

Betty L. Wilson
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 University of South Carolina
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-police relations | Historical and racial trauma | Criminal justice reform | Health equity research | Qualitative methodologies | Community-engaged research | Intersectionality | Intervention design and implementation | Family and community resilience | Justice-centered pedagogy |

EDUCATION

- 2022** **Ph.D. Social Work**
 University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
 College of Social Work
 Dissertation Title: *Black and Blue: An Exploratory Investigation of Black College Students' Experiences of Exposure to Police Killings*
- 2016** **Master of Social Work**
 University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 2014** **B.A. Sociology**
 Minors: Criminal Justice & African American Studies
 Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024-Present **Assistant Professor**
 College of Social Work
 University of South Carolina
- 2022-2024 **Assistant Professor**
 Department of Human Development
 Affiliate Faculty, Program in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
 Washington State University

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 **Honored Faculty and Staff Award**, PERIOD Student Organization,
 Washington State University
- 2022-2023 **Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Award**, Society for
 Social Work and Research
- 2022 **Breakthrough Graduate Scholars Award**, University of South
 Carolina, College of Social Work
- 2020-2021 **Dissertation Fellowship**, Southern Regional Education Board,
 Doctoral Scholars Program
- 2020-2021 **Research Fellowship**, University of South Carolina, Institute for
 African American Research
- 2020 **Doctoral Student Award**, University of South Carolina, College

	of Social Work
2019	Travel Grant , University of South Carolina
2018	Travel Grant , University of North Carolina
2017-2019	Dean’s Doctoral Fellowship , University of South Carolina, College of Social Work
2015-2016	Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work , University of South Carolina
2015-2016	President’s Honor List , University of South Carolina
2014-2015	Dean’s Honor List , University of South Carolina

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* denotes collaboration with graduate students

1. **Wilson, B. L.**, Wolfer, T. A., Wooten, N. R., Pitner, R., Moore, S. E., & Anders, A. (2024). “Take a mental break”: Examining the coping efforts of Black college students exposed to police killings. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 50(1), 30–67.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00957984231191841>
2. **Wilson, B. L.**, Wolfer, T. A., Wooten, N. R., Pitner, R., Moore, S. E., & Anders, A. (2024). “Am I next?”: A qualitative study of Black college students’ experiences of stress, trauma, and grief from exposures to police killings. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 34(3), 390–422.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2023.2173353>
3. **Wilson, B. L.**, Tindall*, J, Walker, D., & Smith*, A. M. (2024). “Ain’t I a woman?”: A historical and contemporary analysis of state-sanctioned violence against Black women in the United States. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 33(1), 84–99.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2023.2236953>
4. **Wilson, B. L.**, Anderson, B., Davis, B., Gorchow, C., Tindall*, J., & Nzomene Kahouo Foda*, A. (2024). “Why don’t we learn about the Black social work pioneers?” The erasure of Black social workers’ histories and contributions—Implications for social work education. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 44(1), 64–79.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2023.2284818>
5. **Wilson, B. L.**, Wolfer, T. A., Wooten, N. R., Pitner, R., Moore, S. E., & Anders, A. (2023). Black and blue: An integrated conceptual framework for understanding the trauma and mental impacts of police violence exposure in Black communities. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2023.2281961>
6. **Wilson, B. L.**, Davis, B., Anderson*, B., Luke*, P., Gorchow*, C., & Nzomene Kahouo Foda*, A. (2023). “Tone it down”: The whitewashing of Black women doctoral students’ research and scholarship at predominately White institutions—Implications for social work doctoral education. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 59(3), 699–714.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2023.2179147>
7. Levkoff, S., McCollum, Q., Armstrong, A., **Wilson, B. L.**, McRell, AS., Cavanagh, N., Spencer, M., Webber, K., Bright, C., Chen, H., Singh, N., Miller, M., Farkas, C., Liles, K., Bagasra, O., and Ariyo, O. (2023). Lessons learned in implementing an aging research training program for underrepresented minority students. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 96(1), 6–18.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00914150221117515>

8. **Wilson, B. L.**, Wooten, N. R., & Pitner, R.O. (2023). Examining historical and contemporary policing disparities in the Black community: Implications for social work. *Social Work*, 68(1), 8–17. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swac049>
9. **Wilson, B. L.**, & Wolfer, T. A. (2022). Improving relations between police and African American neighborhoods: A positive deviance approach. *Psychology of Violence*, 12(4), 270–279. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000426>
10. **Wilson, B. L.** (2022). Under the brutal watch: A historical examination of slave patrols in the United States and Brazil during the 18th and 19th centuries. *Journal of Black Studies*, 53(1), 3–18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219347211049218>
11. Woo, B., Pitner, R., & **Wilson, B. L.** (2022). White college students' racial prejudice and perceptions of racial hate crime: Moderating effects of race of victims and state-level hate crime law. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(23–24), NP21626–NP21645 <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605211062987>
12. Moore, S. E., Jones-Eversley, S. D., Tolliver, W. F., **Wilson, B. L.**, & Harmon, D. K. (2022). Cultural responses to loss and grief among Black Americans: Theory and practice implications for clinicians. *Death Studies*, 46(1), 189–199. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2020.1725930>
13. Moore, S. E., Jones-Eversley, S. D., Tolliver, W. F., **Wilson, B. L.**, & Jones, C. A. (2022). Six feet apart or six feet under: The impact of COVID-19 on the Black community. *Death Studies*, 46(4), 891–901. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2020.1785053>
14. Stafford-McRell, A., **Wilson, B. L.**, & Levkoff, S. E. (2021). Writing skills development for graduate studies and career readiness in science and aging fields: A case study approach. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 727064. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.727064>
15. **Wilson, B. L.**, & Wolfer, T. A. (2020). Reducing police brutality in African American communities: Potential roles for social workers in congregations. *Social Work & Christianity*, 47(3), 66-84. <https://doi.org/10.34043/swc.v47i3.153>
16. Wolfer, T. A., & **Wilson, B. L.** (2019). Seeking champions for change: A positive deviance approach for social work. *Families in Society*, 100(2), 151–163. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389418811600>

Book Chapters

17. **Wilson, B. L.**, Moore, S.E., & Clayton, D.C. (2022). Police initiated trauma in the Black community: Policy implications and recommendations for reducing the severity of force in police-citizen interactions. In N. C. Pratt-Harris & M. Roessner (Eds.), *Why the Police Should be Trained by Black People: A training guide* (pp.179-193). Routledge. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4324/9781003152842-18>
18. **Wilson, B. L.**, & Wolfer, T. A. (2021). Collateral damage (A). In T. A. Wolfer & M. C. Reitmeier (Eds.), *Dilemmas in field education: Decision cases for field instructors* (pp. 147-158). Columbia University Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/wolf20144>

PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* denotes collaboration with graduate students

1. **Wilson, B. L.** (2024, April). Grieving while Black: A qualitative exploration of Black college students' experiences of racial battle fatigue. Poster presentation at the annual James E. Clyburn Health Equity Lecture, Columbia, SC.
2. **Wilson, B. L.**, Smith*, A. M., & Wolfer, T. A. (2024, January). No time to breathe: Black college students' experiences of racial battle fatigue from highly publicized anti-Black violence. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
3. Jackson*, A., **Wilson, B. L.**, Wiley, S. (2023, January). "The talk": A multi-racial/ethnic study of the impact of police encounters on youth engagement in discussions about preparation for police contact. Oral presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
4. **Wilson, B. L.** (2022, September). "The souls of Black folk": Police violence and the plight on Black mental health—Implications for practice, policy, and research. Oral presentation at the annual Black Mental Health Symposium, Virtual Conference.
5. Woo, B., Pitner, R., & **Wilson, B. L.** (2021, August). White college students' racial prejudice and perceptions of racial hate crime. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Virtual American Psychological Association (APA) conference.
6. **Wilson, B. L.** & Wolfer, T. A. (2021, January). A positive deviance approach to improve relations between police and African American neighborhoods. In S. E. McMillin (Chair), Positive deviance, race, and criminal justice [Symposium] Society for Social Work and Research, Virtual Conference.
7. **Wilson, B. L.** (2020, November). Why publishing. Oral presentation at the annual ADAR Summit, Virtual Conference.
8. **Wilson, B. L.** (2020, September). Hashtag after hashtag: Exploring the traumatic effects of police violence exposure in the Black community—A call to action for mental health practitioners and educators. Oral presentation at the annual Black Mental Health Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia.
9. McMillin, S.E., Wolfer, T. A., Carbone, J., & **Wilson, B. L.** (2020, January). Roundtable on positive deviance for social work as an approach to reduce racial and economic inequality. Roundtable presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
10. Wolfer, T. A., & **Wilson, B. L.** (2019, July). A positive deviance approach to improve relations between police and African American communities. Oral presentation at the 21st Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
11. **Wilson, B. L.** (2019, March). Policing inequalities and racial trauma in Black communities: Implications for social work practice. Oral presentation at the annual South Carolina National Association of Social Workers Symposium, Columbia, SC.
12. **Wilson, B. L.** (2018, April). Black and blue: Historical and contemporary policing disparities in the Black community. Oral presentation at the Black Communities: A

