

**DANIEL KWESI ABUSUAMPEH, MPA, MSW**  
*PhD Candidate in Social Work*  
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work|dka18@pitt.edu  
Founder and Director, African Tribe Bridge Institute (ATBI)

## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Work** **Expected 2027**  
*University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA*

- **Dissertation:** Why “Us vs. Them” and Not “Me and You”? Exploring the Impact of Tribalism on Our Mental Health: A Case Study in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Mixed-methods design. Dissertation overview defended. Data collection and analysis in progress. Defense scheduled January 2027.
- Committee: Dr. Kyaie O. Conner (Chair), Dr. Mary Elizabeth Rauktis, Dr. Yodit Betru, Dr. Dianxu Ren

**Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Social Work** **2021**  
*University of Ghana, Legon, School of Social Work*

- Thesis: Examining the Effectiveness of the Guidance and Counseling Program of the Ghana Education Service (GES)

**Master of Public Administration (MPA)** **2017**  
*University of Ghana, Legon, Business School*

- Thesis: The Role of NGOs in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals on Quality Education: A Case of Village-by-Village Ghana

**Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Work and Sociology** **2014**  
*University of Ghana, Legon, School of Social Work*

- Thesis: The Effect of Long Distance to School on Children’s Educational Attainment in Chorokor Community, Greater Accra Region, Ghana

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Tribalism, equity consciousness, and intergroup conflict
- Mental health disparities and the social determinants of health
- Community-engaged research and program evaluation
- Global and international social work
- African diaspora studies and history
- Documentary filmmaking as public scholarship

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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*Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work*

- Lead original research informing the development of CRSP research programs and strategic goals.
- Coordinate tracking and assessment of CRSP programs and integrate findings into program improvement.
- Develop peer-reviewed articles, policy reports, and educational materials that disseminate CRSP research nationally.
- Identify and pursue external funding opportunities to advance CRSP programming and research.

***Externally Funded Research (Graduate Research Assistant)***

**R01GM151566-01A1, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)      \$5,000,000**

*Promoting Inclusive Excellence. PI: Dr. Doris Rubio; Co-PI: Dr. Ron Idoko; Co-I: Dr. Kyaïen Conner. GRA: Abusuampeh*

- Cluster randomized trial testing an evidence-based intervention to dismantle systemic racism across 26 institutions, with two-year longitudinal follow-up and qualitative interviews on neural response to racism before and after intervention

**Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)      \$2,503,000**

*Examination of the Evidence-Based Care Transitions Intervention Enhanced with Peer Support to Reduce Racial Disparities in Hospital Readmissions. PI: Dr. Kyaïen Conner. GRA: Abusuampeh*

- Evaluation of a transitional care strategy using peer educators to reduce racial disparities in hospital readmissions among racially diverse older adults with chronic illness and co-occurring psychiatric conditions

***Internally Funded Research, University of Pittsburgh (Graduate Research Assistant)***

**Virginia Kaufman Pain Research Challenge Award      \$75,000**

*Easing the Pain of Racism: A Cognitive Behavioral Pilot Intervention for Racial Trauma. Racial Equity Consciousness Institute, Center on Race and Social Problems, University of Pittsburgh. PI: Dr. Ron Idoko, Research Coordinator: Abusuampeh*

- Coordinate a community-engaged convergent mixed-methods pilot testing of a seven-session cognitive behavioral intervention for race-based psychological pain across three cohorts.
- Lead IRB management for an expedited, minimal-risk behavioral study, preparing and maintaining the PittPRO protocol, consent, recruitment, and interview materials.
- Design and coordinate the evaluation, including building REDCap data-collection systems and administering pre- and post-intervention measures (the RECI-I, the RAS-a, and a new psychological pain assessment).

- Coordinate participant recruitment, scheduling, and retention with University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Centers and community partners.
- Oversee data quality, coding, and confidentiality within secure University systems, and support mixed-methods analysis and dissemination.

#### **University of Pittsburgh Momentum Award**

**\$57,214**

*Creating Synergies and Collaborations to Advance Race-Based Research. PI: Dr. Kyaien Conner; Co-I: Dr. Ron Idoko. GRA: Abusuampek*

- Built a university-wide repository of race-related research and fostered collaboration across race-based centers at the University of Pittsburgh

#### **Steve Manners Faculty Research Award, University Center for Social & Urban Research**

**\$20,000**

*The Black Pittsburgh Satisfaction and Retention Survey. PI: Dr. Kyaien Conner; Co-Is: Dr. Ron Idoko, Dr. Durham. RA: Abusuampek*

- Partnered with the Corporate Equity and Inclusion Roundtable (CEIR) to evaluate barriers and facilitators to long-term Black residence in Pittsburgh and to inform regional diversification strategy

#### ***Additional Research Appointments***

#### **Community Engaged Research, Organizing, and Development**

**2022 – 2023**

*University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work. PI: Dr. Mary L. Ohmer*

- Research for Equity and Power (REP) Project: facilitated community engagement in Homewood and Hazelwood and integrated findings into community action plans.
- County-wide violence prevention project: collected and analyzed qualitative data on collective efficacy in marginalized communities, co-authored research papers, and presented at community forums.

#### **Life Course Transitions and Trajectories of Persons with Disabilities (LICOT-WASO) 2018-2021**

*University of Ghana, Legon, School of Social Sciences*

- Conducted mixed-methods field data collection across Ghana on life-course challenges faced by persons with disabilities; analysis contributed to national policy reports.
- Inclusive Local Planning in Ghana: supported implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through stakeholder interviews, community workshops, and policy briefs for local government

#### **EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW**

#### **Junior Editor and Peer Reviewer, Race and Social Problems**

**2023 – Present**

*University of Pittsburgh and Springer Nature (Impact Factor 2.0)*

- Invited role screening manuscript submissions for scope, fit, and ethical compliance
- Recruit and manage peer reviewers, balancing methodological expertise, disciplinary diversity, and geographic representation.
- Deliver formal evaluations of submitted manuscripts assessing theory, methodology, and equity implications.
- Complete five to eight formal peer reviews annually.

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

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### ***Research Grants Held as Principal Investigator***

- CRSP and RISE-MH Initiatives Grant, \$15,000. The Impact of Tribalism on Our Mental Health: A Study in the United States and Ghana. 2025.
- Year of Discourse and Dialogue Initiative Grant, \$5,000. Mental Health, Tribalism, and Dialogue: Building Resilience through Understanding and Discourse. University of Pittsburgh, 2025
- Year of Discourse and Dialogue Initiative Grant, \$5,000. Space for Voice, Race, and Social Problems Discourse. University of Pittsburgh, 2024
- Year of Discourse and Dialogue Initiative Grant, \$5,000. Bridging Cultures and Fostering Dialogue: Engaging African Students in Discourse on Tribal Equity. University of Pittsburgh, 2023
- School of Social Work Summer Training Award, \$5,000. University of Pittsburgh

### ***Fellowships***

- CRSP/RECI Fellowship, Office of the Vice Provost, University of Pittsburgh, 2024–2025

### ***Honors and Scholarships***

- K. Leroy Irvis Community Champions Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2026
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Award, \$1,200. School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, 2025
- Joseph W. and Helen F. Eaton Emerging Scholars Award Fund, Spring 2024
- Dr. Leslie S. Richards and Dr. Dick Richards Endowed Achievement Scholarship
- Pitt Alumni Resource Scholarship, \$2,000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles***

- VanHook, C., **Abusuampek, D.**, & Pollard, J. (2025). Leveraging AI for mental health care. *Frontiers in Health Services*, 5, 1654106.

- Blair, S. C., Schaefer, K. E., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, & Idoko, R. O. (2025). Learning from the next generation: Exploring engagement and insights from the Racial Equity Consciousness Institute. *The Urban Review*, 1–24.
- Conner, K. O., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, Kosyluk, K., Tran, J. T., Davis-Cotton, D., Hill, A. M., & Brown, A. P. (2024). Mitigating the stigma of mental illness: The impact of storytelling in the Black community. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(11), 1473.

