

"As I have always said, those closest to the pain should be closest to the power." - Ayanna Pressley

Dakota Roundtree-Swain

April 2022- present

Spark Learning for Organizations

Remote

Amplify Action Research Internship Program Coordinator

- Design, facilitate, and oversee an internship program of 12 individuals with lived expertise in the child welfare system
- Develop curriculum to teach intensive research skills to those with varying levels of prior education while also creating a system of support for professional development and mentorship support
- Facilitate conversations with external parties to coordinate networking opportunities for our interns
- Streamline processes and capacity building efforts to create a program that lasts and that can sustainably grow
- Develop evaluation surveys and metrics to measure internship intervention impact for grant reporting and overall improvement of the program based on data-driven measures

August 2021- present

The University of Massachusetts,

Boston, MA

Boston

Associate Lecturer

- Courses: Race, Class, and Gender in Research Methods (undergraduate; Sociology); Introduction to Sociological Thinking; Race & Power in the U.S.
- Focus on critical race theory and decolonized research methods

March 2019- present

The Capacity Building Center for

Remote/Travel

the States- Children's Bureau

Consultant / Racial Equity Committee Member

Areas of Focus & Expertise:

Race equity, intersectionality, youth development, LGBTQ+ issues, Indigenous issues, Division X grant funding structures and allocation, Title IV-E and - B funding structures, congregate care settings, "aging out" populations, Kinship Navigator programming, inter-tribal and inter-

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tribal/governmental coalition building, general training and curriculum development, child welfare policy (historical and present-day), and technical assistance for states, territories, jurisdictions, and tribes

*September 2018- August 2021 **The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University** **Waltham, MA***

Ph.D. Student in Social Policy, concentration in Children, Youth, and Families (ABD)

- Ph.D.. research included racial disproportionality in the child welfare system, Native American foster care policy and history, congregate care settings (including the Native American boarding school assimilation movement), racial equity policy, critical race theory, and Indigenous research methodology. Completed everything up to the dissertation at this time.
- Been employed as a **Research Assistant** and a **Teaching Assistant** throughout my tenure. Classes taught: Introduction to Sociology & Social Movements | Research: grandparents raising their grandchildren due to the opioid epidemic
- **Lead Researcher** on the **Presidential Committee on Land Recognition** (previously) and as the **Ph.D. Liaison** helping support all of the Ph.D. students in all of their endeavors (previously).
 - *Conducted archival research collecting land deeds and primary source material*
 - *Led 2 undergraduate researchers, teaching them basic research skills along the way, as well as critical race theory and indigenous research methodologies,*
 - *Led difficult conversations about race, indigeneity, and, land sovereignty on a committee of faculty from all different subject departments, administrators, etc.*
- **Graduate Peer Mentor** (previously) leading workshops and learning sessions for incoming graduate students to acclimate them to the Brandeis climate. Expert session: *"Knowing the Past to Combat the Present: Activism and Community Building to Deal With Racism in Grad-School"*

*March 2020- Sept. 2020 **The Committee to Elect Nick Matthew** **Fall River, MA***
for MA Congressional District 4

Campaign Manager

- Led a team of 50 staff working on projects to better the communities in which we were running.
- Led hiring efforts for 50 staff including senior staff
- Supervised team leads through close one-on-one support and bi-weekly team meetings
- Provided needed counsel during difficult times during the campaign

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- Led voting registration, name recognition, and GOTV efforts during COVID-19, providing difficult challenges and innovative ways of thinking about the field

September 2019-January

Tufts University

Medford, MA

2020

Teaching Assistant

- Course: Research Methods for Social Science
- Grading papers, working with students, guest lecturing.

June 2019- September 2019

Root Cause

Boston, MA

Summer Research Associate

- Conducted research around Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and family experience and the link between CQI coaching with non-profits and improved outcomes for families and youth.
- Completed a report based on research and presented to many individuals in the organization.

March 2018- August 2018

The Committee to Elect Rachael

Boston, MA

Rollins for Suffolk County

District Attorney

Field Director

- Managed all canvasses, voter outreach, events, and volunteers for the campaign.
- Managed 7 staffers, assigned tasks, checked in, and recruited more staffers.
- Planned events, ran canvasses, and mapped out all areas for voter contact.
- General management of the campaign, management of candidate, political strategizing.
- Ran meetings, conference calls, and training events.

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*February 2015- November 2021 **Massachusetts Network of Foster Care Alumni** Boston, MA*

Committee Chair - Volunteer

- Facilitated the drafting and implementation of the Normalcy and Permanency Bill of Rights which ensures foster youth the possibility to pursue “normal” activities and milestones regardless of their status as a foster youth.
- Wrote and presented implementation strategies to the Commissioners and Directors of the Child Protection Agencies in all the New England States.
- Coordinated meetings, and discussions, and delegated tasks to a committee of 15+ members.

