

Pitt School of Social Work PhD Candidates and Postdoctoral Fellows on the Job Market

Fall 2021



University of
Pittsburgh

School of Social Work

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Dashawna Fussell-Ware

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[Curriculum Vitae](#)



Dashawna Fussell-Ware is a proud native of Miami, Fl. She received her Bachelor of Arts, with honors, in Psychology with minors in English and Human and Social Development from the University of Miami in May 2013 and her Masters of Social Work, with a Certificate in Non-Profit Management, from the University of Georgia in May 2018. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Also, she serves as a doctoral fellow for the Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh and Steel Smiling, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Black Pittsburgh residents' mental health.

During her undergraduate career, Fussell-Ware accumulated a plethora of research experience with diverse populations, including children in Head Start/Early Head Start programs, children and adolescents diagnosed with ADHD/ADD, and youth living with mood/anxiety disorders. After graduating, she joined the fight for social justice through education as a Teach for America corps member, teaching 11th and 12th-grade students at her alma mater in the Miami neighborhood of Liberty City. While earning her MSW, Fussell-Ware served as a Clinical Services Liaison for a transitional housing non-profit and a clinician for a mental health service provider.

Fussell-Ware's current research focuses on promoting mental health literacy among Black, Latinx, and Hispanic children, adolescents, and transition-age youth as a pathway to eliminating mental health disparities. She has been honored for her work on racial/ethnic minority youth mental health with fellowships from the Council on Social Work Education and American Psychological Association. Her career goals are to conduct groundbreaking research that positively influences policy and social work practice as well as serve communities of color through partnerships with resource-rich academic institutions.

Research Interests

- Mental health literacy among Black, Hispanic, and Latinx youth
- Mental health disparities among Black, Hispanic, and Latinx youth
- Mental health stigma, service use, and service provision among Black, Hispanic, and Latinx youth

PhD Candidate

Christina Huerta

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[Curriculum Vitae](#)



Christina Huerta is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside and her MSW from Portland State University. She has extensive clinical experience working with individuals diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness, including individuals from the houseless community and those residing in residential treatment facilities. In addition to her work with adults, she has developed and facilitated culturally-specific curriculum for Latinx youth within the public school system.

Her research agenda is focused on examining traumatic stress and traumas that affect historically marginalized populations. She has collaborated with a variety of community providers and finds great value in approaching research through an interdisciplinary lens. She plans to continue research focusing on how minority-specific stressors effect the mental health and well-being of Latinx populations.

Research Interests

- Traumatic Stress
- Latinx Mental Health
- Anti-Opressive Practice
- Youth Participatory Action Research
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health

PhD Candidate



Laurenia Mangum

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Laurenia Mangum is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh and is also earning her Master of Public Health in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the Graduate School of Public Health. Laurenia is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, where she earned her Bachelors of Social Work (2009) and Masters of Social Work (2011), with a specialty in clinical practice. Laurenia earned a Graduate Certificate in Public Health with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS in the Rural South (2017) from the University of Florida. Laurenia is a licensed master's level social worker in the state of Virginia.

Laurenia's clinical experiences have centered on promoting optimal health outcomes for underserved minoritized populations in child welfare, maternal-child health, community health, and community development. Laurenia's research interests focus on sexual health inequities among Black women, including biomedical and behavioral HIV prevention interventions. She is also interested in the role of social networks for Black caregivers living with HIV. Laurenia's dissertation work will explore the impact of network structures and structural and social determinants on HIV care and outcomes among Black caregivers living with HIV. Her research has been supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Center for Interventions to Enhance Community Health (CiTech), Society for Family Planning, and the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP).

Research Interests

- Sexual/reproductive health inequities among Black women
- Biomedical/behavioral HIV prevention interventions
- Gender and racial disparities in HIV care continuum outcomes
- Maternal well-being
- Social networks

PhD Candidate



Jiheee Woo

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[Curriculum Vitae](#)



Jiheee Woo is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed her BA in English Literature and BS in Political Science at Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea. She then received a Fulbright scholarship to earn her MSW with a concentration in direct practice mental health at the University of Pittsburgh. Upon completion of her MSW, she worked with children and families in poverty as a program manager in the Philippines. Afterwards, she joined a research institute in Korea to conduct research on anti-poverty policies.

Jiheee's diverse educational and work experiences have shaped her research interests, which primarily involve social and economic determinants of health. Specifically, her scholarly inquiries focus on: 1) impact of material hardships on worker health; 2) contribution of job quality to health disparities; and 3) economic determinants with a focus on assets and debt of mental health in later life. She currently works on the Pittsburgh Wage Study investigating the lives of low-wage workers both at work and home. Her dissertation furthers this line of research by both examining the myriad factors that impinge on the health of low-wage workers and addressing ways to promote their health.

Research Interests

- Poverty
- Health disparities
- Job quality
- Material hardship
- Work-family interaction
- Retirement

PhD Candidate



Daniel Hyung Jik Lee

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[Curriculum Vitae](#)



Dr. Daniel HJ Lee received his college education at Sogang University in Seoul, Korea and received Bachelors of Arts in Journalism and in English Literature. After working at a major corporation in Korea for two years, he continued on with his education at Yonsei University where he received his Master's in Social Welfare. After acquiring his First-class Social Worker License , he worked at the Korean Women's Development Institute and SungKyul University Social Welfare Research Center as a researcher. He also lectured Social Work classes at Baekseok Arts University and Kyungmin College in Korea. He crossed the Pacific and came to the United States for his doctoral program at the School of Social Work in the University of Pittsburgh.

Daniel's personal interest of research is on racial and ethnic disparities in mental health, mainly focused on Asian and Latino population. He is also interested in the mental health of Children in the CYF services. At Pitt, he is working on a NIMH funded research project and various community-based research projects within the School of Social Work including the Allegheny County Jail Needs Assessment and study on Utilization of Human Services in Allegheny County. Most recently, he has been involved in a project seeking to apply VR/MR technology to promote social justice.

Research Interests

- Racial/Ethnic disparities in mental health service utilization
- Child Welfare
- Mental health of children in CYF service
- Application of technology to promote social justice

Postdoc Fellow

