

VANESSA R. WARRI

Luskin School of Public Affairs
University of California, Los Angeles
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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D. Student, Social Welfare

Master of Social Work

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology

Los Angeles, CA
(*expected*) June 2026

June 2022

June 2020

June 2020

City College of San Francisco

Associate of Liberal Arts - Arts and Humanities (Honors)

Associate of Arts, Sociology (Honors)

Associate of Science - Social and Behavioral Sciences (Honors)

San Francisco, CA

September 2018

May 2018

May 2018

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2022 Co-Principal Investigator, Center for UCLA HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services, P30MH058107, \$5000
- 2021 Academic Achievement & Community Engagement Award, Gays & Lesbians Living in a Transgender Society Inc.
- 2020 Community Leadership Award, Transgender, Gender-Variant, and Intersex Justice Project [T.G.I.J.P]
- 2020 Ezekiel "Zeke" Webber Leadership in Activism & Education Award, UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center
- 2020 Graduate Award, Point Foundation, \$13,500
- 2018 Undergraduate Award, Point Foundation, \$12,500
- 2012 Mayoral Appointed Youth Commissioner, City and County of San Francisco – Office of the Mayor

(Fellowships, Awards, and Grants continued)

2011 National and Community Service Award, Corporation for National and Community Service

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

2023 – 2024 Member, **Professional Development Committee**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

2022 – 2023 Member, **Social Welfare Anti-Racism Committee**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

2021 – 2024 Member, **Luskin Black Caucus**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

2021 – 2023 Member, **Transgender Studies and Research Ethics Committee**, UCLA Center for the Study of Women

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

September 2023 **Human Research for Social and Behavioral Staff** (Credential ID # 52139055), Collaborative Institutional Training Institute.
Expires 06/2026

May 2022 **Human Services Management Certificate**, The Network for Social Work Management

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Sevelius, J.M., Castro, D., **Warri, V. R.**, Moreta Avila, L., Chakravarty, D., Zamudio-Haas, S., Kramer, K., Zack, B. *Adapting and implementing an evidence-based reentry intervention for incarcerated transgender women: Lessons Learned*. (2023). Journal of Correctional Health Care Volume 29, Number 1. DOI: 10.1089/jchc.21.12.0132
2. Sevelius, J.M., Sa'id, A., **Warri, V. R.**, *"Becoming Janet Mock" [a review of the book Redefining Realness]* (2014). PsychCRITIQUES. 59 (51), Article 2. Doi: 10.1037/a0038531

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Warri, V. R., Bruno, J., Rapues, J.J., Keatley, J., Sevelius, J.M. **Transgender and Gender Diverse People Who Are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.** *In: Keuroghlian AS, Potter J, Reisner SL. eds. Transgender and Gender Diverse Health Care: The Fenway Guide.* McGraw Hill; 2022.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. Reed T.A., Warri V, Wilf S, Chiang S, Wray-Lake L. *"I made this trauma my entire personality": How Negative Experiences in Gun Violence Prevention Impact the Organizing, Well-Being, and Healing of Black and Latinx Youth.* *Journal of Social Problems.* (Under Review)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

1. Fensterstock, N., Watson, K. R., Robinson, L. E., Warri, V. R., Garcia, A. A., Wu, C., Hogenkamp, S., Xu, Y., Garner, H., Dunn, D., McMahon, S., Astor, R. A., Espelage, D. L., Martinez, A., Reddy, L., Anderman, A., Worrell, F. *Violence in Schools: Social Workers Report the Biggest Needs and Make Recommendations to Enhance Safety.*

ABSTRACTS

1. Warri, V. R., Fuentes, K. (2023). *SW LEARN: Insights from Phase One of a Community Engaged, Peer-Driven Research Effort to Promote Greater Health Equity Among Transgender Women of Color in Sex Work.* **California HIV/AIDS Research Program: 40 Years of CHRP: Ending the Epidemic(s) Through Equity and Innovation.** Los Angeles, CA
2. Warri, V. R. (2023). *We've got This: Centering Our Collective Experiences to Build Health Knowledge from the Ground Up.* **National Transgender Health Summit.** San Francisco, CA
3. Miyashita-Ochoa, A., Warri, V. R., Findley, F. (2022). *HIV and the Carceral State: Researching Effects on Health Outcomes.* **Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) 2022 HIV Next Generation Conference.** Los Angeles, CA

(Abstracts continued)

