grandmothers: Raising a Second Generation,” Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Seminar presentation, Duke University, Durham, NC, April 2000.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Custodial African American Grandmother Caregivers,” Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Seminar presentation, Duke

University, Durham, NC, July 1999.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “African American Grandparents as Primary Caregivers: New Roles in the 21st Century,” Sociology Department Faculty and Students, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, September 1999.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Discipline and Spirituality: Custodial Grandparenting in African American Communities,” Regional Meeting, Today’s Woman, Durham, NC, and October 1998.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Cultural Aspects of Poverty, Bridging the Gaps in Race Relations,” Sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, Charlotte, NC, 1997.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health and Socio-economic Status of Older African Americans,” Council on

Aging, Charlotte, NC, 1996.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health and Social Status of Older African-American Women,” Adult Education Program, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, 1995.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Ideology and the Black Family: The Moynihan Report,” A Presentation at the Association of Black Psychiatrists, November 1992.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Elderly Black Women,” A Lecture at the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Washington, DC, July

1991.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The Influence of Social and Structural Factors on Clinical Practice,” Annual

Symposium of Clinicians, Liberty Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland, September 1991.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “How to Prepare a Research Report,” University Without Walls, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1990.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Methods and Techniques in Health Services Research,” Research Symposium, University Without Walls, Howard University, Washington, DC, May 1990.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Epidemiologic and Diagnostic Problems in Mental Health Research,” Department of Psychiatry, Howard University, Washington, DC, September 1990.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Diagnostic Problems in Mental Health Research,” Monthly Seminar,

Department of Psychiatry, Howard University, Washington, DC, September 1990.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Self Esteem and Academic Performance,” Black History Month, Cardozo High School, Washington, DC, February 1989.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Research Methods and Techniques: How to Write a Research Report,” University Without Walls, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1988.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Problems Affecting Educational and Occupational Progress among Black

Women,” Black History Month, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1987.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Self and Social Awareness,” Black History Month, Cardozo High School, Washington, DC, February 1987.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Factors Affecting Development in Liberia,” Conference on the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Program, Monrovia, Liberia, 1985.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Economic and Social Progress in Sierra Leone,” Fulbright Program, International Exchange of Scholars, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1985.

Smith-Ruiz, D. **“**Problems and Issues of Honors Programs,” National Honors Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1983.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Epidemiology of Mental Disorder,” Research Seminar, Yale University School of Nursing, New Haven, CT 1981.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Labeling and Psychiatric Treatment,” Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, New Haven, CT, 1981.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Alcoholism among the Elderly: A Psychological and Socio-demographic Profile, “Connecticut Mental Health Centers, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 1980.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Sex Differences in Depression: The Effects of Martial Status and Education,” Yale University School of Nursing, New Haven, Ct, 1980.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “Black Church Ritual: A Therapeutic Coping Mechanism in the Black Community,” Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, New Haven, CT, 1980.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “An Analysis of the Minority Counseling Program at Michigan State University,” Minority Counseling Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 1977.

Smith-Ruiz, D. “The Effectiveness of Supportive Services for Minority Students,” Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 1977.

# Fellowships and Grants

UNC Charlotte College Research Grant: $3000, 2023.

Workshop Fellowship. Duke University Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC. $500. 2023

UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant, $3,400, 2020-2021.

Fellow, Visiting Scholar in Residence, Interdenominational Theological Center, Womanist Scholar, Atlanta, Georgia, Grant $37,500, 2009-10.

Recipient, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant**,** $1,000, 2007-08

Recipient, Southern Regional Educational Board Grant, $750, 2006-2007

Recipient, Grant and Seminar Fellow, Michigan Consortium for Urban African American Aging Research. A workshop funded by the University of Michigan, $2,500, 2006-07

Research Fellow, Duke University School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, Physiology in Aging, $43, 000, 2000-2001, Durham, NC.

Research Fellow, Duke University School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, Physiology in Aging, $43,000, 1999-2000, Durham, NC.

Research Fellow**,** Duke University School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, Physiology in Aging, $43,000, 1998-1999, Durham, NC.

Southern Regional Educational Board Grant, $750, 1997-98

Southern Regional Educational Board, $750, l996-97

UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant, $3,500, 1995-96

UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant, $3,500, l994-95

UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant**,** $3,500, 1993-94

Fellow, Fulbright-Hayes Scholar, International Scholars Program (Sierra Leone, Senegal, Liberia), 1985.

Fellow, Yale University School of Medicine, Psychiatric Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, $37,000, 1979-1980.

Fellow, Yale University School of Medicine, Psychiatric Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, $37,000, 1980-1981.

## Grants Submitted

Small Grants, $3000 (internal). College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Request for Research Funds. Interdisciplinary. 2022

Franklin Grants $6000 (external). American Philosophical Society. 2022. Pending.

Southern Gerontological Society Endowment Fund Award $3000 (external). 2022. Pending.

**Grants in Progress**

NIH R-22. Submission date: February 2023.

