

# Gaia Lynn Zori, PhD, MPH, CHES

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Clinical Assistant Professor  
Office of the Dean  
Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy  
College of Public Health and Health Professions

## Office Contact Information:

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## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy, Public Health** *December 2022*  
**Social & Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Concentration**  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

**Master of Public Health (MPH)** *May 2010*  
**Social, Behavioral & Community Health and Epidemiology Dual-Concentrations**  
State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY

**Bachelor of Health Science, Cum Laude** *May 2006*  
**Minor in Business Administration**  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)** *April 2011-Present*  
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Clinical Assistant Professor** *August 2022-Present*  
**MPH Concentration Coordinator, SBS and Public Health Practice** *September 2023-Present*  
Office of the Dean, Department of Health Services Research Management & Policy,  
College of Public Health & Health Professions  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Teach undergraduate and graduate-level public health courses with a particular focus on Social & Behavioral Sciences.
- Contribute to university and departmental service through student mentorship, advising and committee membership.
- Develop, collaborate, and conduct research across core areas of public health.

**Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant***August 2018-August 2022*

Social & Behavioral Sciences Program, College of Public Health & Health Professions,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Provided support as research or teaching assistant to a designated faculty person in the college each semester.
- Independently taught both undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Collaborated on course development for several graduate-level public health courses.
- Provided research support for the ECHO Type 1 Diabetes Program and the All for ONE! Peer Mentorship program.

**Faculty***January 2015-August 2018*

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery (FSTM), Gainesville, FL

- FSTM is nationally accredited for direct-entry midwifery by the Midwifery Education & Accreditation Council (MEAC) and offers an intensive three-year training program that prepares graduates for a career in licensed midwifery.
- Responsible for all aspects of course development and implementation of assigned courses.

**Executive Director***April 2015-November 2016*

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery (FSTM), Gainesville, FL

- Responsible for management of all aspects of the school including, but not limited to:
  - Oversight and management of all departments, including Academic, Clinical, Financial Aid & Regulatory, and Human Resources.
  - Ensured education offered is high quality, evidence-based, and in compliance with all accreditation and regulatory requirements.
  - Community outreach and development efforts.
  - Fiscal oversight, including budget development and management.
  - Ensured FSTM was creating a safe, enriching environment for all learners in which our students become highly qualified and well-trained midwives upon graduation.
  - Serve as liaison between Board of Directors and FSTM students and staff.

**Academic Director***October 2014-April 2015*

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery (FSTM), Gainesville, FL

- Conducted annual curriculum review to ensure compliance with all quality and regulatory standards.
- Coordinated and assessed ongoing course evaluations and implemented changes as needed.
- Responsible for management of school faculty including, but not limited to, hiring, training, monitoring, and evaluations.
- Provided academic advisement and counseling for all FSTM students.
- Taught annual Student Success course to orient students to the program and ensure appropriate preparation in meeting the academic and clinical demands of midwifery school.

**Director of Education***May 2011-June 2014*

Planned Parenthood of North Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Planned, coordinated, and implemented medically accurate, age-appropriate education programs on human sexuality and reproductive health in various community and academic settings. The delivered education programs received highly positive community feedback and reached over 5,000 individuals annually.
- Provided staff training and oversight, as well as volunteer management, as a member of the senior management team.
- Responsible for resource development and grant writing, as well as periodic program evaluation.

- Managed all aspects of the grant-funded Teen Clinic program and administration of the donation-based North Florida Justice Fund, offering financial assistance for reproductive health services.
- Advocated for comprehensive sex education in our communities in several capacities, including serving on several county-level School Health Advisory Committees and as a member of the Alachua County Community Health Improvement Plan Implementation Committee.

#### **CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow**

*August 2010-May 2011*

Louisiana Office of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program, New Orleans, LA

- Coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) to foster development of strong quantitative and analytic skills.
- Conducted a formal evaluation of the Louisiana Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) surveillance system.
- Conducted an analysis of the association between late pre-term birth and sexually transmitted infections during pregnancy across different racial and ethnic groups.

