

# Keith J. Watts, Ph.D., MSW

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Professional Objective

To conduct innovative, equity-focused research on the role of identity-based belonging in the health and well-being of marginalized communities, advancing interventions that address health disparities among racial, sexual, and gender minorities through interdisciplinary and community-engaged approaches.

### Academic Positions

#### University of Kentucky, College of Social Work

*Lexington, Kentucky*

- Assistant Professor (2021 – present)
  - Core Faculty, Center for Health, Engagement and Transformation (2023 – present)
  - Affiliate Faculty, African American & Africana Studies (2021 – present)
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### Education

#### Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work

*Richmond, Virginia*

- PhD in Social Work (May 2021)  
*Dissertation: The role of community belongingness in the mental health and well-being of Black LGBTQ adults*  
*Committee: Drs. M. Alex Wagaman (Chair), Jamie L. Cage, Maurice N. Gattis, & madison moore (preferred capitalization)*

#### Clark Atlanta University, Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Master of Social Work – Clinical concentration (May 2017)  
*Capstone: African American gay and bisexual men: An intersection of vulnerability*

#### Georgia State University, Department of Psychology

*Atlanta, Georgia*

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (December 2014)
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### Scholarly Products

#### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

1. Gwynn, D. X., **Watts, K. J.**, & Thrasher, S. S. (2025). The access to infertility treatment

and care act: A critical step toward addressing male infertility. *Families in Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894251347812>

2. **Watts, K. J.**, Thrasher, S. S., Conner, L. R., Showalter, K., Griffin, D., Howard, S. P., Maccio, E. M., & Moore, J. X. (2025). The divergent associations of LGBTQ+ belongingness with illicit drug use and alcohol consumption among adults in Kentucky. *Sexes*, 6(3), 44. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sexes6030044>
3. Conner, L., Scoresby, K., & **Watts, K. J.** (2025). Using artificial intelligence to develop a mentorship map. *The Journal of Faculty Development*. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/using-artificial-intelligence-develop-mentorship/docview/3196654047/se-2>
4. Griffin, D., Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Baiden, P., Maccio, E. M., & Tate, M. (2025). Protective factors for marijuana use and suicidal behavior among Black LGBTQ U.S. high school students. *Social Sciences*, 14(5), 267. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14050267>
5. Li, C., Howard, S. P., Rogers, C. R., Andrzejak, S., Gilbert, K. L., **Watts, K. J.**, Bevel, M. S., Moody, M. D., Langston, M. E., Doty, J. V., Toriola, A. T., Conwell, D., & Moore, J. X. (2024). Allostatic load, educational attainment, and risk of cancer mortality among US men. *JAMA Network Open*, 7(12), e2449855. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.49855>
6. Thrasher, S. S., Cupid, S., **Watts, K. J.**, Henderson, T., Brune, S., Tate, M., Griffin, D., & Gwynn, D. X. (2024). “You have to humanize your feelings:” Black fathers’ reflections on how youth violence prevention and perpetrations influence their overall health and fathering practices. *Social Work in Public Health*, 39(7), 601–616. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2024.2371967>
7. **Watts, K. J.**, Wagaman, M. A., Eaton, A. D., Leung, V. W. Y., & Craig, S. L. (2023). Examining the role of peer and family belongingness in the mental health of Black LGBTQ+ youth. *Child & Youth Services*, 46(1), 153–172. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2023.2261364>
8. **Watts, K. J.**, & Thrasher, S. S. (2023). The impact of community belongingness on mental health and well-being among Black LGBTQ adults. *Race and Social Problems*, 16(1), 47–64. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-023-09396-5>
9. **Watts, K. J.**, Matijczak, A., Tomlinson, C. A., Wagaman, M. A., Murphy, J. L., O’Connor, K., & McDonald, S. E. (2022). Transgender and gender expansive emerging adults: The moderating role of thwarted belongingness on mental health. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 14(2), 399–415. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2022.2143276>
10. Wagaman, M. A., Gattis, M. N., **Watts, K. J.**, Yabar, M. P., Blair, D., Haynes, T., & Williams, E. G. (2022). The role of schools in supporting students experiencing homelessness: Perceptions of school staff. *Children & Schools*, 44(2), 70–78. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdac002>

11. Wike, T., Tomlinson, C., Wagaman, M. A., Matijczak, A., Murphy, J., **Watts, K. J.**, O'Connor, K., & McDonald, S. E. (2021). The role of thwarted belongingness on the relationship between microaggressions and mental health for LGBTQ+ emerging adults. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 26(2), 286–303. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2021.2010687>
12. **Watts, K. J.**, & Bentley, K. J. (2021). Perceptions of gay Black men on the social construction of masculinity and its role in mental health. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 27(2), 151–174. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2021.1949422>
13. Wagaman, M. A., **Watts, K. J.**, Lamneck, V., D'Souza, S., McInroy, L. B., Eaton, A. D., & Craig, S. (2020). Managing stressors online and offline: LGBTQ+ youth in the Southern United States. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 110, 104799. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104799>
14. Wagaman, M. A., Alessi, E. J., Goffnett, J., **Watts, K. J.**, Iacono, G., Thomas, D. S., Paceley, M. S., & Craig, S. L. (2019). Interrupting hetero- and cisnormativity in social work programs: LGBTQ+ student strategies for increasing inclusion. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 57(2), 342–356. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2019.1671261>

