

Anna Ortega-Williams, LMSW, PhD
Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
City University of New York
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New York, New York 10035
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Tel: 212-396-7726

EDUCATION

- Fordham University, Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work** 2017
Dissertation: Is Organizing a Pathway for Well-being and Posttraumatic Growth for Black Youth in New York City?
Exploring Recovery from Historical Trauma and Systemic Violence.
Chair: G. Lawrence Farmer, PhD
Co-chair: Laura Wernick, PhD, LMSW
Outside Committee Member: Shawn A. Ginwright, San Francisco State University
- Stony Brook University, State University of New York, Master of Social Work** 2001
Graduation: Magna Cum Laude
Concentration: Generalist social work practice, policy, and complementary healing modalities
Master's Thesis: Women's Incarceration and Social Work Practice
- Hunter College, City University of New York, Bachelor of Science** 1999
Graduation: Cum Laude
Major: Psychology
Minors: Sociology and Black and Puerto Rican Studies

HONORS & AWARDS

- Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity 2021 Junior Faculty Award 2021
Award given to junior faculty members with outstanding scholarship in the areas of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in social work education by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- [Brief and Brilliant Invited Speaker](#), Society for Social Work and Research 2020
- Mid-Career Leader, National Association of Social Workers - NYC Chapter 2017
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society: 3.9 GPA 2015
- Minority Fellow, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Minority Fellows Program, \$70,000 Scholarship, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, \$10,000 2013-2016
- Scholarship, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, \$10,000 2013

SPECIALIZED TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

- NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, Motivational Interviewing Trainer 2017
- National Council on Behavioral Health, Mental Health First Aid Trainer Certification 2016
- Community Resource Exchange, Talent Management Training 2016
- National Council on Behavioral Health, Trauma Informed Supervision 2015
- Mental Health Association of New York City, Trauma Informed Practice Perspectives 2015
- Fordham University, Teaching Excellence Seminar 2013
- Red Hook Initiative, Motivational Interviewing 2013
- Community Resource Exchange, Facilitative Leadership 2012

City University of New York, Hunter College, Seminar in Field Instruction	2009
City University of New York, Graduate Center, Program Evaluation	2009
Youth Opportunities Program, Youth Expedition Leader	2007
Good Shepherd Services, Child Victims of Domestic Violence Certificate	2005
Good Shepherd Services, Group Work Certificate	2004
Good Shepherd Services, Play Therapy Certificate	2004
State of New York Licensure State of New York, Department of Education	2004
Strengths-Based Family Therapy Good Shepherd Services, Certificate	2003

Licensed Master Social Worker

New York State License No: 067331-1

Date of Licensure: 2004

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY 2018-Present

Research Interests

- Historical trauma and systemic violence recovery among Black youth
- Posttraumatic growth and social action
- Peer-led mental health and collective wellbeing approaches among youth
- Anti-oppressive and anti-racist social work practice; youth development; group work
- Participatory program evaluation and participatory action research

Teaching Interests

- Social work practice: Individuals, families, groups and communities
- Trauma-informed practice and youth development
- Human rights and social justice; anti-oppressive social work practice
- Participatory program evaluation with youth in community-based organizations
- Evidence-informed practice and practice-informed research

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (*indicates student/mentee)

Ortega-Williams, A. & Davison, D. Wringing out the “whitewash”: Confronting the hegemonic epistemologies of social work canons (disrupting the reproduction of White normative). *Advances in Social Work Education* (in press).

Greene, A.*, **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Page, C. & Davis, A. Healing justice: Returning to the foundation. The Palgrave *Encyclopedia of Critical Perspectives on Mental Health*. Michelle O’Reilly and Jessica Nina Lester. (Eds.). Springer (in press).

Henderson, Z., Stephens, T., Walton, Q. & **Ortega-Williams, A.** Conceptualizing healing through the African American experience of historical trauma. *Journal of Orthopsychiatry* (in press).

