

Anna Ortega-Williams, LMSW, PhD
Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
City University of New York
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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

The Academy for Community Behavioral Health, Inaugural Innovation Resident 2023
 Canadian Association for Social Work Education, Keynote 2022
Conference theme: Renewing Change in Social Work Education: Dismantling, Decolonizing and Reconnecting. Annual virtual conference.

[Scholarship spotlight](#), Society for Research on Adolescence 2022
[Scholarship spotlight](#), American Psychological Association 2021
 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 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

Associate Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY 2024-Present

Research Interests

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

Teaching Interests

- Human behavior in the social environment
- 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.**, Mushtaq, S.*, Davoodzadeh, V.*, Isles, L.*, Anwar, Z.*, Hidalgo-Roig, S., & Soler, E.* (in press). Rethinking reliance upon written assignments: Students reimagining rigor in social work education. *Advances in Social Work*.
- Lopez-Humphreys, M., Cadoff, B., **Ortega-Williams, A.** (in press). Unearthing belonging: A multifaceted exploration of community resilience and spatial justice through Participatory Action Research. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*
- Anyiwo, N., Palmer, G., Auguste, E., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & How Our Lives Link Altogether (H.O.L.L.A). (in-press). None but Ourselves Can Free Our Mind”: Towards a theory of collective Black consciousness. *American Psychologist*
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Stephens, T. & Henderson, Z. (2024). Black intergenerational healing and well-being: Reimagining Posttraumatic Growth. *American Psychologist*, 79(8), 1171–1184. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0001302>

- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2024). Healing Black futures: Black youth, organizing, & ancestors, and redefining destiny. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10428232.2023.2301164>
- Gelman, C., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, & Katz, L. (2024). Using a trauma-informed lens to interrogate social work education in chronic syndemic times. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 44(2), 115-135. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2024.2316341>
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Crutchfield, J., Hall, C.J., & Brown, A. (2023). Colorism and historical trauma: Barriers and stepping stones for healing within clinical social work education. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 93(2-4), 160-182.
- Littman, D.M., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Beltrán, R., Wagaman, A., Bender, K., & Wernick, L. (2023). Navigating, subverting, and replacing conventional academic structures and expectations to co-create with PAR teams: Where to for PAR scholarship? *Journal of Community Practice*, 31(3-4), 466-487, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2023.2271923>
- Francis, M. W., Jemal, A., Voith, L. A., Lee, H.*, Korsch-Williams, A. E.*, **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Hamler, T. (2023). Radically imagining anti-racist social work research using a trauma-informed, socially-just framework. In Abrams, L. S., Edmonds Crewe, S., Detlaff, A. J., & Herbert Williams, J. (Eds.), *Social work, white supremacy, and racial justice: Reckoning with our history, interrogating our present, re-imagining our future* (Vol. 3, pp.539-553). Oxford University Press.
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Booth, J., Fusselle-Ware, D., Lawrence, Y. Pearl, D., Chapman, N., Allen, W., Reid-Moore, A., & Overby, Z. (2022). Using ecological momentary assessments to understand Black youths' experiences of racism, stress, & safety. *Journal for Research on Adolescents*, 32(1), 270-289. <http://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12733>
- 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.** & McLane-Davison, D. (2021). Wringing out the “whitewash”: Confronting the hegemonic epistemologies of social work canons (disrupting the reproduction of White normative). *Advances in Social Work Education*, 21(2/3), 566-587. <https://doi.org/10.18060/24475>
- 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>
- DeBower, J., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Wernick, L., Brathwaite, B., & Gonzalez, M.* (2021). Surviving the strain of youth Organizing: Youth and organizational responses, *Youth & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X211058216>
- Henderson, Z., Stephens, T., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Walton, Q. (2021). Conceptualizing healing through the African American experience of historical trauma. *Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000578>
- Greene, A., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Page, C. & Davis General, A. A. (2021). Sacred conversations: Sharing journeys of healing justice with the field of critical youth mental health. In J.N. Lester and M.O'Reilly (Eds.). *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Critical Perspectives on Mental Health*. Palgrave MacMillan, Cham. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-12852-4_84-1
- 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. *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.**, Jemal, A., Smith, R., Lopez, J., Greene, A., & Purnell, B. The Community's Scale for Healing Possibilities: Participatory scale development for measuring healing from community violence. *Advances in Social Work (Revise & Resubmit)*
- Jemal, A., Waite, D., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Purnell, B. Greene, A., Oyeyemi, O., & Smith, R. Participatory healing scale development: Exploring team dynamics, culture, and methods. *Decolonizing Quantitative Methods (Book)*. (Revise & Resubmit).
- Voith, L., Russell, K., Lee, H., Hamler, T., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Xia, T., Williams, A.K., Francis, M., & Jemal, A. Enacting antiracist practices in research through healing-centered engagement. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. (Revise & Resubmit)