### ***Chapters in Edited Books***

Verdino, A., Dentato, M. P., Argüello, T. M., & **Watts, K. J.** (2022). Practice with the gay male community. In *Social Work Practice with the LGBTQ+ Community* (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

### ***Submitted Manuscripts***

1. **Watts, K. J.**, Flowers-Jones, A., Craigwell, A. B., & Ojelade, I. I. (under review). From critique to construction: The Ancestral Institute as a praxis-based model for decolonial community psychology. *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*.
2. **Watts, K. J.** (under review). Paying the cognitive debt: An experiential learning framework for integrating AI in social work education. *Education Sciences*.
3. **Watts, K. J.**, Conner, L. R., & Showalter, K. (under review). The need to matter: Integrating agency and purpose into the theory of belongingness. *American Journal of Community Psychology*.
4. Howard, S.P., Spears, M., Farr, R., Lauckner, C., **Watts, K. J.**, Means, G., & Moore, J. X. (under review). Establishing and implementing the annual Queer Kentucky survey: A brief report. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.
5. López-Barrientos, H. A., Mendoza-Pérez, J. C., & **Watts, K. J.** (under review). Gender identity discrimination as a social determinant of access to healthcare for transgender women. *Social Science & Medicine*.

6. Machinga-Asaolu, R. O., Kathryn Showalter, K., **Watts, K. J.**, Machinga, M. M., & Dzvauro, D. (under review). "I did not know": The complex reality of African immigrant nurses intimate partner violence survivors in the U.S. *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*.
7. Conner, L., Scoresby, K., & **Watts, K. J.** (under review). Leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance mentorship models for mid-career faculty: A life course and intersectional perspective. *Journal of Faculty Development*.
8. **Watts, K. J.**, Thrasher, S. S., Wagaman, M. A., & Griffin, D. (under review). Belonging, identity, and well-being: A mediation analysis among Black LGBTQ adults. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.
9. Conner, L. R., Drew, V., Jones, V. N., Machinga-Asaolu, R. O., Scoresby, K., Showalter, K., Washington, C., Dyson, Y., & **Watts, K. J.** (under review). Disparity measurement for underrepresented faculty: Constructing the underrepresented minority responsibility disparity in social work education. *Journal of Social Work Education*.
10. Scoresby, K.J., Conley, B., **Watts, K. J.**, & Conner, L.R. (revised and resubmitted). The AI use guide: Levels for accessible and ethical learning. *Journal of Social Work Education*.
11. Cicco, I., Dockan, D., & **Watts, K. J.** (under review). Belongingness and teacher identity in the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. *Research Studies in Music Education*.
12. Gwynn, D. X., **Watts, K. J.**, & Howard, T. (under review). Empowering Black men in reproductive health: Addressing barriers and advancing health equity through public health social work. *Social Work in Public Health*.
13. Thrasher, S. S., Canfield, J., **Watts, K. J.**, Baiden, P., Otachi, J. K., Griffin, D., & Tate, M. (revised and resubmitted). Does racial/ethnic identity influence the association between middle childhood bullying victimization and adolescent risk behaviors? *Deviant Behavior*.
14. **Watts, K. J.**, Wagaman, M. A., Thrasher, S. S., & Griffin, D. (revised and resubmitted). "I thought it would have been like a scene from a show. But it wasn't": A qualitative analysis of how Black LGBTQ people experience identity-based community. *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*.
15. Showalter, K., Machinga-Asaolu, R., Mathis, C., **Watts, K. J.** (revised and resubmitted). Stress on stress: Experiences of first responding and intimate partner violence. *Partner Abuse*.
16. Moore, J. X., Patel, A., Spears, M., Casanova, T., Shelton, B., Weiss, H., Langston, M. E., **Watts, K. J.**, Boyd, D., Adsul, P., & Duncan, M. (revised and resubmitted). Mediating role of social and health factors on the relationship between sexual minority individuals living with high allostatic and risk of cancer mortality. *Cancer Cause & Control*.

### ***Manuscripts In Preparation***

1. Litteral, C. A., **Watts, K. J.**, Howard, S., Spears, M., Farr, R., Martel, M. M., & Moore, J. X. (in preparation). Understanding the confluence of discrimination and belongingness among LGBTQ+ substance use patterns: Discrimination, community connection, and the complex drivers of risk.
  2. Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Otachi, J. K., Griffin, D., Rollins, L., & Lemmons, B. P. (in preparation). Navigating youth violence: Black fathers' prevention strategies, responses, and perceived facilitators and barriers.
  3. Washington, C., Conner, L., **Watts, K. J.**, & Scoresby, K. (in preparation). Creating publishable papers from a dissertation using AI.
  4. Thrasher, S.S., Barnhart, S., **Watts, K. J.**, Doub, D., & Kim, C. (in preparation). Experiences of peer bullying victimization and early delinquent behavior among children living in poor single mother homes.
  5. Tate, M. C., Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Otachi, J., & Griffin, D. (in preparation). Minority stress and its impact on Black LGBTQ+ subjective well-being: Community belongingness as a protective factor.
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### **National and International Juried Presentations**

1. Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Otachi, J. K., Griffin, D., Rollins, L., & Lemmons, B. P. (2026, January). *Black fathers as key change agents: A qualitative exploration of youth violence prevention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. Oral poster submitted to present at the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
2. Machinga-Asaolu, R. O., Kathryn Showalter, K., **Watts, K. J.**, & Machinga, M. M. (2026, January). *Between two worlds: The unspoken realities of intimate partner violence among African immigrant nurses*. Oral poster submitted to present at the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
3. **Watts, K. J.**, Thrasher, S. S., Conner, L. R., Griffin, D., Howard, S. P., Moore, J. X., & Maccio, E. M. (2026, January). *The double-edged sword: LGBTQ+ belongingness, discrimination, and substance use in Kentucky*. Oral poster submitted to present at the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
4. Thrasher, S. S., Griffin, D., **Watts, K. J.**, & Smith, K. (2025, October). *Protective factors for suicidal ideations among Black U.S. middle schoolers during COVID-19*. Oral poster submitted to present at the Council of Social Work Education 71st Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO, United States.

5. **Watts, K. J., & Thrasher, S. S.** (2025, July). *Exploring the mediating role of identity centrality in the relationship between **Black LGBTQ community belongingness and subjective well-being***. Oral poster presented at the Sexuality and Social Work 6th International Conference. Ljubljana, Slovenia.
6. **Watts, K. J., Thrasher, S. S., & Wagaman, M. A.** (2025, January). *"I thought it would have been like a scene from a show. But it wasn't": A qualitative analysis of **how Black LGBTQ people experience identity-based community***. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 29th Annual Conference. Seattle, WA, United States.
7. Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Cupid, S., Brune, S., Griffin, D., Tate, M., & Henderson, T. (2025, January). *"Kids need somebody to care": A thematic analysis exploring the impact of **Black fathers' youth violence experiences and prevention efforts on their health and children's violence involvement in Baton Rouge, Louisiana***. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 29th Annual Conference. Seattle, WA, United States.
8. Tate, M., **Watts, K. J.**, Gwynn, D. X., Thrasher, S. S., Griffin, D., Nunnery, I., & Stubbs, J. (2025, January). *The protective role of social support: Examining the relationship between discrimination and well-being in **Black LGB individuals***. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 29th Annual Conference. Seattle, WA, United States.
9. Cicco, I., Dockan, D., **Watts, K. J.** (2024, November). *Elementary music teachers' sense of belongingness in the American Orff Schulwerk association*. Oral poster presented at the American Orff Schulwerk Association National Conference. Des Moines, IA, United States.
10. Li, C., Howard, S.P., Rogers, C., Andrzejak, S., Gilbert, K.L., **Watts, K. J.**, Bevel, M.S., Moody, M.D., Langston, M.E., Doty, J.V., Toriola, A.T., Conwell, D., & Moore, J.X. (2024, October). *Education, allostatic load, and the **risk of cancer related death among Black men in the United States***. Oral poster presented at the American Public Health Association 152nd Annual Meeting and Expo. Minneapolis, MN, United States.
11. Griffin, D., **Watts, K. J.**, & Thrasher, S. S., (2024, October). *Protective factors for suicide and marijuana use among **Black LGBTQ U.S. youth***. Oral poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 70th Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO, United States.
12. Li, C., Andrzejak, S., Rogers, C. R., Gilbert, K. L., **Watts, K. J.**, Bevel, M. S., Moody, M. D., Langston, M. E., Doty, J. V., Toriola, A., Conwell, D., & Moore, J. X. (2024, March). *Examining the role of education and allostatic load on **cancer mortality risk among Black men***. Oral poster presented at the American Society of Preventive Oncology 48th Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois.
13. Dockan, D., Cicco, I., & **Watts, K. J.** (2024, July). *Elementary music teachers' **belonging** in the American Orff Schulwerk Association*. Paper presented at the

International Society for Music Education 36th World Conference. Helsinki, Finland.

14. **Watts, K. J.**, Kim, C., Tate, M., Henderson, P., & Thrasher, S. S. (2024, January). *The moderating role of **mental health** on the relationship between **community belongingness and well-being among Black LGBTQ+ adults***. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
15. Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Brune, S., & Barnhart, S. (2024, January). *Do supportive neighborhoods assuage bullying and behavioral problems to promote **school engagement**?* Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
16. **Watts, K. J.**, Thrasher, S. S., Kim, C., Facchinei, J., & Tate, M. (2023, November). *The differences between **young adults and older adults in subjective well-being of Black LGBTQ+ adults: Adaptive coping as a protector factor***. Oral poster accepted to present at the American Public Health Association 151st Annual Meeting and Expo. Atlanta, GA, United States.
17. Thrasher, S. S., Otachi, J., **Watts, K. J.**, & Surratt, H. (2023, November). *Association between early vs. late childhood trauma and poly-substance use among people who inject drugs in rural Kentucky*. Oral poster presented at the American Public Health Association 151st Annual Meeting and Expo. Atlanta, GA, United States.
18. Otachi, J., Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, & Surratt, H. (2023, November). *Perceived **social isolation** and outcomes in **vulnerable adults** who inject drugs*. Oral poster presented at the American Public Health Association 151st Annual Meeting and Expo. Atlanta, GA, United States.
19. Thrasher, S. S., & **Watts, K. J.** (2023, October). *The role of parental, school, and **neighborhood connectedness on bullying victimization among Black children***. Oral poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 69th Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA, United States.
20. Facchinei, J., Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, Surratt, H., Kim, C., & Otachi, J. (2023, October). *Predictiveness of **community connectedness and social support** on substance use behavior change*. Oral poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 69th Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA, United States.
21. Thrasher, S. S., Doub, D. Tate, M., Cupid, S., Kim, C., Otachi, J., & **Watts, K. J.** (2023, October). ***Bullying victimization among Black Children: The impact of positive fathering***. Oral poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 69th Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA, United States.
22. Barnhart, S., Conner, L., & **Watts, K. J.** (2023, January). *Neighborhood and interpersonal social capital among single **Latinx and African Americans mothers: A promotive factors model***. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 27th Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ, United States.

23. Tate, M., Kim, C., Bates, C., Thrasher, S. S., **Watts, K. J.**, & Cupid, S. (2022, November). *Minority stress and its effects on Black LGBTQ+ subjective well-being: Community belongingness as a protective factor*. Oral poster presented at the American Public Health Association 150th Annual Meeting and Expo. Boston, MA, United States.
24. Craig, S. L., Eaton, A. D., Alessi, E. J., McDermott, D. T., McInroy, L. B., Lozano-Verduzco, I., Dentato, M. P., Wagaman, M. A., **Watts, K. J.**, Pascoe, R. (2022, November). *An international student training network for sexual and gender minority youth scholars*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education 68th Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA, United States.
25. **Watts, K. J.**, Wagaman, M. A, Leung, V. W. Y., & Craig, S. L. (2022, November). *The role of family belongingness and religiosity on mental health for Black LGBTQ+ youth*. Oral poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education 68th Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA, United States.
26. **Watts, K. J.**, & Thrasher, S.S. (2022, January). *The role of community belongingness in the mental health and well-being of Black LGBTQ individuals*. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
27. Thrasher, S.S., & **Watts, K. J.** (2022, January). *Father-to-Son: Factors associated with childhood bullying perpetration*. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
28. **Watts, K. J.**, Wagaman, M. A., Leung, V. W., & Craig, S. L. (2021, November). *The role of belongingness in the mental health of Black LGBTQIA+ youth*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education 67th Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL, United States.
29. Thrasher, S., Opara, I., **Watts, K. J.**, & Thrasher, B. (2021, January). *I am my daughter's keeper: Paternal involvement and social bullying victimization*. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, United States.
30. **Watts, K. J.**, & Bentley, K. J. (2020, July). *The perceptions of gay Black men on the social construction of masculinity: Implications for mental health care*. Paper presented at Preaching to the Choir: International LGBTQ Psychology Pre-Conference 2nd Annual Convention. Canadian Psychological Association. Live-streamed virtually at (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=602291490425628>).
31. **Watts, K. J.**, & Buckley, T. (2020, January). *Examining the effects of social participation on life satisfaction for LGB college students*. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 24th Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.
32. Wagaman, M. A., **Watts, K. J.**, & McInroy, L. B. (2019, October). *Impact of online/offline support on stress for LGBTQIA+ youth in "the South."* Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education 65th Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO,



United States.

33. **Watts, K. J.** (2019, May). *Masculinity and mental health: The intersectional challenges of gay Black men*. Paper presented at the 7th Annual LGBTQ Research Symposium at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Urbana-Champaign, IL, United States.
  34. Buckley, T., & **Watts, K. J.** (2019, January). *Examining the effects of traumatic or stressful events experienced in childhood and college on the mental health of college students*. Oral poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.
  35. Thomas, D., **Watts, K. J.**, & Goffnett, J. (2018, November). *LGBTQ+ social work student narratives: Identifying advocacy strategies to enhance LGBTQ+ inclusion*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education 64th Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL, United States.
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## Local Juried Presentations

- Sullivan, A. C., Barnhart, S., Conner, L., **Watts, K. J.**, & Clark, K. E. (2025, March 25). *Coping with race-related stress: A scoping review of strategies used by Black youth*. Oral poster submitted to present at the 2025 CCTS Spring Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA. <https://www.ccts.uky.edu/education-training-0/2025-ccts-spring-conference>
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## Invited Keynotes, Presentations, Workshops, and Panels

- **Watts, K. J.** (2025, April). *The heartbeat of camp: Cultivating belonging as we lead forward* (Closing keynote address). 2025 Camp Regional Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experience. YMCA Camp Ernst, Burlington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2024, March). *Phirst Class*. Invited panelist providing career advice and professional insights to students. Iota Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2024, April). *Out & about: Navigating life after graduation*. Invited panelist discussing identity experiences for LGBTQ\* college students post-graduation. UK Rainbow Employee Network/LGBTQ\* Employee Affinity Group. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, September). *Intersecting justice: Theory & praxis*. Invited panelist discussing connections between theories and activism on trans, reproductive, and disability justice. Committee on Social Theory & Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.

- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, January). *Amplifying the voice of Black/POC sexual and gender minorities*. Invited moderator for group paper session. Society for Social Work and Research 27th Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, January). *LGBTQ+ mental health & well-being: The intersections of identity and belongingness*. Invited presentation for UCONN Department of Psychological Sciences Research Brown Bag Series. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, January). *America has a problem: Creating equitable spaces*. Invited panelist for forum on organizational racism. YMCA of Metro Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2022, May). *LGBTQ+ mental health & well-being: The Intersections of Identity and Outcomes*. Invited presentation at UNITE Research Showcase. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2022, March). *Let's talk about it: A panel discussion on Black men's mental health*. Invited panelist for Zeta Psi Chapter of Iota Phi Theta's mental health forum. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2020, November). *Navigating the academy as a man of color: Building and connecting with community*. Invited workshop for Men of Color First Year Seminar. Salem State University, Salem, MA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, October). *"Queer your mind": LGBTQ+ panel discussion*. Invited panelist for 2nd Annual RVA Black Mental Health Week. Diversity Richmond, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, October). *Utilizing an intersectionality lens in social work practice*. Invited panelist in Social Work with Oppressed Groups. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, September). *Engaging with diverse populations*. Invited panelist in Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, March). *Campus community conversation: The silenced experiences of LGBT students at HBCUs*. Invited panelist for university-wide forum. Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, April). *Queering social work: Understanding LGBTQ+ student experience and creating affirming classrooms*. Invited panelist for forum at Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2018, April). *The relationship between social participation and life satisfaction for LGB college students*. Invited presentation at the Student Research Symposium, Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA, USA.

- **Watts, K. J.** (2018, April). *An application of the narrative policy framework to North Carolina's House Bill 2: The story of passage and repeal*. Invited presentation at the Social Welfare Policy Mini-Conference. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2017, December). *The systematic bias and discrimination experienced by African American gay and bisexual men: An intersectional perspective*. Invited presentation at Student Poster Presentation. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.

## Media Appearances

- **Watts, K. J.** (2024, June). *Health Equity Webinar Series: LGBTQ+ Health*. Invited panelist discussing health equity for LGBTQ+ and Black LGBTQ+ individuals. National Urban League, New York, NY, USA. [Webinar Link](#).

## Funding

### *Funded/Completed*

#### **\$701,948 – Kentucky Department of Community Based Services (7/2021 – 6/2022)**

##### ***“Office of Child Welfare (OCWEST)”***

**PI:** Melissa Segress; **Co-I:** Laneshia Conner, Laura Escobar-Ratliff, Christopher Flaherty, Justin Miller, Kathryn Showalter, & Keith J. Watts

- The Office of Child Welfare Evaluation, Support, and Technology (OCWEST) provided research, evaluation, and support activities and services to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to meet the Children and Family Services Review performance assessments in the areas of child safety, permanency, and well-being.

#### **\$415,154 – Kentucky Department of Community Based Services (7/2021 – 6/2022)**

##### ***“Adoption Support for Kentucky (ASK)”***

**PI:** Melissa Segress; **Co-I:** Justin Miller & Keith J. Watts

- Adoption Support for Kentucky (ASK) utilizes support groups to offer pre and post-adoptive support and training to foster and adoptive parents. ASK provides the opportunity to share resources, suggestions, frustrations and successes with those who share the unique life experience of adoption, and utilizes experienced foster and adoptive parents (ASK Adoptive Parent Liaisons (APLs)) to provide peer-led adoption support group meetings throughout the Commonwealth using various modalities (i.e. face-to-face, online, teleconference).

#### **\$2,178 – SEC Faculty Travel Grant Program (awarded 7/3/2025)**

##### ***“Developing Collaborative Grant Proposals on Youth Violence, Inequality, and Well-being for Black LGBTQ+ Youth”***

**PI:** Keith J. Watts

- This faculty travel grant application supports a visit to Louisiana State University from March 15-20, 2026, to collaborate with Dr. Shawndaya Thrasher. Key objectives include co-developing two grant proposals: one for the William T. Grant Foundation focused on

reducing inequality related to youth violence and bullying for Black LGBTQ+ youth, and another for a National Science Foundation SBE Core Program targeting the socio-behavioral drivers and consequences of these issues within Black LGBTQ+ communities. The visit will also involve strategic planning for a sustained collaborative research agenda focusing on understanding and mitigating the impacts of youth violence and systemic inequities on the mental health and well-being of Black LGBTQ+ individuals and communities, and delivering a guest lecture on professional development for doctoral students.

**\$500 – Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work (8/2020)**

*Robin M. McKinney Dissertation Honor Fund Scholarship*

- Awarded \$500 scholarship for dissertation research addressing social injustices and advancing social justice.

**\$900 – University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (6/2018)**

*Summer Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop Travel Award*

- Received a competitive travel award to attend a 3-day graduate student training workshop at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**\$500 – Clark Atlanta University (11/2016)**

*Student Representative Travel Award*

- Competitively awarded to two outstanding students to represent the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work at the 62nd Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Atlanta, GA.

*Submitted*

**\$275,471 – NIH/National Cancer Institute (Submitted 6/16/2025)**

**“Investigating Multilevel Determinants of Cancer Incidence and Survivorship the All of Us Research Program: A Social Ecological Analysis to Uncover Pathways to Health Equity”**

**PI:** Keith J. Watts; **Co-Is:** Justin X. Moore & Brent Shelton

- This R21 project proposes a secondary analysis of the All of Us Research Program data. Guided by a Social Ecological Model, the study will investigate how multilevel Social Determinants of Health influence (1) EHR-diagnosed cancer incidence and, among cancer survivors, (2) cancer-related Quality of Life and all-cause mortality. The research will specifically focus on understanding these pathways among Black sexual and gender minority individuals (comparative to other racial and SGM groups) to identify unique and shared risk and resilience profiles and inform interventions to reduce cancer disparities.

