

VAJRA M. WATSON, ED.D.*

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Website: <https://www.drvajrawatson.com/>

Professional Website: <https://www.csus.edu/faculty/w/v.watson/>

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Leadership: Dynamic, creative, and visionary executive with over two decades of experience developing multifaceted teams and fostering collaborative partnerships to achieve organizational goals. Proven track record of success in building programs, strategic planning, marketing, communications, and board management. Gifted facilitator able to work across systems and stakeholder groups to create data-driven impacts. Award-winning solutionary with a focus on equity, justice, and belonging.

Scholarship: As a full tenured Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Sacramento State University, my work focuses on access and developing ecosystems of educational equity. I support racial justice as a daily practice inside classrooms (micro-level) as well as at the institutional level (macro-structural). I purposefully aim to disrupt and dismantle narratives of underachievement and inequality by uncovering how to make school systems (P-20) socially just, democratic sanctuaries of revitalization and community empowerment. I strive and am deeply committed to use research in service of social change.

Research Areas: transformative leadership, culturally sustaining practices in higher education, community-university-school partnerships, critical pedagogy, restorative justice, racial justice, sociology of education, community-based/rooted scholarship, scholar activism, qualitative methods, and portraiture.

EDUCATION

- 2001–2008** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Doctorate in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy with a focus on Communities and Schools
- **Dissertation:** *Risking Change: Portraits of Four Community-Based Educators Successfully Reaching and Teaching so-called "High-Risk" Youth*, June 2008.
 - **Committee Members:** Pedro Noguera, Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, and Mark Warren
- 2001–2002** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Ed.M. in Learning and Teaching
- 2000–2001** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Ed.M. in International Education
- 1996–1999** **University of California, Berkeley, College of Letters and Science**
- B.A. in Political Science/Peace and Conflict Studies and Education (minor)
 - Dean's Honors List, Summa cum laude
 - **Meiji Gakuin University, Department of Economics, Yokohama, Japan** (Study Abroad)
 - **University of the West Indies, School of Education, Cave Hill, Barbados** (Study Abroad)
 - **Undergraduate Honors Thesis:** *Holistic Human Rights: Using a Critical Multicultural Approach to Human Rights Education in Secondary Schools*

*Please note: Harvard's Ed.D. degree has been the *only research-based education degree* offered at Harvard University for cohorts entering from 1976 to 2013. In Fall 2014, HGSE transitioned this exact program into the *Ph.D.* The Ph.D. in Education replaced the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) to better signal to the public the research emphasis that has always been the basis of Harvard's rigorous Ed.D. program.

RECENT CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Senior Associate Vice President of the Placer Campus – Sacramento State University (2023-2025)

- **Inaugural** leader serving as the **Chief Academic and Executive Officer** responsible for the development of the 301-acre campus
- Led Sacramento State in securing **unanimous approval** from the CSU Board of Trustees to establish the satellite campus: [CSU Board Approval Announcement](#)
- Demonstrated **visionary leadership**, resulting in multi-million dollar **Public-Private Partnership (P3)** agreements for the new campus
- Collaborated with academic deans and program chairs to **design and launch** an interdisciplinary faculty fellowship focused on academic planning and curriculum development
- Developed the "**Communiversity**" framework (Watson, 2023) to better align pathways from community colleges to higher education. This initiative led to the establishment of data-sharing agreements, the offering of Sacramento State courses at local community colleges, and a significant increase in enrollment at both institutions
- Served as the **primary liaison** for Placer with local elected officials, K-12 schools, and industry leaders
- Directed **fundraising efforts**, including donor development, extramural funding initiatives, and grant applications
- Active member of the **president's council**, advising weekly on overall campus strategy and direction
- Managed the content and media collateral for the Placer campus website: [Placer Campus Information](#)

Faculty Director of the Doctorate in Educational Leadership – Sacramento State University (2020-2023)

- **Led the EDD Program** to achieve recognition as the **#2 EDD Program in the Nation**, according to *Best Accredited Colleges, 2023*
- **Launched the "[Leading with Justice Speaker Series](#),"** attracting over 2,500 participants from multiple countries
- **Facilitated faculty governance processes**, including developing full consensus to revise the Qualifying Exam
- Led year-round recruitment efforts, **quadrupling applications** to the Doctoral Program, significantly enhancing program interest and visibility
- **Tripled enrollment** of African American and Native American students, fostering greater diversity within the program
- Accountable for **monitoring program quality** and ensuring compliance with **accreditation standards**
- Led the **admissions process**, including the implementation of a new approach using **Cal State Apply** and **OnBase** to streamline cohort scheduling
- Collaboratively led **course and program revisions** to enhance academic rigor, relevance, and connection to restorative and transformative justice practices
- Developed and launched the "**Pay-It-Forward**" **Scholarship Campaign**, increasing student access and success
- Managed a **\$1.2 million annual budget**, ensuring financial efficiency and resource allocation
- Supervised and directed the activities of **two staff positions**, ensuring operational effectiveness
- Directed multiple **faculty searches**, securing two new tenure-track hires with a focus on **Anti-Racist Leadership**
- Actively participated in the **EdD Director's group**, organizing and hosting meetings to foster collaboration across multiple institutions
- **Facilitated monthly faculty meetings**, developing agendas, timelines, and setting actionable goals for program improvement