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Nisperos, V., Tosatti, E., *Soler, E., Brown, K. N., James, C., Ortiz-Surun, N., Ortiz, Z., Rodriguez, N., Mohammed, E., Smith, A., Liguier, M., Caceres, A., Boreman, J., Anyiwo, N., Bernard-Carreño, R., Butts, H., Reyes, R., Torres, F., Chaudary, S., Cherebin, D., DeSuze, A., DeSuze, L., Ortiz-Amos, S., Vaval, H. "Farming saved my life": Land as teacher, healer, & connection in New York City. *Journal of Community Practice*.
- Hackett, R., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Allan, B. Creating a portal: Kaleidoscopic Black queer academic futurities across Canadian and U.S. borderlands.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** Breaking bottlenecks: Alternatives to BSW HBSE written assignments – responsive pedagogy during COVID-19.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** & McLane-Davison, D. "Doing the Work": The meaning of place and the historical legacy of social justice organizing among Black HBCU students.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2021). "Collective-Self" care: Our healing, health, and wellness as people of African descent. [National Council on Black Studies: Annual Report](#).
- 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

- 02/2023-02/2024: The NYC Land-Based Healing Project
The NYC Land-Based Healing Project will consist of an intergenerational, youth-centered, multi-disciplinary participatory research team gathered to better understand what land access means to Black youth, and youth of color. Specifically, we will explore the roles of gardens/urban farms in their well-being, studying gardens and urban farms as potential sites of intergenerational healing in the context of historical trauma and ongoing systemic violence. Our research questions: 1) What is the meaning of farming/gardening for Black youth, and youth of color, in New York City and 2) If given the resources, what approach to mental health and healing of historical trauma would Black youth, and youth of color, who farm/garden design for their peers in NYC. Funding: The City University of New York Interdisciplinary Research Grant
Role: Primary Investigator
Co-Investigators: Dr. Regina Bernard-Carreño, Vanessa Nisperos, Elise Tosatti, & Dr. Nkemka Anyiwo
Total direct support: \$40,000
- 06/2022-05/2023: The Academy for Community Behavioral Health
Funding: City University of New York School for Professional Studies (CUNY SPS)

Role: Advisor, Trauma informed supervision, historical trauma, posttraumatic growth

Total direct support: \$34,812

- 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
- 8/2019-05/2021: 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

UNFUNDED RESEARCH

- The NYC Land-Based Healing Project
Funding Source: Spencer Foundation
Role: PI
Co-Investigators: Elise Tosatti, Dr. Regina Bernard-Carreño, Vanessa Nisperos, & Dr. Nkemka Anyiwo
Finalist (top 19 out of 240)
Total direct support: \$400,000 Submitted 2024.
- The SPIN Project (Project Narrative): Racial stratification influences Black adolescent development through segregation and the resulting disproportionate exposure to challenges and restriction of access to support in environments. These exposures are critical in adolescence, a developmental period in which Black youth are navigating more contexts independently and developing their racial identity. While there is evidence that Black adolescents' environments impact their levels of stress and marijuana use (MU), studies have focused on residential neighborhoods without accounting for the entirety of Black adolescents' lived experience. Guided by youth research advisory boards (YRBS), this study will address this gap by engaging 240 youth across four neighborhoods in an explanatory sequential mixed methods study that utilizes an intensive longitudinal design and in-depth interviews to assess youths' experiences of activity spaces and its relation to stress and MU. The results of this study will provide evidence 1) for the viability of targeting activity spaces to support the development of positive racial identity, decrease stress, and ultimately prevent MU among Black adolescents, and 2) of specific activity spaces that could serve as targets of interventions to increase supports, decrease challenges, and ultimately prevent MU among Black adolescents.
Role: Co-I, PI (Booth)- Submitted November 2022
Co-Investigators: Hunter: Ortega-Williams (Social Work), University of Pittsburgh: Culyba (Adolescent Medicine), Jacobs (Social Work), Hughley (Social Work), Lin (Statistics).
Total Proposed: \$3,230,923.00 NIH R01 National Institute of Drug Abuse [submitted November 2022].
Sub-Award: \$240,300 (Five-year contract)
- 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 (PI's: 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: PI (Co-PI: Hall, Co-PI: Crutchfield)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY	2024
Assistant Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY	2018-2024
• SSSW 797.30 Advanced Practice with Groups: Adolescence-Focus	
• SW 330.00, SW 331.00, SSSW 711.5, SSSW 712.5 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I and II	
Adjunct Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY	2017
• 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
• SWK 728 Social Work with Children and Adolescents	
Adjunct Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service	2015
• SWGS 6605 Community Organization	
Teaching Assistant, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service	2012
• 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