**\$804,478 – American Cancer Society (Submitted 5/25)**

**“Systemic Discrimination, Cumulative Stress, and Cancer Disparities Among Sexual and Gender Minorities”**

**PI:** Justin Moore; **Co-I:** Keith J. Watts

- This multi-site collaborative effort between research scholars from Augusta University, University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, and Stanford University will (1) assess the prevalence of systemic and perceived discrimination among a nationally representative sample of 1000 SGM participants in the United States; (2) examine the

prevalence of psychosocial factors and behavioral cancer risk factors among SGM individuals and determine if these risk factors differ based on measures of perceived discrimination and stress; and **(3)** investigate the mediating effects of psychosocial and behavioral cancer risk factors on the increased risk of cancer mortality among sexual minorities with high allostatic load.

**\$238,322 – Arnold Ventures Criminal Justice Initiative (LOI submitted 5/1/2025)**

**“Enhancing Interagency Collaboration to Improve Outcomes for Older Adults: A Causal Evaluation of Connecting Agencies for Better Aging Outcomes (C.A.B.A.O.), a Training Intervention for Adult Protective Services (APS) and Law Enforcement”**

**PI:** Laneshia Conner; **Co-PI:** Keith J. Watts, Kristel Scoresby, & Kathryn Showalter

- This project proposes a quasi-experimental evaluation of a joint training intervention for Adult Protective Services (APS) and law enforcement personnel across several Kentucky counties. The study will assess the training's impact on improving interagency collaboration, knowledge of aging-related issues, job satisfaction, and reducing burnout when responding to incidents involving older adults.

**\$5,000 – Center for Institutional Courage (Submitted 5/1/2025)**

**“Unheard and Unseen: Investigating the Interplay of Emotional Discomfort, Institutional Betrayal, and Collective Trauma Through Audio Journaling”**

**PI:** Laneshia Conner; **Co-PI:** Keith J. Watts, Kristel Scoresby, & Katie Showalter

- This one-year study proposes to investigate the emotional burden stemming from institutional harm, systemic betrayal, and collective trauma within academic institutions, specifically among faculty and staff in social work and human services units. Employing audio journaling, surveys, focus groups, and interviews, the project aims to adapt existing frameworks (e.g., institutional betrayal, emotional discomfort) to characterize these lived experiences and explore their contribution to collective trauma. Findings are expected to inform the development of a theoretical framework and evidence-based recommendations for fostering institutional courage and trauma-informed practices in academic settings.

*Unfunded*

**\$2,657,215 – NIH (Submitted 6/24; discussed and scored 12/24, unfunded)**

**“Systemic Discrimination, Cumulative Stress, and Cancer Disparities Among Sexual and Gender Minorities”**

**Co-PI:** Tracy Casanova & Justin Moore; **Co-I:** Donte Boyd, Marvin Langston, & Keith J. Watts

This multi-site collaborative effort between research scholars from Augusta University, University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, and Stanford University will **(1)** assess the prevalence of systemic and perceived discrimination among a nationally representative sample of 1000 SGM participants in the United States; **(2)** examine the prevalence of psychosocial factors and behavioral cancer risk factors among SGM individuals and determine if these risk factors differ based on measures of perceived discrimination and stress; and **(3)** investigate the mediating effects of psychosocial and behavioral cancer risk factors on the increased risk of cancer mortality among sexual minorities with high allostatic load.

**\$9,999 – The National Association for Music Education (Submitted 2/25)**

**“Lived Experiences of Pre-Service Music Teachers with Vernacular and Popular Music Backgrounds and Their Sense of Belonging: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Inquiry”**

**PI:** David Dockan; **Co-PIs:** Latrice Green, Keith Watts, & Shawndaya Thrasher

- This hermeneutic phenomenological study examines the lived experiences and sense of belonging of pre-service music teachers with vernacular and popular music backgrounds within conservatory-style music teacher preparation programs. Utilizing in-depth interviews and focus groups, the research aims to identify systemic barriers and provide insights for fostering greater inclusivity in music education, aligning with NAFME strategic goals.

**\$991,679 – U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (Submitted 5/23)**

**“Space Spaces for LGBTQI+ Ghanaians”**

**Co-PIs:** Maurice Gattis; Keith Watts

- Safe Space for LGBTQI+ Ghanaians is a collaborative project between Equality Network Ghana, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, and University of Kentucky College of Social Work that aimed to develop safe space housing for LGBTQI+ individuals in three regions of Ghana over two years. This initiative sought to implement and evaluate safe houses providing residents and the broader LGBTQI+ community with crucial services, including case management, mental health and health services, gender-affirming and sexual health care, access to legal services, security training, and economic empowerment activities.

**\$991,679 – U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (Submitted 5/22)**

**“Space Spaces for LGBTQI+ Ghanaians”**

**Co-PIs:** Maurice Gattis; Keith Watts

- Safe Space for LGBTQI+ Ghanaians is a collaborative project between Equality Network Ghana, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, and University of Kentucky College of Social Work that aimed to develop safe space housing for LGBTQI+ individuals in three regions of Ghana over two years. This initiative sought to implement and evaluate safe houses providing residents and the broader LGBTQI+ community with crucial services, including case management, mental health and health services, gender-affirming and sexual health care, access to legal services, security training, and economic empowerment activities.

