

Raphael Travis Jr., LCSW, DrPH

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ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A. Educational Background

Degree	Year	University	Concentration	Dissertation (Topics)
DrPH	2007	UCLA School of Public Health	Community Health	Positive Youth Development, Adolescent Health, Youth Programs
MSW	1997	University of Michigan School of Social Work	Interpersonal Practice	
BA	1995	University of Virginia	Psychology; Sociology	

B. University Experience

Position	University	Dates
Director	University of Delaware Social Work	8/2025 – present
Interim School Director	Texas State University Social Work	8/2024 – 8/2025
MSW Program Director	Texas State University Social Work	9/2019 – 8/2023
BSW Program Director	Texas State University Social Work	1/2017 – 8/2019
Professor	University of Delaware College of Education & Human Development	8/2025 – present
Professor	Texas State University Social Work	9/2020 – 8/2025
Associate Professor	Texas State University Social Work	9/2014 – 9/2020
Assistant Professor	Texas State University Social Work	9/2007 – 8/2014

C. Relevant Professional Experience

Position	Organization	Dates
Executive Director	FlowStory, PLLC; Austin, TX	2013-Present
Research Project Manager	Advancement Project; Los Angeles, CA	2005-2006
Staff Research Associate II (Research) and Youth Liaison	UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion; Los Angeles, CA	2001-2006
Staff Research Associate II (Program Planning and Evaluation)	UCLA Technical Assistance Group (TAG); Los Angeles, CA	2000-2001
Rehabilitation Director (Social Work)	L.I.F.E. Services, Inc.; Silver Spring, MD	1999-2000
Clinical Coordinator (Social Work)	First Home Care/Crossroads House (Group Home); Germantown, MD	1999-2000
Program Therapist (Social Work)	Charter/Potomac Ridge (Psychiatric RTC); Rockville, MD	1997-1999

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SELECT SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORK

A. (Select) Works in Print

1. Books and Chapters in Books:

Books:

Boxer, P., & Travis, R. (Eds.) (2025). *The Future of Youth Violence Prevention: A Mixtape for Practice, Policy, and Research*. Rutgers University Press.

Dale, P., Burnard, P., & Travis, R. (Eds.) (2023). *Music for Inclusion and Healing in Schools and Beyond: Hip Hop, Techno, Grime, and More*. Oxford University Press.

Travis, R. (2016). *The Healing Power of Hip Hop*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

Chapters:

Travis, R., & Mullan, S. (2025). Hip Hop culture and a new paradigm for preventing violent experiences among youth. In P. Boxer & R. Travis (Eds.). *The Future of Youth Violence Prevention: A Mixtape for Practice, Policy, and Research*. Rutgers University Press.

Kelly, B., Lanza, C., Travis, R., and Ellis, T. (2024). A vision for engaging the arts in social work practice. In M. Sela-Amit and S. Konrad (Eds.). *Social work and the arts: Grounds for new horizons*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Travis, R., Crooke, A., and Levy, I. (2023). Intentional uses of music: Hip Hop, healing and empowerment for youth self-care and community well-being. In P. Dale, P. Burnard, and R. Travis (Eds.) (2023). *Music for Inclusion and Healing in Schools and Beyond: Hip Hop, Techno, Grime, and More*. Oxford University Press.

Burnard, P., Dale, P., Glenister, S., Reiss, J., Travis, R., Gann, E., and Greasley, A. (2022). Pursuing diversity and inclusivity through hip-hop music genres. In Randles, C., & Burnard, P. (Eds.). (2022). *The Routledge Companion to Creativities in Music Education (1st ed.)*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003248194>

Travis, R. & Rodwin, A. (2018). Therapeutic applications of Hip Hop with U.S. homeless adults with severe mental illness. In E. Huss and E. Bos (Eds.). *Art in Social Work Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Travis, R., & Childs, J. (2018). Why the ed in #HipHopEd is not enough: How social workers & educators can change the game. In C. Emdin (Ed.). *#HipHopEd: The compilation on hip-hop education. Volume 1: hip-hop as education, philosophy, and practice*. Boston, MA: Brill | Sense.

