

DÍA JOY WRIGHT, PH.D.

SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST
RESEARCH INNOVATION SPECIALIST
RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, & DEVELOPMENT LEADER

ABOUT ME

Ph.D., Sociocultural Anthropology | Alternative Research Specialist | Advocate | Racial Justice, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion Educator and Training Specialist | Anthropologist | Educator | Theatre Artist | Poet

(Pronouns: They/Them/Their) As a practitioner, scholar, and trainer in racial justice and equity, alternative and anti-oppressive research methodologies, Performance Studies Scholar, and Socio-Cultural Anthropologist with practical and scholarly expertise in Race & Racism, African American Studies, Explorative Ethnography, Activist Physical Theatre, Anthropological Poetry, Anti-Racism Strategies & Equity Facilitation, and Community Engagement, I am energized by being able to provide spaces to facilitate and bear witness to individual and community growth in connection to social inclusion, equity, and justice.

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Socio-cultural Anthropology May 2025

Department of Anthropology
American University, Washington, DC

Specialization: Race & Racism, Black/African American Identity Reconstruction, Educational Survival, Explorative Ethnography, Anthropological Poetry, Physical Theatre, Antiracism, Death Studies

Dissertation Title: "We See You Baby; We Know Your Name": The Praxes & Poetics of Black(Q) Identity (Re)construction and Necrographic Divinatory Embodiment as Community Care

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Daniel Sayers, American University

Master of Arts in Applied/Public Anthropology May 2021

Department of Anthropology
American University, Washington, DC

Specialization: Embodiments of Race & Racism, Black/African American Identity Reconstruction, Quotidian Performance, Explorative Ethnography, Physical Theatre, Memorialization, Death Studies

Thesis: How We Remember, How We Forget, and How We Remember to Forget: Traumas of Black Memory and Memorialization at the National Lynching Memorial

Master of Arts in Performance Studies & Theatre May 2019

Department of Performing Arts
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology & Theatre May 2017

Department of Anthropology
Department of Theatre
Transylvania University, Lexington, KY

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- *Anti-Oppressive/Anti-Racist Pedagogies in Professional Development & Educational Training
- *Social Death & Educational Survival in (Q)BIPOC Youth Populations
- *Anti-Black Mediatization & Metaphorization
- *Exploratory Black Queer Ethnographic Methodologies - Poetry as Spiritual Practice
- *Necrography & Death/Life Studies
 - Trauma, Cultural Memory, Social Grief, Memorialization in Black American Genealogies
 - Communal Joy as a Practice of Community Care
 - Spiritual Practice & Medical Health Outcomes (Herbalism, Rootwork, Death Doula Practice)
- *Black/Black-Queer Identity Formation
- *Black Folklore, ATR, & Spiritual Practices as Resistance and Liberation
- *Theatre Arts & Physical Storytelling as Positive Identity Formation in (Q)BIPOC Youth Populations

COURSE INSTRUCTION

Loyola University Course Instruction

- Antiracist Pedagogy: Inclusive Strategies & Applications for Reparative Teaching Practice Aug. 2022 – Present
 - Lead instructor and curriculum designer for Loyola Chicago's Anti-Racist Pedagogy Certificate Program, a year-long (2 semester) professional development course for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Black Repertory Theatre of St. Louis Course Instruction

- Anti-racist Tactics of the Oppressed: Organizing & Praxis Fall & Spring 2021-2022
 - Served as the in-house instructor for the Black Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, through a Washington University in St. Louis Visiting Teaching Artist fellowship, teaching a workshop-style, praxis course based in social organizing and performance studies instruction that engaged in scenario fabrication as a tool for community conflict resolution, intrapersonal conflict, and community organizing tactics.

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COURSE INSTRUCTION, CTD.

American University Course Instruction

- Race & Racism in the United States Spring 2022
 - Adjunct instructor for American University's Anthropology Department, teaching the required section "Race & Racism," a history and theory of race, systemic oppression, and racism to undergraduate first and second year students.
- Inequality in the United States Summer 2021
 - Adjunct instructor for American University's Anthropology Department, teaching the elective summer section of "Inequality in the United States," an anthropological history of marginalization and the systemic process of social inequality in the United States.

