

# GABRIEL NNAMDI EZEMA

Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology  
Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research  
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The University of Memphis  
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## EDUCATION

08/2025 **University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee | Milwaukee, WI**  
Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology

05/2019 **Boston College | Chestnut Hill, MA**  
M.A. Mental Health Counseling  
05/2019 M.A. Theology and Ministry  
05/2019 Certification, Positive Youth Development

06/2014 **Pontifical Urbania University | Rome, Italy**  
Bachelor of Theology - *Summa cum laude*  
06/2009 Bachelor of Philosophy – *Magna cum laude*

06/2009 **University of Ibadan | Ibadan, Nigeria**  
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy – *Magna cum laude*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08/2025 – Present Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology  
Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research  
The University of Memphis

2024 - 2025 Doctoral Intern,  
University Counseling Center  
University of Notre Dame

2023 -2024 Lecturer 1  
Department of Educational Psychology  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

2021 – 2023 Instructor of Record  
Department of Educational Psychology  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

2020-2021 Graduate Research Assistant  
Department of Educational Psychology

# GABRIEL NNAMDI EZEMA

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

- 2019 -2020            In-Home Therapist  
Northeast Family Services  
Auburn, MA
- 2015-2016            Assistant Chaplain  
St. Peter’s Chaplaincy  
University of Nigeria | Nsukka, Nigeria
- 2014 – 2015           Assistant Parish Priest  
St. Mary’s Parish  
Enugu Ezike | Nsukka, Nigeria

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### The University of Memphis

Multicultural Counseling (COUN 7750)  
Practicum in Counseling Psychology (CPSY 8200)  
Vocational Psychology (CPSY 8202)

### University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Supervised Practicum 2 in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (COUNS 970)  
Theory and Practice of Group Counseling (COUNS 800)  
Multicultural Consideration of Lifespan Psychopathology (COUNS 751)  
Supervised Practicum 1 in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (COUNS 765)  
Pre-Practicum (COUNS 755)  
Neuroscience and Medical Aspects of Counseling (COUNS 702)  
Career Planning and Development for the Multicultural Workplace (ED PSY 212)  
Planning Your Major/Career (ED PSY 110)

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

### Scholarly Publications: Journals

1. **Ezema, G. N.** & Autin, K. L. (2024). Examining predictors and outcomes of future decent work perception among Nigerian emerging adults. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 32(3), 445-461. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10690727231201958>
2. Fouad, N. A., Burrows, S. G., Avery, C., & **Ezema, G.** (2024). Changes in US Workers’ Values and Satisfaction After COVID-19. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 32(2), 321-342. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10690727231194786>
3. Ma, Y., Autin, K. L., & **Ezema, G. N.** (2023). Validation of the Chinese Decent Work Scale. *Journal of Career Development*, 50(1), 37-5. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08948453221080980>

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4. Blustein, D. L., Erby, W., Meerkins, T., Soldz, I., & **Ezema, G. N.** (2022). A critical exploration of assumptions underlying STEM career development. *Journal of Career Development*, 49(2), 471-487. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0894845320974449>
5. Autin, K. L., Herdt, M. E., Garcia, R. G., & **Ezema, G. N.** (2022). Basic psychological need satisfaction, autonomous motivation, and meaningful work: A self-determination theory perspective. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 30(1), 78-93. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10690727211018647>

## **Manuscripts Under Review**

- Ezema, G. N.**, Autin, K. L., Obiano, C., Ozoani, A., & Ekeocha, P. (under review). *A qualitative examination of future decent work perceptions among Nigerian emerging adults*. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*.
- Herdt, M. E., Lanzi, A., Garcia, R. G., Raval, G., Atay, B., Zhu, L., **Ezema, G. N.**, & Autin, K. L. (under review). *Job crafting's role in the satisfaction of work needs: A mixed-methods investigation*. *Journal of Career Assessment*.
- Kou, Q., Rasdi, R. M., Herdt, M. E., & **Ezema, G. N.** (under review). *Perception of future decent work among first-generation college students from broad-access institutions: An integrated approach*. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.

## **Unpublished Manuscripts**

- Ezema, G.N.** & Autin, K.L. (2026). *Predicting work volition among Nigerian emerging adults: A psychology of working perspective* [Unpublished manuscript]. Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research, University of Memphis.

## **Book Chapters**

- Autin, K. L., & **Ezema, G. N.** (2023). The essential worker paradox. In D. Blustein & L. Y. Flores (Eds.), *Rethinking work: Essays on building a better workplace* (pp. 113-117). Routledge.

## **Academic Presentations**

- Ezema, G. N.** (2026, March 25). *Work, dignity, and structural harm: A psychological framework for mental health in contexts of economic and social marginalization* [Invited CE presentation]. Memphis Area Psychological Association, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.
- Ezema, G. N.**, Atay, B., Burrows, S., Shen, N., & Okechi, I. D. (2025, August). *Examining Familial Support, Economic Stress, and Academic Engagement in Nigerian High Schoolers*. [Poster Presentation]. 133rd Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association
- Ezema, G. N.** (2025, April). *Spiritual well-being: Finding purpose, peace, and community away from home*. Presentation to international students, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- Ezema, G. N.** (2025, January). *Informed consent in psychotherapy during behavioral emergencies and crises interventions*. Staff in-service presentation, University of Notre Dame Counseling Center, Notre Dame, Indiana.

