

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Inaugural Lecture Series



Professor Louise Owusu-Kwarteng

Associate Dean and Professor in Applied Sociology

The Power of Multiple Stories

This inaugural lecture from Professor Louise Owusu-Kwarteng highlights her work around sociological auto/biography.

She will reflect on the growth of auto/biographical approaches within Sociology, aspects of her own life story and how, together, these factors underpin her interest in this area. She will share how through auto/biographical research collaborations with her students, she uses it as a vehicle for their success.

Louise will also discuss the international reach of her work, most notably through research partnerships with the Protestant University of Berlin (EHB), and sharing stories and good practice at the Council of Undergraduate Research in the United States.



Biography

Louise holds a PhD in the Sociology of Education (University of Greenwich), a PGCE (University of Greenwich), an MA in Social Policy (Oxford Brookes University) and a BA (Hons) in Sociology (University of East London). She submitted her PhD thesis '**Between two lives': parenting and impacts on academic, professional achievements and socio-emotional outcomes for British-Ghanaians** in 2010. She was also involved in a national BME project which focused on addressing differential attainment and educational inequalities and co-led on university BAME projects. Her work in this area dovetailed with previous employment in Nottingham (BUILD; Black People United in Learning Development and Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre) and Oxford City Council between 1998-2002, where she was an advocate in addressing educational experiences particularly for BAME students. It also reflects her subsequent research which challenged negative narratives around Black academic attainment. From 2018-2022 she led the Faculty Office of Undergraduate Research and built relationships internationally with colleagues at the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Delhi via the delivery of World Class Day at which undergraduates from across the globe shared their research. In 2022 Louise was appointed as the Faculty Associate Dean of Student Success.

On a more personal note, Louise is a bass player and she says that her puns are 'outstanding' (though not everyone agrees!). She has an 'eclectic' music taste, which ranges from late 60s African highlife, 90s rave, hardcore and hip hop to 2010s bass house and anything in between. Over the past few years, she has been collecting trainers and hoodies, and now has quite an extensive range. Finally, she has been a Nottingham Forest Supporter since the age of 4. Whilst she is very pleased about their recent promotion to the Premiership, she will avoid saying too much more, given their recent performances!