- Provided **year-round support** to multiple cohorts of doctoral students, offering guidance and academic resources
- Offered **continuous support to the Edd Alumni Connection**, maintaining engagement and organizing professional networking activities
- While serving as Faculty Director, simultaneously assumed additional roles of **Graduate Coordinator** (2020-2021, 2022-2023) and **Associate Director** (2022-2023), demonstrating flexibility and leadership across multiple program areas

Founder and Director of the Office of Research and Policy for Equity – UC Davis (2008-2020)

- Developed a fully-functional **self-sustaining academic center** with 12 staff and faculty fellows
<http://equity.ucdavis.edu>
- Secured grants and school contracts exceeding **\$9 million dollars**
- **Created and managed** the annual Equity Summit and Social Justice Awards Gala:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=UqhkvhNRJ3Q&feature=emb_logo
- Founded and successfully built **Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS)**
<https://www.says.ucdavis.edu/>

EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS & PROJECTS

Warren, M. (Principal Investigator) with **Watson, V.** (Co-PI). Spencer Foundation, Research-Practice Partnership: *Intersectional Organizing: Strategies for Cross-issue Solidarity in Educational and Social Justice Movements*. **\$374,467.00**. Funded October, 2021.

Watson, V. (Sponsorships). Launched *Leading with Justice Speaker Series*. Secured **\$20,000** in sponsorships. (2020 & 2021). <https://www.csus.edu/college/education/doctorate-educational-leadership/leading-with-justice/leading-with-justice.html>

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Federal housing grant to examine drop-out prevention strategies. **\$50,000**. (2018-2020).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator with Co-PI, Lawrence Winn). Seed funding from Provost Hexter to support our *Transformative Justice* course sequence as part of the *Quarter at Aggie Square*. **\$25,000**. (2019-2020).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded by the *City of Sacramento Office of Violence Prevention*. **\$250,000**. (2015-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded by the *Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission*. **\$210,000**. (2017-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Research grant to examine statewide academic retention program (Umoja) that supports African American community college students to/through higher education. **\$40,000**. (2016-2018).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator) with Co-PI, Maisha Winn and Lawrence Winn. Mixed-methods evaluation of *The Black Child Legacy Campaign*, a city-wide violence prevention initiative in Sacramento, CA. **\$110,000**. (2017-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Sacramento City Unified School District* contract for programming in after-school programs throughout the district. **\$750,000**. (2009-2018).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Twin Rivers Unified School District* contract for professional development and classroom residencies. **\$120,000**. (2009-2015).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded funding from *Youth Speaks, Inc.* to participate in the National Brave New Voices Network Initiative. Grant supports building a sustainable field of literary arts organizations. **\$300,000**. (2014-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Yolo County Office of Education* contract for programming in juvenile hall. **\$65,000**. (2015-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded to *SAYS* by *AT&T*. **\$100,000**. (2016-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *California Postsecondary Education Commission Improving Teacher Quality* grant. A culturally responsive professional development and research program for middle and high school teachers in a high-poverty district. **\$1,000,000**. (2010-2014).

PUBLICATIONS

Solo and Co-Authored Books:

Winn, L. & **Watson, V.**, Winn, M. (Ed.) (2023). *Faith Made Flesh: Every Black Child Deserves a Legacy*. New York: Cornell University Press.

My chapters in *Faith Made Flesh*:

- **Opening:** A Citywide Recentering of Black Life
- **Chapter 12:** Methodology Matters: The Power of Portraiture
- **Chapter 13:** People Power: Councilmember Phil Serna
- **Chapter 17:** Revolutionary Relations: Jackie Rose
- **Chapter 21:** Transformative Justice Community: Insights and Implications
- **Chapter 22:** A Re-Opening: Futures Forward

Keator, M. & **Watson, V.** (2022). *The Soul of Learning: rituals of awakening, magnetic pedagogy, and living justice*. New York: Routledge.

Watson, V. (2018). *Transformative Schooling: Towards Racial Equity in Education*. New York: Routledge.

Watson, V. (2012). *Learning to Liberate: Community-Based Solutions to the Crisis in Urban Education*. New York: Routledge (Michael Apple Series, Critical Social Thought).