Washington University in St. Louis Course Instruction

- History of African American Theatre: Resistance & Revolution Fall 2021 & Spring 2022
 - Visiting instructor for Washington University in St. Louis's Performing Arts Department, teaching the section "Resistance & Revolution," a history and praxis course based on theatre and performance instruction that discusses Black Theatre and its organizing history in fights for civil rights.
- Anti-racist Tactics for Social Change Sept. 2018 - May 2019
 - Performance instructor for Washington University in St. Louis's University College, teaching the class "Tactics for Social Change," a workshop course based on theatre and performance instruction that uses scenario fabrication as a tool for community conflict resolution.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BELOVED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

College of Education

Seattle University | May 2025 - Present

- Manages all research function, development, and execution for the Public Education in Beloved Community Initiative grant, in partnership with K-12 schools across Washington.

ANTI-OPPRESSIVE PEDAGOGY SPECIALIST IN RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy

Loyola University Chicago | Aug 2022 - May 2025

- Planned, promoted, and implemented Anti-Racist and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging-related strategies, roadmaps, programs, workshops, trainings, lectures, and institutes for the campus community, with a focus on faculty and staff development and engagement, to advance equity, inclusion, and belonging in education, including but not limited to:
 - Serving as the office lead strategist for DEI, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression operational effectiveness initiatives for employee outreach, engagement, and development.
 - Building out and designing the Learning Management System (LMS) content and design for workshops, courses, and trainings.
 - Proficiency in LMS systems such as Moodle, Canvas, Sakai, Blackboard, Edmodo
 - Creating and leading a series of ERG Leadership and Mentorship groups for University educators through anti-oppressive program initiatives such as the Anti-Oppressive Film Series, the Pedagogy of Justice Series programming, the hooks-Freire series programming, the Abolitionist Pedagogy Reading Series, the Anti-Racist Pedagogy Certificate Program, and the Holding Space: Educator Wellbeing and Development Employee Resource Group program.
- Trained, developed, and served as subject matter expert in DEI and Anti-Oppressive Education including, but not limited to, Human & Learner Centered Design, Environmental Justice Pedagogy, Cultural Competencies, Queer Pedagogies, Antiracist Pedagogy, Decolonial Pedagogy, feminist, and transformational pedagogical practices in education and professional development.
- Designed and curated roadmap strategy materials and professional learning resources including protocols, playbooks, toolkits, syllabi, guidebooks, articles, videos, white papers, and strategic plans for a variety of audiences (faculty, professional staff, stakeholders, administration).
- Managed and supervised the work of various faculty and professional staff on Anti-oppressive pedagogy and DE&I-related university academic strategic plans and programs:
 - Managed and supervised a team of faculty research professionals to maintain the office's anti-oppressive programming and oversee new and innovative research from Loyola University full-time and part-time faculty members.
 - Managed and supervised graduate student workers in tasks related to FCIP's DEIB & Anti-Oppressive Pedagogy efforts.
 - Managed and supervised a student internship program within FCIP, empowering and training students in facilitation skills, project development, leadership, and research.
- Revamped, restructured, & led Loyola University Chicago's DEI & Anti-Oppressive Certificate professional development training programs to match current national and academic standards of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

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ANTI-OPPRESSIVE PEDAGOGY SPECIALIST IN RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy

Loyola University Chicago | Aug 2022 - Present

- Revamped, restructured, & led Loyola University Chicago's DEI & Anti-Oppressive Certificate professional development training programs to match current national and academic standards of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
- Created and managed inter-office and community relationship-building and collaborations around Anti-racism, Anti-oppression, and DEIB related initiatives:
 - Consulted and advised Loyola Chicago academic units, departments, and stakeholders to review grant projects, scholarships, curriculum redevelopment initiatives, and DEI communications, data and reporting.
 - Developed and grew cross-departmental/cross-unit and community structures of collaboration, including but not limited to:
 - Collaborative development pathways between LUC schools and departments such as: University Libraries, Faculty administration and communications office, the Office for Equity and Compliance, Stritch Medical School, School of Education, Corboy Law Center, School of Nursing, Institute of Pastoral Studies, Office of Institutional DEIB, Department of Theology, and others.
- Managed and developed large-scale annual events surrounding the themes of anti-oppression, anti-racism, DEI, belonging, and culture, including:
 - Leading Loyola Chicago's inaugural Pedagogy of Justice Symposium
 - Co-leading and organizing Loyola Chicago's annual Focus on Teaching and Learning conference
 - Co-leading and Organizing Loyola Chicago's annual Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ and Religion Creative Symposium Series
 - Supporting Loyola Chicago's annual Faculty Teaching Awards
 - Consulting on the Office of Institutional DEI's collaborative summit programs

