

Curriculum Vita  
**KYLA MARIE KURIAN, PHD, NCC, LPC**

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KKURIAN@NCCU.EDU

## **EDUCATION**

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, Raleigh, North Carolina

Doctor of Philosophy; Grade Point Average 3.844

Counselor Education and Supervision (CACREP approved); Minor: Psychology

*Dissertation: Validating Optimal Theory Applied to Identity Development (OTAID): A South African Woman Sample*

Chair: Dr. Herbert A. Exum

August 2004

OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, Ohio

Master of Education

College Student Personnel Grade Point Average 3.6

June 1996

RHODES COLLEGE, Memphis, Tennessee

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

May 1994

## **LICENSE AND CERTIFICATIONS**

*Licensed Professional Counselor (License No. 5139)*

North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors

Licensed since December 2, 2005

*National Certified Counselor (Certificate Number: 83590),*

National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.

Certificated since July 3, 2003

*Certified Human Behavior Consultant*

Leadership Institute of America, Blue Ridge, Georgia

Trained to administer personality assessments. Led participants through personality and career exploration.

Certification Date: May 1999

## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Cultural diversity, identity development, Black and Coloured South African women identity development, substance abuse, ethics in counseling, college student development and HIV/AIDS.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### *Assistant Professor*

School of Education, Counselor Education  
North Carolina Central University, since August 2006

### Courses Taught

Multicultural and Gender Issues in Counseling  
Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling (*\*Developed this course.*)  
Internship in Counseling  
Theories and Techniques in Counseling  
Introduction to Counseling  
Psychosocial Development  
Group Counseling

### *Adjunct Instructor*

School of Education, Counselor Education  
North Carolina Central University  
Courses taught: Cross Cultural and Gender Issues in Counseling, Internship in counseling, Practicum in Counseling and Introduction to Counseling  
August 2004 – July 2006

### *Instructor*

College of Education: Counselor Education and Supervision Department  
North Carolina State University  
Course taught: Advanced Practicum in Counseling (Graduate)  
August 2003 – December 2003

### *Instructor*

Preparing the Professoriate  
North Carolina State University  
Course taught: Psychology and the African American Experience (Undergraduate)  
August 2002 – December 2002

### *Teaching Associate*

Preparing the Professoriate (PTP)  
North Carolina State University  
PTP provides fellows with a hands-on teaching opportunity under a distinguished faculty mentor recognized for his or her teaching skills. Fellows who complete the program earn a transcript notation recognizing their accomplishment.  
Course taught: Psychology and the African American Experience (Undergraduate)  
August 2001 – December 2001

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### *University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research Developmental Award*

Research Project: Adapting a Women-Focused Evidence Based HIV Prevention Intervention for At-Risk African American College Women at HBCUs (\$22,938)  
Principle Investigator: Kyla M. Kurian, Ph.D.  
August 2007 – August 2012

*NIH/NIDA Research Trainee*

National Institute of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse addiction Training Institute (ARTI)  
Morehouse Medical College

Was selected to be a part of the ARTI which is designed to assist early/new investigators to become funded researchers in the field of substance abuse and addiction among African American populations.

July 2009

*NIDA Post-Doctoral Research Scholar/Research Analyst*

RTI International, Substance Abuse Treatment Evaluations and Interventions

Post-doctoral research training intended to expand the support of underrepresented groups in drug abuse research.

Research Project: "Women-Focused HIV Prevention with African American Crack Abusers"

Principle Investigator: Wendee M. Wechsberg, Ph.D.

October 2004 – June 2007

*Research Fellow*

The Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Program (Pennsylvania State University)

Served as one of five qualitative data analysts.

Research Project: "South Africa's first population based HIV/AIDS risk status and media survey (SABSSM)"

Principal Investigator: Olive Shisana, ScD; Co-Investigators: Leickness Simbayi, PhD, Efua Dorkenoo, OBE and Collins Airhihenbuwa, Ph.D

May – August 2002

*Research Assistant*

Office of Equal Opportunity, North Carolina State University.

Research Project: "International graduate and undergraduate students regarding issues surrounding harassment and discrimination."

Principle Investigator: Rhonda Sutton, PhD

January – May 2002

*Research Assistant*

Counselor Education Department, North Carolina State University.

Principal Investigator: Detris Honora, EdD

Participated in a study of Ethnic Identity Development and Optimism Among African American Adolescents.

January – May 2002

*Research Assistant*

Counselor Education Department, North Carolina State University.

