

Tr'Vel T. Lyons, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Researcher
 University of Southern California
 Rossier School of Education
 Center for Education, Identity and Social Justice
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EDUCATION

- 2022 **Ph.D. in Education.** *Urban Schooling.* UCLA School of Education and Information Studies, University of California Los Angeles | *Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Tyrone Howard
- 2016 **Ed.M.** *Education Policy and Management.* Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- 2014 **B.A., Philosophy.** University of California Los Angeles.
Study Abroad: Universidad de Córdoba, UCO
- 2022 **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace**
 University of South Florida Corporate Training and Professional Education

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Academic Programs:

- Exploring barriers and facilitators to equitable access to higher education.
- Examining intersections of race, class, culture, and gender, focusing on understanding the unique challenges and opportunities in diverse educational environments.
- Emphasizing the design of interventions that promote inclusivity and champion equal opportunities for historically underrepresented groups in education.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-
 Present *Postdoctoral Research Associate*
Center for Education, Identity and Social Justice, Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Spearhead the evaluation US Department of Education-funded Black College Success Project in partnership with the LA Promise Fund, managing a \$1.56 million grant.
 - Lead pivotal data collection process and district partnership initiatives to drive project outcomes.
 - Develop and implement comprehensive, evidence-based Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives aligned with organizational goals and best practices.
 - Design and execute longitudinal, quasi-experimental qualitative research projects to assess the effectiveness of outreach programs, initiatives, and interventions.
 - Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to create research plans, manage interview scheduling, and conduct site visits, ensuring a thorough understanding of the diverse needs within the organization.
 - Foster and expand diverse strategic partnerships with community organizations, educational institutions, and external constituents to enhance DEI efforts, secure funding, and promote collaboration.

- Manage and analyze complex diversity-related data using various tools, including but not limited to Qualtrics, Excel, SPSS, NVivo, and Dedoose.
- Lead the development of proposals, reports, presentations, workshops, and training materials to communicate equity strategies and outcomes effectively to internal and external partners.
- Represent the organization at national conferences (e.g., AERA, UCEA) and other forums, showcasing the success and impact of pre-college initiatives.
- Cultivate public engagement by producing reports and articles that disseminate findings from equity and inclusion-related research and initiatives, contributing to the organization's thought leadership in the field.

2011-2022

Lead Research Associate
UCLA Black Male Institute
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Spearheaded research initiatives at the Black Male Institute for over 10 years, designing and implementing comprehensive plans that resulted in four published reports and yearly national, refereed conference presentations.
- Managed and mentored undergraduate researchers, contributing to their professional development; supervised and successfully completed yearly research projects.
- Orchestrated and led think tanks and student retreats, fostering a sense of community and engagement among Black students; resulting in a 54% increase in undergraduate participation, graduation, and sense of belonging.
- Collaborated with university Vice-Provosts and senior leadership for over 10 years, actively contributing to Black student recruitment strategies; played a key role in achieving a 25% improvement in recruitment numbers.
- Planned and executed field trips and student days, bringing nearly 500 Black primary and secondary students to campus annually.
- Developed and implemented strategic initiatives for Black student success over the past decade, aligning efforts with institutional goals.

2021-2022

Graduate Student Researcher
21st Century California School Leadership Academy
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA & UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

- Collaborated closely with the 21CSLA research team to assist Regional Academies, giving voice and agency to educational leaders, and elevating their impactful work.
- Conducted in-depth phenomenological research as part of the 21CSLA team, exploring the lived experiences of African American Male Leaders in educational settings.
- Developed and delivered presentations on best practices, showcasing effective strategies for supporting leaders of color, and championing equity at both internal forums and national conferences.

2018-2022

Director and Academic Program Chair, Day One Program

UCLA's Vice-Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars, Los Angeles, CA

- Established and spearheaded the creation of the hybrid, pre-college program, Day One as part of the UCLA VIPS initiative, providing a transformative pre-college experience for high school scholars.
- Coordinated logistics and programming for the Day One Program, managing resources and ensuring a smooth execution for over four years.
- Developed strategic partnerships with local schools, museums, organizations to enhance the program's impact and reach within the community.
- Designed and implemented innovative curriculum components aimed at fostering academic growth, personal development, and college readiness for participating students.
- Monitored and assessed the program's effectiveness through data analysis and feedback mechanisms, continuously refining and improving the initiative.