#### **Teach for America, Phone Screen Interviewer**

*August 2011-August 2015*

- Conducted phone interviews of potential corps members as a periodic staff member.
- Phone screens are completed during four periods each year for the application cycle.

#### **AIDS Institute Intern**

*January-May 2010*

New York State Department of Health, Albany, NY

- Collected, analyzed, and summarized data for the New York State HIV/AIDS Epidemiologic Profile.
- Collaborated with New York State HIV Prevention Planning Group.

#### **Employee Health and Productivity Intern**

*August 2009-January 2010*

General Electric, Schenectady, NY

- Served as disability supplier manager, including a quarterly review process and annual review negotiations, and a workflow administrator conducting security audits for the company's disability access applications.
- Conducted research and developed guidelines to increase employee health and worksite wellness related to nutrition and physical activity.

#### **Community Health Intern**

*May-August 2009*

Schoharie County Health Department, Schoharie, NY

- Completed the 2010-2013 Schoharie County Community Health Assessment, including:
  - Collection, summary, and analysis of demographic and health status information.
  - Identification of health priority areas in alignment with New York State Prevention Agenda.
  - Development of data-driven interventions addressing the identified health priority areas.
- Assessed school dropout rates to determine effect on access to healthcare. The project included:
  - Data collection from school districts on high school dropout rates and programmatic responses.
  - Development, administration, and analysis of a questionnaire assessing local employers' hiring practices related to minimum education requirements and employee health benefits.

#### **Graduate Assistant**

*August 2008-May 2009*

SUNY Albany School of Public Health Dean's Office, Albany, NY

- Coordinated weekly public health seminars for MPH students.
- Planned the School of Public Health's Annual Convocation.

**Physical Science Teacher (9<sup>th</sup> grade), Teach for America (TFA)***August 2006-May 2008*

Mitchell High School, Memphis, TN

- Responsible for all aspects of course planning, implementation, and management as instructional leader of the classroom. Creatively developed lab materials for experiential learning in a low-resource environment. Rigorously tracked student progress and mastery and adapted lesson planning and implementation as needed.
- Demonstrated success via Tennessee State End-of-Course Test results:
  - 2005-06 school year (prior to placement): 54% of students proficient
  - 2006-07 school year: 89% of students proficient, 42% advanced
  - 2007-08 school year: 98% of students proficient, 67% advanced
- Created a comprehensive curriculum guide for Physical Science course uploaded by TFA to national teacher resource database, accessible online and a resource for teachers across all TFA regions.

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**HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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***COURSES TAUGHT*****College of Public Health & Health Professions, University of Florida***Undergraduate Courses*

PHC4101 Public Health Concepts

*Spring 2023, Fall 2022*

PHC3603 Critical Issues in Public Health

*Fall 2021, 2022**Graduate Courses*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

*Summer 2023*

PHC6534 Trauma-Informed Approaches for Individuals, Communities &amp; Public Health

*Spring 2021, 2022***Florida School of Traditional Midwifery**

FSTM3204 Issues in Professional Midwifery

*Spring 2018*

FSTM1109 Research &amp; Public Health

*Fall 2016, 2017*

FSTM1204 Human Sexuality for Midwives

*Spring 2017****TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITIONS*****College of Public Health & Health Professions, University of Florida***Undergraduate Courses*

PHC3603/6937 Critical Issues in Public Health

*Summer 2020**Graduate Courses*

PHC6451 Building Resilience in Individuals &amp; Communities for Public Health

*Summer 2021*

PHC6410 Psychological, Social &amp; Behavioral Issues in Public Health

*Fall 2018, 2019, 2020*

PHC6403 Adolescent Health &amp; Risk-Taking

*Spring 2019, 2020*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

*Summer 2018, 2019****COURSES DEVELOPED OR REDESIGNED*****University of Florida**

PHC3603 Critical Issues in Public Health

PHC4101 Public Health Concepts

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery**

FSTM1204 Human Sexuality for Midwives

FSTM1109 Research &amp; Public Health

FSTM3204 Issues in Professional Midwifery

***SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES*****Social Ecological Models***Fall 2023*

PHC4101 Public Health Concepts

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Policy Level: Policy & Adolescent Sexual Health***Summer 2022, 2023*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Global Reproductive Health***Spring 2023*

PHC3440 Global Public Health

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Policy Level: Policy & Adolescent Sexual Health***Summer 2022*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Public Health, Racism and Policy***Summer 2021*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**COVID-19 & Trauma***Spring 2021, Fall 2021*

SOW5938/4935 Responding to Pandemic: Understanding and Addressing COVID-19

School of Social Work, Florida State University

**Adolescent Sexual Health***Spring 2019, 2020, 2021*

PHC6403 Adolescent Health &amp; Risk Taking

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Public Health Intervention: PPNF Teen Clinic***Summer 2019, 2020*

PHC6405 Theoretical Foundations of Public Health

College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

**Program Evaluation***Fall 2018*

PHC6410 Psychological, Social &amp; Behavioral Issues in Public Health

College of Public Health &amp; Health Professions, University of Florida

**Overview of Contraception Methods***Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013*

MHS6470 Human Sexuality in Counseling

College of Education, Florida A&amp;M University

**Birth Control & Sexually Transmitted Infections***Fall 2012, 2013*

PCO4930 Human Sexuality

Department of Psychology, University of Florida

**Adolescent Sexuality Education Best Practices**  
SOW4940/4943 International Community Engagement  
School of Social Work, Florida State University

Spring 2013

**Adolescent STI & HIV Education Best Practices**  
Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) Advisors Conference

Fall 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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### REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

LeBeau K, Collins S, **Zori G**, Hart M. (2023). Evaluating an innovative virtual hospital-based gaming intervention to address psychosocial care factors for chronically ill adolescent and young adult patients. *Palliative & Supportive Care*. DOI: 10.1017/S1478951523000147

**Zori G**, Walker AF, King LM, Duncan RP, Dayton K, Foti S. (2022). The impact of state policy on selected adverse teen sexual health outcomes: A scoping review. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 20: 160-176. DOI: 10.1007/s13178-022-00770-3

**Zori G**, Foti S, Hart M. (2022). County-level school sex education policy: a single state analysis of the association with adolescent sexual health outcomes. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*. DOI: 10.1080/15546128.2022.2091697

**Zori G**, Collins SL, Walker AF. (2022). Online sexual health information seeking of adolescents: a content analysis. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*. DOI: 10.1080/15546128.2022.2111012

King LM, **Zori G**, Collins SL, Lewis C, Hack G, Vacca R, Blue A, Hart M. (2021). What does community resilience mean in the context of trauma-informed communities? A scoping review. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22839>

Jacobs KD, **Zori G**, Collins S, Wood EA. (2021). Exploration of the COVID-19 content within a vaccine choice social media platform: a case study. *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 25(4):366-382. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15398285.2021.1983713>

### PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Walker AF, Haller HJ, Sheehan E, Westen SC, Anez-Zabala C, Roque X, Fitzgerald BC, Bernier A, Gurka M, Filipp SL, Turner K, Zori GL, Maizel J, Cuttriss N, Baer LG, Figg L, Hood KK, Lal R, Basina M, Wong JJ, Yabut K, Naranjo D, Lewitt E, Maahs DM. (2021). Understanding PCP Perspectives in a Project ECHO T1D Program Using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research. *Diabetes* 2021;70(Supplement\_1):549-P. [https://diabetesjournals.org/diabetes/article/70/Supplement\\_1/549-P/140211](https://diabetesjournals.org/diabetes/article/70/Supplement_1/549-P/140211)

### TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS

Duncan RP, Morris ME, **Zori GL**, McCarey LA. Canada. In Johnson J, Stoskopf C, Shi L. *Comparative Health Systems: A Global Perspective*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2023. *In press*.

