

# Virginia Leach

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Illinois)

**Doctoral degree in Sociology** Expected May 2026  
**Master's degree in Sociology** | GPA: 3.9/4.0 May 2023  
Thesis Title: The Psycho-Social Factors Impacting  
African American Women Breast Cancer Survivors  
Advisor: Dr. Ruby Mendenhall

### Drew University (New Jersey)

**Bachelor's degree in Sociology** | GPA: 3.8/4.0 May 2020  
(Honors) Thesis Title: Exclusion of the Included: Racialized  
Microaggressions at Predominantly White Universities  
Advisor: Dr. George-Harold Jennings

## SKILLS

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*Data Visualization & Design:* Adobe Acrobat and Canva

*Research Methods:* Qualitative Methods and Survey Research Methods

*Data Analysis:* Dedoose, Excel, NVivo 12, REDCap, SPSS, Stata, and Qualtrics

*Project Management:* Asana, Fluxx, Microsoft Planner, Slack, and Microsoft Teams

*Computer:* GIS, Google Drive, Microsoft Suite Programs, and SharePoint

## PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Researcher**, Department of Sociology, Illinois June 2022-Present

- Created and submitted IRB Proposal (Protocol #23154)
- Constructed REDCap survey to collect demographic information from participants
- Interpreted/Coded and analyzed qualitative results from interviews
- Received a total of \$1,000 from two grants to monetarily compensate participants
- Expressed results and findings in the form of a research paper, public outreach and engagement, and conference presentations

**Research Manager, Tigerlily Foundation**, Remote June 2021-Present

- Authored five (5) white papers to highlight issues in breast cancer
- Completed legislative research for Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
- Established an online platform for breast cancer advocates to learn medical information
- Created educational and patient-informed guidebooks and blogposts on breast cancer
- Collaborated on federal and non-federal grant applications
- Implemented a research agenda for the organization on an annual basis

**National Science Foundation Consultant**, Department of Sociology, Illinois June-July 2020

- Project Title: STEM-Illinois, PI: Dr. Ruby Mendenhall
- Collected data and map the locations of BIPOC and non-BIPOC owned birth centers
- Prepared art kits for STEM-Illinois participants to practice self-care and healing techniques

**Summer Predoctoral Institute Fellow**, The Graduate College, Illinois June-July 2020

- Created database for BIPOC-Owned birth centers in the U.S. using Excel
- Identified geographical gaps of BIPOC-Owned birth centers
- Designed an inclusive-based toolkit for birth center owners
- Expressed results findings in the form of a research paper and conference presentation

**Undergraduate Researcher**, Department of Sociology, New Jersey Sept. 2019-April 2020

- Created and submitted IRB Proposal
- Received a total of \$500 from one grant to monetarily compensate participants
- Constructed survey to collect demographic information from participants
- Conducted 40 in-person interviews with participants
- Interpreted/Coded and analyzed qualitative results from interviews

**Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice**, MURAP, North Carolina June-July 2019

- Constructed Qualtrics survey to collect results from participants
- Interpreted/Coded and analyzed quantitative and qualitative results from surveys
- Expressed results and findings in the form of a research paper, public outreach and engagement, and conferences

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Illinois August 2020-Present

- Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100-level)
- Social Problems (SOC 163-level)
- Technology and Society (SOC 350-level)
- Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100-level)
- Senior Capstone and Honors Seminar (SOC 450-level)
- Introduction to Poverty (SOC 161-level)

**Diversity & Inclusion Chair**, Drew University, New Jersey April 2017-May 2020

- Brought awareness to gender, racial/ethnic, religious, ability, sexual orientation, age and economic discrimination on campus by hosting and co-sponsoring 20 DEI events/forums for the university community
- Spearheaded alliances between the College of Liberal Arts and the Theological School

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Leach, V.**, Balogun, O., Davis, M., Warner, E., Sutton, A., & Kalu, O. (2021). Choosing to be Proactive in the Response to Breast Cancer. *Tigerlily Foundation*, 1(1), 1-7.
2. **Leach, V.**, Balogun, O., Davis, M., Warner, E., Sutton, A., & Kalu, O. (2021). The Importance of Enrolling Diverse Populations in Clinical Trials. *Tigerlily Foundation*, 1(2), 1-7.
3. **Leach, V.**, Balogun, O., Davis, M., Warner, E., Sutton, A., & Kalu, O. (2021). Bridging the Gap Between Communities and Research. *Tigerlily Foundation*, 1(3), 1-4.
4. **Leach, V.**, Balogun, O., Davis, M., Warner, E., Sutton, A., & Kalu, O. (2021). Challenges Experienced by Breast Cancer Survivors and Thrivers. *Tigerlily Foundation*, 1(4), 1-7.
5. **Leach, V.**, Balogun, O., Davis, M., Warner, E., Sutton, A., & Kalu, O. (2021). The Role of Data in Our Health Records. *Tigerlily Foundation*, 1(5), 1-7.
6. **Leach, V.** (2020). Exclusion of the Included: An Analysis of Racialized Microaggressions at Predominately White Institutions. *Drew University*. 1-78.

## INVITED ORAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (8 of 15)

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**Leach, Virginia**, Jacqueline Selymes. (2023, November). Capturing life in color: documenting the lived experiences of advanced breast cancer patients. Poster Session, Seventh International Consensus Conference Advanced Breast Cancer, Lisbon, Portugal.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2023, August). Black Feminist Perspectives & Breast Cancer: Perceptions of Care Delivery Among Black Women Breast Cancer Survivors. Roundtable Session, 2023 American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2023, August). Black Feminist Perspectives & Breast Cancer: Perceptions of Care Delivery Among Black Women Breast Cancer Survivors. Paper Session, 2023 Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2023, August). Disparities in delayed diagnosis and pain management among African American women with breast cancer. Poster Presentation, 2023 ASCO Breakthrough Meeting, Yokohama, Japan.

Regnante, Jeanne, Mandi L. Pratt-Chapman, Kristin Bodiford, Regina Hampton, **Virginia Leach**, Glenda Maria Delgado Ramos, Chika Nwachukwu, Adrienne Tilbor, Maimah Karmo. (2023, June). The case for acceleration of prospective multi-stakeholder led community-based research in young Black women with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). Poster Presentation, 2023 ASCO Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2023, March). Community-Based Approaches: Interventions from the Classroom to the Doctor's Office. Thematic Session, 2023 Midwest Sociological Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2022, October). The Psycho-Social Factors Impacting African American Women Breast Cancer Survivors. Poster Presentation, Black in Cancer UK Annual Meeting, London, UK.

**Leach, Virginia.** (2022, March). 'People Tell Me I'm Too Young to Have Breast Cancer': Young, Black Women Left on the Outskirts of Breast Cancer Research. Roundtable Discussion, 2022 Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

## **HONORS**

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2023	Sociology Department Excellence in Teaching
2016-2020	Civic Scholars Program
2017-2020	Baldwin Honors Program
2018-2020	Donald Jones Scholarship
2018-2020	Kristine Aurbakken Scholarship
2019	Award for Outstanding Service to the Community
2019	Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity & Inclusion Award

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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2023—Present	Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology
2023—Present	Member, Sociologists for Women in Society
2022—Present	Member, Association of Black Sociologists
2022—Present	Member, Midwest Sociological Society
2020—Present	Member, American Sociological Association
2017—Present	Member, Eastern Sociological Society
2016—Present	Member, Alpha Kappa Delta

## **LANGUAGES**

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Fluent in English (Comprehension, Reading and Writing)

Good in French (Comprehension, Reading and Writing)