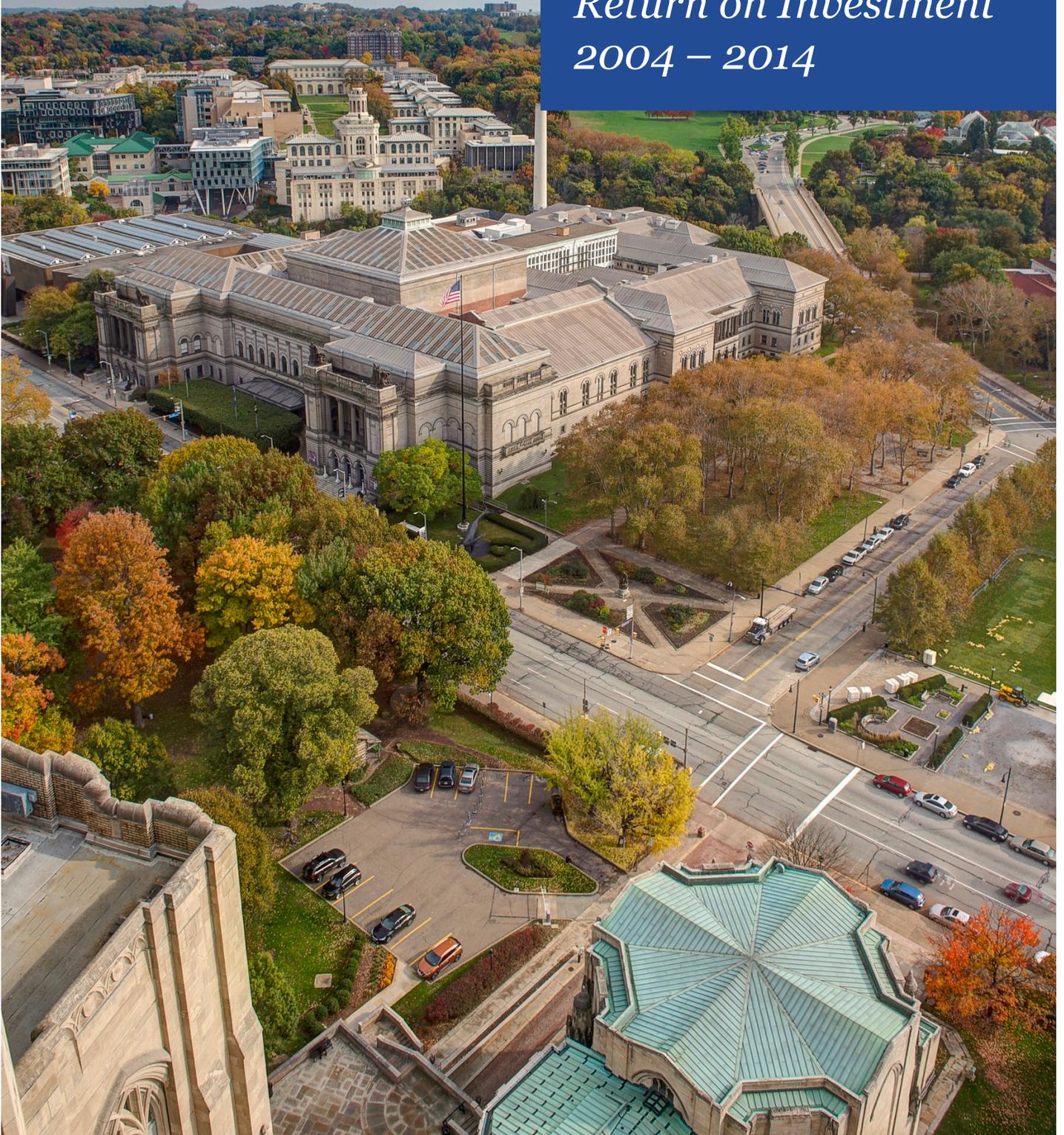




University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work

Center on
Race &
Social
Problems

Pilot Projects
Return on Investment
2004 – 2014



Center on Race and Social Problems

Letter from the Director, Larry E. Davis, PhD

The Center on Race and Social Problems awarded over \$244,516 in pilot grants over a ten-year period from 2004 to 2014, which has resulted in a return on investment of \$6.50 for every \$1.00 allocated to a pilot grant.

