

DENISE “DEE” (ณ) YOONGKONG WILLIAMS, PHD, MSW, LCSW, CFLE

Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) | Pronouns: They/them

AREAS OF RESEARCH FOCUS & EXPERTISE

Youth and young adult suicide prevention | Suicide bereavement and postvention | Intersectional sexual and gender expansive mental health | Visual arts-based intervention modalities

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), Chapel Hill, NC 2025
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Work

University of Maryland (UMD) School of Social Work (SSW), Baltimore, MD 2015
Master of Social Work (MSW) in Clinical Mental Health
Trauma Education Connections Initiative

Towson University, Towson, MD 2012
Bachelor of Science in Family & Human Services
Minor in Art

Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand Summer 2011
Coursework in Political Sociology & Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Participatory Social Network Analysis to Examine Social Connections and Identify Peer Leaders to Prevent Suicide in School-Aged Children 2024 – 2025

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Principal Investigators: Drs. Marisa E Marraccini, Dorothy Espelage, Paul Lanier

Utilizing a novel participatory social network analysis approach and participatory community-based systems dynamics methods in 15 high schools across North Carolina to determine the feasibility of a hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial of Sources of Strength, an evidence-based, universal suicide prevention program that targets protective factors to change schoolwide health norms.

Transformational Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide 2023 – 2025

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. William J. Hall

Leading a pilot feasibility study on a novel arts-based intervention for sexual and/or gender diverse youth of color who were exposed to a suicide loss in their lives.

Mental Health First Aid Training Experiences and Outcomes at UNC-CH 2022 – 2025

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Lanier

Creating and leading a mixed-methods research study to understand the experiences and viewpoints of individuals trained in MHFA at UNC-CH to assess program evaluation and implementation outcomes.

The PRIDE (Parent Responses Impacting DEvelopment) Study

2024

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Principal Investigator: Dr. Melissa Lippold

Conducting focus groups to better understand queer youth current and past experiences with their parents and the ways that their parents support their mental health and positive sexual and gender orientation identity; assisting with qualitative data analysis and synthesis.

Forging New Paths

2024

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Principal Investigator: Dr. Amy Blank Wilson

Assisting in notetaking and data collection during focus groups with community providers, judges, and lawyers to inform the creation and implementation of a juvenile remediation program in North Carolina.

“Every Brilliant Thing” Evaluation

2023 – 2024

Role: Co-Investigator

UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Principal Investigator: Dr. Orrin D. Ware

Assisting Drs. Ware and Mimi Chapman with suicide prevention initiatives and evaluating outcomes related to suicide stigma and mental health awareness following an interactive art-based intervention.

Charting Trajectories of Sexual Identity Development and Mental Health

2021 – 2024

Role: Graduate Research Assistant, UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC

Principal Investigator: Dr. William J. Hall

Assisting in the collection of quantitative and qualitative data for a R01 grant from NIH on sexual identity development and mental health trajectories for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender+ youth.

Promoting Community Conversations about Research to End Suicide

2019 – 2021

Role: Co-Investigator, SSW, University of Michigan

Principal Investigator: Dr. Lisa Wexler

Supported R01 funded research by NIH on community suicide prevention and postvention best practices by promoting community conversations about research to end Native Youth suicide in rural Alaska.

Health Disparities in Black and African American Adults

2010 – 2012

Role: Volunteer Research Assistant, Family Studies Department, Towson University

Principal Investigator: Dr. Sharon Jones-Eversley

Supported work in social epidemiology and community-building with Black families in Baltimore City.

AWARDS & HONORS

Dean’s Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award <i>Awarded by UNC-CH SSW</i>	2025
Outstanding Doctoral Student Award <i>Awarded by UNC-CH SSW</i>	2025
Mental Health First Aid Doctoral Student Grant Awardee <i>Awarded by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing</i>	2023
Mental Health Ambassador Champion <i>Awarded by Still I Run</i>	2023
University Development Award <i>Awarded by UNC-CH</i>	2022
Opportunity Grant Awardee <i>Awarded by The Point Foundation</i>	2022
Paul G. Quinnett Lived Experience Writing Contest 3rd Place Winner <i>Awarded by the American Association of Suicidology</i>	2021
Maryland State Senatorial Scholarship Recipient <i>Awarded by Senator and former Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh</i>	2013 – 2015
Maryland State Delegate Scholarship Recipient <i>Awarded by the Maryland Higher Education Commission</i>	2013
Summa Cum Laude Honors <i>Awarded by Towson University</i>	2012
Dean’s List Recipient <i>Awarded by Towson University</i>	2008 – 2012
Academic Excellence Award <i>Awarded by Towson University’s Family & Human Services Department</i>	2012
Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Program Scholar <i>Awarded by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance</i>	2011
Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholar <i>Awarded by Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholars</i>	2008
Maryland Distinguished Art Scholar Honorable Mention <i>Awarded by the Maryland Higher Education Commission</i>	2008
Howard County Maryland Art Department Senior Showcase Speaker & Presenter	2008