Participated in a qualitative analysis of student success and satisfaction in the honors program at North Carolina State University.

Principal Investigator: Raymond Ting, PhD

May – August 2001

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

*Clinical Director*

Residential Adolescent Adult Services and Training, Inc.

Conducted mental health assessments and clinical intake interviews for troubled adults and adolescents.

Assisted with training and supervision of qualified professionals on their case loads, professionalism and cognitive behavioral therapies.

May 2010-September 2010

*Outpatient Therapist*

Family and Youth Incorporated, Durham, North Carolina

Provides individual and group psychotherapy for families and youth in the Durham areas who suffer from various mental illnesses, behavioral, and environmental challenges.

October 2004 – January 2006

*Doctoral Intern*

Raleigh Vet Center, Raleigh North Carolina

Individual and group psychotherapy for African-American and Latino Combat Veterans who suffer from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, relationship problems, violence, etc.

August 2002 – October 2004

*Counselor/Co-Leader*

Christian Fellowship Group Home, Raleigh, North Carolina

Anger management group for men who have substance abuse problems.

September 2003

*Intern/Administrator*

Counseling Center/Residence Life

University Of Evansville

Counseled students, especially students of color

August 1996 – July 2000

## PUBLICATIONS

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** & Wechsberg, W. M. (2012). Adapting an evidence-based HIV intervention for at-risk African American college women at Historically Black Colleges and Universities who use alcohol and drugs. *Sage Open*, 2(4) doi:10.1177/2158244012464977

**Sawyer-Kurian, K.M.**, Browne, F.A., Carney, T., Petersen, P., Wechsberg, W.M. (2011). Exploring the Intersecting Health Risks of Substance Abuse, Sexual Risk, and Violence for Female South African Teen Dropouts. *Journal of Psychology in Africa*, 21 (1):15-25.

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, Wechsberg, W. M., and Luseno, W. K (2009). Substance Abuse, Violence against Women, and HIV Risks: Men's Voices from Cape Town, South Africa. *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 10(1), 13–29.

Royal, C., **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, Moody, E., Newsome, G. K., Lawrence, W., (2009). Digital Audio Technology in Counselor Education: A Qualitative Evaluation of Podcasting Use, 2, *NC Perspectives*, 42-52.

**Sawyer, K. M.**, Wechsberg, W. M., and Myers, B. (2006). Cultural Similarities and Differences Between a Sample of Black/African and Coloured Women in South Africa: Convergence of Risk Related to Substance Use, Sexual Behavior, and Violence. *Journal of Woman and Health*, 43(2), 73-92

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** (2012). *Identity Expression Index: A tool for understanding the cultural dimensions of human identity*. ISBN-13: 978-0-615-67786-6

**Kurian-Sawyer, K. M.** (Producer & Director), & Wechsberg, W. M. (Co-Producer). (2009). *Young, Black and (HIV) positive: Marvelyn Brown's Words of Wisdom and Lessons Learned* [Behavioral Intervention-Motion picture; Currently in use in the field]. (Limited availability -Permission required. Filmed by Redimere Films, North Carolina.)

**Kurian-Sawyer, K. M.** (Writer, Producer & Director), & Kurian, A. S. (Co-Director). (2009). *ABCs of Exercising your Power: Negotiating Safer Sex* [Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention-Motion picture; Currently in use in the field]. (Limited availability-Proprietary. Filmed by Redimere Films, North Carolina.)

## PRESENTATIONS

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** and Wechsberg, W. M. (2011). *Adapting a Women-Focused Evidence Based HIV Prevention Intervention for At-Risk African American College Women at HBCUs*. Poster Presentation at the HIV CARE 2011 Symposium, May 2, 2011, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Wechsberg, W. M., Browne, F. A., **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, Ellerson, R. M. (2010). *The allure of gangs, violence and victimization experienced by drug-using teens in Cape Town, South Africa*. Presented at the 15th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma September 15, 2010, San Diego, California.

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, and Newsome, G. K. (2009). *Crisis Intervention: Sexual Assault*. North Carolina Central University's Department of Counselor education's Fall 2009 Drive-In.

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** & Newsome, G. K. (2008). "Counselor Stereotypes Potential for Harm: Preparing Counselors for Diverse Cultural Contexts." Presented at the 2008 ACA Conference in Honolulu Hawaii March 2008.

Royal, C., **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, Newsome, G. K., Moody, E. E., Lawrence, W., and Whiting, P. (2008). "Podcasting: How to Use it." Presented at the 2008 ACA Conference in Honolulu Hawaii March 2008.

