



# A Research Symposium on the Social Contexts of Adolescent Wellbeing

## Keynote Speakers



**Christopher R. Browning**, Ohio State University  
Distinguished Professor of Sociology

*Racial Differences in Activity Space Disadvantage and Everyday Perceptions of Safety: Implications for Understanding Health Disparities*

Emerging research indicates that the everyday mobility patterns of urban adolescents are more complex than previously assumed in most residential "neighborhood effects" studies. We describe findings from the Columbus, OH-based Adolescent Health and Development in Context (AHDC) study (N=1405) demonstrating the expansive and heterogeneous nature of routine mobility with a focus on Black-identifying youth. We then consider the influence of intra-individual variability in exposure to neighborhood racial composition and violence for perceptions of safety. GPS data on the mobility trajectories of youth (ages 11 to 17) over a week-long period are combined with ecological momentary assessments of real-time safety perceptions to identify the spatial conditions under which youth report higher levels of unsafety. Findings indicate that exposure to higher area-level violence is relevant for safety perceptions among Black youth. Momentary exposure to residentially whiter neighborhoods also increases perceptions of unsafety, but only for those Black youth who spend more time, on average, in white areas. We conclude with a discussion of the implications of everyday safety perceptions for understanding health disparities in adolescence.



**Dawn Witherspoon**, Pennsylvania State University  
McCourtney Family Early Career Professor of Psychology

*What's Place Got to do with It? A Cultural-Developmental Approach to Understand the Impact of Place and Race on Diverse Youth and Families*

In this talk, Dr. Dawn Witherspoon will share her approach to understanding how, for whom, and under what conditions place-based environmental characteristics and exposures impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) families and youth. Rooted in a cultural-developmental framework, Dr. Witherspoon will use exemplars from her work, and that of others, to demonstrate the ways in which social stratification specific to place and race intersect to create unique sociocultural contexts for BIPOC families that impact youth development in a variety of ways. The talk will conclude with broad implications and future directions for this line of scholarship.

**Tuesday, February 7th**  
**9:00 AM - 4:15 PM**

**Session 1 begins 9:15am**  
**Session 2 begins 1:15pm**

Each session includes Keynote, panelists, QA  
RSVP for lunch: <https://tinyurl.com/53vzx5pz>

Adele H. Stamp Student Union, Room: Atrium

Parking info: <https://transportation.umd.edu/parking/visitors>

## Session Chairs and Moderators

**Rod Brunson**, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park

**Kerry Green**, Professor, Behavioral and Community Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park

**Jean McGloin**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, University of Maryland

**Lauren Porter**, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park

## Panelists

**Héctor E. Alcalá**

School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park

**Amelia Branigan**

Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park

**Angel Dunbar**

Dept of African American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park

**Wade Jacobsen**

Dept of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park

**Cassie McMillan**

Sociology and Criminology & Criminal Justice, Northeastern University

**Nolan Pope**

Department of Economics, University of Maryland, College Park

**Sophia Rodriguez**

College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park

## Topics

early life adversity and health risks

parental incarceration and sleep health

racial socialization and self concept

police contact and friendship ties

school transitions and peer networks

teacher effects on achievement

Latino/x immigrant experiences



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