

CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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November is **National Native American** Heritage Month

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Director, Dr. Sharon Tettegah

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the November edition of the Center for Black Studies Research monthly newsletter. As we approach the end of the year, there are many significant events and topics to discuss, including Native American Heritage Month, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, and recognizing the valuable contributions of our postdoctoral fellows.

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor and celebrate the rich cultural heritage, history, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. The Center for Black Studies Research recognizes and stands in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We encourage you to learn more about the diverse cultures and traditions of Native American communities. This month provides an opportunity for reflection, education, and engagement.

Thanksgiving: A Time for Reflection

Thanksgiving, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, is a time for gratitude, reflection, and spending quality moments with family and friends. While many associate this holiday with a feast, it is essential to acknowledge its complex history and the Indigenous perspective. We encourage you to think critically about the true history of Thanksgiving, the impact on Native communities, and ways to promote reconciliation and understanding.

Honoring Veterans Day

Veterans Day, celebrated on November 11th, is a time to express our deepest gratitude and respect for the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. We honor their sacrifice and dedication to safeguarding our nation. It's crucial to acknowledge the contributions of Black

veterans, many of whom have played significant roles in military history, from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Recognizing Our Postdoctoral Fellows

At the Center for Black Studies Research, our postdoctoral fellows play a vital role in advancing research, scholarship, and community engagement. Their dedication to their research and commitment to social justice is commendable. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our postdoctoral fellows for their invaluable contributions to our center's mission. Their work contributes to our understanding of Black experiences, history, and culture, and we are proud to support them in their research endeavors.

We are incredibly proud of the work of our postdoctoral fellows, Drs. Larnyo and Terry, are doing, and we look forward to supporting them in their continued research endeavors.

We are really excited about our guest next week, Dr. Della Mosley, who will present on psychological well-being and healing. Please attend the event considering the state of the world currently. I'm sure that each person will get something out of it to help them move towards healing.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Center for Black Studies Research. We encourage you to engage with us this November as we celebrate Native American Heritage Month, reflect on the history of Thanksgiving, and honor our veterans. Together, we can continue to build a more inclusive and just society.

Warmest wishes for a meaningful and thoughtful November. (Open AI, personal communication, October 26, 2023)

Sincerely,
Dr. Tettegah
Director, Center for Black Studies Research

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS



We welcome Dr. Della Mosley for their talk “Healing Healers Heal: A Definition, Expansion, and Insistence for Our Wellness”, November 6, 2023 at 4:00 PM in 4603 South Hall. This event is a collaboration amongst the CBSR, American Psychological Association’s Division 17 (Counseling Psychology), Healing Spaces, UCSB GGSE, and Counseling and Psychological Services at UCSB. Thank you to Drs. Helen Neville (UIUC), Alison Cerezo (UCSB), Meridith Merchant (UCSB) and Brian Olowude (UCSB) for helping to coordinate and support this event! If you cannot attend in person please [register for the livestream here](#).

SEEDS

WELCOMING A NEW MENTOR



We're happy to announce that former undergraduate SEEDS fellows, Sabrina Chisholm, will be continuing in the program as a mentor! Sabrina is currently a UCSB graduate student in the Department of Technology Management and she will be working with the SEEDS fellows helping them develop their presentation skills, as well as developing skills surrounding graduate school and job applications.

MEET & GREET

To welcome the cohort back for the new academic year, the SEEDS program held a meet & greet where students and mentors could come together and catch up. We're excited to see what the fellows are able to accomplish this year!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESERVE A SPACE WITH THE CBSR

The Center would like to connect more with our community by opening up our spaces for individuals to engage in scholarly discourse. Currently we have two spaces available to reserve in UCSB's 4603 and 4502 South Hall. The use of these spaces is limited to small academic and scholarly group discussions. At this time we are limiting reservations. Faculty, post doctoral scholars, and graduate students may reserve the space for symposiums, colloquia, and seminars. The space may only be reserved for up to 2 hours at a time. Per request, additional time will be considered on a case by case basis.

Please see [this link](#) to access the [request forms](#).

CBSR CORNER

DR. LARNYO PRESENTS ON HIS RESEARCH

CBSR postdoctoral scholar, Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo presented at the 2023 HINTS Data Users Conference at the NIH Campus in Maryland. Dr. Larnyo presented on his research entitled “Could Technology be the Answer to Health Care Equity? Investigating the Association Between Health Technology Access, Use, SES, and Healthcare Disparities among African Americans”. You can read more about his research below!

Could Technology be the Answer to Healthcare Equity? Investigating the Association Between Health Technology Access, Use, SES, and Healthcare Disparities among African Americans

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Abstract

Healthcare disparities remain a significant challenge in addressing equitable healthcare access and outcomes for African Americans. Health technology has the potential to improve healthcare equity by increasing access to care, improving quality of care, and reducing disparities.

However, the association between health technology access, use, socioeconomic status (SES), and healthcare disparities among African Americans is not well understood.

Thus, this study used HINTS Wave 6 data of 815 African Americans to explore how technology can mitigate healthcare disparities by examining the associations between technology access, use, SES, and health disparities.