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## **Awards and Honors**

*Journal of Social Work Education*

**Best Qualitative Article – August 2022**

- The article “Interrupting Hetero- and Cisnormativity in Social Work Programs: LGBTQ+ Student Strategies for Increasing Inclusion” was awarded Best Qualitative Article by the JSWE Editor Advisory Board, recognizing originality, innovative conceptualization, and significant contributions to social work education.

*International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR)*

**International Student Training Network Travel Award** – October 2019

- Received a travel award to attend the annual INQYR meeting and the concurrent International Student Training Network (ISTN) symposium in Mexico City.

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

**Black History in the Making Award** – February 2019

- Competitively awarded to African American students for achievements and contributions to the African American community, recognizing stellar academic records, community service, and professional experiences.

**School of Social Work Leadership and Service Award** – April 2020

**School of Social Work Leadership and Service Award** – April 2019

- Competitively awarded to students demonstrating leadership and service to the school, university, and community.

*Clark Atlanta University, Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work*

**Dean's Choice Award** – May 2017

- Awarded by the Dean to students demonstrating academic excellence in research.
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## Teaching Experience

*University of Kentucky College of Social Work, Lexington, Kentucky:*

- **BSW Courses:**
  - Social Welfare Policy: Theory and Implementation
  - Research Methods in Social Work
- **MSW Courses:**
  - Research Methods in Social Work
  - Independent Research Practicum (Spring 2022)
- **PhD Courses:**
  - Independent Teaching Practicum (Fall 2023)

*Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, Richmond, Virginia:*

- **BSW Courses:**
  - Persons in Society III
  - Foundations of Social Work Research II
- **MSW Courses:**
  - Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice (Hybrid)

## Guest Lectures

- **Watts, K. J.** (2024, September). *Navigating subjectivity: Qualitative researchers' use of self in dissertation work*. Professional Seminar in Social Work, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, September). *Ethical, political, and cultural context of research*. Social Work Research I, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.

- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, September). *Presenting at academic conferences*. Professional Seminar in Social Work, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2023, February). *Utilizing theory in the conceptualization of research*. Professional Seminar in Social Work, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2022, September). *Presenting at academic conferences*. Professional Seminar in Social Work, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2021, September). *Presenting at academic conferences*. Professional Seminar in Social Work, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2020, September). *It's simply complex: Intersectionality*. Understanding Privilege, Oppression, and Cultural Competence in Social Work, Salem State University, Salem, MA – online.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2019, October). *Intersectional identities in social work practice and research: Implications for power and oppression*. Social Work and Social Justice, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2018, March). *Intersectionality explored: Origins and current applications for social work research and practice*. Social Work with Oppressed Groups, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- **Watts, K. J.** (2016, February). *Understanding chi-square: Test of independence vs. goodness of fit*. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA, USA.

## Student Committees and Advising

- Outside Examiner (College of Education), Dissertation Committee Member, Te'Asia Martin (2024)
- Dissertation Committee Member, Alisia Sullivan (2024-present)
- Qualifying Exam Committee Member, Alisia Sullivan (2023-2024)
- Dissertation Committee Member, Rachel Womack (2022-2023)
- Qualifying Exam Committee Member, Rachel Womack (2022)

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## Research Projects and Experience

### *Investigator*

- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work  
*"Being a Man: Exploring the Meaning of Masculinity for Gay Black Men"*
  - Co-investigator: Dr. Kia J. Bentley
  - Phenomenological study on masculinity experiences for gay Black men and impacts on mental health.
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work  
*"The Role of Community Belongingness in the Mental Health and Well-Being of Black LGBTQ Adults"*
  - Co-investigator: Dr. M. Alex Wagaman
  - Mixed-method study on belongingness in identity-based communities affecting mental health outcomes for Black LGBTQ adults.



### **Research Assistant**

- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work  
Doctoral Research Assistant to Dr. M. Alex Wagaman (August 2017 – present)
    - Responsibilities: Transcription, analysis, co-authorship, coordination of research efforts, and manuscript preparation.
  - Children, Families, and Animals Research Group (CFAR)  
Doctoral Research Assistant (May 2019 – December 2019)
    - Responsibilities: Conducted qualitative interviews with LGBTQ+ youth regarding pet ownership and well-being.
  - Photo Elicitation Project with the International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience  
Doctoral Research Assistant (August 2017 – May 2018)
    - Responsibilities: Assisting in qualitative data collection and analysis on the role of community in the resilience of LGBTQ youth.
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### **Training, Fellowships, and Partnerships**

#### **University of Kentucky, Markey Cancer Center**

*Leaders Advancing UNity and Cancer Health (LAUNCH) Leadership Academy Fellow* (August 2025–2026)

- Competitively selected as one of up to four fellows for a 12-month leadership academy designed to provide advanced skills for leading a diverse, multidisciplinary cancer center workforce. The program culminates in a funded leadership project developed in partnership with a Markey Cancer Center leader.

#### **International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience**

*International Student Training Network* (2019–2020)

- Participated in the inaugural cohort of this international research partnership with universities and community organizations across Canada, the US, the UK, Mexico, and Australia, aimed at training future scholars to research gender and sexual minority youth (GSMY). Focused on strengthening resilience through information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a global context.

#### **University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research**

*Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA): Summer Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop* (June 2018)

- Competitively selected for a multi-day graduate student workshop focusing on publishing in peer-reviewed journals, writing NIH grant proposals, the tenure process, ethical research conduct, successful mentoring and collaboration, and recent developments in various research areas.
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### **Clinical Experience**

**Action Ministries, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia**

*Position: Social Work Intern* (August 2015 – May 2017)

- Provided case management services to a predominantly African American population of housing residents.
- Facilitated weekly workshops and Life Enrichment activities for residents.

**Hillside, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia**

*Position: Behavioral Specialist* (February 2015 – August 2015)

- Supervised a predominantly African American population of children, monitoring their physical health, hygiene, and safety.
  - Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to assess child status and implement care plans, including individual treatment plans and group therapy.
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**Academic and Governance Committee Memberships*****University of Kentucky*****College of Social Work**

- **Strategic Planning and Quality Improvement Committee:** August 2024 – Present
- **Student Concerns Committee:** August 2024 – Present
- **Chair, Doctoral Programs Committee:** Appointed August 2022 – July 2024)
- **Diversity Committee:** August 2022 – July 2024
- **Admissions, Advising, and Student Concerns Committee:** August 2021 – 2022
- **Ad hoc Faculty Search Committee:** Fall 2021; Fall 2023; Fall 2024

**UK International Center**

- **International Advisory Committee Member:** Appointed 2024 - Present

**UK Office of Nationally Competitive Awards**

- **Marshall Scholarship Award Review Panel:** Fall 2024
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**Professional Membership and Community Service Activities****Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)**

- Co-chair, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Cluster: 2023 – Present

**Kentucky Youth Law Project, Inc. (KYLP)**

- Board of Directors: 2024 – Present

**Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services**

- Editorial Board Member: 2024 – Present

**Editorial Review for Journals**

- *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*, Editorial Board Reviewer, August 2025
- *Social Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025

- *Youth*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Children*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Sustainability*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Journal of Family Violence*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Journal of Community Psychology*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Journal of Personalized Medicine*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Children*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Sustainability*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, August 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Sustainability*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Behavioral Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Medicina*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Psychology International*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Youth*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Medicina*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *World*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*, Editorial Board Reviewer, July 2025
- *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*, Editorial Board Reviewer, July 2025
- *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Behavioral Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Children*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Critical Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *Social Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, July 2025
- *World*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Social Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Psychology International*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Journal of Personalized Medicine*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Critical Public Health*, Guest Reviewer, June 2025
- *Societies*, Guest Reviewer, May 2025
- *Children*, Guest Reviewer, May 2025
- *Healthcare*, Guest Reviewer, May 2025

- *Asia Pacific Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy*, Guest Reviewer, May 2025
- *Social Sciences*, Guest Reviewer, April 2025
- *Journal of Community Psychology*, Guest Reviewer, April 2025
- *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*, Guest Reviewer, April 2025
- *Psychology & Sexuality*, Guest Reviewer, March 2025
- *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*, Editorial Board Reviewer, March 2025
- *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*, Guest Reviewer, November 2024
- *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*, Guest Reviewer, May 2024
- *Frontiers in Psychology*, Guest Reviewer, March 2024
- *Applied Economics*, Guest Reviewer, September 2023
- *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, Guest Reviewer, July 2023
- *Journal of LGBT Youth*, Guest Reviewer, October 2021

### **UK Art Museum, Lexington, KY**

*Live Hair Salon*

**Co-Facilitator** – October 2023

- Co-facilitated an open dialogue with UK students, faculty, and community members on the role of barbershops and salons in community health and well-being, focusing on the therapeutic relationship between barbers/hair stylists and clients.

### **Diversity Richmond, Richmond, VA**

*Men's Sunday Social Hour*

**Group Facilitator** (May 2019 – August 2020)

- Led biweekly social events for LGBTQ+ men to network, connect, and practice communication skills in a safe environment.

### **Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA**

*Richmond [Re]Visited: Intersections of Race and Mental Health*

**Co-Facilitator** (Fall 2018; Fall 2019)

- Led educational presentations and workshops connecting historical racism and slavery to current mental health issues in the African American community.
- Moderated a panel of community leaders and advocates.

*Black Lives Matter Student-Faculty-Alumni Collective*

**Member** (January 2018 – May 2021)

- Facilitated community forums, panels, and film screenings addressing the impact of racism and oppression on the Black community.
- Coordinated events and conducted outreach for collective engagement.

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## **Professional and Educational Affiliations**

- International Society for Music Education – 2024 – 2025
- National Association of Black Social Workers: 2018 – Present
- Council on Social Work Education: 2018 – Present

- Society for Social Work and Research: 2017 – Present
  - Caucus of LGBT Faculty & Students in Social Work: 2017 – Present
  - The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi: Inducted 2017
  - Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society: Inducted 2017
  - Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce: 2015 – 2019
  - Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology: Inducted 2014
  - National Technical Honor Society: Inducted 2008
  - International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience: 2019 – Present
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*References available upon request.*