

Bethany Jo Murray

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Education

Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA	expected 2026
PhD, Social Welfare Advisor: Professor David C. Turner III	
University of Minnesota	2018
MS, Social Work, Concentration: Community Practice and Nonprofit Management	
Gustavus Adolphus College	2014
BA, Political Science and Gender, Women, Sexuality Studies	

Publications

Under Review. Murray, B. J., Miller, P., Missouri, S., & Turner, D.C. (2024). (Abolitionist) Care, Not Cops: How Police Free School Organizers Redefine Safety as Care. *Youth Justice*. 0(0).

Under Review. Bakko, M., Murray, B.J., & Jacobs, L.A. (2024). Abolition Compromised: How State-Nonprofit Funding Dynamics Undermine Anti-Carceral Reform. *Punishment & Society*. 0(0).

Accepted. Murray, B. J. (2024). Anti-carceral social work. *Encyclopedia of Social Work*. 0(0).

Murray, B. J., & Heilemann, M. (2024). ‘The need was f*cking endless’: A Case Study of the Minneapolis Sanctuary Movement. *Journal of Community Practice*, 1-21.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2024.2429762>

Murray, B. J., Erwin, J., Leotti, S., Allen, E., Bakko, M., Jacobs, L. A., ... & Fixler, A. (2024). ‘Compassionate’ Control: Social Work and the Rise of Carceral Feminism in Progressive Era Police Reform. *Social Sciences*, 13(9), 454. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13090454>

Murray, B. J., Missouri, S., Miller, P., Anderson, M., & Turner, D. C. (2023). No Cops Needed in the Hallway: The LA Push Against School Police. *Spark Magazine*. Michigan State University National Center for Institutional Diversity.

Murray, B. J., Copeland, V., & Dettlaff, A. J. (2023). Reflections on the Ethical Possibilities and Limitations of Abolitionist Praxis in Social Work. *Affilia*, 0(0).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099221146151>

Murray, B. J. (2014). Legislating Lust: A Comparative Analysis of Prostitution Policies in Western and Central Europe. *Proceedings of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) 2014*, University of Kentucky.

Research Experience

Effective Youth Interventions Evaluation Study

2024-Ongoing

University of Pittsburgh

Research Analyst

Faculty Advisor: Professor Leah Jacobs

This NIJ funded program evaluation study analyzes the effectiveness and fidelity of the Effective Youth Interventions program in partnership with the National Institute for Justice.

Facilitating the Age of Abolition Study

2023-Ongoing

Million Dollar Hoods Institute, University of California, Los Angeles

Research Assistant

Faculty Advisor: Professor David C. Turner III

Collected the oral histories of locally based Los Angeles community organizers' and activists exploring their experiences in working to: 1) defund or eliminate law enforcement budgets and 2) build life affirming systems of support or care. This study is still ongoing.

Police Free Schools Study

2023-2024

University of California, Los Angeles

Research Lab Manager

Faculty Advisor: Professor David C. Turner III

Collected interviews with activists, educators and youth to examine 1) campaign best practices and 2) assess the barriers to implementation of campaign wins. This study included Lancaster County, Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area - all in California. This study is still ongoing.

Social Work Abolitionist Curricula Survey

2023-Ongoing

University of Denver

Research Team Member

Faculty Advisor: Sophia Sarantakos

Surveyed undergraduate and graduate social work students to assess the prevalence, accessibility and content of abolitionist education and curricula in the field of social work. This study is still ongoing.

Social Work, White Supremacy, and Racial Justice: Reckoning with Our History, Interrogating our Present, Re-Imagining our Future

University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Research Assistant

2022

Faculty Advisor: Professor Laura Abrams

Curated an edited 40 chapter volume in which a diverse set of authors critically examine social work's history, values, mission, and offer innovation strategies for education and practice, and make a call-to-action for social work to eliminate structural racism in, education, research, practice, and social service institutions and systems.

Police and Social Work Historical Analysis Study

2021-2024

University of Pittsburgh

Research Team Member

Faculty Advisor: Professor Leah Jacobs

Analyzed the historical professional relationship of the law enforcement and social work fields throughout the late 19th century through the mid-1980s. The study traces convergences and divergences of cooperation between the professionals and explores professional identity, emphasizing time periods of civil unrest.

Sanctuary Case Study

2021-2023

University of California, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator

Faculty Advisor: Professor Lee Ann Wang

Explores how local activists, community organizers and social workers came together in an effort to shelter unhoused people from state violence during the mass protests in Minneapolis during the summer of 2020. These efforts provide a location to explore the crux of social work situating itself along the continuum of racial justice movements and examine the potentials of an anti-carceral social work praxis.

Immigrant-Origin Youth Civic Engagement Study

2020-2023

University of California, Los Angeles

Research Team Member

Faculty Advisor: Professor Laura Wray-Lake

Examined how immigrant-origin youth were civically engaged online during three time periods/ overlapping events in 2020: COVID-19, Black Lives Matter uprising, and the election. We explore how their multiple and immigrant identities may have played a role in their engagement by analyzing social media posts and semi-structured interviews. This study remains underway.

Needs Assessment for TakeAction Minnesota

2017 -2018

University of Minnesota

Masters Practicum

Faculty Advisor: Professor Colleen Fischer

Analyzed the activities leading to deeper engagement and political empowerment for membership base of TakeAction Minnesota, community organizing program. Developed and implemented needs assessment survey, emphasizing women of color subgroup in analysis. Found statistically significant evidence indicating women were less likely than men to leave the program feeling empowered to take political action, identifying gender-specific organizing program may be useful moving forward.

Supporting Parents with Disabilities

2016 - 2017

University of Minnesota

Research Assistant

Faculty Advisor: Professor Elizabeth Lightfoot

Created a database of support circles and person-centered planning interventions and manuals specific to parents with disabilities, identifying current best practices in the field. Additionally, composed comprehensive nation-wide analysis of legal cases on parents' with disabilities parental rights, identifying discriminatory legal practices.

Presentations

- From Archives to Classrooms: Researching, Preserving, and Teaching Local Social Work History**
Council for Social Work Education 2024
- Mutual Aid & Solidarity Work: Challenges and Possibilities for Social Work** 2024
Society for Social Work and Research Conference
- Implementing 'Defund the Police': How State-Nonprofit Funding Dynamics Contribute to
Carcerality or Liberation from State Oppression** 2024
Society for Social Work and Research Conference
- Building Police-Free Schools** 2023
Abolitions Conference
- Cooperation and Conflict: The Paradoxical Relationship Between Social Work and Law
Enforcement** 2023
Society for Social Work and Research Conference
- Praxis Interrupted: A Case Study of the Minneapolis Sanctuary Movement** 2022
International Grounded Theory Conference

Grants, Awards, Fellowships

- USC Floyd Covington Fellowship** 2024
Fellowship to cull archival data from USC special collections
- UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellow** 2021
Fellowship to receive mentorship for independent research
- Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. Social Justice Award, UCLA** 2021
Independent Research Grant
- Center for the Study of Women, UCLA**
Travel Grant 2020

Teaching Experience

- University of California, Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs** 2021- 2024
Teaching Assistant
PUB AFF 187: Experiential Learning Capstone
- University of Minnesota, School of Social Work**

Adjunct Instructor
SW 8551: Community Assessment and Intervention, Spring Semester 2021

National Association of Social Workers and St. Kate's University

Guest Lecturer

- *Political Social Work: What is that?* 2019
- *Social Workers as Leaders in Public Life* 2020
- *Social Workers as Leaders in Fundraising* 2020

Professional Experience

Abolitionist and Youth Organizing Lab 2022- Ongoing

Research Lab Manager

- Provided project management for three co-occurring qualitative and oral history research projects
- Developed research semi-structured interview protocols
- Created data management infrastructure for transcribing, cleaning and coding interviews
- Co-created analytic ethnographic observation tools

TakeAction Minnesota 2018 - 2020

Development Manager

- Built new grants tracking and relationship management database
- Managed all proposal content creation processes and grant writing for nearly 4 million dollar budget (80% of organizational revenue)
- Optimized grants administrative process and managed timelines and deliverables
- Prospected potential new funding sources and assessed programmatic funding needs
- Tracked all grant deliverables, led all reporting processes and quarterly organizational assessments
- Project managed large scale annual fundraiser of nearly 800 Attendees
- Supported membership program development and coordination
- Supported numerous policy and electoral campaigns

Graduate Social Work Intern September 2017-May 2018

- Initiated and coordinated story collection efforts of membership base
- Facilitated use of storytelling in organization's political efforts
- Initiated, implemented, and analyzed needs assessment evaluation of membership base
- Created and implemented story collection training for new staff members and volunteers
- Participated in policy tracking, policy research, political actions, and canvassing

Hennepin-University Partnership, University of Minnesota 2017-2018

Graduate Assistant

- Served as liaison between Minnesota's largest research university and the state's largest county
- Catalyzed and facilitated research collaborations and partnerships between leaders of the institutions
- Planned and coordinated events of up to 80 people
- Sustained long-term partnerships of various stakeholders

- Provided high quality project and collaboration management
- Created various promotional materials, newsletters, and annual report
- Created grant application, proposal assessment materials, and facilitated entire annual grant round processes

Center for Community Engaged Learning, University of Minnesota September 2016-April 2017
Graduate Social Work Intern

- Coordinated with service-learning classes to assign them with service-learning placements and provide support
- Advised students in scholars program and provided feedback on required reflections
- Facilitated service-learning trainings for students to prepare them for their placements
- Gathered and evaluated feedback from student participants, community partners, and university faculty
- Initiated development of online training module for service-learners
- Assisted with tracking program data and student progress within database

Cornerstone Advocacy Services 2014-2016
School-Based Violence Prevention Advocate

- Provided counseling, advocacy, and support to individual students referred to services
- Assisted in identification, progression and completion of goals established for each youth
- Developed and presented anti-violence education curriculum to students and staff in Northwest Hennepin area schools
- Spear-headed expansion of services and establish programming in Northwest Hennepin schools
- Worked in compliance with school policies and procedures
- Performed assessment and evaluation for grant funders of all services provided
- Assisted with annual Camp Peacemaker curriculum each summer and served as camp counselor

Leadership and Service

Social Welfare History Group 2024-Present
Student Representative

- Student advisor and participant for Doctoral Student Group

California Social Welfare Archive 2023-Present
Fellow

- Led Oral History Project, coordinating and collecting oral history interviews
- Served on Executive, Development, Collections and Governance Committees

Abolitionist Perspectives in Social Work Journal 2022-Present
Editorial Board Member

- Reviewed academic journal articles
- Attended bi-annual journal advisory meetings

National Association of Social Workers, Minnesota Chapter 2018-2020

Board Member

- Served as co-chair of social policy action network
- Organized social workers to track and advocate for key policies throughout legislative session
- Designed survey of membership base to assess legislative priorities
- Assisted with the execution of annual social work lobby day with nearly 1000 attendees
- Presented 2 webinars on political social work to chapter members

University of Minnesota, School of Social Work

January 2018-May 2018

Community Practice Curriculum Committee Member

- Reviewed and advised on revisions to community practice concentration graduate curriculum