

Nia Johnson
Duke University School of Law | 210 Science Drive, Durham, NC 27708
301-204-5008 | nia.johnson@duke.edu

Academic Appointments

Duke University, Durham, NC

Visiting Assistant Professor – Law, July 2022 – present

- Race, Bioethics, and the Law
- Bioethics and Law Thesis Writing Seminar

Visiting Assistant Professor – Science and Society, July 2022 – present

- Race, Bioethics, and the Law
- Bioethics and Law Thesis Writing Seminar

Adjunct Professor, July 2021 – July 2022

- Research Independent Study

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Adjunct Instructor, May 2022 – August 2022

- Race and Bioethics

Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Doctor of Philosophy Candidate, Health Policy – Political Analysis, May 2023

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Health Policy: How Racism Impedes Progress*

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

Juris Doctor Candidate – Health Law, May 2019

Honors: Editor-in-Chief, *American of Journal of Law and Medicine*

Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Master of Bioethics, August 2016

Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in International Studies, Minor Political Science, May 2015

Honors: Dean's List (All four years)

Teaching and Research Interests

Primary: *Torts; Health Care Law; Bioethics; Race and the Law; Property*

Secondary: *Anti-Discrimination Law; Law and Social Science; Biotechnology and the Law; Race, Bioethics, and the Law; Health Policy and the Law*

Job Talk Paper

Nia Johnson, *Converging Interests and Medicaid Reimbursement*

Publications

Nia Johnson, *Reformed But Not Repaired*, 29 MICH. J. OF L. AND RACE 1 (2024) (forthcoming).

Nia Johnson, *From a Reckoning to Racial Concordance: A Strategy to Protect Black Mothers, Children, and Infants*. 52 HASTINGS CTR. REP. S32 (2022).

Nia Johnson, *Expanding Accountability: Using the Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Claim to Compensate Black American Families Who Remained Unheard in Medical Crisis*, 72 HASTINGS L. J. 1637 (2021).

Nia Johnson, Robert Blendon and Mary Gorski Findling, *Black Americans' Views on Health Policy: Implications for the 2020 Election*. 1 JAMA Health F. 8 (2020).

Nia Johnson, *When Blackness Doesn't Fade After A Pandemic: An Appeal to Acknowledge the Unequal Burden of Social Isolation*. 97 J. OF URB. HEALTH 3 (2020).

Nia Johnson and Lance Wahlert, *Urban Bioethics: A Call for the Prestige*. 28 CAMBRIDGE Q. OF HEALTHCARE ETHICS 3 (2019).

Works in Progress

Nia Johnson, *Evaluating the Impact of Environmental Racism through the lens of Lead Exposure and COVID-19 Mortality*. (In Progress, 2024)

Nia Johnson, *Private Health Neglect*. (In Progress, 2024)

Leadership and Research Experience

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant – Don Goldman, June 2021 – August 2021

- Assisted in teaching Infectious Diseases and Social Injustice
- Managed and taught two sections of students on bioethics and its historical intersection with marginalized individuals
- Provided tutoring services to students

Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant – Ben Sommers, May 2020 – September 2020

- Analyzed data on Medicaid work requirements in Arkansas
- Wrote research briefs and blog posts on legal implications of Medicaid work requirements in the United States
- Helped produce a follow-up survey to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Southern United States

Harvard Public Opinion Research Program, Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant – Robert Blendon, May 2020 – June 2020

- Analyzed data on COVID-19 and its impact on Black American communities
- Developed survey questions for outgoing surveys on race and public health
- Wrote 2 publishable works on race, health, and public opinion

Leadership and Research Experience Cont'd.

Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, Boston, MA

Fellow, June 2019- August 2019

- Assessed the Health Care Innovation Investment (HCII) Program's investments in social determinants of health
- Examined the relationship between universal screening, equality in healthcare, and cost savings opportunities for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Evaluated the importance of health-related social needs

American Journal of Law and Medicine, Boston, MA

Editor-in-Chief, February 2018 – August 2019

- Developed the creative direction of the American Journal of Law and Medicine and the American Journal of Law and Medicine Annual Symposium
- Selected articles for publication
- Built relationships with scholars in the areas of public health, bioethics, and health law
- Managed a team of editors and staff members

Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA

Research Assistant – Michael Ulrich, JD, MPH, January 2018- June 2018

- Assessed the implications of gun violence on public health
- Examined the correlation between stalking and gun violence
- Kept abreast of current events regarding gun violence and public health

Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA

Teaching Assistant – George Annas, JD, MPH, September 2017-December 2018

- Assisted in teaching Health Policy, Systems, and the Law
- Taught students the legal aspects of healthcare and bioethics
- Provided tutoring services to students

Professional Experiences

Crash Course, Missoula, Montana

Writer for Crash Course Black American History Series, August 2020 – March 2022

- Monitored and collaborated with the creative direction of scripts for the Crash Course, African-American History Series
- Wrote scripts for episodes that addressed legal issues and cases, styled for audiences with varying expertise in the law

Wiggin and Dana, LLP, New Haven, CT

Summer Associate, June 2018-August 2018

- Wrote litigation materials for medical malpractice cases
- Analyzed legal theory research questions
- Independently prepared and delivered research presentation on informal legal authority's intersection with urban bioethics

Professional Experiences Cont'd.