Burwell, C.M., & **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** (2008). "Perceived and Actual Needs of African American College Women at Risk." Presented at the 2008 North Carolina Counseling Association Conference, Raleigh, NC, February 2008.

Wechsberg, W. M., Karg, R. S., Zule, W., Middlesteadt-Ellerson, R., **Kurian, K. M.**, Browne, F. & Young S. (July 3, 2007). "Crack Use Careers and Effects of Brief HIV Interventions Overtime for African American Women," AIDS Impact, Marseille, France.

Karg, R.S., Wechsberg, W.M., **Kurian, K.M.**, Browne, F., & Ellerson, R.M. (June, 2007). "On the Rocks: Barriers to Treatment-Seeking among African American Women Who Are Chronic Crack Abusers." Poster presented at the 69th annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Quebec, Canada , June 19.

Wechsberg, W. M., Luseno, W. K., Browne, F. A., and **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** (June 16–21, 2007). "Differences in Alcohol, Methamphetamine, and Cannabis Use among Out-of-School Adolescent Females in the Western Cape Province of South Africa The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Canada.

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.**, (April 2007). "Effects of Counselor Stereotypes" North Carolina Central University, Counselor Education and Chi Sigma Iota Spring Drive-In Workshop.

Wechsberg, W. M., **Sawyer, K. M.**, Luseno, W.K , and Karg, R.S. (November 6, 2006). "Men's Voices About Using Drugs and Abusing Women: Drugs, Rape and HIV Fears in Cape Town, South Africa." Presented at APHA - American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.

**Sawyer, K. M.**, Wechsberg, W. M., Karg, R.S., Riehman, K. S., and Lam, W.K. (November 4-8, 2006). "Examining the role of spirituality in the lives of African American women who use crack through the lens of Soul Theology." Poster presented at APHA - American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.

Wechsberg, W. M., Lam, W. K., Karg, R.S., Johnson, E. O. and **Kurian, K. M.** (August 10-13, 2006). "Long-Term Effects of HIV Prevention Interventions with African American Crack Using Women." Presented at the 2006 APA Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Karg, R.S., Wechsberg, W. M., Luseno, W. K., and **Sawyer, K. M.** (August 10-13, 2006). "Racial Differences in Sexual Risks, Substance Use, and Violence among Coloured and Black South African Women." Presented at American Psychological Association (APA) 2006 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana,.

**Sawyer, K. M.**, Mitchell, J., Moody, Jr., E. Kurian, A. S. and Mitchell, P. (April 2006). "Dark Planet: Expanding Counselors' Understanding." Presented at North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina.

**Sawyer, K. M.** "Black South African Women Identity Development." (April 2006). ACA Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.

**Sawyer, K. M.**, J. Mitchell, E. Moody, Jr., A.S. Kurian, and P. Mitchell. (February 2006). "Dark Planet: Expanding Counselors' Understanding." Presented at North Carolina Counseling Association, Durham, North Carolina.

Wechsberg, W.M. Karg, R., Lam, K.K., **Sawyer, K. M.**, Zule, W., and Bobashev, G. (August 2005). "Long-Term Behavioral Changes in Crack Use Among African-American Crack-Using Women." Presented at the APA Conference in Washington, D.C., August 20, 2005. This research was supported by NIDA Grant No. RO1 DA11609 and NIAAA Grant RO1 AA1448

**Sawyer, K. M.**, Simbayi, L., Dorkenoo, E. Gumedu, T., Shisana, O., and Airhihenbuwa, C. (August 2003). *Sexual risk behaviours in women in Kwa-Zulu Natal: Implications for HIV/AIDS counselling and prevention.* Poster presentation at the 1<sup>st</sup> South African AIDS conference (Track 3 Epidemiology, prevention and public health) Durban, South Africa.

Ferguson, Y. O., **Sawyer, K. M.**, and Dorkenoo, E., (August 2002). *Getting the most out of HIV/AIDS qualitative data.* Paper presented at the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health Conference. Pretoria, South Africa

**Sawyer, K. M.** (March 2002). *Black South African Women Identity Development: The Umemulo Model.* Paper presented at the twenty-sixth annual National Council for Black Studies Conference. San Diego, CA.

## FUNDED GRANTS

Kurian, A. S. & **Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** (2008). A Journey of Courage and Hope: Living with Cooley's Anemia. (\$2000) Panasonic "P2 for a Cause" Digital Filmmakers Grant Award in Cooperation with the Cooley's Anemia Foundation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAOnhP07PzA>

Roles: Proposal Development, Assistant Director, Creative Director, Interviewer of principals and voice-over/narrator

**Sawyer-Kurian, K. M.** (August 2007 – August 2012) Adapting a Women-Focused Evidence Based HIV Prevention Intervention for At-Risk African American College Women at HBCUs (\$22,938) *University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research Developmental Award*

Role: Principle Investigator

## **AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS**

- Addiction Research Training Institute, One of seventeen Fellows selected to participate, July 2009
- University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research Developmental Award, (\$22,938) August 2007
- National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities Scholar, July 2005 – June 2007
- Keystone Award for Graduate Staff Achievement, University Housing, North Carolina State University, May 2004
- Research Award, Association for the Concerns of African American Graduate Students, NC State University, 2004
- College of Education's Academic Achievement Award, Association for the Concerns of African American Graduate Students, NC State University, 2004
- The Courtland C. Lee Multicultural Excellence Scholarship Award - presented to a graduate student in counselor education whose dedication and academic work demonstrate excellence in the theory and practice of multicultural counseling, American Counseling Association, National Award recipient, 2004
- College of Education Dissertation Support Award, North Carolina State University, October 2003
- Graduate Staff Achievement Award, University Housing, North Carolina State University, May 2003
- National Institute of Health/Fogarty Fellowship - Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Program, Pennsylvania State University, 2002
- Preparing the Professoriate Program, North Carolina State University, Fall 2001
- Chi Sigma Iota, Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- American Counseling Association
- American Mental Health Counselors Association
- Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
- Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
- Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development.
- North Carolina Counseling Association
- North Carolina Association Multicultural Counseling and Development
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Christian Association of Psychological Studies, Board Member Southeastern Region, 2006-2009
- National Board of Certified Counselors
- Chi Sigma Iota, Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International, North Carolina State University Chapter, President Elect, 2001 – 2002; President, 2002 – 2003

## **THESIS COMMITTEE SERVICE**

- Thesis Committee Member, Joyati Dutta, M.A. *The Impact of Days Resided in Oxford House and*

*Contingency Management on Abstinence in a Randomized Clinical Trial among Female African-American Cocaine Users*, Psychology Department, 2011

- Thesis Committee Member, Cassandra Walston, M.A. *The Impact of Structural Factors on Marriage Rates Among Males and Females in North Carolina*, Sociology Department, 2010
- Thesis Committee Member, Erica Handon, *Assessing Perceived Parental Satisfaction in Two Parent Families*, Department of Counselor Education, 2010
- Thesis Committee Member, Chrisola Ham, M.S., *Spending Patterns of African American College Students at a Historically Black University*, Department of Human Sciences, 2008
- Thesis Committee Chair, Crystal Burwell, M.A., *Counseling Needs and College Counselor Perceptions of At-Risk African American Women*. Department of Counselor Education, 2008

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Consulting Editor, *Journal of Psychology in Africa*, 2011 to present
- North Carolina Association Multicultural Counseling and Development, Secretary-2007-2008; President Elect-2008-2009; President, 2009-2010.
- Christian Association of Psychological Studies, Board of Directors Southeast Region, 2007-2009

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Psychology Department, Senior Seminar, "Career and Graduate Opportunities in Counseling." Since 2007 once a year.
- School of Education Students First Committee, 2006 – present; Co-Chair
- School of Education Governance Committee, 2006 – 2007; Chair
- School of Education Diversity Committee, 2007 – 2008; Co-Chair, 2010
- School of Education Student Grade Appeals and Grievance Committee; 2008-present; Chair Spring 2010.
- NCCU Returning Faculty In-Service, Panelist for Mentoring Presentation and Roundtable Discussion, January 4, 2007
- Counseling Crisis Team for Campus and Family (Student death at Campus Crossings), January 4-5, 2007

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- Assessment Coordinator, 2009 - present
- Graduate Record Examination Preparation Workshop, December 2006; March 2007
- National Council on the Accreditation of Teacher Education Report on Retention, 2007
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs Report on Retention, 2007
- Co-Advisor, Chi Sigma Iota, Nu Chi Chi Chapter, 2007
- Drive-In Workshop Coordinator, 2009-present (Fall & Spring Workshops)

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Diversity Presentation for teachers: "*Racial Identity: Implications for Serving Students.*" *Rashkis Elementary*



*School, May 25, 2011*

- Discussion Panelist, "Going Homeless"- A play portraying familial struggles with domestic violence, homelessness and drug abuse. April 8, 2011- Common Ground Theater