

ASSATA ZERAI, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Sociology, Associate Chancellor for Diversity; University of Illinois
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azerai@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D. in Sociology

Dissertation: Preventive Health Strategies and Child Survival in Zimbabwe

1993

University of Chicago

M.A. in Sociology

1988

Anderson University

B.A. in Sociology

1986

EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Associate Chancellor for Diversity

2016-present

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Professor of Sociology

2016-present

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Affiliate, Women and Gender Studies

2016-present

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Director, Core Faculty, 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

2009-2016

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

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; Race, Class and Gender analyses; Africana Feminist Methods; Black Feminist Thought; Gender Equity and Development Effectiveness; Health Activism

TEACHING AREAS

Development of African Studies; Maternal and Child Health in Africa; Africana Feminisms; Race, Class and Gender; Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods; Health Inequality; Social Science Perspectives on African American Studies; Black Feminist Thought

RESEARCH TRACK RECORD

GRANT ACTIVITY

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. 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; Principal Investigator: Benito Marinas. Funding for Zerai and a grad student to attend to workshop (\$5000)

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

RECENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

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.

National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation PreProposal, “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.

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.

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.

U.S. Department of Justice; NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences; OMB# 1121-0329. “That’s Why We Always Fight Back”: Using a Feminist, Life Course Analysis to Examine Resiliency of Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence at a Native American Reservation. PIs Rebecca Morrow and Assata Zerai. \$103k. Submitted April 2015.

Clark McPhail Manuscript Funding. Authors: Assata Zerai and Joanna Perez. An Emergent Africana Feminist Methodology: Women's Activism to Promote Health in Zimbabwe. \$2500. Submitted April 2015. Not funded.

National Science Foundation. FEW Workshop on Distributed Solutions for Rural and Periurban Communities in Arid and Semiarid Regions (to be held in Tanzania). Workshop Proposal through the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, & Transport Systems CBET for the Interactions of Food Systems with Water and Energy Systems solicitation. Session proposed (A. Zerai and M. Viswanathan co-chairs) *Session: Food-Energy-Water Technology: Designing and Implementing Environmentally, Economically, and Socially Sustainable Solutions*. Benito Marinas, PI. Submitted March 2015. \$100,000.

Focal Point, University of Illinois. Strengthening Diversity in Graduate Education through improved Visibility of STEM. Co-PIs Samniqueka Halsey, Sara Garcia, Kathryn Solórzano Lowell, Alexandra Harmon-Threatt, and Assata Zerai on behalf of the STEM - Female Empowerment Alliance. \$30,000. Submitted March 2015.

Sloan Foundation. University Center of Exemplary Mentoring. \$1M. Lead Contact, Institutional Champion: Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, Co-Principal Investigators Graduate College Dean Sarah Lubienksi, 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)

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, Seed Grants to Launch Thematic Research Pre-Proposal Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); (Submitted Jan 2014-Not Funded)

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

Pre-Proposal To Be Submitted By CAS For Funding From The University Of Illinois Extension And Outreach Initiative Submitted March 2014 Title: Promoting The ABCs of Cardiovascular Health Among Africana Women In Champaign And Vermillion Counties: Utilizing The Pen-3 Model To Create Culturally Sensitive Programming. PI's: Assata Zerai, Merle Bowen, And James Kilgore. Pre-Proposal Submitted March-2014-Not Funded.

Engineering Research Center for Transformative Sanitation Technologies (Tsant) Nsf Program Announcement/Solicitation Number 13-560 Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); (Submitted July 2013-Not Funded)

Global Network For Sustainable Safe Water (SWGn) USAID Request For Application (RFA): RFA-0AA-12-000004 Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); Pre-Proposal Chosen for submission to USAID. (Submitted Aug 2012-Not Funded)

Global Network For Sustainable Safe Water (SWGn) National Science Foundation-Sustainability Research Networks Competition (NSF 11-574); Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); Pre-Proposal to NSF; \$8m (Submitted April 2012-Not Funded)

Safe Global Water Consortium Center (SGWCC) USAID Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); \$25m-Not Funded)

Sustainable Safe Global Water Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program NSF Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & Watercampws UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); \$3.5m (Submitted 2011-Not Funded)

Safe Global Water Science and Technology Center NSF Lead Contact/Director: Benito Marinas, Dept of Civil Engineering & WATERCAMPWS UIUC; Assata Zerai, Principal Investigator (Social Science Component); \$25m (Submitted 2011-Not Funded)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Zerai, Assata and Brenda Sanya, editors (in press) *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*. Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington Books.

Zerai, Assata (2016) *Intersectionality in Intentional Communities: The Struggle for Inclusivity in Multicultural U.S. Protestant Congregations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington Books.

Zerai, Assata (forthcoming) *African Women, ICT and Neoliberal Politics: The Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance*. Contract with Routledge Press.

Zerai, Assata (2014) *Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe: An Africana Feminist Analysis of Maternal and Child Health*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.

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*.

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*. August 12, 2016, 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*.

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*. Volume 18, Number 1-2, 2011.

Zerai, Assata (2010) "A black feminist critique of American religious anti-war (dis)engagements" *Works and Days*. 57/58 (Volume 29, Nos. 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* Volume 17, Nos. 3 & 4.

- 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 (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 ISSUES:

Ethnographic Analyses of Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality & Christianity (2010) edited by Assata Zerai, and Sandra Weissinger Special Issue of *Women, Gender and Families of Color*

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 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.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES:

Zerai, Assata (forthcoming) "Project 500", the Special Educational Opportunities Program (SEOP).

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

UNDER REVIEW:

Zerai, Assata (under review) "In the Traditions of Professor Victor C. Uchendu and Professor Ifi Amadiume: African women, digital divides, and the mobile ecosystem, An Africana Feminist Perspective". Special issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of Professor Victor Uchendu's *The Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria*. *West Africa Review*—submitted November 2016.

Loren Henderson, Assata Zerai and Rebecca Morrow (under review) Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Status among Ever-Married and Cohabiting Zimbabwean Women: An Examination of Partners' Traits (*Journal of Eastern African Studies*)—submitted May 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Big-Ten Academic Alliance (Formerly CIC), 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

"Incomplete List Of Instructor Rated As Excellent By Their Students" UIUC Recognition; 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

FELLOWSHIPS

Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society Fellowship (UIUC)

2003 – 2004

National Development Research Institute Fellowship	2003 – 2004
Andrew Mellon Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship	1993 -- 1994

LANGUAGES

English – Native Language

Spanish and Kiswahili – speak, read, and write with basic competence

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

Association of Black Sociologists

ASWAD: Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora

Women, Gender, and Families of Color, Editorial Board

American Sociological Association, Rose Series Editorial Board

Drug Policy Alliance

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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. Author Meets Critic Session at African Studies Association. Proposed for November 2017.

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

Zerai, Assata. African Women and the Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance. ASWAD Conference. 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. Accepted. 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

ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of University Women

American Sociological Association (ASA)

ASA Section Memberships:

- Communication and Information Technologies
- Methodology
- Race, Class & Gender

Association of Black Sociologists

Association for the Study of the World Wide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

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

University of Illinois Service:

Year	Departmental, college and university service
August 2015-present	Director, Center for African Studies
July 16, 2014-present	Associate Dean, Graduate College
2014-15	Chair, Graduate College Fellowship Committees--5 (STEM; Social Sciences and Humanities; Exec; Aspire; Sloan)
2014-15	Chair, Sociology Department Diversity Committee
2014-15	Sociology Head Search Committee
2014-15	Organizer, IPRH Gender and Feminisms of the African Diaspora Reading/Writing Group
2015-present	Faculty Advisory Board Member, The STEM - Female Empowerment Alliance (aka STEM - Fem Alliance).
April 2014	Organizer, Center for African American Studies and Sociology Department brown bag lecture, Dr. Abu Bah, Illinois State University
2013-15	Sociology Department, Governance Committee
2013-present	Chair, Research Board, Multiracial Democracy Initiative Funding
2013-14	Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, Sociology Department
2011-13	Graduate College Executive Committee
2007-12	Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology Department
2002-2005; 2006-2009; 2010-2013	Sociology Department Advisory Committee (Elected position)—served on various tenure review and third year review committees as a part of my Advisory Committee portfolio
2005, 2007-2009; 2010-2012	Sociology Department Graduate Admissions Committee
2012-present	Member, Research Board, Multiracial Democracy Initiative Funding
2009-11	General Education Committee, College Liberal Arts and Sciences

2007-10	Committee on Commencement
2003-05	Faculty Senate
2011-13	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Committee on Committees
2013-14	Provost's Office, Mid-Career Advisory Group
2011-present	Center for African Studies Advisory Committee
2010-11	Center for African Studies Admissions Committee