Articles, Book Chapters, and Community Evaluations:

Sabati, S., **Watson, V.**, & Morgan, E. (forthcoming). "Becoming Healers of Education: Reimagining the Doctorate of Educational Leadership as an Instrument of Collective Liberation." In *The Coming of Age of the Education Doctorate*. Editors: Ignacio Hernández & Alexia T. Pimentel. Myers Education Press.

Watson, V. (2024). "Ending the Delusion of White Supremacy." In *Disrupting Racism in US School: Transcending the (un)Civil War*. Editors: Amy Murray & Rose Borunda. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Ononuju, I., De Vera, S. & **Watson, V.** (2024). "Living Hip Hop: The Community-based Organization as a Space for Educational Liberation." In the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Hip Hop Pedagogy*. Editors: Lauren Kelly & Daren Graves. London: Bloomsbury Publishing House.
- Watson, V.**, Ononuju, I., de Vera, S., & Kier, A. (August, 2022). *Equity-In-Motion: An Evaluation of the SAYS Partnership with San Juan Unified School District*. A report prepared for the Equity and Student Achievement Department, San Juan Unified School District, Carmichael, CA. [Report](#)
- Leslie, A., **Watson, V.**, Borunda, R., Bosworth, K., and Grant, T. (2021). "Towards Abolition: Undoing the colonized curriculum." In *Journal of Curriculum Studies Research* 3 (1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.46303/jcsr.2021.5>
- Winn, L.T., **Watson, V.**, & Winn, M.T., (2020). *Transformative Justice Community: A Countywide Evaluation of the Black Child Legacy Campaign*. Prepared for Sacramento's Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Death, Sacramento, CA. [Report](#)
- Hope, J. and **Watson, V.** (2020). "Hood Civics: Intergenerational Healing and the Quest for Educational Justice for/with Black Girl Activists." In *Black Girl Civics: Expanding and Navigating the Boundaries of Civic Engagement*. Editors: Ginnie Logan & Janiece Mackey. North Carolina: Information Age Press.
- Watson, V.** (2020). "What is a world without whiteness?" In *Medium* open source. <https://medium.com/@vajrawatson>. June 1, 2020.
- Wenbourne Hendrick, B. and **Watson, V.** (2020). "Leading with Justice: Afterword and Next Steps." *Journal of Transformative Leadership & Policy Studies*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.36851/jtlps.v9i1.2474>
- Watson, V.** (2019). "Embodied Justice: We are the Divine Text." In *The Whole Person: Lectio Divina as Transformative Practice in Teaching and Learning*. Editors: Jane Dalton and Maureen Hall. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Watson, V.** (2019). "Liberating Methodologies: Reclaiming Research as a Site for Radical Inquiry and Transformation." In *Community-Based Participatory Research: Testimonios from Chicana/o Studies*. Editor: Natalia Deeb-Sossa. The University of Arizona Press.
- Chatmon, C. and **Watson, V.** (2018). "Decolonizing School Systems: Racial Justice, Radical Healing, and Educational Equity inside Oakland Unified School District," *Voices in Urban Education*, 48. Online access, https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/media/users/emj309/vue48/02-VUE_48_Chatmon_0.pdf
- Watson, V.** (2018). "#schoolismyhustle: A youth movement to transform education." In *Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement*. Editors: Mark Warren and David Goodman. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Watson, V.** (2018). "Cultural Keepers as Movement Makers: Towards the Alignment of Artists, Activists, and Academics." *Public: A Journal of Imagining America*. Volume 5, Issue 1. Online Journal, <http://public.imaginingamerica.org/blog/article/cultural-keepers-as-movement-makers-towards-the-alignment-of-artists-activists-and-academics/>.
- Watson, V.** (2017). "Life as Primary Text: English Classrooms as Sites for Soulful Learning." Invited submission for *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English.

- Watson, V.** (2016). "Literacy is a Civil Write: The Art, Science and Soul of Transformative Classrooms." In Papa, R., Eadens, D. M., & Eadens, D. M. (Eds), *Social Justice Instruction: Empowerment on the Chalkboard*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing. (Book Series on Education, Equity and the Economy).
- Watson, V.** (2014). *The Black Sunrise: Oakland Unified School District's Commitment to Address and Eliminate Institutionalized Racism*. Final evaluation report submitted to Oakland Unified School District's Office of African American Male Achievement. <http://www.ousd.org/Page/12267>
- Watson, V.** (2013). "Censoring Freedom: Community-Based Professional Development and the Politics of Profanity." In *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 46:3, 387-410.
- Watson, V.** (2008). *Risking Change: Portraits of Four Community-Based Educators Successfully Reaching and Teaching "High-Risk" Youth*. Dissertation, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V.** (2004). *It's bigger than hip-hop: Rappers educating educators about the purpose of school*. Qualifying Paper, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V.** (1999). "Lighthouse in Starvation." In *We are the ones we have been Waiting for*, J. Jordan (Ed.). Berkeley: University of California Press.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & K12 EXPERIENCE

- 2020-present California State University, Sacramento
 ♦ *EDD 600: Transformative Leadership*
- 2016-2020 University of California, Davis
 ♦ *Mic Check: Race, Place, and Power within and Beyond the Ivory Tower*
 ♦ *Scholar Activism: the more you know, the more you owe*
 ♦ *Decolonizing Methodologies: the art, science, and soul of portraiture*
- 2005–2008 Project Pipeline, California Alternative Credential Program, Alameda, CA
 ♦ *Foundations of Teaching as a Profession*
 ♦ *Evaluation and Assessment*
- 2004–2007 Department of Teacher Education - University of San Francisco School of Education
 San Francisco, CA
 ♦ *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*
 ♦ *Learning and Teaching*
- 2003–2004 Director of Environmental Prevention Training and Youth Development Programs –
Youth Leadership Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2001–2003 Teaching Assistant for Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot
 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 ♦ *Sociology of Education*
- 2001–2003 Research Assistant for Pedro Noguera
 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

- ◆ *Pathways to Success*, an examination of student aspirations and achievement within small schools.
- 2001–2002 Teaching Assistant for Pedro Noguera
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - ◆ *Urban Education*
- 2000–2002 Project Coordinator
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - ◆ *Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)*, a CD project in which young people used hip-hop to voice their perceptions about Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School.
- 1999–2000 Dean of Curriculum and Instruction - *Making Waves*, Ross, CA
- 1996–1999 Teacher - Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA
 - ◆ *Ethnic Studies*
 - ◆ *World History*
- 1996–1999 Student Participatory Action Research Coordinator
UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education, Berkeley, CA
 - ◆ *The Diversity Project*, a study to examine educational equity at Berkeley High School. Findings were later published in the book, *Unfinished Business* (Noguera & Wing, 2008).

KEYNOTES, LECTURES, & PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS (SAMPLE)

- Watson, V.** (November, 2024). Keynote Address for the *National Association for Multicultural Education*. “Memoir Meets Manifesto: What is a world without whiteness?” Anaheim, CA.
- Watson, V.** (November, 2024). Keynote Address for the *California Educational Research Association*. “Faith Made Flesh: Methodologies of Movement Building.” San Francisco, CA.
- Watson, V.** (October, 2024). Featured panelist for the *Placer Valley Summit*. Conference theme: “Embracing Innovation, Navigating New Frontiers.” Roseville, CA.
- Watson, V.** (June, 2024). Featured panelist at the *Industry Studies Association*. <https://www.industrystudies.org/>. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V.** (June, 2024). Interactive Research Presentation: “Equity Starts with Autobiography” at the *A.S.E. Institute on Activism, Sports, and Equity*. NBA-Sponsored Training. Golden 1 Arena. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V., Bland, D., & Hill, P.** (October, 2022). Research Presentation: “Rituals of Repair: Poetry as Public Pedagogy” at the *Imagining America: Artists + Scholars in Public Life Annual Conference* at Tulane University. New Orleans, Louisiana. <https://imaginingamerica.org>
- Warren, M., **Watson, V.**, Muhammad, L., Stitch, J. (October, 2022). Research Presentation: “Willful Defiance: Activist Scholarship as a Tool for Movement Building” at the *URBAN Research and Action National Network Conference* sponsored by the Institute for Social Transformation. University of California, Santa Cruz. <https://transform.ucsc.edu/all-in-conference-agenda/>

- Watson, V.** (September, 2022). Keynote Address for the *People's Think Tank*. "Intersectional Organizing: An Exploration of Research as Relational, Spiritual, and Intentional." National Convening via zoom. <http://peoplesthinktank.us>
- Watson, V.** (June, 2022). Keynote Speaker at the *11th Annual UC Davis Equity Summit*. "An Invitation to the Future of Education." Davis, CA.
- Watson, V.** (June, 2022). Guest Lecture in doctoral course: *Race and Whiteness in US Schools and Society* at Northern Arizona University, College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership.
- Watson, V.** (May, 2022). Keynote Speaker for *Transformative Conversations: Promoting Equity and Inclusion in Education and Beyond* at California State University, Stanislaus.
- Watson, V.,** Ononuju, I., & De Vera, S. (April, 2022). Symposium for the Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG: "Justice as Pedagogy: Community-Based Organizations Connect Learning and Liberation." AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- De Vera, S., **Watson, V.** & Baldrige, B. (April, 2022). Presidential Session on "Educational Resistance: Fugitive Pedagogy and Community-Based Educators as Freedom Fighters." AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Watson, V.** (February, 2022). *Liberation in Praxis: Whiteness, Accountability, & Shifting from Ally to Co-Conspiratorship*. Co-Presenter with Dr. Andrea Terry. Sacramento State Convocation. February 14, 2022.
- Watson, V.,** Cooksy, L. Montgomery-Block, K., Winn, T. (September, 2021). "Implementing and Evaluating a Campaign to Reduce Disparities and Transform Communities" at the *Six Annual International Conference on the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment*.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *Community-based methodologies and scholar activism*. Guest Lecture for CHI 241: Community-Based Participatory Research. University of California, Davis. April 27, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *Portraiture: An Exploration*. Keynote Address for the University of Pittsburgh School of Education's Shifting Power Community-University Collaborative. April 12, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *A talk to white teachers: Moving from white fragility to white accountability in education*. Community lecture for Elite Public Schools in Vallejo, CA. March 12, 2021.
- Leslie, A, **Watson, V.,** Borunda, R., Grant, T., Bosworth, K. (2021). *Towards Abolition: Undoing the Colonized Curriculum* [Symposium] California Teachers Association 2021, Equity & Human Rights Conference. February 26, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). Presidential Session Panelist: "From the Margins to the Center: Interrogating the Precarity and Possibility of Community-based Youth Work in Challenging Times" at the 2021 AERA Virtual Annual Meeting.
- Watson, V.** (2020) *Living Justice: Reflections on Scholar Activism* [Symposium]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/slde4dp>

Watson, V. (2019). *Leveraging Collaborative Strength to Develop District Racial Equity Leadership*, Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Watson, V. (2019). *Artivism as Holistic Praxis*, Symposium for the Holistic Education SIG at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Watson, V. (2019). Featured Research Talk: *Community-based Scholarship: Reimagining Higher Education in the Lives of Young People*. UC Office of the President, Oakland, CA.

Watson, V. (2019). Featured Book Panel: *Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement*. The University of Utah.

Watson, V. (2019). Featured Lecture. *Radical Pursuits: Towards Systems Change for Social Justice*. University of California, Santa Barbara (co-sponsored by the Departments of Sociology and Education).

Watson, V. (2019). Featured Lecture. *Transformative Schooling: Racial Justice and Educational Equity in the 21st Century*. University of California, Los Angeles (sponsored by the School of Education).

Watson, V. (2019). Featured Lecture. *The 3 Keys of Social Transformation*. University of California, Merced (sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor & Provost).

Watson, V. (2018). Keynote Speaker. *Towards Educational Equity*. Power of I Conference, Elk Grove Unified School District. Sacramento, CA.

Watson, V. (2018). *Liberating Methodologies: Reclaiming Research as a Site for Radical Inquiry and Transformation*. Research presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.

Watson, V. (2018). *School is my Hustle: A youth movement to transform education*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.

Watson, V. (2017). Keynote Speaker. *Power, Privilege, and Pedagogy*. 2nd Annual Building a Resilient Yolo Summit. Woodland, CA.

Watson, V. (2017). Research Presentation. *Transforming Schooling in the P-20 Educational System*. The Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies, UC Davis School of Law. Davis, CA.

Watson, V. (2017). Keynote Speaker. *Write to Heal: Addressing Intergenerational Trauma with Critical Literacy and Social Justice*. National Parent-Teacher Conference. Sacramento, CA.

Watson, V. (2017). *Expanding Educational Opportunities for Black and Latino Male Students: Lessons From Four Urban School Districts*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Watson, V. (2017). *mythologies of white supremacy*. Symposium at the National Council of Teachers of English, St. Louis, MO.

Watson, V. (2017). *Deep Living: The Art, Science, and Soul of Transformative Classrooms*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

- Watson, V.** (2017). *Strategies and Outcomes of Grassroots Organizing*. Discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Watson, V.** (2016). Featured Speaker as a *Changemaker Fellow*. TEDx Sacramento.
- Watson, V.** (2016). Keynote Speaker. *Literacy is a Civil Write: Teaching Tools For Social Resistance Within And Beyond The Walls Of Schools* at the English Learner Leadership Conference. Sonoma County Office of Education, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2015). Keynote Speaker. *The Pedagogy of Our Lives: Teaching Tools For Social Resistance Within And Beyond The Walls Of Schools* at the Transformative Researchers and Educators for Democracy Conference. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.
- Watson, V.** (2015). Keynote Address. *Education for Liberation* at the 16th Annual Transfer Conference at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2012). Research Presentation. *Results from an Innovative Literacy Program in Urban Special Education Support Classes*. Council for Exceptional Children Convention. Denver, CO.
- Watson, V.** (2011). Keynote Address. *Grassroots Empowerment for the Next Generation: Moving Marginalized Youth to the Center of Community Change*. UC Merced's Community Engagement Conference: Community Engagement and Scholarship. UC Merced, Merced, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2011). Keynote Address. *Building Community for Educational Improvements*. Stockton Unified School District Honoring Educators Forum for Teachers, Administrators, and Staff. Stockton, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2011). *Grassroots pedagogy: Community-based classrooms for social change*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Watson, V.** (2010). Invited Research Symposium. *Gangstas, Gunshots, and Grades: Effectively Responding to "Present" Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Today's Urban Youth*. San Francisco General Hospital in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.