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2. Articles:

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

Published

- Choi, M., Hong, J., **Travis, R.**, and Kim, J. (2023). Effects of school environment on depression among Black and White adolescents. *Journal of Community Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22969>
- Rodwin, A., Shimizu, R., **Travis, R.**, James, K., Banya, M., and Munson, M. (2023). A Systematic Review of Music-Based Interventions to Improve Treatment Engagement and Mental Health Outcomes for Adolescents and Young Adults. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00893-x>
- Travis, R.**, and Levy, I., and Morphey, A. (2022). “Now we’re all family”: Exploring social and emotional development in a summer Hip Hop mixtape camp. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 41, 43-60. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00821-z>
- Travis, R.**, Gann, E., Crooke, A., and Jenkins, S. (2021). Using therapeutic beat making and lyrics for empowerment. *Journal of Social Work*, 21(3), 551-574. DOI: 10.1177/1468017320911346.
- Levy, I., & **Travis, R.** (2020). The critical cycle of mixtape creation: Reducing stress via three different group counseling styles. *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 45(4), 307-330. DOI: 10.1080/01933922.2020.1826614
- Travis, R.**, Gann, E., Crooke, A., and Jenkins, S. (2019). Hip Hop, empowerment, and therapeutic beat making: Potential solutions for summer learning loss, depression, and anxiety in youth. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 29(6), 744-765.
- Travis, R.**, Rodwin, A., & Allcorn, A. (2019). Hip Hop, empowerment, and clinical practice for homeless adults with severe mental illness. *Social Work with Groups*, 42(2), 83-100. DOI: 10.1080/01609513.2018.1486776
- Travis, R.**, & Bowman, S. (2015). Validation of the individual & community empowerment inventory: A measure of rap music engagement among first-year college students. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 25(2), 90-108.
- Travis, R.**, & Leech, T. (2014). Empowerment-based positive youth development: A new understanding of healthy development for African American youth. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 24(1), 93-116.

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Travis, R. (2013). Rap music and the empowerment of today's youth: Evidence in everyday music listening, music therapy, and commercial rap music. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 30(2), 139-167.

Bowman, S., & **Travis, R.** (2012). Prisoner reentry and recidivism according to the formerly incarcerated and reentry service providers: A verbal behavior approach. *Behavior Analyst Today*, 13(3&4), 9-19.

Travis, R., & Deepak, A. (2011). Empowerment in context: lessons from Hip hop culture for social work practice. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 20(3), 203-222.

Travis, R., McFarlin, N., van Rooyen, C., & Gray, M. (1999). Community development in South Africa. *International Social Work*, 42(2), 177-187.

3. Technical Reports, Print/Digital Publications:

Published and In Press

Travis, R., Lynch, K., Hirsh-Pasek, Polinsky, N., and Golinkoff, R. (2021, June 15). Bringing joy back to the classroom and supporting stressed kids – what summer school looks like in 2021. *The Conversation*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

CREATE Research Lab, Austin Independent School District, University of Texas Blanton Museum, Anti-Defamation League (2021). Free To Be Me: Exploring Identity (Anti-Bias and Social Justice in Art). Retrieved from: [Link](#); [High School Resource Guide Sample](#)

Crooke, A. & **Travis, R.** (2017, July). The healing power of hip hop. *The Conversation*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

B. (Select) Invited Talks, Presentations

1. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

Travis, R., Williams, O., and Harrison, K. (2024, January 13). Celebrating 50 Years of Hip Hop: How Music and the Arts Shape Social Work Science (Invited Symposium III). *SSWR 28th Annual Conference*. Washington, DC.

Travis, R. (2023, November 3). Hip Hop, Social Justice, and Change. *50 Years of Hip Hop and Its Influence on Social Justice*. St. Edwards University, Austin, TX.

Travis, R. (2023, October 5). The Power of Music to Connect: From Me to We. *JC Montgomery School & Juvenile Detention Center, Stories with Style*. Kings County Office of Education, Hanford, CA (In Person).

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- Travis, R.** (2022, June 24). We Speak The Same Language: Music = Healing. *CUMIN Conference #2: Hip Hop, Healing, and Wellness, Keynote Speaker*. York, UK (In Person). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2022, June 18). RE (DO THE) CYCLE: Hip Hop, Healing, and Fatherhood. *Learning to Walk Without Feet: A Colloquium on Hip Hop, Healing, and Resilience*. New York Council on Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (NYCCAP) and New York Foundling (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2022, June 1 and 7). Community and Culture, The Heart Part 5. *Guest Speaker. JC Montgomery School & Juvenile Detention Center*. Kings County Office of Education (Online).
- Travis, R.** (2022, March 16). Only Social Work Can Truly Lead the Next Generation of Hip Hop Integrated Work. *Guest Speaker. Long Island University (LIU) Brooklyn Social Work Program* (Online).
- Travis, R.** and Hall, JC. (2022, February 18). Overcoming Trauma Through Hip Hop. *Restoring the Self in the Aftermath of Trauma Program, Directors: Ruth Lanius and Cathy Malchiodi* (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.,** and Levy, I (2021, November 30). “Now We’re All Family”: Exploring Social and Emotional Development in a Summer Hip Hop Mixtape Camp. *Hip Hop Education: Beyond the Classroom Walls 2021 Conference Series*. St. Cloud University (Online).
- Travis, R.,** Chambers, J., Carmichael-Murphy, P. (2021, October 28). Popular Culture, Racism, and Mental Health (Panel). *UK Royal College of Psychiatrists* (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2021, October 21). I’m Just Tryna Talk To You and Tell My Life Through These Speakers: Why Hip Hop is Essential for Social Work Practice. *2021 NASW Texas Virtual Conference, Keynote Speaker*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2021, June 26). Hip Hop and Power Movements: Celebrate, Acknowledge, Solidarity, and Freedom. *Austin African American Book Festival* (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2021, June 19). Hip Hop, Freedom, and Unity. *Dunbar Heritage Association CommonUnity Juneteenth Celebration, Guest Speaker*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2021, March 23). Teaching in the Time of COVID-19: Trauma Informed Approaches to Learning and Growth. *Johns Hopkins University Peabody Institute* (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)
- Travis, R.** (2021, March 19). Hip Hop: Our Gift of Freedom. *Rock The School Bells 14: Creating Space of Infinite Possibilities, Keynote Speaker* (Online). Retrieved from: [Link](#)

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Media Activity

Travis, R. (2024, July 31). Hip Hop Meets STEM. *Hip Hop Can Save America [Podcast]*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

Travis, R. (2023, November 6). The Healing Power of Hip Hop. *Hip Hop Can Save America [Podcast]*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

Travis, R. (2021, November 4). Why Bushwick Bill Matters: A Conversation with Charles Hughes, Interviewer (Online). *Texas State University Center for Texas Music History*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

Travis, R. (2021, October 16). The Healing Power of Hip Hop. *Hip Hop Can Save America [Podcast]*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

Travis, R. (2020, June 22). Narratives of fear: George Floyd, protest, and community empowerment. *Therapist Uncensored [Podcast]*. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

2. [Peer-reviewed] Professional Conferences and Workshops:

Conference Presentations

Travis, R. (2023, November 9). From Dope to Data: Hip Hop and Empowerment on the Shoulders of Giants. *2023 Global Conference on Hip Hop Education*. Long Beach, CA. [Link](#).

Travis, R. (2023, June 3). Beats and Lyrics for Unlimited Learning and Growth. *HipHopEd Conference 2023*. New York, NY. [Link](#).

Ellis, T., Kelly, B., **Travis, R.**, and Lanza, C. (2022). The Arts in Social Work Education and Practice: Creating a More Just Society. *CSWE Annual Program Meeting*. Anaheim, CA.

