

ABIGAIL LASH-BALLEW

University of Toronto
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
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EDUCATION

- Expected **Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work** (2021-2025)
University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Toronto, ON, Canada.
Collaborative Specialization: Ethnic and Pluralism Studies.
- 2017 **Master of Social Work** (summa cum laude)
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work. Richmond, VA, USA.
Concentration: Administration, Planning and Policy Practice (*Advanced Standing*).
- 2015 **Bachelor of Social Work** (cum laude)
George Mason University, School of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Work.
Fairfax, VA, USA. Concentration: General Practice.

Non-Degree

- 2017 *Caux Scholar*, Caux Scholars Program, Initiatives of Change. Caux, Switzerland.
A month-long residential academic program introducing international conflict transformation, restorative justice, and peacebuilding principles, theory, and practice.
- 2017 *Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management*, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA, USA. GPA: 4.0.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Interests:

Participatory research on racism and racial disparities in child welfare and public health; racial/ethnic identity formation; social justice advocacy and ethics education; immigration and human rights; de-colonizing social work; program evaluation for international peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts.

- 2021- **PhD Research Assistant**, Global Mental Health: Mental Health Promotion Strategies among Urban Refugee and Displaced Youth in Uganda. *Principal Investigator*: Carmen Logie.
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2019-20 **Research Assistant** (volunteer), Evidence-Based Experiential Learning Practices for Social Justice in Social Work Education: A Systematic Review. *Supervisor*: Hollee McGinnis.

School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA, USA.

- 2017-18 **Principal Investigator** (volunteer), What's a Predominantly-White Church to Do about White Supremacy?: Community Based Participatory Action Research project. Tabernacle Baptist Church. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2016-17 **Graduate Researcher**, Assessing the Prevention Project Evaluation Instrument: An Anti-Trafficking Initiative. School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2015 **Undergraduate Research Scholar**, Housing Vulnerability for Survivors of Human Trafficking in the Philippines. Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research, George Mason University. Fairfax, VA, USA.

TEACHING

Adjunct Instructor

- 2021 *Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice*, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University (Online MSW Program; spring semester).

Teaching Assistant

- 2020 *Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice*, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University (Online MSW Program; fall semester).

Guest Lecturer

- 2020 *Listening in the Service of the Other*, Communication in the Helping Process, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA (Sept. 24).
- 2019 *Interpersonal Communication in Macro Social Work*, Communication in the Helping Process, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA (Sept. 10).
- 2018 *Dialogue and Circle Processes for Racial Healing*, Social Work and Social Justice, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA (Oct. 25).
- 2018 *Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation*, Social Work and Oppressed Groups, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA (Oct. 16).
- 2018 *Introduction to Racial Healing with Groups*, Direct Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

(Sept. 27).

2018 *Truth-Telling and Racial Justice*, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, USA (Mar. 5).

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Presentations

- 2022 *When Values Clash*.
Society for Social Work and Research 2022 Annual Conference (*submitted roundtable*).
Washington D.C., USA (January).
- 2020 *What's a Predominantly-White Church to Do about White Supremacy?: Community Based Participatory Action Research in Richmond, Virginia*.
Society for Social Work and Research 2020 Annual Conference (*poster presentation*).
Washington D.C., USA (January).
- 2017 *Transracial Adoption: Racial Disparities within the Child Welfare System in Canada and the U.S.*
Caux Scholars Program, Initiatives of Change (*oral presentation*). Caux, Switzerland (July).
- 2017 *Assessing the Prevention Project Evaluation Instrument: An Anti-Trafficking Initiative*.
School of Social Work Annual Student Research Symposium, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University (*poster presentation*). Richmond, VA, USA (April).
- 2015 *Housing Vulnerability for Survivors of Human Trafficking in the Philippines*.
Undergraduate Research Symposium (*poster presentation*); Undergraduate Research Celebration (*oral presentation*), George Mason University. Fairfax, VA, USA (April).

Community Presentations

- 2019 *Strategic Nonviolent Communication*.
Towards an Inclusive Peace Conference, Initiatives of Change (*workshops*). Caux, Switzerland (July).
- 2019 *Introduction to Conflict Resolution Styles and Cross-Cultural Teambuilding*.
Communauté Doulos (*workshop*). Nouakchott, Mauritania (May).
- 2018 *Disrupting Dominant Narratives: Racism in the United States*.
Towards an Inclusive Peace Conference, Initiatives of Change (*workshops*). Caux, Switzerland (July).
- 2017 *Cultural Humility in Working with Refugee Populations*.

Community Volunteer Training, ReEstablish Richmond (*workshop*). Richmond, VA, USA (February).

- 2015-16 *Centering Adoptees in Adoption: Language and Practice*. Presented for 100+ health and human service professionals at community organizations in the central VA region (*trainings*). Virginia, USA (September-April).
- 2014 *Nonviolent Communication: An Introduction*. Riverside Performing Arts (*workshop*). Birmingham, UK (March).
- 2013 *Malaria Prevention: Proper Installation of Treated Mosquito Nets*. More than Nets (*trainings*), Ghana Baptist Convention. Yendi, Ghana (May).
- 2013 *Cultural Competence with Student Populations*. Office of Housing and Residence Life (*lecture*), George Mason University. Fairfax, VA, USA (April).

FUNDING AWARDED

- 2021 **The University of Toronto Fellowship**, University of Toronto: **\$16,500 CAD**.
- 2017 **Scholarship Award**, Emerging Leaders Fund, Initiatives of Change: **\$4,000 USD**.
- 2016 **MSW Scholarship Award**, Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work: **\$2,000 USD**.
- 2016 **Roothbert Fund Fellow**, The Roothbert Fund, Inc.: **\$3,000 USD**.
- 2015 **Excellence in Writing Award**, College of Health and Human Services, George Mason University: **\$100 USD**.
- 2015 **Undergraduate Research Scholar**, Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities and Research, George Mason University: **\$1,500 USD**.

SOCIAL WORK & PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE

- 2021 **Respite Care Provider**, Foster Care Program, *Samaritas*. Detroit, MI, USA.
- 2017-21 **Consultant: Nonprofit Management**, *Light for the City*, based in Macao, China.
- 2019-20 **Program Director, Community Trustbuilding Fellowship**, Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation, *Initiatives of Change United States*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2017-19 **Program Officer for Racial Healing**, Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation, *Initiatives of*

Change United States. Richmond, VA, USA.

- 2017-19 **Consultant: Human Resources and Business Management**, *Firm Foundation Training Center*, based in Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar.
- 2017-18 **Consultant: Program Management**, Faith Community Dialogue Series on Racism in the United States, *Tabernacle Baptist Church*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2017 **Consultant: Program Evaluation**, Logistics and Management of the Community Trustbuilding Fellowship, *Initiatives of Change United States*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2017 **Conference Organizer**, Just Governance for Human Security, Summer 2017 Caux Forum, *Initiatives of Change International*. Caux, Switzerland.
- 2016-17 **Social Work Practitioner (MSW Intern)**, Refugee Support Services, *ReEstablish Richmond*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2015-16 **Expectant Parent Advocate and Pregnancy Counselor**, Domestic Infant Adoption Program, *Bethany Christian Services*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2014 **Child Care Specialist**, Respite care for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, *Jill's House*. Vienna, VA, USA.
- 2012 **Social Work Practitioner (BSW Intern)**, Pregnancy options and birthparent counseling, *Bethany Christian Services*. Fairfax, VA, USA.
- 2010 **Children and Youth Program Coordinator**, *Communauté Doulos*. Saint Louis, Senegal.
- 2009 **Workgroup Intern**, Summer Camps, *Urban Promise*. Camden, NJ, USA.
- 2007-09 **Interracial Church Community Builder**, *Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Gainesville Presbyterian Church; United Baptist Church; Mt. Zion Baptist Church*. Gainesville, VA, USA.
- 2007 **Support Staff Intern**, Summer Camps for Youth with Incarcerated Parents, *Camp David of the Ozarks*. Saint Louis, MO, USA.

Educational Practice and Student Services

- 2019 **Field Instructor**, School of Social Work, *Virginia Commonwealth University*. Richmond, VA, USA (January-May).
- 2015-19 **Youth Mentor**, *Tabernacle Baptist Church*. Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2014-15 **Social Work Practitioner (BSW Intern)**, George Washington Middle School, *Alexandria City Public Schools*. Alexandria, VA, USA.

- 2012-14 **Resident Advisor**, Office of Housing and Residence Life, *George Mason University*. Fairfax, VA, USA.
- 2013 **Classroom Aide**, Mason LIFE program for university students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, *George Mason University*. Fairfax, VA, USA.
- 2011-13 **Tutor**, Advancement via Individual Determination, *Fairfax County Public Schools*. Fairfax, VA, USA.
- 2010-11 **Guest Teacher**, *L'école pour les Enfants Sourds*. Guidimakha, Mauritania. Taught social studies using sign language to over thirty Deaf students between ages six and sixteen.
- 2007-08 **Volunteer Tutor**, *Fauquier Family Shelter*. Warrenton, VA, USA.

HONORS & ACTIVITIES

- 2018-2020 *Manuscript Author*: "Trustbuilding Manual for Peacebuilding Practitioners." Co-authored a 150-page handbook on peacebuilding practice methodology and activities. Disseminated in 14 countries; has been translated into French and currently being translated into Bahasa Indonesian.
- 2016-2017 *Dean's List*, Virginia Commonwealth University (three semesters of advanced standing MSW).
- 2015-16 *Community Trustbuilding Fellow*, Hope in the Cities, Initiatives of Change.
- 2013-15 *Elected Student Body Official*, Social Work Student Association, George Mason University.
- 2011-15 *Dean's List*, George Mason University (seven semesters).
- 2011 *National Student Representative*, National Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 *International Student Representative*, East-West Youth Forum, Amman, Jordan.

ADDITIONAL TRAININGS RECEIVED

- 2021 **Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator**, School of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University (online spring series).
- 2020 **Cross-Cultural Conflict**, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University (online mini-course; April).
- 2020 **Ethnic and Religious Groups in Conflict**, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University (online mini-course; April).

- 2020 **Reducing Racial and Economic Inequality**, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., USA (January).
- 2019 **Spirituality and Religion in Social Services Forum**, University of Saint Joseph. Macao, China (October).
- 2019 **Indigenous Alaskan Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Convening**, First Alaskans Institute. Nome, AK, USA (June).
- 2018 **Facing Race: A National Conference**, Race Forward. Detroit, MI, USA (November).
- 2018 **Gender Equity and Reconciliation Workshop**, Gender Equity and Reconciliation International. St. Louis, MI, USA (May).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Social Work and Research (*2019 - present*)
Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work (*2015 - present*)

DATA ANALYTICAL SOFTWARE

SPSS, STATA