

CECILY D. DAVIS, BSW, MSW

(412) 657-3873 | cdr35@pitt.edu | @davis_msw

EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work | University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

Expected – May 2026

The Relationship Between Caregivers' Racial Identity and the Process of Preparing Adolescents to Confront Racial Discrimination.

Master of Social Work | University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA
Concentration in Community Organization & Social Administration

Graduation: 2009

Bachelor of Social Work | Carlow University – Pittsburgh, PA

Graduation: 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

FUNDING

2026: Fellow, Provost's Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Funder: University of Pittsburgh

Award: Tuition & Stipend

Awarded: Cecily D. Davis

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

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

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

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

& *Schools*, 45, 251-254.

Books Chapters and Edited Volumes

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

Technical Reports

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

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications – Under Review

Joseph-McCatty, A., Fussell-Ware, D., Garrett, K., **Davis, C.**, & James, K. (Under Review). Pushed for surviving: ACEs, intersectional inequities and the pursuit of mental health support for Black girls in Tennessee

Davis, C.D., Joseph-McCatty, A., & Huguley, J.P. (Under Review). Anti-racist school social work: Leveraging racial socialization as a key tool in training and practice.

Joseph-McCatty, A., Hunter, C., Huguley, J., Kyere, E., Flores, O., & **Davis, C.** (Under Review). Utilizing the National School Social Work Practice Model 2.0 with African American and Black students.

Joseph-McCatty, A., **Davis, C.D.**, Huguley, J., Garrett, K., Blanton, H., & Flores, O. (Under Review). Barriers and facilitators of home-community-school partnerships for school social workers.

Peer-Reviewed Publications – In Process

Huguley, J.P., **Davis, C.D.**, Henderson, M.A. Hunter-Rue, D.S., & Blair, S.C., (in final preparation). Parenting while Black: A process and outcome evaluation.

Vaughn-Coaxum, B., De Bellis, B., Huguley, J.P., Henderson, M., & **Davis, C.D.** (in progress). Developing relational, emotional, and adaptive minds: Evaluating a school-based trauma responsive youth intervention.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Race and Youth Development Research Group Doctoral Fellow

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

2020 – Present

- Co-PI for School Social Worker Study focused on race-related training and experiences
- Co-PI and Lead Facilitator for Parenting While Black: Growing and Healing Together
- Co-PI for research-to-practice partnership with the Pittsburgh College Access Alliance
- Facilitator for the Developing Relational, Emotional, and Adaptive Mind (DREAMs) program

Cecily D. Davis

- Evaluated and advised on projects related to racial justice with youth development researchers
- Collaborated with and supported other doctoral fellows and research staff on advancing their projects

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

2020 – Present

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

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

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

2018 – 2020

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

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

2017 – 2018

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

Education Research Advisory Panel Member

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

2016 – 2018

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

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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

2025 - Present

- MSW – Child & Family Advocacy

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

2025-Present

- MSW - Social Work Theory and Assessment

Assistant Adjunct Professor | Smith College – Northampton, MA

Summer 2025

Summer 2024

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

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

2022-2023

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

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

2014 – 2020

- MSW - *Generalist Research* (Hybrid Asynchronous/Coronavirus 2019)
- MSW - *Generalist Field Seminar* (In-Person)
- MSW - *Evaluative Research* (In-Person)

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

2014 – 2017

- Advised MSW students regarding field work and future career plans to match student and academic goals in practicum.
- Initiated a plan to recruit COSA MSW alumni and public health social workers.
- Developed and executed new and current training content for field instructors and students.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Davis, C.D., Huguley, J.P., Henderson, M.A., Haynik, R.H., & Blair, S. (2024, January 10-14) Parenting while Black: A reciprocal, anti-racist university-community collaboration [Conference presentation]. [SSWR 28th Annual Conference](#), Washington, DC, United States.

Huguley, J.P., **Davis, C.D.**, Stief, E.M., Haynik, R. H., Henderson, M. A., De Bellis, B. R., Blair, S., Williams, A. P., Sturdivant, M. M., Wiley, D. T., & Cherry M. C. (2024, January 10-14). From practice-to-research-to-practice: Leveraging reciprocal partnerships to advance racial justice in education across contexts and ecological levels [Conference presentation]. [SSWR 28th Annual Conference](#), Washington, DC, United States.

Davis, C.D. (2023, October 26-29). Moving forward: Anti-racist social work praxis [Conference presentation]. [CSWE 69th Annual Program Meeting](#), Atlanta, Georgia, United States.

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

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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

RESEARCH FUNDING

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

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Reconciliation Counselor & Parent Educator | Family Services of Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA 2012 – 2014

- Coordinated multi-site parenting program and recruited over 100 Allegheny County fathers to participate

Crisis Response Trainer | Family Services of Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA 2013 – 2014

- Trained 100 Family Services staff on intervening with client and non-client persons in crisis

Program Manager | YouthWorks, Inc. – Pittsburgh, PA 2011 – 2012

- Facilitated youth programming management, budget allocations, and distribution of private funding

Director of Membership & Outreach | National Association of Social Workers-PA – Harrisburg, PA 2010 – 2011

- Developed strategic recruiting plan to maintain and increase membership

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reviewer | Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice 2025 – Present

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

Voting Committee Member | University of Pittsburgh Conflict of Interest Committee 2024 - Present

Conference Student Volunteer | Society of Social Work Research 2024 Conference 2024

Reviewer | Journal of Education and Urban Society 2023 – Present

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

2022 – 2025

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

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

2024

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

2022

Committee Member | University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work COSA Faculty Committee
2014 – 2017

Council Member | F.A.T.H.E.R.S Collaborative Council – Pittsburgh, PA
2011 – 2015

Youth Career Mentor | Career Connections High School – Pittsburgh, PA
2013 – 2014

Committee Member | NASW Pennsylvania Executive Director Search Committee – Harrisburg, PA
2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member | Council of Social Work Education (CSWE)
2023 – Present

Member | Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
2021 – Present

Member | Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
2020 – Present

Member | American Educational Research Association (AERA)
2020 – Present

RESEARCH-TO-PRACTICE PITTSBURGH PARTNERSHIPS

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

MEDIA COVERAGE

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

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