### *Manuscripts Under Review*

- **Abusuampek, D. K.** (under review). Tribalism as a Transdisciplinary Framework for International Social Work: Group Identity, Mental Health and Practice Across Contexts.
- **Abusuampek, D. K.** (under review). Learning to Engage Systemic Racism: MSW Students' Accounts of Skill, Confidence, and Constraint.
- **Abusuampek, D. K.** (under review). The Mandated Dual Relationship: Teacher-Counsellors, Access and Disclosure in Ghanaian Junior High Schools.
- VanHook, C. R., Kumi, S., Stephens, N., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, Pollard, J., Guest, J., & Ringo, I. (under review). A critical scoping review of research on Black men with schizophrenia spectrum disorders in the United States: Exposing the architecture of neglect.
- Conner, K. O., Grosland, T., Cobb-Roberts, D., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, Nembhard, K., & Rosado, S. (under review). The impact of mentoring on persistence, resilience, and success outcomes of Black women academics.
- Albizu-Jacob, A., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, Anderson, E., Bailey, A., Kosyluk, K., Davis-Cotton, D., Hill, A. M., & Conner, K. O. (under review). The power of storytelling: Viewer perceptions of a contact-based mental illness stigma reduction program through stories from the Black community.

### *Policy Briefs and Public Scholarship*

- Shanks, T., Romich, J., Nepomnyaschy, L., Hamilton, L., Fusaro, V., **Abusuampek, D. K.**, & Bloxom, Q. (2024). Meeting the grand challenge to reduce extreme economic inequality (Policy brief). Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative.
- **Abusuampek, D. K.** (2024). Racism across the world: Tribalism in Africa (Op-ed). Center on Race and Social Problems, University of Pittsburgh.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Independent Instructor**

**2025 – Present**

*University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA*

- Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations (undergraduate, spring). Independent instructor of record with full responsibility for syllabus, curriculum delivery, assignments, grading, and student mentorship.
- Introduction to Social Work Research (undergraduate, fall). Independent instructor of record with full responsibility for syllabus, curriculum delivery, assignments, and grading.

**MSW Practicum Instructor and Field Supervisor, COSA Specialization** **2025 – Present**  
*University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP)*

- Practicum instructor for full-time MSW students in a Specialized Practice placement in Community Organizing and Social Action (COSA) at CRSP.
- Supervise a 720-hour, two-semester placement (Fall to Spring) aligned with CSWE 2022 EPAS competency standards.
- Provide a minimum of one hour of formal individual supervision each week, as required by CSWE and EPAS accreditation standards.
- Complete the MSW COSA Practicum Evaluation Form assessing student development across all nine CSWE competencies: ethical and professional behavior; human rights and social justice; anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion; practice-informed research; policy practice; engagement with groups, organizations, and communities; assessment; intervention; and evaluation of practice.
- Develop and monitor individualized practicum learning plans and provide written competency-based evaluations reviewed by the faculty practicum liaison.
- Integrate CRSP research on race equity and community engagement into the student's field education experience.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **2022 – 2025**  
*University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA*

- SWRES 2040: DP Advanced Applied Research (master's, fall). Instructor: Dr. Conner
- SWBEH 2065: Human Behavior and Mental Health (master's, spring). Instructor: Dr. Betru
- SWINT 2072: Social Work Practice and Traumatic Stress (master's, fall). Instructor: Dr. Betru
- SWGEN 2080: Dimensions of Racism (master's, spring). Instructor: Dr. Idoko
- AFRCNA 1535: Dimensions of Racism (undergraduate, summer). Instructor: Dr. Idoko

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **2019 – 2022**  
*University of Ghana, Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA), Legon, Ghana*

- Taught Gender and Development at the undergraduate and master's levels.
- Taught NGO Development and Community Organizing (MPhil and PhD, Department of Social Work).
- Delivered courses fully online during the COVID-19 period, including remote lectures, virtual tutorials, and online assessment and grading.
- Supervised graduate assistants, reviewed and graded student work, and organized tutorials.
- Developed the institutional communication strategy for CEGENSA.

