

TONYA E. WALLS, PhD.

Touro University Nevada

College of Health and Human Services, School of Education

874 American Pacific Drive, Henderson, NV 89014 • (702) 777-4753 • tonya.walls@tun.touro.edu

• <http://www.tonyawalls.com> • @twallstreet2 • #raceonthewalls

Tonya Walls serves as an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Touro University Nevada. She is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) committed to engaging humanizing praxis. Her work as a scholar bridges educational leadership, critical multicultural education, Black feminist thought, critical race theory and critical pedagogy to examine, critique, and disrupt educational inequities faced by Black girls and women, and other marginalized peoples. Tonya organizes with Teachers for Social Justice Las Vegas and advocates through Code Switch, a university-school-community partnership she helped co-found to disrupt and dismantle school-to-confinement policies and practices in Southern Nevada replacing them with restorative justice, youth action, and the cultivation of youth leaders prepared to address local and national issues critical to the social, emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of under-supported, under-resourced girls and young women of color.

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Education, School of Education, College of Health and Human Services, Touro University Nevada

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

Educational equity; culturally relevant pedagogy; School-to-prison pipeline; Black women and youth; educational leadership

EDUCATION

- 2017 PhD, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Emphasis: Curriculum and Instruction
Cognate: Multicultural Education, Cultural Studies, and International Studies
Dissertation: Critically Responsive Transformative Multicultural Leadership: A Culturally Relevant Examination of Black Women School Leaders Advancing Social Justice in U.S. Schools
- 2002 Masters Equivalent/Administrative Certification, Mills College, Oakland, California
Emphasis: Educational Leadership
- 1999 M.S.Ed., California State University East Bay, Hayward, California
Emphasis: Education - Reading Instruction
- 1991 B.A., Chancellor's Honors, University of California, Los Angeles
Major: Sociology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-Present Assistant Professor of Education
Graduate School of Education, College of Health and Human Services,
Touro University Nevada, Henderson, Nevada
- 2014 Adjunct Faculty, Ethnic Studies
Humanities Department, College of Liberal Arts
Nevada State College, Henderson, Nevada
- 2000-2002 Guest Lecturer of Teacher Education
School of Education,
California State University East Bay, Hayward, California
- 2000-2004 Adjunct Faculty of Teacher Education
School of Education
Holy Names University, Oakland, California

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation:

Walls, T. E. (2017). *Race, resilience, and resistance: A culturally relevant qualitative examination of how Black women school leaders advance racial equity and social justice in U.S. schools* (Doctoral Dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Database. (UMI No. 10687701)

Book Chapters:

Walls, T. E., Cornejo, M.N., Plachowski, T., Reid, E., and Park, S. (2018). Sowing seeds of justice: Feminists' reflections on teaching for social justice in the southwest. In Grant, M. C. (Eds.). *Equity, equality and reform in contemporary public education* (pp. 174-196). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. Retrieved from <https://www.igi-global.com/book/equity-equality-reform-contemporary-public/185736>

Walls, T., Schilmoeller, J., Guerrero, I. and Clark, C. (2017). Unpacking classroom discipline pedagogy: Intent vs. impact. In Fasching-Varner, K. and Martin, L. (Eds.) *Understanding, dismantling and disrupting the prison to school pipeline* (pp. 131-158). New York, NY: Lexington Books. Retrieved from <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498534949/Understanding-Dismantling-and-Disrupting-the-Prison-to-School-Pipeline>

Articles:

Walls, T. E., Cornejo, M. N. B. and Wilde, J. (In Progress). Critical professional development and social justice: Developing liberatory praxis through critical inquiry teacher action groups

Walls, T. (In Progress). Rac(e)ing educational leadership: Employing critical race praxis to prepare school leaders for social justice

Zwicky, C. and **Walls, T.** (In Progress). Transforming curriculum, exploring identity, and cultivating culturally responsive educators: Employing critical race praxis to examine the development of teachers and educational leaders committed to equity and justice.

Walls, T., Reid, E., Boone, K., Bell, L., Fudge, T., Goodall, A., and Holley E. (In Progress). Code switching, restorative justice, and walking back in! How Black girls pushed out, push back!

Print/Public Media:

Clark, C., Plachowski, T., Singh, R., Smith, A., **Walls, T.**, (Invited Guest Bloggers) (2017, April 28). Policy by, with, and for all students: How to make public education work. Brown Center on Education Policy, *Brown Center Chalkboard*, Brookings Institution. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2017/04/28/policy-by-with-and-for-all-students-how-to-make-public-education-work/>

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations and Symposia:

Walls, T. and Zwicky, C. (2018). Transforming Curriculum, Exploring Identity, and Cultivating Culturally Responsive Educators: Employing Critical Race Praxis to Examine the Development of Teachers and Educational Leaders Committed to Equity and Justice. Culturally Responsive Teaching Conference. Lithecum, MD.

