

Retisha Warr, PhD, LMSW

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Parental incarceration, mass incarceration, generational trauma, first-generation college students, racial identity development.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work, August 2025 – University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Masters in Social Work, May 2017 – University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Bachelor's in Psychology, June 2007 – Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

2025 - Present | Assistant Professor of Social Work | Troy University | Troy, Alabama

2023-2024 | Adjunct Instructor | University of Alabama | Tuscaloosa, Alabama

DISSERTATION

Warr, R. (2025). A mixed-methods exploration of first-generation college students resisting and healing the chains of mass incarceration. [Doctoral dissertation, University of Alabama]. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- McNair Graduate Council Fellowship recipient, 2021-2025 | varies, about \$50,000/yr
- The Ben Avis Orcutt Summer Doctoral Student Scholarship, Summer 2022 | \$2,000
- McNair Graduate Fellowship, 2016-2017 | \$11,000
- McNair Scholar's Program, 2005-2007 | Stipend, research & travel

PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

- Albright, D., Suntai, Z., Ayres, K., McDaniel, J., Winton, R., & Dane, J. (2025). Do drug and opioid use vary by spousal sexual orientation and military status. *Traumatology*.
- Warr, R., Ruggiano, N., Daquin, J., Anderson Herzog, M., Jiang, Z., & Gray, J. (2024). Health Information Seeking Using Tech and Non-Tech Sources Among a Diverse Sample of Caregivers in the Deep South. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 67(5), 605–620. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2024.2339960>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Lee, H., Lee, H.Y., Bailey, B., Warr, R., Ticozzi, M. (In progress). *Expanded adverse childhood experiences and substance use in young adults: Examining identity-based moderation*.

- Lee, H., Lee, H.Y., Warr, R., Bailey, B., Hossain, M.D., Sleep-Frankel, M. & Gong, J. (In progress). *Reframing AI Literacy Through an Ethics- and Justice-Focused Lens: A Qualitative Analysis of Social Science Students' Perspectives and Attitudes on AI*.
- Warr, R. (In progress). *Breaking the Cycle, Carrying the Story: The Lived Experiences of First-Generation Students Impacted by Parental Incarceration*
- Warr, R. (In progress). *A regression analysis of college students impacted by familial incarceration and binge drinking in the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*.
- Warr, R. (In progress). *Examining the pathways before and during college for first-generation college students with incarcerated parents: A narrative analysis*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

- Lee, H., McKinney, S., Voith, L. A., Warr, R., & Bailey, B. (under review). Construction of fatherhood among socioeconomically disadvantaged and predominantly Black fathers: A grounded theory study. *Family Process*.

CONFERENCES

- Warr, R. & Cheatham, L.P. (Under Review). *A Regression Analysis of Young Adults Impacted by Household Familial Incarceration and Binge Drinking Utilizing the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Oral paper abstract submitted to the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice, January 14-18, 2026. Washington, DC.
- Mann, N. Guz, S. Frey, W. & Warr, R. (Under Review). *Space for Uprooting Whiteness: Tensions, Limitations and Possibilities*. Oral paper abstract submitted to the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice, January 14-18, 2026. Washington, DC.
- Lee, H., Bailey, B., Warr, T. Mumba, M. & Lee, H.Y. (Under Review). *Do Adverse Childhood Experiences Affect Everyone Equally? Identity-Based Moderation of the Relationship between Childhood Adversity and Substance Use Among Marginalized Young Adults*. Oral paper abstract submitted to the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice, January 14-18, 2026. Washington, DC.
- Lee, H., Warr, T., Bailey, B., Hossain, M., Gong, J., & Lee, H. (Under Review). *Who Gets to Learn AI? Institutional and Socioeconomic Barriers Shaping Social Science Students' Literacy*. Oral paper abstract submitted to the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice, January 14-18, 2026. Washington, DC.
- Lee, H., Bailey, B., Warr, T., Hossain, M., Gong, J., & Lee, H. (Under Review). *Reframing AI Literacy through an Ethics- and Justice-Focused Lens: A Qualitative Analysis of Social Science Students' Experiences and Perspectives*. Oral paper abstract submitted to the Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual

Conference: Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice, January 14-18, 2026. Washington, DC.

