
Toyhan “TJ” Harper

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EDUCATION

- PhD **University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice**
Degree Expected: June 2026
- AM **University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice**
Concentration in Social Administration and Social Policy
Degree Received: June 2021; Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- BA **Xavier University, College of Arts and Sciences**
Major in Political Science and Government, Minor in Public Policy
Degree Received: December 2015; *magna cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Criminal legal system; reentry process; healthy equity; family well-being; community reintegration; social sectors of care; social welfare evaluation; racial inequality; community-based interventions; and qualitative research methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- June 2020 – June 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant**
University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice
Principal Investigator: Reuben J. Miller, PhD
Title: *YAP Implementation Study*
- Impact and implementation evaluation study aimed at identifying the causal impact and cost effectiveness of YAP on key life outcomes for youth at high risk of violence involvement in Chicago; to document clearly and consistently what YAP services are, how they are delivered and received; to explore the mechanisms through which YAP achieves its outcomes. Responsibilities include conducting field interviews. Assist in data management. Assist with literature reviews. Qualitative coding.
- Mar. 2020 – June 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant**
University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice
Principal Investigator: Reuben J. Miller, PhD
Title: *Dovetail Implementation Study*
- Qualitative implementation evaluation, aimed to understand how program participants understand and experience services, their backgrounds, perceptions and expectations of the program, the strategies they employ to navigate the many barriers they face and the lengths they go to in order to be “good fathers” to their children. Responsibilities include assisting in preparing IRB Protocols. Conduct field

observations and interviews. Assist in data management. Prepare field notes. Assist with literature reviews. Qualitative Coding.

Oct. 2019 – **Graduate Research Assistant**
June 2020 University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration
Principal Investigator: Susan Lambert, PhD
Title: Secured Scheduling Project (Seattle and Chicago)

Research the impact that the Chicago Work Week Ordinance has on workers in the service industries listed in the legislation; this project seeks to better understand how employee schedules are unpredictable, and how companies will abide by the law to provide ample notice for scheduling so employees can have better stability in expecting income and work hours.

HONORS/AWARDS

- Mar. 2020 Albert Schweitzer Fellow (Chicago Chapter, \$2500)
“While continuing their graduate studies, Schweitzer Fellows are required to design, implement, evaluate and plan for the sustainability of community-based prevention and intervention projects that address the social determinants of health.”
- Nov. 2019 Clinton Global Initiative University Scholar
“CGI U is a unique opportunity to connect aspiring leaders with leading experts in business, technology, and social impact. Each year, thousands of undergraduate and graduate students from across the country and around the world apply to participate in CGI U’s year-round community of learning, leadership, and action — beginning with a global meeting where participants, topic experts, and high-profile innovators convene to support and learn from each other.”
- Jan. 2015 George and Agatha Salter Political Science Award, Xavier University
“Presented to the undergraduate student completing the political science major with the highest distinction.”
- June 2014 Lieutenant Robert Rice Scholarship, Xavier University
“Awarded to the undergraduate applicant with the highest cumulative GPA who qualifies for the Upperclassman Scholarship.”
- May 2014 John J. Gilligan Public Service Award, Xavier University
“The John J. Gilligan Endowment was created to honor the substantial legacy of the former Ohio governor through the provision of scholarships to Xavier students and to inspire new generations to seek and expand the noble tradition of selfless, thoughtful and fearless public service.”
- April 2014 The Edward C. Gasiewicz Political Science Award, Xavier University
“Established by Edward C. Gasiewicz and presented to an outstanding junior political science major for demonstrating high achievement in the field of political science and contributing valuable service to the community.”

BOOK CHAPTER

Hill, A., Washington Sr., D.M., **Harper, T.**, and Kern, L.J. (forthcoming). "The Role of Social Workers in Transforming the American Educational System as a Means to Carceral Abolition." In Laura S. Abrams, Sandra Edmonds Crewe, Alan J. Dettlaff, James Herbert Williams (Eds.), *Social Work, White Supremacy, and Racial Justice: Reckoning with Our History, Interrogating Our Present, Re-Imagining Our Future*. Oxford University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Washington, D. M., **Harper, T.**, Hill, A. B., & Kern, L. J. (2021). "Achieving Juvenile Justice through Abolition: A Critical Review of Social Work's Role in Shaping the Juvenile Legal System and Steps toward Achieving an Antiracist Future." *Social Sciences*, 10(6), 211.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPERATION

Harper, T. (*submitted for review*). "The Transition Year: Reimagining the Roles of Returning Citizens Post-Release."

Hill, A. and **Harper, T.** (*submitted for review*). "They Slow Me Down: The School Discipline, Legal Involvement, and Community Care of Black Adolescents."

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Washington, D.M., Muentner, L., and **Harper, T.** "Destabilizing Consequences of Juvenile Incarceration: Evidence on Imprisoned Men's Health and Pre-Incarceration Social Environments." Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference. Poster Presentation, Austin, TX. March 2022.

Hill, A. and **Harper, T.** "They Slow Me Down: The School Discipline, Legal Involvement, and Community Care of Black Adolescents." Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Conference at the 26th Annual Conference. Washington, DC. January 2022.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Washington, D.M. and **Harper, T.** "Achieving Juvenile Justice through Abolition: A Critical Review of Social Work's Role in Shaping the Juvenile Legal System and Steps toward Achieving an Antiracist Future." Oral presentation at the Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics Conference. Social Justice in Humanities and Social Sciences. Birmingham, United Kingdom. (Virtual due to COVID-19). October 2021.

Harper, T. "Race to Close: Combatting the Racial Wealth Gap in America." Oral presentation at the Clinton Global Initiative, University of Edinburgh. Scotland. (Virtual due to COVID-19). April 2020.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Aug. 2016 – **Associate for Justice Ministries**
Aug. 2019 Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

Developed educational resources, curricula, and policy for approximately 800 local congregations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Increased participation in social justice trainings and sacred conversations by 200 percent in six months. Supported Board of Directors and Conference staff in developing a comprehensive strategy for social inequity work in the Conference setting.

July 2016 – **Chief Operations Officer & Board of Directors Member**
July 2018 Social Justice Sewing Academy

Created outreach strategies to recruit students of color about social justice issues and how to communicate positive messages through SJSA summer sessions. Worked directly with founder of SJSA to innovate ways for children to design social justice quilts that illuminate social justice issues such as racism, poverty, income inequality.

May 2014 – **Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow**
Aug. 2014 Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School

Selected as one of 35 students from over 500 national applicants to participate in an intensive program at Princeton designed to prepare students for advanced degrees in public policy. Completed graduate-level coursework in Microeconomics, Statistics, and Policy Analysis to learn how quantitative tools advance policies

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

May 2020 – **Illinois Youth Center**
Mar. 2021 Creative Writing Instructor

Helped craft and implement a program curriculum that allowed incarcerated youth to create autobiographies, poetry, music, and other forms of written expression. The curriculum also was attached to various social problems to allow youth with the opportunity to add social complexity to their artistic ventures. Finally, one goal was to instill a certain hope and envisioning for the youth's future once they were released from detainment.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Oct. 2019 – **University of Chicago Crown Family School, Student Government Association**
Jun. 2021 Student Body President - May 2020 to Jun. 2021
Cohort Representative - Oct. 2019 to May 2020

RESEARCH SKILLS

Microsoft Office, SPSS, STATA, Dedoose, NVivo, and Tableau