

ASSATA ZERAI, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Sociology, Associate Provost for Faculty Excellence
University of Illinois

EDUCATION

University of Chicago , Ph.D. in Sociology	1993
University of Chicago , M.A. in Sociology	1988
Anderson University , B.A. in Sociology	1986

EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Associate Provost for Faculty Excellence	2018-present
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Associate Chancellor for Diversity	2016-2018
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Professor of Sociology	2016-present
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Affiliate, Women and Gender Studies	2017-present
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Affiliate, Education, Policy, Organization, and Leadership	2017-present
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Director, Center for African Studies	2015-16
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Associate Dean, Graduate College	2014-2016
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Associate Professor of Sociology	2002-2016
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Director of Graduate Studies for Department of Sociology	2007-2012
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	

Core Faculty, Center for African Studies	2009-present
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Associate Professor, African American Studies and Research	2002-2006
National Development and Research Institutes, New York, NY Research Fellow	2003-2005
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY Associate Professor, Department of Sociology	2002
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology	1994-2002
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research	1994-2002

RELATED EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC Postdoctoral Trainee, Carolina Population Center	1993-1994
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria Visiting Scholar and Lecturer of Demography and Social Statistics	1993-1994
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL Predoctoral Trainee, Population Research Center	1990-1993
Children's Home and Aid Society, Chicago, IL Research Associate	1989-1990
NORC, A Social Science Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL Research Assistant	1988

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

RESEARCH AREAS

Africana Feminist Methods; Black Feminist Thought; Race, Class and Gender analyses; Gender Equity and Development Effectiveness; Multilevel analyses of Maternal and Child Health; National and Cross-Cultural Health Inequality; Adaptations of Safe Water and Sanitation Technologies; Sociology of Religion; Multiculturalism and Christianity; Health Activism

TEACHING AREAS

Africana Feminisms; Africana Feminist Methods; Black Feminist Thought; Race, Class and Gender Intersectionality; Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods; Health Inequality; Maternal and Child Health

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Zerai, Assata (2018) *African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Politics: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance*. New York, NY: Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/African-Women-ICT-and-Neoliberal-Politics-The-Challenge-of-Gendered-Digital/Zerai/p/book/9781138559363>

Zerai, Assata and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018) *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An African Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington Books.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498520836/Safe-Water-Sanitation-and-Early-Childhood-Malnutrition-in-East-Africa-An-African-Feminist-Analysis-of-the-Lives-of-Women-in-Kenya-Tanzania-and-Uganda>

Zerai, Assata (2016) *Intersectionality in Intentional Communities: The Struggle for Inclusivity in Multicultural U.S. Protestant Congregations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington Books.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498526425/Intersectionality-in-Intentional-Communities-The-Struggle-for-Inclusivity-in-Multicultural-U.S.-Protestant-Congregations>

Zerai, Assata (2014) *Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe: An African Feminist Analysis of Maternal and Child Health*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
<http://africanworldpressbooks.com/hypermasculinity-state-violence-and-family-well-being-in-zimbabwe-an-african-feminist-analysis-of-maternal-and-child-health-by-assata-zerai/>

Zerai, Assata and Rae Banks (2002) *Dehumanizing Discourse, Law and Policy in America: A Crack Mother's Nightmare*. London: Ashgate Publishing Limited. Interdisciplinary Research Series in Ethnic, Gender and Class Relations.

ARTICLES:

Zerai, Assata (2017) "Millennium Development Goals Shortfalls in Zimbabwe: Access to Water and Sanitation, and Early Childhood Morbidity". *Development Southern Africa*. 34(6):802-824.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0376835X.2017.1310031>

Loren Henderson, Assata Zerai and Rebecca Morrow (2017) "Intimate Partner Violence and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Status among Ever-Married and Cohabiting Zimbabwean Women: An Examination of Partners' Traits". *African Journal of Reproductive Health*. 21(4): 45-54. DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2017/v21i4.5

Zerai, Assata, Joanna Perez, and Chenyi Wang (2016) "A Proposal for Expanding Endarkened Transnational Feminist Praxis: Creating a Database of Women's Scholarship and Activism to Promote Health in Zimbabwe" *Qualitative Inquiry*. 23(2): 107-118. doi: 10.1177/1077800416660577

Brown, Nicole, Ruby Mendenhall, Michael Black, Mark Van Moer, Ismini Lourentzou, Assata Zerai, and Karen Flynn (2016) "Mechanized Margins to Digitized Center: Black Feminism's Contributions to Combatting Erasure within the Digital Humanities" *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing*.10(1): 110-125. <https://doi.org/10.3366/ijhac.2016.0163>

Mendenhall, R. Brown, N.M., R. Black, M.L. Van Moer, M., Lourentzou, I., Flynn, K, McKee, M., Zerai, A. (2016) "Rescuing Lost History: Using Big Data to Recover Black Women's Lived Experiences". Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) Proceedings of the XSEDE 16 Conference on Diversity, Big Data and Science at Scale Article No. 56.