SERVICE

Doctoral Students at Sacramento State University:

- Dissertation Chair, Juliet McKinnon Maestas. **Tribal Culture Endurance and Post-Secondary Aspirations: Rural California Native American High School Students**. (Graduated June of 2024).
- Dissertation Chair, Ximena Ospina. **The Latinx/e Student Cuentos of Rupture to Nurture: Understanding the Study Abroad Reentry Experience Through Generational Dreaming**. (Graduated June of 2024).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Freshta Gran Guzman, (Chair: Sheeva Sabati). **Examining critical professional development and its impact on teachers' classroom practices through a critical, anti-colonial case study**. (Graduated June of 2024).
- Dissertation Committee Member, LaToya Jackson, (Chair: Sheeva Sabati). **Beyond The Struggle: Reimagining and Freedom Dreaming the California Community College for and by Employees of Color**. (Graduated June of 2024).
- Dissertation Chair, Shaun de Vera. **Access to Anti-Racist Computing Education for BIPOC Youth: A Case Study in Two Urban California School Districts**. (Graduated June of 2023).

- Dissertation Chair, Haley Myers Dillon. **Justice for Moms in College: Examining Factors that Influence Student-Parents Degree Completion Timelines.** *Winner of the CSU Statewide Outstanding Dissertation Award.* (Graduated June of 2023).
- Dissertation Chair, Angelina Kier. **Children of la Malinche: Portraits of Latinx Students and Educators' Linguistic Experiences in an Urban School District.** (Graduated June of 2023).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Freddy Castro, (Chair: Sheeva Sabati). **Stories from the Exodus: Why Teachers of Color Keep Leaving the Profession.** (Graduated June of 2023).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Crystal Sims. (Chair: Dale Allender). **Examining How the COVID-19 Pandemic Influenced Self-Efficacy and Professional Identity Development of Educators in Higher Education.** (Graduated June of 2023).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Gabriela Ballesteros. (Chair: Dale Allender). **We Work Uphill: First Generation Latina Womxn Resisting the Academy.** (Graduated June of 2022).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Wicondra Stovall. (Chair, Sarah Jouganatos). **Yes, It's For Us: An Examination of Othermothering as a Framework for Cultural Brokering For African American Students and Families.** (Graduated June of 2022).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Amber Bradley. (Chair, Dale Allender). **Liberation through Abolition: An analysis of the reallocation of police funds in Three California Public School Districts.** *Winner of the Outstanding Dissertation Award.* (Graduated June of 2022).
- Dissertation Chair, Khanh Ngoc Dinh. **Racial Diversity Leadership Index: A model for Employee Retention.** *Winner of the Outstanding Dissertation Award.* (Graduated June of 2021).
- Dissertation Chair, Lisa Ziska-Marchand. **Portraits of White Women Managers Reflecting Upon Racism, Classism, and Equity in Higher Education.** (Graduated June of 2021).
- Dissertation Chair, Bena Arao. **Invisible Labor: examining the black staff engagement with the institution's budgeting ecosystem.** (Graduated June of 2021).
- Faculty Advisor, *Ongoing.* **Each faculty member is assigned a core group of doctoral students to support in their first year.** To date, I have directly mentored 8 students.

Graduate Students at Other Institutions:

- Dissertation Committee Member, Hodari B. Davis. (Chair: Danny Martinez). **Exhibit A Oakland: An Afrofuturistic Social Design Experiment.** (Expected Graduation—June of 2025 from UC Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Yolanda Jimenez. **A Phenomenological Study of the experiences of Emerging Bilingual Students.** (Graduated June of 2022—San Jose State University).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Alicia Herrera. **Compounded Whiteness: White Teacher Antiracist Ideological Commitment Development in Predominantly White Elementary Schools.** (Graduated August of 2021—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Victor Smalls. **Anti-Black Personas in School and Hip-Hop Studies.** (Graduated June of 2021—CSU, East Bay).
- Thesis Committee Member, Trevor Auldridge Reveles. **Oppositional and Affirmational Hope in the Education of Urban Boys of Color: Enhancing Self-Determination, Overstanding Trauma, and Community Commitment.** (Graduated June of 2021—UC Santa Barbara).
- Honors Thesis Chair, Thuy Vi Nguyen. **Cultivating Identities in a Place Called Home: Intersectional, Everchanging Identities of Vietnamese American Youth in Culturally Sustaining Spaces.** (Graduated June of 2020—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Jennifer DeBarros. **Remembering Malcolm: The Culture of Memory, Police Shootings & Public Pedagogy.** (Graduated June of 2019—University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Lorraine Wilkins. **Counter-narratives from outside the hood: case studies of African American students' schooling experiences in suburbia.** (Graduated June of 2017—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Ijeoma Ononuju. **Living blind, dreaming in color: social malignancy and African American male health and achievement.** (Graduated in June of 2016—University of California, Davis).