SES had a significant positive effect on technology access, while technology access had a significant positive effect on healthcare technology use. Additionally, technology access and healthcare technology use had a significant negative effect on healthcare disparity.

Introduction

- Advancements in technology have transformed healthcare delivery, but disparities in healthcare outcomes persist among marginalized communities, particularly African Americans. Technology inequity, characterized by unequal access to and utilization of healthcare technologies, has emerged as a critical factor contributing to these disparities.
- African Americans have historically faced systemic barriers that impede their access to quality healthcare, and technology inequity exacerbates these disparities.
- Socioeconomic factors, including income disparities, education, occupation, and lack of health insurance coverage, play a significant role in limiting access to and utilization of healthcare technologies.
- Low SES individuals, including many African Americans, often face barriers to technology access due to limited financial resources, lower digital literacy levels, and inadequate technology infrastructure in their communities.
- Additionally, continued systemic discrimination, delayed access to needed care, and health risk factors may contribute to the divide.

Objective

- This study aims to comprehensively explore the complex relationship between technology inequity and healthcare disparities among African Americans.
- It further identifies the underlying mechanisms through which technology inequity perpetuates healthcare disparities.
- The study also discusses potential strategies and interventions to address these disparities and promote equitable access to healthcare technologies for African Americans.

Methods and Materials

The study analyzed HINTS wave 6 data of 815 African Americans aged 18+ using partial least squared based on structural equation modeling.

Measure:
Outcome Variable:
Health Disparity (H_DISPARITY): Experiences of discrimination while seeking medical care and delays in accessing needed care.

Independent variables
SES: Education and household income were used to measure SES.

Technology Access (TECH_ACC): Access to basic cell phone, smartphone, and access and use of the internet.

Health Technology Use (HTECH_USE): Frequency of watching a health-related video on social media in the last 12 months, interacting with people who have similar health or medical issues on social media or online forums, and whether they had received care from a doctor or health professional using telehealth in the past 12 months.

Results

Results of the structural model revealed a statistically significant relationship between:

- ✓ SES → TECH_ACC ($\beta=0.424$, t -statistics=16.444, p -value=0.000)
- ✓ TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY ($\beta=-0.086$, t -statistics=1.826, p -value=0.034)
- ✓ TECH_ACC → HTECH_USE ($\beta=0.260$, t -statistics=11.363, p -value=0.000), and
- ✓ HTECH_USE → H_DISPARITY ($\beta=-0.180$, t -statistics=4.458, p -value=0.000).

✓ Thus, H2, H3, H4, and H5, were supported. However, SES → H_DISPARITY was not significant, therefore not supporting H1.

✓ Moderating effect of SES x TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY ($\beta=0.097$, t -statistics=2.674, p -value=0.004) was statistically significant, thus, satisfying H6.

✓ Mediation results shows a partial mediation between:

- ✓ SES → TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY ($\beta=0.036$, t -statistics=1.794, p -value=0.036) and
- ✓ TECH_ACC → HTECH_USE → H_DISPARITY ($\beta=-0.047$, t -statistics=4.332, p -value=0.000), hence satisfying H7 and H8, respectively.



Table 1. Structural model assessment.

Hypothesis	Path	β	t -Statistics	P Value	Hypothesis supported or not
H1	SES → H_DISPARITY	-0.021	0.302	0.367	Not Supported
H2	SES → TECH_ACC	0.424	16.444	0.000	Supported
H3	TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY	-0.086	1.826	0.034	Supported
H4	TECH_ACC → HTECH_USE	0.260	11.363	0.000	Supported
H5	HTECH_USE → H_DISPARITY	-0.180	4.458	0.000	Supported
Moderating Effect					
H6	SES x TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY	0.097	2.674	0.004	Supported
Specific Indirect Effects					
Path					
H7	SES → TECH_ACC → H_DISPARITY	-0.036	1.794	0.036	Partial Mediation
H8	TECH_ACC → HTECH_USE → H_DISPARITY	-0.047	4.332	0.000	Partial Mediation

Discussion

The study found that people with higher SES are more likely to have access to technology due to the fact that they are more likely to have the financial resources to purchase technology, as well as the education and skills to use it.

Better access to technology was associated with reduced healthcare disparities. This is because technology can be used to improve access to healthcare, such as through telemedicine and remote patient monitoring.

Additionally, technology can be used to educate people about their health and help them manage their conditions.

Finally, the study revealed that the use of health technology contributes to reduced healthcare disparities. This is because health technology can help people manage their conditions, improve their health outcomes, and reduce their reliance on traditional healthcare services.

Conclusions

The results of this study suggest that socioeconomic status (SES), technology access, and healthcare technology use are all important factors that can influence healthcare disparity.

Additionally, the findings suggest that the effect of technology access on healthcare disparity is different for people with different SES levels, which has important implications for the design of policies and programs aimed at reducing healthcare disparities.

By leveraging health technology effectively, healthcare systems can work towards reducing disparities, enhancing patient engagement, and improving health outcomes for all populations.

Future research and policy efforts should continue to explore innovative ways to maximize the potential of technology in promoting health equity and reducing healthcare disparities.

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