PROFESSIONAL LECTURER AND DE&I EDUCATOR - CONTRACTED SPECIALIST

Contracted | Jan 2016 - Present

- *Responsible for creating, organizing, and implementing* DE&I based programming, strategic vision and goal setting, workshops, lectures, and training programs centered on cultural, racial, and LGBTQIA+ competency to an array of universities, K-12 Private & Public Schools, community organizations, and corporate organizations alike.
- Relevant Specifics in list of teaching and professional lecturer experience, offered upon request.
- Contracted Organizations include: Consultant & Teaching positions at the following Universities, K-12 Highschool, and youth-focused nonprofits
 - National Louis University, Loyola University Chicago, trubel&co (STEM & Civic Education Advocacy), University of Notre Dame, University of North Texas, American University Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis Office of Academic Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis Performing Arts Department, Transylvania University Office of the Dean & Board of Trustees, Black Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Believing in forever, Inc, Lex Live Arts, Terry Barber Music, Inc., Sayre Middle School, St. Joseph's Academy

TEACHING ARTIST

The St Louis Black Repertory Company

St Louis, Missouri | Jul 2021 - Jul 2022

- As a teaching artist for the Black Rep, I was given the opportunity to practice my fieldwork in social cultural anthropology by teaching anti-racism and anti-oppression education through theatrical methods of physical theatre, play theory, and actor training methodologies for the Black Rep's after-school & summer youth programs, as well as providing direct physical actor training for the Black Rep's Acting Fellows.

ALBERTI ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER

Washington University in St. Louis | Jan 2018 - July 2019

- Developed and implemented architecture and humanities-based curriculum for the after-school and summer arts program for multicultural and international youth ages 7-14
- Managed and collaborated with a staff of 8 multicultural graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants to provide support to the youth program
 - Mentored the research of graduate student staff
- Collaborated with St. Louis Architecture and Design companies to provide curriculum-based lectures and to plan events to architectural and artistic sights around St. Louis for the youth program.
- Managed the daily well-being of 60 youths, age 7-14

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PROGRAM MANAGER - MULTICULTURAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMMING

Transylvania University

Office of Diversity, Equity, & International. Student Experiences | Oct 2014 - May 2017

- Served as head program manager and advisor for all Transylvania University multicultural and international student programs and student organizations and collaborated with Lexington community leaders for joint University programs
- Managed and implemented TU's new Diversity forward policies, Project One focused on expanding equity throughout the institutional levels with a focus on BIPOC and Queer students
- Conducted and managed college readiness early orientation and new student orientation programs for international, multicultural, and first-generation students at Transylvania University
- Responsible for training departmental (administration and faculty) representatives in current matters of DEI policy with respect to race and LGBTQ concerns
- Crafted specialized programming events and DE&I training for international and multicultural student experiences at all student levels.
- Served as certified Diversity & Inclusion Methods, Green Dot Prevention Methods, Title IX methods, Microaggression Identification, and Diversity in Professional Development trainer.

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, & PRESENTATIONS

- Wright, Día Joy (February 2025). Necrographic Divination: The Resistive Practices & Poetics of Black Queer Ethnography, Necromancy, & Community Care. Presentation/Lecture. Africa Through Language and Area Studies (ATLAS) Conference. Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025). Performing for Social Change & Embracing Community: Artistic Scenario Models for Pedagogical Development. Loyola Chicago Department of Fine & Performing Arts.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). How do we grow through difficulty?: Centering Reconciliation, Repair, & Restorative Justice in Pedagogical Discourse and Social Dialogue. Loyola Chicago Corboy Law School.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). Navigating Wellness, Practicing Joy: This Academy Can't Kill Me - Professional Development Series for Educator Wellness. Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Back to School Professional Development Series. Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). What is Anti-racist Pedagogy?: A Training Workshop Graduate Students. Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). What are Anti-racist Methodologies?: Training for Inclusive Pedagogy in Early Teaching. Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (June 2024). How Can you Address a Wrong? Tactics and Strategies for Anti-Racism from the Student perspective. Loyola Bioinformatics Retreat. Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). What is Anti-racist Pedagogy & Why is it Important to Medical Education?: An Instructional Design Workshop for Medical Educators. Stritch Medical School, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (Aug. 2024). Professional Educator Identity Formation for Law School Educators. PIF Program, Corboy Law center, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (September 2024). What is Anti-Colonial Pedagogy?: Practices & Tactics of Anti-Oppression for Roman Educators. John Felice Rome Center, Rome Italy. Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (2022, 2023, 2024). Creative Engagements in Anti-Oppressive/Anti-Racist Teaching Strategies. Equal Justice Initiative, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (2023). "Pedagogical Equity at the Intersection of Civic & Social Action: Who gets the right to learn?." Panel Conversation. Inclusive Excellence Day, Loyola University Chicago.
- Introducing "The Loyola Way" with Bridget Colacchio, Jessica Mansbach and Justin Wright, presented in multiple sessions to Loyola University Chicago's Council of Deans, the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Mission Integration throughout Spring 2024, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (Oct. 2023) Crafting Belonging, Creating Inclusive Spaces: A panel discussion on queerness and belonging, presented at LUC's Wonderfully Made @ LUC Conference Series, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (September 2023). How do we manage transition in a manner reflective of shared values? Presented at the Corboy law school All Staff retreat, Loyola University Chicago.