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

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**Zori G**, Walker AF, Foti S, King LM, Duncan RP, Dayton K. (November 2022). State-level sex education policy: assessing the association with adverse adolescent sexual health outcomes and racial disparities. Accepted for round table presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. Boston, Massachusetts.

LeBeau K, Collins S, **Zori G**, Hart M. (March 2022). Investigating online social support among chronically ill adolescent and young adult patients using a virtual hospital-based gaming intervention. Poster presentation at the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health annual meeting.

**Zori G**, King LM. (October 2021). Online sexual health information-seeking behaviors of adolescents: A citation network analysis. Round table presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. Denver, Colorado.

King LM, **Zori G**, Collins SL, Lewis C, Hack G, Vacca R, Blue A, Hart M. (October 2021). What does community resilience mean in the context of trauma-informed communities? A scoping review. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. Denver, Colorado.

King LM, Collins S, Stone B, **Zori G**, Dixon B, Hart M, Stetten N. (October 2021). ACEs, trauma-informed, and resilience-based public health graduate curriculum at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. Denver, Colorado.

Collins SL, Agrawal K, Carr C, King LM, Lior F, **Zori G**. (October 2021). The importance of intersectionality within sexual and gender minority health: Inclusive teaching strategies in public health curricula. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association meeting, Denver, Colorado.

Walker AF, Haller MF, Sheehan E, Westen SC, Anez-Zabala C, Roque X, Fitzgerald BC, Bernier A, Gurka MJ, Filipp SL, Turner K, **Zori GL**, Maizel J, Cuttriss N, Baer LG, Figg L, Hood KK, Lal R, Basina K, Wong JJ, Yabut K, Naranjo D, Lewit E, Maahs DM (June 2021). Understanding PCP Perspectives in a Project ECHOT1D Program Using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research. Poster presentation at the 81<sup>st</sup> Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association (virtual due to COVID-19).

**Zori G**, Hart M, Foti S, Jacobs KD. (October 2020). County-level sexual education policy: Exploring the association with adolescent sexual health outcomes in Florida. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. San Francisco, California (virtual due to COVID-19).

King LM, Salinas-Miranda AA, Collins S, **Zori G**, Wilson R, Berry EL, Salihu HM. (October 2020). Community residents' perceptions of fathers' health using community-based participatory research focus groups and the life-course perspective. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association meeting, San Francisco, California (virtual due to COVID-19)

## STUDENT ADVISING

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### ***PhD DISSERTATION COMMITTEES***

Chelsea Hampton, PhD student in mass communication (in progress). Committee member April 2023-Present

### ***MASTERS STUDENT COMMITTEES***

Michelle Aleman (ongoing). MPH Committee chair May 2023-Present.

Bradley-Nicole Collins (ongoing). MPH Committee chair May 2023-Present.

Chyna Miller (ongoing). MPH Committee chair May 2023-Present.

Michelle Routhe (ongoing). MPH Committee chair May 2023-Present.

Gloria Restrepo (ongoing). MPH Committee chair January 2023-Present. *Educational Materials in Spanish to Facilitate the Diabetes Learning Process among the Hispanics/Latinos at the Alachua County Health Department.*

Kaitlyn Ajmani (completed). MPH Committee chair January 2023-August 2023. *Literature Review on Factors Affecting Injection Safety for Persons who are Incarcerated.*

Theodore Hendrixson (completed). MPH Committee chair August 2022-May 2023. *A Scoping Review of Fuzzy Trace Theory and HIV-related Risky Sexual Behavior: Application to Health Communication for Men Who Have Sex with Men.*

Selena Gutierrez (completed). MPH Committee chair January 2023-May 2023. *Healthcare Hesitancy in the United States Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Literature Review.*

