

**Curriculum Vitae**  
Riana Howard, MSW  
Doctoral Candidate  
Boston University School of Social Work  
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**Education**

**PHD OF SOCIAL WORK | EXPECTED GRADUATION MAY 2026 | BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

- Dissertation Topic: Racial Trauma, Black Feminism, Mental Health, Education, Activism, Black Joy and Liberation, and Abolition

**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) | MAY 2015 | CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY**

- Area of Concentration: Behavioral Health

**B.A. HUMAN COMMUNICATIONS | MAY 2012 | CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY**

- Minor: Social Work
- Distinction in the Major

**A.S. COMMUNICATIONS | JUNE 2009 | SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Research Interests**

As a trauma and critical race-based researcher, I use multiple theories, such as critical race theory (CRT; e.g., Derrick Bell), Black Feminist Thought (e.g., Patricia Hill Collins), and betrayal trauma (Jennifer J. Freyd) theories, including cultural betrayal trauma theory (CBTT; Jennifer M. Gómez) and institutional betrayal (Carly P. Smith & Jennifer J. Freyd), to examine the betrayal, erasure, and silencing of Black women within educational institutions.

**Peer-Reviewed Publications (N = 6)**

**In Print (N = 5)**

Augsberger, A., Carroll, M., **Howard, R. C.**, Ng, G., Maldonado-Reis, T., Amador, A., Morabito, M. S., & Green, J. G. (2023). Youth Mental Health Crisis Response: A Multiple Methods Study to Map Resources and Identify Facilitators and Barriers to Service Access. *School Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-023-09621-x>

Augsberger, A., Collins, M. E., & **Howard, R. C.** (2024). The global context of youth engagement: A scoping review of youth councils in municipal government. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 156, 107349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107349>

Collins, M. E., Augsberger, A., & **Howard, R.** (2023). Post-secondary vocational education for youth leaving care: Examining a potential pathway to successful outcomes. *British Educational Research Journal*, 00, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3933>

Martinez, L. S., **Howard, R. C.**, Schotland, M., Lobb, R., Battaglia, T., Stone, S., Auerswald, C., & Ozer, E. (2023). Community engagement and financial arrangements: Navigating institutional change. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2023.683>

Martinez, L.S., Brinkerhoff, C.A., **Howard, R. C.**, Feldman, J. A., Kobetz, E., White, J. T., ... Lobb, R. (2024). Strategies to promote language inclusion at 17 CTS A hubs. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*, 1–29. doi:10.1017/cts.2024.13

### **Peer Reviewed Manuscripts Under Review (N = 1)**

Sprague Martinez, L. S., **Howard, R. C.**, Rocco, M., Pamphile, J. M., Chassler, D., Augsberger, A., Battaglia, T., & Lobb, R. (under review). The research scholar's partnership grant: Creating a culture of community engagement to advance translational research through resource allocation, modeling and recognition.

### **Non-Peer Reviewed Publications (N = 1)**

**Howard, R.**, Khayr, L., & Shen, A. (2023, April). Boston University SSW student experience survey. *Boston University School of Social Work Equity and Inclusion Website*. <https://www.bu.edu/ssw/about/explorebussw/equity-inclusion/>

### **Presentations (N = 7)**

#### **Conference Presentations (N = 3)**

Carroll, M. & **Howard, R.** (2024, January). *Resource mapping: Mental health crisis services for youth in the Boston area* [Conference session]. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, DC

Sprague Martinez, L. Augsberger, A. & **Howard, R.** (2024). *Creating Institutional Infrastructure to Advance Health Equity through Community Engagement* [Roundtable session]. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, DC.

**Howard, R.** & Moya, E. (2019, April). *How trauma affects college students* [Conference session]. University of California Academic Advising Conference, Monterey, CA.

#### **Home Institution Presentations (N = 2)**

Carroll, M. & **Howard, R.** (2023, March). *Resource mapping: Mental health crisis services for youth in the Boston area*. Boston University's Wheelock School of Education WIPSE Spring Presentations, Boston, MA.

**Howard, R.**, Khayr, L., & Shen, A. (2023, April). *Boston University SSW student experience*

survey. Boston University School of Social Work Faculty Departments, Administration Departments, and BUSSW Student Meetings, Boston, MA.