PUBLICATIONS

Published Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

17. Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Xu, Y., Scott, M., Chiang, P. C., Englert, A. R., Leite, J. A., Dawes, H. C., Richardson, S. C., Srivastava, A. (2026). Mental health service experiences regarding sexual orientation: Relations with demographics, depression, and suicidality among queer adults. *Psychological Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0001009>
15. Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Xu, Y., Adams, L. B., Richardson, S. C., Srivastava, A., Dawes, H. C., Englert, A. R., Chiang, P.-C., Leite, J. A., Cailin, C., Wilson, J. (2025). Prevalence of and risk factors for suicidal ideation and attempts among Black LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. *North Carolina Medical Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.18043/001c.151313>
15. Lippold, M. A., Bracy, M. K., Chiang, P.-C., Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Ramon, M. E., & Mills-Koonce, R. (2025). Affirmative parenting of sexual and gender minority youth: Findings from an exploratory qualitative study. *Family Process*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.70093>
14. Ware, O. D., Chapman, M. V., **Williams, D. Y.**, Benesch, V., Aguiar, J. (2025). A performing arts intervention to decrease suicide stigma on campus: A three-time point assessment of “Every Brilliant Thing.” *PLOS Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000404>
13. Xu, Y., Hall, W. J., Ramon, M., & **Williams, D. Y.** (2025). Positive identity among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer young adults in a southern U.S. state: Association with demographics and depression. *Sexual and Gender Diversity in Social Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/29933021.2025.2536850>
12. Chiang, P.-C., Xu, Y., **Williams, D. Y.**, Srivastava, A., Leite, J. A., Englert, A. R., Hall, W. J. (2025). The relationship between family environments growing up and behavioral health among LGBTQ+ adults: The mediating role of internalized homonegativity. *PLOS One*, 20(6): e0327370. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0327370>
11. **Williams, D. Y.** (2025). An anti-carceral approach to suicide prevention: Uncharted territories in life promotion work. *Social Work*, 70(2), 177–180. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swaf010>
10. Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., Hannay, J. W., **Williams, D. Y.**, Frey, J. J., Srivastava, A., Chapman, M. V., Chen, D., Wilson, A. B., Ramon, M. E., & Payne, B. K. (2024). Development and initial validation of the Implicit Internalized Sexual Orientation Stigma Affect Misattribution Procedure (Internal-SOS-AMP). *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1385410>
9. Xu, Y., Hall, W. J., Scott, M., Gao, Y., Chiang, P.-C., **Williams, D. Y.**, Srivastava, A., Ramon, M. E., Englert, A. R. (2024). Strategies to coping with minority stress among queer young adults: Usage frequency, associations with demographics and mental health. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(8), 1052. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph21081052>

8. Ware, O. D., Zerden, L. D., Duron, J. F., Xu, Y., McCarthy, L. P., Verbiest, S., Afkinich, J., Brown, Q., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Goings, T. (2024). Youths receiving treatment in community mental health centers 2017 to 2019: Anxiety, depression, and high-risk substance use. *Frontiers in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frcha.2024.1340480>
7. Lippold, M. A., Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Jenkins, M., Dawes, H. C., & Mills-Koonce, R. (2024). The relationships between parenting and mental health and substance use outcomes among queer children and adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Adolescent Research Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40894-024-00232-4>
6. Dawes, H. C., Eden, T. M., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Matthews, D. D. (2024). Which types of social support matter for Black sexual minority men coping with internalized homophobia? Findings from a mediation analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1235920>
5. Radtke, S. R., Wretman, C. J., Rizo, C. F., Franchino-Olsen, H., **Williams, D. Y.**, Chen W. T., & Macy, R. J. (2024). A systematic review of conceptualizations and operationalizations of youth polyvictimization. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380231224026>
4. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., Srivastava, A., Radtke, S. R., Ramon, M., Bouchard, D., Chen, W. T. (2023). The relationship between internalized stigma and depression and suicide risk among queer youth in the United States: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2023.1205581>
3. Dawes, H. C., **Williams, D. Y.**, Klein, L. B., Hirst, L. E., Forte, A. B., Gibbs, D. J., & Hall, W. J. (2023). Experiences of queer people of color in mental health services and substance use treatment services: A systematic review. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/721454>
2. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., Rizo, C. F., Goldbach, J. T. (2022). An integrated conceptual model to understand suicidality among queer youth to inform suicide prevention. *Societies*, 12(6), 170. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc12060170>
1. **Williams, D. Y.**, Wexler, L., & Mueller, A. (2022). Suicide postvention in schools: What evidence support our current national recommendations? *School Social Work Journal*, 46(2), 23-69. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10869049/>