Walls, T., and Cornejo, M. N. (2018). Critical professional development & social justice: Developing liberatory praxis through critical inquiry-teacher action groups. American Education Research Association. New York, NY.

Walls, T., (2018). Rac(e)ing Educational Leadership: Engaging Critical Race Praxis to Prepare School Leaders for Social Justice. American Education Research Association. New York, NY.

Walls, T. (2018). Transforming curriculum and cultivating a learning mindset: Employing critically relevant transformative multicultural leadership to develop educational leaders committed to social justice. 2nd Annual Intermountain Teaching for Learning Conference. Henderson, NV

Flores, B., Guerra, N., Lensmire, A., Salad, H., Herrera, S., and **Walls, T.** (2018). Professional development, mentorship, and retention for teacher diversity: AACTE diversified teaching workforce institute. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Baltimore, MD.

Walls, T. (2017). Rac(e)ing Educational Leadership as Resistance: Bridging Critical Race Praxis, Multicultural Education and Applied Critical Leadership to Prepare School Leaders for Social Justice. National Association of Multicultural Education. Salt Lake City, UT

Walls, T. (2017). Critically Responsive Transformative Multicultural Leadership as Praxis: A culturally relevant examination of the leadership experiences of Black Women Educational

Leaders Committed to Social Justice. National Association of Multicultural Education. Salt Lake city, UT

Walls, T., Reid, E., Boone, K., Bell, L., Fudge, T., Goodall, A., Holley, E. (2017). #BlackGirlMajic, code switchin' & walkin' back in! How Black girls pushed out, push back! Free Minds Free People Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Cornejo, M. N., Reid, E., **Walls, T.** (2017). Grassroots organizing, critical pedagogy & social justice: Developing critically conscious teachers through critical inquiry-teacher action groups (CI-TAGs). Interactive Workshop at the Radical Consciousness Conference Center for Social Justice. Las Vegas, NV

Walls, T., Reid, E., Plachowski, T., and Cornejo, M.N. (2017). Sowing the Seeds of Justice: Reflecting on Teaching for Social Justice in the Southwest. Workshop presentation at the Northern Nevada Diversity Summit. Reno, NV.

Walls, T. (2017). Abriendo Caminos/opening pathways for students of color into the teaching profession: Giving back to the community through teaching. Panel presentation at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Diversified Teaching Workforce Institute. Tampa, FL.

Walls, T., Reid, E., Plachowski, T., and Cornejo, M.N. (2017). Sowing the seeds of justice: Feminists' reflections on teaching for social justice in the southwest. Research paper presentation at the Academy for Educational Studies Critical Questions in Education Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Beck, J., Flores, R., **Walls, T.**, Chavez, C., and Jackson, M. (2017). Abriendo Caminos/opening pathways for students of color into the teaching profession: Giving back to the community through teaching. Research presentation at the Teach to Lead Summit. Washington D.C.

Walls, T. (2016). Racing transformational leadership/transforming leadership through race. Research poster presentation at the National Association of Multicultural Education annual conference. Cleveland, OH.

Walls, T. (2016). Racing transformational leadership/transforming leadership through race. Research poster presentation at the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education annual conference. San Francisco, CA.

Invited Talks and Presentations:

Walls, T. (2017). "Emergency: School to prison pipeline: ending the schoolhouse to the jailhouse track." Panelist at the Sacramento Delta Days Workshop for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Sacramento Alumni Chapter. Sacramento, CA.

Walls, T. (2017). Critically responsive transformative multicultural leadership: A culturally relevant examination of African American female school leaders committed to social justice.

Guest Lecture for students enrolled in a Research Capstone Course with the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color
NoVo Foundation: Community Grantee Partner
May 2018
Award Amount: \$300,000

Student Mentored Research Grant
Touro University Nevada
January 2017
Award Amount: \$1,500

Student Mentored Research Grant
Touro University Nevada
January 2016
Award Amount: \$1,500

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principal Investigator, Touro University Nevada College of Health and Human Services, School of Education, Henderson, NV

May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2021

Amount Funded: \$300,000.00

Project: Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls and Young Women of Color

Research Assistant, Teaching & Learning, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

October 2016 – June 2017

Amount Funded: \$335,224.31

Research Assistant to Dr. Christine Clark, Dr. Allison Smith, and Dr. Jori Beck as part of the Abriendo Caminos/Opening Pathways for Students of Color into the Teaching Profession: Giving Back to the Community through Teaching Initiative

COURSES TAUGHT AND PROGRAMS DEVELOPED

Assistant Professor, Touro University Nevada, Henderson, NV

Masters School Administration Coordinator	Fall 2015 – Present
Teacher Leadership Advanced Studies Certificate	Fall 2015 – Present
Administrative Internship I and II	Fall 2015 – Present
Educational Leadership Social Justice Seminar	Spring 2016
Collaboration for Learning	Spring 2016
Collegial Coaching and Mentorship for Teacher Leaders	Spring 2016

Adjunct Professor, Nevada State College, Henderson, NV

Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Part-time Lecturer, California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA

Reading Methods	Fall 1999 – Spring 2002
English Language Arts for Elementary Teachers	Fall 1999 – Spring 2002
Introduction to Multicultural Education	Fall 200 – Spring 2002

Adjunct Professor, Holy Names College, Oakland, CA

Multicultural Education	Fall 1999 – Spring 2001
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STUDENT ADVISING

Academic Advisor:

Chipp, V. 2016-2018, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada
Reed, D. 2016-2018, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada
McCoy, J. 2015-2017, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada
Urry, B., 2015-2017, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada

Masters Thesis Chair:

Wilde, J. 2015-2017, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada

Masters Thesis Committees:

Bojorquez, C. 2015-2017, School Administration Masters, Touro University Nevada

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Appointed/Elected Positions:

Review Board Member, Education and Urban Society (EUS), 2017-2019.

Volunteer Service:

Team Member and Presenter, Paulo Freire SIG Graduate Student Council Femtor Session at American Education Research Association Conference (2018)

Peer reviewer, Proposals for Scholar Activist & Community Activist Award at Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference (2017)

Peer Reviewer, Proposals for National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) annual conference (2016)

Roundtable Discussant, Social Justice Luncheon at National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) annual conference (2016).

Peer Reviewer, Proposals for National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) annual conference (2015)

Roundtable Discussant, Social Justice Luncheon at National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) annual conference (2015)

Articles Reviewed:

Walls, T. (2018). “Restorative Practice in urban schools: Lessons from the field” *The Urban Review*, Springer International.

Walls, T. (2017). “Zero Tolerance for Black Girls: Suspended, Expelled, and Trapped in the Prison Pipeline” *The Urban Review*, Springer International.

Walls, T. (2017). Democratic assessment as scales of justice among EFL testing parties: The case of three Iranian high-stakes tests” *Education and Urban Society*, SAGE Journals.

Walls, T. (2017). “Women of color in the professoriate: a review of the literature” *Trends in Diversity*, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44240.

Walls, T. (2017). “Teachers’ perspectives of the school leadership strategies for a successful change initiative” *Journal of Educational Research and Practice*, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Walls, T. (2016). “Culturally responsive methodologies in action” *Journal of Teacher Education*, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Washington, D.C., 2017.

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Interprofessional Education Task Force (2017-2018)

Faculty Executive Committee Member (2015-2017)

University Engagement Council (2016-2017)

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Committee Member, Nevada Educator Preparation Committee, Nevada Department of Education (2017)

ESSA Teach Lead Workgroup, Nevada Department of Education, Las Vegas, NV (2016-2017)

Volunteer Instructor, Peterson Academic Center, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV (2016-2017)

Executive Equity Trustee of Board of Trustees, Teachers for Social Justice Las Vegas (TFSJLVS), Las Vegas, NV (2016-2017)

Vice President of Board of Directors, Teaching and Uniting Ladies to Inspire Positive Success (TULIPS), Las Vegas, NV (2017)

Mentor, Teaching and Uniting Ladies to Inspire Positive Success (TULIPS), Las Vegas, NV (2017)

CONSULTING:

Professional Development Consultant, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

June 2015 – Present

Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Initiative

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Organizational Affiliations:

2016 Institute for Teachers of Color committed to Racial Justice (ITOC) Fellow

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)

American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE)

Association of Black Women in Higher Education (ABWHE)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

Critical Race Studies in Education Association (CRSEA)

Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)

International Literacy Association (ILA)

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME)

Certifications:

K-12 School Administrator License, Nevada Department of Education, 2009-2021.

K-12 Reading Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, 2005-2021.

K-8 Elementary Teacher License, Nevada Department of Education, 2005-2021.

Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Literacy: Reading and Language Arts – Early and Middle Childhood, 2005-2025.