DO YOU WANT TO EARN CREDITS WHILE CONDUCTING IMPORTANT RESEARCH THAT CAN BENEFIT ALBANY COMMUNITIES?

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR BIRTH JUSTICE? PHOTO AND AUDIO-VISUAL EDITING SKILLS? DO YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEWING?

JOIN AN ACTION RESEARCH TEAM TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN BIRTH OUTCOMES IN ALBANY, NY!

Albany county has 23.2 deaths of Black babies per 1,000 births as compared to 8.5 deaths for all babies. 16.2 percent of Black babies in the county are born preterm, and 14.6 percent have low birth weight. The comparative figures for all babies in the county are respectively 11.6 and 8.7 percent (NY State Vital Statistics Data). Particularly large disparities present in zip codes that cover the South End of Albany and Arbor Hill. If you are passionate about doing something to address these disparities and want to build supportive, cohesive communities around birthing peoples, we invite you to commit part of your undergraduate education to action research. This is an important opportunity to pursue community engaged scholarship. As a member of the research team you will be trained in innovative and creative methods of research including transformative storytelling and photovoice. You will jointly collaborate with student peers and professors. Partnered with one to two storytellers from impacted areas of Albany you will actively listen and create an audio-visual rendition of their birth story.

Responsibilities of research team members: Available for independent study credit (AWSS 397), this opportunity will require some level of time commitment. Please consider your class standing and availability up through the end of the next academic year (spring 2019 – spring 2020). You will have to attend two trainings in the spring or early fall of 2019, any subsequently scheduled team meetings as well as three meetings with an individual storyteller and time to create the photovoice narrative. In the spring of 2020, there will be additional meetings alongside storytellers to collectively interpret the visual stories.

To apply: Please send a cover letter expressing interest, any relevant skills, and a resume by February 15, 2019 to Professor Bhatia in women’s, gender and sexuality studies: rbhatia2@albany.edu.