4. **Warri, V. R.** (2022). *Towards Justice-Centered Futures in Transgender Research: Community-Driven Insights for Repairing and Forging Stronger Academic and Community Relations*. **Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) 2022 HIV Next Generation Conference**. Los Angeles, CA
5. **Warri, V. R.** (2017). *Girlfriends Connect: Community Mobilization as a Tool for Transgender Women's Reentry Services*. **National Transgender Health Summit**. Oakland, CA
6. **Warri, V. R.**, Samudzi, Z., Castro, D. (2017) *Participation at the Margins: A Panel on Transgender Women of Color & Institutional Inclusion in both Academic and Clinical Spaces*. **United States Professional Association for Transgender Health/USPATH**. Los Angeles, CA
7. Sevelius, J., Castro, D., **Warri, V. R.**, Salemme, L. (2017). *Girlfriends Connect: Culturally Relevant Intervention Development for Incarcerated Transgender Women*. **United States Professional Association for Transgender Health/USPATH**. Los Angeles, CA
8. **Warri, V. R.** (2012). *Transitioning in the African American Home*. **Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference**. Philadelphia, PA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth; Lifelong Impact of School Climate and Belonging; Educational Disruptions; LGBTQ+ Foster Care; Runaway and Transition Age Youth; Psychological Wellbeing; Research Justice and Ethics for Working with Vulnerable Populations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Present *Sex Work Lived Experience Affirming Research Network: Culturally Relevant HIV Intervention for Transgender Women of Color Engaged in Sex Work in Los Angeles County*, Graduate Research Associate, **UCLA Hub for Health Intervention, Policy, and Practice** – Ayako Miyashita-Ochoa Ph.D., JD. **UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health** – Sophia Zamudio-Haas, DrPH, MSc.
- Presently facilitates cross-sector collaboration centering transgender women of color with lived experience in sex work to adapt an existing evidence-based intervention to improve HIV outcomes along the continuum of care. Lead trainer for peer interventionists.

(Research Experience continued)

- Present *Just Research? Trans Futures in Health and Scientific Knowledge [P30MH058107]*, Co-Principal Investigator, **UCLA Center for the Study of Women** – Grace K. Hong, Ph.D.
- Presently examining the alignment and differences between transgender and gender expansive community priorities and ethics and institutionally instigated research priorities and ethics. Supported a transdisciplinary team of community-based researchers and service providers to identify and elaborate justice-centered ethical considerations and guidelines for research related to transgender and gender expansive populations.
- 2018 – 2020 *Queer, Transgender, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (QTBIPOC) Student Experiences Project*, Principal Investigator, **UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center** – Andy Cofino, MA. **UCLA Student Affairs Information and Research Office** – Kristin McKinney, Ph.D.
- My team and I directed the first peer developed and led assessment of the experiences of queer and trans students of color regarding academic and social support on campus to inform campus policies and improve the current provision of services offered to at UCLA.
- 2016 – 2018 *Healthy Divas: Improving Engagement in HIV Care for High-Risk Transgender Women*, Clinical Research Coordinator, **UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health** – Jae Sevelius, Ph.D.
- Coordinated the screening, enrollment, and data management of participants for an R01 pilot research study focusing on HIV positive women of color and adherence to medication and maintaining engagement with a primary healthcare physician.
- 2015 – 2018 *Girlfriends Connect: Culturally Relevant Intervention Development for Incarcerated Transgender Women*, Clinical Research Associate, **UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health** – Jae Sevelius, Ph.D.
- Conducted qualitative interviews with women who were incarcerated within the San Francisco County Jail system to inform future health centered supportive programming and decrease recidivism. Developed short term re-entry plans for incarcerated women with pending release dates, connecting to medical health, mental health, substance treatment and legal advocacy.

(Research Experience continued)

- 2015 – 2016 *Sheroes: Community-Driven, Group-Level Intervention for Transgender Women*, Clinical Research Assistant, **UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health** – Jae Sevelius, Ph.D.
- Facilitated an R34 feasibility and acceptability behavioral health intervention on a weekly basis with cohorts of 10-15 participants, specifically tailored to improve HIV outcomes along the continuum of care for transgender women of color in the San Francisco Bay Area.

