

CECILY D. DAVIS, BSW, MSW

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EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work <u>University of Pittsburgh</u> – Pittsburgh, PA The Relationship Between Caregivers' Racial Identity and the Process of Preparing Adolescents to Confront Racial Discrimination.	2026	Graduation:
Master of Social Work <u>University of Pittsburgh</u> – Pittsburgh, PA Concentration in Community Organization & Social Administration		Graduation: 2009
Bachelor of Social Work <u>Carlow University</u> – Pittsburgh, PA		Graduation: 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Racial Socialization
- School Social Workers
- Mixed Methods Design
- Implementation Science
- Research-to-Practice Scholarship

FUNDING

2026: **Co-Investigator, The Just Discipline Process: Planning for Sustainability and School Autonomy**

Funder: The Heinz Endowments, \$200,000

Principal Investigator: James Huguley, Co-PI: Rachel Vaughn-Coaxum, Co-I: Sommer C. Blair

2026: **Fellow, Provost's Dissertation Completion Fellowship**

Funder: University of Pittsburgh

Award: Tuition & Stipend

Awarded: Cecily D. Davis

2021-2023: **Co-Principal Investigator, Parenting While Black: Intergenerational Innovation**

Funder: University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute, \$115,000

Principal Investigator: James Huguley, Co-PIs: Kyndra Cleveland, Ming-Te Wang, Co-I's: Elizabeth Miller, Paula Powe

2021-2022: **Co-Principal Investigator, Parenting While Black: First Gear Program**

Funder: University of Pittsburgh National Science Foundation I-Corps Subaward, \$3,000

Principal Investigator: James Huguley, Co-PIs: Kyndra Cleveland

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Joseph-McCatty, A. A., Fussell-Ware, D. J., Garrett, K., **Davis, C. D.**, & James, K. (2026). Punished for Surviving: ACEs, Intersectional Inequities and the Pursuit of Mental Health Support for Black Girls in Tennessee Schools. *Youth*, 6(2), 69. <https://doi.org/10.3390/youth6020069>

Fixler, A., Jacobs, L.A., & **Davis, C.D.** (2025). Police-social work collaboration and the ethical practice paradox: Perspectives from social work's next generation. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*.

Huguley, J.P., **Davis, C.D.**, Stief, E.M., Haynik, R.H., Henderson, M. A., DeBellis, B. R., Blair, S.O., Williams, A.P., Sturdivant, M.M., Wiley, D.T., & Cherry, M. C. (2023). From practice-to-research-to-practice: Leveraging reciprocal partnerships to advance racial and educational justice across settings and ecological levels. *Journal of Community Partnerships*. 31(3-4), 338-359.

Huguley, J.P., Cleveland, K.C., **Davis, C.D.**, & Haynik, R.H. (2023). Parenting While Black[®]: Promising results from a strengths-based parent intervention supporting African American families. *Children & Schools*, 45, 251-254.

Books Chapters and Edited Volumes

Huguley, J.P., & **Davis, C.D.** (2023). Social work catalyzing youth racial learning. In A. Grant-Thomas (Ed.), *Reflections on children's racial learning*. Amherst, MA: Embrace Race.

Technical Reports

Huguley, J.P., Henderson, M. A., **Davis, C.D.**, & DeBellis, B. R., (2024). Race and youth development research group: Community impact report. Pittsburgh, PA. University of Pittsburgh Center for Race and Social Problems.

Spear, C.F., Cross, A.B., **Davis, C.D.**, & Chen, A.P. (2019). Pennsylvania Project LAUNCH: Final comprehensive evaluation report. Pittsburgh, PA. University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Race and Youth Development Research Group Doctoral Fellow

University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems – Pittsburgh, PA

2020 – Present

- Co-PI for School Social Worker Study focused on race-related training and experiences
- Co-PI and Lead Facilitator for Parenting While Black: Growing and Healing Together
- Co-PI for research-to-practice partnership with the Pittsburgh College Access Alliance
- Facilitator for the Developing Relational, Emotional, and Adaptive Mind (DREAMs) program
- Evaluated and advised on projects related to racial justice with youth development researchers
- Collaborated with and supported other doctoral fellows and research staff on advancing their projects

***Graduate Student Research Assistant* | University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA**

2020 – Present

Principal Investigator: Dr. James Huguley, School of Social Work

- Managed qualitative data analysis and supported community-based data collections
- Lead community liaison and parent group facilitator for workshops, including multi-component instruction on African American experiences, and pre-post data collection and analysis
- Coordinated outreach with community partners and recruitment of program participants

***Senior Evaluation & Research Coordinator* | University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development Pittsburgh, PA**

2018 – 2020

- Led data collection in 58 Pittsburgh kindergarten classrooms for University of Oregon Center for Teaching and Learning efficacy study of KinderTEK
- Supervised 13 person data collection team to complete ASPENS, MAP, WPPSI, KPA, KTOT and TEMA education assessments in accordance with IRB requirements
- Facilitated qualitative data collection through focus groups, informational interviews and collected quantitative data through Qualtrics surveys
- Cleaned data and ran initial statistical analysis for evaluations including a process evaluation focused on community on infant mental health
- Managed data collector new hire process from job posting, identifying candidates, interviewing, hiring and orientation