Levy, I., and **Travis, R.** (2021, April 10). The Critical Cycle of Mixtape Creation: Reducing Stress via Three Different Group Counseling Styles [Oral Paper]. *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. (Online).

Travis, R., and Levy, I. (2021, April 11). “Now We’re All Family”: Exploring Social and Emotional Development in a Summer Hip Hop Mixtape Camp [Oral Paper]. *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. (Online).

Mooroogen, S., **Travis R.**, and Ward, A. (2020, March 9-12). Free to be Me: Action Poster Series. *SXSWedu 2020*. Austin, TX.

Travis, R., Crooke, A., and Levy, I. (2020, January 16). Factors Contributing to the Intentional Use of Music for Therapeutic Benefits and Community Improvement [Oral Paper]. *Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)*. Washington, DC.

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Gann, E., **Travis, R.**, Hall, JC, and Rodwin, A. (2019, October 31). Hip-Hop x STEAM: Healing Strategies for Diverse Populations in Community, Educational, Mental Health, and Prison Settings. *82nd Annual Conference for Community Arts Education*. Austin, TX.

Ausbrooks, A. and **Travis, R.** (2018, November 8). Recruitment & Retention of Male Students in Social Work Programs. *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)*. Orlando, FL. Accepted Not Attended.

Travis, R. (2018, June 21). From propaganda to a system of socially engaged art: Opportunities and considerations. *Social Work and the Arts Roundtable*. Seattle, WA.

Gann, E., and **Travis, R.** (2018, March 29). Therapeutic and educational applications of hip hop beat making: More than just rhythms. *International Colloquium on Hip Hop Based Education*. Paris, France.

Rodwin, A. and **Travis, R.** (2018, March 29). Therapeutic and educational applications of Hip Hop with incarcerated young adults. *International Colloquium on Hip Hop Based Education*. Paris, France.

Workshop/Conference Developer and Facilitator

Hip Hop's Next 50 II @ TXST. (2025, March 20-21). Texas State University. San Marcos, TX.

Hip Hop's Next 50 @ TXST. (2023, November 15). Texas State University. San Marcos, TX.

Mindful Music Madness. (2023, April 28). Texas State University. San Marcos, TX.

The Science of Hip Hop. (2022, October 21). Texas State University. San Marcos, TX. [Link.](#)

Hip Hop, Health, and Global Justice Week @ TXST. (2018, November 5 – 8). Texas State University. San Marcos, TX. [Link.](#)

C. (Select) Grants and Contracts

1. External Grants and Contracts

2018	U.S. Department of Education (\$40,000) STEM + Arts Supplemental Grant I P047A170489 Title: <i>STEM-BEATS: Arts Engagement and Learning Project</i> Role: Co-Principal Investigator (with Ray Cordero, <i>Texas State University TRIO</i>)
2018	U.S. Department of Education (\$40,000) STEM + Arts Supplemental Grant II P047A170491 Role: Co-Principal Investigator (with Ray Cordero, <i>Texas State University TRIO</i>)

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2008 – 2009 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$55,000 total support)
New Connections Grant
Role: Principal Investigator

2. Internal Grants and Contracts

2022 Texas State University (\$5,000 total support)
Texas State University Learning Community Grant
Title: *Me and My Music Learning Community Project*
Role: Principal Investigator

2019 Texas State University (\$2,255 total support)
Texas State University Library Research Grant
Title: *S.T.E.A.M. Education and Mental Health Research Project*
Role: Principal Investigator

2016 – 2017 Texas State University (\$8,000 total support)
Research Enhancement Program
Title: *Music Changes*
Role: Co-Principal Investigator (with Dr. Josh Childs, Co-PI, University of Texas, School of Education)

3. Additional Research Activity (Empirical Research with Collected Data)

Moving Units Mixtape Camp Study, June 2019 - current, Co-Investigator
(With Dr. Ian Levy; Manhattan College; New York, NY)

