

# Resha T. Swanson

reshas@uchicago.com | 573-855-1766 | [linkedin.com/in/reshaswanson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/reshaswanson)

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## EDUCATION

- PhD**  
2026 (*expected*)  
Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice (Formerly SSA)  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
**Advisor:** Dr. Susan Lambert
- MSSW**  
2021  
Columbia School of Social Work  
**Concentration:** Policy Practice  
Columbia University, New York, NY
- BSW**  
**BA in Spanish**  
2018, *summa cum laude*  
UA School of Social Work, *Honors Program*  
UA College of Arts & Sciences, *Honors Program*  
**Minor:** Political Science  
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Worker Rights; U.S. South; Preemption; Grassroots Community Organizing; Low-Wage Work & Job Quality; Black, Latinx, and Immigrant Workers; Municipal Government; Policy & Program Evaluation

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Swanson, R. (In-Progress). Racialization, Racial Capital, and Labor: Frameworks for Interpreting Southern Worker Resistance in the Past & Present
- Chin, H. & Swanson, R. (In-Progress). “He worked one day, and didn’t come back.”: Frontline Managers’ Responses to the Great Resignation in Retail and Food Service
- Swanson, R. T. (2021). Still fighting: The relationship between contemporary preemption in the South and the continued struggle for Black worker rights. *Columbia Social Work Review*, 19(1), 62–79.  
<https://doi.org/10.52214/cswr.v19i1.7288>

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Swanson, R., Guazo, I., & Vosburgh, J. (2021). Working on the edge: A survey of low-wage workers in the Birmingham area amid a global pandemic. In *Adelante Alabama Worker Center*. Adelante Alabama Worker Center. [http://adelantealabama.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Adelante\\_Working-on-the-Edge-2021-eng-FINAL.pdf](http://adelantealabama.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Adelante_Working-on-the-Edge-2021-eng-FINAL.pdf)
- Carnes, J., & Swanson, R. (2021). The state of working Alabama 2021: Section 2 – unequal by design: COVID-19 and Alabama’s policy legacy. In *Alabama Arise*. Alabama Arise.  
<https://www.alarise.org/resources/state-of-working-alabama-2021-section-2/>
- Swanson, R. (2020, May 15). *Walmart incident: Who’s the greater threat to public safety? COVID-19 or black people?* AL.com; Alabama Media Group. <https://www.al.com/opinion/2020/05/walmart-incident-whos-the-greater-threat-to-public-safety-covid-19-or-black-people.html>

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## GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018-2019 Best Essay in Spanish at a 400-level
- 2018 Laura Langley Social Justice Award
- 2018 Finalist, Holle Excellence in Public Speaking Competition
- 2018 Dean's Scholar Award: School of Social Work
- 2017 Undergraduate Writing Award

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Scheduling Legislation Project

*Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice | The University of Chicago*

**Principal Investigator(s):** Dr. Susan Lambert, University of Chicago & Dr. Anna Haley, Rutgers University

**Brief Description:** Investigates frontline retail and food service managers' implementation of new work scheduling laws in New York, Chicago, Seattle, and Philadelphia and their experiences balancing the changing needs of their businesses, employees, and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Project Manager

Jan. 2021 – Present

### Responsibilities

- Manage a team of 7 research assistants, which includes monitoring interview progress, providing interview training and resources, and supporting research assistants
- Analyze survey data and assist with the development of academic publications and research reports
- Revise and edit interview protocol and survey instruments
- Conduct qualitative interviews with frontline retail and food service managers
- Code and analyze qualitative data collected from managers
- Use Stata to develop descriptive statistics based on survey data

### Research Assistant

June 2021 – Dec. 2021

### Birmingham Low-Wage Worker Survey Project

*Adelante Alabama Worker Center | Birmingham, Alabama*

**Supervisor:** Jessica Vosburgh, Esquire

**Brief Description:** Community-based participatory research project that investigated the effect of the pandemic on Birmingham workers making less than \$15 per hour and gathered data about the general quality of jobs available to low-wage workers in the metropolitan area.

### Project Co-Manager

April 2020 – Feb. 2021

### Responsibilities

- Designed, edited, and finalized an electronic survey instrument to distribute to low-wage workers
- Managed the distribution of the survey to various platforms, monitored responses
- Cleaned and analyzed data, consulted with research team on data interpretation
- Authored report with results; Distributed report to various outlets and arranged press conferences

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July 2019 – Aug. 2021

### Communications & Policy Coordinator

*Adelante Alabama Worker Center* | Birmingham, AL

- Managed Spanish and English media communications, including press releases, advisories, statements, internal manuals, website, and social media accounts
- Supervised and supported youth organizing initiatives and events
- Analyzed policies, created campaigns or direct actions in support or against these policies, and built relationships with key political players at the local, state, and national level

Sept. 2020 – April 2021

### Master of Science in Social Work Intern

*Alabama Arise* | Montgomery, AL (remote)