Massachusetts State Legislature, Boston, MA

Extern, January 2018- May 2018

- Performed legal research regarding Medicare and Medicaid, general health regulations, MassHealth, and bioethics
- Prepared preliminary policies for underserved populations
- Studied the workings of the Massachusetts State Legislature
- Assisted the Committee for Health Care Financing with bill development and bill organization

Adventist Health Systems, Winter Park, FL

Law Clerk, June 2017- August 2017

- Reviewed and edited physicians' employment contracts and other agreements
- Performed legal research regarding Medicare and Medicaid, general health regulations, and bioethics
- Prepared preliminary policies for underserved populations

University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, MD

Law Clerk, May 2016-August 2016

- Reviewed and edited physicians' employment contracts and other agreements
- Performed legal research regarding employment law, health regulations, and bioethics
- Independently prepared and delivered informational presentation to the legal department on bioethics and presentation to the ethics committee on Clinical Ethics Mediation

Op-Eds and Media

Nia Johnson and Lori Bruce, *Changes proposed for NC's infant surrender law are flawed*, Charlotte Observer (Mar. 1, 2023) <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/article272623271.html> .

Nia Johnson, *Lack of Police Reform Is Harming Black Americans — Now What?*, The Hill (Feb. 22, 2024) <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/595393-lack-of-police-reform-is-harming-black-americans-now-what/> .

Sara Rosenbaum, Benjamin D. Sommers and Nia Johnson, *As Trump Administration Seeks US Supreme Court Review, A Second Year Of Results From Medicaid Work Experiments Emerges*, Health Affairs Forefront (Oct. 19, 2020) <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20201016.709593/full/>

Nia Johnson, Peggah Khorrami and Benjamin D. Sommers, *Did Medicaid Work Requirements Achieve Their Goals in Arkansas?*, The Commonwealth Fund Blog (Sept. 15, 2020) <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2020/did-medicaid-work-requirements-achieve-their-goals-arkansas>

Awards

Wilhelmina M. Reuben-Cooke Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices Fellow (2023-2024)
– Fellowship awarded to Duke University and Johnson C. Smith University faculty who develop a project within the topics of public health, social justice, and health equity. Awarded for *Public Health Neglect* by The Duke Endowment and Duke University's Office of the Provost.

Awards Cont'd.

Duke Initiative for Science and Society Faculty and Staff Leadership Award (2023) – Awarded to a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and mentorship for Duke Science and Society Students.

White House Fellows, Regional Finalist: Northeast Region (2021-2022) – Fellowship focused on building bipartisan relationships in the White House, providing practical policy experience with the federal government, and cultivating leaders in policy and public service.

Emerson Collective Fellow: Recover and Renew Cohort (2020-2021) – Fellowship focused on equity, justice, and COVID-19 recovery. Awarded for *Evaluating the Impact of Environmental Racism through the lens of Lead Exposure and COVID-19 Mortality* and *Reformed but Not Repaired*.

Boston University School of Law Melville M. Bigelow Scholarship Award (2019) – Awarded to students that demonstrate great promise as scholars and teachers in the law.

Law and Society Association Junior Scholars Workshop Participant (2019) – Awarded to junior scholars with a demonstrated research agenda in sociolegal studies. The purpose of the workshop is to provide mentorship and feedback.

Select Presentations and Lectures

Presentations

Reckoning with Race in the Law, *Princeton University*, Princeton, NJ (May 2024)

Transplant Research Center Lab Guest Speaker Series, Race and Bioethics: From Anti-Blackness to Equity, *Johns Hopkins University*, Baltimore, MD (March 2024)

Inaugural Featured Junior Scholar - From a Reckoning to Racial Concordance: A Strategy to Protect Black Mothers, Children, and Infants, **Reproductive Ethics Conference**, *University of Texas Medical Branch*, Galveston, TX (January 2024)

Equality Law Scholars Forum, *Boston University School of Law*, Boston, MA (November 2023)

Social Determinants in Action: An Innovative Bioethics Course Provides a Practical Roadmap to Promote Equity, *American Society of Bioethics and the Humanities*, Baltimore, MD (October 2023)

Racism and Bioethics: Global Implications, *Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin*, Berlin, Germany (October 2023)

Combating Disparities: Maternal Health for People of Color, *University of California, Irvine School of Law*, Irvine, CA (November 2020)

Guest Lectures

Developing Issues in Bioethics and Society Seminar Speaker Series, From a Reckoning to Racial Concordance: A Strategy to Protect Black Mothers, Children, and Infants, *Baylor College of Medicine*, Baltimore, MD (April 2024)

From a Reckoning to Racial Concordance: A Strategy to Protect Black Mothers, Children, and Infants, *Yale University – Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics*, New Haven, CT (October 2022)

Guest Lectures cont'd.

Conceptual Foundations of Bioethics - Expanding Accountability: Using the Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Claim to Compensate Black American Families Who Remained Unheard in Medical Crisis, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA (October and November 2021)

Bioethics and Healthcare Decisions, *Boston University School of Law*, Boston, MA (March and April 2021)

Board Memberships and Committees

Duke Initiative for Science and Society Mentorship Committee, September 2023 – present

Prospera Institute, Boston, MA, July 2023 – present

Oakwood University Honors College Board, Huntsville, AL, August 2020 – May 2023

Tufts Health Sciences Institutional Review Board, Boston, MA, September 2017 – September 2019

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REFERENCES

Angela Onwuachi-Willig
Dean and Ryan Roth Gallo Professor of Law
Boston University School of Law
aow@bu.edu
617-353-3112

Christopher Robertson
Professor of Law and Professor of Health Law, Policy, and Management
Boston University School of Law and Boston University School of Public Health
ctr00@bu.edu
617-358-4998

Michael D. Frakes
A. Kenneth Pye Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Economics
Duke University School of Law
michael.frakes@law.duke.edu
919-613-7185

Trina Jones
Jerome M. Culp Distinguished Professor of Law
Duke University School of Law
tjones@law.duke.edu
919-613-7177

Meredith Rosenthal (*Chair of Dissertation Committee*)
C. Boyden Gray Professor of Health Economics and Policy
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
mrosenth@hsph.harvard.edu
617-432-3418