

**Autoethnography of a Black-Ghanaian Nurse/Faculty Navigating Healthcare
in the United States**

March 14th 2025

12:00pm-13:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 281 117 389 359

Passcode: oZ9ER7ub

**Dissertation Colloquium by
SAM OSEI**

This research on critical autoethnography examined the lived experiences of my journey as a Black male nurse in a dual role: as nurse at the bedside in a hospital setting and as nurse faculty member in higher education. The study explores my experiences of more than 15 years in a female-dominated industry. This research examined the challenges encountered as a Black foreign-born nurse navigating healthcare in the United States, with race, gender, diversity, and representation being at the forefront of shaping my journey. The research utilizes Crenshaw (1995) intersectionality theory and Freire (1970) critical consciousness theory as frameworks to understand being Black and male in a female-dominated field. The critical examination challenges oppression whilst elevating my voice, thereby facilitating empowerment of my identity.

I utilized Braun and Clarke (2006) six-step thematic analysis to derive themes consistent or divergent with my lived experiences to explain my encounters. The analysis of the themes highlighted the difficulty of navigating the nursing field as a Black Ghanaian male nurse. Using autoethnography further enhanced my understanding of my experiences and how they relate to other Black male nurses in the field as evident in the data from the two additional participants interviewed for the study.

The underrepresentation of Black male nurses in the nursing workforce draws attention to the need for healthcare leaders to develop a critical perspective on the relationship between race, ethnicity, and health and the importance of equity and inclusion to foster social change. The study emphasizes the significance of prioritizing minoritized voices, recruiting Black male nurses so the field is representative of the patients it serves, investing in equitable outcomes so as to retain diverse nurses and nurse faculty, and creating systems so that all experience a sense of belonging. Additionally, the study sparks meaningful discussions that inspire individual and collective actions for a better healthcare environment.

Sam Osei is a Medical Surgical Registered Nurse with a specialty in Vascular Access Device insertion and a faculty member at CT State Community Colleges. He graduated from his Alma mater; University of Hartford (UHART), West Hartford with Master of Science in Nursing in 2014, Educational track. Sam has been in healthcare for over a decade serving in different roles including supervising, sub-acute care nursing, long term care nursing Spinal Cord Injuries Care and Home care nursing among others. For the past eight years, Sam spends his time mostly in higher Ed where he teaches nursing in different settings both in the Universities and the Community college system. His love for nursing earned him a life time award with the Florence Nightingale award for excellence in nursing.