

# Indhira M. Udofia, PhD, LCSW, MDiv, STM

Denver, CO | hello@imudofia.com | imudofia.com

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Womanist Theology & Ethics · Black Liberation Theology · African American Religion · Digital Purity Culture & Sexuality · Religious/Spiritual Trauma · Conjure Epistemology & Afro-Diasporic Thought · Critical Race Theory · Trauma-Informed Institutional Analysis

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D., Social Work (Joint Program)** UNC Greensboro / North Carolina A&T University, 2024  
Dissertation: Harm in the Hush Harbor: Exploring the Impact of Spiritual Trauma and Religious Trauma on Black Millennials and Generation Z in the Black Church  
Areas: Charismatic religious leadership; religious and spiritual violence; trauma-informed community; African Americans and the Black Church
- Master of Sacred Theology (STM)** Boston University School of Theology, 2017  
Concentration: Constructive Theology and Ethics
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)** Duke Divinity School, 2016  
Dual Program with MSW · Areas: race, gender, sexuality, religious trauma, identity formation
- Master of Social Work (MSW)** UNC School of Social Work, 2016  
Concentration: Community, Management, and Public Policy
- B.A., Psychology & Women and Gender Studies** UNC Greensboro, 2012

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- Teaching Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies** University of Denver, 2024–Present  
Faculty Director, Colorado Women's College Leadership Scholars Program
- Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, Critical Race & Ethnic Studies** University of Denver, 2023–2024  
Affiliate Faculty, Sociology; Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Adjunct Professor, Religious Studies** Augustana College, Spring 2023  
REL 263/363: Sexual Ethics (online)
- Graduate Instructor / Teaching Assistant** UNC Greensboro, 2020–2023  
BSW Program: Field Instruction, Social Work and Diversity, Human Behavior & Social Environment

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

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### University of Denver — Leadership Studies & Religious Studies

- RLGS 3453: Is God A Racist Sexist? Black Liberation and Womanist Theology
- RLGS 2250: Introduction to African American Religions (co-listed with Ethnic Studies)
- RLGS 2025: Religion, Race, and Social Justice in the US Public Square
- LDRS 2070: Envisioning an Anti-Racist, Feminist Leadership
- LDRS 2021: Leadership and Social Movements (Feminist & Cultural Leadership)
- LDRS 2040: Leading Community Change
- LDRS 2019: Teaming for Social Change
- LDRS 2017: Inclusive Leadership
- LDRS 3000: Leadership Capstone Course

### University of Denver — Critical Race & Ethnic Studies

- ETHN 2701: Race and Sexuality / Feminisms of Color (co-listed with GWSS)

ETHN 3004: Theories of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
ETHN 1004: Introduction to Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
SOCl 2320: Race and Ethnic Relations (co-listed with Ethnic Studies)

**Augustana College — Religious Studies**

REL 263/363: Sexual Ethics

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

Udofia, I. (forthcoming). The Judges Generation: Black Church Sexual Politics in the Age of Digital Purity Culture. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. [Accepted; Consent to Publish signed March 11, 2025]

Poole, J. & Udofia, I. (2025). Queer Theories and the Pedagogy of Gender: Gender Inclusive Schools. *Philosophy, Theory, & Foundations in Education*. <https://ptfe.pubpub.org/pub/0mo77mvq>

Gowdy, G., Spencer, R., Udofia, I., Fennell, Z., & Jones, A. (2023). Core and Capital Mentoring—in Real Life: A Qualitative Exploration of Different Types of Youth-Initiated Mentoring Relationships With Systems-Involved Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Research*.

Kim, A., Lowe, J., Greenblatt, L., Udofia, I., et al. (2018). A pop health approach to advance care planning through primary care: leveraging health IT, data science, and patient navigators. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 33(S755–S756).

**Book Project (In Progress)**

Holy & Haunted: Haintology and the Regulation of Black Desire. A scholarly monograph developing a haintology framework that synthesizes conjure epistemology, hauntology, and trauma-informed theory to analyze the governance of desire within Black religious institutional contexts.

**Articles Under Review**

Udofia, I. (under review). A Communion of the Haints: Governance Formation and the Grammar of the Breach in Black Institutional Life. Submitted for journal consideration.

Udofia, I., Dyson, Y. D., Parker, S. D., & Harrington, L. (under review). Church Hurt as Institutional Formation: Spiritual Harm, Governance, and Disaffiliation Among Black Millennials and Generation Z. Submitted for journal consideration.

Udofia, I., Dyson, Y. D., Parker, S. D., & Harrington, L. (under review). Religious Harm, Institutional Trust, and Black Church Futurity: A Mixed-Methods Womanist Examination of Spiritual Trauma Among Black Millennials and Generation Z. Submitted for journal consideration.

**Public Scholarship**

Udofia, I. (2022, March 23). When God feels distant, 'Attached to God' offers helpful guide. *Sojourners Magazine*.

Udofia, I. (2021, October 15). RuPaul and Joshua Harris have more in common than you think. *Sojourners*.

Wrencher, B. & Udofia, I. (2020, April 8). As Easter Approaches, Churches Rethink How We Worship. *Greensboro News and Record*.

Udofia, I. (2019, February 12). Hope Hurts. *Believe Out Loud*.