RESEARCH SKILLS

In-depth qualitative interviewing; coding and thematic analysis; world cafe methodology; community-based participatory action research methods; statistical analysis; R Studio; database management; survey development; RedCap; Care 360

TEACHING INTERESTS

Social determinants of health, human behavior in a social environment, community-based participatory research methods, community practice.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Spring 2024 Associate Instructor, **Using Qualitative Methods to Understand Social Problems and their Potential Solutions**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. Jasmine Hill
- Winter 2024 Associate Instructor, **How Social Environments Shape Human Development**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. Courtney Demko
- Fall 2023 Associate Instructor, **Social Movements**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. David Turner III
- Spring 2023 Teaching Assistant, **Social Movements**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. David Turner III
- Winter 2023 Teaching Assistant, **Leadership for Social Change**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. Khushnuma Cooper

(Academic Appointments continued)

- Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant, **How Social Environments Shape Human Development**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. Latoya Small
- Summer 2022 Teaching Assistant, **2022 International Summer University for Social Work**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Instructor: Dr. Amy Ritterbusch

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

1. Warri, V. R., (Winter 2024). *Macrosystems, Child Welfare, and The State as Parent*. PUB AFF 80: How Social Environments Shape Human Development. **Department of Public Affairs – Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles** [lecture]
2. Warri, V. R. (Fall 2023). *Beyond the Individual: Unpacking Health Policy through a Social Determinants Lens*. SOC WLF M290M: Health Policy. **Department of Social Welfare – Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles** [lecture]
3. Warri, V. R. (2023). *Working with Transgender Populations: Developing a Critical and Intersectional Lens and Praxis for Service Provision for Vulnerable Populations*. **St. Johns Community Health, Los Angeles**. [presentation]
4. Fuentes, K., Warri, V. R., Jones, R. (2023). *SW LEARN: Centering the Margins to Build Greater Health Equity for Sex Workers*. **University of California, Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Affairs Social Work Month**. Los Angeles, CA [presentation]
5. Warri, V. R. (Fall 2022). *Effective Allyship within Children and Family Systems: Protective and Risk Factors for Transgender Youth*. CHDV 3210: Urban Families and Resilience. **Department of Child and Family Studies - California State University, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA. [lecture]

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness

Los Angeles, CA

Early Intervention Clinical Intern

August 2020 – May 2021

- Developed, administered, evaluated, and modified therapeutic or treatment plans.
- Provided trauma-informed psychotherapy groups, family therapy, and collateral sessions.
- Worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team providing therapeutic and psychoeducation services to children and families.
- Facilitated attachment and support children's early developmental processes with parents or caregivers in their homes, school, community, or onsite at the organization.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Trans Advocates for Justice and Accountability Coalition

San Francisco, CA

Program Development Consultant

January 2017 – June 2017

- Provided social and empowerment based supportive services and groups for women incarcerated within San Francisco County Jail
- Delivered peer-led and facilitated reentry planning and follow-up support for clients anticipating release into the community.
- Directed a citywide initiative to increase collaborative reentry efforts between the San Francisco Sheriff's Department and San Francisco community-based partners for incarcerated transgender women.

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

San Francisco, CA

Behavioral Health Specialist

November 2014 – September 2015

- Coordinated and facilitates a weekly support group for program participants focusing on the assorted topics of health and wellness.
- Engaged program participants in weekly case management and personal goal setting, referring them to the different Bay Area service providers.
- Conducted intakes, and individual risk reduction counseling, entering all information into Microsoft Office database systems.

Health Education Specialist

October 2012 – January 2014

- Responsible for the organization, and facilitation of the agency's transgender empowerment youth programming
- Developed and implemented recruitment strategies, leading street outreach teams to recruit participants for the Candy-Shoppe's youth drop-in and conducting focus groups with participants to create stronger programming.
- Engaged participants in individual risk reduction counseling, and support groups for transgender youth of color.

(Professional Experience continued)

Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center San Francisco, CA
Case Manager January 2014 – November 2014

- Served as a liaison and advocate between youth and the court systems, assisting and supporting them with name and gender marker change processes.
- Improved services in the city for transitional age youth, collaborating with other youth-based organizations in San Francisco, and facilitating monthly case management meetings to strategize better service for participants.

Beyond Emancipation, Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium Oakland, CA
Case Manager September 2010 – July 2011

- Assisted in the planning, co-facilitation, and implementation of the employment workshop and curriculum.
- Provided advocacy and coaching to transition age young adults aged 18-24 recently emancipated from the foster care system.

CONTRACTED CONSULTANT

Unique Woman's Coalition Los Angeles, CA
Trainings & Development Consultant October 2019 – Present

- Delivers local trainings to direct service organizations and other service providers wishing to increase their knowledge of, and capacity to work with, Black, Indigenous, People of Color populations who are transgender, gender expansive and intersex.

Equality Federation Institute Los Angeles, CA
Legislative Support Consultant September 2023 – February 2024

- Provides support with the tracking of LGBTQ+-related bills and maintains relevant legislation using the BillTrack 50 search engine.