- Littman, D.M., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Beltrán, R., Wagaman, A., Bender, K., Wernick, L. (2025, January). *Elevating PAR in the social work academy: How can institutions meaningfully embrace collaborative and participatory research?* Society for Social Work and Research. Seattle, WA.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2024). *New York City Land-Based Healing Project: Learning from the Intergenerational Cultural Wisdom Fueling Community Gardens*. Council of Social Work Education. Kansas City, MO
- Littman, D.M., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Beltrán, R., Wagaman, A., Bender, K., Wernick, L. (2023, January). *Navigating, subverting, and replacing conventional academic structures and expectations to co-create with PAR teams: Where to for PAR scholarship?* Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Harden, T. & Booth, J.M. (2023, January). *Anti-Black racism and historical trauma: Pushing the Positive Youth Development paradigm*. Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.
- Jemal, A., Francis, M., Voith, L., Lee, H., Korsh-Williams, A., **Ortega-Williams, A.**, Hamler, T. (2022, November). *Building The Dream Space Collective: If you dream it....we can unbecome*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2022, January). *Using Ecological Momentary Assessments to Understand Black Youths' Experiences of Racism, Stress, and Safety in Activity Spaces*. Society for Social Work and Research. Virtual [poster presentation].
- Ortega-Williams, A.** & McLane-Davison, D. (2021, November). *Wringing Out the "Whitewash": Confronting the Hegemonic Epistemologies of Social Work Canons*. Council on Social Work Education: Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, Florida.
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Henderson, Z., Stephens, T., & Walton, Q. (2021, October). [*Reaching Back to Heal forward: A Conceptual Model of African American Intergenerational Well-being*](#). 2021 Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery Conference. The Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture. Virtual conference.

- 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

- Hackett, V.C.R., & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2025, February). *Remembering How to Heal Black Futures*. University of Victoria, School of Social Work, British Columbia, Canada.
- Ortega-Williams, A., Brettschneider, E., Kohomban, Rubio-Torio, N., & Hogan, H. (2025, January). *Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Solutions for a Thriving Behavioral Health Workforce*. Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health.
- Williams, J., Smikle, B., Smiley, C., & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2023, February). *Town Hall: Memphis, Police Accountability, and How we can Advocate for Change*. Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. Hunter College, NY.
- Ortega-Williams, A.** (2023, January). *Black Mental Health and Wellness: What We Keep!* Silberman School of Social Work. New York, NY.
- Hackett, R., Allan, B. & **Ortega-Williams, A.** (2022, March). *Social Healing Gathering: Seeding Connections, Weaving Relations*. 1st Annual Social Harms Require Social Healing Gathering: University of Victoria, Canada. Virtual
- Ortega-Williams, A.**, Greene, A., & McDaniel, D. (2021, October). Panelist. Healing Centered Education 1st Annual Summit. Virtual.
- 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

• Member, Presidential Taskforce on Civility and Controversy	2024- present
• BSW Program Director	2023-present
• Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee, Silberman School of Social Work	2022-Present
• Co-Chair, Presidential Taskforce on Racial Equity: Research and Public Scholarship Committee	2020-2022
• Member, Undergraduate Course of Study Committee	2019-2022
• 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
• Presenter, Peer Teaching Consortium	2020, 2022
• Alternate, Hunter College Senate	2019-2020
• Faculty Sponsor, Legislative Education Advocacy Day	2019
• Instructor, Group Work Training Seminars for P.S. 7 Social Work Interns	2019

Civic Engagement

• Member, Human Services Advisory Board, BMCC	2024
• Member, Human Services Consortium of East Harlem	2024
• Member, Trauma-Informed Social Justice Research Collective	2020-Present
• Co-Chair, Advisory Board, Center for Trauma Innovation, New York, NY	2021-2022
• Radio Show Guest Expert , Dr. Emeka Show, WURD 900 AM, 96.1FM	2020
• Podcast Guest Expert, National Resource Center for Reaching Victims	2020
• Co-Editor, Special Issue: Genealogies of Healing , <i>Genealogy</i>	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