**Mentor, International Graduate Students** **2024 – Present**  
*University of Pittsburgh, Purdue University Fort Wayne, and University of North Texas*

- Provide ongoing informal mentorship to international master's students on academic transition, professional networking, and navigating graduate study in the United States.

#### **Invited Guest Lecturer**

**2022 – Present**

*University of Pittsburgh and University of Ghana*

- Race Around the World, SOC 1364, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.
- The Impact of Tribalism. Invited keynote and seminar presenter, Center for African Studies, University of Pittsburgh (2024–2026).
- Mapping Racism in Africa: Tribalism and the Rwandan Genocide. Dimensions of Racism, Center for African Studies, University of Pittsburgh.
- Human Resource Management and Staff Development, SWCOSA 2084, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh.
- Sub-Saharan Education and Social Entrepreneurship in Ghana. MSW Community Planning and Development, School of Social Work University of Pittsburgh.
- The Role of NGOs and Social Workers in Ghana in Promoting SDG Goal 4. Global Perceptions of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh.
- Community-Based Research in Ghana Using CBPR. MSW graduate seminar, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh.
- Invited keynote and seminar presenter, Institute of African Studies Seminar Series, University of Ghana, Legon

### **FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED SCHOLARSHIP**

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#### **Tribal Consciousness and Bridge-Building System (TCBS)**

**2026 – Present**

*Original framework. Developer and author*

A theory-grounded framework treating tribalism as a public health and community development problem. TCBS organizes intervention across three phases (diagnose, transform, heal) and seven measurable constructs, and operates at individual, community, and systemic levels. It draws on Social Identity Theory, Contact Theory, minority stress, trauma, and prejudice reduction research, and specifies a research agenda addressing each of its untested elements. The framework is theory-grounded and evidence-informed. It has not yet been evaluated for outcomes.

#### **Structured Cognitive Behavioral Training for Tribal Equity Consciousness**

**2023 – 2025**

Adapted a structured cognitive behavioral training approach, developed in racial equity education, to the distinct problem of tribalism in African and diasporic contexts. Organized across six progressive spheres: awareness, recognition, identity and bias, diversity literacy, empathy and stamina, and trauma, healing, and justice, *and delivered* through ATBI community trainings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Accra, Ghana. This experience informed the development of TCBS.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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#### **Founder and Director, African Tribe Bridge Institute (ATBI)**

**2023 – Present**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

Founded a United States-based institute dedicated to the study and training-based treatment of tribalism as a community mental health and social equity issue. ATBI delivers structured training on tribalism through community-based programing and partnerships with schools, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

- Formal institutional partnership with the Center for African Studies, University of Pittsburgh (contract).
- Partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh.
- Delivered trainings to community organizations and schools in Pittsburgh.
- Producing documentary and digital platform content for national reach.

**Country Director and Social Worker, Sub-Saharan Education Project**

**2015 – 2021**

*Accra, Ghana*

- Co-founded an educational nonprofit providing quality education in rural and peri-urban Ghanaian communities and managed an annual budget exceeding \$1,000,000.
- Led construction of three schools across three regions, providing educational access to more than 5,000 students, including libraries.
- Supervised teams of full-time and part-time staff, interns, and volunteers.
- Designed and implemented scholarship programs, vocational training workshops, and teacher development initiatives in collaboration with government officials and community leaders.

**Program Manager, Sub-Saharan Education Project**

**2009 – 2015**

*Accra, Ghana*

- Engaged the Ministry of Education to expand educational opportunities in underserved communities.
- Developed and implemented scholarship and enrichment programs for junior high school students in government schools.
- Organized and facilitated teacher training workshops, vocational programs, and community scholarship initiatives.

**CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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- Abusuampek, D. K. (2026, January). Beyond us vs. them: Cultivating tribal equity consciousness for flourishing communities. Human Flourishing Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Abusuampek, D. K. (2025, August). Instituting a structured cognitive behavioral training framework to develop grounded personal and collective tribal equity consciousness. Invited presentation, Institute of African Studies Seminar Series, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.
- Abusuampek, D. K. (2025, January). Providing structured cognitive behavioral training to develop tribal equity consciousness for addressing tribalism in Africa. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 29th Annual Conference.

- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2025, January). Exploring the teaching of practical skills to engage racism: A case study at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 29th Annual Conference.
- Abusuampeh, D. K., Nesibe, K., & Neda. (2024, October). Employing community-engaged evaluation methods for developing learning experiences on racial equity. American Evaluation Association Annual Conference.
- Abusuampeh, D. K., & Jimin, S. (2024, October). A scoping review of stigma against persons with HIV/AIDS in Ghana. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 70th Annual Program Meeting.
- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2024, September). Providing an antidote for tribalism by the African Tribe Bridge Institute (ATBI). Race and Social Problems Conference, University of Pittsburgh.
- Conner, K., Abusuampeh, D. K., Idoko, R., & Stephens, M. (2024, September). Illuminating the vaccine for racism. Sixth World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2024, April). Developing tribal equity consciousness. Year of Discourse and Dialogue Capstone Event, University of Pittsburgh.
- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2024, April). Space for voice, race, and social problems discourse. Year of Discourse and Dialogue Capstone Event, University of Pittsburgh.
- Abusuampeh, D. K., & Ohmer, M. (2024, January). Challenges and lessons learned in the co-creation of a community survey to assess neighborhood collective efficacy. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference.
- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2023, October). Effectiveness of guidance and counseling programs in Ghana junior high schools. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 69th Annual Program Meeting.
- Abusuampeh, D. K., Beery, J., Ohmer, M., Pearl, D., & Son, S. (2023, June). Increasing county-wide organizing and advocacy on equity issues. 13th Annual Community Development Summit, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Abusuampeh, D. K. (2012, April). Community organizing in low-income educational settings: A collaborative approach. 5th International School Social Work Conference, Accra, Ghana.

## **DOCUMENTARY FILMS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

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- Understanding Tribalism (Us vs. Them). Documentary film funded by the University of Pittsburgh Year of Discourse and Dialogue Grant. Screened at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Creativity.
- Decolonizing Our Thinking in Senegal. Documentary film funded through a Fulbright grant. Screened at the University of Pittsburgh and community events.
- Films available at <https://www.youtube.com/@DanielAbusuampeh>
- Judge, University of Pittsburgh C4C One Minute Film Festival, 2024

## **SERVICE**

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### ***Service to the Profession***

- Junior Editor and Peer Reviewer, Race and Social Problems, Springer Nature, 2023 to present
- Conference volunteer, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting
- Conference volunteer, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference

### ***University and Departmental Service***

- Member, University Council on Graduate Study (UCGS), School of Social Work liaison, University of Pittsburgh, 2025 to present
- President, Doctoral Student Organization, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, 2025–2026
- Justice and Belonging Liaison, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, 2023–2025
- Public Relations Officer, African Graduate Student Union, University of Pittsburgh, 2023–2025

### ***Community Service***

- Member, Stand for All Pittsburgh, a coalition mobilizing southwestern Pennsylvania to prevent, identify, and address hate and bias incidents.
- Child Care Officer Assistant, Osu Children's Orphanage Home, Labone, Accra, Ghana, 2006–2018. Supervised children in a home care setting, organized group activities and educational programs, mentored youth, and supervised interns and volunteers

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), University of Pittsburgh, Senior Researcher
- Racial Equity Consciousness Institute (RECI), University of Pittsburgh, Facilitator
- Stand For All Pittsburgh (SFAP)

## **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

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### ***Languages***

- English (fluent), Twi (native), Ewe (proficient), Ga (proficient)

### ***Research Methods and Technical Skills***

- Qualitative methods: thematic analysis, narrative inquiry, in-depth interviewing, focus groups. Software: Atlas.ti

- Quantitative methods: survey design and administration, descriptive and inferential analysis.  
Software: R, Stata
- Data collection and management platforms: REDCap, Qualtrics
- Research design: mixed methods, community-based participatory research, community-engaged evaluation, scoping review

### ***Certifications***

- Certified HIV/AIDS Health Educator
- Certified Racial Equity Facilitator