Published Book Chapters

1. Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Dawes, H. C., Adams, L. B., & Merino, Y. M. (2022). Implicit attitudes and implicit bias in mental health. In H. S. Friedman, C. N. Markey, & W. Lu (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of mental health* (3rd ed.). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-91497-0.00171-5>

Manuscripts Under Review

2. Chiang, P.-C., **Williams, D. Y.**, Xu, Y., Tiedge, C. W., Cheng, Y. T., Calin, C., Leite, J. A., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., Englert, A. R., Waters, A., & Baruah, D. (under review). Mental health challenges and indicators among Asian sexual and gender minority populations in the United States: A systematic review. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.
1. **Williams, D. Y.**, Freeman, A., Lanier, P., & Berman, I. S. (under review). Supporting student mental health: Largescale implementation and mixed methods evaluation of Adult Mental Health First Aid on a U.S. college campus. *Journal of College Student Mental Health*.

Manuscripts in Progress

10. Marraccini, M. E., Gutman, M., Whetherbee, L., Fisher, D. C., Janos, J. A., Espelage, D. E., Mcglathin, S. H., **Williams, D. Y.**, Lich, K. H., Delgado, A. V., & Lanier, P. (in preparation). Sources of Strength for school-based suicide prevention: Key implementation strategies based on school leader perspectives.
9. Childs, T. M., Skrzypek, C., Sommerville, K., & **Williams, D. Y.** (in preparation). United States Department of Education press release – policy content analysis.
8. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Chapman, M. V., Wexler, L. M., Goings, T. C., Srivastava, A., Lanier, P. (in preparation). The impact of the Transformational-Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational-VIEWS): A visual arts-based community exhibit for suicide loss survivors.
7. **Williams, D. Y.**, Freeman, A., & Lanier, P. (in preparation). Building a supportive mental health network for college-aged young adults: A qualitative analysis of largescale implementation and evaluation of Adult Mental Health First Aid on a southeastern college campus.
6. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Wexler, L. M., Chapman, M. V., Goings, T. C., Srivastava, A., Lanier, P. (in preparation). “You are enough”: A qualitative analysis of visual art collages and narratives created by a diverse group of young adult survivors of suicide loss.
5. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Lanier, P., Chapman, M. V., Wexler, L. M., Goings, T. C., Srivastava, A. (in preparation). Transformational-Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational-VIEWS): A mixed methods evaluation of the feasibility, usability, acceptability, and implementation of a community-engaged arts-based postvention intervention.
4. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Goings, T. C., Lanier, P., Chapman, M. V., Srivastava, A., Wexler, L. M. (in preparation). Transformational-Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational-VIEWS): A proof-of-concept study for an arts-based suicide postvention intervention to decrease suicide risk among a diverse group of young adults.
3. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Jensen, T., Chiang, P.-C., Srivastava, A., Dawes, H. C., Leite, J. A. Internalized sexual orientation stigma, depression, and suicidal ideation among queer adults in the United States: Findings from structural equation modeling.

2. Srivastava, A., Hall, W. J., Burgess, H., Chiang, P.-C., Tiedge, C. W., Baruah, D., Leite, J. A., Englert, A., **Williams, D. Y.** (in preparation). Gender dysphoria, affirming care, and suicide risk among transgender and nonbinary adults: Evidence from a community-based sample in North Carolina.
1. Cheng, Y. T., Chiang, P.-C., & **Williams, D. Y.** (in preparation). Disentangling workplace discrimination against transgender and gender diverse people in Taiwan: A counseling and social work perspective informed by critical theories.