Research Manager | University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development – Pittsburgh, PA
2017 – 2018

- Managed project & collected primary research/early childhood education data for National Science Foundation grant
- Ensured adherence of research protocol and research objectives
- Assessed and educated volunteer participants on research data collection and process
- Trained and certified as a CLASS Pre-K observer in evaluating the quality of classroom instructional dynamics
- Supported evaluative research project of the internal P.R.I.D.E. professional development and external programming

Education Research Advisory Panel Member

University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems – Pittsburgh, PA
2016 – 2018

- Co-PI during creation of study targeting school social workers' training and racialized experiences
- PI on analyzing qualitative interviews of school social workers
- Co-writing articles and book chapters on school social workers experiences

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor | Erikson Institute – Chicago, IL
2026 - Present

- MSW – Anti-Opressive Social Work Practice (Synchronous)

Assistant Adjunct Professor | Smith College – Northampton, MA
2024 – Present

- MSW -*Racism in the United States: Implications for Social Work Practices* (In-Person)

Adjunct Professor | Carlow University College of Education and Social Work – Pittsburgh, PA
2025

- MSW - Social Work Theory and Assessment (Online)

Teaching Assistant | University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work – Pittsburgh, PA
2022-2023

- MSW - *Social Work Practice with African American Families* (Co-led/In-Person)
- MSW - *Social Work Practice & Traumatic Stress* (In-Person)

Adjunct Professor | University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work – Pittsburgh, PA
2014 – 2026

- MSW – Child & Family Advocacy (In-person)
- MSW - *Generalist Research* (Hybrid Asynchronous/Coronavirus 2019)
- MSW - *Generalist Field Seminar* (In-Person)
- MSW - *Evaluative Research* (In-Person)

Practicum Education Coordinator | University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work – Pittsburgh, PA
2014 – 2017

- Advised MSW students regarding field work and future career plans to match student and academic goals in practicum.

- Initiated a plan to recruit COSA MSW alumni and public health social workers.
- Developed and executed new and current training content for field instructors and students.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Davis, C.D.**, Huguley, J.P., Henderson, M.A., Haynik, R.H., & Blair, S. (2024, January 10-14) Parenting while Black: A reciprocal, anti-racist university-community collaboration [Conference presentation]. [SSWR 28th Annual Conference](#), Washington, DC, United States.
- Huguley, J.P., **Davis, C.D.**, Stief, E.M., Haynik, R. H., Henderson, M. A., De Bellis, B. R., Blair, S., Williams, A. P., Sturdivant, M. M., Wiley, D. T., & Cherry M. C. (2024, January 10-14). From practice-to-research-to-practice: Leveraging reciprocal partnerships to advance racial justice in education across contexts and ecological levels [Conference presentation]. [SSWR 28th Annual Conference](#), Washington, DC, United States.
- Davis, C.D.** (2023, October 26-29). Moving forward: Anti-racist social work praxis [Conference presentation]. [CSWE 69th Annual Program Meeting](#), Atlanta, Georgia, United States.
- Davis, C.D.** (2023, January 11-15). Anti-racist praxis in schools supporting racial identity development. [Conference poster]. [SSWR 27th Annual Conference](#), Phoenix, AZ, United States.
- Huguley, J.P., Cleveland, K.C., **Davis, C.D.**, Haynik, RH., & Wang, M-T. (2023, January 11-15). Parenting while Black: A pilot program supporting Black parents and adolescents [Conference presentation]. [SSWR 27th Annual Conference](#), Phoenix, AZ, United States.
- Shafer, A.E., Wanless, S.B., **Davis, C.D.**, Winters, D., & Swartz, M. (2020, June 22-24). The role of a community of practice in increasing teachers' well-being and capacity to implement. [Conference poster]. [The National Research Conference on Early Childhood](#), Washington, DC, United States.
- Shafer, A.E., Wanless, S.B., Winters, D., Swartz, M., & **Davis, C.D.** (2020, May 26-29). Increasing teachers' well-being and capacity to implement through a community of practice. [Conference poster]. [The Society for Prevention Research 28th Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, United States.
- Wanless, S.B., Shafer, A.E., **Davis, C.D.** (2018, February 7-8). The role of psychological safety in creating a culture of readiness. In R. Hallman & T. Halle (Chairs), "Readiness to Change" within quality improvement initiatives [Conference symposium]. [Annual Meeting of the Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium](#). Washington, DC, United States
- Wanless, S.B., Shafer, A.E., **Davis, C.D.**, Swartz, M., Winters, D., Li, J., Strasbaugh, P., Sapotichne, J., Zimmerman, P., Gullone, K. (2018, April 30 – May 3). Building a culture for change [Conference poster]. [The 20th Children's Interagency Conference](#), State College, PA. United States.
- Wanless, S.B., Shafer, A.E., **Davis, C.D.**, Swartz, M., Winters, D., Li, J., Strasbaugh, P., Sapotichne, J., Zimmerman, P., Gullone, K. (2018, June 25-27). Psychological safety as a support for depression. (Chair), Teacher stress and mental health [Conference symposium]. [The Administration for Children and Families' National Research Conference on Early Childhood](#), Washington, DC, United States.
- White, A.I., Cross, A.B., Wanless, S., **Davis, C.D.**, & Jackson, M., (2018, April 6-8). The PRIDE program [Colloquium presentation]. [Playing With Childhood in the 21st Century University of Pittsburgh Colloquium](#). Pittsburgh, PA, United States.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Davis, C.D.** (2026, September). Anti-oppressive social work practice [In-person workshop]. Macedonia FACE. Pittsburgh, PA United States.
- Davis, C.D.** (2024, November 4). Moving Forward: Anti-racist social work praxis [In-person workshop]. Pennsylvania Association of School Social Work Personnel (PASSWP) Conference. Pittsburgh, PA United States.
- Davis, C.D.** (2023, June 21). Codeswitching: How marginalized employees navigate oppression at work [Virtual workshop]. United Steel Workers LEAD ERG Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA, United States.
- Davis, C.D., & Fixler, A.** (2022, March 16). Imposter syndrome and stereotype threats [Virtual workshop]. [University of South Carolina College Grad Hub](#). Columbia, SC, United States.

