

NATIONAL HEALTH EQUITY | GRAND ROUNDS

Ryan J. Petteway, DrPH, MPH

Associate Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Speaker, Creating Accountability Through Data: From Racism and Neglect to Transparency and Repair



Ryan J. Petteway, DrPH, MPH, is a public health professor/scholar and educator who integrates social epidemiology, participatory research, and creative arts to advance health equity. He engages critical, Black feminist, and decolonizing theory and methods to pursue procedural and epistemic justice within public health research/practice, including via music and poetry.

His applied research integrates social epidemiology and community-based participatory research (CBPR)/youth participatory action research (YPAR) to examine place, “placemaking,” and health, making use of information and communication technologies to democratize and enhance research/practice processes. He takes an intergenerational approach to his research, anchors his scholarship in the principles of CBPR/YPAR, and employs exclusively participatory methods—conceptual, procedural, and methodological characteristics of his work that reflect the value he places on equitable and decolonized community engagement.

A core aim of Dr. Petteway’s applied work is facilitating permanent mechanisms for including the voices of residents within local health and placemaking decisions/processes. In this spirit, he’s currently developing a STEAM-based high school curriculum/training program focused on social determinants of health, health equity, and participatory research—yHEART PDX, the youth Health Equity and Action Research Training program.

Dr. Petteway’s scholarship and creative works have been honored with multiple Society for Public Health Education paper of the year awards (2021, 2022), a data visualization prize from the American Association of Geographers (2019), a national poetry month prize (2020), a Pushcart Prize nomination (2020), and selections as finalist or short/long list for various other prizes. His research has appeared in a range of top-tier public health journals, including *Social Science & Medicine*, *Journal of Urban Health*, and *Health Education & Behavior*. His poetry has appeared in both peer-reviewed public health and traditional poetry journals, including *Health Promotion Practice*, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, *Critical Public Health*, *Kithe*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*.

Prior to his doctoral training, Dr. Petteway served as social epidemiologist and chief epidemiologist at the Baltimore City Health Department. Prior to that he sat on bench-backs and sipped “orange drink”, listening to Mobb Deep while conducting observational studies of project life.