FUNDED RESEARCH

Participatory Social Network Analysis to Examine Social Connections and Identify Peer Leaders to Prevent Suicide in School-Aged Children

Role: Doctoral Student Investigator

Principal Investigators: Drs. Marisa E Marraccini, Dorothy Espelage, Paul Lanier
Humana Foundation

2024 – 2025

\$250,000

Mental Health First Aid Training Implementation and Evaluation at UNC-CH

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Lanier
Funder: National Council on Mental Wellbeing

2023 – 2025

\$5,000

Charting Trajectories of Sexual Identity Development and Mental Health Disparities Among Sexual Minority Youth

Role: Doctoral Student Investigator

Principal Investigator: Dr. William J. Hall
Funder: National Institutes of Health (R01MD015109)

2021 – 2025

\$1,522,404

Program Evaluation for Mental Health First Aid Training at UNC-CH

Role: Co-Investigator

Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Lanier
Funder: Triad Foundation

2022 – 2024

\$242,000; \$300,000

Transformational Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational-VIEWS)

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. William J. Hall
Funder: University Development Award

2022 – 2023

\$10,000

Opportunity Grant for Academic Commitment, Community Engagement, and Impact

Role: Principal Investigator

Funder: Point Foundation

2022

\$1,000

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

18. Radtke, S. R., Violante, N., **Williams, D. Y.**, Jenkins, M. R., Waters, A., & Rizo, C. F. (2026, April). *A systematic review of conceptualizations and operationalizations of resilience in emerging adulthood following youth victimization*. Individual perspective presented at ResilienceCon Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.
17. Chiang, P.-C., Hall, W., Srivastava, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, Leite, J. A., Englert, A., & Goldbach, J. (2026, January). *Interpersonal and intrapersonal coping as mediators between intersectional stress and depression among LGBTQ+ youth: Results from structural equation modeling*. ePoster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Washington, DC.
16. **Williams, D. Y.**, Chapman, M. V., Chiang, P.-C., Ramon, M. E., & Hall, W. J. (2025, February). *Transformational Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational VIEWS): Arts-based, community-engaged suicide postvention for racially diverse queer young adults*. Oral presentation to address trauma and stigma utilizing the arts presented at the Arts and Education for Social Justice Symposium (Arts4Justice), Athens, GA.
15. Chapman, M. V., **Williams, D. Y.**, Ware, O., Benesch, V., & Aguiar, J. (2025, February). *Testing the impact of “Every Brilliant Thing” to decrease suicide stigma on a university campus*. Oral presentation at the Art and Education for Social Justice Symposium, Athens, GA.
14. Leite, J. A., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, Chiang, P.-C., & Englert, A. R. (2025, January). *Mental health, environmental, and socio-demographic predictors of activism among queer adults*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Seattle, WA.
13. Leite, J. A., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, Chiang, P.-C., & Englert, A. R. (2025, January). *Childhood predictors of perceived structural stigma in queer adults*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Seattle, WA.
12. Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Xu, Y., Scott, M., Chiang, P.-C., Englert, A. R., Leite, J. A., Dawes, H. C., & Srivastava, A. (2024, August). *Use of mental health services regarding sexual orientation: Relations with demographics, depression, and suicidality among queer adults*. Poster presentation at the National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.

11. Hall, W. J., Dawes, H. C., Hannay, J. W., **Williams, D. Y.**, Frey, J. J., Srivastava, A., Chapman, M. V., Chen, D., Ramon, M. E., & Payne, B. K. (2024, August). *Development and initial validation of the Implicit Internalized Sexual Orientation Stigma Affect Misattribution Procedure (Internal-SOS-AMP)*. Paper presentation at the National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
10. Chiang, P.-C., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., Leite, J. A., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Englert, A. R. (2024, August). *Family environment growing up, mental health, and personal homonegativity among LGBTQ adults*. Poster presentation at the National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
9. Srivastava, A., Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Chiang, P.-C., Leite, J. A., & Goldbach, J.T. (2024, August). *Non-affirming cultural environments and mental health outcomes among sexual minority adolescents*. Poster presentation at the National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
8. Leite, J. A., Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, Chiang, P.-C., & Englert, A. R. (2024, August). *Mental health, environmental, and socio-demographic predictors of activism among queer adults*. Poster presentation at the National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
7. Xu, Y., Hall, W. J., Ramon, M. E., **Williams, D. Y.** (2024, August). *Positive identity and depression among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer young adults*. Poster presentation at 2024 National LGBTQ+ Conference, Atlanta, GA.
6. Xu, Y., Hall, W. J., Ramon, M. E., Scott, M., Leite, J. A., **Williams, D. Y.** (2024, August). *The role of strategies for coping on anxiety and depression in queer young adults*. Paper presentation at the 2024 National LGBTQ+ Conference, Atlanta, GA.
5. **Williams, D. Y.**, Lanier, P., & Freeman, A. (2024, April). *Mental health first aid training implementation and evaluation: Best practices and lessons learned at a large-scale university*. Oral presentation at the annual conference for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, St. Louis, MO.
4. Ware, O. D., Zerden, L. D., Duron, J. F., Xu, Y., McCarthy, L. P., Verbiest, S., Afkinich, J., Brown, Q., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Goings, T. (2024, January). *Youths receiving treatment in community mental health centers 2017 to 2019: Anxiety, depression, and high-risk substance use*. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
3. Lippold, M., Hall, W. J., **Williams, D. Y.**, Jenkins, M., Dawes, H. C., Mills-Koonce, R., & Gouchoe-Hanas, K. (2023, January). *The relationships between parenting and mental health and substance use outcomes among queer children and adolescents: A systematic review*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
2. **Williams, D. Y.** (2022, April). *Lived experience writing competition: Stories of recovery and renewal workshop and interactive presentations*. Virtually shared my 3rd-place winning essay at the 55th Annual American Association of Suicidology Conference taking place in Chicago, IL.

