Cameron W. Rasmussen, Ph.D, MSW

University of Hawai’i at Mānoa  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health  
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EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy, Social Welfare** September 2023  
Graduate Center of CUNY, New York, NY

*Dissertation:* Beyond Punishment: A Critical and Interpretive Phenomenology of Accountability

*Committee*: Harriet Goodman (Chair), Lynn Chancer, Calvin Smiley, Bruce Western

**Master of Science, Social Work (MSW)** May 2013  
Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY   
  
**Bachelor of Arts, International Relations**  May 2007  
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Hawai’i at Manoa Fall 2024-Present  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health

*Assistant Professor*

Social Intervention Group 2023-2024  
Columbia University School of Social Work

*Postdoctoral Fellow*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Accountability, restorative justice; transformative justice; abolition and social work; prison abolition; decarceration; patriarchy; masculinity; qualitative research, community-based research, participatory action research

TEACHING INTERESTS

Social work practice, social welfare policy; advocacy; macro social work; power, race, oppression, and privilege; restorative justice; transformative justice; abolition and social work; mass incarceration, decarceration, prison reform and prison abolition; qualitative methods

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications

**Rasmussen, C.W.** (2024). The politics of accountability: violence, mass punishment and restorative justice. *Contemporary Justice Review.*

**Rasmussen, C., &** Kim, M.E. (2024). Abolition and the welfare state: implications for social welfare. *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*. *39*(1), 42-58.

Melendez, D., Ballesteros, D., **Rasmussen, C**., & Jamal, A. (2023). Igniting pathways for land-based healing: Possibilities for institutional accountability. *Genealogy.* Doi: 10.3390/genealogy7030062

In Preparation

**Rasmussen, C.W**, & Suslovic, B. (in preparation). Critiques of social work practice in carceral systems. *Encyclopedia of Social Work*.

Lown, J., & **Rasmussen, C.W.** (in preparation). Paradoxes of Professionalization: Reflections on Building Abolitionist Social Work Praxis in the Contradictions. *The Routledge International Handbook of Criminal Justice Social Work*.

**Rasmussen, C.** (in preparation). Coming to terms: An exploration of the longtermers responsibility project.

**Rasmussen, C.** (in preparation). Accountability and non-punitive justice: Definitions and expressions.

**Rasmussen, C.** (in preparation).The process of accountability: Supports and barriers to accountability-taking.

Books

Kim, M., **Rasmussen, C.W,** & Washington, D.(Eds.). (2024). *Abolition and social work: Possibilities, paradoxes, and the practice of community care*. Haymarket Books.

Book Chapters & Reviews

**Rasmussen, C.** (2024). Shame work: reducing supremacy and the violence of white men. Gray, J. & Francis, L. (Eds.), *Feminists talk whiteness*. Taylor & Francis.

**Rasmussen, C.** (2024). Towards abolitionist social work. Fortier, C., Hon-Sing Wong, E., Penak, N., & Rwigema, M. (Eds.), *Abolition social work and social work abolition*. Between the Lines.

**Rasmussen, C,** & James, K.A.(2023). Trading cops for social workers isn’t the solution to police violence. Ricordeau, G. *1312 raisons d’abolir la police.* Lux Éditeur.

**Rasmussen**, C. (2023). [Review of the book *No more police: a case for abolition*by Kaba, M. & A. Richie]. *Journal of Social Work*. doi: 10.1177/14680173231162552

Reports

Tanis, M. & **Rasmussen, C.** (2021). New york’s new death penalty: the death toll of mass incarceration in a post execution era. Center for Justice at Columbia University.

Public Scholarship

Allen, C., & **Rasmussen, C.** (2024) Disrupting Carceral Narratives. *Inquest.*

**Rasmussen, C.** (2023). Men working with men against violence. *One Million Experiments*.

**Rasmussen, C.,** & Shah, S. (2022). Growing justice: Why understanding restorative and transformative justice on their own terms will help us build more of both. *Inquest*.