Zerai, Assata (2011) "An Assessment of Afro-Centricism, Color-Blind Ideology, and Intersectionality: Three Models of Internal Christian Congregational Cohesion" *Race, Gender and Class*. 18(1-2):254-272.

Zerai, Assata (2010) "A black feminist critique of American religious anti-war (dis)engagements" *Works and Days*. 57/58. 29 (1 & 2): 241-263.

Zerai, Assata (2010) "To be Politically Relevant and Tolerant: A Comparative Analysis of Christian Evangelical Internal Discussions of the 2008 Presidential Election" *Race, Gender and Class*. 17(3 & 4):336-384.

Lee, Heather and Assata Zerai (2010) "Everyone Deserves Services No Matter What": Defining Success in Harm Reduction Based Substance Abuse Treatment" *Substance Use & Misuse*. 45:2411-2427.

Zerai, Assata (2008) "Black Feminism" in Richard Schaefer, General Editor, *Encyclopedia Race, Ethnicity & Society*. Sage Press.

Kalipeni, Ezekiel, Joseph Oppong; and Assata Zerai (2007), "HIV/AIDS, gender, agency and empowerment issues in Africa" *Social Science & Medicine*. Volume 64, Issue 5, March 2007, 1015-1018.

Zerai, Assata and Zakia Salime (2006) "A Black Feminist Analysis of Responses to War, Racism, and Repression" *Critical Sociology*. 32 (2-3) 503-526.

Zerai, Assata and Horace Campbell (2005) "The Black Radical Congress and Black Feminist Organizing" *Socialism and Democracy*. 19 (2): 147-156.

Zerai, Assata and Rae Banks (2002) "African-American Mothers and Substance Abuse: Punishment over Treatment?" *Journal of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States* 30(3) 26-29.

Zerai, Assata (2002) "Models for Unity between Scholarship and Grassroots Activism." *Critical Sociology* 28(1/2): 201-216.

Zerai, Assata and Amy Ong Tsui (2001) "The Relationship between Prenatal Care Use and Subsequent Modern Contraceptive Use in Bolivia, Botswana, Egypt and Thailand". *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, pp. 5(2): 68-83

Zerai, Assata (2000) "Agents of Knowledge and Action: Selected Africana Scholars and their Contributions to the Understanding of Race, Class and Gender Intersectionality" *Cultural Dynamics* 12(2): 182-222.

Zerai, Assata and Rae Banks (1999) "Maternal Cocaine Use and Infant Survival: Interrogating the Intersection of Race, Class and Gender" *Race, Gender and Class: An Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Journal* 6(2): 99-129.

Zerai, Assata (1997) "Preventive Health Strategies and Infant Survival in Zimbabwe" (reprinted) *Africa Development* 22(2):101-129.

Zerai, Assata (1996) "Preventive Health Strategies and Child Survival in Zimbabwe" *African Population Studies* 11:29-62.

Odimegwu, Clifford O. and Assata Zerai (1996) "Understanding the Proximate Determinants of Fertility of a Nigerian Ethnic Group" *Genus* 52 (3-4) 67-87.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Zerai, Assata and Brenda N. Sanya (2018). "Introduction" in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, (editors) *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Zerai, Assata Chapter 1: "The Lives of Women and Children in East Africa" in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018). *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Bailey, Shorma Bianca and Assata Zerai (2018). Chapter 2: "Structural and Economic Analysis of Declines in Water and Sanitation in East Africa" in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018). *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Zerai, Assata and Rebecca Morrow (2018). Chapter 5: "Gender as Social Structure and Its Potential Impact on Safe Water and Sanitation Technologies in East Africa: An African

Feminist Analysis” in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018) *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Zerai, Assata, Rebecca Morrow, and Courtney Cuthbertson (2018). Chapter 6: “Environmental Contamination and Early Childhood Morbidity in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda” in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018) *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Zerai, Assata and Joanna Perez (2018). Conclusion: “Paying Serious Attention to Women’s Scholarship to Influence Policy in East Africa” in Assata Zerai and Brenda N. Sanya, editors (2018) *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*.

Zerai, Assata (2000). “‘Making a Way Outta No Way’: Grandparenting Cocaine Exposed Grandchildren” in Madonna Harrington Meyer (editor) *Care Work: Gender, Labor and Welfare States*, chapter 17, pp. 270-292. New York: Routledge.

Banks, Rae and Assata Zerai (1997). “Maternal Drug Abuse and Infant Health: A Proposal for a Multilevel Model” *African Americans and the Public Agenda: The Paradoxes of Public Policy* edited by Cedric Herring, 53-67. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE:

HIV/AIDS in Africa: Gender, Agency and Empowerment, edited by Ezekiel Kalipeni, Joseph Oppong and Assata Zerai; Special Issue of *Social Science and Medicine*, Volume 64, Issue 5, March 2007.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Zerai, Assata 2019. Review of *The Grind: Black Women and Survival in the Inner City* (2018) by Alexis S. McCurn (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2018, 189 pp.). *Gender & Society*. Forthcoming.

Zerai, Assata 2003. Review of *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities* by Isidore Okpewho, Carole Boyce Davies, and Ali A. Mazrui (eds), (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001 xxviii +566pp). *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Volume 26 (2).

Zerai, Assata 2000. Review of *On Our Own Terms: Race, Class, and Gender in the Lives of African American Women* by Leith Mullings, and *Ensuring Inequality: The Structural Transformation of the African American Family* by Donna L. Franklin. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 26(1): 274-276.

Zerai, Assata 1996. Review of *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* written by James W. Loewen (New York, NY: The New Press. 1995 372 pp) *Humanity & Society* Volume 20 (3): 135-137.

BLOG:

Zerai, Assata. 2019. *African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Governance: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance*. Book overview for Democracy in Africa. www.democracyinafrica.org Submitted February 2019.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRY:

Zerai, Assata 2008. "Black Feminism" in Richard Schaefer, General Editor, *Encyclopedia Race, Ethnicity & Society*. Sage Press.

UNDER REVIEW:

Zerai, Assata. "Project 500", the Special Educational Opportunities Program (SEOP) at the University of Illinois. Wikipedia.

Zerai, Assata. "In the Traditions of Professor Victor C. Uchendu and Professor Ifi Amadiume: Adoption of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the mention of gender in constitutional nondiscrimination clauses in select African countries: law versus practice". Special issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of Professor Victor Uchendu's *The Igbo of Southwestern Nigeria*. *West Africa Review*.

IN PREPRATION:

Zerai, Assata (in preparation) *Centering the Scholarship of African Women*.

HONORS, RECOGNITIONS AND OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Zenobia Lawrence Hikes Faculty Women of Color in the Academy, National Award for Outstanding Administrative/Professional Faculty of the Year, March 2018

Center for Advance Study, Research Associate 2018-19; African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Politics: From Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance

Big-Ten Academic Alliance (formerly Committee on Institutional Cooperation),
Academic Leadership Program Fellowship 2017-18

Ebony Excellence Awards 2016 Outstanding Contributions to the Field Award, Bruce Nesbitt
African American Cultural Center, University of Illinois; April 2016

International Women's Day Award, U of I Women's Resources Center and Office of
Inclusion and Intercultural Relations for work on behalf of women internationally;
March 2016

Larine Y. Cowan Leadership in Diversity Award, University of Illinois; November 2015

List of Instructors Rated as Excellent by their Students, Recognition from the
University of Illinois; 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Training in Digital Humanities Fellowship,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2018 -- 20

Center for Advanced Study Research Associate Fellowship, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign, 2018 -- 19

Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society Fellowship (University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign), 2003 -- 04

National Development Research Institute Fellowship, 2003 -- 04

Andrew Mellon Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship, 1993 -- 94

RESEARCH TRACK RECORD

GRANT ACTIVITY

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, "Neoliberalism, Gender and Curriculum Transformation
in Higher Education". \$380,000. PI: Relebohile Moletsane (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
Co-PI: Reitemetse Mabokela (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA); Co-
Investigator: Assata Zerai (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA). 2019-2022.

Consultant/Principal Investigator (PI) on NORC's USAID-funded grant to synthesize evidence
about contextual factors and identify promising practices in addressing gender-based
violence (GBV) globally. Dr. Letitia Onyango, lead PI. Submitted 28 November 2018. Awarded
January-December 2019.

Institute For Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) Seed Funding Grant, University

of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. “Transforming Water and Sanitation Infrastructure to Advance the Sustainability of Nature-Society Interactions in Resource-Limited Settings”. \$30,000. Co-PIs Jeremy Guest, Assata Zerai, and Daniel C. Miller (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). 2019-2020.

University of Illinois Campus Research Board, “An Adaptive Decision-Making Framework for Safe Resource Recovery from Bodily Waste in Refugee Settlements” Designated as an Arnold O. Beckman Award, for projects of special distinction or promise. \$28,000. PIs: Jeremy Guest, Assistant Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Assata Zerai, Professor of Sociology. 2017-2018.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Initiative, University of Illinois proposal. “An Interdisciplinary Analytical Framework to Understand Socioeconomic and Cultural Contexts for Delivery of Safe Water, Sanitation, and Resource Management in Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Uganda.” \$20,000. PI: Assata Zerai, Professor of Sociology and Associate Chancellor for Diversity; Co-PI’s: Teresia Olemako, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. of Geography & Geographic Information Science; Rebecca Morrow, Ph.D. Student, Dept. of Sociology; and Jeremy Guest, Assistant Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering. 2017-2018.