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Co-Principal Investigator** | Parenting While Black: Intergenerational Innovation 2021 – 2023
Funder: University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute, \$115,000
Principal Investigator: James Huguley, Co-PIs: Kyndra Cleveland, Ming-Te Wang, Co-I's: Elizabeth Miller, Paula Powe
School Partners: Environmental Charter School, The Neighborhood Academy, Manchester Academic Charter School, & Dickson STEAM Academy
Community Partners: Bible Center Church, Crossroads, FAME Scholarship Program, Macedonia FACE, NEED Scholarship Program, Awaken Pittsburgh, & Homewood Children's Village
- Co-Principal Investigator** | Parenting While Black: First Gear Program 2021 – 2022
Funder: University of Pittsburgh National Science Foundation I-Corps Subaward, \$3,000
Principal Investigator: James Huguley, Co-PIs: Kyndra Cleveland

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- Reconciliation Counselor & Parent Educator** | Family Services of Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA
2012 – 2014
- Coordinated multi-site parenting program and recruited over 100 Allegheny County fathers to participate
- Crisis Response Trainer** | Family Services of Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA
2013 – 2014
- Trained 100 Family Services staff on intervening with client and non-client persons in crisis
- Program Manager** | YouthWorks, Inc. – Pittsburgh, PA
2011 – 2012
- Facilitated youth programming management, budget allocations, and distribution of private funding
- Director of Membership & Outreach** | National Association of Social Workers-PA – Harrisburg, PA
2010 – 2011
- Developed strategic recruiting plan to maintain and increase membership

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reviewer | Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice

2025 – Present

Conference Student Volunteer | Council of Social Work Education 2025 Annual Program Meeting

2025

Voting Committee Member | University of Pittsburgh Conflict of Interest Committee

2024 - Present

Conference Student Volunteer | Society of Social Work Research 2024 Conference

2024

Reviewer | Journal of Education and Urban Society

2023 – Present

Office Site Practicum Instructor – *Manchester Youth Development Center & Justice Scholars Institute* |
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

2022 – 2025

Committee Member | Society for Research in Child Development Black Caucus SECC Subcommittees 2023 –
2025

Discussant | “I Love You, Black Girl: An Exploration of Strengths – Based Supports Informed by Critical
Theories.” American Educational Research Association Annual Conference April 11-14, 2024 (Philadelphia, PA)

2024

Conference Reviewer, Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) National Research Conference on Early
Childhood 2022 (NRCEC 2022).

2022

Committee Member | University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work COSA Faculty Committee

2014 – 2017

Council Member | F.A.T.H.E.R.S Collaborative Council – Pittsburgh, PA

2011 – 2015

Youth Career Mentor | Career Connections High School – Pittsburgh, PA

2013 – 2014

Committee Member | NASW Pennsylvania Executive Director Search Committee – Harrisburg, PA

2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member | Council of Social Work Education (CSWE)

2023 – Present

Member | Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

2021 – Present

Member | Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

2020 – Present

Member | American Educational Research Association (AERA)

2020 – Present

RESEARCH-TO-PRACTICE PITTSBURGH PARTNERSHIPS

• Environmental Charter School • The Neighborhood Academy • Manchester Academic Charter School • Dickson STEAM Academy	• Linton Middle School • Pittsburgh Liberty School • Bible Center Church • Crossroads • FAME Scholarship Program • Primary Care Health Services	• Macedonia FACE • NEED Scholarship Program • Awaken Pittsburgh • Homewood Children’s Village
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MEDIA COVERAGE

(2023, July 17) [Awaken Pittsburgh teaches mindfulness and meditation](#). *KDKA-TV/CBS*.

(2022, September 28) [Local ‘Parenting While Black’ workshops share best practices and build connections](#). *Kidsburgh/KDKA-TV/CBS*