# Courses Developed and Taught

## Undergraduate

Global Connections: The African Diaspora Race, Health, and the African Diaspora Black Families in the U.S.

Introduction to Sociology

Introduction to African American and African Studies

Methods of Social Research

Social Stratification

Social Problems

Sociology of Mental Health

Intergroup Relations

Sociological Theory

Values in Racial Perspectives

Minority Groups

## Graduate Level Courses

Race, Health, and the African Diaspora

Sociology of Mental Health

Intergroup Relations

Health, Ethnicity and Aging

Health and Social Behavior

# Mentoring, M.A. Theses and Ph.D. Dissertations

Member: M.A. Thesis Committee, Department of Psychological Sciences and Health Psychology, UNC Charlotte. 2019 – 2020.

Member, undergraduate thesis committee, Department of Psychology, UNC Charlotte, 20192020.

Committee Member, Mentor and Adviser, M.A. thesis, Sociology Department, UNC Charlotte, 2014-2016.

Committee member, Ph. D. Dissertation in Education, 2011-2015.

Member, Ph.D. Dissertation Committee, School of Education, UNC Charlotte, 2005-2009.

Mentor and advisor, Ph.D. candidate, Northwestern University, 2007-09.

Committee Member: Ph.D. Dissertation, School of Social Work, Howard University, 1983.

Committee Member: Ph.D. Dissertation, School of Education, Howard University, 1983.

Committee Member: M.A. Thesis, School of Social Work, Howard University, 1982

# Service

## Department

Member, Africana Studies Department Annual Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2022.

Member, Africana Studies Department Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2021.

Coordinator, Africana Studies Department Brown Bag Lecture Series, UNC Charlotte, 2021 – present.

Member, Africana Studies Department Annual Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2018 – 2019.

Advisor, Africana Studies Department, UNC Charlotte, 1997- 2019.

Alternate, Africana Studies Department Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2019-2020.

Member, Africana Studies Department Undergraduate Open House Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2019- present.

Member, Africana Studies Department Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2018 – 2019.

Member, Africana Studies Department, Faculty Team Leader: Steering Committee for the LBST University and Inclusion Academy, UNC Charlotte, 2017 – 18.

Member, Africana Studies Department Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2016 – 2017.

Member, Africana Studies Department Annual Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2016 – 2017.

Coordinator, UNC Charlotte Explore, Department of Africana Studies, 2008-2016.

Chair, Post Tenure Review Committee, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte, 2015 – 2016.

Member, Africana Studies Department Annual Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2012-2014.

Member, Africana Studies Department Recruitment Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2013.

Member, Africana Studies Department Chair Evaluation Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2013.

Organizer, *Black Family Conference*, Department of Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte, 20122013.

Chair, Africana Studies Department Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2011- 2012.

Chair, Africana Studies Department Faculty Evaluation and Merit Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2006 – 2012.

Coordinator, Africana Studies Lecture Series, UNC Charlotte, 2010 – 2011.

Chair, Africana Studies Committee for Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, UNC Charlotte, 2010 – 2013.

Coordinator, Africana Studies Open House, UNC Charlotte, 2010 – 2015.

Chair, Africana Studies Department Faculty Recruitment Committee, UNC Charlotte, 20102011.

Chair, Africana Studies Department Annual Merit Evaluation of Faculty, UNC Charlotte, 2010.

Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Exploratory team for the Concentration in Health and Environment within the Africana Studies Major, UNC Charlotte, 2010-2011.

Member, Africana Studies Department Post-Tenure Review Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2009

Facilitator, Africana Studies Faculty Peer Evaluation, UNC Charlotte, Spring 2009

Member, Africana Studies Department Chair Search Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2008-09

Co-Chair, 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Africana Studies Department, UNC Charlotte, 2008-09

Chair, Africana Studies Department Reappointment Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2008.

Chair, Africana Studies Department Chair Search Committee, UNC Charlott**e,** 2006-07.

Editor, Africana Studies Newsletter, UNC Charlotte, 2003–06.

Chair, African and African American Studies Public Relations Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2003-04.

Chair, African American and African Studies Search Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2001-02.

Chair, African American and African Studies Faculty Recruitment Committee, UNC Charlotte, 1996-97.

Chair, African American and African Studies Scholarships Committee, UNC Charlotte, 1995-96.

Chair, African American and African Studies Committee to revise the Handbook for African American and African Studies, UNC Charlotte, 1994-95.

Chair, Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of Sociology, Howard University, 1985-87.

Chair, Committee to revise the Undergraduate Handbook, Sociology Department, Howard University, 1985-86.

Member, Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of Sociology, Howard University, 1984.

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, Howard University, 1980.

## College

College Review Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UNC Charlotte, 2019 – 2021.

Faculty Council, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UNC Charlotte, 2018- 2020.

College Review Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UNC Charlotte, NC. 20112013.

Liaison for the Department of Africana Studies to the College Diversity Strategic Planning Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2016 – 2017.