*May 2016- November 2017 **Boston CASA** Boston, MA*

Advocate Supervisor/ Transition Age Youth Specialist

- Supervised and guided high caseloads of volunteers working for the best interest of youth in the foster care system.
- Provided comprehensive support to the organization regarding older youth (14+) and aging out youth (18-22)
- Attended court hearings and helped bridge connections among opposing parties on child welfare care and protection (C+P) and child requiring assistance (CRA) cases.
- Edited and drafted court reports being submitted as evidence in the Suffolk County Juvenile Court.
- Worked in partnership with the Transition Age Youth Coalition, the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, and the Attorney General’s Office to ensure that youth who were transitioning out of foster care received proper support.
- Functioned as the lead programmatic planner for Boston CASA’s older youth program. This involved partnering with community agencies (prep for signing MOUs), creating a foundational structure of policies and procedures, and using data-based knowledge to formulate the basic tenets of the program based on the needs of transition aged youth.
- Developed strong communication and relationship-building abilities, organization skills, the ability to manage meetings, and strength in working both independently and in a team setting.

*June 2015- September 2015 **Department of Children and Families** Roxbury, MA*

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Intern

- Shadowed social workers in a variety of positions and attended court hearings.
- Gained integral knowledge of the institutional structures of the child welfare system.

January 2014- March 2016 Emmanuel College Boston, MA

Teaching Assistant

- Tutored individuals and ran study groups to assist students with exams and papers. Classes tutored included: Introduction to Sociology, Images of Masculinity, Sociological Research Methods, and Theories of Society.

January 2014- August 2014 Northeastern University Boston, MA

Research Assistant

- Assisted a PhD candidate on her dissertation which was involved in international adoption. Responsibilities included fact-finding, research, and transcription of interviews done by the candidate.

Education

September 2018- August The Heller School for Social Policy Waltham, MA

2021 and Management, Brandies University

Ph.D., Social Policy, concentration in Children, Youth, and Families (ABD)

September 2018- August 2020 The Heller School for Social Waltham, MA

Policy and Management,

Brandies University

M.A., Social Policy, concentration in Children, Youth, and Families

September 2012- May 2016 Emmanuel College Boston, MA

*B.A. in Writing, Editing, and Publishing & Sociology (concentration in Human Services) |
Minor in Gender Studies*

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- 3.9 GPA | Magna Cum Laude
- Dean's list every semester of attendance
- Received Distinction in the Field of Sociology
- President of Sigma Tau Delta: International English Honors Society
- Alpha Kappa Delta: International Sociology Honors Society member

Lectures and Papers

- **Publication:** Margot Trotter Davis, Marji Erickson Warfield, Janet Boguslaw, Dakota Roundtree-Swain & Gretchen Kellogg (2020) Parenting a 6-Year Old Is Not What I Planned in Retirement: Trauma and Stress among Grandparents Due to the Opioid Crisis, *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 63:4, 295-315.
- **Guest Lecturer**—"Inequality and Inequity" – Brandeis University, 2019
- National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, **presenter** 2019
- National Child Welfare Virtual Expo, the Children's Bureau, **presenter** 2019
- Children's Bureau Adoption Initiative, **speaker** 2019
- National Child Welfare Chafee Meeting, **presenter & organizer** 2019
- **Publication:** Roundtree-Swain, D., & Križ K. (2017). "We are merchandise on a conveyor belt": How young adults in the public child protection system perceive their participation in decisions about their care." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 78, 32-40.
- **Guest lecturer** "Introduction to Social Work" – Emmanuel College – 2013—present
- **Guest lecturer** "Family and Child Social Work"—Northeastern University – 2015 & 2017
- **Training Lecturer** –Boston CASA – 2016
- **Paper talk presenter**, Eastern Sociological Society Conference 2017, Philadelphia; "We are merchandise on a conveyor belt": How young adults in the public child protection system perceive their participation in decisions about their care."
- **Distinction in the Field paper:** "Hopeful and Scared: Foster Youth's Perceptions of Aging Out of the Child Welfare System" –2016
 - This study examines how foster youth enrolled in the voluntary placement program in Massachusetts perceive their transition into adulthood and how their levels of attachment inform this transition. Through conducting eight semi-structured interviews with youth between the ages of 18 and 22 who were enrolled in this program, this study found that youth had high educational aspirations, feelings of otherness, and varying levels of attachment to the child welfare system. Furthermore, they reported being relatively prepared to transition into adulthood at 22, possessed self-reliant and resilient tendencies, and lacked social and familial capital. By employing an emerging adulthood framework, the data suggests that youth enrolled in this program and similar programs throughout the United States are positively affected by independent post-18 services.
- **Presenter**, New England Youth Coalition Summer Conference, "Post-Secondary Education: What Federal Legislation, State Specific Programs, and Self-Advocacy Can Do For Youth." – 2015.

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Awards and Honors

- **Angels in Adoption Honoree, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, 2019**
- The Frank and Theresa Caplan Endowment for Infancy, Early Childhood and Parenting Education Fellow, 2019
- Jack Shonkoff Fellow, 2018 & 2019.
- Women of Distinction "Honors Edition" winner, 2017.
- Discover University of Chicago Selection, 2017.
- Distinction in the Field of Sociology, Emmanuel College, 2016.
- "Best and Brightest" award nominee, Taunton Gazette, 2012-2016
- Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Comcast, 2012.
- Yawkey Scholar, The Philanthropic Initiative, 2012.