Mackenzie Newsom (completed). MPH Committee chair January 2023-May 2023. *A Literature Review on Vascular Dementia: Quality of Life for Patients and their Caregivers.*

Keymira Frost (completed). MPH Committee chair August 2022-December 2022. *Co-Mentoring Circles: A Pilot Study.*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### ***NATIONAL***

**American Public Health Association (APHA)**

2020-2022

Conference Proposal Reviewer, Sexual & Reproductive Health

### ***LOCAL/COMMUNITY***

**ATTAC-IT Afternoon of Learning Assistant Facilitator**

2021, 2022

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

**Alachua County Community Health Improvement Plan**

2012

Implementation Committee Member



**A.I.A. (Angels in Action) Community Service Group, Co-sponsor** 2007-2008  
 Mitchell High School, Memphis, TN

- Supported an extracurricular community service club for outstanding female students of Mitchell High School
- As co-sponsor, organized and held meetings after school, served as a mentor to the A.I.A. members and facilitated the planning and implementation of community service projects

## **INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE & SERVICE**

### **University**

**Faculty Advisor, Student Health Advisory Council** February 2023-Present  
 University of Florida

**Commencement Marshal, Bachelors and Master's Graduation Ceremonies** Fall 2022  
 University of Florida

### **College**

**Master of Public Health (MPH) Admissions Committee (Campus and Online)** 2022-Present  
 Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

**Master of Public Health (MPH) Ad-Hoc Student Scholarship Selection Committee** 2023  
 College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

**Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) Director Faculty Search Committee** 2023  
 College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

**Curriculum Committee (Student Member)** 2019-2021  
 College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

### **Department**

**PhD Steering Committee, Social and Behavioral Sciences** 2023  
 College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida

## **AD HOC REVIEWER FOR SCHOLARY JOURNALS**

| Year | Journal                                 | Reviews (#) |
|------|---|-------------|
| 2023 | Health Education & Behavior             | 1           |
| 2023 | Health Promotion International          | 2           |
| 2023 | American Journal of Sexuality Education | 1           |

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Public Health Association 2020-Present  
 Teach for America (TFA) Corps Member/Alumni 2006-Present

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)  
M.O.S.T. (Memphis Organization of Science Teachers)

2010-2011  
2006-2008

## HONORS & AWARDS

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### Dean's Citation Paper Award

2023

University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions

- Nominated by the Department of Health Services Research, Management, & Policy for co-authored paper: *What does the concept of community resilience mean in the context of trauma-informed communities? A scoping review. Journal of Community Psychology* at the Fall 2023 State of the College meeting

### Excellence in Teaching Award

Fall 2022

University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, Dean's Office

### Graduate Research & Teaching Assistantship Support

2018-2022

University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions

- Awarded full tuition and \$30,000 annual stipend for four years of doctoral study.

### The Health Research, Inc./David Axelrod Award, Top Mention for Excellence in Research

May 2010

SUNY Albany School of Public Health Research Day, Albany, NY

### Elected to Delta Omega, National Honorary Society in Public Health

May 2010

### Public Health Leaders of Tomorrow (PHLOT) CORE Program

2009

SUNY Albany School of Public Health, Albany, NY

- Selected to the PHLOT CORE leadership development initiative, Class of 2010, supported by New York State. Annual tuition stipend supports mentoring and leadership development.
- Planned and implemented the first SUNY Albany School of Public Health Mental Health Awareness Week, including a full week of events, a keynote event, and a reception to enhance communication and collaboration between mental health and substance abuse community providers.

### Graduate Assistantship Support

2008

SUNY Albany School of Public Health, Albany, NY

- Awarded 50% tuition and \$9,000 annual stipend for first year of MPH program.

### Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year

2006

Mitchell High School, Memphis, TN

### Anderson Scholar, with Distinction

May 2004

University of Florida