2018-2022

Curriculum Specialist and Instructional Designer

UCLA's Vice-Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars, Los Angeles, CA

- Designed and refined digital curriculum materials for the UCLA VIPS initiative, aligning content with program objectives and educational standards.
- Collaborated with educators, administrators, and subject matter experts to ensure the curriculum met the diverse needs of the student population.
- Integrated innovative teaching methods and technologies to enhance the effectiveness of educational materials.
- Conducted regular assessments and evaluations to measure the impact of the curriculum on student learning outcomes.
- Maintained ongoing communication with stakeholders to gather feedback and make continuous improvements to the curriculum.

2022-
Present

Consultant and Community Engagement Specialist

The Salt Eaters Bookshop, Inglewood, CA

- Formulate and execute innovative outreach strategies, leveraging consultancy expertise to establish strategic partnerships with museums and art galleries such as Art + Practice as well as the California African American Museum to enhance the impact of educational initiatives.
- Deliver compelling presentations to corporations, families, and diverse audiences, leveraging consultancy skills to effectively communicate the importance of educational equity.
- Forge and sustain consultancy-driven partnerships with community organizations, expanding the reach and efficacy of art and academic programs.
- Conduct thorough consultancy-driven evaluations of program effectiveness through data analysis and feedback mechanisms, implementing strategic improvements for continual enhancement of educational outcomes.

2022-2022

Project Manager

ECA Partners, Santa Monica, CA

- Directed end-to-end project management for executive search assignments, ensuring on-time delivery of high-caliber candidates and cultivating strong

client relationships through effective communication and understanding of unique needs.

- Utilized advanced project planning strategies and tools to coordinate cross-functional teams, enhancing efficiency in candidate sourcing and screening processes while mitigating potential risks.
- Collaborated with internal stakeholders and the international team in Manila, Philippines to optimize search processes, improve candidate pipelines, and adapt to dynamic client requirements, showcasing flexibility and responsiveness.
- Maintained comprehensive project documentation and facilitated transparent communication through client meetings and presentations, keeping stakeholders informed of project status, milestones, and candidate progress.

2017-2022

High School Academic Advisor

UCLA's Vice-Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars, Los Angeles, CA

- Provided personalized academic guidance and mentorship to high school students enrolled in the UCLA VIPS Program, contributing to their overall success and development.
- Conducted regular check-ins and progress assessments, tailoring support strategies to address individual student needs and challenges.
- Collaborated with fellow mentors to create a supportive and inclusive environment, fostering a sense of community among program participants.
- Assisted students in navigating the college application process, offering valuable insights and resources to enhance their chances of admission.
- Participated in ongoing professional development to stay informed about best practices in mentorship and student support.

2019-2021

Summer Residential Director

KINGS Summer Program, UCLA's Vice-Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars, Los Angeles, CA

- Led the planning and execution of the UCLA VIPS KINGS Summer Program, overseeing residential logistics and ensuring a safe and engaging environment for participants.
- Managed a team of staff members, providing guidance and support to create a positive and inclusive community atmosphere.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive program schedule, incorporating academic, recreational, and community-building activities to enrich the summer experience.
- Coordinated with faculty and guest speakers to deliver educational sessions aligned with the program's goals.
- Addressed and resolved any issues or concerns arising during the summer program, prioritizing the well-being and satisfaction of all participants.

2016-2017

Program Director

Concerned Black Men, CARES Program, Los Angeles, CA

- Directed the overall operations and strategic initiatives of the CARES Program, focusing on academic and personal development for participants.
- Developed and implemented program policies and procedures, ensuring compliance with university guidelines and standards.
- Oversaw a team of staff members, providing leadership, support, and training to maintain a high standard of program delivery.
- Established partnerships with community organizations and resources to enhance the program's impact and resources.
- Monitored and evaluated program effectiveness through data analysis and participant feedback, making informed adjustments for continuous improvement.

2015

Office Assistant**National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC), Atlanta, GA**

- Provided administrative support to the National Student Leadership Conference, contributing to the smooth execution of educational programs for high-achieving high school students.
- Assisted in coordinating logistics for conferences and events, ensuring a seamless experience for participants.
- Managed office communications and inquiries, demonstrating strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Collaborated with team members to optimize office efficiency and enhance the overall participant experience.
- Played a key role in organizing and executing various administrative tasks, showcasing adaptability and attention to detail.

2011-2014

High School Academic Advisor**UCLA's Vice-Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars, Los Angeles, CA**

- Advised high school students in the UCLA VIPS Program on academic planning, college preparation, and career exploration.
- Conducted individual and group advising sessions, addressing academic challenges and providing guidance on post-secondary options.
- Collaborated with school administrators and teachers to create tailored support plans for students with unique needs.
- Facilitated workshops and presentations on college readiness topics, contributing to the overall success of the program.
- Maintained accurate and detailed records of student progress, ensuring effective communication with students, parents, and school stakeholders.

