

# Alexandria B. Forté, MSW, Ph.D.

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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**August 2024 - Present** *Assistant Professor, School of Social Work  
University of Connecticut*

## EDUCATION

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**May 2024** **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
*Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work*

**May 2016** **University of Denver**  
*Master of Social Work, Health and Wellness Concentration*

**May 2011** **Villanova University**  
*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Minor in History*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Food insecurity; Health disparities; Economic inequality; Social determinants of health; Racially and ethnically minoritized youth health and well-being

## PUBLICATIONS

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Iruka, I.U., **Forté, A.B.**, Liu, S. et al. Initial Validation of the Family Cultural Wealth Survey: Relation with Racial Discrimination and Well-being for Black Families. *ADV RES SCI* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42844-024-00139-y>

Villodas, M. L., **Forté, A. B.**, & Blank Wilson, A. (2023). Examining the Influence of the Neighborhood Environment on Stress Among Black American Adolescents: A Scoping Review. *Youth & Society*, 0(0). [doi.org/10.1177/0044118X231179243](https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X231179243)

Legette, K. B., Iruka, I. U., Halberstadt, A. G., & **Forté, A. B.** (2023). Teachers' awareness of systemic and individual racial bias as a first step towards anti-racist schools. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 132, 104213.

Masa, R., Baca-Atlas, S. N., Shangani, S., **Forté, A. B.**, & Operario, D. (2023). Family rejection, socioeconomic precarity, and exchanging sex for food among young transgender adults: Findings from the US Transgender Survey. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 34(2), 549-568. doi: 10.1353/hpu.2023.0049

Masa, R., **Forté, A.B.**, & Villodas, M. (2022). Direct and indirect associations of weight status, self-efficacy, and gender attitudes with cognitive and academic skills among adolescent girls in Zambia. *Vulnerable Children & Youth Studies*, 1-13.

Dawes, H. C., Williams, D. Y., Klein, L. B., **Forté, A. B.**, Gibbs, D. J., McGarry, B., ... & Hall, W. J. (2022). Experiences of queer people of color in mental health services and substance use treatment services: a systematic review.

Zerden, L. D. S., Richman, E. L., Lombardi, B., & **Forté, A. B.** (2022). Frontline, essential, and invisible: The needs of low-wage workers in hospital settings during COVID-19. *Workplace Health & Safety*, 70(11), 509-514.

Zerden, L. D. S., Lombardi, B. M., Richman, E. L., & **Forté, A. B.** (2021). Addressing burnout among the frontline healthcare workforce during COVID-19: A scoping review and expert interviews. *Journal of Health & Human Services Administration*, 43(1), 302-332.

Richman, E. L., Lombardi, B. M., Zerden, L. D.S., & **Forté, A.B.** (2021). What do EHRs tell us about how we deploy health professionals to address the social determinants of Health. *Social Work in Public Health*, 1-10.

Goode, R. W., Cowell, M. M., Mazzeo, S. E., Cooper-Lewter, C., **Forté, A.B.**, Olayia, O. I., & Bulik, C. M. (2020). Binge eating and binge-eating disorder in Black women: A systematic review. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, 53(4), 491-507.

Lockwood, J., Peters, M., Hanson, J., **Forté, A.B.**, & Kaul, P. (2015). 81. Building adolescent medicine skills among medical students: Individualized learning goals. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 56(2), S43.

#### **In progress**

**Forté, A. B.**, Perez Portillo, A., Masa, R., & Zerden, L.D. S. (under review). Examining the Link Between Food Insecurity, Physical Health Outcomes, and Racial Demographics in Children and Adolescents: A Scoping Review. *Nutrition Reviews*.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., **Forté, A. B.**, Hirst, L. E., & Mora, D. (2022). Health policies and programs for children and youth. In W. J. Hall, P. Lanier, J. M. Jenson, & M. W. Fraser (Eds.), *Social policy for children and families: A risk and resilience perspective* (4th ed.). Sage.

## **POLICY BRIEFS/ REPORTS**

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Iruka, I. U., Sims, J., & **Forté, A. B.** (2021). Black parents and their babies: Attending to the first 1,000 days. Chapel Hill, NC: Equity Research Action Coalition at the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.

Iruka, I. U., James, C., Reaves, C., & **Forté, A. B.** (2021). Black Child National Agenda: America Must Deliver on their Promise. Chapel Hill, NC: Equity Research Action Coalition, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Iruka, I. U., Bathia, D., Suggs, M., Hunter-Rainey, S., **Forté, A.B.**, Camero, D., Liy, A., & Sims, J. (2021) Are Black and Latine Families with Babies Feeling Relief from the Child Tax Credit?

Sliva, S. M., Han, T. M., Samimi, C., Golieb, K., McCurdy, J., **Forté, A.B.** (2019, June). State of the state: Restorative justice in Colorado. Colorado Restorative Justice Coordinating Council.

## PRESENTATIONS

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Villodas, M.L., **Forté, A.B.**, & Dawes, H.C. (2022 November). *Unequal Beginnings: Responding to the Needs of Underrepresented Doctoral Students*. Paper presented at the 2022 Annual Program Meeting for the Council on Social Work Education, Anaheim, CA. November 10–13.

**Forté, A.B.**, Perez Portillo, A., Masa, R., & Zerden, L.D.S. Hunger and Health: A Scoping Review Exploring Health Outcomes Associated with Food Insecurity for Youth (0-19 years). Poster presented at: Society for Social Work Research. 2022 January 14-17; Washington, D.C.

Masa, R., **Forté, A.B.**, & Villodas, M. Direct and indirect effects of underweight, self-efficacy, and gender norms with cognitive and academic skills in adolescent girls. Poster presented at: Society for Social Work Research. 2022 January 14-17; Washington, D.C.

Villodas, M.L., **Forté, A.B.**, Blank Wilson, A., Moore, K., Smith, Q. & Frago-Rizzo, C. (2022, January). Exploring the Impact of Fostering a Clear and Positive Identity Among Latinx Adolescents in Youth Development Programs: A Systematic Review. Poster presented at Society for Social Work Research 2022 Annual Conference (virtual), January 14–17.

Zerden, L.D.S., Lombardi, B. M., Richman, E. L., & **Forté, A. B.** (2021). Addressing Burnout among the Frontline Healthcare Workforce during COVID-19: A Scoping Review & Expert Interviews. Oral paper presented at: Society for Social Work Research. 2022 January 14-17; Washington, D.C.

Masa, R., **Forté, A.B.**, & Villodas, M. (2021, July). Direct and indirect effects of underweight, self-efficacy, and gender norms with cognitive and academic skills in adolescent girls. Paper presented at the 22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development (virtual), July 13–16.

Masa R., Shangani, S., \*Baca-Atlas, S., **Forté, A.B.**, & Operario, D. (2021, May). Exchanging sex for food: Exploring factors affecting young transgender adults' involvement in sexual exploitation due to food insecurity. Poster presented at the 2021 National LGBTQ Health Conference (virtual), May 20–21.

Masa, R., **Forté, A.B.**, Villodas, M. (2021) *Direct and indirect associations of underweight, self-efficacy, and gender attitudes with cognitive and academic skills among adolescent girls in Zambia: A longitudinal examination using structural equation modeling*. Oral presentation at: Global Social Development Innovations Presents: Social and Economic Aspects of Health through the Life-Course: Evidence from Zambia

**Forté, A.B.**, McBride, M., Gibbs, D., & Johnson, T. *Exploring the relationship between the built food environment and obesity among African Americans: A systematic review*. Poster presented at: Society for Social Work Research. 2021 January 18-21; San Francisco, CA.

Dawes, H., Klein, L., Hirst, L., **Forté, A.B.**, Gibbs, D., & Hall, W. *Experiences of LGBTQ People of Color in mental health services and substance abuse services: A systematic review*. Oral presentation at: Society for Social Work Research. 2021 January 18-21; San Francisco, CA.

Gibbs, D., Johnson, T., **Forté, A.B.**, & Dawes, H. *The Effects of Child Participation in dependency court proceedings: A systematic review*. Oral presentation at: Society for Social Work Research. 2021 January 18-21; San Francisco, CA.

Goode, R., Masa, R., & **Forté, A.B.** *Examining the Relationship between Food Insecurity, Binge Eating and Obesity in a Nationally Representative Sample of Black Americans*. Oral presentation at: Society for Social Work Research. 2021. Washington, DC.

**Forté A.B.**, McDaniel M, & Bakes, K. *A Pipeline to Healing: Connecting Outreach and Community Programming*. Oral presentation at: 2018 Healing Justice Alliance Annual Conference for National Network of Hospital Based Violence Intervention Programs. 2018 September 20; Denver, CO.

**Forté A.B.**, Treitz M. *Infographics: Using Technology To Create Innovative Personal Vision Statements*. Presented at Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, Vancouver, BC. 2014 May. Vancouver, BC.

Treitz M, **Forté A.B.**, Lane JL, Hanson J. *A Partially Individualized Advocacy Rotation for Pediatric Residents: A Mixed Methods Curricular Study*. Presented at Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, Vancouver, BC. 2014 May. Vancouver, BC.

Austin L, **Forté A.B.**, Treitz M. *Early Childhood Literacy to Teach Three Levels of Advocacy: A Pilot Study*. Poster presented at Presentation for Advocacy Special Interest Group at Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting. 2013, May. Washington, DC

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Instructor;** Spring 2023

SOWO 510 Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation  
Graduate, face-to-face & online

### University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Instructor;** Summer 2022

SOWO 712 Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation  
Graduate, face-to-face & online

### University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Co-Instructor;** Fall 2021

SOWO 501-004 Confronting Oppression  
Graduate, face-to-face & online

### University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Guest lecture;** March 2021

SOWO 530 Foundations of Social Welfare & Social Work,  
*Who goes hungry: Food policy in the United States*.  
Graduate, online

### University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Guest lecture;** November 2020

SOWO 900 Conceptualizing Social Problems to inform interventions  
*Use of theory in food insecurity research*  
Graduate, online