Gays and Lesbians Living in Transgender Society Inc. New York, NY
Development Consultant July 2020-July 2021

- Supported the creation of programmatic infrastructure, and donor retention strategies, in alignment with the organization's goals for the fiscal year.

Special Projects Consultant December 2018

- Developed curriculum for a community-based empowerment initiative for transgender women engaged in survival sex work emphasizing community building, healthcare engagement, and safety.

(Contracted Consultant continued)

Arming Minorities Against Addiction and Disease Institute Los Angeles, CA
Special Projects Consultant October 2019 – March 2020

- Designed assessments to gauge the knowledge and attitudes surrounding Black LGBTQ+ people and mental health in the greater Los Angeles area.

Department of Medicine - University of California, San Francisco San Francisco, CA
Clinical Studies Trainer September 2019- January 2020

- Trained community-based peer recruiters for ANCHOR/PEARS, a study looking to develop best practices in preventing anal cancer in HIV positive people.
- Service delivery provided in: San Francisco, CA, Miami, FL, Boston, MA, and Washington, D.C.

LA PRIDE, Christopher Street West Palm Springs, CA
Facilitator August 2019

- Supported the Board of Directors in developing a strategic plan to guide their future mission and work in anticipation of their 50th anniversary.

Asian Women's Shelter San Francisco, CA
Trainer June 2016 – June 2018

- Facilitated quarterly transgender sensitivity trainings within the context of intimate partner violence for the organization's new volunteers.

San Francisco Human Rights Commission San Francisco, CA
Facilitator

- Led discussions series entitled "Community Conversations" with community-based service providers around effective mobilization strategies for vulnerable populations in San Francisco.
 - Part 1: Prioritizing Safety for Transgender Sex Workers June 2018
 - Part 2: Transgender Reentry Services April 2018

Trans Advocates for Justice and Accountability Coalition San Francisco, CA
Program Development Consultant January 2017 – June 2017

- Provided social and empowerment based supportive services and groups for women incarcerated within San Francisco County Jail
- Directed a citywide initiative to increase collaborative reentry efforts between San Francisco Sheriff's Department and San Francisco community-based partners.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

FLUX, AIDS Healthcare Alliance, Los Angeles Chapter

Los Angeles, CA

Director of Advocacy

December 2022 - Present

- Prioritizes the development of community outreach goals and messaging for the organization including online and offline, in marketing materials, throughout the community, and at social events.
- Supports the mission of elevating the profile of transgender and nonbinary communities by leveraging social events, creating safe spaces, and through innovative advocacy initiatives.

San Francisco LGBTQ Speakers Bureau

San Francisco, CA

Speaker

September 2017 – September 2018

- Facilitated open and honest dialogue about issues pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity to school age youth, college students, and human services agencies in San Francisco.

City & County of San Francisco Sheriff's Department

San Francisco, CA

Transgender Reentry Services Case Manager

August 2016 – January 2017

- Provided weekly check-ins for incarcerated transgender women awaiting reentry into community, focusing on a variety of topics from health and wellness to the development of case plans upon release.
- Facilitated weekly life skills classes and discussion groups with an emphasis on the unique needs of incarcerated transgender women of color.

Transgender Reentry Services Coordinator

September 2016 – January 2017

- Coordinated quarterly meetings for San Francisco providers offering transgender programming and services, facilitating networking and collaboration between community-based organizations and correctional staff.

INVITED SPEAKER

Black Women and Femme's Research Summit (BWFRS)

Panelist. *Untitled*. **Geffen Hall - University of California, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA.

May 2024

Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS)

Panelist. *Ethics for Community-Initiated Sex Work Research*. **Virtual**. November 2023

(Invited Speaker continued)

Luskin School of Public Affairs

Student Speaker. *Class of 2022 Graduate Commencement Ceremony*. **Royce Hall - University of California, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA. June 2022.

Luskin School of Public Affairs

Speaker. *Luskin School Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Salon*. **Shell Residence**. Beverly Hills, CA. May 2022

Bruin Film Society & UCLA Library Special Collections

Panelist. *Framing Agnes: A Conversation on Representation, Ethics and Research*. **Charles E. Young Research Library - University of California, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA. April 2022

Silver School of Social Work

Panelist. *Black Trans Lives Matter – A Virtual Panel with Social Work Activists Ceyenne Doroshov & Vanessa Warri*. **Virtual. New York University**. New York, NY. April 2021

Middle Collegiate Church

Panelist. *The Middle Project: Imagine Just Spaces for Trans- and Gender Non-Conforming Neighbors*. **Virtual**. New York, NY. April 2021