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Manuscript Under Review	DeCuir-Gunby, J., Johnson, R.M., Lyons, T.T. , Kenney, A., Black Student Belonging in K12 Schools: Understanding Barriers and Facilitators for Effective Policy and Practice (under review)
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- Manuscript Under Review Dumas, T., **Lyons, T.T.**, Harris, D., Blackmon, S.... (under review) Link, Love, & Resist: Supporting Black Men in Higher Education.
- Manuscript In Progress **Lyons, T.T.**, (in progress) No Room for Black Joy: Deconstructing notions of antiblackness in college preparation for Black boys.

Book Chapters

- 2022 **Lyons, T.T.**, Howard T.C. A New Paradigm for Preparing Teachers of Black Males. "Reconceptualizing Social Justice in Teacher Education: Moving Beyond Culturally Responsive to Anti-racist Pedagogy. *Palgrave Macmillan*.
- 2016 Smith, M., **Lyons, T.T.** Post-Secondary Pathways in T.Howard, J.D.Tunstall, and T.K. Flen Flenbaugh (Eds.) *Expanding college access for urban youth* (pp.115-137). New York, NY: TeachersCollege, Columbia University.

Other Publications

- 2021 Howard, T., **Lyons, T.T.** (2021). Enriching the Educational Experiences of Black Males. Social Education. <https://www.socialstudies.org/social-education/85/3/enriching-educational-experiences-black-males>.

Acknowledged Researcher

- 2022 Dumas, T., Howard, J., James, A., & Howard, T. (2022). Bright Spots: Schools and Organizations Cultivating Excellence in Los Angeles Black Youth. Center for the Transformation of Schools, School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles.
Contributions: Supported Research Design, Supported Data Collection.
- 2014 Howard, T. C. (2014). *Black male (d): Peril and promise in the education of African American males*. Teachers College Press.
Contributions: Data Gathering, Graph and Chart Development.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2023 **Lyons, T.T.** (March 2023). *Cacti in the Classroom: Supporting Black students with radical mentorship*. Black Male Institute Presents: Speaker Series. Whittier College, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2017 **Lyons, T.T.** (June 2017). *Reimagining The University*. UC Black Administrators' Council (UCBAC) Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 **Lyons, T.T.** (May 2014). *A-G Requirements*. UCLA Black Male Institute Think Tank, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 **Lyons, T.T.** (Nov 2013). *Comprehending Equality Versus Equity in Inner-City Schools*. UCLA Black Male Institute Think Tank, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2012 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2012) *I'm a Scholar– Activist-High School Students Experiences in a Social Justice College Access Program*. College Board Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

2011 **Lyons, T.T.** (May 2011). *Looking at the State of Black Males in Education*. UCLA Black Male Institute, Los Angeles, CA.

Refereed National Presentations

- 2024 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2024). *No Room for Black Joy: Deconstructing notions of antiblackness in college preparation for Black boys*. American Education Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Lyons, T.T., McAdoo, G.** (April 2024). *Finding your brother: Exploring Black male counter-spaces as a pathway to resilient identity and healthy expressions of masculinity*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Lyons, T.T.** (March 2024). *Anti-Blackness in College Prep Among Black Students*. USC Rossier Research for Impact Conference. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2023 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2023). *Supporting Black Male School Leaders with a Culture of Compassion*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Lyons, T.T.** (Mar 2023). *Policy Change in K-12 Schools*. USC Rossier Research for Impact Conference. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 **Lyons, T.T.** (Nov 2022). *“Come, ‘be’, and become”: Understanding the Role of Targeted Professional Learning for Black Male Leaders.*” University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA), Seattle, WA.
- 2022 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2022). *Cacti in the Classroom: Cultivating College-Going Culture for Black Males in Ninth Grade*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA.
- 2022 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2022). *Building a Culture of Excellence that Serves Black Students*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA.
- 2021 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2021). *Exploring a Black-Centered Approach to Online Learning Environments Amidst COVID-19*. American Educational Research Association, Virtual.
- 2019 **Lyons, T.T.** (April 2019). *Mentoring to EXCEL: Black male perception of effective mentorship in social justice intervention program*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), Toronto, OT.
- 2018 **Lyons, T.T., Harris, D., Navarro, J.** (April 2018). *Link. Love. Resist: How First-Year Black College Students Enrolled in Single-Sex Course Resist at an HWI*, American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York, New York.
- 2013 Woodward, B., **Lyons, T.T.** (May 2013) *A Comprehensive Study on Retention and Collective Experiences of Black males at UCLA*. National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), New Orleans, LA.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Implicit Bias in Admissions