*\*Presented to the Clinical Practice Department, the Macro Practice Department, the Human Behavior, Research, and Policy Department, the Field Placement Department, the Boston University SSW Admissions Department, the Boston University SSW MSW online program staff, the Boston University SSW MSW off campus program staff, and BUSSW MSW and Doctoral students.*

### **Training Presentations (N = 2)**

Jones, A. & **Howard, R.** (2020, October). *Black lives matter in higher education*. University of California, Santa Cruz Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Training, Santa Cruz, CA.

Gonzalez, E. & **Howard, R.** (2019, September). *Cultivamos excelencia through cross-enrollment: Building transfer pathways from San Jose City College to University of California, Santa Cruz* [Conference session]. University of California Hispanic Serving Research Institute Showcase, Santa Cruz, CA.

### **Research Skills**

#### **Qualitative**

- Collaborative development of research study designs for 7 manuscripts
- Collaborative development of research study designs for 3 research presentations
- Data collection
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews (N = 26)
    - In person, over the phone, and through video chatting platforms, such as Zoom.
  - Conducted a literature and scoping review using research databases and online resources
- Data analysis
  - Transcribed and coded interviews using NVivo software for thematic analysis
- Presentations
  - Collaborative abstract preparation and submission
  - Paper presentations (2)
  - Poster presentations (1)
- Manuscript Preparation (6)
  - Drafted method section
  - Reviewed and revised introduction and discussion sections

## **Quantitative**

- Collaborative development of research study design for 1 manuscript
- Surveys upload into Qualtrics software
- Data collection
  - Online data collection via Qualtrics surveys
- Data analysis
  - Descriptive statistics
  - R: Beginner
  - SAS: Beginner
  - SPSS: Beginner
- Manuscript Preparation (1)
  - Drafted method section
  - Reviewed and revised introduction and discussion sections

## **Research Experience**

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | May 2023-Present**

Lab: HOPE Lab (PI: Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez)

Responsibilities:

- Research development:
  - Collaborative development of research study design for upcoming lead authored peer-reviewed manuscript
    - Research questions, hypotheses, and data analysis plan
  - Upcoming: Collaborative development of research study designs research presentations
- Student mentorship:
  - Mentor for a 1st year PhD student within HOPE Lab, including guidance & support in:
    - HOPE Lab research
    - General PhD program questions
    - Parallel working meetings
    - Ad-hoc one-on-one meetings

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | June 2022-June 2023**

Project: Student Experience Surveys through Boston University School of Social Work Equity and Inclusion (Advisor: Dr. Dawn Belkin Martinez)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Gathered information through online surveys from BUSSW MSW and doctoral students regarding their experiences within their programs at BUSSW for the purpose of providing concrete recommendations for change.
- Data Analysis:
  - Analyzed mixed method survey data using descriptive analysis and a thematic analysis approach.
- Data Dissemination:
  - Co-authored a report detailing findings, which was disseminated via email and posted on Boston University School of Social Work Equity and Inclusion resource page.
  - Co-created and co-presented a detailed presentation describing survey results to Boston University School of Social Work faculty, students, and staff.

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | May 2023-Present**

Project Title: Language Inclusion in Clinical Trials (PI: Dr. Linda Sprague-Martinez)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews with 12 participants.
- Data Analysis:
  - Transcribed and coded the interviews using NVivo software.
- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is currently under review in a peer-reviewed journal (see above “Peer Reviewed Manuscripts Under Review” section)

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | June 2022- June 2023**

Project Title: Community Engaged Participatory Research Partnerships (PI: Dr. Linda Sprague-Martinez)

Responsibilities:

- Co-created Community Engaged Participatory Research Partnerships learning collaborative 3 session workshops
- Data Analysis:
  - Transcribed and coded the interviews using Nvivo software
  - Analyzed survey data using descriptive statistics of the data
- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is currently under review in a peer-reviewed journal (see above “Peer Reviewed Manuscripts Under Review” section)

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | June 2022-June 2023**

Project Title: Community Engaged Participatory Research Financial Barriers (PI: Dr. Linda Sprague-Martinez)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Collaboratively conducted a literature review using research databases and online resources pertaining to financial barriers in community engaged research and partnerships.
- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is published (see above “In Print” section)

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | April 2022-September 2023**

Project Title: International Youth Council Scoping Review (PI: Dr. Astraea Augsberger)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Collaboratively conducted a scoping review using research databases on international youth engagement.

- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is published (see above “In Print” section)

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University School of Social Work | April 2022-September 2023**

Project Title: Post-Secondary Vocational Education for Youth Leaving Care (PI: Dr. Mary Collins)

Responsibilities:

Data Collection:

- Collaboratively conducted a literature review using research databases on pathways and barriers for youth leaving care and attending post-secondary vocational education
- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is published (see above “In Print” section)

**Doctoral Student Research Assistant | Boston University Initiative on Cities Pilot Grant | September 2021-August 2023**

Project Title: Youth Emergency Mental Health Response in Boston (PI: Dr. Jennifer Green)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews with 8 participants.
- Data Analysis:
  - Analyzed survey data using descriptive statistics of the data.
- Data Dissemination:
  - Collaboratively wrote and revised manuscript that is published (see above “In Print” section)

**Researcher | University of California, Santa Cruz | July 2020-July 2021**

Project Title: Pan-African Student Experience at University of California, Santa Cruz (PI: Dr. Aaron Jones)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Conducted a literature review using research databases on various topics of Pan-African student experiences

- Co-supervised undergraduate student researchers
- Co-lead research training for undergraduate student researchers

**Researcher | University of California, Santa Cruz | April 2020 - July 2020**

Project Title: African, Black, Caribbean (ABC) Student Success (PI: Dr. Aaron Jones)

Responsibilities:

- Data Collection:
  - Conducted semi-structured interviews and focus groups with 8 African, Black, and Caribbean (ABC) students at UC Santa Cruz
- Data Analysis:
  - Collaboratively transcribed and coded interview and focus group data

**Researcher | California State University, Monterey Bay | September 2014 - June 2015**

Project Title: Mental Health: Resident Advisors' Understanding of Mental Health Symptoms and Their Stigma (Master's Thesis)

**Teaching Experience**

**Facilitator, Boston University, July 2024-August 2024**

Course: SSW WP 705: Mental Health and Social Policy

Students: 15 Masters of Social Work (MSW) students in the online program

Responsibilities:

- Prepared and delivered lectures online
- Graded assignments and weekly discussion board entries
- Met with students as needed
- Met with other facilitators in the section weekly to discuss course progress

**Facilitator, Boston University, July 2023-August 2023**

Course: SSW WP 701: Social Welfare Policy II

Students: 15 Masters of Social Work (MSW) students in the online program

Responsibilities:

- Prepared and delivered lectures online
- Graded assignments and weekly discussion board entries
- Met with students as needed
- Met with other facilitators in the section weekly to discuss course progress

**Teaching Practicum, Boston University, January 2023 – April 2023**



Course: SSW MP 781: Community Organizing

Teaching mentor: Professor Geoff Wilkinson, Boston University School of Social Work

Students: 18 Masters of Social Work (MSW) students in the macro concentration

Responsibilities:

- Prepared and delivered two lectures in person
- Attended all class sessions and supported Geoff as needed
- Co-graded assignments
- Met with students as needed
- Met with Geoff weekly to discuss weekly lectures and grading as needed

**Lecturer**, University of California, Santa Cruz, January 2021 - March 2021

Course: OAKS 26: Navigating the University from a Black Critical Lens

Students: 3 undergraduate students attending course virtually

Responsibilities:

- Prepared and delivered three lectures online
- Graded assignments
- Met with students as needed

**Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Santa Cruz, August 2017 - December 2017

Course: KRSO 25: Successful Transfer to the Research University

Students: 6 transfer undergraduate students

Responsibilities:

- Prepared discussion materials based on instructors lectures
- Graded assignments
- Met with students as needed

## **Professional Experience**

**INTERIM DIRECTOR, AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE AND CULTURAL CENTER | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ | JULY 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2021**

- Advocated for diversity related issues on campus and in the community and provided resources to the campus and community on African, Black, Caribbean issues and needs
- Increased retention of African, Black, Caribbean students by identifying specific factors related to their retention, assisting students with existing retention-enhanced services, and developing other services as needed and appropriate
- Provided crisis intervention, evaluation, and referral to appropriate campus and community resources. Advised and counseled individuals seeking help for personal, professional, and academic problems related to African, Black, Caribbean issues

