



Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER** | **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

Biography

Karen Albright, PhD, MSW, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology and Affiliated Faculty in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver (DU). Her research explores the intersection of social inequality and health. After earning a PhD in Sociology from New York University, Karen received postdoctoral training in social scientific health research as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research at the University of California, Berkeley, and as a National Institute of Mental Health Fellow at the Center for Culture and Health at UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. Prior to coming to DU, Karen served for five years at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, where she was an Assistant Professor in the Colorado School of Public Health's (CSPH's) Department of Community and Behavioral Health and directed the Qualitative Research Core in the Adult and Child Center for Health Outcomes Research and Delivery Science (ACCORDS), a Center within the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital Research Institute. She remains Affiliated Faculty at CSPH and Affiliated Investigator at ACCORDS.

Karen's primary research interests focus on health behaviors among socioeconomically disadvantaged populations and on the barriers to their care. She is particularly interested in how disadvantaged populations interact with the U.S. health care system in both the private and public health domains. Much of her work has been concerned with exploring not only individuals' experiences with the health care system, but also potential solutions for improving care. Karen's work also includes research on the psychosocial and cultural consequences of community trauma, particularly the aftermath of September 11, 2001, in New York City and, more recently, hydraulic fracturing in Western Colorado.

Karen believes strongly in, and is actively engaged with, the translation, dissemination, and implementation of social scientific methods, theory, and practice. She earned a second master's degree, an MSW in clinical social work, in 2010 in order to better understand firsthand the areas of overlap between behavioral and social science and to support her interest in developing the concept and practice of clinical sociology. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology, an international organization dedicated to advancing sociological application and practice both within and beyond academia, since 2012 and is currently President Elect. Karen also is the Co-Director of the Qualitative Research Consortium at DU and previously directed the Qualitative Research Methods Forum, an inter-institutional forum for health researchers in Colorado and beyond. She has extensive experience with a variety of qualitative research methods as well as expertise in mixed methodological research design, and has directed qualitative data collection and analysis on multiple implementation studies.