- Dissertation Committee Member, Kenya Mitchell. **Beyond the writing process: using explicit, trans-textual pedagogies to improve diverse undergraduate students' writing skills.** (Graduated in June of 2016—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Mari Gray. **The role of school resource officers in the school-to-prison pipeline.** (Graduated in June of 2016—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Sophia Gonfiotti. **An examination of the racial and ethnic identity formation of Chinese children adopted into white families.** (Graduated in June of 2015—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Kristen Coates. **Quantitative study of social emotional learning practices at a high-poverty high-achieving urban middle school.** (Graduated in June of 2014—University of California, Davis).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Michelle Seijas. **The Systemic Devaluation of Latino Students in a Rural Setting.** (Graduated in June of 2014—University of California, Davis).

Institutional Service to Sacramento State:

- **Active Member**, CSUS Center of Race, Immigration, and Social Justice, 2021-present
- **Faculty Representative:** Campuswide Committee on Diversity and Equity (CODE), 2021-2023
- **Faculty Representative**, COE Strategic Planning Accountability and Resources (SPAR), 2020-2023
- **Member**, COE Dean's Advisory Council (DAC), 2020-2023
- **Member**, Multicultural Education Conference Planning Committee, 2022-2023
- **Faculty Representative:** Campuswide Sac State Scholars, 2020-2022
- **Faculty Representative**, CSLA Advisory Group, Sacramento County Office of Education, 2021-2022
- **Search Committee Member:** Hiring Committee for PPA search for a Public Administration or Public Policy scholar with Expertise in Social and Racial Equity, 2021-2022
- **Launched** *Leading with Justice Speaker Series*, <https://www.csus.edu/college/education/doctorate-educational-leadership/leading-with-justice/leading-with-justice.html> (2020-2022)
- **Lead Sponsor:** *We Still Here*. Campuswide film-screening and workshop with filmmakers and community members from Puerto Rico at the Hinde Auditorium, Sacramento State, March 2, 2022
- **Member**, COE Developing Anti-racist Pedagogies, Practices, and Systems FLC, 2020-2021
- **Member**, Campuswide Antiracism and Inclusive Campus Plan group on Antiracism Learning and Literacy, 2020-2021
- **Search Committee Chair:** Chaired EDD search for a scholar who focuses on Anti-Racist Leadership Policy and Practices (2 hires secured), 2020-2021

Service to the Discipline:

- **AERA Co-Chair:** *Leading for Social Justice SIG - Social Action Committee* (2024-present)
- **AERA Chair:** *The Committee on Excellence in Media Reporting on Education* (2022-2024)
- **Book Review and Back Cover Endorsement:** *Reauthoring Savage Inequalities*, Edited by Lori D. Patton, Ishwanzya D. Rivers, Raquel L. Farmer-Hinton, and Joi D. Lewis. (SUNY Press, 2022)
- **Book Review and Back Cover Endorsement:** *Liberation Pedagogy: Elijah Muhammad and the Art of Soul Crafting* by Abul Pitre. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022)
- **Book Review:** *Fighting the Good Fight: Narrative of the African American Principalship*. By: Isaac Carrier and Aaron Griffen. (Word & Deed Publishing Incorporated, 2022)
- **Editorial Board Member:** *Journal of Bilingual Review/La Revista Bilingüe* (2022-2023)
- **Editorial Board Member:** *Journal of Urban Learning, Teaching, and Research* (2013-2022)
- **Reviewer** for *Equity and Excellence in Education* (2012; 2019)
- **AERA Co-Chair:** *Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing SIG* (2011-2013)
- **Reviewer** for *Berkeley Review of Education* (2014)
- **Reviewer** for *Journal of Juvenile Justice* (2014)
- **Book Reviewer:** *Teaching to Change the World* by Jeannie Oakes & Martin Lipton (McGraw-Hill, 2005)

Service to the Community:

