

LAUREN N. WILLNER, PhD, MSW

lwillner@sdsu.edu

EMPLOYMENT

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Current	School of Social Work College of Health and Human Services San Diego State University
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 2017- 2020	Department of Social Work College of Social and Behavioral Sciences California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

EDUCATION

2017	PhD	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Social Welfare Los Angeles, California
2009	MSW	University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Specializations: Macro Social Work Practice, Nonprofit Leadership and Administration
2004	BA	New York University (NYU) Gallatin School of Individualized Study New York, New York Major: Feminist Studies and Photojournalism Concentration: The Intersection of Feminism, Race, and Class in the U.S.

ACADEMIC AREAS OF INTEREST

Research: Nonprofit Organizations, Social Justice, Institutional Racism, Critical Race Theory, Social Justice Pedagogy and Research Methods, Civic Engagement, Social Work Education, Community-Based Research Methods, Qualitative Research Methods, Publicly Engaged Scholarship and Praxis

Teaching: Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Diversity and Social Justice in Social Work, Nonprofit Leadership and Administration, Philosophies of the Nonprofit Sector, Race, Racism and Oppression in Social Work, Qualitative Research Methods, Civic Engagement

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Willner, L., & Barrera, D. (2021). Using Critical Research Approaches to Teach Students About Nonprofit Organizations: A Case Examination. *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership, (11)*1, 104-121.

Willner, L. (2019). Organizational Legitimacy and Managerialism Within Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations: An Interest Divergence Analysis. *Administrative Theory & Praxis, 1-20.*

Barrera, D., **Willner, L., & Kukahiko, K.** (2017). Assessing the development of emerging critical consciousness through service learning. *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis. (6)*3, 17-35.

Holloway, I.W., Padilla, M.P., **Willner, L., & Guilamo-Ramos, V.** (2014). Effects of Minority Stress Processes on the Mental Health of Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women: A Qualitative Study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior. 1-11.*

Under Review

Willner, L., McCarty-Caplan, D., & Wall, J. (under review). *Social Work Education*

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

Barrera, D., Kukahiko, K., **Willner, L., & O'Byrne, K.** (2016). Realizing a critical framework for service learning at a public research university. In K.M. Soria & T.D. Mitchell (Eds.), *Civic engagement and community service at research universities: Engaging undergraduates for social justice, social change, and responsible citizenship.*

Other Publications

Willner, L. (2019). *What do the teachers want? Educators opinions about being armed in the classroom to prevent school-based gun violence.* [https://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/social-work/announcements.](https://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/social-work/announcements)

FUNDED RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS

CSUN Office of Community Engagement Seed Grant

Examining the Structural Barriers to Effective Service Provision Within Nonprofit Organizations Serving the Homeless: A Community-Based Participatory Research Project
\$1000.00

Human Interaction Research Institute (HIRI) Nonprofit Research Grant (2019)

Examining the Structural Barriers to Effective Service Provision Within Nonprofit Organizations
Serving the Homeless: A Community-Based Participatory Research Project
Total: \$5000.00

Human Interaction Research Institute (HIRI) Nonprofit Research Grant (2018)
Navigating Managerialism: The Experiences of Middle Managers in Social Justice Nonprofit
Organizations
Total: \$5000.00

Human Interaction Research Institute (HIRI) Nonprofit Research Grant (2018)
Understanding the Role of Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations: Threats,
Challenges, and Opportunities
Total: \$5000.00

ARNOVA Doctoral Student Fellow (2016)
Total: \$10,000.00

UCLA Graduate Student Fellowship (2016-2017)
Total: \$5,000.00

UCLA Luskin Graduate Fellowship (2014-2015)
Total: \$7500.00

UCLA Luskin Graduate Fellowship (2013-2014)
Total: \$8000.00

UCLA Luskin Social Justice Initiative Grant (2011)
An Examination of the Impact of Business Practices and Market-Based Strategies on the Social
Justice Missions and Goals of Nonprofit Organizations
Total: \$1800.00

Graduate Research Mentorship Project (2011)
Social Justice and Public Affairs Education
University of California, Los Angeles

AWARDS AND HONORS

2009 Rosa Wessel Award for Exemplary Leadership and Academic
Performance
School of Social Policy and Practice
University of Pennsylvania

2009 Penn Women's Center Leadership Award
Penn Women's Center (PWC)
University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Current **PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR**
Examining the Structural Barriers to Effective Service Provision Within
Nonprofit Organizations Serving the Homeless: A Community-Based
Participatory Research Project
- Current **PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR**
Navigating Managerialism: The Experiences of Middle Managers in
Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations
- Current **PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR**
What Do the Teachers Want? An Examination of the Opinions of
Educators Regarding Gun Violence Prevention in Schools
- 2017-2018 **PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR**
Understanding the Role of Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofit
Organizations: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 2014-2017 **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**
Dissertation Research: The Conflict is in the Values: Understanding the
Emergence and Operationalization of Managerialism in Social Justice
Nonprofit Organizations
- 2016-2017 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT/PROJECT CO-COORDINATOR**
Analyzing qualitative interview data from a project examining how urban
youth conceptualize the concept of community engagement. Contributing
to production of manuscripts.
- 2014-2017 **CO-INVESTIGATOR**
Critical Consciousness Development Among Undergraduate Students
Participating in Coursework Related to Civic Engagement
UCLA Center for Community Learning
- Conducted a qualitative study aimed at assessing the critical consciousness
development of undergraduate students enrolled in civic engagement and
service learning courses at UCLA. Developed a conceptual framework for
assessing critical consciousness development in an academic setting and
helping to design the qualitative evaluation protocols and instruments. Co-
authored book chapter outlining the conceptual framework used to inform
this research study.
- Summer 2016 **CO-EVALUATOR**
Designed and conducted an evaluation of a course on Food Justice offered
to undergraduates at UCLA as part of the UC Global Food Initiative

- 2013-2014 **CO-INVESTIGATOR**
 Service Learning Evaluation
 UCLA Center for Community Learning
- Designed an evaluation to gauge the effectiveness of service learning pedagogy in helping undergraduate students at the University of California, Los Angeles to understand issues of social justice. Survey data was collected from students to gain information on individual learning outcomes, specifically student understanding of social justice. Analyzed data and co-wrote paper documenting evaluation results.
- 2011-2012 **CO-INVESTIGATOR**
 Social Justice Curriculum Evaluation
 Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA
- Developed and conducted an evaluation of the social justice course content within the curriculum of the three graduate degree programs within the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Co-wrote report outlining findings and provided recommendations for improving social justice focused education within all three degree programs offered.
- 2010-2012 **GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER**
 UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities
 University of California, Los Angeles
- Provided quantitative and qualitative research support to research team evaluating the impact of the Best Start L.A program on participating families.
- 2009-2010 **PARTICIPANT COORDINATOR**
 Project FLIP
 Annenberg School for Communication
 University of Pennsylvania
- Designed and implemented the participant recruitment strategy for large research study aimed at assessing the impact of media on the development of infants. Coordinated data collection sessions and assisted in the creation and maintenance of participant database
- 2008-2009 **CO-INVESTIGATOR**
 School of Social Policy and Practice Racism Sequence Evaluation
 Project
 University of Pennsylvania
- Evaluated the effectiveness of coursework in Penn’s social work curriculum devoted to teaching about American Racism. Quantitative and

qualitative data was collected to determine the level of student competency in regard to how issues of race, racism, and oppression impact social work practice and social work policy.

2008-2009

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
School of Social Policy and Practice
University of Pennsylvania

Provided assistance to professor in the School of Social Policy and Practice with book project. Tasks included: conducting literature reviews, editing written materials, and other research tasks as needed

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Willner, L., (November, 2020). *Anti-Oppressive Research Methods: Using Community-Based Participatory Action Research to Examine Homeless Services Delivery in Los Angeles County* (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting)

Willner, L., (January 2020). *The Conflict Is in the Values": Considering the Ethical Implications of Managerialism within Human Service Nonprofit Organizations* (SSWR Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L, Hoefler, R. (November 2019). *The Effects of Managerialism on Human Service Organizations: The Perspectives of Middle Managers* (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L., McCarty-Caplan, D. (October 2019). *Teachers & Guns: Using Rapid Response Research to Engage MSW Students* (CSWE Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L (2018, November). *Understanding Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations: A Conceptual Model of Discordance*. Paper presentation, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L. (2017, November). *A Clash of Values: The Impact of Managerialism on Staff Experiences in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations*. Paper presentation, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L. (2017, November). *The Use of Critical Research Methods to Teach Students About Nonprofit Organizations: A Case Examination*. Paper presentation, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L. (2016, November). *The Effects of Organizational Size on Managerialism Within Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations*". Poster presentation, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Mirabella, R., Eikenberry, A.M., Appe, S., **Willner, L.**, Sandberg, B. (2016, November). *Currents in The Field that Challenge True Transformative Social Change*. Panel Presentation, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L., Barrera, D., Lau, T. (2016, September). *Assessing Critical Civic Development Through Community-based Learning*. Roundtable discussion, Annual Meeting of the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE Annual Program Meeting).

Willner, L. (2014, October) *Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofits: An Exploratory Study on the Effects of Organizational Size on Managerialist Practices and Behaviors*. West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference.

Willner, L. (2013, September) Understanding the For-Profit Practices and Behaviors of Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations". (Critical Ethnic Studies Conference).

Willner, L., Bastianelli, A., Agostini, S. (2008, October) *Critical Race Theory and Social Work Practice*. Panel Presentation, Annual Meeting of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE Annual Program Meeting).

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY INVITED TALKS

Willner, L. (Moderator) (November 2020). Critical Race Theory in Social Work Education: Practical Applications and Experiences.

Willner, L. (October 2020). Who's Afraid of Critical Race Theory? Transforming Social Work Through Critical Perspectives on Race and Oppression – San Diego State University, School of Social Work.

Willner, L. (October 2019). Navigating Managerialism: The Experiences of Middle Managers in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations – Valley Nonprofit Resource Center

Willner, L. (February 2019). Understanding the Role of Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities – Valley Nonprofit Resource Center

Willner, L. (February 2019) Understanding the Role of Managerialism in Social Justice Nonprofit Organizations: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities – Valley Nonprofit Resource Center

Willner, L. (September 2018). APA Formatting Workshop – CSUN Department of Social Work

Brown, J., **Willner, L.** (November 2017). Flight, Fight, or Freeze: Nonprofit Survival Strategies During Times of Uncertainty – Valley Nonprofit Resource Center

Willner, L. (October 2017). Qualitative Sampling Methods – CSUN Department of Social Work

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Fall 2018-Current MSW Intern Field Instructor, CSUN Housing Instability Program

2018-2019 Supervisor, MSW Research Assistants

2018-2019 Data Champions Researcher, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Spring 2018-Current Social Work Department Macro Practice/Policy Committee Co-Chair

Current Co-Coordinator, Social Work Department Lunch and Learn Professional Development Series

Appointed Fall 2018 Advisory Board Member, CSUN Community Engagement Advisory Board

2018, 2019 Social Work Department Student Scholarship Review Committee

2018, 2019 Judge, CSUN Student Research Symposium

Spring 2018 CSUN Annual Research and Service Learning Symposium

Spring 2018 First Year Faculty Learning Community

2018 Social Work Department Lobby Days in Sacramento Faculty Representative

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

ARNOVA – Member, Critical Perspectives Interest Group

ARNOVA Conference Track Co-Chair, Management and Leadership Track
2019

Ascencia, Board Member
Appointed July 2018

University Parents Nursery School Board Member and Fundraiser
2018-2020

Journal of Nonprofit Leadership and Education, Reviewer

ARNOVA Conference Committee, Poster Submission Reviewer
Fall 2018

ARNOVA Critical Perspectives on the Nonprofit Sector Common Interest Group, Member
Current

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019	SWRK 635: Social Work Research Methods II
Fall 2019	SWRK 525: Social Welfare Policy and Services (Foundation)
Spring 2019	SWRK 698: Capstone Project
Fall 2018	SWRK 635: Social Work Research Methods II
Fall 2018	SWRK 621: Advanced Practice in Urban Communities: Macro Social Work Practice
Spring 2018	SWRK 698: Capstone Project
Spring 2018	SWRK 535: Social Work Research Methods I
Fall 2017	SWRK 635: Social Work Research Methods II
Fall 2017	SWRK 521: Generalist Theory and Social Work Practice II: Introduction to Macro Social Work Practice
Fall 2017	SWRK 525: Social Welfare Policy and Services
2014-2017	ASTIN SCHOLARS PROGRAM CO-COORDINATOR/INSTRUCTOR Co-Coordinator of an undergraduate research program for students conducting yearlong research projects on civic engagement and social justice during their senior year. Includes teaching a two-course series to program participants on theories and perspectives of community-based research and community-based research methodology.
2014-2017	INSTRUCTOR Civic Engagement 195 A: Community Based Internships Civic Engagement Minor

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

First of a three-course series designed for undergraduates in the Civic Engagement Minor at UCLA designed to provide an academic context for off-campus work in a corporate, governmental or non-profit setting, using the knowledge base of civic engagement.

2014-2017

INSTRUCTOR

Civic Engagement 195 B: Community Based Internships
Civic Engagement Minor
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Second of a three course series designed for undergraduates in the Civic Engagement Minor at UCLA. Explores civic engagement as means of understanding social problems and working to achieve social change.

2014-2017

INSTRUCTOR

Civic Engagement 195 C: Community Based Internships
Civic Engagement Minor
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Culmination of a three-course series designed to provide Civic Engagement Minors with an academic context for off-campus work in a corporate, governmental or non-profit setting. Focused on how the facilitation of civic engagement has become primarily the responsibility of nonprofit organizations.

Summer 2013

LECTURER

MSW 595: Critical Race Studies and Social Work Practice
(Graduate Level Course)
Department of Social Work
The California State University at Dominguez Hills

Spring 2013

TEACHING ASSISTANT

GS 120 SL: Community Based Internships in Gender Studies
Gender Studies Department
University of California, Los Angeles

Spring 2013

LECTURER

MSW 555: Advanced Practices in Administration and Leadership
(Graduate Level Course)
Social Work Department
The California State University at Dominguez Hills

Fall 2012

TEACHING ASSISTANT

SW 280: Knowledge Acquisition, Evidence-based Practice, and Research
in Social Welfare (Graduate Level Course)
Department of Social Welfare
University of California, Los Angeles

Fall 2012 **TEACHING ASSISTANT**
SW 222A: History of Social Welfare (Graduate Level Course)
Department of Social Welfare
University of California, Los Angeles

Summer 2012 **INSTRUCTOR**
Civic Engagement 95: Introduction to Community Based
Internships
(2 Sections)
University of California, Los Angeles

Fall 2011 **TEACHING ASSISTANT**
SW 290: The Nonprofit Sector, State, and Civil Society
Luskin School of Public Affairs (Graduate Level Course)
University of California, Los Angeles

Spring 2011 **TEACHING ASSISTANT**
SW M241E: Leadership, Development, and Governance of Nonprofit
Organizations (Graduate Level Course)
Luskin School of Public Affairs
University of California, Los Angeles Current

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2012- Current **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR**
UCLA Center for Community Learning

Coordinating and administering community-based education programs designed to provide undergraduate students with opportunities to engage in social justice practice and research by collaborating with community organizations. Responsible for general program support including coordinating site placements, connecting students with community organizations, providing support to students, researching and writing grant proposals to secure funding, and building and maintaining effective working relationships with community partners and other stakeholders to achieve the mutual goals of educating undergraduate students and working towards social justice in the greater Los Angeles area. Also participating in Center's strategic planning processes.

2013 **SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM COORDINATOR**
UCLA Center for Community Learning

Provided administrative and academic support to the undergraduate service learning program at UCLA. Coordinated student placement sites. Maintained communication with community partners to ensure a positive experience for both students and partners.

2008-2009

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM

Penn Women's Center
University of Pennsylvania

Developed and coordinated programs to provide students, faculty, and staff at the University of Pennsylvania with the opportunity to learn about, understand, and address the continuing and evolving needs of women on campus. Provided programmatic support and supervision to undergraduate students engaged in projects to raise awareness about women's issues on campus. Helped female students develop and hone their leadership and organizing skills. Wrote and received grants to obtain program funding.

2007-2008

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INTERN, SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM

Women's Community Revitalization Project
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Provided counseling and case management services to women living in low-income housing developments in North Philadelphia. Assisted with the development of programs and resources to support and encourage the empowerment of the families living in WCRP's housing developments. Participated in the organization's strategic planning process.

2006-2007

SITE MANAGER

Jumpstart for Young Children
New York, New York

Recruited, trained and supervised 50 college-aged AmeriCorps Members to implement Jumpstart's literacy and language development program with low-income 3-4-year olds. Managed relationships and served as a liaison between Jumpstart, the corps members, the City University of New York, and community stakeholders. Provided Corps Members with extensive training in Jumpstart's early childhood education model. Conducted ongoing quality monitoring including formal observation with teams of Corps Members. Collected data to perform program assessment. Created systems to ensure efficient and effective program management and implementation.

2005-2006

AMERICORPS MEMBER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Interfaith Council

Spokane, Washington

Developed a community-based education and outreach initiative to mobilize the faith community in Spokane, Washington to advocate against family and relationship violence. Employed a grassroots organizing model to develop a strategic plan to create awareness, education, and action opportunities around this issue for both religious leaders and congregation members from all faith backgrounds. Facilitated the development of partnerships between secular and religious organizations to increase the scope of the project's reach.

2004-2005

**AMERICORPS MEMBER, CAMPUS COMPACT SERVICE LEARNING
COORDINATOR**

Carlson Leadership and Public Service Center, University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Coordinated service learning opportunities for undergraduates to become actively involved in the greater Seattle community. Served as an advisor to students engaged in service learning, primarily those within the Women's Studies Department. Provided students with a well-rounded service learning experience by coordinating and facilitating workshops on the service learning method of teaching and learning. Formed partnerships between community-based organizations and the service learning center. Wrote and published a service learning guide for students.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Research on Nonprofits Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)

The Network for Social Work Management (NSWM)

Advancing Social Change Through Community Practice (ACOSA)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)