Conference for Collaboration, Durham, NC.

INVITED PANELS, TALKS, AND GUEST LECTURES

1. **Wilson, B. L.** (2024, April). *Noon Time Chat*. Invited talk for the African American Student Center. Washington State University.
2. **Wilson, B. L.** (2024, March). Panelist for the *2024 Career Summit*. Cohort Sistas.
3. **Wilson, B. L.**, Malfavon, A., & Wilson, J. (2024, January). Panelist for the *National Day of Racial Healing*. Office of the Provost, Washington State University.
4. **Wilson, B. L.** (2023, October). *State-sanctioned violence and the plight on Black women in the US: Implications for health equity and social justice*. Invited talk for the Fall Feminist/Queer Dialogue Series. Washington State University, Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
5. **Wilson, B. L.** (2023, August). *Policing, Mental Health, and Prevention Science*. Guest talk presented in Introduction to Prevention Science (PrevSci 511). Washington State University, Department of Human Development.
6. **Wilson, B. L.** (2023, March). *What is Social Work?* Guest lecture presented in Introduction to the Field of Human Development (HD 202). Washington State University, Department of Human Development.
7. **Wilson, B. L.** (2023, March). *Reproductive Advocacy*. Invited talk for PERIOD Student Organization. Washington State University.
8. **Wilson, B. L.**, DeGuzman, C., & Orndorff*, L. (2022, November). Panelist for the *Health justice: Panel on Black women's health*. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Summit. Washington State University.
9. **Wilson, B. L.** (2022, November). *Black Women and Health Care Access*. Invited talk for Black Women's Caucus and PERIOD Student Organizations. Washington State University.
10. **Wilson, B. L.** (2022, October). *Research, Intervention, and Social Justice*. Guest talk presented in Research Methodologies (SOWK 791). University of South Carolina, College of Social Work.
11. **Wilson, B. L.** (2022, February). *Introduction to Critical Race Theory*. Guest talk in Critical Race Theory (EDFI 747). University of South Carolina, College of Education.
12. **Wilson, B. L.** (2021, February). *Trauma Disparities and Policing*. Guest lecture presented in Trauma-informed Social Work Practice (SOWK 764). University of South Carolina, College of Social Work.
13. **Wilson, B. L.** (2021, January). *Introduction to Critical Race Theory*. Guest talk in Critical Race Theory (EDFI 747). University of South Carolina, College of Education.
14. **Wilson, B. L.** (2020, February). *Historical Trauma and Policing*. Guest lecture presented in Trauma-informed Social Work Practice (SOWK 764). University of South Carolina, College of Social Work.
15. **Wilson, B. L.** (2020, January). *Introduction to Critical Race Theory*. Guest talk in Critical Race Theory (EDFI 747). University of South Carolina, College of Education.

FACILITATION

Wilson, B. L. (2022, February). Social work pedagogy teach-in. Guest session facilitator at the University of South Carolina, College of Social Work.

