

Research and Teaching Focus

- Structural Determinants of Health
- Structural Violence Theory
- Health Equity
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Immigration Reform
- Child Welfare Reform
- Mixed Methods Research
- Community Led Research
- Implementation Science
- Institutional Analysis
- Systems Research
- Policy Analysis
- African American Studies
- Anti-Oppressive Frameworks
- Anti-Racist Frameworks
- Community Advocacy
- Critical Pedagogy
- Racialized Trauma

Education

Ph.D. in Social Welfare, Aug 2023 University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

- **Dissertation:** A Mixed Methods Study Exploring Structural and Benevolent Violence in Child Welfare: Institutional Policies, Latino Immigrant Community Perspectives, and Latino Family Outcomes

Master of Education in Counseling Psychology, May 2006

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts in English | Cum Laude, Honors and Distinction, May 2003

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

- **Semester Abroad Program with an emphasis on Peace and Conflict, June 2002**
University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Certifications & Licenses

Certificate in Mixed Methods Research, June 2022

University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Online

Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict, May 2021

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Certified Peer Review Course, May 2020

Researchacademy.com

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Jul 2019 – Present

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Licensed Professional Counselor, Jan 2019 – Present

Missouri Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, May 2010 – Present

Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

Research Experience

Qualitative Data Analyst Contractor, Health Forward Foundation, Kansas City, MO May 2022 to Present

- *Supervisor: Jane Mosely, PhD.* Leveraged qualitative methods to community-based mixed methods research project for large health equity foundation. Served as consultant for analysis of future qualitative research projects.
- Analyzed, interpreted, and translated qualitative data into actionable insights that supported program directors in planning and executing organizational initiatives and funding delegation.

Researcher, Racial Equity Collaborative, Kansas City, KS Jul 2021 to Present

- *PI: Pegah Jiminez, PhD.* Conducted comprehensive research to develop highly informative training material that enhances awareness of child welfare professionals on fundamental aspects related to racial equity. Built collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure the fulfillment of training initiatives.
- Improved knowledge of child welfare professionals (judges, attorneys, administrators, and social workers) on racial equity by facilitating this quarterly statewide training. Evaluated the effectiveness of statewide training initiatives for state administrators in child welfare by conducting pre-and post-assessments through mixed methods study designs.

Grant Reviewer/Contractor, COMBAT, Jackson County Kansas City, MO Aug 2020 to Present

- Researched the eligibility of the grant applicants for this state-funded organization awarding funding for anti-violence/drug community-based interventions. Processed applications and maintained filing systems while developing and delivering reports to senior leadership.
- Ensured strict alignment with established policies and procedures to ensure proper evaluation of grant applications. Evaluated previous and potential effectiveness with community and target populations by researching and assessing organizations applying for funding.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS Aug 2019 to Present

- *PI: Becci Akin, PhD.* Served as a GRA for multiple federally funded research projects pertaining to the Kansas Child Welfare system using quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods study approaches. Engaged in Implementation Science and Institutional Analysis methodologies. Conducted community based participatory action research.
- Initiated, led and fostered community engagement for studies and assisted in maintenance of relationship with community members engaged in research with the institution. Assisted in crafting community action group called Wyandotte Rising that serves to hold the regional and statewide child welfare system accountable for racial equity and anti-racist practices in the institution.

Research Contractor, University of Pennsylvania, Archives Center, Philadelphia, PA Jan 2013 to Feb 2015

- Delivered high-quality support to Archives and Records Center by gathering and assessing web-based materials for research. Categorized videos for department use while delivering input to process psychosocial video data.
- Conducted research while creating and delivering reports to present research findings to management. Contributed to the planning and execution of research projects in collaboration with team members.

Research Assistant, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA Apr 2005 to May 2006

- *PI: Ruth Farber, PhD.* Contacted study participants involved in the research initiatives surrounding African American medical adherence patterns using biopsychosocial assessment.
- Conducted surveys with participants. Maintained data in SPSS and assisted with basic quantitative analysis for PI.