**Rasmussen, C.** & James, K. (2020). Trading cops for social workers isn’t the solution to police violence. *Truthout*.

AWARDS, GRANTS, and RECOGNITIONS

Doctoral Fellowships and Awards

Dissertation Support Award 2023

CUNY Graduate Center, Social Welfare Department

Dissertation Support Award 2022

CUNY Graduate Center, Social Welfare Department

Doctoral Fellowship, Public Fellow 2020-2022  
Publics Lab at CUNY Graduate Center

Doctoral Student Research Grant 2020

CUNY Graduate Center, Social Welfare Department

Doctoral Fellowship, Community Justice Collaborative 2019   
CUNY Graduate Center, Social Welfare

Funded Program Activities

Women Transcending Collective Leadership 2023-2024

The Just Trust

Justice Beyond Punishment Collaborative 2021-2024   
Trinity Church Wall Street Foundation

Beyond the Bars Fellowship 2018-2024

Robert Sterling Clark Foundation

Death by Incarceration Report 2020

Proteus Fund

Beyond the Bars Fellowship 2019-2021 Mellon Foundation

Rikers Education Program 2018

Humanities New York

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY 2015-2024  
Senior Lecturer

* Social Welfare Policy
* Contemporary Social Issues (2nd year policy course)
* Restorative Justice Theory and Practice
* Abolition and Social Work: Theory and Practice
* Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Mass Incarceration, Reentry and Social Change

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY 2021

Africana Studies / Community Justice and Human Services

Lecturer

* Introduction to Community Justice

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY 2015  
Teaching Assistant

* Social Welfare Policy

Selected Guest Lectures

Public Scholarship 101: Public Scholarship and Our Future Fall 2022

Professor Alexis Jamal, CUNY Graduate Center

Politics, Policy and Racial Justice: Introduction to Abolition and Social Work Spring 2022

Professor Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Rutgers School of Social Work

Social Work Advocacy: Social Movements, Social Work and Mass Incarceration Spring 2022

Professor Tiffany Younger, Rutgers School of Social Work

Decolonizing Social Work: Power, Positionality and Social Work Practice Spring 2021

Professor Diana Melendez, Columbia School of Social Work

Intersectional Family Law Practice Clinic: Transformative Justice 101 Fall 2020

Professor Charisa Kiyô Smith, CUNY Law School

Social Work and Mass Incarceration: The Road to Abolition Spring 2020

Professor Kirk James, New York Silver School of Social Work

Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Social Work and Mass Incarceration Spring 2020

Professor Carmela Alcantara, Columbia School of Social Work

Introduction to Sociology: Restorative Justice 101 Spring 2020

Professor Talya Wolf, Queens College

The Effects of the Criminal Justice System on Spring 2019

Individuals, Families & Communities: Restorative Justice 101

Professor Carl Mazza, Lehman School of Social Work

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Selected Conference Presentations

**Rasmussen, C**. (January 2024). *Beyond punishment: A critical and interpretive phenomenology.* Society for Social Work and Research

**Rasmussen, C**., Washington, D.M., Kim, M.E., Wahab, S., & Harrell, S. (January 2024). *Abolition and social work: Possibilities, paradox and practice.* Society for Social Work and Research

Suslovic, B., **Rasmussen, C**., Toraif, N., Gormley, E., & Allen, E. (November 2023). *Abolitionist perspectives on social service: Excising control from care..*American Society of Criminology

**Rasmussen, C**., Washington, D., & Guevarra, V. (September 2023). *From carceral partnerships to abolitionist partnerships: Catalyzing abolitionist possibilities in social work*. Social Work and Law National Symposium

Lowen, J., **Rasmussen, C**., Ratliff, G.A., Doherty, F. (January 2023). *Considering how critical and radical social work can be used to address current challenges in today’s society*. Society for Social Work and Research

Washington, D., **Rasmussen, C**., Wahbi, R.N., & Suslovic, B. (November 2022). *The future of abolition as a framework for research, praxis and education.* American Society of Criminology

**Rasmussen, C**., Becker, C., Washington, D., & Guevarra, V. (September 2022). *Social workers should stop policing: the case for ending direct partnerships with carceral systems*. Social Work and Law National Symposium

**Rasmussen, C.,** James, K., Sarantakos, S. &. Washington, D. (November 2021). *Teaching for abolition: developing and teaching abolitionist social work*. Council for Social Work Education

Lowen, J., Rao, Smitha, R., **Rasmussen, C.,** Melendez, D., & Maglalang, D. (January 2021) *The point is to change it: the limits of critique and the development of emancipatory social work.* Society for Social Work and Research