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- Ezema, G. N. & Autin, K.L.** (2024, August). *Predicting Work Volition among Nigerian Emerging Adults: A Psychology of Working Perspective*. [Poster Presentation]. 132nd Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association
- Ezema, G. N. & Autin, K.L.** (2024, August). *A Qualitative Examination of Future Decent Work Perceptions Among Nigerian Emerging Adults*. [Poster Presentation]. 132nd Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association
- Ezema, G. N. & Autin, K.L.** (2023, August). *Examining predictors and outcomes of future decent work perception among Nigerian emerging adults*. [Poster Presentation]. 131st Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association (Div 17 Student Poster Presentation).
- Ezema, G. N.** (2023, August). *Bridging the Gap for Students with Existing Barriers to Learning*. [Paper Presentation]. UWM 2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation.
- Ezema, G.N.** (2022, October). *You and your mental health: Making every day worth living*. [Invited Address]. Mental Health Awareness Campaign Organized by the Intersect Consortium for Mental Health Day, 2022, Abuja, Nigeria.
- Herdt, M., Garcia, R., **Ezema, G.**, & Autin, K. (2021). *Applying self-determination theory to need satisfaction, motivation, and work meaning* [Poster Presentation]. 129th Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association.
- Ezema, G.N. & Ezema, G.C.** (2019, October). *Psycho-pastoral approach to community mental health services in Nigeria: Prospects and problems*. [Poster presentation]. 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Psychology and Other, Boston, MA.
- Blustein, D. L., Meerkins, T., Erby, W., **Ezema, G.**, & Soldz, I. (2019, August). A critical exploration of assumptions underlying STEM career development. In D. Blustein (Chair). *New directions in STEM career development: Interrogating assumptions*. [Symposium]. 127th Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association, Chicago, IL.
- Davila, A., Meerkins, T., Jackson, D., Olle, C., **Ezema, G.**, Kim, J., Garcia, R., Soldz, I., & Blustein, D. (2019, August). *Transformation in work in the 21st Century: Employment, precarity and the other*. [Poster presentation]. 127th Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association, Chicago, IL.
- Onyedibe, C.C., Ugwu, L.E. & **Ezema, G.N.** (2019, July). *Quality of life among health workers: The role of work schedule and perceived social support*. [Paper presentation]. 2019 International Conference Organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.
- Ezema, G. N.** (2018, June). *Relationship and Wellbeing*. [Invited address and Workshop facilitator]. 2018 Scientific Conference/Workshop of the Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.
- Ezema, G. N.** (2018, January). *Mental Health Promotion among Nigerian University Students*. [Invited address]. Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria.

## Editorial Services

2025 – Present	Editorial Board Member, Journal of Vocational Behavior
2025 – Present	Editorial Board Member, Journal of Career Assessment
2026 – Present	Editorial Board Member, The Counseling Psychologist

## Ad Hoc Journal Review

Journal of Career Development (JCD)  
The International Journal of Human Resource Management

# GABRIEL NNAMDI EZEMA

Training and Education in Professional Psychology (TEPP)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**2024 CGP Outstanding Dissertation Award:** APA Committee for Global Psychology award for an exceptional dissertation.

**2023 Graduate Student Poster Award (First Place):** APA Division 52 award for outstanding graduate student research.

**2023 University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Teaching Fellowship:** Fellowship for innovative teaching integrating mental health, with a \$1,000 stipend.

**2023 Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship:** UWM Graduate School fellowship recognizing academic excellence, with \$15,500 stipend, tuition remission, health insurance, and \$1,000 travel grant.

**2022 Richard Hurlbut, Ph.D. Scholarship:** Wisconsin Psychological Association award for outstanding graduate student achievement, with a \$1,500 stipend.

**2022 Amy Tessmer Boening Scholarship Fund:** UWM School of Education merit-based scholarship with a \$2,000 stipend.

**2021, 2020 Chancellor’s Graduate Student Award:** UWM fellowship (\$10,000, \$ 6,875 stipends).

**2016–2019 Irish Memorial Fellowship:** Boston College fellowship covering tuition, health insurance, \$750 for books, and \$1,500 stipends.

## GRANTS

### Research Grants

2026-2027                      University of Memphis College of Education Faculty Research Grant. *Homelessness, Work, and Structural Exclusion: A Pilot Qualitative Study to Inform Memphis-Based Research on Homeless Emerging Adults*. Role: Principal Investigator. \$6,000. Funded.

2026-2027                      APA Division 15 Research Grant. *Decent Education as a Developmental Condition: Understanding Institutional Thresholds of Opportunity, Belonging, and Future Work*. American Psychological Association Division 15: Educational Psychology. Role: Principal Investigator. \$7,200. Funded.

### Travel and Program Grants

2024                              *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Graduate School Travel Grant to the 132nd Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association*. University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Graduate School and Student Involvement. \$1193. Funded.

## **GABRIEL NNAMDI EZEMA**

- 2023 *Counseling Psychology Student Association Travel Grant to the 131st Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association.* University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Graduate School and Student Involvement. \$1700. Funded.
- 2022 *Counseling Psychology Student Association Travel Grant to the 130th Annual Convention of the American Psychology Association.* University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Government. \$300. Funded
- 2018 *Travel Grant to 2018 Scientific Conference/Workshop of the Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.* Department of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. \$1000. Funded.
- 2018 *Grant to Organize a Mental Health Awareness Conference/Workshop for Nigerian University Students.* Irish Memorial Funders. \$17, 000. Funded.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

American Psychological Association  
Division 15, Educational Psychology  
Division 17, Society of Counseling Psychology  
Division 52, Society for Global Psychology