2023 Target Audience: USC Rossier School of Education:

- Designed and delivered an interactive training program focused on understanding and addressing implicit bias.
- Developed customized content tailored to the specific needs and

- challenges of the USC Office of Strategic Enrollment Services
- Utilized a variety of teaching methods, including case studies, group discussions, and real-world examples to engage participants effectively.
 - Promoted self-awareness and fostered an inclusive environment to promote diversity and equity within the department.

References available upon request.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

2017-2020 Money, Money, Money: Financial Literacy and Wellness

Teaching Assistantships at UCLA

2018 Critical Issues in Education, with Dr. Patrick Camangian

2017 Critical Issues in Education, with Dr. Tyrone Howard

Invited Lectures and Keynotes

2024 **Keynote.** Four Lessons to Black Graduates. Presented at the Long Beach Unified School District Black Graduation 2024. Long Beach, CA. Hosted by Long Beach Unified School District. May 2024.

2024 **Keynote.** Water and Fear: Taking the next step towards college. Presented at Beta Pi Sigma Luncheon. Los Angeles, CA. Hosted by the Epsilon Chapter of Beta Pi Sigma Sorority Inc. March 2024.

2024 **Lecture.** Implicit Bias in Student Affairs. Course name: Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning in Higher Education. Presented at USC. Masters course, November 2024. Professor of record: Darnell Cole.

2020 **Lecture.** Blacklimate: Financial Literacy for Black Males. Course name: Blacklimate. Presented at UCLA. Undergraduate course, February 2020. Professor of record: Travis Dumas

2019 **Lecture.** If You Don't Succeed, It's A Problem: Autoethnography". Course name: Race, Gender, and Class Inequality. Presented at UCLA. Undergraduate course, July 2019. Professor of record: Patrick Camangian.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

External

2023 Inclusive Graduate Education Network Travel Grant, **\$1,000**

2010-2014 Wasserman Family Scholarship, **\$20,000**

2010-2020 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates Millennium Scholar; **\$300,000**

Internal

2023 USC Postdoc Scholar Conference and Travel Support, **\$500**

2023 USC Center of Education, Identity and Social Justice Travel Grant, **\$1,000**

2023 USC Rossier, Office of the Dean Travel Grant, **\$500**

2023 USC Faculty Affairs Travel Grant, **\$1,000**

2022	UCLA Center X, UC Berkeley 21CSLA Research Grant, \$7,354
2022	UC Regents Stipend; \$6,000
2022	GRAD Cares Grant: \$328
2022	UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools Travel Grant, \$1,500
2020	UCLA Graduation Student Research Mentorship Grant, \$4000
2018	UCLA School of Education and Information Studies Travel Grant, \$500
2017	UCLA School of Education and Information Studies Travel Grant, \$500
2016	UCLA Graduate Division Merit Grant, \$5,000
2016	Harvard Graduate School of Education Merit Grant, \$5,000

RESEARCH SKILLS

Critical Qualitative Methods: interviews, focus groups, observations, case study research, grounded theory, phenomenological study research, youth participatory research (YPAR), critical discourse analysis, critical autoethnography

Critical Quantitative Methods: SPSS, Stata, NVivo, MAXQDA, Dedoose, Tableau, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office

HONORS & AWARDS

2022	University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Finalist
2014	UCLA Chancellor's Recognition for Student Leadership
2014	California Assemblymember Recognition Award

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY

Profession

2023-
Present *Reviewer.* American Education Research Association

Departmental/College

2023-
Present *Member.* Rossier Restorative Justice Faculty Circle, USC

2022-
Present *Member,* Supporting Leaders of Color Affinity Group Facilitators, 21CSLA, UC Berkeley

2016-2022 *Facilitator,* UCLA Black Male Institute Gateway to Graduate Program, University of California, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.

2020-21 *Member,* Black Bruins Equity Collective, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Community

2020-
Present Mentor, The Enlightened Mentor Project. Los Angeles, CA.

2017-2018 Mentor, Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Education Research Association (AERA)
- National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)
- University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)
- Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
- California Association of Black School Educators (CABSE)
- Amy King Dundon-Berchtold University Club of USC
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.