

Adam C. Alexander, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center
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Education:

2018	University of Memphis	Ph.D.	Social and Behavioral Sciences
2014	University of Memphis	M.S.	General Psychology
2012	University of Memphis	B.A.	Psychology (Summa Cum Laude)

Professional, academic, and research awards:

2018	Morton Dissertation Award , <i>University of Memphis</i>
2016	Summer Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop on African American Research Travel Award , <i>Program for Research on Black Americans, University of Michigan</i>
2015	2016 Health Disparities Network Travel Award , <i>Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco</i>
2014	First Generation Ph.D. Fellowship , <i>University of Memphis</i>
2012	Recipient of the Certificate of Academic Excellence , <i>NAACP</i>

Professional and research experience:

2018	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center , <i>Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center</i> . Supervisor: Darla E. Kendzor, Ph.D.
2014	Graduate Research Assistant at the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences , <i>University of Memphis School of Public Health</i> . Supervisor: Kenneth D. Ward, Ph.D.
2014	Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for Health Promotion and Evaluation , <i>University of Memphis Department of Psychology</i> . Supervisor: Leslie A. Robinson, Ph.D.
2012	Graduate Research Assistant in the Literacy Lab , <i>University of Memphis Department of Psychology</i> . Supervisor: Beth E. Meisinger, Ph.D.

Research interests:

1. Understanding the cultural, socioeconomic, and biological determinants of physical and mental health, with emphasis on explaining health disparities.
2. Understanding the effects of traumatic events on mental and behavioral health outcomes, with emphasis on identifying mediators and moderators of these associations.
3. Developing and evaluating interventions for mental health and chronic disease prevention, particularly in underserved populations and developing countries.
4. Developing and evaluating interventions for smoking cessation in socially disadvantaged populations.

Grant and contract history:*Unfunded grants*

- 2016 Principal Investigator. “Identifying Potential Pathways to Cigarette Use After a Natural Disaster: Findings from Hurricane Katrina”. National Institute on Mental Health (R36MH114518-01). **Impact Score:** 20

Peer-reviewed publications:*Under review*

4. Carter, A. & **Alexander, A.C.** (2018). “We’re in this together”: Assessing the effectiveness of “fitness communities” toward improving exercise adherence.
3. **Alexander, A.C.**, Ward, K.D., Stockton, M., & Forde, D.R. (2018). Are Posttraumatic Stress and Depressive Symptoms Pathways to Smoking Relapse after a Natural Disaster?
2. **Alexander, A.C.**, Ward, K.D., Forde, D.R, Stockton, M., & Read, M. (2018). Nicotine dependence and daily cigarette consumption after a natural disaster: A prospective comparison of adult cigarette smokers from two metropolitan cities.
1. Allen, A.M., Jung, A.M., Lemieux, A.M., **Alexander, A.C.**, Allen, D.S, Ward, K.D., & Al’Absi, M. (2018). Stressful life events are associated with perinatal cigarette smoking.

*In press**Published*

10. **Alexander, A. C.**, Chen, W., & Ward, K. D. (2018). Is intelligence associated with mortality from lethal force by law enforcement? *Intelligence*, 70(March), 30–35. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.intell.2018.07.007>
9. **Alexander, A.C.**, & Ward, K.D. (2017). Understanding Postdisaster Substance Use and Psychological Distress Using Concepts from the Self-Medication Hypothesis and Social

Cognitive Theory. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 1–10.
<http://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2017.1397304>

8. **Alexander, A.C.**, Obong'o, C.O., Chavan, P.P., Vander Weg, M.W., & Ward, K.D. (2017). Applying the problem behavior theory to adolescent drug use among a cross-sectional sample of boys participating in a community-based youth organization. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 1–12. <http://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2017.1349802>
7. **Alexander, A.C.**, Obong'o, C.O., Chavan, P.P., Dillon, P.J., & Kedia, S.K. (2017). Addicted to the “life of methamphetamine”: Perceived barriers to sustained methamphetamine recovery. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 1–7. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2017.1282423>
6. **Alexander, A.C.**, Ali, J.S., McDevitt-Murphy, M.E., Forde, D.R., Stockton, M., Read, M., & Ward, K.D. (2017). Racial differences in posttraumatic stress disorder vulnerability following Hurricane Katrina among a sample of adult cigarette smokers from New Orleans. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 4(1), 94–103. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-015-0206-8>
5. Ali, J.S., Farrell, A.S., **Alexander, A.C.**, Forde, D.R., Stockton, M., & Ward, K.D. (2017). Race differences in depression vulnerability following Hurricane Katrina. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 9(3), 317–324. <http://doi.org/10.1037/tra0000217>
4. Obong'o, C.O., **Alexander, A.C.**, Chavan, P.P., Dillon, P.J., & Kedia, S.K. (2016). Choosing to live or die: Online narratives of recovering from methamphetamine abuse. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 1–7. <http://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2016.1262085>
3. **Alexander, A.C.**, Robinson, L.A., Ward, K.D., Farrell, A.S., & Ferkin, A.C. (2016). Religious beliefs against smoking among Black and White urban youth. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 55(6), 1907–1916. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-015-0128-0>
2. Akl, E.A., Ward, K.D., Bteddini, D., Khaliel, R., **Alexander, A.C.**, Lotfi, T., ... Afifi, R.A. (2015). The allure of the waterpipe: a narrative review of factors affecting the epidemic rise in waterpipe smoking among young persons globally. *Tobacco Control*, 24 Suppl 1, i13–i21. <http://doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2014-051906>
1. Ward, K.D., Siddiqi, K., Ahluwalia, J.S., **Alexander, A.C.**, & Asfar, T. (2015). Waterpipe tobacco smoking: The critical need for cessation treatment. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 153, 14–21. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2015.05.029>