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**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting**

“The Judges Generation: Black Church Sexual Politics in the Age of Digital Purity Culture.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion Roundtable Session: Beyond Abstinence-Only: Purity Culture in Today’s Political Moment*. Boston, November 2025.

“Scenes of Subjugation: A Sociotheological Exploration of Religious and Spiritual Violence within Black Church.” *Session: Black Theology*. San Diego, November 2024.

"Harm in the Hush Harbor: Exploring the Impact of Religious Trauma on African American Millennials and Generation Z in the Black Church." Session: Religion and Social Sciences. San Antonio, November 2023.

"Spits, Skits, and Spaces: The Role of Digital Presence and Social Media in Conceptualizing Spiritual Trauma in the Black Church." Session: Religion and the Social Sciences. Denver, November 2022.

"That's Bae: What Hashtags, Relationship Goals, and Social Media Means for Lesbian and Queer Women of Color." Session: Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion. Denver, November 2018.

"Embracing The Lady, Her Lover, and Lord: A Lesbian Womanist Reimagining in the Age of the Christian Marriage Industrial Complex." San Antonio, November 2016.

"Whoring the Madonna, Virginizing the Jezebel: Black Women's Performance." Special Session: Protest, Performance, and Prophecy. Atlanta, November 2015.

#### **NMAAHC Forward Conference: Religions Envisioning Change**

"Harm in the Hush Harbor." Washington, DC, November 2024.

#### **Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting**

"Understanding the Phenomenon of Spiritual Trauma Among Black Millennials and Generation Z." African American Track, Kansas City, October 2024.

"Religious Vicarious Trauma and Vocational Satisfaction: Addressing Black Clergy Burnout in North Carolina." Hot Topic Session, Anaheim, November 2022.

#### **North American Society of Spirituality and Social Work Conference**

"Harm in the Hush Harbor." Virtual, June 2023.

"Mending the Wounds of a Bruised Body: A Sociotheological Imagining of Religious Violence Against Black LGBTQ Folks." Virtual, January 2022.

#### **National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference**

"Disrupting the Crucifying Logic of Queer Bodies in the Black Church." Roundtable: Queer Bodies and the Contested Space of the Black Church. Montreal, November 2016.

#### **Soul Wounds Conference (Stanford University)**

"Mending the Wounds of a Bruised Body: An Ecclesial Framework for Healing for LGBTQI Individuals." June 2015.

### **SELECTED INVITED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS**

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Guest Lecturer Columbia Presbyterian Seminary, March 2026  
Digital Sexual Ethics in a Digital Age: "Glitch, Grace, and the Queered Machine: Digital Purity Culture and the Ethics of the Cyborg Body"

Keynote Speaker & Facilitator — CAMP C.U.N.T. University of New Mexico, April 2025  
"Becoming Divine: Sacred Myths, Orishas, and Black Queer Meaning-Making and Self-Authorship";  
"Maroon Futures: Reclaiming Black Queer Sovereignty in the Wake of Political Collapse"

Workshop — Structural Grief Series Meadville Lombard Theological School, January 2025  
"Grief Behind the Veil: Understanding Religious and Spiritual Trauma and Grief in the Black Church"

Panelist & Presenter — Responding to Religious Trauma Boston University School of Theology, March 2023  
"Telling the Stories of a Bruised Body: Constructing a Typology for Religious Violence and Harm for Religious and Trauma Practitioners"; "Repentance and Repair: Holding Space for Queered Bodies in a Wounded Church"

Guest Lecturer Elon University (CREDE / Afrofuturism Series), March 2021  
"Imagining Black Future: Using Dreaming as a Spiritual and Political Practice toward Black Liberation"

Guest Lecturer Boston University School of Theology, January 2022–2023

"Tending to the Spirit of Trauma in Spiritual Care: Religious Trauma 101"; "Developing a Trauma-Informed Spiritual Care Ethic"

## **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

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Carpenter Foundation (Gender & Sexuality) Fellow Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion, Northeastern University	2023
Inaugural Integrated Behavioral Health and Racial Equity Violence Prevention Fellow UNC Greensboro (Supervising Professors: Yarneccia Dyson, PhD & Danielle Swick, PhD)	2022–2023
Graduate Research Assistantship NC COVID-19 Sex Study (methodologist); Service Provision for Formerly Incarcerated Black MSM and Transgender Women (research manager) — UNC Greensboro	2021–2022
Summer Research Fellowship "Components of Care within Informal Mentoring Relationships" — UNC Greensboro	2021
Graduate Research/Teaching Assistantship "Queer Theories and the Pedagogy of Gender: Gender Inclusive Schools" (in press) — UNC Greensboro	2020–2021

## **CLINICAL PRACTICE & CONSULTING**

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Founder & Director, Sanctuary of the Seeking Pastoral care coaching and spiritual trauma consultation ministry	2020–Present
Founder, IMU Consulting and Counseling Services Licensed Clinical Social Worker; trauma-informed therapy and organizational consulting	2020–Present
QMHP Supervisor & IHH Clinical Lead — Focus Point Mental Health, LLC	2018–2020
Case Manager, SSVF — Volunteers of America Carolinas	2017–2018

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Academy of Religion  
Council on Social Work Education  
Society for Spirituality and Social Work