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PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, & PRESENTATIONS, CTD.

- Wright, Día Joy (April 2024). Reflection > ACTION > Discernment > ACCOMPANIMENT = MAGIS: How do we manage uncertainty and suffering from a communal perspective? Corboy Law Center Administrative Retreat, Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (Feb - Mar. 2024). Intro to Structural Racism in Higher Ed: Theory & Practice. Workshop. National Louis University School of Education.
- Wright, Día Joy (Feb - Mar. 2024). What is White supremacy writ-large and how do we combat it? National Louis University, School of Education.
- Wright, Día Joy (May 2024). A Faith that Does Justice? Anti-Racism in applying the characteristics of a Jesuit Education. All Things Ignatian Staff Seminar, Mission Integration. Loyola University Chicago.
- Wright, Día Joy (April 2022). Keynote & Workshop: Black Queer Autoethnography, Necro-graphic Poetics, & Community Care. University of Notre Dame.
 - This 2-part keynote & workshop was sponsored by the University of Notre Dame Department of Anthropology for their Initiative on Race and Resilience programming, discussing community care from the lenses of Black ethnographic methods and Necrography and approaching practical ways of community engagement, honor, and anti-racism in social scientific and creative praxis.
- Wright, Día Joy. (December 2021). Lecture: The Emotional Logic of a Black Queer Poetics in Community Care
 - This lecture was sponsored by SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine for their end-of-year programming and discussed poetic methodologies in anthropology and community justice efforts, necro-graphic divination as a means of scholarly and practical inquiry, and the emotional logic of poetic craft and community truth-telling, metaphors, beauty, and crafting joy.
- Wright, Día Joy (Nov. 2021). Lecture: Black Queer Ethnography, Community, & Anti-racist Methods in Social Sciences
 - This guest lecture was sponsored by the University of North Texas Department of Anthropology and discussed Anti-racist tactics in community engagement via ethnographic and creative inquiries. This lecture asked and provided possible solutions to the questions, “How do we meet a community by their own standards? How do we learn to listen? How do we speak with rather than speak for communities?”
- Wright, Día Joy (Oct. 2021) Workshop: Thinking Through Race with Ethnographic Poetry
 - This workshop was sponsored by McGill University’s Department of Anthropology for their 2021-2022 Racial Justice Working Group series and aimed to understand ways of using poetry as a tool for managing the beginning and/or continuation of one’s anthropological positionality as well as to explore the myriad of ways that race might affect individual research and Anthropological practices in community researched-based organizing
- Wright, Día Joy (Mar. 2019). Lecture: Anti-Racist Tactics & Strategies for Community Organizing
 - Primary lecturer for American University’s Race & racism undergraduate course for the lecture month covering the history and contemporary applications of Social resistance and organizing tactics of the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.
- Wright, Día Joy (Apr. 2019). Workshop: Movement Theatre & Social Collaboration
 - Primary workshop instructor for movement and physical theatre-based course focused on community collaboration, social change, and movement theatre techniques such as Viewpoints, Choreopoetics, and Suzuki Methods for Washington University in St. Louis.