U.S. State Department. Mandela Washington Fellowship Young African Leaders Academic Institute in Public Management. The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (inaugurated in 2014) is the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). \$150,000. Co-Principal Investigators: Assata Zerai and Benito Marinas. November 2015-August 2016.

U.S. Department of Education. International and Foreign Language Education Program. Title VI National Resource Center at the Consortium of the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and the Program in African Studies, Northwestern University. \$1M. Principal Investigators: Assata Zerai (UIUC) and Will Reno (NU). (2015-18)

Sloan Foundation. University Center of Exemplary Mentoring. \$1M. Lead Contact, Institutional Champion: Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, Co-Principal Investigators Graduate College Dean Sarah Lubienski, Graduate College Associate Dean, Assata Zerai, Bill Buttlar, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering & Associate Dean, College of Engineering, Lance Cooper, Professor & Associate Head for Graduate Programs, Physics, College of Engineering, Richard Laugesen, Professor, Mathematics and Director of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Wilfred Van Der Donk, Professor, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (March 2015-June 2018)

University of Illinois. Seed funding for Sloan Grant. Office of the Provost. Graduate College Educational Equity. \$300,000. Co-Principal Investigators Graduate College Dean Sarah Lubienski, Graduate College Associate Dean, Assata Zerai. (2015-18)

University of Illinois. Research Board, Democracy in a Multiracial Society Manuscript Workshop Grant. Spring 2015. Assata Zerai. \$4000. (May 2015)

University of Illinois. Office of Diversity, Equity and Access. April 2014. DRIVE Grant. Assata Zerai, Antoinette Burton, Jorge Chapa and Ruby Mendenhall. \$5000. (2014-15)

National Science Foundation 2013 Safe Global Water and Sanitation Summit, Arusha Tanzania; \$5000. Principal Investigator: Benito Marinas. Funding for Zerai and a grad student to attend to workshop

Research Fellow 2004-2005. National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. New York, NY. Projects: Grandparents Experiences with Secondary Stigma in Healthcare Settings; Secondary Stigma among Health care workers in Nigeria; additional projects concerning harm reduction approaches to maternal substance use. \$50,000 (I declined.)

International Studies and Programs, Funds awarded to support a conference entitled “*HIV/AIDS in Africa: Gender, Agency and Empowerment*” with Ezekiel Kalipeni (\$6,000)
2004 African Studies, Funds awarded to support a conference entitled “*HIV/AIDS in Africa: Gender, Agency and Empowerment*” with Ezekiel Kalipeni (\$4,000)

2003 Research Board, Funds awarded for travel to research site to lay groundwork for CDMS project, titled “Grandparenting Cocaine-Exposed Children: Experiences with Secondary Stigma in Healthcare Settings” (\$500)

2004 African Studies, Funds awarded for travel to Johannesburg, South Africa to confer with co-investigator on the HIV project we are proposing to the National Institutes of Health (\$3000; I declined.)

Research Fellow 2003-2004. Center for Democracy in Multiracial Society, University of Illinois. Project title: “Grandparenting Cocaine-Exposed Children: Experiences with Secondary Stigma in Healthcare Settings.” \$36,000

Research Fellow 2003-2004. National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. New York, NY. Projects: Grandparents Experiences with Secondary Stigma in Healthcare Settings; Secondary Stigma among Health care workers in Nigeria; additional projects concerning harm reduction approaches to maternal substance use. \$48,852

Principal Investigator, “Raising our Children’s Kids” support from Syracuse University Aging Studies Center; \$25,000

Principal Investigator, Salaried research leave granted for Spring 1998 by Syracuse University to complete analysis of National Maternity and Infant Health Survey, write various manuscripts (articles and a book length manuscript) on maternal cocaine use and maternal

and child health, and revise and resubmit the “Grandparenting Cocaine Exposed Children” proposal; \$25,000

Principal Investigator, “Evaluation of the New York Perinatal Data System” funded by the State of New York; \$92,358

Principal Investigator, “History of Child Survival in Zimbabwe” support from the Syracuse University Appleby-Mosher Fund; \$1000

Principal Investigator, “Grandparenting Cocaine Exposed Children” summer research assistant support for proposal development from the Syracuse University Center Policy Research; \$2000 (for two years)

Consultant, “Women’s Health and Action Research Unit” funded by the Ford Foundation; \$100,000. Friday Okonofua, M.D., PI.

PENDING/RECENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

National Science Foundation. Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Program [program solicitation NSF 17-585]. IGE: *Science for All*. PI: Assata Zerai (Sociology, Center for African Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, Sloan UCEM); Co PIs: Teresa Barnes (Center for African Studies, History, Gender and Women’s Studies); Environmental Engineering); Reitu Mabokela (Illinois International, EPOL); Isabel Molina (Graduate College, Sloan UCEM, Liberal Arts and Sciences); Colleen Murphy (Women and Gender in Global Perspective, Law, Philosophy); Laila Hussein Mustafa (Library); Senior Personnel: Courtney Becks (Library); Karen Flynn (Gender and Women’s Studies, African American Studies); Rebecca Ginsburg (Education Policy, Organization & Leadership); Myung-Ja Han (Library); Ruby Mendenhall (Sociology, African American Studies, Carle Illinois College of Medicine); Ghassan Moussawi (Sociology); Eboni Zamani-Gallaher (Graduate College; EPOL), and Ellen Wang Althaus (Graduate College, Sloan UCEM Director); Eman Saadah (Linguistics; Less Commonly Taught Languages) and Mary Gathogo (Linguistics; Less Commonly Taught Languages); Postdoc: Teresia Olemako (Geography & Geographic Information Science); Graduate Student: Rebecca Morrow (Sociology). Grant amount: \$300k-500k over three years. Submitted 27 Sept 2018. Under Revision.

Guggenheim Award. *Database of African Women’s Scholarship*. Submitted 17 September 2017. Under Revision.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, “Neoliberalism, Gender and Curriculum Transformation in Higher Education”. \$379,620. PI: Relebohile Moletsane (University of KwaZulu-Natal) Co-PI: Reitumetse Mabokela (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA); Co-Investigator: Assata Zerai (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA). 2019-2022.

National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Proposal, “MOVING THE MIDDLE (MOmeNTuM): Developing Diversity Champions and Building a Culture of Inclusive Excellence”. Principal Investigator: Chancellor Robert J. Jones. Sandra Rodriguez-Zas and Assata Zerai, Co-PIs. Submitted January 2018. \$3M. Under revision.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Initiative, University of Illinois proposal. “An Interdisciplinary Analytical Framework to Understand Socioeconomic and Cultural Contexts for Delivery of Safe Water, Sanitation, and Resource Management in Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Uganda.” PI: Assata Zerai, Professor of Sociology and Associate Chancellor for Diversity; Co-PI’s: Teresia Olemako, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. of Geography & Geographic Information Science; Rebecca Morrow, Ph.D. Student, Dept. of Sociology; and Jeremy Guest, Assistant Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering. \$20,000. Funded 2017-18.

Center for Advanced Study Research Associate Fellowship Application. Submitted Fall 2017. \$90,000. Awarded for 2018-19 Academic Year.

National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Pre-Proposal, “MOVING THE MIDDLE: Developing Diversity Champions and Building a Culture of Inclusive Excellence”. Principal Investigator: Chancellor Robert J. Jones. Sandra Rodriguez-Zas and Assata Zerai, Co-PIs. Submitted April 2017. Invited to submit full proposal.

Association of American Colleges and Universities supported by the S. Englehard Center and the Spencer Foundation. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Dialogue Series Project: Establishing Instructional Framework for Integrating Greater Purposes of Higher Education. Principal Investigator: Assata Zerai Co-Principal Investigator: Wallace Southerland. \$5000 (with an additional \$5000 central campus commitment). Submitted December 2016. Not funded.

U.S. State Department. Mandela Washington Fellowship Young African Leaders Academic Institute in Public Management. The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (inaugurated in 2014) is the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Co-Principal Investigators: Assata Zerai and Benito Marinas. Submitted October 2015. Funded.

Sloan Foundation. University Center of Exemplary Mentoring. \$1M. Lead Contact, Institutional Champion: Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, Co-Principal Investigators Graduate College Dean Sarah Lubienski, Graduate College Associate Dean, Assata Zerai, Bill Buttlar, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering & Associate Dean, College of Engineering, Lance Cooper, Professor & Associate Head for Graduate Programs, Physics, College of Engineering, Richard Laugesen, Professor, Mathematics and Director of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Wilfred Van Der Donk, Professor, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Submitted December 2014 and awarded March 2015)

University of Illinois. Office of Diversity, Equity and Access. April 2014. Drive Grant. Assata Zeraï, Antoinette Burton, Jorge Chapa and Ruby Mendenhall. \$5000. (Submitted March 2014-Funded)

MEMBERSHIPS AND NOTABLE SERVICE (Note: Committee/service details and full list of editorial/review board service, available on request.)

African Studies Association

African Studies Association Women's Caucus

American Sociological Association (ASA)

ASA Section Memberships:

- Gender, Race, and Class
- Communication, Information Technology and Media Sociology
- Methodology

American Association of University Women

Association of Black Sociologists

ASWAD: Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora

National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education

Women, Gender, and Families of Color, Editorial Board

American Sociological Association, Rose Series Editorial Board

Drug Policy Alliance

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Zeraï, Assata. *African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Politics: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance*. (proposed) Author-Meets-Critics Sessions. ASWAD November 5-10, 2019; African Studies Association November 20-14, 2019.

Zeraï, Assata. Value of Qualitative Research to Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Uganda. Panel Chair and Organizer. Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, IL. May 15-19, 2019.

Zeraï, Assata, J. Guest, Rosemary Nalwanga, Rebecca Morrow, Christopher Muhawe, D. Byrne, S. Houser, H. Lohman, J. Trimmer, and Mariah Jiles. Science for All: Guiding principles for building research partnerships among colleagues North and South. Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, IL. May 15-19, 2019.

Zeraï, Assata, Rebecca Morrow, and Christopher Muhawe. The value of behavioral interventions concerning handwashing in resource limited settings: considering Muslim community contexts. Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, IL. May 15-19, 2019.

Morrow, Rebecca and Assata Zerai. Understanding limitations to improved water and sanitation technologies in Bwaise Informal Settlement. Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, IL. May 15-19, 2019.

Nalwanga, Rosemary, Assata Zerai, and Rebecca Morrow. The art of communicating water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) technologies in less privileged communities--urban informal settlements. Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, IL. May 15-19, 2019.

Zerai, Assata. Adoption of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the mention of gender in constitutional nondiscrimination clauses in select African countries: law versus practice. Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Reading Group on Cross-cultural Re-understanding of Power Harassment: Title VII and Title IX, Awareness and Action. University of Illinois. April 19, 2019.

Zerai, Assata. African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Politics: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance. Theorizing the Web 2019 Museum of the Moving Image in New York City. April 12-13, 2019.

Zerai, Assata. African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Governance: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance. Center for African Studies. February 27, 2019.

Zerai, Assata. Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Guest lecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE 449). University of Illinois. January 29, 2019.

Zerai, Assata. African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Governance: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance. Center for African Studies, University YMCA Friday Forum. September 28, 2018.

Zerai, Assata. Globalizing knowledge: impact of digital inequality on knowledge flows. Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois. September 28, 2018.

Zerai, Assata. *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda*. Authors meet critics session. Panel Organizer and Presenter. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. May 2018.

Zerai, Assata. African Women and the Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance. Association of Black Sociologists. August 2017.

Zerai, Assata. Equity and Diversity: Leading for a Culture of Inclusiveness. Presentation to the AAUW of Illinois 93rd State Convention. Champaign, Illinois. May 2017.

Zerai, Assata. Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis of the lives of Women and Children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. African Studies Association. November 2016.

Zerai, Assata. Hypermasculinity, State Violence, and MDG Shortfalls: Water, Sanitation, and Child Morbidity in Zimbabwe. American Sociological Association. August 2016.

Zerai, Assata. The Struggle for LGBTQ Inclusivity in a Campus Presbyterian Church. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. University of Illinois. May 2016.

Zerai, Assata Intersectionality in Intentional Communities: The Struggle for Inclusivity in a Multicultural U.S. Protestant Congregation, 1940-1980, Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies. March 2016.

Zerai, Assata. *African Diaspora Studies: Power, Land, and the Flow of Ideas*. ASWAD Conference, Panel Organizer. Charleston, SC. 4-7 November 2015.

Zerai, Assata. Feminisms of the African Diaspora and their Implications for Social Analysis and Activism. ASWAD Conference Charleston, SC. 4-7 November 2015.

Zerai, Assata *Gender, Ethnicity and Inequality in Health: East and Southern African Contexts*. Association of Black Sociologists Conference, Panel Organizer. Chicago. August 2015.

Zerai, Assata *Ethnicity, Inequality and Health Differentials in Selected African Countries*. Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Chicago. August 2015.

Loren Henderson, Assata Zerai, and Rebecca Morrow HIV among Married Women in Zimbabwe: The Role of Spousal Violence and Husband Characteristics. Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Chicago. August 2015.

Zerai, Assata and Rebecca Morrow *Gender as Social Structure and its Potential Impact on Safe Water and Sanitation Technologies in East Africa: An Africana Feminist Analysis*. Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Chicago. August 2015.

Zerai, Assata and Arianna Jenkins *East African Women's Perspectives on Health and Environment*. Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Chicago. August 2015.

Zerai, Assata *Hypermasculinity, State Violence, and MDG Shortfalls: Water, Sanitation, and Child Morbidity in Zimbabwe*. Health in Africa and the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals Conference, UIUC 20-22 May 2015.

Zerai, Assata *Intersectionality and Racial Structure in an Inclusive Presbyterian Church*. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. University of Illinois. May 2015.

Zerai, Assata Keynote Address: Feminism and Health Activism in Zimbabwe. Symposium for the Zimbabwe's 35th Celebration, Cazenovia College April 10th – 12th, 2015.

Zerai, Assata Hypermasculinity, State Violence, and Family Well-Being: Water, Sanitation, and Child Health in Zimbabwe. African Studies Association Conference. Indianapolis, IN 20-23 November 2014.

Zerai, Assata An Emergent Africana Feminist Methodology: Health and Social Support in Zimbabwe. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. University of Illinois. May 2014.

Zerai, Assata and Rebecca Morrow "Africana Feminist assessment of safe water and sanitation technologies in Africa." Poster at Water Day Conference, University of Illinois. April 2014.

Zerai, Assata Zerai, Assata "Safe Water and Sanitation in Zimbabwe and their effects on Child Health" Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 2014.

Zerai, Assata (panel organizer, presenter & discussant, session: Intersectional Perspectives of the Family, organized with Sandra Weissinger) "Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe Undermining Family Wellbeing: An Africana Feminism Analysis of Maternal and Child Health." Association of Black Sociologists Meetings; New York, NY. August 2013.

Zerai, Assata Gender as Social Structure in East Africa and its Potential Impact on Safe Water Technologies. Safe Global Water and Sanitation Summit. Arusha, Tanzania. February 2013

Zerai, Assata (panel organizer, presenter & discussant, session: *Changing Contexts and Diverse Family Formations*, organized with Sonali Ghosh) "SADC Families' Health Seeking, Challenges during Times of Economic and Political Crisis", Association of Black Sociologists Meetings; August 2010.

Zerai, Assata (panel organizer, presenter & discussant) "Globalization and the effects on life chances in Southern and Eastern Africa (SADC)" Global Studies Conference, Busan, South Korea; 21-23 June 2010.

Zerai, Assata and Ndimande Bekisizwe "A Transnational Analysis of Educational Inequality in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe", Global Studies Conference, Busan, South Korea; 21-23 June 2010.

Zerai, Assata "Afro-Centricism, Color-Blind Ideology, and Intersectionality: Three Models of Christian Church Unity" (panel organizer, presenter & discussant; session: *Ethnographic Analyses of Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality & Christianity*, organized with Sandra Weissinger) Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Champaign IL; May 2010.

Zerai, Assata “To be Politically Relevant and Tolerant: A Comparative Analysis of Christian Evangelical Internal Discussions of the 2008 Presidential Election” Race, Gender and Class Conference New Orleans LA; February 2010.

Zerai, Assata (presider and discussant) “Family and Kinship in Economically Challenged Families” American Sociological Association CA; August 2009.

Zerai, Assata (panel organizer, presenter & discussant *Ethnographic Analyses of Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality & Religion*) “A Black Feminist Critique of American Religious Anti-War (Dis)Engagements” Association of Black Sociologists Meetings New Orleans, LA; June 2009.

Zerai, Assata (panel organizer, presenter & discussant, session *Ethnographic Analyses of Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality & Religion*) “To be Politically Relevant and Tolerant: A Comparative Analysis of Christian Evangelical Internal Discussions of the 2008 Presidential Election” Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Champaign IL; May 2009

Zerai, Assata “Addressing Spousal Communication Concerning HIV in Zimbabwe: Applications of African Feminism” in UIUC Colloquium entitled “HIV/AIDS in Africa: Gender, Agency and Empowerment”, April 2004

Zerai, Assata and Rae Banks *Dehumanizing Discourse: Anti-Drug Law and Policy in America: A “Crack Mother’s” Nightmare* featured in an author meets critics session at the Association of Black Sociologists conference August 2004 San Francisco, CA.

Zerai, Assata “The ‘Crack Baby’ as an Outcome of the War of Drugs: The Link Between Inadequate Access to Prenatal Care and Low Birth Weight” Drug Policy Alliance Conference November 2004.

Zerai, Assata “The ‘Crack Baby’ as an Outcome of the War of Drugs: The Impact” Drug Policy Alliance Conference November 2003.

Zerai, Assata “Dehumanizing Discourse, Anti-Drug Law and Policy in America: A “Crack Mother’s” Nightmare. Taking Drug Users Seriously. Opening Plenary. December 2002.

Zerai, Assata and Rae Banks “Confronting Hostile Environments: Courageous Women Providing Health and Healing”. Association of Black Sociologists. August 2002.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Zerai, Assata. **Keynote.** Hypermasculinity, State Violence, and MDG Shortfalls: Water, Sanitation, and Child Morbidity in Zimbabwe. Conference on Family Demography in Africa and Post-2015 Development Agenda. *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 25-28 June 2016.*

Zerai, Assata. **Keynote.** In the Traditions of Professor Victor C. Uchendu and Professor Ifi Amadiume, A Proposal for Expanding African Transnational Feminist Praxis: Creating a Database of Women's Scholarship Concerning Women's Health in Zimbabwe. Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of Professor Victor Uchendu's *The Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria*. 2 May 2016. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Zerai, Assata "African women, digital divides, and the mobile ecosystem: Africana Feminist Perspectives" Cell Phone Slam! Illinois Program on Research in the Humanities 9 March 2016. University of Illinois.