Ortega-Williams, A., Beltrán, R., Schultz, K., Henderson, Z., Colon, L., & Teyra, C. (2021). Historical trauma and posttraumatic growth: A cross-cultural perspective. *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15299732.2020.1869106>

Ortega-Williams, A. & Harden, T. (2021). Anti-Black racism and historical trauma: Pushing the positive youth development paradigm. *Youth & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X211007883>

Mueller, D.J.*, Bacalso, E.*, **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Pate, D., Topitzes, J. (2021). Spreading ‘positivity’ and ‘bringing the fight back to the community’: A mutual process of healing self and healing the community. *Journal of Community Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22530>

- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2020). Organizing as “Collective-Self” care among African American youth in precarious times. *Journal of African American Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-020-09506-2>
- Oswald, A.*, Bussey, S.*, Thompson, M.* & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2020). Disrupting hegemony in social work doctoral education and research: Using auto-ethnography to uncover possibilities for radical transformation. *Qualitative Social Work*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325020973342>
- Crutchfield, J., Hall, J.C., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Webb, S. (2020). Colorism and the poetics of resistance among Black youth: An application of the colorist-historical trauma framework. *Journal of Black Studies*, 1-19, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934720935849>
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Crutchfield, J., & Hall, J.C. (2019). The Colorist-historical trauma framework: Implications for culturally responsive practice with African Americans. *Journal of Social Work*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468017319890083>
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Wernick, L.J., DeBower, J., & Brathwaite, B. (2018). Finding relief in action: The intersection of youth-led community organizing and mental health in Brooklyn, NYC. *Journal of Youth & Society*, 1-21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X18758542>
- Forgey, M.A. & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2016). Moving beyond the question of if to how social work practice can be taught effectively online. *Advances in Social Work*, 17(1), 59-77. <https://doi.org/10.18060/20877>
- Smeltz, M. T., Gonzalez, S. K., Fuentes, L., Kwan, A., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Cowan, L. P. (2013). Lessons from Hurricane Sandy: A community response in Brooklyn, NY. *Journal of Urban Health*, 90(5), 799-809.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Booth, J., Fusselle-Ware, D., Lawrence, Y. Pearl, D., Chapman, N., Allen, W., Reid-Moore, A., & Overby, Z. Using ecological momentary assessments to understand Black youths’ experiences of racism, stress, & safety. *Journal for Research on Adolescents* (Revise & Resubmit).
- DeBower, J., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Wernick, L., Brathwaite, B., & Gonzalez, M.* Surviving the Strain of Youth Organizing: Youth and Organizational Responses, *Youth & Society* (Revise & Resubmit).

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

- Ortega-Williams, A.** Healing Black futures: Black youth, organizing, & tapping into ancestral legacy to redefine destiny.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** "Young people keep me grounded": Developmental implications for Black young adults organizing for racial justice with adolescents.
- Harden, T. & **Ortega-Williams, A.** Cultural remix, ritual, and social action: Collective healing of historical trauma among Black youth who organize.
- Gelman, C., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Katz, L. Using a trauma-informed lens to interrogate social work education in ongoing syndemic times.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- Fox, M., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & McBride, C. (2018). Community research ethics in Red Hook. *URBAN Research Network Working Paper* <https://urbanresearchnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/06/community-protocols-urban.pdf>.

RESEARCH & TRAINING GRANTS

FUNDED RESEARCH

- 08/2019-05/2021: Healing from Community Violence Scale development project
Funding: Common Justice through the Annie E. Casey Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator
Total direct support: \$65,000
- 07/2019-6/2021
The meaning of place for recovery from historical trauma among Black youth who organize at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
Funding: PSC-CUNY Award Program
Role: Principal Investigator

Total direct support: \$3,441

CONTRACTS

- 01/2021-12/2021: Center for Trauma Innovation
Funding: City University of New York Institute for State and Local Governance (CUNY ISLG)
Role: Advisor, Community healing and trauma recovery initiatives
Total direct support: \$23,682

UNFUNDED RESEARCH

- The HEAL Space (Project Narrative): Structural racism is a social determinant of health for Black adolescents, negatively impacting them psychologically, physiologically, developmentally, and socially. However, interventions to support Black youth well-being often target individually-oriented solutions, rather than structural, missing the opportunity to address collective trauma. This project will leverage advances in activity space, ecological momentary assessment, and GPS research to design a youth-led, healing-centered organizing intervention, and assess its effects on individuals, interpersonal outcomes and activity spaces in their neighborhood, thereby relieving race-based stress among Black youth in four neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.
Role: PI (PIs: Booth & Ortega-Williams)
Co-Investigators: University of Pittsburgh: Culyba (Adolescent Medicine), Scott (English Rhetoric), Farzan (Informatics and Networked Systems), Miller (Pediatrics).
Total Proposed: \$3,338,441.00 NIH U01 Innovative Research Grant, Clinical Trial
- Colorist-Historical Trauma Framework and Social Work Clinical Preparation
Role: Co-PI (PI: Hall, Co-PI: Crutchfield)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY	2018-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSSW 797.30 Advanced Practice with Groups: Adolescence-Focus• SW 330.00 and SW 331.00 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I and II	
Adjunct Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW 330.00 and SW 331.00 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I and II	
Guest Lecturer, Adelphi University Graduate School of Social Work	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWK 728 Social Work with Children and Adolescents	
Adjunct Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWGS 6605 Community Organization	
Teaching Assistant, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWGS 6321 Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups	