Chair, Student Grievance Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Special Assignment (Student 1), UNC Charlotte, 2007-08.

Chair, Student Grievance Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Special Assignment (Student 2), UNC Charlotte, 2007-08.

## University

Member, Grievance Committee, 2021 – present.

Member, Hearing Committee, 2017- 2021.

Member, Hearing Committee Review Panel, Summer 2019.

Chair, Chancellor’s Diversity Committee, Office of the Chancellor, UNC Charlotte, 2007- 2010.

Alternate, University Course and Curriculum Committee, 2009.

Editor and Distributor, African American and African Faculty and Staff Caucus Directory, 20062007.

Secretary, African American and African Faculty and Staff Caucus, 2006-2007.

Representative, University Faculty Council, 2003-2006.

## Profession

Editorial Board: The Western Journal of Black Studies, 2013 – present.

Manuscript Reviewer. May, 2022. MS #4611. "Keep Moving Forward”: A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding Resilience of Custodial Grandparents." *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare.*

Manuscript Reviewer. May, 2021. MS# 1103. “Effects of Parental Incarceration: A

Grandparents Perspective.” *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Policy & Practice*. Department of Family and Consumer Services, Western Michigan University.

Manuscript Reviewer. September 2021. WMFR-2021-0080. “Affectionate communication as mediators between personality similarities and emotional closeness in the grandparentgrandchild relationship.” *Marriage and Family Review.*

Book Proposal Reviewer September 2021. Dying in the prime of life: What is killing young black women in the U.S*.*? Routledge, Oxfordshire, OX14 4RN UK.

Manuscript Reviewer: October 2021. MS# 1114. "GROW National Study of Grandfamilies during COVID-19: Wave I and Wave II Results and Recommendations" in *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy.*

Manuscript Reviewer. October 2021. MS#4537. “Intersections of Institutional Racism, Racial Macroaggressions, and Minority Stress in the Lived Experiences of Black People.” *The Journal of SocioManlogy and Social Welfare.*

Manuscript Reviewer. October, 2020. MS# 1103. “Effects of Parental Incarceration: A

Grandparents Perspective.” *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Policy & Practice*. Department of Family and Consumer Services, Western Michigan University.

Manuscript Reviewer. July 9, 2019. #190118: “Citizens Perceptions of Police Practice: An Exploration of Causes.” *Western Journal of Black Studies.* School of Education, Washington State University. Pullman, WA.

Manuscript Reviewer. July 10, 2019. ID CFSW–05–19–0108. “Reality Therapy and Parental Incarceration.” *Child and Family Social Work.*

Chair and Member, Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition, Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists, 2010 -2012.

Member, Membership Committee, Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2010 – 2012.

Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Annual Conference of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2009-2010.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Social Problems*, Spring 2010.

Member and Evaluator of Student Papers, Section on Race and Ethnicity Committee to recognize career Excellence in Scholarship Award, American Sociological Association 2009 – 2010.

Grant proposal reviewer, National Institute of Mental Health, 2001-2006.

## Community

**NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness).** Workshop Participant. “Racism, Stigma, and the Impact on Health” (July 17, 2020). Member and involved in the local/national chapter of National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), 2018 to the present. My participation is varied, including fundraising efforts and workshop/seminar participation. NAMI is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization, dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. For the past three years, I have been Involved with theInlivian (previously known as Charlotte Housing Authority) grandparenting population. For two years during COVID-19, I worked with 20 custodial grandmothers via telephone inquiring about their health, economic, and social needs as grandparent caregivers. Just knowing that someone cared was consoling for most of them even if I had little authority to change their situation. However, where possible, I was able to refer them to resources in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. I plan to follow up with this group in 2023. For several years, I was invited to participate in the monthly grandparents support groups at the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. My roles were varied, including a non-participant observer, contributing to group discussions, leading group meetings, listening to their concerns, providing input and advice, and/or sharing research findings on the experiences of custodial grandparents in other parts of the state and nation. My role in the NAACP has been one of membership, program support, and fundraising. The aim of the NAACP is to disrupt inequality, dismantle racism, and accelerate change in key areas including criminal justice, health care, education, climate, and the economy.

# Recognition and Awards

The Impact Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring, Cultural Heritage Alliance Initiating the Need Reaction, UNC Charlotte, February 2009.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Scholarship. Distinguished Alumna in Academia: Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Georgia, 2009.

The Impact Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring, Cultural Heritage Alliance Initiating the Need Reaction, February 2009.

Nominee, Bank of America Teaching Award, 2006-07.

Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, Center of Excellence, UNC Charlotte, 2006-07.

Outstanding Teacher Award, Center for Excellence, UNC Charlotte, 2004-05.

Outstanding Teacher Award, Center for Excellence, UNC Charlotte, 2003-04.

# Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association

Association of Black Sociologists

Eastern Sociological Association

Association of Behavioral and Social Scientists

Southern Sociological Society

Southern Gerontological Society

National Alliance of Mental Illness