

## ***Phenomenological Experiences of Traumatic Childbirth in Black Women by Ruby Rhoden***

**Proposal:** Over 700 women in the U.S. die annually during pregnancy and childbirth, making it the most dangerous country to give birth in the developed world. Yet, there is a neglected and rapidly growing population that affects 2,000-fold more women every year – maternal morbidity. Roughly 1.3 million women experience maternal morbidity, or unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant long-term psychological consequences as a result of trauma including postpartum PTSD. Of this group, Black women are more likely to endure these experiences (9.4 per 1,000 births) compared to their white counterparts (5.5 per 1,000) yet are consistently excluded in research studies. This study will explore themes related to Black women’s experience of traumatic birth by conducting semi-structured interviews with 10-20 self-identifying Black women in New Jersey with traumatic birth histories in order to learn how this group is uniquely impacted. This study will address three questions. First, how do Black women experience traumatic childbirth? Second, are these themes unique to Black race, and thus different from the current literature/findings based on white women’s experiences? Third, how can psychologists better target messages about therapy to Black women and tailor psychological treatments to include more culturally appropriate elements that will be most efficacious? The cost of this study is estimated at \$4,200 including participant payment (\$30 per person), coding and transcription services per interview (estimated at \$2.50 per minute for each 60-minute interview) and is expected to take eight-months to complete.