1. Jones-Eversley, S., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Fennell, A. (2011, January). *Promotion of nonprofit opportunities to underrepresented groups*. Oral presentation at the Nonprofit Leadership and Management Institute conference, Orlando, Florida.

Invited Research Presentations

4. **Williams, D. Y.** (2025, February). *“You are enough”*: Exploring the visual arts to elevate experiences, challenge stigma, and promote well-being for queer and trans* folx. In-person research presentation and panel discussion at the UNC-CH Sexuality and Gender Alliance Symposium on Trans and Genderqueer Experiences Trans and Genderqueer Topics in Academia panel, Chapel Hill, NC.
3. **Williams, D. Y.** (2025, February). *Transformational-Visual Intervention for Exposure With Suicide (Transformational-VIEWS): Arts-based, Community-engaged suicide postvention for racially diverse queer youth*. Hybrid research presentation and panel discussion at the UNC-CH SSW through their Lunch and Learn Lightening Talk Series, Chapel Hill, NC.
2. **Williams, D. Y.**, Hall, W. J., Srivastava, A., Dawes, H. C., & Baruah, D. (2023, April). *Meeting the behavioral health needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals*. Social Work Legacy Speakers Series Advancing Equity and Transforming Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Systems Through Social Work Advocacy, Research, and Workforce Development, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
1. **Williams, D. Y.** (2021, December). *Implicit internalized stigma in sexual minority populations*. Virtual research presentation at UNC-CH’s Global Social Development Innovation’s Brown Bag Lunch Series, Chapel Hill, NC.

Invited Community Presentations

6. **Williams, D. Y.** (2025, November). *A brief overview of power, oppression, and liberation with Dr. Williams*. Invited expert panelist to teach community attendees about social positionality and privilege, power dynamics, and mutual aid as part of the “Truth and Justice Teach-In Series” hosted by Mid-Missouri Peaceworks in person in Columbia, MO.
5. **Williams, D. Y.** (2025, September). *It takes a village: Caring for queer youth and how to support our next generation*. Invited expert presenter and panelist to discuss best practices to provide identity-affirming support for sexual and gender diverse youth in a virtual presentation for Attentive Mobile, Inc.’s employee resource group.
4. Marracini, M., Kane, M., Cruz, C., Bauer, A., **Williams, D. Y.**, & Sullivan, P. (2023, October). *Suicide and community wellbeing*. Invited expert panelist to discuss suicide prevention, queer and transgender youth, mental health, and access to lethal means with community organization representatives from the Carolina Across 100 “Our State, Our Wellbeing” forum in partnership with the UNC-CH Suicide Prevention Institute.

3. Sved, M., Penny, M., Sammon, P., & **Williams, D. Y.** (2023, October). *CURED film screening and panel discussion*. Invited expert panelist to discuss LGBTQAI+ historical and present-day concerns related to sexual and gender minority mental health at the 2023 Duke Sexual and Gender Minority Wellness Symposium in Durham, NC.
2. **Williams, D. Y.** (2022, May). *Career panel of helping professionals*. Invited virtual panelist to discuss professional experiences and a social work career with undergraduate Psychology students, Towson, MD.
1. **Williams, D. Y.** (2017, March). *Towson University Family Studies panel of professionals*. Invited return panelist to discuss professional experience and human services careers with undergraduate Family Studies senior students, Towson, MD.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record (MSW Level)

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| Large Group Theory , MU SSW, Columbia, MO | Spring 2026 |
| Trauma-Informed Practice and Intervention , MU SSW, Columbia, MO | Fall 2025 |
| Oppression and Resistance in Social Work Practice , UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC | Fall 2024 |

Secondary Instructor (MSW Level)

Williams, D. Y., & Campbell-Selz, L. (Fall 2023). *Classism, racism, and environmental justice*. Presented as part of a teaching practicum to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC in the SOWO 501: Oppression and Resistance in Social Work Practice course.