## **University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**

**Invited speaker;** November 2020

Inter Professional Education COVID-19 Impact on K-12 Education Event

*Impact of COVID-19 on food access for children*

Graduate, online

## **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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- 2022-2023**                      **Outstanding Doctoral Student Award**  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill- School of Social Work*
- June 2022**                      **Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) Summer Mentoring Workshop**  
*University of Michigan*
- 2019 - 2024**                      **Royster Society of Fellows Graduate Fellowship**  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
Award amount: \$250,000
- 2016**                              **Dean Emil M. Sunley Award for Meritorious Service**  
*University of Denver*
- 2014 - 2016**                      **Alumni Scholarship**  
*University of Denver*

## **COMMITTEES & SERVICE**

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- 2019 - 2022**                      **Doctoral Program Committee**  
*Student representative*
- 2020 - 2022**                      **Doctoral Program Committee- Professional Seminar Task Force**  
*Student representative with faculty in developing professional seminar course for doctoral students.*

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 5/2021- present**                      **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
*Research Assistant*  
Work with Dr. Iheoma Iruka, Director of Equity Research Action Coalition (ERAC), as project manager for the Forty Acres and a Mule (FA<sup>3</sup>M) study a community engaged research study. Evaluate effectiveness of a national parent education program addressing race-based trauma and positive racial identity formation. Lead qualitative data collection and analysis of focus groups and semi-structured interviews. Assisted in policy brief and manuscript writing.
- 7/2020 – 4/2022**                      **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
*Research Assistant*  
Assist Dr. Lisa Zerden, Senior Associate Dean, in research focused on social determinants of health and the role of social workers in integrated health care settings. Collaborate with various health

workforce researchers across the nation to assess the role of social work, environmental service workers, and others non-traditional health workforce groups to improve healthcare systems and care delivery. Led qualitative interviews and analysis. Assisted in manuscript preparation and writing.

- 1/2019 - 7/2020**     **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
*Interventionist, Research Assistant*  
Facilitated multiple 16-week Appetite Awareness Training (AAT) Intervention for Black women with binge eating in a feasibility study. Trained MSW research assistants in facilitating the AAT intervention, semi-structured interview guides and data entry. I maintained the projects financial records including compliance, incentive records and delivery.
- 6/2016 - 7/2018**     **Denver Health Medical Center**  
*At-Risk Intervention and Mentoring Research Manager*  
Managed the Department of Justice grant (Grant award number 2013-MU-FX-0002; \$491,811) to examine the effects of trauma on youth and impact of outreach workers on decreasing violent injury recidivism, for youth ages 14-24 entering the Emergency Department with a gunshot wound, stabbing injury or assault.
- 3/2018 - 6/2018**     **University of Denver**  
*Research Associate*  
Worked on a research team lead by Dr. Shannon Sliva, to develop program of Restorative Justice practices used throughout the state of Colorado. Coordinated information gathering of police departments across the state conducting restorative justice programs. Assisted in report preparation for Colorado Restorative Justice program

## RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

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- 10/2018 - 7/2019**     **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill- Office of the Dean of Students**  
*Case Manager*  
Provide brief therapeutic support and resource assistance to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill students, emphasizing a community focus on empowering students and assisting in success for those navigating the University environment.
- 6/2017 - 7/2018**     **Denver Health Medical Center**  
*FACES for Future Program Manager*  
Manage hospital internships of 15 students in Denver Health Hospital and teach pre-requisite classes in Manual High School. Case managed 15 students in health literacy, job readiness and retention, mental health resources, educational tutoring, post-secondary readiness, and mentoring. Developed the program budget and expenses.
- 9/2015 - 5/2016**     **Children's Hospital Colorado**  
*Medical Career Collaborative and Project SEARCH Intern*  
Work with minority and low-income high school students interested in healthcare. Plan and facilitate weekly student seminar group integrating positive youth development for program participants.
- 6/2015 - 8/2015**     **The Bridge Project**  
*Enrichment Coordinator*  
Ten-week summer program, taught multiple different curriculum, including science data collection, youth empowerment and leadership, pollinator migration patterns and healthy eating. Created Healthy Eating curriculum for kids and families experiencing food insecurities. Managed volunteers in accordance to skill level and classroom needs.

**9/2014 - 5/2015**      **The Bridge Project**  
*Intern*  
Facilitate afterschool programming to students ages 4-14, maintain a caseload of five families. Managed coordination with school social worker, teacher, principals, and Department of Social Services when necessary, advocate for client families and assist in accessing resources.

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

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**2021- present**      **Jackson Center Food Distribution Committee**  
Package community garden surplus and deliver food to local families experiencing food insecurity.

**2019 – Present**      **Black Graduate and Professional Student Association**  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
Attend programming geared towards scholarship, career and community assistance, BGPSA fosters academic achievement and the development of future minority leadership.

**2016 – 2018**      **Black Employee Engagement Council**  
*Co-Chair Founding Member, Denver Health Hospital*  
Co-created an inclusive council which encourages management and employees to recognize the value of diversity and aims to connect employees who identify as Black or African American to a welcoming environment through purposeful engagement.

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## MEMBERSHIPS

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**Member,** National Association of Social Workers  
**Member,** Society of Social Work Research