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS

- 2024-2025 **Role: Principal Investigator**
Stories From the Frontline: Using Photovoice to Capture the Experiences of Community Activists. [Tier 2]. INSPIRE! Community Engaged Research Seed Grant. Washington State University, Pullman Office of the Chancellor. (\$10,000; *relinquished*).
- 2019-2024 **Role: Co-Investigator**
 Principal Investigator: Sue Levkoff, ScD, MSW
South Carolina-Advancing Diversity in Aging Research (SC-ADAR). National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Aging. (\$1,800,865).
- 2020-2021 **Role: Principal Investigator**
Black and Blue: An Exploratory Investigation of Black College Students' Experiences of Exposure to Police Killings. Scholar Award from the Southern Regional Education Board-Doctoral Scholars Program. (\$20,000).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022 **Research Assistant**
Responding to Anti-Asian Racism: Bystander Anti-Racism on Behalf of Asian Americans.
 College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
 PI: Bongki Woo, Ph.D.
 Assisted with the recruitment of study participants. Conducted semi-structured qualitative interviews investigating how non-Asian bystanders respond to anti-Asian racism incidents. Analyzed qualitative data.
- 2020-2021 **Independent Study**
We Shall Overcome: An Examination of Police Violence, Historical Trauma, and Resilience in Black Communities.
 College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
 Research Supervisor: Patrice Penney, MSW, LCSW
 Conducted literature review on historical trauma theory, neuroscience research, and strengths and resiliency perspectives. Developed a conceptual paper that explored the trauma related impacts of historical and present-day police violence in Black communities, and provided implications for social work practice to support strategies for coping and resilience in these communities.
- 2019-2021 **Principal Investigator**
Understanding Positive Community Relations in Police Departments: A Positive Deviance Approach.
 College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
 Co-PI: Terry Wolfer, Ph.D.
 Prepared IRB application and developed interview protocol for research

project. Conducted individual interviews and focus groups with local police officers and department heads (chief of police and county sheriff) on positive police-community engagement. Produced conference abstracts, presentations, and peer-reviewed manuscripts.

2019-2020

Research Assistant

Racial Hate Crimes in South Carolina: Perceptions and Responses.

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

PI: Bongki Woo, Ph.D.

Conducted literature review on racial hate crimes, modern racism scale, and college students' perceptions of racial discrimination and racial identity-related incidents. Assisted with data collection and conference abstracts. Participated in writing manuscripts for peer-reviewed journal submission.

2017-2019

Research Practicum

Seeking Champions for Change: A Positive Deviance Approach for Social Work.

College of Social Work, University of South Carolina

Research Supervisor: Terry Wolfer, Ph.D.

Conducted literature review on positive deviance in communities. Collaborated on a manuscript for journal publication and case study for a book chapter.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-Present

Washington State University

HD: 403 Families in Poverty

HD: 384 Prevention and Intervention

WGSS: 301 Introduction to Critical Race Feminism

2019

University of South Carolina

SOWK: 714 Diversity and Social Justice for Social Work Practicum

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina

Graduate Research Assistant

Fall 2024-Present Julisa Tindall

Peer Mentor for Social Work Doctoral Students

Fall 2021-2023 Parthenia Luke (dissertation completed)

Fall 2020-Present Julisa Tindall (dissertation in progress)

Fall 2019-2023 Brandi Anderson (dissertation completed)

Fall 2018-2022 Brittany Davis (dissertation completed)

Washington State University

Dissertation Committees

Fall 2023-Present Ashley Wells, School of Languages, Cultures, & Race (*Committee Member*)

Spring 2023-2024 Erica England, College of Education, (*Committee Member*)

Research Assistant

Spring 2024 Alyssa Lugo

Undergraduate Research Volunteers

Fall 2023 Emma Mason

Fall 2023 Alyssa Lugo

MEDIA FEATURES

- Apr. 2024 Featured on [Journal of Black Psychology Podcast](#), “Take a mental break: examining the coping efforts of Black college students exposed to police killings,” *Journal of Black Psychology*
- Feb. 2024 Featured in [WSU Insider](#), “New seed grant program announces tier two recipients,” *Washington State University*
- Feb. 2023 Featured in [WSU Insider](#), “WSU researcher studies trauma of police killings on Black students,” *Washington State University*
- Jan. 2022 Featured in [2022 News](#), “2022 Breakthrough award honorees represent the best in UofSC research,” Office of the Vice President for Research, *University of South Carolina*
- Sept. 2020 Featured in [Student Spotlight](#), “Betty Wilson awarded fellowship to help increase faculty diversity,” College of Social Work, *University of South Carolina*
- June. 2020 Featured in [Student Spotlight](#), “McRell and Wilson named co-winners of doctoral student award,” College of Social Work, *University of South Carolina*