SERVICE (UNIVERSITY/ORGANIZATIONAL)

- *Staff Council, Loyola University Chicago*
- *QUEST Faculty/Staff mentor, Center for Diversity & Inclusion LGBTQ Mentorship, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Loyola University Core, Curriculum Redevelopment Committee, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Loyola Honors Program Curriculum Redevelopment Committee, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Anti-Racist & Anti-Oppressive Pedagogy in Teaching Committee, School of Communications, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Racial Equity, Accessibility, Diversity, & Inclusion Teaching Committee, Corboy Law Center, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Anti-Racism & Racial Justice Working Group, Office of the Provost, Loyola University Chicago*
- *Graduate Student Council, American University*
- *Graduate Students of Color Equity & Compliance Committee, American University*
- *Graduate Student of Color Programming Committee, Washington University in St. Louis*
- *Graduate Student Council, Washington University in St. Louis*

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PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming - Chapter
 - “The Politics & Poetics of Black Necromancy: An Exploration of Black Anthropological Research Methodologies”
 - Cambridge University Press, 2025
- Forthcoming - Book Project
 - Dancing Delegitimization: Community Choreo-policing at Sites of Black Rebellion
 - New York University Press
- Forthcoming - Articles
 - Tarrying in Tornado Alley: Blackness, Eco-Justice & Disaster
 - Gotta Get My Spirit Right Before I Go: Embracing Aliveness Through Death Doula Practice
 - How We Gon’ Get Free?: The Contemporary Return to Black Folk Magic
 - Survivin’ Ain’t Thrivin’: Health Determinants of Social Death on Black Youth Populations
 - Divination on a Dusk Road: Afro-Descendant Folk Workings as Resistance
 - Cosmographies of the Dark: Black Astrological Explorations of Joy

Academic Essays

- Wright, Día Joy (2026) “Power, History, & the Politics of Life,” Section Introduction, *Poems Were Strangers: An Anthology of Ethnographic and Anthropological Poetry* (University of Toronto Press, 2026).
- Forthcoming, in revision: “Introducing Per Viam Loyola: An Ignatian Pedagogy framework enlivened by anti-oppressive and student-centered approaches,” By Bridget M. Colacchio, Jessica Mansbach, Día Joy Wright
- Decolonizing Address: Names, Pronouns & Strategies for Equitable Pedagogy
 - Wright, Día Joy. (2023). Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago.
- “An Introduction to Praxis in an Ignatian Context.”
 - Wright, Día Joy. (2023, November 9). Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago.
- “Practicing Decolonization in the Context of Ignatian Values: A List of ‘How To’s’.”
 - Wright, Día Joy. (2023, June 21). Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago
- “An Introduction to Decolonization in an Ignatian Context.”
 - Wright, Día Joy. (2023, June 21). Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago.
- “What Is Anthropological Poetry?”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine
- “Opting Into the Exit Row: The Politics of Survival & Obligation for Black Graduate Students”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine
- “Hush-Hush, a Pale-Horse Cometh: Mirabilis Manducat”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2020

Articles

- “How We Remember, How We Forget, & How We Remember to Forget: Traumas of Black Memory and Memorialization at the National Lynching Memorial”
 - THEATRON - Washington University in St. Louis 2019

Poetry

- Forthcoming - Manuscript
 - *FlyBoiFly: Icarus in the Stars*
- Published
 - “Lead Me to Life: Voices of the African Diaspora”
 - Editor of Collection, SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2022
 - “Predominantly White Institutions’ Overtures to Black Students OR This Is What They Tell You Without Telling You”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2022
 - “I Carry My Grief With Me, but I Also Carry My Joy”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2021
 - “And You Watch As We Make Woodwater Again”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2021
 - “The Cookout (and All Other Manners of Heavenly Black Things)”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2020
 - “Siege”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2020
 - “The National Lynching Memorial Speaks to My Black ’Bama Body OR Imma Be Here Forever, You Gon’ Remember This”
 - SAPIENS Anthropology Magazine 2020

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SPECIAL TRAININGS & SKILLS

- *Arts-based Anti-Oppression*
- *Racial Equity & Justice Pedagogies Specialist*
- *Civic Engagement & Responsibility*
- *Employee and Stakeholder Wellness*
- *Andragogy, Professional Development Specialist*
- *Cross-Departmental Collaboration*
- *DEIB compliance*
- *Title VI Compliance Regulations*
- *DE&I Methods, Training, & Facilitation*
- *Project Management*
- *Virtual, Live, Hybrid Event Coordination*
- *Leadership & Development*
- *Microsoft Office*
- *Oral & Written Presentation*
- *Microaggression Identification*
- *DE&I in Social and Community Organizing*
- *DE&I in Professional Development & Higher Education*
- *University Teaching Experience*
- *K-12 Teaching Experience*
- *Research Methods*
- *Ethnographic & Auto-Ethnographic Methods*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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