- Richardson, T., Warr, R., & Dozier, K. (2025). *Bridge Building: A Collaborative Approach between Social Work and Student Affairs*. 2025 Student Affairs Administrators In Higher Education (NASPA) Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Warr, R., Jackson, M.S., & Noh, H. (2023). Intergenerational Trauma for First-Generation College Students with Parental Incarceration. Council for Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
- Warr, R. & Cheatham, L.P. "I Got It From My Mama!" Do Family of Origin Patterns Predict Romantic Relationship Styles in Incarcerated Women? (2023). Southern Criminal Justice Association, Mobile, AL.
- Ruggiano, N., Winton, R., Daquin, J., Jiang, Z., Herzog Anderson, M., & Gray, J. (2023, November). The Potential of Crowdsourced Asset Mapping Technologies for Supporting Dementia Caregivers. Presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL.
- Ruggiano, N., Winton, R., Daquin, J., Anderson Herzog, M., Jiang, Z., Gray, J. (2023, July). Information Seeking and Technology Use Among Dementia Caregivers: Findings from a Statewide Survey of Diverse Caregivers in the U.S. South. Poster presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Warr, R. & Cheatham, L.P. Exploring Incarceration-Based Trauma During COVID-19. Presented at Southeastern Universities Graduate Research Symposium, March 30, 2022 in Tuscaloosa, AL. (online).
- Foster, K. & Winton, R. "Racial Identity Centrality: Is Whiteness Whited Out?" at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C., 2013.
- Winton, R. & Foster, K. Minimalization of Racial Identification: Social Effects on White Americans' Racial Identity Development. TWU 2007 Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium in Denton, TX.

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- SW 441, *Social Work and Groups* -Summer 2024 (online)
- SW 351, *Oppression and Social Injustice*-Fall 2023-Spring 2024
- SW 420, *Research for Social Work Practice*- Fall 2022 (TA under Dr. Laura Hopson)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **Guest speaker**, Troy University Sigma Alpha Sigma. *Fall Semester Talk*. "Mass incarceration's effects on children and families." November 12, 2024.
- **Guest speaker**, University of Alabama School of Social Work. *Social Welfare and Policy*—"Prison Policy in Alabama", October 15, 2024.
- **Guest speaker**, University of Alabama School of Social Work. *Death Penalty Action Week with Social Work Association for Cultural Awareness*. October 14, 2024.
- **Guest speaker**, University of Alabama School of Social Work. *History of Social Welfare*—"Engaging in Prison Social Work", September 16, 2024.

RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Retisha Warr, PhD, LMSW—*Curriculum Vitae*

- **Research Assistant (Fall 2024-Spring 2025):** Dr. Samantha Guz, University of Alabama School of Social Work | exploring toxic white femininity in social work practice and secondary data analysis of interviews from “uprooting whiteness” spaces
- **Research Assistant (Fall 2024-Spring 2025):** Dr. Hyunjune Lee, University of Alabama School of Social Work | survey research exploring familiarity and acceptance of artificial intelligence
- **Research Assistant (Spring/Summer 2023):** Dr. Nicole Ruggiano, University of Alabama School of Social Work—investigating caregiving and health literacy in rural AL
- **Research Assistant (Fall 2022):** Dr. Lewis Lee, University of Alabama School of Social Work—secondary data analysis
- **Teaching Assistant (Fall 2022):** Dr. Laura Hopson, University of Alabama-SW 420:920 Research for Social Work Practice
- **Research Assistant (2016):** Dr. Jennifer Kenney, University of Alabama, on a grant submitted to the University of Alabama’s Research Grants Committee (\$6,000) to examine the criminal justice protective and risk factors of female substance abuse treatment clients.