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2019 **Field Instructor**
College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Provided 1 hour bi-weekly supervision sessions to social work students for social work field placements. Met with students and on-site field instructors to discuss students’ learning contract. Conducted semester evaluations to assess student development in field placement and provided feedback to the university’s Field Education Office.
- 2015-2017 **Community Program Coordinator**
West Metro Social Work Initiative, West Columbia, SC
Facilitated weekly meetings with social work team. Organized a free community Health and Wellness Fair with 18 vendors and over 70 participants. Provided leadership and management to 7 volunteers. Collaborated with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to provide free educational cooking classes for 30 senior adults in local community faith-based organizations.
- 2014-2015 **Social Work Practicum**
Bamberg County Mental Health Clinic, Denmark, SC
Conducted client intakes and assessments using the Initial Clinical

Assessment Form. Practiced screening and diagnosing mental disorders using the DSM-5. Shadowed a licensed social work therapist during individual therapy sessions 10 hours per week. Completed 90 day client progress summaries using the Electronic Medical Record.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of South Carolina

College of Social Work

2024-Present MSW Program Committee
 2024-Present ACCESS Committee
 2022-Present Alumni Advisory Board

Washington State University

University

2023-2024 Community-Engaged Research & Scholarship Working Group

Human Development Department

2023-2024 Prevention Science Graduate Faculty
 2022-2024 Racial Justice Leadership Committee
 2022-2024 Ad Hoc UCORE Renewal Committee

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

2023-2024 Graduate Qualitative Certificate Committee

NATIONAL SERVICE

2023-Present *Affiliate Faculty*, Racism-based Violence Injury & Prevention Lab, Boston College, School of Social Work
 2022-Present *Member*, Promote Smart Decarceration Grand Challenge of Social Work Group

Ad Hoc Reviewer

2024-Present *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*
 2024 *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*
 2023 *Marriage & Family Review*
 2022 *Journal of Black Studies*
 2022 *Journal of Social Work Education*

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2024 *Doctoral Scholars Application Reviewer*, Southern Regional Education Board, 2024-2025 Doctoral Scholars Program
 2022 *Symposium Reviewer*, Discover UofSC 2022, Office of the Vice President for Research, University of South Carolina
 2022 *Student Discussion Lead*, Annual Robert Smalls Lecture featuring *Dr. Angela Y. Davis*, University of South Carolina, African American Studies Program
 2021 *Conference Volunteer*, Society for Social Work Research

- 2018 *Conference Volunteer*, Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, University of North Carolina
- 2018 *Doctoral Student Orientation Panelist*, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
- 2018-2024 *Peer Mentor*, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
- 2016-Present *Founder/Director*, Community Connect Initiative
- 2015-2017 *Community Program Coordinator*, West Metro Social Work Initiative

PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIALIZED TRAININGS/CERTIFICATES

- 2024 **8-Week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Course**, School of Professional Studies, Brown University
- 2023 **3-Part Mindfulness-Based Anti-Racism (MBAR) Training**, Trymaine Gaither, Office of the Provost, WSU
- 2022 **4-Week Intensive Emotional Emancipation Circle Training**, Community Healing Network
- 2020 **NVivo Program Online Training**, NVivo Qualitative Software
- 2019 **Effective Discussion About Controversial Topics Workshop & Developing Useful & Well-Planned Grading Rubric Workshop**, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
- 2015 **Screening Brief Intervention Referral Treatment (SBIRT) Training & Certificate**, University of South Carolina, College of Social Work
- 2014 **Victims Advocate and Domestic Violence Training & Certificate**, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office, Victim Services

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research
 Council on Social Work Education
 Association of Black Women Historians
 American Educational Research Association

LICENSURE

Licensed Master Social Worker, South Carolina