

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer, Counseling and Mental Health Services July 2022-Present
University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education,
Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Science Foundation July 2020-June 2022
Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBES) Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education,
Philadelphia, PA
Mentor: Howard C. Stevenson, Ph.D.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Sept. 2015-May 2020
Ph.D. in Education
Concentration: Human Development, Learning and Teaching
*Dissertation: "Marginalization, Connection, and School Discipline as they
Relate to Adolescents' Academic and Psychosocial
Adjustment"*
Committee: Profs. Nancy E. Hill (Chair), Robert Selman, and Belle Liang

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA August 2012
M.Phil.Ed. in Professional Counseling

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA August 2011
M.S.Ed. in Counseling and Mental Health Services

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA January 2009
B.A. in Psychology and English
Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Temple University Honors Program

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Introduction to Psychology; Theories of Human Development; Prevention and Intervention
Strategies; Research Methods; Multicultural Psychology; Developmental Psychology;
Adolescent Development; School Mental Health; Race, Equity, & Education; Childhood and
Adolescent Trauma; Research-Practice Partnerships.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

National Science Foundation SBES Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$138,000)	2020-2022
GSAS Professional Development Award (\$2500)	2020 & 2019
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2019-2020
Honorable Mention, Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Foundation	2019
Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholar, MSP Society for Research on Child Development	2018
Presidential Scholars Fellowship, Harvard University (\$4000)	2015-2016

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Price, M., **Polk, W.**, Hill, N. E., Liang, B., & Perella, J. (2019). The intersectionality of identity-
based victimization in adolescence: a person-centered examination of mental health and
academic achievement in a US high school. *Journal of adolescence*, 76, 185-196.

Polk, W., Hill, N. E., Price, M., Liang, B., Perella, J., & Savitz-Romer, M. (2018). Adolescent profiles of marginalization and connection at school: Relations with academics and mental health. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 30, 209-225.

Hill, N.E., Liang, B., Price, M., **Polk, W.**, Perella, J., & Savitz-Romer, M. (2018). Envisioning a meaningful future and academic engagement: The role of parenting practices and school-based relationships. *Psychology in the Schools*, 55(6), 595-608.

Hill, N. E., Liang, B., Bravo, D. Y., Price, M., **Polk, W.**, Perella, J., & Savitz-Romer, M. (2018). Adolescents' Perceptions of the Economy: Its Association with Academic Engagement and the Role of School-Based and Parental Relationships. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 1-21.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Polk, W., Savitz-Romer, M., & Brion-Meisels, G. (2021). "Dismantling White Supremacy Culture in School Counselor Education: Preparing counselors to enact antiracist practices." In C.C. Holcomb-McCoy (Ed.), *Antiracist Counseling in Schools and Communities*. American Counseling Association.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION (Analyses Complete)

Polk, W., Bradford, S., Aisenbrey, E., Fries, C., Kong, M., Zhang, C., & Jalloh, R. (*in prep*). "A Systematic Narrative Review of Race-Conscious School Discipline Interventions."

Polk, W., Hill, N.E., Liang, B., & Perella, J., (*in prep*). "Examining the Psychosocial Costs of School Discipline: The Mediating Role of Marginalization."

Polk, W., Hill, N.E., Liang, B., & Perella, J., (*in prep*). "Discriminatory Discipline and School Climate: The Moderating Role of Racial Identity."

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Panels/Talks/Workshops

Polk, W. (August 2022). "A Framework for Addressing Racial Stress in School Discipline," invited speaker at the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools Administrators of Color Institute, on August 15, 2022.

Polk, W. (May 2022). "Transforming School Discipline by Addressing Racial Stress," presented as part of the National Charter Collaborative Consultancy Series, on May 23, 2022.

Polk, W. (May 2022). "Addressing Racial Stress and Building Racial Literacy," workshop presented at the Social and Emotional Teaching and Learning Institute, University of Pennsylvania Center for Professional Learning, on May 18, 2022.

Polk, W. (April 2022). "Transforming Black Youth Discipline," Keynote Address at the 7th Annual Black Youth Guidance Forum, on April 16, 2022.

Polk, W., & Dessus, G. (January 2022). "Storytelling as a Tool to Confront Racism," presented at Carney, Sandoe & Associates Virtual FORUM/Diversity, on January 28, 2022.

Polk, W., & Dessus, G. (December 2021). “Antiracist Storytelling,” Featured Speaker at the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools and Community of Thought Gathering, on December 6, 2021.

Polk, W. (November 2021). “Racism in Education,” Guest Facilitator for *Intersections of Social Systems, Race, and Health in America: A Historical Perspective* course at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine on November 2, 2021.

Polk, W. (November 2021). “Humanizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Centering Belonging and Social Justice for Educators and Students,” Featured Speaker at the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools Emerging Leaders Institute, on November 4, 2021.

Polk, W. “For Postdoc Hopefuls: Insights from the NSF Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship,” Invited Panelist at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Virtual on April 9, 2021.

Polk, W. (February 2021). “Transforming Black Youth Discipline,” presented at Drexel University, School of Education, on February 18, 2021.

Polk, W. (April 2019). “The Effects of Marginalization, Connection, and School Discipline on Adolescents’ Academic and Psychosocial Adjustment,” presented at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Human Development Learning and Teaching Doctoral Colloquia Series on April 22, 2019.

Polk, W. (March 2019). “You Are Not Accepted by Everyone: The Effects of Marginalization, Connection, and School Discipline on Adolescents’ Academic and Psychosocial Adjustment,” presented at the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Applied Psychology and Human Development Doctoral Colloquia on March 27, 2019.

Paper Presentations

Polk, W., Hill, N., Liang, B., & Perella, J. (April 2021). *Discriminatory Discipline and School Climate: The Moderating Role of Racial Identity*. Paper to be presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Virtual.

Polk, W., Hill, N., Price, M., Liang, B., & Perella, J. (March 2020). *Racial and gender disparities in school discipline and mental health: a parallel mediation of marginalization*. Paper to be presented at Society for Research on Adolescence biennial meeting, San Diego, CA. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.

Price, M., **Polk, W., Hill, N., Liang, B., & Perella, J.** (March 2020). *LGBTQ adolescents’ relative risk for identity-based victimization and associated mental health and academic outcomes*. Paper to be presented at Society for Research on Adolescence biennial meeting, San Diego, CA. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.

Price, M., **Polk, W., Hill, N., Liang, B., & Perella, J.** (February 2019). *The Intersectionality of Identity-Based Victimization in Adolescence: A Person-Centered Examination of Mental Health and Academic Achievement*. Paper presentation at the Winter Roundtable at Teacher’s College, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Polk, W., Price, M., Hill, N., Savitz-Romer, M., Liang, B., & Perella, J. (February 2019). *High School Discipline and Mental Health*. Paper presentation at the Winter Roundtable at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Polk, W., Price, M., Hill, N., Savitz-Romer, M., Liang, B., & Perella, J. (February 2017). *Exploring Students' Interpersonal Experiences in Diverse School Contexts: A Cluster Analysis of Discrimination, Equity, and Connection*. Paper presentation at the Winter Roundtable at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Price, M., **Polk, W.,** Hill, N., Liang, B., Perella, J., Helms, J. (February 2017). *Recognizing the Full Spectrum of Identity-Based Victimization in Youth using an Intersectional Framework: An Examination of Incidence Rates Across Identity Groups*. Oral presentation at the Winter Roundtable at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Poster Presentations

Mejia-Bradford, S., **Polk, W.,** Aisenbrey, E., Fries, C., Zhang, C., & Ju, J. (August 2022). *A Systematic Narrative Review of Race-Conscious School Discipline Interventions*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Polk, W., Hill, N., Price, M., Perella, J., & Liang, B. (March 2019). *Exploring High School Discipline and Mental Health: The Mediating Role of Marginalization*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Polk, W., Hill, N., & Selman, R. (April 2017). *Exploring Educational Stakeholders' Perspectives on Motivating Youth for Success*. Poster presentation at the Student Research Conference at the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Counseling Theories and Interventions

Fall 2022

Professional Counseling Internship

Fall 2022

Co-Instructor, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Group Counseling

Spring 2021

Interim Instructor, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Adolescent Practicum: Developmental Interventions for Adolescents in Schools and Communities

Nov.-Dec. 2019

Teaching Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Adolescent Practicum: Developmental Interventions for Adolescents in Schools and Communities

AY 2018-2019 &

AY 2017-2018

Educating to Transform Society: Preparing Youth to Disrupt and Dismantle Racism

Spring 2019, 2018,

2017 & 2016

Topics in Educational Psychology

Winter 2019

Counseling Seminar: School Based Counseling

Winter 2019

Childhood Trauma: Dynamics, Interventions, and Cross-Cultural Perspectives

Fall 2018

<i>Risk & Resilience in Social Contexts/ Birth to Young Adulthood: Strategies of Prevention and Intervention</i>	Fall 2018
<i>Adolescent Development</i>	Spring 2018 & Fall 2016
<i>Educational Psychology: Classroom Implications</i>	Summer 2016
Guest Lecturer , Harvard Graduate School of Education	
“Mapping System Assets and Resources,” Adolescent Counseling Practicum	Oct. 2019
“Teaching in Times of Racial Trauma,” Educating to Transform Society course	April 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016
“Understanding Adolescent Trauma,” Risk & Resilience course	April 2018
“Racial and Ethnic Identity Development,” Adolescent Development course	Nov. 2016 & April 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principal Investigator Transforming Discipline Lab (TDLab) University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education	July 2022- Present
Lab Co-Facilitator University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education Racial Empowerment Collaborative Research Lab	Sept. 2021- June 2022
Co-Principal Investigator and NSF Research Fellow University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education <i>Project:</i> Transforming Discriminatory Discipline through Addressing Racial Stress: A Mixed-Methods Investigation	July 2020- June 2022
Project Co-Manager University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education <i>Project:</i> PAACT/ Coding Humanity Interactions	Oct. 2020- June 2022
Graduate Research Assistant , Harvard University	Sept. 2015- May 2020
Quantitative Research Team Manager , Harvard University Harvard-Boston College Research-Practice Partnership <i>Project:</i> Reducing Academic Inequalities Among Diverse Adolescents through Envisioning a Meaningful Future and Postsecondary Planning	Mar. 2016-May 2018
Graduate Research Assistant , Black Teacher Collaborative <i>Project:</i> Black Teacher Pedagogy Development	Fall 2018
Graduate Research Assistant , Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Family Intervention Science <i>Project:</i> The Effects of Maternal Depression on Child Development	Summer 2011

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania
Graduate School of Education
Project: Classroom Social Justice Equity

AY 2010-2011

Graduate Research Assistant, Temple University
Project: Adolescent Social Adjustment and Kinship Networks

Summer & Fall 2008

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Wellness Consultant, PENN GSE Office of School and Community
Engagement, Philadelphia, PA

August 2021-Present

- Wellness and Counseling consultation for K-8 schools
- Develops and Leads Educator Mental Health Support Groups
- Consults with local District leaders, liaisons, and non-profits to support youth wellness
- Designs and implements Mindfulness and Mental Health Workshops for Educators and School Staff
- Co-development and design of Wellness curriculum for K-8 Summer Enrichment Program

Clinical Supervisor, PENN GSE/PAS UACS Summer Program,
Philadelphia, PA

June 2021-Aug. 2021

- Provided weekly individual and/or group clinical supervision to post-master's license-eligible counselors
- Designed and implemented counselor and wellness team professional development
- Consultation with counselors, supervisors, program coordinators, and program directors about clinical progress
- Co-developed and supervised implementation of 6-week youth wellness curriculum

SAP Assessor, CORA Services, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

Dec. 2013-July 2015

- Completed Behavioral Health Needs Assessments for identified SAP students
- Drafted reports to recommend necessary substance abuse and/or mental health services
- Connected individuals and families with referrals to appropriate level of care for mental health programming
- Consultation with school designees, clients, and community mental health organizations

Behavioral Health Professional/Lead Clinician, CATCH, Inc.,
Philadelphia, PA

Aug. 2012-Nov. 2013

- Provided individual and group psychotherapy to children/adolescents with mental health diagnoses
- Intake evaluations
- Crisis intervention

- Collaboration with school staff, parents, outside agencies
- Clinical and administrative duties (Individual and Group Progress Notes, Assessments, and Treatment Plans)

Lead Clinician Intern/Contracted Behavioral Health Professional, Nov. 2011- June 2012
CATCH, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

- Provided group counseling and individual psychotherapy to children/adolescents with mental health diagnoses
- Intake evaluations, crisis intervention, and family consultation
- Performed other clinical and administrative duties

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS

Education Specialist I Certification- PK-12 School Counselor, *PA DOE* Aug. 2022 (Active)
National Certified Counselor (NCC), *National Board for Certified Counselors* Feb. 2020 (Active)
Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), *Pennsylvania* July 2015 (Active)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Editor, AERA OPEN Special Topic Issue Oct. 2020-Present
“Sources, Conceptualizations, and Mechanisms of Racism/Oppression Impacting Education Related Outcomes and Well-Being Across the Lifespan”
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Co-Advisor, (K. Gadson), June 2020-Nov. 2020
Harvard University
Co-Chair, HGSE Dean’s Research Doctoral Advisory Committee AY 2016-2017
Member, HGSE Dean’s Research Doctoral Advisory Committee Fall 2018, AY 2017-2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, *Black Caucus*, Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)
Member, American Education Research Association (AERA)
Member, Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)
Member, American Psychological Association (APA)

SKILLS

Child and adolescent therapy, Individual and group counseling, SPSS, STATA, R, Dedoose, Qualtrics & SQL