- Assisted with the research and publication of the State of Working Alabama 2020 Report
- Analyzed policies related to worker rights, unemployment, low-wage work in Alabama, and other economic issues
- Researched policies currently moving through federal and state legislatures that have implications for low-wage workers

May 2019 – July 2021

### Founding Board Member

*Etowah Freedom Fund (EFF)* | Birmingham, AL

- Established EFF as an anti-carceral, liberation bond fund in 2019 to address the lack of available financial resources for individuals detained in the Etowah County Detention Center
- Managed bond release and support process, which included: paying bonds, providing post-release stipends, and organizing posts-release transportation
- Coordinated joint-release efforts with other bond organizations and tracked requests for bond payments

March 2019 – July 2019

### Shut Down Etowah Campaign Fellow

*Adelante Alabama Worker Center* | Birmingham, AL

- Coordinated communication between approximately 20 individuals detained by ICE in Etowah County Detention Center and members of the Shut Down Etowah Campaign
- Created bond profiles/cases, bond fundraisers, and coordinated logistics for individuals released from Etowah County Detention Center on bond and successfully oversaw the release of 3 men
- Organized direct actions and protests to raise awareness about the abuses at the detention facility

Aug. 2018 – Dec. 2018

### Bachelor of Social Work Intern

*Office of the District Attorney* | Tuscaloosa, AL

- Assisted 3-5 victims per month with trials and resource referrals
- Developed strength-based curriculum for a weekly domestic violence support group
- Conducted over 5 home visits with victims of serious crimes and completed case/biopsychosocial assessments

May 2017 – July 2017

### Congressional Black Caucus Intern

*Office of Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D) (AL-7)* | Washington, D.C.

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- Gathered research in support of 3 pieces of pending legislation and delivered co-sponsor memos
- Worked with the Press Secretary to write and edit press statements
- Supported office operations including constituent phone calls, mail, and email

Jan. 2016 – May 2018

## Lead Peer Advisor

*Capstone Center for Student Success | The University of Alabama*

- Designed and implemented strategic tutoring curriculum for 10 student mentors
- Advised more than 25 conditionally accepted/probationary freshman students in college readiness and academic preparedness
- Planned student mentorship activities and performed academic check-ins

Aug. 2016 – May 2018

## Intercultural Engagement Intern

*Crossroads Community Engagement Center | The University of Alabama*

- Initiated and facilitated multicultural events
- Led and planned over 15 campus dialogues about different cultural topics
- Assisted with the marketing and logistics of various events to support diversity

May 2016 – August 2016

## AmeriCorps VISTA

*Waynesville, MO*

- Taught and facilitated summer school class (Tiger Leadership Camp) to middle and high school aged kids
- Revised and edited Tiger Leadership Camp curriculum
- Assisted non-profit and government organizations in other service projects such as: community garden upkeep, moving/storage, AmeriCorps recruitment, etc.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Sept. 2022  
(upcoming)

### Southern Labor Studies Association (SLSA) 2022 Biannual Conference

*Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

Presenting paper that explores the use of racialization and racial capitalism as conceptual frameworks for understanding Southern labor resistance in the past and present.

June 2022  
(upcoming)

### Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN): 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

*New York City, New York*

Co-presenting the paper, “Managing in the Context of COVID-19: The Experiences of Frontline Retail and Food Service Managers”, which focuses on the experiences of Seattle managers responsible for meeting business needs and supporting their staff during the pandemic.

Feb. 2020

### Op-Ed Project & Southern Poverty Law Center Conference

*Elohee Retreat Center, Georgia*

Designed and facilitated workshop for LGBTQ+ immigrants who were formerly detained. The workshop demonstrated media and communications strategies for uplifting the narratives of people with detention experience.

March 2018

### Southeast Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference

*Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina*

Selected to present at the SEWSA annual conference at Clemson University. The presentation was titled, “The Culture of Listening: How Hearing Culture Can Change Visual Perceptions” and discussed ways in which sharing personal stories can help reverse cultural stereotypes.

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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Dec. 2021 – Present

Diversity Advisory Board - General Member

*The University of Chicago | Chicago, IL*

Oct. 2021 – Present

Doctoral Studies Committee - Student Representative

*Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice*

*The University of Chicago | Chicago, IL*

Oct. 2015 – Dec. 2018

Spanish Club: Alabama Students Without Borders

**Positions Held:** President (2017-18); Engagement Coordinator (2017)  
Secretary (2016-17); Social Media Chair (2015-16)

*The University of Alabama | Tuscaloosa, AL*

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Oct. 2017 – May 2018

Constituent Services Volunteer, District Office

*Office of Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D) (AL-7) | Tuscaloosa, AL*

Jan. 2017 – May 2017

International Intern – ESL Teaching Assistant

*Universities Study Abroad Consortium (USAC) | Puntarenas, Costa Rica*

Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2016

Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama

*Tuscaloosa, AL*

Oct. 2015 – Dec. 2018

English as a Second Language Tutor

*Holy Spirit Catholic High School | Tuscaloosa, AL*