



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021: Volume 3, Issue 2



GLOBAL
ASSOCIATION
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
SCHOLARS

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GAHTS NEWSLETTER

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Introduction to the Summer 2021 Newsletter

Dear GAHTS Members,

It is vitally important that anti-human trafficking programs, policies, and practices be informed by research of all kinds—empirical, interpretive, and critical. However, there are often significant differences between the ways we scholars articulate our research findings with each other, and the ways that anti-trafficking program designers, policymakers, and practitioners need us to communicate with them about the implications of our research for their work. Sometimes, there are also significant differences between the kinds of questions scholars generate and pursue, and the kinds of questions at the forefront of the minds of people in other types of anti-trafficking work outside academia. Such differences point to the need for us to be publicly-engaged as we design and conduct research and seek ways to communicate our findings across professions and sectors. Let's help each other identify implications of our research for improving the anti-trafficking movement! It was a pleasure to discuss engaged scholarship and translational research with some of you during the GAHTS July Webinar I co-led with Kelsey Morgan. The upcoming virtual International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference slated for 22-24 September, 2021 will offer terrific opportunities for new and established scholars to both exchange research findings with each other as well as with practitioners and policymakers— and to think together about questions that have yet to be pursued.

-Kirsten Foot, PhD
GAHTS Senior Research Scholar



18th Annual International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference

Join us for our 18th annual conference hosted virtually on September 22-24, 2021! Hear from over 180 experts discuss a variety of topics, and connect with thousands of attendees from all corners of the world.

Register today at

<https://www.traffickingconference.com/register>

If you are interested in learning more about GAHTS and how to get involved, we are having our annual informational meeting during the conference on **Thursday, September 23rd @ 11:45 am-12:45 pm EDT.**



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Highlighted Upcoming Events

If you are looking for ways to expand and deepen your knowledge, check out these upcoming events, webinars, & conferences related to trafficking:



**Webinar:
Intersection
between HT and
Opioid Crisis**

[Register &
Learn More](#)

**Webinar: Working with
LGBTQ+ Survivors of HT**

[Register & Learn More](#)

**International Conference on
HT, Slavery & Exploitation**

[Register & Learn More](#)

**Juvenile Sex
Trafficking
(JuST)
Conference**

[Register &
Learn More](#)

Stay up-to-date on our website where we post the latest journal articles, events, conferences, and professional development opportunities: www.gahts.com

Recent Journal Publications by GAHTS Research Scholar Members:

- **Al-Dayel, N.,** Anfinson, A., & Anfinson, G. (2021). Captivity, Migration, and Power in Libya. *Journal of Human Trafficking*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2021.1908032>
- **Carrellas, A.,** Resko, S. M., & Day, A. G. (2021). Sexual victimization and intellectual disabilities among child welfare involved youth. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 115, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.104986>
- **Foot, K.,** Sworn, H., & Alejano-Steele, A. (2021). An Outcome-Centered Comparative Analysis of Counter-Human Trafficking Coalitions in the Global South. *Management Communication Quarterly*, 35(3), 418-444. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08933189211017925>



GAHTS Updated Membership Levels

GAHTS has added a new level to our membership: **Senior Research Scholar!** These members have at least 5 peer-reviewed publications over 10 years on the topic of human trafficking. They are here to provide mentorship and share their experience with other GAHTS members.

We also changed the name of our Scholar in Training level to **Developing Scholar** and expanded the eligibility requirements to be more inclusive.

Our membership levels illustrate a **continuum and journey of scholarship**. GAHTS' goal is to help you move through the levels of membership to be the next generation of leading scholars in the field of anti-trafficking research.





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Spotlight on a Researcher:

Charles Hounmenou, PhD



Charles Hounmenou has been an Assistant Professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) since 2015. He received his doctoral degree in social work from UIC in 2009. Dr. Hounmenou's scholarship is focused on human trafficking in the United States and sub-Saharan Africa. In 2009, Dr. Hounmenou conducted the first ever study on coalitions' input in the implementation of human trafficking policy in the United States. The study examined the input of over 100 organizations in the activities of a statewide coalition in the Midwest region of the US, and inherent issues to be addressed to make it effective. Subsequently, thanks to this study, the state was successful in securing a federal grant to restructure the coalition for better goal attainment. In 2013–2014, Dr. Hounmenou conducted a comparative study of child sex trafficking and its links with child migration in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger in West Africa. He engaged 133 major stakeholders in the process of this research in which 709 child victims of sex trafficking participated. Direct involvement of key stakeholders in the research process has been analyzed in his 2020 article, "Engaging anti-human trafficking stakeholders in the research process," in the *Journal of Human Trafficking*. This article allows learning about an effective strategy to actively involve key stakeholders in all five key stages of a research process about trafficking. In his latest research, Dr. Hounmenou explored the awareness and experiences of private investigators (PIs) in the US, Canada, and Australia about human trafficking and collaboration with law enforcement regarding human trafficking. This pioneering research documents distinctive strengths and skills PIs bring to trafficking investigations, including surveillance, advanced interviewing skills, skip tracing, infiltration of criminal groups, and a victim-centered approach. Capitalizing on this recent work, Dr. Hounmenou is developing a full-scale study project to better understand interagency collaboration between PIs and law enforcement aiming at improving human trafficking investigations. In partnership with the Aangan Trust, a major community-based organization in Mumbai, India, Dr. Hounmenou is conducting an evaluation of Aangan's community model to empower and engage over 5,000 children rescued from child forced labor and child marriage in seven provinces in India over the period of 2016–2020. The project will have international practice and research implications. Dr. Hounmenou's scholarly work has earned him the International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference Influential Scholar Award (2018) and the UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research's Rising Star Award (2019) in Social Sciences. His record of pioneering scholarship shows his subject matter expertise and commitment to the field of human trafficking.

Charles Hounmenou's recent publications:

- **Hounmenou, C., & O'Grady, C.** (2021). Private investigators' experiences in human trafficking Investigations. *Journal of Human Trafficking*. [DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1925819](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2021.1925819)
- **Hounmenou, C.** (2021). A statewide coalition's input in human trafficking policy implementation: Member organizations' involvement and perceptions. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 7 (1), 69–87. [DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1621585](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2019.1621585)
- **Hounmenou, C.** (2020). Engaging anti-human trafficking stakeholders in the research process. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6:1, 30–49, [DOI:10.1080/23322705.2018.1512284](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2018.1512284)
- **Hounmenou, C., & O'Grady, C.** (2019). A review and critique of the U.S. policy responses to commercial sexual exploitation of children. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 98, 188–198. [DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.01.005)