Research Assistant, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Jan 2005 to May 2006

- *PI: Beth Soucar, PhD.* Enrolled and assessed patients to determine the effectiveness of control therapy on urban populations. Carried out evaluations to monitor the results of therapy on participants.
- Supported the successful execution of the research study through video assessments and live supervision. Played a key role in authoring a journal article on the study's key findings on effectiveness of control therapy on urban populations.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Instructor, School of Social Welfare, MSW Program

Jun 2020 to Present

- Sole instructor for applied research and clinical courses geared to develop students in client engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills. Incorporated teaching on anti-oppressive and anti-racist research and practice.
- Instructed courses online through the use of Zoom, Blackboard and/or Canvas web technologies. Mentored students and provided recommendations and guidance for future professional and academic endeavors.

Center for Urban Theological Studies/Lancaster Bible College, Philadelphia, PA

Dec 2012 to Jan 2017

Adjunct Professor

- Delivered instruction (via in person and hybrid classes) to teach undergraduate-level courses in human services to a demographically diverse student body.
- Created curriculum and syllabi for newly developed counseling and social work program in coordination with the department head.

Solo Instructor of Record

Undergraduate Level

- **PSY 224 Human Growth and Development**, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, CUTS, Philadelphia PA
- **PSY 220 Human Behavior in the Social Environment**, Fall 2014, CUTS, Philadelphia PA (hybrid)
- **HSV 401 Community Development and Assessment**, Spring 2014, CUTS, Philadelphia PA
- **CNS 311 Assessment and Treatment Strategies**, Spring 2014, CUTS, Philadelphia PA
- **CNS 310 Models of Helping Skills**, Fall 2013, CUTS, Philadelphia PA

Graduate Level

- **SW 740 Applied Research for Multi-level Social Work**, Summer 2022, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS (online)
- **SW 868 Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention**, Summer 2021, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Lawrence, KS (online)

Publications

Peer Reviewed Publications

- **Wright, K.**, Akin, B. A., Byers, K., McCall, S., Alford, D., *Parker, A., Clark, S., *Shaw-Wood, N., *Kline, M., *Brown, N., *Hill, Evelyn, *Davis-Mays, S., *Parham, W., & *Rush, R. (2022). Using

Institutional Analysis to Examine the Systemic Sources of Racial Disproportionality and Disparity: A Case Example. *Child Welfare*, 100 (2), 99-136.

- Pacey, M.S., Jen, S., Riquino, M., Carr, K., Cole, S., & **Wright, K.** (2022). Trauma-informed approaches to teaching students with marginalized identities during times of crisis. In P.A. Thompson & J. Carello (Eds.), *Trauma-Informed Pedagogies: A Guide for Responding to Crisis and Inequality in Higher Education*.
- **Wright, K. C.**, Carr, K. A., & Akkin, B. A. (2021). The Whitewashing of Social Work History: How Dismantling Racism in Social Work Education Begins with an Equitable History of the Profession. *Advances in Social Work*, 21(2/3), 274-297.
- Cole, S. J., Mitra, S. S., Robinson, J. A., Jen, S., Pacey, M. S., Carr, K. A., & **Wright, K.** (2021). “Thanks for hearing me out”: Voices of social work students during COVID-19. *Qualitative Social Work*, 20(1-2), 63-66.
- Pacey, M. S., Cole, S. J., Robinson, J. A., Carr, K. A., Jen, S., Riquino, M. R., & **Wright, K.C.** (2021). “Nobody’s Failing at Going Through a Global Pandemic”: Lessons and Tensions in Social Work Education. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 57(sup1), 168-181.
- Clark, S., Akin, B., & **Wright, K.** (2020). A Future of Strength: The Strengths Perspective and Developing Social Workers. In Mendenhall, A. N., & Carney, M. M (Eds.) *Rooted in Strengths: Celebrating the Strengths Perspective in Social Work*. (pp. 39-49). University of Kansas. School of Social Welfare.
- Matejkowski, M., & **Wright, K.**, (in press). Mental Health in Forensic Settings. In Whitehill-Bolton, K., Natale, A.P., & McLeod, D.A. (Eds.) *The Handbook of Forensic Social Work Practice*. Chicago, IL: Oxford.