Mindful Beats Project, 1/2019 – current, Principal Investigator
(With *Today's Future Sound*; Oakland, CA)

Summer Learning Excellence & Growth Project, 8/2016 – 8/2018, Principal Investigator
(With *United Way of Greater Austin*; Austin, TX)

One More Mile to Go Study, 2016-2018, Principal Investigator
(With *Center for Urban Community Services - Delta Manor Men's Shelter*; Bronx, NY)

Prepared Youth, Healthy Communities Project, 7/2011 – 8/2019, Principal Investigator
(With *Extreme Youth Leadership*; Dallas, TX)

Pilot: Summer 2011 (EYL)

Wave 1: Summer 2012 (EYL & Youth Tobacco Prevention); Wave 2: Summer 2013 (EYL);

Wave 3: Summer 2014 (EYL); Wave 4: Summer 2015 (EYL);

Wave 5: Summer 2016 (EYL) - "The Music Changes Project"

Wave 6: Summer 2017 (EYL)

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Me and My Music Project (formerly The Hip-Hop and Youth Development Project) 1/2008 – 8/2023, Co-Principal Investigator

(With Dr. Scott Bowman, Texas State University; Dr. Alex Crooke, University of Melbourne)

Pilot: 2008 - 2009

Wave 1: Summer 2011; Wave 2: Summer 2012

Wave 3: Summer 2016 - "Re-introducing Hip Hop 3.0 Study"

Wave 4: Summer 2017 - "Me and My Music Study"

Wave 5: Summer 2018 - "Me and My Music II"

Wave 6: Summer 2022 - "Me and My Music 2022"

D. (Select) Fellowships, Awards, Honors

2023	College of Applied Arts Excellence in Service Award Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
2020	Nominated for Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly or Creative Activity Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
2019	College of Applied Arts Excellence in Scholarly or Creative Activity Award; Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
2011	Afterschool Champion, Member At-Large (Award) Central Texas Afterschool Network, Austin, TX

(SELECT) SERVICE

Community Service

2008 – 2025	<i>Advisory Member.</i> United Way for Greater Austin, Mission Advancement/Target Graduation Leadership Council; Austin, TX
2010 – 2018	<i>Board Member.</i> Texas Partnership for Out-of-School Time (TXPOST); Austin, TX; Emeritus Status (2016 – 2018)

National/International Service and Professional Organizations

1. CUMIN: Contemporary Urban Music for Inclusion Network Advisory Board (UK) (2021 – Current) [Link](#)
2. International Roundtable on Social Work and the Arts, USC School of Social Work (2017 – 2022)
3. Syracuse University SENSES Project, Syracuse University (2021 – Current) [Link](#)
4. National Advisory Panel, Rutgers University Center on Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice (2015 – 2021)
5. American Public Health Association: Social Work Section Member (2000 – 2018)
6. American Educational Research Association: Member (2013 – 2021)
7. Society for Social Work and Research Member (2011 – Current)

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8. Council on Social Work Education (2009 – 2011, 2018 – Current)
9. (Select) Journal Manuscript/Book Reviews:
 - a. Journal of Black Studies (2024)
 - b. Health Promotion Practice (2024)
 - c. Wiley [Book] (2024)
 - d. Peter Lang [Book] (2024)
 - e. Youth (2023)
 - f. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2023)
 - g. Social Work and Public Health (2021 – 2023)
 - h. Guilford Press (2022)
 - i. International Journal of Circumpolar Health (2022)
 - j. Journal of Hip Hop Studies (2022)
 - k. Journal of Equity and Excellence (2022)
 - l. Journal of Community Psychology (2012, 2021-22)

Directed Student Research, Community Project or Independent Study

2023 – Present

University of Michigan, Dissertation Committee

- Dissertation: Erick Aguinaldo (Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies)

2022 – Present

NYU School of Social Work, Dissertation Committee

- Dissertation: Aaron Rodwin (Social Work)

2022 – Present

Aurora University School of Social Work, Dissertation Committee

- Dissertation: Ashley Ice (Social Work)