Each year, the Center invites pilot proposals from the University Community. When evaluating the projects, emphasis is placed on the overall value of the project to the Center's mission, the scientific merit of the research, and the likelihood that the work will lead to scholarly publication and external funding of subsequent studies.

In this way, the Center on Race and Social Problems has leveraged its voice to make race a central focus in research not only at the School of Social Work but throughout the University and region.



Dr. Larry
E. Davis



The Mission of the Center on Race and Social Problems is to conduct applied social science research on race, ethnicity, and color, and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans. The goals of the center include promoting scholarship on race, disseminating race-related research findings, and mentoring emerging scholars.



Return on Investment for Center on Race and Social Problems Pilot Funding

(2004-2014)



Center on Race and Social Problems

Goal: Promote High Quality Research on Race

Pilot Project: *“Ethnic Identity and Acculturation Stress of Latino Youth in an Emerging Latino Community,”* **Jaime Booth, PhD**

A recent example of a success in leveraging a small grant into a nationally recognized and funded grant is Dr. Booth’s project. She is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work.

In 2016, she received pilot funds for her study titled, *“Ethnic Identity and Acculturation Stress of Latino Youth in an Emerging Latino Community.”*

The pilot project was inspired by Pittsburgh’s nascent Latino community, which ranked 13th largest in the nation in 2014. Although Pittsburgh city council provides a comprehensive program to welcome immigrants, who are needed as well as wanted in Pittsburgh, Latino youth lack resources for community programs with Spanish speaking or bilingual employees. A recent study by the Annie E. Casey foundation found that Pennsylvania ranked 48 out of 50 states in Latino youth well-being.

Dr. Booth’s study used a prompt-response method, recording Latino youths aged 10 – 16 responses to a piece of artwork that they created to reflect their lived experience.

Dr. Jaime Booth



“

Bullying, fear of deportation and issues of gangs came up consistently in the course of my study. The current president and the political climate his administration has promoted came up in various sessions, and we did not ask about it, ever. There was a lot of talk about being bullied at school, and the students tied it back to the president and the things he has said about Latinos.

”

In part because of her successful CRSP pilot study, Dr. Booth was awarded an \$836,699 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse & National Institute of Child Health and Human Development studying impoverished black youth.



\$836,699



Center on Race and Social Problems

Goal: Disseminate Research Findings

Pilot Project: *“Social Policy, the State, and The Poor: An Ethnographic Examination of Policy Intersections in an Impoverished Urban Neighborhood,”* **Waverly Duck, PhD**

Dr. Duck is an associate professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Pittsburgh. His CRSP pilot study, *“Social Policy, the State, and The Poor: An Ethnographic Examination of Policy Intersections in an Impoverished Urban Neighborhood,”* was funded in 2011.

Subsequent to the pilot project, Dr. Duck’s article, *“An Ethnographic Portrait of a Precarious Life: Getting By on Even Less”* was published July 2012 in the Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science. In addition, Dr. Duck’s book: *“No Way Out: Precarious Living in the Shadow of Poverty and Drug Dealing,”* was published in 2015 by the University of Chicago.

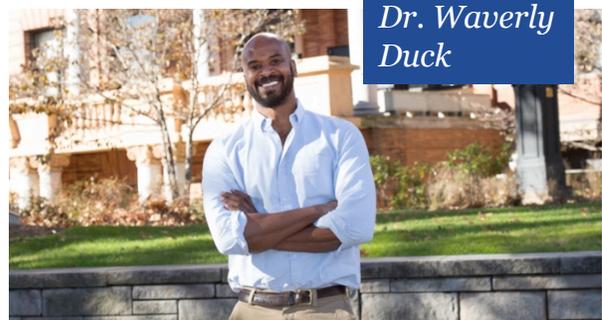
Dr. Duck’s article provides a detailed sketch of impoverished black urban life in the era of welfare reform told through the experiences of a pseudonymously named black single mother of four, Benita. Benita’s problems include that the two fathers of her four children are not reliable sources of support. One set of grandparents has consistently reported Benita to child services but are not willing to help her directly. Benita’s relationship with her own family is strained, as she says they see her as “too needy.” They have their own problems related to what scholar Elijah Anderson called strain theory; that kinship and friendship networks are stretched to a breaking point by deepening impoverishment. This creates an environment of low-wage jobs that offer no stability and few benefits, with shrinking welfare payments and food stamps, housing subsidies for inadequate housing, and the “informal” economy.