Williams, D. Y., & Campbell-Selz, L. (Fall 2023). *Queer theory*. Presented as part of a teaching practicum to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC in the SOWO 501: Oppression and Resistance in Social Work Practice course.

Practicum Supervisor (MSW Level)

Behavioral Health Springboard , UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
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Practicum Supervisor (BSW Level)

Baltimore County Public Schools , UM Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
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Invited Guest Lecturer

- Williams, D. Y.** (Spring 2026). *Community-centered intervention development and design*. Lecture presented in SW 9350 Research Methods and Design II to doctoral students at the MU SSW, Columbia, MO.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2025). *Youth-engaged arts-based interventions for the helping profession*. Lecture presented in SW 4390/7390 Helping Strategies with Children and Adolescents to undergraduate and graduate students at the MU SSW, Columbia, MO.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2024). *Arts-based trauma treatment across the lifespan*. Lecture presented in SOWO 855: Treatment of Trauma and Violence to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Spring 2024). *Intervention theory: Utilizing Fraser's problem theory to create an intervention for suicide-exposed queer youth of color*. Lecture presented in HBEH 705: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Health: A Population Perspective to graduate students at the Gillings School of Public Health at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y., & Radtke, S. R.** (Fall 2023). *Interpersonal violence and trauma treatment: Taking a culturally sensitive approach with survivors*. Lecture presented in SOWO 855: Treatment of Trauma and Violence to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2023). *Youth development: Trauma-informed supports*. Lecture presented in SOWO 500: Human Development in Infancy to Adolescence to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Spring 2023). *Health and well-being at the intersections of racial identity, sexual orientation, and gender identity*. Lecture presented in PSYC 504: Health Psychology to undergraduate Psychology students at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y., & Radtke, S. R.** (Fall 2022). *Trauma, interpersonal violence, and treatment: Working with youth, families, and adults*. Lecture presented in SOWO 855: Treatment of Trauma and Violence to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2022). *Social-emotional learning and trauma-informed care*. Lecture presented in SOWO 500: Human Development in Infancy to Adolescence to Master of Social Work graduate students at the SSW at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2022). *Suicidality among queer youth*. Lecture presented virtually in PSYC 500: Developmental Psychopathology to undergraduate Psychology students at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2021). *Trauma-informed practice: A brief overview of clinical interventions*. Lecture presented virtually in SOWO 855: Treatment of Trauma and Violence to Master of Social Work graduate students at UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.

Workshop Facilitator

- Williams, D. Y., & Clifton, S.** (Spring 2024). *Mental health first aid for adults*. Led a one-day virtual training of Mental Health First Aid Adult 2.0 as the primary instructor to certify a group of undergraduate social work students at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC.
- Freeman, A., & **Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2023). *Mental health first aid for adults*. Co-instructed a two-day Mental Health First Aid Adult 2.0 in-person course to certify a group of rehabilitation services UNC-CH faculty and staff in Durham, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Spring 2022). *Peacebuilder education series: Trauma, resilience, and self-care workshop*. Presented to the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center Scholars at UNC Global, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2020; Spring 2021). *An exploration of implicit bias, ourselves, and our schools*. Led a series of short, consecutive trainings and discussions around implicit bias (with a focus on racial and ethnic biases) virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Williams, D. Y.,** LaFountain, S. E., Salapata, C., & Matthews, J. (Winter 2021). *Building emotional resilience during a pandemic: Self-care strategies presented by the Social Emotional Learning Team*. Presented virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Salapata, C., Matthews, J., & **Williams, D. Y.** (Summer 2020). *Social emotional learning in the virtual setting*. Presented virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Williams, D. Y.,** Salapata, C., & Matthews, J. (Winter 2020). *Mindfulness for parents and children*. Presented to the families and students of Winfield Elementary during family engagement night, Baltimore, MD.
- Salapata, C., Matthews, J., LaFountain, S. E., & **Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2020). *Self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Presented virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- LaFountain, S. E., Salapata, C., **Williams, D. Y.,** & Matthews, J. (Fall 2020). *Let's get it done: Executive function support during remote learning*. Presented virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Salapata, C., Matthews, J., LaFountain, S. E., & **Williams, D. Y.** (Fall 2020). *The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) competencies*. Presented virtually to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Williams, D. Y.,** & LaFountain, S. E. (Fall 2019). *The brain architecture game: Trauma and early childhood development*. Presented to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.
- Williams, D. Y.** (Summer 2019). *Trauma-informed practices for school staff*. Presented at the faculty pre-service orientation for teachers and staff at Winfield Elementary staff, Baltimore, MD.