Zerai, Assata "Considering Issues of Women's Rights and International Development: Scholarship and Activism to Promote Health in Zimbabwe" Women and Gender in Global Perspective Presentation; 11 November 2015. University of Illinois.

Zerai, Assata "Hypermasculinity, State Violence, and MDG Shortfalls: Water, Sanitation, and Child Morbidity In Zimbabwe" Nutrition, Health and Gender in Sub-Saharan Africa Conference 12-13 November. University of Illinois.

Zerai, Assata "Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe: An Africana Feminism Analysis of Water, Sanitation and Child Morbidity" 30 October 2015. Northwestern University.

Zerai, Assata "Africana Feminist Social Scientific Research Approaches" Guest Lecture to African Bibliography Class. 12 October 2015.

Zerai, Assata Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe: An Africana Feminism Analysis of Water, Sanitation and Child Morbidity. African Students' Organization Conference. University of Illinois. April 2014. African Studies Brown bag talk. University of Illinois. November 2013.

Zerai, Assata "Dehumanizing Discourse" Invited Lecture, Session on Intersectionality and Law. Women's Law Society. University of Illinois, April 2014.

Zerai, Assata. African Studies Program, UIUC, "HIV in Zimbabwe and Los Angeles" October 2008.

Zerai, Assata "A Sociological Analysis of Music Convergences in American Christian Worship" Keynote Address Indianapolis, IN May 2008.

Zerai, Assata "Black Feminist Responses to War, Racism and Repression" UIUC IPRH panel on the War in Iraq, March 2004; Spelman College Atlanta, GA April 2004

Zerai, Assata “Confronting Hostile Environments: Courageous Women Providing Health and Healing” and “Understanding the Genesis of the Underweight ‘Crack Baby’” UIUC Medical Scholars’ Graduate Seminar, February 2003, 2004, 2005

Zerai, Assata “Drug Phobia, Intersectional Perspectives and Harm Reduction: Linking Inadequate Access to Prenatal Care and Low Birth Weight” Drug Policy Alliance Workshop November 2004.

Zerai, Assata. “Health Seeking Behavior in Times of Economic Crisis in Nigeria” African Studies Luncheon Series. Illinois State University. Bloomington, IL. February 2003.

Zerai, Assata. “Black Feminist Responses to War, Racism and Repression.” St. Louis, MO. March 2003; Philadelphia, PA. Sept 2002.

Zerai, Assata. “The Role Played by Social Constructions of Sexuality and Womanhood” Guest lecture for AAS 540 Unsilencing Black Womyn’s Voices: Meanings and Representations of Gender in African American/Africana Studies, Joint Consortium: Syracuse University, Cornell University and University of Binghamton. November 2001.

Zerai, Assata. “‘Making a Way Outta No Way’: Grandparenting Cocaine Exposed Grandchildren” Temple University. Philadelphia, PA January 2001; Wells College. Aurora, NY; April 2001.

Zerai, Assata. “Activism as Guide: Women in the African Diaspora and their Intellectual Work on Domination and Resistance” National Women’s Studies Association Meetings. Boston, MA. June 2000.

Zerai, Assata. “Sociology and Social Change: Scholarship and Activism in the 21st Century” Syracuse University Millennium Women: Faculty Milestones Series March 2000

Zerai, Assata. “The Quantitative Sociologist as Scholar Activist” Buffalo State College AKD Awards Banquet Keynote Address April 1997

Zerai, Assata. “Maternal Cocaine Use and Infant Survival: interrogating the Intersection of Race, Class and Gender” Cornell University Population and Development Program Department of Rural Sociology Brown Bag Seminar October 1996

Zerai, Assata. “Child Morbidity in Zimbabwe” Cornell University Population Dynamics Workshop December 1995

Zerai, Assata. “Preventive Health Strategies for Maternal and Child Survival in Developing Countries” Buffalo State College November 1994; and Syracuse University October 1994

Zerai, Assata. “Social Determinants of Infant Mortality and Growth Faltering in Zimbabwe” the University of Maryland November 1992; Carolina Population Center of the University of

North Carolina April 1993; Department of Health Sciences at the Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria) November 1993

Zerai, Assata. "Child Survival in Nigeria" Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria) December 1993

Zerai, Assata. "Perinatal Mortality in Ile-Ife, Nigeria" in collaboration with Friday Okonofua in the Health Sciences seminar at the Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria) January 1994; a poster session of the Population Association of America, San Francisco April 1995

ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer:

Journals:

African Journal of Reproductive Health

Black Scholar

British Journal of Sociology

Demography

Ethnic and Racial Studies

Gender and Society

Global Public Health;

The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research

Journal of Clinical Research in HIV AIDS and Prevention

Meridians Journal

Race, Gender and Class

Sage Open

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society

Social Science Quarterly

Sociological Forum

Western Journal of Black Studies

Women, Gender and Families of Color

Presses:

University of California Press

Pine Forge Press

Prentice Hall

Routledge Press