Welfare reform, introduced in the late 1990s, limits cash payments, puts a five-year lifetime maximum on receiving services, and imposes

training and work requirements. Although Benita received training under these reforms, and has found work as a nurse’s aide, she does not earn enough money to cover housing, food and childcare. In addition, her job requires transportation that is not publicly available. Benita drives to work illegally because her license is suspended for non-payment of fines. She moves frequently to avoid eviction for non-payment of rent while keeping a security deposit for the next place, and she must work a low-wage job in order to obtain the minimal benefits provided by food stamps.

As Benita told Dr. Duck: *“I think welfare reform is a joke ... after going through their 12-week nursing program you expect me to go out here and jump at a job working almost 30 hours mandatory a week, no babysitter, no dependable transportation, and seven to eight dollars an hour with no benefits. I mean let’s be real; my thing is if you are going to give me something that I can use, make it a real tool.”*

Dr. Duck characterizes Benita as atypical resident of the impoverished black neighborhood in which she lives. She makes a good-faith effort to be self-sufficient, but her ability to do that is severely hampered by a piecemeal, some might say punitive, approach to social policy and the fact that a service economy relies on cheap labor.



Center on Race and Social Problems

Goal: Mentor Young Scholars

Pilot Project: “*Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment Seeking Behavior and Attitudes*,” **Charlotte Brown, PhD; Nancy Grote, PhD; Valire Carr Copeland, PhD; Kyaien Conner, PhD**

Kyaien Conner was a graduate assistant for the study, and was able to leverage that experience to obtain a prestigious National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) K award for \$500,000, titled “*Enhancing Mental Health Treatment Engagement and Retention Among Older Adults with Depression*.”



While working on my dissertation, I also worked as a research coordinator for Dr. Brown’s study examining pathways to depression care for African American older adult primary care patients. This qualitative study gave me an additional opportunity to examine barriers to care for this disadvantaged population. As the project coordinator, I facilitated in the recruitment and conduct of five focus groups with 42 older African Americans with depression, to explore barriers and contributors to service utilization. We learned that quite often, informal networks were utilized as resources for mental health support as opposed to specialized mental health services. Therefore, we developed a protocol and trained seven African American older adults to become Peer Educators. The 16-hour training across four sessions provided them with the skills necessary to work with peers currently in psychiatric distress. Training was completed in March of 2007, and we subsequently began the open trial stage of the project to determine whether working with a Peer Educator would improve attitudes about seeking mental health treatment among depressed older African Americans. After finishing my dissertation, I became a co-investigator on this project.

As a licensed clinician, I assisted in the bi-weekly supervision meetings held to provide the Peer Educators with additional training and support. I conducted 6 and 12-month qualitative interviews with the Peer Educators to assess their perceptions of the project and their personal benefit received from participating in this research. After two-months working with the Peer Educators, the participants endorsed significantly less depressive symptoms, had more knowledge about depression and reported more positive attitudes about depression treatment. I have presented the findings of the focus group and Peer Educator project at four national social work and mental health conferences, including NIMH’s Mental Health Services Research conference. I also first-authored a manuscript based upon these focus group findings. Ultimately, my experience working on the original CRSP grant helped me obtain a K grant for \$500,000.



Dr. Kyaien
Conner



\$500,000



History of Pilot Funding



Pilot funds at the Center on Race and Social Problems are awarded to faculty from a variety of academic disciplines including: law, criminal justice, medicine, nursing, education, developmental psychology, psychiatry, sociology, economics, public and international affairs and business. In this way, the Center on Race and Social Problems fulfills its mission to promote high quality social science research on race through many lenses and in many applications.