DISSERTATION EXAM COMMITTEES

Andrew Greene, PhD Candidate	2020
External Reader, Critical Social Psychology, Graduate Center, City University of New York	

PRESENTATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Francis, M., Jemal, A., Voith, L., **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2021, March). *Radically imagining anti-racist social work research using a trauma-informed, socially-just framework*. Racial Justice Symposium, University of Houston. Virtual.
- Anyinwo, N., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Wray-Lake, L., Aldana, A. (2021, January). *Collective Resistance: Examining the Social and Cultural Factors Shaping Youth's Sociopolitical Beliefs and Social Justice Action*. Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual.

- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Crutchfield, J. & Hall, J.C. (2020, January). *A Colorist-Historical Trauma Framework: Culturally Responsive Practice with African Americans*. Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, DC.
- Stephens, T., Henderson, Z., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Walton, Q. (2019, November). *Reaching Back to Heal forward: A Conceptual Model of African American Intergenerational Well-being*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Denver, Colorado.
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Beltrán, R., Henderson, Z., Schultz, K., Colon, L., Teyra, C. (2019, November). *Historical Trauma and Posttraumatic Growth: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Mass Group-Level Healing*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Denver, Colorado.
- Stephens, T., Henderson, Z., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Walton, Q. (2019, October). *A Conceptual Model of African American Intergenerational Well-being: The Role of Confronting, Withstanding and Transcending in Healing from Historical and Contemporary Trauma*. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2019, January). *Organizing as a Pathway for Well-being and Posttraumatic Growth for Black Youth in New York City: Healing and Recovery in the Context of Historical Trauma and Systemic Violence*. Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, November). *Finding Relief in Action: Youth-Led Community Organizing and Mental Health*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, November). *(Re)imagining Wellbeing: Black Youth Transforming Trauma through Transforming Social Injustice*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, April). *Collective Healing, Collective Liberation* (panel). Channeling Resilience for Young Men of Color: Third Annual Paving the Way to Healing and Recovery: Conversations with Young Men of Color Who Survive Violence Conference. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2016, June). *Youth of Color: Transforming Historical Trauma. Healing the Hurt: Restoring Hope After Trauma*. 2nd Annual Conference. Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and the Mental Health Association-NYC. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** & Wernick, L. J. (2015, October). *#Blacklivesmatter: Exploring Transformative Organizing, Historical Trauma and Mental Health Among Black Youth*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** & Fox, M. (2015, July). *Youth Participant as Youth Researcher: YPAR as a Vehicle for Evaluation and Empowerment*. Partnership for After-School Education Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2015, April). *Resilience, Resistance, and Recovery: Transforming Trauma and Transforming the World*. Paving the Way to Healing and Recovery: Conversations with Young Men of Color Who Survive Violence Conference. New York, NY.
- Forgey, M. & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2014, March). *Can Social Work Practice be Taught Effectively Online? A Comparison of the Learning Outcomes between an Online and Face to Face Generalist Social Work Practice Class*. The International Technology, Education, and Development Conference (INTED), Valencia, Spain.
- Ortega, A.** (2010, June). *Family Institutes of Bold Hope, Multifamily Group Therapy*. International Association for Social Work with Groups, 32nd Annual Symposium on Social Work with Groups. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Ortega, A.**, Wolfe, B. & Silverman, B. (2009, September). *Radical Social Workers/ Clients as Revolutionaries*. RISE Conference: Social Work in an Era of Change. Silver School of Social Work, New York University.
- Ortega, A.** (2007, October). *Family Institutes of Bold Hope: Multifamily Group Therapy*. Improvisation for Lasting Change: Social Work Outside of the Box. School of Social Work, State University of Maine, Orono, ME.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2021, May). *COVID-19 and Youth Mental Health: Recovery and Resilience through Creative Arts*. United Nations: NGO Committee on Mental Health. Virtual.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2021, April). *Reimagining Trauma Recovery among Black Youth*. Turning anti-racism into a verb within psychology, neuroscience, and social work. Connecticut College, CT. Virtual.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2020, October). *Healing to Organize, Organizing to Heal*. Common Justice: New York, NY
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2020, October). *Mental Health, Youth Development, and Civic Engagement*. Youth Town Hall. Department of Youth and Community Development. New York, NY.

- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Boyd, R., Breland-Noble, A., Sheftall, A. (2020, June). *Suicidal Behaviors among Black Youth: What we Know and What Research Needs to Happen*. Youth Suicide Research Consortium, First Annual. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A. & Buckley, M.** (2019, November). *Life Goes On: Transitions & Doctoral Studies*. Minority Fellowship Program, Council on Social Work Education. Denver, CO.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, June). *At the Crossroads of Change: The Intersection of Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, and Racial Disparities*. Department of Corrections. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, June). *Participant Engagement*. Connections to Care, ThriveNYC. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2018, June). *Healing the Hurt, Fifth Annual Conference: Reconciling our Past: Forging our Future*. Department of Youth and Community Services and Vibrant Emotional Health. New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A. & Ham, J.** (2017, January). *Sparkling Healing: Shifting Race-Based and Historical Trauma in Youth Development*. Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and the Mental Health Association of New York, New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Rivera, J., & Todd, C. (2014, November). *Innovative Service Delivery Approaches*. Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, New York, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2013, January). *Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusiveness. Pathways to Excellence Program on Diversity*. Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York - Nonprofit Excellence Award, New York, NY.
- Ortega, A.** (2010, October). Keynote Speaker: *Rooted in Radical Values and Collective Action*. RISE: Social Work in an Era of Change, New York, NY.
- Ortega, A.** (2008, August). Conference co-organizer: *Improvisation for Lasting Change: A Camp for the Art and Craft of Social Work Practice and Teaching*, School of Social Work, State University of Maine, Orono, ME.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Red Hook Initiative, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY | 2012-2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Training and Evaluation | |
| Red Hook Initiative, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY | 2011-2012 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Health Programs | |
| Visiting Nurse Service, New York, NY | 2008-2012 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per Diem Social Worker for HIV Mobile Services Unit | |
| Red Hook Initiative, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY | 2004-2011 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Worker | |
| Good Shepherd Services, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY | 2002-2005 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Worker | |
| Pederson-Krag Continuing Day Treatment Center, St. James, NY | 2000-2001 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work Intern and Treatment Coordinator | |
| Children and Family Mental Health Services, Amityville, NY | 1999-2000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work Intern | |
| Covenant House, New York, NY | 1998-1999 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Hotline Operator | |

SERVICE TO ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

School Service

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| • Co-Chair, Presidential Taskforce on Racial Equity: Research and Public Scholarship Committee | 2020 |
| • Presenter, Peer Teaching Consortium | 2020 |
| • Alternate, Hunter College Senate | 2019-Present |
| • Member, Undergraduate Course of Study Committee | 2019-Present |
| • Member, Bachelor of Social Work Program Committee | 2019-Present |
| • Member, Mental Health Field of Practice, Work Group | 2018-Present |

- Member, Human Behavior Social Environment, Work Group 2018-Present
- Faculty Sponsor, Legislative Education Advocacy Day, 2019
- Instructor, Group Work Training Seminars for P.S. 7 Social Work Interns 2019

Civic Engagement

- Co-Chair, Advisory Board, Center for Trauma Innovation, New York, NY 2021
- [Radio Show Guest Expert](#), Dr. Emeka Show, WURD 900 AM, 96.1FM 2020
- Podcast Guest Expert, National Resource Center for Reaching Victims 2020
- Member, Trauma-Informed Social Justice Research Exchange 2020
- Co-Editor, [Special Issue: Genealogies of Healing](#), *Genealogy* 2020
- Advisor, Survivance Curriculum, Hetrick Martin Institute 2020
- Reviewer, Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity and the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOHMH), [Helpers in Plain Sight A Guide to Implementing Mental Health Task Sharing in Community-Based Organizations](#), 2019
- Steering Committee Member, Center for Trauma Innovation 2019
- Member, Common Justice, Impacted Parties Advisory Group, Brooklyn, NY 2009-present
- Founder, 100 Letters to My Father Project, City University of New York, Medgar Evers 2008-2009
- Founder, Bold Hope Community Coalition, Brooklyn, NY 2007-2009
- Board Member, Casa Atabex Ache House of Womyn's Power, Bronx, NY 2003-2005
- Volunteer, Covenant House, New York, NY 1997
- Intern, The Urban Assembly: Bronx Center Project, Bronx, NY 1998

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Society for Social Work Research 2018-present
- Member, Council on Social Work Education 2013-present
- Co-founder and Member, Radical Social Work Group 2008-2020
- NYC Chapter Board Member, International Association for Social Work with Groups 2009-2011
- Member, Association of Black Social Workers, New York City Chapter 2010