*denotes Community Member

Additional Publications

- Akin, B.A., **Wright, K.**, McCall, S., Byers, K., Alford, D., Clark, S. L., Shaw- Woody, N., & Kline, M. (2021, Summer). Pursuing equity in child welfare: Learning from a collective process to eliminate racial disparities. In LaLiberte, T., Gehringer, S. & McKizzie Cooper, D. (Eds) *CW 360 Confronting Racism, Engaging Partners and Finding Solutions* (pp 4-5). St. Paul, MN: Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, University of Minnesota. <https://cascw.umn.edu/portfolio-items/confronting-racismengaging-partners-finding-solutions-cw360-2021/> (invited)
- Evans, K., Londono, T. Roth, B., Jayshree J., Berger-Cardoso, J., Hasson, R., **Wright, K.**, Schmidt, S., Finno-Valesquez, M., & Sepp, S. (2022, August). Post Release Services for Unaccompanied Children: Current Gaps and Needed Improvements. The Center on Immigration and Child Welfare. https://cimmcw.org/wp-content/uploads/Post-Release-Services-for-UC_Research-Brief_Final.pdf

Under Review

- **Wright, K.**, McCall, S., Clark, S., Byers, K., & Akin, B., (2022). Community, Clinicians, Courts, and Accountability: Revolutionizing Social Work Practice & Research with Institutional Analysis Frameworks. Submission for special issue to ASPAC. (In Review)
- Carlson J., **Wright K.**, Bagwell-Gray, Mendenhall A., Diaz, A., McCall S., Kepple, N., Akin, B., Banda, L., & Carr, K., (2022). Anti-Racist Practice in Social Work Research Teams: The Story of Germination and Pollination. Submission to *Journal of Social Work* (In Review)
- **Wright, K.** (2022). Social Work, Immigration and Policy: Furthering the discipline towards critical competency in immigration policy and its effects on immigrant populations. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work* (In Review)

- LaBrenz, C.A., Palmer, A.N., Aykanian, A., & **Wright, K.C.** Disparities in aging out over time: Associations by race/ethnicity and disability status. *Child Abuse & Neglect* (In Review)

In Process

- **Wright, K.** (2022). The Criminal “Justice” System and the Social Work Discipline. A Qualitative Study on Social Workers perceptions of Criminal Justice.
- **Wright, K.,** Carr, K., Akin, B. (2022). Reconciling the Past and Shaping the Future: The importance of social work history in the Grand Challenges of the Discipline. Submission for special issue to the *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.

Press

- Press: **Wright, K.,** (2022, February 23). Wyandotte County Safe and Welcoming Act helps KCK immigrants. *Kansas City Star Newspaper*. <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article259274649.html#storylink=cpy>

Presentations

Peer Reviewed

- **Wright, K.,** Akin, B., Byers, K., Clark, S., Carr, K. (2022, November 11). Shaping Anti-Oppressive Frameworks and Detailing the Creation of an Anti-Racist Research Model. Council on Social Work Education 68th Annual Meeting, Human Rights are Global Rights , Anaheim, California. (Refereed)
- Naemi-Jimenez, P., Dupree, S., **Wright, K.,** Akin, B. (2022, October 6). Collaborating in Courageous Conversations to Transform Child Welfare toward Racial Equity. Kempe Conference International, (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- Carr, K., **Wright, K.,** & Akin, B. (2022, August 19). Ungrading as an Anti-racist/Anti-Oppressive Strategy in Graduate Education. University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence Annual Summit, (Refereed)
- **Wright, K** (2022, June 17). Understanding the effects of Structural Violence through Social Determinants of Health Frameworks with immigrant populations. Saint Anslem College Repair and Renew Upstream Conference, (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- **Wright, K** (2022, April 29). US Immigration Policy: Past, Present and Future Implications for Black and Brown Families. California State University of Sacramento, 30th Annual Africa & Diaspora International Conference, Center for Africa Peace and Conflict Resolution, Sacramento, California. (Refereed)
- **Wright, K** (2022, April 4). Justice without borders- Exploring the criminalization of Immigration through theory. Resilience Con. Life Paths Research Center Online. (Refereed)
- Matejkowski, J. and **Wright, K.** (2021, November 18). Forensic mental health social work with adults who have criminal justice system contact. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- **Wright, K** (2021, November 6). Criminals or Immigrants? An analysis of policies leading to the "Crimmigration" era. Council on Social Work Education 67th Annual Meeting, Leading Critical Conversations, Orlando, Florida. (Refereed)
- **Wright, K.,** Akin, B. A., Byers, K., Dunkerley, S., Clark, S. L. (2021, November 5). Courts, Communities and Accountability: Executing Genuine Community-based Research. Council on Social Work Education 67th Annual Meeting, Leading Critical Conversations, Orlando, Florida. (Refereed)

- Akin, B. A., Byers, K., Dunkerley, S., Clark, S. L., **Wright, K.**, McArthur, V., Alford, D. (2021, May 3-6). Collaborative Teaming and Planning to Support the Selection of Innovations and Implementation Strategies. Global Implementation Conference 2021, Addressing Equity in Implementation: Building Research, Practice, and Policy Across the Globe, Denver, Colorado (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- **Wright, K.**, McCall, S., Akin, B. A. (2021, May 3-6). Pursuing Equity and Justice in Implementation: Learning from the Collective Process of Addressing Racial Disparities in Child Welfare. Poster presentation at the Global Implementation Conference 2021, Addressing Equity in Implementation: Building Research, Practice, and Policy across the Globe, Denver, CO (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- **Wright, K.**, (2021, April 13). Answers from within: Community Based Institutional Reform. Resilience Con 2021. Life Paths Research Annual Resilience Conference.
- **Wright, K.**, Akin, B. A., Dunkerley, S., Byers, K., Clark, S. & McCall, S. (2021, January 22). Parents' and Professionals' Perceptions of the Court and Legal System. 25th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Social Work Science for Social Change. (Virtual Conference) (Refereed)
- **Wright, K.**, Akin, B. A., McCall, S., & Weber, K. (2021, January 21). Pursuing Justice with Collaborative Institutional Research: Examining the Collective Process of Addressing Racial Disparity in Child Welfare Research. Roundtable at the 25th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Social Work Science for Social Change. (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- Clark, S., Byers, K., Akin, B. A., Dunkerley, S., **Wright, K.** & McCall, S. (2021, January). Child Safety and Family Preservation: Investigating the Relationships between Tenure, Type of Employment, and Values Influencing Decision Making Among Child Welfare Professionals. 25th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Social Work Science for Social Change. (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- Dunkerley, S., Akin, B. A., Clark, S. L. & **Wright, K.** (2020, November 20). Foster Care-Involved Parents' Views on Court and Legal Practices. Council on Social Work Education 66th Annual Program Meeting, Leading Critical Conversations: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, (Virtual Conference) (Refereed).
- **Wright, K.**, Carr, K., & Akin, B. A. (2020, November 13). Social Work's Racialized Foundations: Recreating a more Equitable History of the Field. 2020 Racial Justice Symposium; Reckoning with Our History, Interrogating Our Present, Re-Imagining Our Future, Virtual Symposium, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work. (Refereed). <https://uh.edu/socialwork/news/events/2020-racial-justice-symposium/>
- Clark, S., Akin, B., & **Wright, K.** (2020, April 17). A Future of Strength: The Strengths Perspective and Developing Social Workers. [Conference workshop] International Social Workday, Lawrence, KS. <http://socwel.ku.edu/swd2020>

Invited Presentations

- **Wright, K.** (2022, Sep 7) Guest Lecture on Criminal Justice, Immigration and Social Work, SW637 University of Kansas BSW Program, Lawrence KS.
- **Wright, K.** (2022, August 22) Lead Facilitator. Secondary Traumatic Stress and Racialized Trauma for BIPOC Crisis workers. Specialized training for Buffalo, NY shooting crisis workers, Northland Workforce Training Center. (Virtual)
- **Wright, K.** (2022, June 28) Lead Facilitator. Secondary Traumatic Stress and Racialized Trauma for BIPOC Crisis workers. Specialized training for Buffalo, NY shooting crisis workers, Resilia Inc. (Virtual)
- **Wright, K.** (2022, April 19) Guest Lecture on Supervision and Workforce Management, SW843 Supervision and Management, University of Kansas, MSW Program, Lawrence, KS.