CRSP Pilot Funding 2014 – 2017*	
FY04	Total: \$65,462.00
Bangs and Murrell	A National Study of Minority and Women Business Contracting
Bangs and Murrell	Increasing Local Government Contracts with African American Firms
Murrell	Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in Public Contracting
Koeske	Barriers to Treatment and Cultural Coping Strategies among Depressed African American Elders
McClomb	Race and Developmental Disabilities: A Study of Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among African Americans
Doswell	Influences of the Conceptualization and Processing of Racial Stereotypes on the Intended Sexual Behavior of African American Early Adolescents
Grote	Depression in Low-Income African American and White Ob/Gyn Patients: The Role of Chronic Stress
Petracchi	Educational and Labor Force Participation Implications of Adolescent Fathering for African American Males
FY05	Total: \$12,865.00
Jones	Race and Perceptions of Sportsmanship
Shivers	Exploring Multiple Discourses and the Construction of Relationships among African American Child Care Consultants and Teachers
FY06	Total: \$19,611.00
Goodkind & Vaughn	Multilevel Characteristics of Incarcerated Youth and the Role of Race
Tang	Racial Disparities in Volunteer Experience and Subsequent Health
FY07	Total: \$31,603.00
Anderson, Carol	Community Opinions Contributing to Use of Mental Health Services for African Americans
Brown, Charlotte	Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment Seeking Behavior and Attitudes
FY08	Total: \$10,502.00
Rauktis and McCrea	Child Welfare Research: Race, Clinical Decision-making, and Service Pathways in Child Welfare
Fusco and McCrea	Family Group Decision Making: How Does Race Influence Referrals, Satisfaction, and Outcomes in a National Sample?
FY09	Total: \$20,000.00
Harris	Race and Search Warrant Trustworthiness in the City of Pittsburgh and Environs
Gamper-Rabindran	Are the Environmental Protection Agency's Inspections of Polluting Factories Less Frequent in Neighborhoods Populated Largely by Racial Minorities?

* ROI calculation was made on grants from 2004 – 2014

History of Pilot Funding (continued)



CRSP Pilot Funding 2014 – 2017* (continued)

FY10	Total: \$10,000.00
Lin	Chronic Disease and Mental Health Comorbidity among Latino and Asian Americans
FY11	Total: \$20,000.00
Duck	Social Policy, the State, and the Poor: An Ethnographic Examination of Policy Intersections in an Impoverished Urban Neighborhood
Bell	Freedom from Racism or Free to be Racist: Racial Harassment Policy in Higher Education
FY12	Total: \$36,565.81
Walsh/Shertzer	The Genesis of Racial Segregation in American Cities
Tsung	Do Barriers to Healthcare Access Explain Racial and Geographic Disparities in Surgical Intervention for Hepatocellular Carcinoma?
Joseph	Investigating the Impact of African Americans' Experiences of Racial Discrimination on Ambulatory Blood Pressure and Health Risk Behaviors using Ecological Momentary Assessment
Copeland	Palliative and End of Life Needs of Patients with Advanced Cancer: The Influence of Race, Economic Distress and Literacy
FY13	Total: \$7,907.00
Zuberi	Neighborhoods, Race, and Health: Assessing the Relationship between Health Disparities and Neighborhood Distress
FY14	Total: \$10,000.00
Wallace, Tanner	African American Students' Opportunities to Learn: How Classroom Climate Factors Condition Participation and Learning in High School Math Classrooms
FY15	Total: \$11,784.00
Huguley	Evaluating the Potential Effectiveness of a School-Based Trauma Intervention for African American Urban Youth: A Needs Assessment
FY16	Total: \$19,775.00
Jackson Foster	A+ FamCare: African American Family- and Childaffirming Resilience Education
Booth	Ethnic Identity and Acculturation Stress of Latino Youth in an Emerging Latino Community
FY17	Total: \$19,937.47
Duck	Food Deserts and Oases: A Geographic Assessment of Grocery Access in American Cities
Hale	Race and Gender Disparities in Bladder Cancer



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