- Served as a resource person who can provide advice, counseling, and referrals to students regarding specific types of student grievances, including discrimination and harassment and hate/bias reporting, based on African, Black, Caribbean identities, LGBTQQIA and gender-based identities, or other intersecting marginalized identities
- Provided training and consultation for campus partners to assure competent, culturally sensitive care for students
- Created culture-based educational events to increase students' awareness and understanding of issues affecting African, Black, Caribbean students
- Provided consultation assistance, current research data, and resources for students, faculty, and staff regarding African, Black, Caribbean UC Santa Cruz students

**CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA HSI PROJECT DIRECTOR | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ | MARCH 2019 - JULY 2020**

- Provided strategic leadership and oversight in project planning, development, evaluation, implementation, and institutionalization of the grant initiatives such as Family Day/Día de la Familia, cross enrollment, research exploration, and cross-institutional counseling.
- Provided advanced knowledge and skills in planning, administering, and organizing research-based programs and activities for University of California, Santa Cruz and San Jose Community College transfer students and University of California, Santa Cruz graduate students, faculty, and staff involved with the grant.
- Established and maintained partnerships with organization departments, student services, and academic units on outreach, orientation, academic strategy, and enrichment workshops, community building events, and transfer activities.
- Utilized research-based and data-driven expertise to achieve the highest standards of academic excellence, promoting undergraduate research participation, and ensuring the transfer, retention, and graduation of first-generation, low-income, and other historically marginalized students.
- Promoted diverse learning and teaching environments through the development, implementation, and deliverance of Culturally Sustaining Pedagogical training and curriculum for coordinators, counselors, and graduate students involved in the Cultivamos Excelencia grant.

**SERVICES FOR TRANSFER AND RE-ENTRY STUDENTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ | SEPTEMBER 2016 – MARCH 2019**

- Provided student advising in the areas of academic planning, course selection, and adjustment to university life.
- Assessed and diagnosed underlying and root issues/challenges that interfere with student success.
- Engaged with colleagues including faculty, academic staff, and departments such as Financial Aid and Housing to seek resolutions to a myriad of issues impacting the retention of students.
- Developed, facilitated, and monitored student action plans to increase academic and social success.

- Assessed student needs, strengths/challenges to provide guidance to problem-solve and support student success.
- Prioritized student cases to ensure timely intervention is applied before a student discontinues their studies at University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to develop and facilitate the Intro to College course curriculum that includes culturally sustaining pedagogies.
- Served as a MSW Field Supervisor for professional staff completing graduate school requirements.
- Supervised and trained seven undergraduate student staff to provide peer mentoring and transition support to incoming transfer students.
- Co-created and facilitated a Trauma-Informed Training for University of California, Santa Cruz professional and student staff within the Division of Student Affairs and Success.

**STUDENT EQUITY INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT | SIERRA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | AUGUST 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2016**

- Outreached and oriented 250 new students for the RISE academic guided pathway program for foster youth, African American, Latinx, Native American, low-income, and students with disabilities.
- Trained and supervised student employees to provide academic and personal support through peer mentoring.
- Assisted in high school outreach and other public and community related efforts.
- Participated in the development and implementation of appropriate methods and procedures to optimize efficient and effective delivery of services to potential and enrolled students.
- Provided information and referrals on college programs, policies, and procedures, explained program objectives and offerings, and assisted in the development and coordination of RISE program materials and handouts.
- Provided academic and student services information to students and their parents or family members.

**Service Experience**

**DOCTORAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE | EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE | BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK | JUNE 2022-JUNE 2023**

- Organized and facilitated three Boston University School of Social Work Equity and Inclusion Speaker Series events per semester.
- Co-supported editing the Boston University School of Social Work Equity and Inclusion resource page with current equity and inclusion resources, educational opportunity, and organizations.
- Advocated and voiced concerns on behalf of Boston University School of Social Work students during monthly committee meetings

- Co-created a student engagement survey to collect data from Master of Social Work (MSW) students and doctoral students at Boston University School of Social Work (BUSSW (see “research experience” section for more details)