Street Riders NYC

Panelist. *The Black LGBTQ+ Community & the Pathway to Liberation*. **Virtual**. New York, NY. March 2021

Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Panelist. *The IPV Revolution: Discovering the Transformative Power Within Us*. **Montgomery Ross Fisher Building - University of Southern California**. Los Angeles, CA. October 2019

Fowler Museum & Luskin School of Public Affairs

Panelist. *Nothing Without Us: The Women Who Will End AIDS Screening*. **Fowler Museum - University of California, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA. October 2019

BruinX, UCLA LGBT Center & The Williams Institute

Panelist. *CrossCheck Live Salon: "What's in a Name? Emerging Identities and Language in the LGBT Community*. **Charles E. Young Research Library - University of California, Los Angeles**. Los Angeles, CA. April 2019

(Invited Speaker continued)

CREGS Summer Institute on Sexuality

Panelist. *Sex Workers Whole Selves*. **College of Extended Learning - San Francisco State University**. San Francisco, CA. June 2018

FLUX, AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Panelist. *National Transgender HIV Testing Day Event*. Oakland, CA. April 2018

Gays and Lesbians Living in Transgender Society Inc.

Guest Speaker. *Whore Decadence: A Sex Worker Benefit*. **Brooklyn Night Bazaar**. Brooklyn, NY. March 2018

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

Keynote Speaker. *TRANS Work-It Employment Workshop*. **TRANSTHRIVE**. San Francisco, CA. February 2017

University of California, Berkeley

Moderator. *Free CeCe!: A Documentary & Discussion*. **University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA**. November 2016

Adolescent Health and Wellness Group

Keynote Speaker. *Improving Outcomes for LGBTQIA Youth & Young Adults*. **San Francisco State University**. San Francisco, CA. September 2016

TAJA's Coalition

Speaker. *Turn Up for Taja Rally*. **San Francisco City Hall**. San Francisco, CA. February 2015

TRAININGS

Social Media for Community Nonprofit Organizations w/ Gia Gunn. Unique Woman's Coalition. Los Angeles, CA. February 2021

Using a Trauma Informed Lens to Address Community Trauma w/ K-Rahn Vallatine. Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness. Los Angeles, CA. November 2020

I Am Not Alright: The Complexity of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Anti-Blackness as a Case in Point w/ Dr. Cheryl Grills. Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness. Los Angeles, CA. September 2020

(Trainings Continued)

The Foundation of Harm Reduction & Empowerment When Working w/ High Risk Populations. Friends Research Institute Inc. Los Angeles, CA. June 2016

Ethnography as Street-Based HIV Prevention. Friends Research Institute Inc. Los Angeles, CA. June 2016

Outreach Strategies. Friends Research Institute Inc. Los Angeles, CA. June 2016

Project Start Plus Training of Facilitators. The Bridging Group. New York, NY. January 2016

Harm Reduction Overview. Harm Reduction Coalition. New York, NY. January 2016

NARCAN Training. Harm Reduction Coalition. New York, NY. January 2016

Human Subjects Training. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative-UCSF. San Francisco, CA. May 2015

Group Facilitation Training. University of California, San Francisco Alliance Health Project. San Francisco, CA. February 2015

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Apple TV (Documentary September 8th, 2022)

Featured: *"Gutsy Women"* Season 1, Episode 8 *"Gutsy Women Are a Bunch of Mothers"*

Context: Hillary and Chelsea Clinton meet with Ceyenne Doroshow and her chosen family to discuss the vital role that Black transgender women play in supporting the next generation of LGBTQ+ youth.

CNN.com (Online February 2nd, 2021)

Featured: *"Black transgender activist: My existence is resistance"*

Context: Vanessa Warri says her existence as a Black transgender woman in America is a form of resistance against a society that has historically failed to ensure her safety. Watch to see how she plans to help improve the lives of transgender people who face immense challenges in a transphobic society.

(Media Appearances continued)

University of California, Los Angeles Newsroom (Online June 25th, 2019)

Featured & Quoted: *“Student Works to Empower Transgender Women in Academia”*

Context: My personal journey to UCLA, and a highlight of the academic and professional endeavors currently under way as a Point Foundation scholar piloting social empowerment initiative for transgender women, and as an intern at the UCLA LGBT Campus Resource center leading the first innovative research of its kind to enhance campus service and policy

University of California, Office of the President (Online February 13th, 2019)

Featured & Quoted: *“Young, Gifted, and Black: The Next Generation of Activists”*

Context: Black History Month; Highlighting Black University of California students & their activism and visions for the future of Black liberation