Williams, D. Y. (Fall 2019). *Introduction to the incredible 5-point scale: Social-emotional regulation in the classroom*. Presented to educators at Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.

Williams, D. Y., & Matthews, J. (Summer 2019). *Positive behavior interventions and supports*. Presented at the faculty pre-service orientation for Winfield Elementary staff, Baltimore, MD.

Williams, D. Y., & LaFountain, S. E. (Spring 2019). *Self-care strategies to prevent burn-out*. Presented to the faculty of Winfield Elementary, Baltimore, MD.

Williams, D. Y. (Spring 2014). *Basic counseling, motivational interviewing, and stages of change strategies*. Presented to volunteers at Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps staff meeting, Baltimore, MD.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor , MU SSW, Columbia, MO	2025 – Present
Freelance Visual Artist & Contractual Art Instructor , Multiple Locations	2010 – Present
Adjunct Professor , UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC	2024 – 2025
Doctoral Level Graduate Research Assistant , UNC-CH SSW, Chapel Hill, NC	2021 – 2025
School Social Worker , Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore, MD	2018 – 2021
School- & Community-Based Trauma Therapist , Catholic Charities, Dundalk, MD	2016 – 2018
Private Practice Therapist , Positive Changes Counseling Center, Towson, MD	2016 – 2017
Treatment Foster Care Family Life Educator , The Children’s Guild, Baltimore, MD	2015 – 2016
Residential Counselor , Mosaic Community Services, Cockeysville, MD	2013 – 2015
Graduate Social Work Intern , Catholic Charities, Baltimore, MD	2014 – 2015
Youth Art Instructor , Columbia Art Center, Columbia, MD	Summer 2014
Graduate Social Work Intern , Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD	2013 – 2014
AmeriCorps VISTA , Boys Hope Girls Hope, Baltimore, MD	2012 – 2013
Undergraduate Therapeutic Arts Intern , St. Vincent’s Villa, Timonium, MD	2011 – 2012

SERVICE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Service to the Profession

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Culture, Health and Sexuality	2025 – Present
Ad Hoc Reviewer, Journal of Homosexuality	2024 – Present
Ad Hoc Reviewer, School Mental Health	2023 – Present

University Service

Member, MU SSW Academic Personnel Committee	2025 – Present
Member, UNC-CH’s Suicide Prevention Institute	2023 – Present
Member, UNC-CH Queer Affirming Research Collaborative (Q-ARC)	2022 – Present
Member, UNC-CH SSW Community Resilience and Support Team	2024 – 2025
Member, Caucus of LGBTQ Faculty & Students in Social Work	2024 – 2025
Invited Student Panelist, UNC-CH SSW Doctoral Program, Chapel Hill, NC	2022 – 2024
Doctoral Student Peer Mentor, UNC-CH SSW Doctoral Program, Chapel Hill, NC	2022 – 2023
Student Representative, UNC-CH SSW Doctoral Program Committee, Chapel Hill, NC	2021 – 2022
Vice President, UMD SSW LGBTQAI+ Union, Baltimore, MD	2014 – 2015
Student Organizer, UMD SSW Anti-Oppression Work Group	2014 – 2015
Student Organizer, UMD SSW LGBTQAI+ Union, Baltimore, MD	2013 – 2014
Vice President, Towson University Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, Towson, MD	2011 – 2012
Secretary, Towson University Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, Towson, MD	2009 – 2010

Community & Civic Service

Postvention Committee (Training & Clinical), Missouri Suicide Prevention Network	2026 – Present
Grant Writing Committee Volunteer, The Center Project, Columbia, MO	2026 – Present
Steering Committee Member & Volunteer, Peaceworks, Columbia, MO	2025 – Present
Co-Founder & Organizer, Durham Queer Runners, Durham, NC	2022 – 2025
Chapter Co-Captain & Organizer, Still I Run, Durham, NC	2023 – 2024

Still I Run Mental Health Champion , Still I Run, Grand Rapids, MI	2021 –2023
Fundraiser & Activist , American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, New York, NY	2010 – 2021
Fundraiser & Activist , Baltimore Racial Justice Action, Baltimore, MD	2020 – 2021
Fundraiser , Moveable Feast, Baltimore, MD	2018
Volunteer & Fundraiser , Students Helping Honduras, Towson, MD	2011 – 2012
Mentor , U.S. Dream Academy, Baltimore, MD	2010 – 2011
Human Rights Volunteer , Free Burma Rangers, Chiang Mai, Thailand	2011
Nonprofit Marketing Volunteer , The Center for Remarkable Women, Baltimore, MD	2011