AWARDS/HONORS

- **Honorable Mention,** ResilienceCon Life Paths Promising Scholar Award, Life Paths Research, January 11, 2022.
- **McNair Scholar,** awarded in 2005, Texas Woman’s University

SERVICE

- **Project HOPE to Abolish the Death Penalty Advisory Board**—advocating and serving on advisory board for abolition of death penalty in Alabama
- **Indiana Prison Writer’s Workshop**—facilitate writing workshops for formerly incarcerated men
- **Central Alabama Veteran’s Collaborative**—Technical Zoom Support for online meetings, October 2021-October 2022 or beyond
- **Trauma, Violence, & Abuse Peer Reviewer**—December 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Social Worker, **Capstone Rural Health**, November 2020—July 2021

Provided individual counseling services and assisted in managing a medication-assisted treatment program in a rural clinic in Alabama.

Case Manager, **The Dannon Project**, October 2019 – August 2020

Facilitate high-risk intensive case management duties to ensure long-term support of housing, employment, counseling, and mentoring objectives and networks are established

and carried out for previously incarcerated persons.

Mental Health Professional, **Donaldson Correctional Facility**, July 2018 – June 2019

Provided individual and group counseling services to assist individuals in achieving more effective personal and social development as well as institutional adjustment.

IDD Crisis Intervention Specialist, **Integral Care**, July 2017-July 2018

Assisted people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities providing crisis prevention support and services to reach short- and long-term goals to stay safe and in the community.

District Parole Officer, **Texas Department of Criminal Justice**, July 2014-June 2015

Supervised offenders who have been released on parole or mandatory supervision to complete their sentences while living in Texas communities through case management and home/office visits.

Lead Counselor, **Akeela, Inc.** July 2013 – June 2014

Supervised small community team that provided inpatient and outpatient substance abuse services in the Mat-Su Valley located in Alaska to Alaskan inmates and mothers engaged in the Office of Children's Services.

Substance Abuse Counselor, **Hudson Correctional Facility**, November 2012-July 2013

Provided group and individual substance abuse therapies with incarcerated men located in Colorado who were from Alaska.

Case Manager, **Hudson Correctional Facility**, May 2012-November 2013

Evaluated needs of inmates located within the facility and provided case management to include legal mail, program referral, review of needs, progress notes and disciplinary files.

Juvenile Case Manager, **City of Austin Municipal Court**, December 2011-May 2012

Created deferred disposition opportunities for youth with Class C misdemeanors that incorporate social service interventions as well as punitive consequences for behavior to prevent recidivism.

Counselor Intern, **Kyle Correctional Facility**, July 2011-December 2011

Facilitated educational and therapeutic groups such as Cognitive Self-Change, Relapse Prevention, Re-Entry Skills, Encounter and Process groups; group size ranging from 30-60 clients regularly.

Counselor Intern, **Burnet County Jail**, July 2009-July 2011

- Led group and individual counseling services to clients with substance abuse disorders and co-occurring developmental disabilities, psychological disorders and legal issues.

CPS Investigator II, **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**, July 2007-July 2009

- Investigated allegations of child abuse and neglect in Bell and Travis Counties and established appropriate interventions for the safety and well-being of children in the home.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Social Work Intern, Tuscaloosa County Jail, January 2017-May 2017

Social Work Intern, Jefferson County Public Defender's Office, January 2016-May 2016

TRAININGS CONDUCTED

Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse; January 2011-June 2011. Training presented at Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors and Counselor Interns.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, April 12, 2011. Training presented at TDCJ Estelle Unit for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors and Counselor Interns.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Tide Together Mentee, University of Alabama – 2022

Summa Cum Laude, MSW, University of Alabama 2017

Cum Laude, B.A. Psychology, Texas Woman's University 2007

McNair Scholar's Program Recipient -2005-2007

Psi Chi, Texas Woman's University, 2005-2007

Phi Kappa Phi, University of Alabama, 2016-201

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Master's Social Worker #4434G in State of Alabama (exp: 4/2026)

Licensed Master's Social Worker #65703 in State of Texas (exp: 8/2027)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Southern Criminal Justice Association (2023-2024)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

The Highlands Nursing Home, Birmingham, AL., August 2019

Barktoberfest, Helena, AL., October 20,2019