

# TONYA E. WALLS, PhD.

Independent Scholar

• [drtonyawalls@codeswitch.org](mailto:drtonyawalls@codeswitch.org) • [@drtonyawalls](https://www.instagram.com/drtonyawalls) • <http://www.tonyawalls.com>

---

Tonya Walls is Nationally Board-Certified Teacher, reading specialist, teacher educator, and anti-racist scholar currently serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her work as a scholar bridges educational leadership, critical multicultural education, culturally relevant and responsive practices, youth participatory action research, and critical/cultural literacies to examine, critique and disrupt inequities in K-12 teaching and learning spaces. In addition to serving in higher education, Tonya also serves as Executive Director of Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color, a 501c3 nonprofit she founded to advance girls rights through youth participatory action research focused on, eradicating racial injustice in schools and interrogating the cradle-to-prison nexus. She also leads restorative justice education development opportunities for youth leaders, K-12 educators, and community-based youth service providers. Tonya is a Bay Area Writing Project Teacher Fellow and she organizes with Teachers for Social Justice Las Vegas.

---

## **CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Assistant Professor of Education, Touro University Nevada

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS**

Multicultural education; critically and culturally relevant and humanizing pedagogies; School-to-prison nexus; Black women and youth; educational leadership; restorative justice education; teacher of color recruitment and retention

## **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**

- 2020-Present Visiting Assistant Professor  
Counseling Education, School Psychology, and Human Services  
University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
- 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

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

#### **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) <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/thesesdissertations/3183/>

#### **Book Chapters:**

**Walls, T.** (In Press). EquityMatterz: Leveraging critical professional development and critical mentorship to retain and sustain teachers of color. In Gist, C. D., and Bristol, T. J. (Eds.) *Handbook of research on teachers of color* (In Press).

Zwicky, C. and **Walls, T.** (2020). Transforming curriculum, exploring identity, and cultivating culturally responsive educators: Employing critical pedagogies to examine the development of teachers and educational leaders committed to equity and justice. In Puckett, T., and Lind, N. S. (Eds.). *Cultural competence in higher education teaching and learning* (67-82). Bingley BD16 1WA, United Kingdom: Emerald Publishing Limited. Retrieved from <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/S2055-364120200000028008/full/html>

**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>

#### **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/>

**Walls, T.** Interview with Kipp Ortenburger of Nevada Week, Racial justice: School-to-prison Pipeline Parts 1 and 2. Season 3, Episode 17, Las Vegas, NV, October 2020.

#### **Invited Talks and Presentations:**

**Walls, T.** (2021). “Employing critical multicultural education to advance girls rights” Speaker at Louis August Jonas Center Foundation Program Panel: Approaches to Teaching Critical Multicultural Education. Virtual Presentation.

**Walls, T.**, Edwards, T, and Dorsey, A. (2021). “EquityMatterz: Leveraging critical professional development and critical mentorship to retain and sustain teachers of color” Speaker at the Virtual Teacher of Color Conference for Kansas State University. Manhattan, KS

**Walls, T.**, Zwicky, C. (2020). “Multicultural curriculum transformation and social justice.” Featured Speaker at the Lander Center for Educational Research Speaker Series, New York, NY

**Walls, T.** (2020). “YPAR, Critical Mentorship & Transformative Justice: Cultivating Culturally Sustaining and Humanizing Spaces in Education for Black Girls.” Featured Speaker at LIT Learning Series for Center for Multicultural Education at The University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV

**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.

### **Conference Presentations and Symposia:**

**Walls, T.** and Zwicky, C. (2019). Transforming Curriculum, Exploring Identity, and Cultivating Culturally Responsive Educators. American Education Studies Association. Baltimore MD.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **FUNDED GRANTS**

Advancing Girls Rights Grant  
Tides Foundation  
June 2021 – June 2022  
Award Amount: \$100,000.00

Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color Love is Healing Project  
Grantmakers for Girls of Color - Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors  
December 2020 – May 2021  
Award Amount: \$10,000.00

Equity Matters: Perspectives and Reflections on Teaching, Learning, and Leading from Black Students, Educators, and Families  
Spencer Foundation  
December 2019-December 2021  
Award Amount: \$50,000.00

Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color  
NoVo Foundation: Community Grantee Partner  
May 2018 – May 2021  
Award Amount: \$300,000

Project LEAD – EquityMatterz Dine & Dialogue Initiative  
Touro University Nevada Internal Grant  
July 2018 – May 2019  
Award Amount: \$7,000

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, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV**

October 10, 2020 – December 30, 2021

Amount Funded: \$44,310.00

Project: Equity Matters: Perspectives and Reflections on Teaching, Learning, and Leading from Black Students, Educators, and Families

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

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020

Amount Funded: \$50,000.00

Project: Equity Matters: Perspectives and Reflections on Teaching, Learning, and Leading from Black Students, Educators, and Families

#### **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**

#### **Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV**

CME785 Introduction to Restorative Justice Education

Fall 2021 (Created)

CME705 Multicultural Education

Fall 2021

CED 200 Multicultural Issues in Education	Spring 2021
CED 425 Multicultural Counseling	Spring 2021
CME 705 Multicultural Education	Spring 2021
CED 200 Multicultural Issues in Education	Fall 2020
CED 425 Multicultural Counseling	Fall 2020
CME 705 Multicultural Education	Fall 2020

**Assistant Professor, Touro University Nevada, Henderson, NV**

Masters School Administration Coordinator	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
Teacher Leadership Advanced Studies Certificate Coordinator	Fall 2015 – Spring 2020
Diverse Learners Advanced Studies Certificate Coordinator	Fall 2015 – Spring 2020
EDUV 610 Research Issues in Education	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
EDUV 611 Leadership for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century School Leader	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
EDUV 612 Curriculum Development for School Leaders	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
EDUV 692 Administrative Internship I and II	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
EDUV 693 Social Justice Leadership Seminar	Fall 2015 – Fall 2018
CTEV 616 Becoming a Teacher Leader	Spring 2016 – Spring 2020
CTEV 617 Urban School Settings and Teacher Leadership	Spring 2016 – Spring 2020
CTEV 618 Collaboration for Learning	Spring 2016 – Spring 2020
CTEV 619 Collegial Coaching and Mentorship	Spring 2016 – Spring 2020
CTAV 605A Multicultural Education	Fall 2018 – Spring 2020
CTAV 605B Critical Conversations About Race	Fall 2018 – Spring 2020

**Adjunct Professor, Nevada State College, Henderson, NV**

ETS 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies	Fall 2014 – Spring 2015
--	-------------------------

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

TED 660 Reading Methods	Fall 1999 – Spring 2002
TED 661 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**

EDUC 202B Multicultural Education	Fall 1999 – Spring 2001
-----------------------------------	-------------------------

**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)

### **Selected 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**



Student National Medical Association, Faculty Student Advisor (2019 – Present)  
Interprofessional Education Task Force (2017-2018)  
Faculty Executive Committee Member (2015-2017)  
University Engagement Council (2016-2017)

**SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

Founder, Director, Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color (2018-Present)

Task Force Member, My Brother’s Keeper Las Vegas Educational Equity Task Force, City of Las Vegas (2018-Present)

Pillar Member, Education and Youth Development Promise Neighborhood Pillar, Nevada Partners (2020-Present)

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

**K-12 EXPERIENCE**

2005-2015	Assistant Principal/Teacher/Coach	Clark County School District
2001-2007	Literacy Consultant	Reading Lions Center, CA
2000-2005	Instructional Facilitator	Oakland Unified Schools
1993-2000	Middle/Elementary Teacher	Oakland Unified Schools

**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, 2009-2031.  
K-12 Reading Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, 2005-2031.  
K-8 Elementary Teacher License, Nevada Department of Education, 2005-2031.  
Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Literacy: Reading and Language Arts – Early and Middle Childhood, 2005-2025.