Published abstracts and conference presentations:

8. Carter, A., & **Alexander, A.C.** (2018, November). “*We’re in this Together*”: *Assessing the Effectiveness of Fitness Communities Toward Improving Exercise Adherence*. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association (Health Communication Division), Salt Lake City, Utah.
7. Allen, A.M., Hughes, J., **Alexander, A.C.**, Lemieux, A., Allen, S., Ward, K.D., & Al’Absi, M. (2017). Are stressful life events associated with smoking cigarettes and marijuana during pregnancy? *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 171, e6. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.08.032>

6. Ward, K.D., Asfar, T., & **Alexander, A.C.** (2017, March). *Trajectories of waterpipe tobacco use: A Review of the prospective literature*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Nicotine and Tobacco Research, Florence, Italy.
5. **Alexander, A.C.**, Ward, K.D., Mzayek F., Wasim M., & Harmon, B. (2016, March). *Diet and physical activity differences between waterpipe smokers and non-smokers*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Nicotine and Tobacco Research, Chicago, IL.
4. Clayton, M.M., McDonald, S.L., Homayouni, R., Kedia, S., Ullmann, G., Mayfield, B.C., Collins, C.A., **Alexander, A.C.**, Schmidt, M., Akkus, C., Williams, C., & Ward, K.D. (2015, September). *FitKids: A web-based, mHealth tool to enhance parents' participation in improving child health*. Poster presented at the 2015 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo, Nashville, Tennessee.
3. Robinson, L.A. & **Alexander, A.C.** (2014, February). *Perceived benefits from smoking, ethnicity, and light vs. heavy Smokers*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Nicotine and Tobacco Research, Seattle, WA.
2. Ward, K.D., **Alexander, A.C.**, Mzayek, F., Guerrero, G., Asfar, T., & Maziak, W. (2014, October). *Effects of waterpipe smoking on body weight and obesity, and potential mechanisms*. Poster presented at the Second International Conference on Waterpipe Smoking Research, Doha, Qatar.
1. **Alexander, A.C.**, Robinson, L.A., Farrell, A.S., & Salgado-Garcia, F.I. (2013, March). *Religious beliefs about smoking: Do African Americans benefit more than Caucasian Americans?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Invited presentations and lectures:

7. "The social determinants of health" Department of Communication, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2017.
6. "Surviving graduate school". Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2016.
5. "Addicted to the 'life of methamphetamine': Barriers to sustained methamphetamine recovery". Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2016.
4. "My whole city underwater: Race, trauma, and surviving Katrina". African and African American Studies Department, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2016.
3. "Racial differences in posttraumatic stress disorder and depression after Hurricane Katrina". Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Spring 2016.
2. "CEPH accreditation celebration (student speaker)". School of Public Health, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2015.

1. “Making and interpreting scientific graphs”. 9th-grade biology class, Westminster Academy, Memphis, TN. Delivered Fall 2014 and Fall 2015. Co-facilitated with Dr. Kenneth Ward.

Editorial and review activities:

2015 Assistant guest editor, *Journal of Smoking Cessation Special Issue: “Tobacco Intervention research in low and middle-income countries: lessons learned and future directions”*.

2014–present **Ad hoc manuscript reviewer for:**
 Nicotine & Tobacco Research Tobacco Control
 Health Behavior and Policy Review Health Education & Behavior
 American Journal of Preventive Medicine Journal of Smoking Cessation
 Tobacco Regulatory Science PLOS ONE
 Health Psychology Public Health
 Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy
 Behavioral Sciences

Conference program reviews:

2017 Abstract reviewer, 24th Annual Meeting, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

Public service:

2015 Member, Metrics & Accountability Team, Mayor-Elect Jim Strickland’s Transition Team, Memphis, TN.

2017 Student representative, University of Memphis School of Public Health Dean Search Committee, Memphis, TN.

Teaching experience:

2014 Teacher’s assistant, Research & Statistics I (PSYC 3010), University of Memphis Department of Psychology

2014 Teacher’s assistant, General Psychology (PSYC 1030), University of Memphis Department of Psychology

2013 Teacher’s assistant, Research & Statistics I (PSYC 3010), University of Memphis Department of Psychology

2013 Teacher’s assistant, General Psychology (PSYC 1030), University of Memphis Department of Psychology

References:

1. Kenneth D. Ward, Ph.D., Director and Professor, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Robison Hall 201 School of Public Health, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-1702 (office), kdward@memphis.edu
2. Satish K. Kedia, Ph.D., Professor, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Robison Hall 205 School of Public Health, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-1433 (office), skkedia@memphis.edu
3. Latrice C. Pichon, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Robison Hall 209 School of Public Health, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-1433 (office), lcpichon@memphis.edu
4. Elizabeth E. Meisinger, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, 360 Psychology Building, Department of Psychology, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-3435 (office), bmsinger@memphis.edu
5. Leslie A. Robinson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, 334 Psychology Building, Department of Psychology, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-1667 (office), lrobinso@memphis.edu