- **Founding Board Member**, UC Davis *Sacramento Area Youth Speaks* (2008-present)
- **Founding Board Member and Board President**, *United Playaz*, San Francisco, CA (2011-present)
- **Founding Board Member and Board Co-Chair**, *Kingmakers of Oakland* (2018-present)
- **National Board Member**, *The People's Think Tank* (2018-present)
- **Founding Board Member**, *Elite Charter School System* in Vallejo, CA (2018-2023)
- **Expert Witness**, *High profile civil rights case*, Law Office of Steve Whitworth (2022)
- **Expert Witness**, *AB 2598*, Legislation on Restorative Justice Practices (2022)
- **Board Member**, *Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning* with the National Council of Teachers of English (2016-2022)
- **Board Member**, *The Urban Education Justice Project*, (2016-2022)
- **Board Member**, *Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley*, Stockton, CA (2013-2020)
- **Chair**, African American Students into Higher Education (AASHE), Yolo County Office of Education Task Force (2014-2016)
- **Advisory Member**, Social Justice Education Coalition, UC Davis Graduate & Faculty group (2013-2017)
- **Education Advisor**, *Youth Speaks, Inc.*, San Francisco, CA (2008-2011)
- **Co-Founder and Board Member**, *The Urban Root Community Center*, Berkeley, CA (1995-1999)

AWARDSProfessional Awards

- ❖ *Award for Exemplary Leadership - Enhancing Racial Equity & Economic Opportunities* - Mutual Assistance Network (2024)
- ❖ *Woman of the Year Award* - United States Congress (2019)
- ❖ *Woman of Inspiration Award* - Sacramento Kings (2019)
- ❖ *Early Career Award* - UC Davis (2013)
- ❖ *40 Under 40 Award* for exemplary leadership in the Sacramento region - Sacramento Business Journal (2011)
- ❖ *Diversity and Principals of Community Soaring to New Heights Individual Achievement Award* - UC Davis Chancellor's Office (2011)

Academic Awards and Distinctions

- ❖ The California Educational Research Association's *Annual Research Award* (2019)
- ❖ American Educational Research Association *Social Justice Leadership Award* (2018)
- ❖ American Educational Research Association *Social Impact Award* (2016)
- ❖ Harvard Graduate School of Education Recognition for *Outstanding Commitment to Students* for coordinating multicultural activities (2000–2001)
- ❖ Phi Beta Kappa, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)
- ❖ Dean's Honors List, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)
- ❖ Golden Key Honor Society, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)

Academic Scholarships

- ❖ Harvard Graduate School of Education award for highly-ranked doctoral student (2002–2004)
- ❖ Harvard Graduate School of Education merit-based scholarship for academic achievements (2001)
- ❖ Multicultural Alliance of Teachers Education Award (2000)
- ❖ AmeriCorps Education Award and Scholarship Recipient (1999–2000)
- ❖ National Security Education Program Grant Recipient (1999)
- ❖ Alumni Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership, UC Berkeley (1998–1999)
- ❖ Fullwood Academic Scholarship, UC Berkeley (1996-1999)

MEDIA COVERAGE

CSUS News Features:

- “CSU Trustees approve plans for Sac State off-campus center in Placer County:”
<https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2024/1/placer-center-plans-approved.html>
- “EDD Hires faculty that focus on Anti-Racist Leadership.” Sacramento State Newsroom: <https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2021/8/antiracist-edd-faculty.html>
- “Study shows how partnering with communities, using key resources improves Black children's lives.” Sacramento State Newsroom: <https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2021/2/bclc-study-results.html>.
 - CSUS Reported Article Audience Reach: **301,879** (as of Feb. 25, 2021)

National Features:

- Featured in the feature-length documentary, *Rigged*. This documentary examines how the higher education system grows economic disparities and thereby undermines the future of American Democracy. <https://riggeddocumentary.com/index.html>
- National Media Attention for my report, *The Black Sonrise: Oakland Unified School District's Commitment to Address and Eliminate Institutionalized Racism*:
 - **New York Times**, *Courses in Manhood for African-American Boys* by Patricia Brown: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/07/education/edlife/in-oakland-building-boys-into-men.html?_r=0
 - **Huffington Post Live Webcam** with Marc Lamont Hill: <http://huff.lv/17HxRGq>
 - **Essence Magazine**: <http://m.essence.com/2015/02/17/oakland-schools-tackle-racism-get-results>
 - **Huffington Post Article**: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/17/oakland-manhood-development-program_n_6665806.html
 - **Diverse Issues in Higher Education**: <http://diverseeducation.com/article/69243/>
 - **Atlantic Black Star**: <http://atlantablackstar.com/2015/02/19/oakland-schools-taking-simple-effective-approach-helping-black-male-students-excel/>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)
- National Association of Branch Campus Administrators
- Education for Liberation National Network
- Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN)
- Imagining America: Scholars and Artists in Public Life
- Teachers for Social Justice
- The People's Think Tank
- Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN)