

# Antoinette J. Waller, M.S.

Ph. D Candidate | University of Maryland, College Park  
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## Professional Summary

A passionate multidisciplinary scholar with expertise in examining how policies and programs shape students' educational opportunities and achievement; as well as college access, experience, and success. With over four years of experience in the education research and policy field, I am looking to join organizations (government, think-tanks, nonprofits) that are also dedicated to using research to redress structural inequities and develop sustainable and equitable policy solutions for all students.

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy, Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership**

**Anticipated May 2025**

**Specialization: Education Policy and Leadership**

University of Maryland | College Park, MD

*Dissertation: Social Mobility and Marginalization at PWIs: How Identity and College Experiences Shape Black Women's Decision Making to Pursue Graduate School*

**Master of Science, Family, Youth, and Community Sciences**

**May 2020**

**Specialization: Family and Youth Development**

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL

*Thesis: Prevention Programs in Florida Public Schools: Administrators Top Concerns, Priorities, and Barriers to Implementation*

**Bachelor of Science, Psychology**

**May 2017**

**Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice**

Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, VA

## Research and Work Experience

**MARC Program Research Assistant**

*Sept 2023 – Present*

PI: Katharina Maisel, Ph.D | University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Assists in leading the inaugural Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program, funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH), within the Department of Bioengineering. This educational program aims to break down barriers for undergraduate students traditionally underrepresented in STEM.
- Developed assessments and surveys to evaluate program success and student experience, administers surveys to students, manages applications submissions, and facilitates communication between scholars and program leadership.
- Created and maintains the MARC program website and social media, identifies programs and resources at the university to better support students, coordinates travel for students to conferences, organizes the annual retreat, and fields inquiries about the MARC program.

**Spencer Research Assistant**

*May 2021 – May 2024*

PI: David Blazar, Ed.D | University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Works on a large meta-analysis project funded by the Spencer Foundation designed to examine the effectiveness of educational interventions on Black, Latino/x, and low-income students.
- Reviews and analyses hundreds of research articles that utilized randomized control trials (RCTs), codes articles that meet our study criteria, and assists in calculating study effect size across studies.

**Instructor**

Spring 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022

University of Maryland | College, MD

- Course: Foundations of Education
- This course examines the social context of education and conflicts over policies, values, and goals that are reflected in educational institutions in our pluralistic society. Designed to help students become reflective, critical thinkers about the social and philosophical issues they face and the choices they make.
- Developed curricula and assignments, delivered course material to over 100 undergraduate students, provided students with feedback on their work, and advised students throughout their program.

**P-12 Policy & Research Doctoral Intern***August 2021 – July 2023*

The Education Trust | Washington, D.C.

- Led a case study evaluating family engagement in schools and managed multiple research and policy projects simultaneously to support the P-12 and higher education teams
- Led interviews, assisted with collecting survey data, and aided in analyzing national survey data, interview data, and wrote quarterly research briefs and reports for publication.
- Conducted research on effective policies that benefit students and families of color and from low-income backgrounds, reviewed and analyzed literature to inform research projects, conducted research synthesis and policy analyses to advance and refine policy priorities within the organization.
- Scheduled and led meetings with school districts and partner organizations, and assisted in organizing webinars for educators', policymakers, and state advocates.
- Synthesize research and data findings for multiple audiences in the form of presentations, briefs/reports, blogs, and for the website.

**Graduate Research Assistant***August 2020 – May 2021*

PI: Claudia Galindo, Ph.D | University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Facilitated in the evaluation of a university-school partnership in Baltimore County, the Literacy Fellows Program, a collaboration to provide undergraduate students with interests in education and community service to serve as classroom literacy tutor volunteers for young learners.
- Examined the programs impact by analyzing and coding interview data and writing up results to publish and provide recommendations for program improvement.

**Graduate Research Assistant***Aug 2018 – May 2020*

PI: Sarah Lynne, Ph.D | University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Led the development of a project manual/codebook on a research project examining the effectiveness of a prevention program implemented in Florida public schools.
- Created participant recruitment materials, assisted in developing a survey, cleaning, and analyzing large survey dataset to share results with relevant stakeholders as well as gathering information regarding resource needs and strategies for program development.

**Research Specialist I***August 2017 – June 2018*

PI: Robert Pianta, Ph.D | University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

- Assisted on a study that aimed to uncover school factors that create and sustain children's success from preschool to third grade.
- Conducted daily classroom observations to rate teacher-student interactions and administered individual student assessments throughout the school year to measure students' academic progress.

**Publications****Research/Policy Reports & Posts**

1. **Waller, A. J.** (2024, March 28). Faculty Diversity and Mentors of Color Are Keys to Success for Black Women in Graduate School. *EdTrust*. <https://edtrust.org/the-equity-line/faculty-mentors-of-color-keys-to-success-black-women-graduate-school/>

2. Gillespie, G., & **Waller, A. J.** (2022, February 27). Want Economic Growth? Start by Investing in Child Care. *EdTrust*. <https://edtrust.org/the-equity-line/want-economic-growth-start-by-investing-in-child-care/>
3. Montague, G., **Waller, A. J.**, Williams, B. (2022, December 19). Lack of Access to Child Care Subsidies is a Barrier to Student-Parent Completion & Success. *EdTrust*. <https://edtrust.org/resource/lack-of-access-to-child-care-subsidies-is-a-barrier-to-student-parent-completion-success/>
4. Williams, B., Bitar, J., Polk, P., Nguyen, A., Montague, G., Gillespie, G., **Waller, A. J.**, Tadess, A., Elliott, K. C. (2022). *For student-parents, the biggest hurdles to a higher education are cost and finding childcare*. The Education Trust. <https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/For-Student-Parents-The-Biggest-Hurdles-to-a-Higher-Education-Are-Cost-and-Finding-Child-Care-August-2022.pdf>

## Presentations

1. Song, D., **Waller, A. J.**, Carson, N. (2023, November 9-11). Recent Efforts of RCT Research to Improve Educational Opportunities for Black, Latino/x, and Low-income Students [Poster Session]. 2023 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
2. **Waller, A. J.** (2023, April 13-16). "Academia just isn't equipped to handle the multiplicity of our identities:" Exploring the Experiences of Black Women in Doctoral Programs [Paper Presentation]. 2023 AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.
3. Carson, N., **Waller, A. J.**, Song, D. (2023, March 23-25). Recent Efforts of RCT Research to Improve Educational Opportunities for Minoritized Students" [Poster Session]. AEFPP 2023 Annual Conference, Denver, CO, United States
4. Williams, B., Bitar, J., Polk, P., Nguyen, A., Montague, G., Gillespie, G., **Waller, A. J.**, Tadess, A., Elliott, K. C. (2022, Sept 12-14). For student-parents, the biggest hurdles to a higher education are cost and finding childcare. [Conference Presentation]. NCAN 2022, Atlanta, GA, United States
5. **Waller A. J.**, Galindo, C., Mejia, N., & Sonnenschein, S. (2022, April 21-26). Service-Learning through School-University Partnerships: Undergraduate Student Volunteers' Motivations and Experiences. [Roundtable session]. 2022 AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, United States
6. **Waller, A. J.**, Mejia, N., & Sariol-Clough, M. (2022, April 21-26). Experiences with School Discipline: Minoritized Girls' Sense of Belonging and "Staying Out of Trouble." [Paper session]. 2022 AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, United States
7. **Waller, A. J.**, & Lynne, S. D. (2020, May 9-15). Changes in prevention concerns among school district administrators following a high school shooting. [Poster session]. Society for Prevention Research, Washington, D.C., United States (Conference cancelled).
8. O'Neal, L. J., Dhar, B., Gusto, C., **Waller, A. J.**, Girón, K., Dorvè-Lewis, G., & Song, J. (2020, April). Incorporating a multilevel intervention project into a community-based research course for graduate students. Paper session for presentation at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville, FL. (Conference cancelled)

## Professional Memberships and Awards

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Member

University of Maryland Institute for Public Leadership Thurgood Marshall Research Fellowship (2024)

University of Maryland College of Education Deans Fellowship (2020 – 2024)

Just Education Policy Institute Summer Fellow (2022)

## Leadership and Service

Secretary/Historian   AERA Graduate Student Council	2022 – 2024
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Vice President   College of Education Graduate Student Organization	2022 – 2023
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Departmental Rep   College of Education Graduate Student Organization	2021 – 2022
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Diversity and Inclusion Committee   Graduate Student Government	2021 – 2022
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Senate Executive Committee Member   University of Maryland Senate	2021 – 2022
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Graduate Student Senator   University of Maryland Senate	2021 – 2022
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Treasurer   FYCS Graduate Association at the University of Florida	2018 – 2020
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Mentor   Health Sciences Academy at Virginia Commonwealth University	2016 – 2017
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Mentor   Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Richmond	2014 – 2015
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## Skills

**Administrative:** Problem solving, attention to detail, time management, communication, data entry, organization, and multitasking

**Research:** Project management, research design, literature review, statistical analysis, qualitative research, quantitative research, synthesizing evidence, presentation skills, and data management

**Software:** Stata, Nvivo, Dedoose, Adobe, Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook