

Dawn Richardson, DrPH, MPH is the Associate Dean for Social Justice in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health (SPH), and she works in partnership with those advancing antiracism and racial equity efforts at both OHSU and PSU. Her efforts are informed by her scholarship as an Associate Professor: Dr. Richardson is a social epidemiologist whose research is informed by the principles of community-based participatory research. With her research Dr. Richardson seeks to build understanding of how structural inequities impact health and to develop upstream interventions to advance health equity. Specifically, her research questions focus on the pathways by which the unequal distributions of income, power and wealth (shaped and reified by structural racism, settler colonialism, and patriarchy) affect social and geographic mobility, access to opportunity, and ultimately health outcomes. Working in partnership with community, Dr. Richardson works to incorporate research findings into concrete programs and policies to promote population health. A growing focus of her scholarship is on the development and incorporation of “pathway” programs intended to center and celebrate the expertise of Black, Indigenous, and other Scholars of Color in the academy, particularly in public health. Her most recent research efforts include: an NIH-funded study examining the role of documentation status on immigrant women's health; an evaluation of paid leave policies and related analysis of structural racism as a driver of barriers to accessing such policies; and a pilot project aimed at understanding how to best support BIPOC Women Scholars pursuing STEM-focused degrees to promote public health.

