

Dr. Alexandria Onuoha

She/Her

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Dr. Alexandria C. Onuoha is a developmental psychologist, and Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She completed her Ph.D. and M.S. in Applied Developmental Psychology from Suffolk University, and holds a B.A. in Psychology and Dance from Bates College. Previously a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, Alexandria is currently an Early Career Representative for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Black Caucus and a board member for a Boston-based non-profit organization, Mics for the Missing.

Alexandria's work explores how cultural and ecological factors shape positive development, joy, thriving, and health equity among Black populations, specifically Black women and girls. Utilizing developmental science and Black feminist approaches, she aims to understand the complex ways that identity construction, systemic barriers, and digital spaces impact the beliefs, behaviors, and well-being of individuals. Her research highlights culturally contextual elements of joy and connection to transform traditional health metrics and support sustainable community wellness.

Alexandria is also founder the of ACO STYLES a creative platform showcasing dance, creative direction, and stories for Black children. She has been invited to deliver a TEDx Talk and frequently speaks at various venues focusing on systemic justice, healing, and equity. As an educator, she designs and teaches specialized coursework at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, while mentoring students across multiple institutions.

Her scholarship has appeared in peer-reviewed academic journals and has also reached wider audiences through prominent national media outlets. She is a trusted public scholar whose expert commentary and research have been featured by The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Teen Vogue, and Al Jazeera.

In her broader professional practice, she acts as a social entrepreneur and organizational consultant, translating empirical findings into trainings to help Chief Wellness Officers, Directors, and communities integrate intersectional wellness frameworks into executive leadership. and to educate the organization on reducing hate and bias.

Alexandria C. Onuoha Ph.D. is a developmental psychologist and public scholar who serves as an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Her research examines how digital misogynoir and political violence impact the developmental experiences of Black populations while centering Black girls' joy as a critical tool for resistance and well-being. As an educator and speaker she translates this scholarship into public commentary that explores the systemic conditions communities need to thrive. Her insights have been featured across TEDx and major media platforms including *The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Teen Vogue, and Al Jazeera*.



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I am Dr. Alexandria C. Onuoha, an applied developmental psychologist.
My work bridges empirical science and community-driven action to redefine health equity, wellness, and systemic justice. As a TEDx speaker and public scholar, my insights have been featured by The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Teen Vogue, and Al Jazeera.

My Core Signature Topics Include:
(Willing to customize to fit specific needs)

- Political Violence and Youth Radicalization Prevention
- Positive Youth Development
- Mental Health for Black Communities
- Black Joy
- Intersectional Wellness Frameworks: Strategic consulting and evidence-based design for Chief Wellness Officers and non-profit organizations
- Digital Misogynoir and Online Harm Reduction
- Arts-Based Action Research & Methods
- Culturally Grounded Healing & Justice: Designing institutional environments centered on sustainable wellness.



Selected Past Coverage

The Washington Post, 2024
Expert commentary / quoted
Far-right extremists celebrate, see opportunity in second Trump win
Alexandria contributed expertise to reporting on the response of far-right movements to the 2024 presidential election and the opportunities extremist actors perceived in the political environment.

The Boston Globe, 2023
Expert commentary / quoted
In East Boston, advocates call for a stronger voice for missing women
Reporting on advocacy, public attention, and institutional response surrounding missing women, including the need for stronger focus on Black women and girls.

Al Jazeera, 2022
Video interview / featured expert
Why do cases of missing Black women rarely make U.S. headlines?
Alexandria discussed the racial and gendered disparities that shape news coverage and public response to missing Black women.

Mel Magazine, 2022
Featured expert
How the manosphere organizes against Black women
Alexandria discussed the various ways online spaces harm Black women.