- **Wright, K.** (2022, March 16) Lead Trainer. Crisis worker training on secondary trauma. Missouri Health Department.
- **Wright, K.** (2022, February 23). Guest Lecture on Human Rights and Immigration, SW708 Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice University of Kansas, MSW Program, Lawrence, KS.
- **Wright, K. & Karr, C** (2022, January 10). Interview for Doin' the Work: Frontline Stories of Social change Podcast. www.dointhework.com.
- **Wright, K. & Grant, N.** (2021, October 22). Interview of Dr. Nikol Alexander- Floyd on Intersectionality and Epistemic Justice, Life Paths Research Center. (Virtual)
- **Wright, K. Carr, K., & Akin, B. A.** (2021, Sep 22) Lead Panelist. Dismantling Racism in Social Work Education. Indiana University (Virtual Interview)
- **Wright, K.** (2021, March 23). Guest Lecturer/Assessor, SW842 Research and Program Evaluation. University of Kansas, MSW Program, Lawrence, KS.
- **Wright, K.** (2020, Mar 3). Guest Lecturer/Assessor, SW842 Research and Program Evaluation, University of Kansas, MSW Program, Lawrence, KS.

Funding & Awards

- **Toni Johnson Scholars for Racial & Social Justice Dissertation Award** – \$3,000.00 | 2022 – 2023
- **School of Social Welfare Dissertation Graduate Fellowship** – \$25,000.00 plus tuition | 2022 – 2023
- **Institute for Policy and Social Research Doctoral Research Fellow** – \$500.00 | 2022 – 2023
- **Lifepath's Promising Scholar Award - Resilience Con.** - Honorable Mention \$125.00| 2021
- **Anne Weick Doctoral Scholarship** \$1,500.00 – | 2020 – 2021

Affiliations

- **Counsel on Social Work Education, Member**
- **Society for Social Work and Research, Member**
- **Kansas STRONG, Advisory Member**
- **National Organization of Forensic Social Work, Student Member**
- **Global Implementation Society, Member**

Service

National

- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, December 2022**
- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, Aug 2022**
- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, Apr 2022**
- **Center on Immigration and Child Welfare, Research Workgroup, Feb 2022 – Present**
- **Society for Social Work and Research, Doctoral Student Committee, Feb 2022 – Present**
- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, Jan 2022**
- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, Oct 2021**
- **Peer Reviewer, Journal of Social Work Education, Routledge Publishing, Jul 2021**
- **Annual Program Proposal Reviewer, Immigration, Criminal Justice and Social Work tracks, Counsel of Social Work Education, Mar 2021**

- **Peer Review, Advances in Social Work**, Open Journal Systems, Mar 2021
- **Peer Review, Advances in Social Work**, Open Journal Systems, Nov 2020
- **Peer Reviewer, The Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Journal Collection**, Common Ground Research Network, Jun 2020
- **Peer Reviewer, The Journal of Aging and Social Change**, Common Ground Research Network, May 2020
- **Peer Reviewer, The Diversity Journal Collection**, Common Ground Research Network, May 2020

Local

- **Core Team Member Advocate for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation**, Mar 2022–Aug 2023
- **Vocatio KC, Immigration Program Developer**, Kansas City, MO, Dec 2021 – Aug 2023
- **Doctoral Program Committee**, Member University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Aug 2021 – May 2022
- **Dean’s Students Advisory Board Member**, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Aug 2020 –May 2021
- **Institutional Review Board, Member**, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Jun 2020 – May 2021