

Odera C. Ezenna, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

- PhD in Mass Communication, 2025

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia

- MA in Integrated Global Communication, 2019

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia

- BA in Mass Communication, 2018
 - Concentration: Journalism and Public Relations
 - Minor in Sociology
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Relations: Ethics and Crisis Communication. Race, ethnicity, and nationality: Stereotypes, Media Bias, Housing & Homelessness, Gender & Sexuality. Health Communication.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Associate Professor at Benedict College, August 2024 — Present

- Design and teach mass communication courses, incorporating lectures, discussions, and hands-on projects.
- Advise and mentor students on academic and professional growth.
- Evaluate student work and contribute to curriculum development.

Adjunct Instructor at University of South Carolina, January 2023 — Present

- Developed and taught journalism courses, integrating lectures, discussions, and workshops.
- Mentored students on academic and career development.
- Assessed student work and collaborated on curriculum improvements.

Graduate Research Assistant at University of South Carolina, January 2022 — May 2024

- Conducted social media research, data analysis, and reporting.
- Assisted faculty with research, data gathering, and proofreading.

Newsroom Intern at BBC South East Today, BBC South East,, Tunbridge Wells, Kent June 2019 — October 2019

- Wrote several news stories for BBC Online.
- Worked with a broadcast journalist on the news desk.
- Shadowed and assisted lunch and evening TV presenters.

Public Information Intern at University Communications and Marketing. at Univeristy of West Georgia, May 2017 — July 2017

- Interviewed subjects and fact-checked information.
- Prepared media advisories and press releases.
- Aided the communication specialist with publicity collateral.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

BENEDICT COLLEGE

Layout For Publications (MASS 338), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

Feature Writing and Editing (MASS 334), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

Special Topics – AI and Journalism Today (MASS 435S), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

Media Practicum (MASS 332), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

Internship (MASS 440), Instructor of Record/Internship Coordinator

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Ethics in Public Relations and Public Policy (JOUR 539), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (40 students)

Writing for Mass Communication (JOUR 291), Instructor of Record

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Columbia SC (20 students)

Theories of Mass Communication (JOUR 306), Teaching Assistant

School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Columbia SC (33 students)

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Mass Communication (COM 2230), Teaching Assistant

School of Communication and Media, Kennesaw GA (97 students)

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

- **2023 Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Recipient**
- **SCBA Educational Foundation Uray Scholarship – Spring '23, Fall '23**
- **Academic Achievement Award – Spring '17 & '18**
- **Professional Development Award – Spring '18**

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Evans, J., & Ezenna, C.O. (presented at AEJMC, 2023). Exploring Civic Mindedness Through Racial Identity: Cultivating Social Media Skills, Connected Learning, and Civic Engagement among Black Youth

Evans, J., & Ezenna, C.O. (2024). The new (Black) civics: How popular media cultivates connected learning and civic engagement among Black college students. *First Monday*, 29(12).

Edrington, C., Mortensen, T., & Ezenna, C. O. (presented at AEJMC, 2022). *The Cultural Projection Evolution of the #IAmABlackMan Challenge*.

Edrington, C., Mortensen, T., & Ezenna, C. O. (accepted for publication at *Social Media + Society*, 2025). *Projecting Culture with a Hashtag: The #IAmABlackMan Challenge on Instagram*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES & GUEST SPEAKER

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Effective Essay Writing” – EducationUSA, Lagos, Nigeria Summer ’15 & ’16

- Taught American writing styles to Nigerian students preparing to study in the U.S.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

“Reporting & Interviewing Techniques” Fall 2021

- Principles of Journalism (JOUR 204)

“Looking Glass Self Theory” Fall 2021

- Theories of Mass Communication (JOUR 306)

“Theories of Media and Human Development” Spring 2022

- Theories of Mass Communication (JOUR 306)

PROFESSIONAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE

BBC South East Today, Kent, UK, *Freelance Journalist* 2019

- Covered emerging issues in and around Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The West Georgian, Carrollton, GA, *Contributing Writer* 2017/2018

- Covered news in the greater Carrollton area and contributed relevant and creative ideas for publication
- Served as official film and tv critic for the publication

University Communications and Marketing, Carrollton, GA, *Public Information Intern* 2017

- Wrote pieces about upcoming event at The University of West Georgia.
- Prepared media advisories and press releases, and aided with publicity collateral

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Ezenna, O. (2019, June 13). Ash dieback replanting may take 'six years' to start. *BBC News*.

Ezenna, O. (2019, June 13). Low vision services 'not evenly spread'. *BBC News*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, November 13). Marvel vs. DC: Which Universe Wins? *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, November 6). Sending Love and Gratitude on Veterans Day? *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, October 30). To Be Rescued Is To Be Loved. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, October 23). Student Turns Passion into Profit. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, October 23). Quebe Sisters Bring the House Down. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, October 16). College Of Business Courtesy of Richards College of Business Reaches Milestone Anniversaries. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, September 25). Carrollton Civic Women's Club Honored with New Emergency Fund. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, September 18). New Project Offers Veterans Credit for Prior Learning. *The West Georgian*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, September 15). Where Credit's Due: Nursing Senior Thanks UWG for Successes. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, September 11). A Guide to Dealing with the Office "Shmuck". *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, August 28). Academic Testing Services earns national Certification. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, August 17). UWG's MSN Program Receives Top Ranking. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, August 14). West Georgia Regional Update Shows Decrease in Unemployment Rates. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, August 8). Weaving the Road to History: West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Receives Grant. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, August 4). From Asia to Europe: Alumna Continues Making Her Mark on the World. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, July 21). Let the Filmmaking Begin: UWG Hosts Fourth Annual Film Camp. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, June 29). Enhancing Student Success: Education Plan Successful After First Year. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, July 27). Practice Makes Perfect: Piano Students Bring Home State Win. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

Ezenna, O. (2017, May 30). UWG Innovations in Pedagogy Conference Focuses on Student Engagement. *University Communications and Marketing, UWG*.

PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERISTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

October 2021

- Non-Supervisors with Title IX/Clery Module

GRAD 701: Teaching Assistant Development,

May 2022

New GTA/GIA Orientation Workshop,

May 2022

Mental Health and Well-being Competency Program for Faculty, Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), August - December 2021

- This certificate program is designed to address the growing need for faculty preparedness in responding to this new challenge. This training series helps faculty learn how to recognize the warning signs of distress, appropriately intervene and refer students in all levels of distress, incorporate key concepts of resilience into the curriculum, and lastly, respond to trauma in the classroom. Faculty receive a certificate of completion after completing all four pieces of training in two consecutive semesters.

CTE Teaching Workshops Attended:

- 2021 Oktoberbest: A Symposium on Teaching (October 2019)
- “Technology for Online Teaching and Learning” with Gloria Washington (February 2022)
- “Coordinators and Instructors of Large Undergraduate Courses Community of Practice (CILUC CoP)” with Michelle Hardee (March 2022)

2022 Teaching and Learning Symposium: Creating Our New Normal, Raleigh, NC

February 2022

MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICES

UNIVERISTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Albert T. Scroggins Chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha (KTA)

2023-2024 CIC Research & Scholarship Advisory Council

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Proficient in:

- Microsoft Office Programs
- Mac IOS
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Cloud Computing
- Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

- Kenneth Campbell, PhD
Interim Associate Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor
College of Information and Communications, University Of South Carolina
803.777.3316 | kencamp@mailbox.sc.edu
- Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, PhD
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty
Office of the Provost, University Of South Carolina
803.777.2808 | fitzpatm@mailbox.sc.edu
- Candice L. Edrington, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications
College of Information and Communications, University of South Carolina
803.777.3325 | candicee@mailbox.sc.edu
- Joshua Azriel, PhD
Associate Director, Graduate Studies; Professor of Communication
Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University
470.578.6779 | jazriel@kennesaw.edu

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Michael Gravesande, Senior Assistant Editor, BBC South East Today
+44.7956.621423 | michael.gravesande@bbc.co.uk
- John Ike Sewell, Editor-in-Chief, The West Georgian
678.839.4927 | johns@westga.edu