MEDIA COVERAGE

Hilburn-Trenkle, C. (2025, May). Ph.D. student Denise Yookong Williams shares powerful display to School audience as part of dissertation defense. *UNC-CH SSW Child, Youth and Family Well-being*. <https://ssw.unc.edu/2025/05/ph-d-student-denise-yookong-williams-shares-powerful-display-to-school-audience-as-part-of-dissertation-defense/>

Hilburn-Trenkle, C. (2024, May). Q&A: Doctoral student Dee Williams focuses on growth of Mental Health First Aid training at UNC. *UNC-CH SSW Community Engagement*. <http://ssw.unc.edu/2024/05/qa-doctoral-student-dee-williams-focuses-on-growth-of-mental-health-first-aid-training-at-unc/>

DiGiannantonio, V. (2024, January). Permission to rest: An interview with Dee Williams. *Still I Run Blog*. <https://www.stillirun.org/post/permission-to-rest>

LaFaro, A. (2023, May). Healing with art. *Endeavors: Stories powered by UNC Research*. <https://endeavors.unc.edu/healing-with-art/>

Williams, D. Y. (2021, November). A letter to my beloved running community and White allies. *Still I Run Blog*. <https://www.stillirun.org/post/a-letter-to-my-beloved-running-community-white-allies/>

Williams, D. Y. (2021, June). Pride month: History & allyship for the 2SLGBTQAI+ community. *Still I Run Blog*. <https://www.stillirun.org/post/pride-month-history-allyship-for-the-2slgbtqai-community/>

Smith, J. (2021, June). Five runners share how medication plays a role in their mental health

toolkit: It's time to break down barriers and reduce the stigma around medication, because you're not alone. *Runner's World*. <https://www.runnersworld.com/health-injuries/a36394548/runners-removing-the-stigma-around-antidepressants/>

Williams, D. Y. (2021, April). Running and the brain: The neuroscience of running. *Still I Run Blog*. <https://www.stillirun.org/post/running-the-brain-the-neuroscience-of-running/>

Rodenburg, M. (2021, March). For this Baltimore runner, mental health is like running a marathon: Marathoner Denise Williams has had running come and go in her life but now sees outdoor recreation as essential to her continued self-care. *Women's Running*. <https://www.womensrunning.com/culture/people/denise-williams-runs-for-mental-health-awareness/>

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSURES

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) <i>Missouri Division of Professional Registration</i>	2025 – Present
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) <i>North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board</i>	2021 – Present
Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) <i>National Council on Family Relations</i>	2013 – Present
Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research <i>University of Missouri System</i>	Spring 2026
Suicide Bereavement Support Group Facilitator Certification <i>The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</i>	Spring 2026
Online Teaching Certification Seminar <i>University of Missouri System</i>	Fall 2025
Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) <i>Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners</i>	2015 – 2021
Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) <i>Nonprofit Leadership Alliance</i>	Spring 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The American Association of Suicidology (AAS)
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
The Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR)

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING

Write to Change the World Workshop <i>The OpEd Project, sponsored by UNC-CH SSW</i>	Spring 2024
Utilizing Arts-Based Research Methods to Center Marginalized Voices <i>Society for Social Work & Research</i>	Spring 2024
Rapid Qualitative Analysis: Addressing the Research to Implementation Gap <i>Society for Social Work & Research</i>	Spring 2024
Participatory Action Research Facilitation Methods Workshop <i>Society for Social Work & Research</i>	Spring 2024
Narrative Analysis for Qualitative Researchers <i>Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-CH</i>	Fall 2023
Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis <i>NC TraCS (Translational and Clinical Sciences) Institute at UNC-CH</i>	Spring 2023
Introduction to Focus Groups <i>NC TraCS Institute at UNC-CH</i>	Spring 2023
Academic Publishing 101 <i>Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-CH</i>	Fall 2022
Integrated Mixed Methods: Bridging Qualitative and Quantitative Methods <i>Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-CH</i>	Spring 2022
Equity Consideration for Scholars: Taking a Critical Approach to Research <i>Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-CH</i>	Spring 2022
How to be an Antiracist Researcher <i>National Consortium for Data Science & Renaissance Computing Institute</i>	Spring 2022
Conceptualizing Antiracist Research <i>INSPIRED Lab Training Series at UNC-CH SSW</i>	Spring 2022
Measurement in Research: Using an Antiracism Framework <i>INSPIRED Lab Training Series at UNC-CH SSW</i>	Spring 2022