James, K., **Rasmussen, C.,** & Douglas, W. (January 2020) *The road to abolition: slavery, mass incarceration and social work in 2020*. Invited Symposium, Society for Social Work and Research

Younger, T., **Rasmussen, C.,** & Camire, R. (January 2020) *Challenges and opportunities for social work pedagogy: teaching from the margins*. Society for Social Work and Research

**Rasmussen, C.,** & Frederique, K. (June 2018). *Ending mass incarceration: bridging the gap between the micro and macro through an ethic of organizing*. National Organization of Forensic Social Work Conference

**Rasmussen, C.,** & Penny, D. (March 2018). *Addressing power, privilege, and accountability as men.* Safety, Accountability, and Support: Alternative Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence

Coke, T. Kang, J.H., & **Rasmussen, C**. (August 2017). *Building stronger, safer communities.* Justice 4 All, Columbia University School of Social Work

**Rasmussen, C.,** James, K. (December 2016). *Humane and holistic practices in the era of mass incarceration.* Reimagine Justice: Incarceration, Trauma & Reentry, NYU School of Social Work

**Rasmussen, C.,** Burvick, R., Hannon, D. (December 2015). *Social justice education on rikers island.* Preemptive Education Conference, Urban Word NYC, New York University

**Rasmussen, C.,** Frederique, K., Boudin., & Malinowski. N. (March 2015). *Social work and mass incarceration.* Social Work in the City, NASW-NYC Chapter Annual Conference

Invited Talks and Public Programming

Jamal, A.,Baites, G., **Rasmussen, C.,** Melendez, D,. & Ballasteros, D. (December 2023). *Translating theory into research, practice, and education*. CUNY Graduate Center Colloquium.

**Rasmussen, C.,** Shah, S., Cruz, R., (September 2023). *Building alliances for healing beyond punishment*. Annual Peacemaking Colloquium, Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative.

**Rasmussen, C.,** Grier, M., & Guevara, V. (March 2023). *Bringing abolitionist principles to social work practice.* Stonybrook School of Social Welfare

Kaba, M., Richie, A., Roberts, D., Kim, M., **Rasmussen, C**., Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, L., Woodland, E., Law, V., & Fernandez, M. (February 2023). *No soft police*. Interrupting Criminalization

**Rasmussen, C.,** Washington, D., & Becker C. (July 2021). *Bringing abolitionist principles to social work practice.* Smith School of Social Work

Boyd, R., **Rasmussen, C., &** Frederique, K (April 2021). *Creating the world we wish to see*. NASW Abolition Town Hall

Kim, M., James, J., Douglas, W., & **Rasmussen, C.** (February 2021) Abolitionist social work: possibilities, paradox and praxis. Haymarket Books and the Network to Advance Abolitionist Social Work

**Rasmussen, C.,** & Nair, S. (January 2020). *Introduction to responding restoratively*. Columbia School of Social Work.

**Rasmussen, C.,** & James, K. (February 2017) *Mass incarceration conversation series*, NYU School of Social Work,

POST-MSW PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

The Center for Justice at Columbia University, New York, NY

Associate Director 2022-Present

Program Director 2015-2022  
Program Manager 2013-2015

Independent Restorative and Transformative Justice Practitioner 2016-Present

Fresh Air Fund, New York, NY

Social Worker - Summer Staff  2012-2018

The Osborne Association

Televisting Specialist 2012-2013

LICENSURE

Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), New York State 2013-Present

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Ad-hoc Reviewer, Contemporary Justice Review 2024-Present

Critical Consciousness Community Collaborative Research Board 2023-Present

Consulting Editor, Abolitionist Perspectives in Social Work 2023-Present

Curriculum Committee, Social Welfare, CUNY Graduate Center 2022-2023

Hybrid Work Policy Advisory Committee, Columbia School of Social Work 2022-2022

Ad-hoc Reviewer, Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work 2021-2022

Criminal Justice Minor Committee, Columbia School of Social Work 2015-2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE and ORGANIZING

Network to Advance Abolitionist Social Work, New York City 2020-Present

People’s Campaign for Parole Justice 2021-2024

Restorative Justice Leadership Council, New York City 2019-2021

New York City Transformative Justice Hub, New York City 2018-2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Council for Social Work Education 2024-Present

American Society of Criminology 2022-Present

Society for Social Work and Research 2021-Present

National Association of Community and Restorative Justice 2020-Present