

# IJEOMA B. KOLA

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## EDUCATION

- 2019           **Columbia University**  
Ph.D. in Sociomedical Sciences (History and Ethics of Public Health)  
Dissertation: “I Can’t Breathe”: The Rise of Asthma in Black Urban America  
Committee: M. Chowkwanyun, D. Rosner, K. Jacoby, J. Colgrove, B. Fullilove
- 2014           **Columbia University**  
M.A. in Sociomedical Sciences
- 2012           **Harvard University**  
B.A. in History of Science, *cum laude*

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- July 2023–       **Assistant Professor**, Department of History  
University of Notre Dame
- 2021–2023       **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Health, Humanities, and Society  
Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, University of Notre Dame

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century history of science and medicine; history of American public health; medical humanities; African American health; history of environmental health; environmental justice; health social movements; racism in science and medicine

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Project

Proposal           *I Can’t Breathe: Racism and the History of Asthma in Black America*  
under review

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Advance print    **Kola, Ijeoma B.** “Convenient Kola, Ijeoma B. “Convenient Frailty: Medical Contestations of Asthma and Hay Fever in African Americans in Late Nineteenth-Century America.” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jhmas/jrad045>.
- 2012           Gollust, S.E., **Eboh, I.**, and Barry, C.L. "Picturing Obesity: Analyzing the Social Epidemiology of Obesity Conveyed through U.S. News Media Images." *Social Science and Medicine*. 2012.

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## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

- 2022 “Racism and Public Health: Learning from the Past to Improve the Future,” Adelphi University, April 4.
- 2021 “Black Women in the Academy: A Seat that Serves All,” with Elissia Franklin and Wenimo Okoya, SXSW EDU, March 9.
- 2017 “Unable to Breathe: Race, Asthma, & Protest in Civil Rights Era New Orleans and New York,” New York Academy of Medicine, November 14.

### Papers Presented

- 2023 “A Matter of Life or Death: Black Doctors and Community Asthma Education During the Great Migration,” African American Intellectual History Society, March 9-11.
- 2022 “Wheezing in Protest: Medicine’s Dismissal of the Asthma Crisis in Black Neighborhoods During the Civil Rights Movement,” Reckoning with Race & Racism in Academic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, May 5.
- 2022 “Asthma's Poster Children: Black Children at Residential Asthma Treatment Centers, 1960-1975,” American Association for the History of Medicine, April 21-24.
- 2018 “‘Smaller Lung Capacity of the Colored Race’: The Debate on Asthma & Hay Fever Susceptibility,” American Historical Association, January 4-7.
- 2016 “Unable to Breathe: Race, Asthma, & Environment in Civil Rights Era New Orleans and New York,” American Association for the History of Medicine, April 28-May 1.
- 2014 “Evolving Notions of Asthma: Race, Class, and the City,” Minority Health and Health Disparities Grantees Conference, December 2014

### Departmental Talks and Colloquia

- 2021 “Convenient Frailty: Racialized Understandings of Asthma & Hay Fever in Late 19th Century America,” University of Notre Dame History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, October 12.
- 2016 “Unable to Breathe: Race, Asthma, & Protest in Civil Rights Era New Orleans and New York,” Mailman School of Public Health Student Research Diversity Day, April 27.

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## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values  
Health, Humanities, and Society Teaching Award
- 2014–2019 National Science Foundation  
Graduate Research Fellowship Award (\$136,000)
- 2015 Columbia University  
James Harden Fellowship Award (\$32,000)
- 2013 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship  
Honorable Mention
- 2012–2014 Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health  
Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (\$64,048)

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

### Courses Designed and Taught

- University of Notre Dame, Program in Health, Humanities and Society  
Contemporary Concerns in Medicine (undergraduate course) F2021, F2022  
History of Race and Racism in Science (upper undergraduate course) S2021, F2022

### Graduate Student Instructor

- Columbia University, Department of History  
Social History of American Public Health (undergraduate course) F2015

### CUNY School of Medicine

- U.S. Healthcare Systems and Policy (undergraduate course) F2015

### Columbia University, Summer Public Health Scholars Program

- Epidemiology (undergraduate course) Summer 2013

### Mentorship and Advising

- Faculty Advisor, Shades of Ebony, University of Notre Dame (2022–present)

Julia Ruelle (University of Notre Dame, BA Applied Math)

“Using Technology to Improve Health Literacy and Outcomes in Non-English-Speaking Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” Sixth International Undergraduate Conference in Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society (Spring 2022)

Mentor, Lang Youth Medical Program, New York Presbyterian Hospital (Summer 2015)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 WriteNow Access Program, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
- 2015 Oral History Institute, “Narrating Population Health: Oral History, Disparity, and Social Change,” Columbia Center for Oral History Research
- 2012–2014 Graduate Research Assistant, Columbia University  
Samuel Roberts, Matthew Perzanowski, David Rosner, Merlin Chowkwanyun

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2021–2023 Health, Humanities, and Society Executive Committee, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, University of Notre Dame
- 2012–2014 Board Member, Black and Latino Student Caucus, Mailman School of Public Health

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

### Written Work

- 2020 Kola, Ijeoma. “Against the Odds: A Mother’s Journey.” *Radiant Health*, 15, vol. 1, September 2020. 108-111.
- 2017 Kola, Ijeoma. “Asthma and the Civil Rights Movement.” *New York Academy of Medicine Library Blog*. November 13, 2017.  
<https://www.nyam.org/news/article/asthma-and-civil-rights-movement/>

### Media & Interviews

- 2023 “Dr. Ijeoma Kola on How to Juggle a 9 to 5 and Multiple Side Hustles.” *The OVAReact Podcast*, Feb. 2023, <https://soundcloud.com/984capitalfm/ovareact-s3-e2-dr-ijeoma-kola>
- 2021 “Dr. Ijeoma Kola | Four Degrees with Zero Student Debt.” *The Student Loan Podcast*, Aug. 2021, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/41-dr-ijeoma-kola-four-degrees-with-zero-student-loan-debt/id1530649380?i=1000531696666>
- 2021 “More than a Ph.D. with Dr. Ijeoma.” *Blk in Grad School Podcast*, May 2021, <https://www.blkingradschool.com/podcast/ijeomakola>
- 2020 “E41. History of Asthma and Its Relationship to Race w/ Dr. Ijeoma Kola.” *The Research Her Podcast*, Aug. 2020, [list.theresearchher.com/e41-history-of-asthma-and-its-relationship-to-race-w-dr-ijeoma-kola](http://list.theresearchher.com/e41-history-of-asthma-and-its-relationship-to-race-w-dr-ijeoma-kola).
- 2019 “Why Racial Disparities in Asthma Are an Urban Planning Issue.” *Next City*, May 2019, <https://nextcity.org/features/view/why-racial-disparities-in-asthma-are-an-urban-planning-issue>

# IJEOMA B. KOLA

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association for the History of Medicine

American History Association

American Public Health Association

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020–present     **Founder and Executive Director**, Cohort Sistas, Inc.  
Oversees programming, fundraising, and strategic direction of nonprofit organization supporting Black women and non-binary people pursuing doctoral education
- 2010–2023     **CEO and Founder**, Safe Journey Media, LLC  
Oversaw creation of digital content that champions and improves the health, education, and empowerment of over 200,000 Black women around the world