

# NIKITA VISWASAM-MTULU



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## ABOUT ME

Social & behavioral researcher with 8+ years of experience leading qualitative research and project management in international settings. Expertise in compassionate community-centered research, analysis and implementation, and translating research into evidence-based strategies. Proven track record managing multi-country research initiatives and mentoring junior staff while working with policy and program stakeholders across 7+ countries.

## EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park,  
Department of Sociology, College Park, MD  
*Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Sociology*  
*Master of Arts (MA), Sociology*

2022-2027  
(expected)

Johns Hopkins University,  
School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD  
*Masters of Science in Public Health (MSPH), International Health*

2022-2025

Trinity University, San Antonio, TX  
*Bachelors of Science (BS), Neuroscience; Global Health*

2016-2018

2011-2015

## SKILLS

Field research  
Qualitative analysis  
Data visualization  
Project management  
Science and translational writing  
STATA; Atlas.Ti  
Tableau Desktop Specialist

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Researcher

Aug 2022 - present

*Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD*

- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data on social support, household food security and child health outcomes as part of a collaborative international team
- Synthesize qualitative and quantitative data into strategic insights for policy and academic audiences
- Principal Investigator on grant-augmented study on labor migration

### Design Lead, Communications Co-Coordinator

May 2021 - Nov 2022

*Right to Health Action, Baltimore, MD*

- Developed policy briefs, infographics, and strategic communications materials translating health policy evidence for diverse stakeholder audiences including national policymakers, NGOs, and community organizations

### Senior Research Program Coordinator

Aug 2018 - Jan 2021

Scholar, Global Health Established Field Placement  
Graduate Research Assistant

Jun 2017 - Dec 2017  
Feb 2017 - July 2018

*Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD*

- Provided field-based technical direction and project management of behavioral and implementation science research studies, data capacity-building, instrument development in international settings
- Trained in-country staff members in peer case management, motivational interviewing, research ethics, & study implementation
- Led evidence synthesis on HIV-related data among marginalized populations, conduct literature review, coding, analysis and visualization of qualitative and quantitative data
- Administrative management of projects, budgets, timelines, and supervision of junior staff

**Student-Faculty Research Fellow**

Jul 2015 - Oct 2015

Trinity University Department of Anthropology & Sociology; ASIANetwork  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | Research Advisor: Dr. Alfred Montoya

- Conducted grant-funded collaborative research project under mentorship on international funding effects on NGO HIV/AIDS services, prevention, peer education, and treatment in Ho Chi Minh City
- Arranged and conducted interviews, ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation in field sites (clinical and non-clinical) with NGO staff members, service participants, and healthcare professionals over one month of fieldwork; analyzed and presented findings to stakeholders

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**AWARDS**

**2025** | **Dean's Research Initiative Dissertation Grant Award**, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland

**2025** | **Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award**, Graduate School, University of Maryland

**2024** | **William H. Form Research Fellowship**, University of Maryland

**2024** | **Poster Award**, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio

**2022-23** | **Dean's Fellowship**, Graduate School, University of Maryland

**2017** | **Global Health Established Field Placement Grant**, Center for Global Health, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

**2015** | **Freeman Foundation Grant**, ASIANetwork Student-Faculty Fellowship (\$25,000 team grant)

**2013** | **Summer Research Fellowship**, Integrated Research in Biomathematics, San Antonio, TX

**2011-15** | **Trinity University President's Scholarship**, San Antonio TX

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**PRESENTATIONS & TALKS**

**04/2025** | Oral presentation: *"The influence of anti-immigration policy climates on Asian American social service engagement: Findings from the Current Population Survey, 1990 - 2020"*. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Presenter

**08/2024** | Presentation: *"Who can become Asian American? Race, labor and class in immigration policy."* American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Presenter

**08/2024** | Oral presentation: *"Does marriage marry kin networks? A qualitative analysis of low- and high income couples in Kenya."* American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Presenter

**02/2024** | Virtual talk: *"When Immigration became illegal: race, labor, and Asian America,"* Prince George County Library System, Maryland, USA, Presenter

**04/2024** | Poster presentation: *"Does kin support protect against food insecurity? New findings from Nairobi, Kenya."* Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio. PAA Poster Award, "Children, Intergenerational Relationships, and Gender and Sexuality" session

**06/2019** | Poster presentation: *"Implementation of a pilot peer mentorship program for female sex worker mothers in Port Elizabeth, South Africa."* South Africa AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa