

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

## EDUCATION

- April 2022     **PhD**, Social Welfare, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
Dissertation: *Dismantling the Carceral Ecosystem: Investigating Child Protection and Family Policing in Los Angeles*.
- Committee: Todd Franke (*Chair, UCLA-Social Welfare*), Safiya Noble (*UCLA-Education & Information Studies, African-American Studies*), Amy Ritterbusch (*UCLA-Social Welfare*), Dorothy Roberts (*UPenn-Africana Studies, Sociology, Law*).
- 2019     **MSW**, Social Welfare, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
Concentration: *Child & Family Well-Being*
- 2016     **B.A.**, Psychology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV  
Minor: *Neuroscience*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Copeland, V.** & Dettlaff, A. (in press). *The Oppressive History of “Child Welfare” Systems and the Need for Abolition*. In Ioakimidis, V. & Wyllie, A. (Eds.), *Social Work’s Histories of Complicity and Resistance: A Tale of Two Professions*.
- Copeland, V.** (in press). *Abolitionist Praxis and Black Geographies in Social Work*. In Tuck, E., Yang, K.W., Williams, J., Hurd, N., & Doane, L. (Eds.), *Theories of Blackness, Indigeneity, and Racialization in Research to Reduce Inequality in the Lives of Young People*.
- Allmang, S., Plummer, J., **Copeland, V.**, Riascos, M. (2022). Addressing Economic Inequities and Uncertainty Magnified by COVID-19: A Commentary on Directions for Social Work Research. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*.  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/720981>
- Copeland, V. A.** (2021). “It’s the Only System We’ve Got”: Exploring Emergency Response Decision-Making in Child Welfare. *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*, 11(3), 43–74.  
<https://doi.org/10.52214/cjrl.v11i3.8740>
- Copeland, V.** (2021). Centering Unacknowledged Histories: Revisiting NABSW Demands to Repeal ASFA. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2021.1976349>

## **Book Reviews**

**Copeland, V.** (2021). Book Review: The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped A Nation. *Affilia*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/08861099211025585>

## **Submitted Manuscripts**

**Copeland, V. & Dettlaff, A.** (under review). *Conceptualizing the Carceral: Carceral Logics, the Carceral State, and the Child Welfare System*.

**Copeland, V. & Wells, R.** (under review). “The Real Data Set”: A case study on challenging power dynamics and questioning the boundaries of research production.

Murray, B., **Copeland, V.**, Dettlaff, A. (under review). Reflections on the Ethical Possibilities and Limitations of Abolitionist Praxis in Social Work.

Edwards, F., Fong, K., Raz, M., Dettlaff, A., **Copeland, V.** (under review). Administrative Burdens in Child Welfare.

Sonsteng-Person, M., Abrams, D., Bunney, R., Van Leeuwen, J.V., Taitingfong, S., Brittany, Valdez, R., Garcia-Perez, J., Liévano-Karim, L., **Copeland, V.** (under review). “What I Would do to Take Away Your Pain”: A Photovoice Project Conducted by Mothers of Children with Medical Complexity.

## **Public Facing Scholarship**

**Copeland, V., Harvey, B., & McMillan, J.** (2022, Jun). Unlearning Punishment: Family Policing Abolition as Liberatory Praxis. <https://upendmovement.org/punishment/>

**Copeland, V. & Pendleton, M.** (2021, Dec) The Surveillance of Black Families in the Family Policing System. UpEND. <https://upendmovement.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/upENDSurveillance2021.pdf>

**Copeland, V.** (2020, Oct). The Complicity of Academia in Policing of Families. *The Imprint: Youth & Family News*. <https://imprintnews.org/opinion/complicity-academia-policing-families/48395>

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Summer 2021 **Summer Fellow**, Upturn: Toward Justice in Technology, Washington DC.  
Project: Criminal Records and Expungement, Surveillance Technology, Police

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

Technology

Responsibilities: Collaborate on and contribute to policy research across various sectors of data use, technology, and surveillance in the United States.

**Summer Fellow**, Black in AI Research- Stanford University.

Project: Countering Carceral Data Infrastructures through a Praxis of Dark Sousveillance.

Faculty Mentor: Sarah M. Brown, Ph.D.

2019 — 2022 **Graduate Student Researcher**, *UCLA Labor Center*, University of California, Los Angeles, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.

Project: Court-Ordered Community Service

Principal Investigators: Tia Koonse & Lucero Herrera

Responsibilities: Collaborated on development, data collection, and analysis of two reports regarding court-ordered community service and targeted-hiring programs in the state of California. Convened stakeholders to discuss policy recommendations for the LA County Board of Supervisors regarding county criminal justice administrative fines and fees. Provided research-based testimony at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for the removal of administrative fees

2017 – 2018 **Graduate Researcher-Intern**, *WISE & Healthy Aging*, Los Angeles, CA.

Project: National Committee for Quality Assurance for Long-Term Services and Supports Accreditation (NCQA-LTSS).

Principal Investigator: Melanie Gironda

Responsibilities: Collaborate with the executive director and staff to apply for NCQA-LTSS accreditation. Compiled, analyzed, and disseminated data from administrative records. Created several forms and instruments for caseworkers including the Mental Health Referral Guide, Linkages Eligibility Form, and Client Satisfaction Survey. Worked on several reports for accreditation including: ER/SNF Admission & Improvement Plan, Satisfaction Survey Feedback & Analysis, Critical Incidence Adult Protective Services & Outcomes Report, Timely Service Report, Social Isolation Report, and Unplanned Transitions Report.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

**Copeland, V.**, Dixon, E., Perez-Darby, S. (2022, April). *Mandatory Reporting, Abolition, Trans*

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

*and Disability Justice*. Transgender Law Center. Virtual.  
Facilitated by: Paris Chapman.

**Copeland, V.**, Ufot, N., Roberts, A., Roberts, T.W., Hansford, J. (2022, Jan.). *Abolition and Community*. UCLA Law Review Symposium. Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Boyd, R., Kim, M. (2021, Dec). *Eliminate Racism Series: Build Healthy Relationships to End Violence & Ensure Healthy Development for All Youth*. Grand Challenges for Social Work, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Gormley, E., Harvey, B., McMillan, J, Pendleton, M. (2021, Nov). *UpEnd Convening: Mandatory Reporting Laws and Surveillance*. University of Houston-Texas, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Mathana, Bye, K., Wild, F., Mangina, E., & Dick, E. (2021, Oct). *XR in the Classroom*. IEEE Standards Association, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Speaker, F., Excell, K., Gormley, E., McMillan, J. (2021, June). *Child Welfare Justice: A Public Health Abolitionist Approach*. University of Illinois at Chicago-Radical Public Health, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Williams-Diggs, C., & Pendleton, M. (2021, May). *How We EndUP: Black Feminism Dreams for the Future*. The upEND Movement, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, Rodriguez, D., Smythe, S. (2021, May). *What does re-imagining community safety mean to me?*, Social Justice Seminar Series, UCLA UAW5810, Virtual

**Copeland, V.**, James, K., Kim, M. (2021, Mar). *Are Social Workers Abolitionist?*, Townhall on Racial Equity, National Association of Social Workers, Virtual.  
Moderated by: Alan Dettlaff.

**Copeland, V.**, Aten, E., Cantu, A., Yeo, V. (2021, Feb). *Power, Privilege, & Oppression, "DICE": Discussions in Culture & Experiences*. Pacific Psychology and Comprehensive Clinic, Portland OR, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.**, McMillan, J., Ortiz, D., Gasser-Ordaz, L., Lemmons, J. (2020, Dec). *Spotlight on the Foster System Series: "The Carceral Web: How the Foster and Criminal Legal Systems Perpetuate Injustice"*. Shriver Center on Policy and Law, Chicago IL, Virtual.  
Moderated by: Patrice James.

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

**Copeland, V.** (2019, May). *Youth Advice & Support App*. Public Policy Leadership and Management of Non-Profits, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles CA.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Peer-Reviewed Presentations

Duarte, N., Dada, T., & **Copeland, V.** (2022, June). *Reining in Tenant Screening: A Legal Roadmap*. Privacy Law Scholars Conference, Boston, MA.

Whitman, K., Papias, M. **Copeland, V.** (2022, Jan.). *Navigating Carceral Environments: Experiences of Foster Youth of Color*. University of California Student of Color Conference. Virtual.

**Copeland V.**, Edwards, F., Fong, K., Raz, M., Dettlaff, A., (2022, Feb). *Administrative Burdens in Child Welfare*. Russell Sage Foundation Conference: Administrative Burdens as a Mechanism of Inequality in Policy Implementation. New York City, NY.

**Copeland, V.**, *Child Protection and the rationale for surveillance in the child welfare system*. (2022, Jan.) Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Brief and Brilliant Session. Washington, DC.

**Copeland, V.** (2022, Jan.). *Reflections on the Possibilities of Dark Sousveillance: Countering Anti-Black Surveillance through Black Abolitionist Feminist Epistemology and PAR*. Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, DC.

**Copeland, V.**, Sonsteng, M., Mickell, D., & Jordan, S. (2022, Jan.). *Keeping the P in PAR During Analysis: A Critical Discussion on Participatory Strategies to Analyzing Data*, Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, DC.

**Copeland, V.** & Wells, R. (2022, Jan.). *“The Real Data Set”: A Case Study on Challenging Power Dynamics and Questioning the Boundaries of Research Production*. Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Tulley, B., **Copeland, V.**, Mickell, D. (2021, Sept). *“I Wanna Give Her Her Space”: How Young Adults Exiting Foster Care Navigate Living with Family After Foster Care*. Presentation at the European Scientific Association on Residential & Family Care for Children and Adolescents Conference, Virtual

**Copeland, V.** (2021, Aug). *Countering Carceral Data Infrastructures through a Praxis of Dark Sousveillance*. Poster Presentation at the CURIS Conference: Stanford University,

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

Virtual

**Copeland, V.**, Abdurahman, J.K., Baughman, C., Ismail, T. (2021, June). *Family Surveillance*. Panel presentation at the Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being Columbia Law School Volume 11 Symposium, Virtual

Harvey, B. & **Copeland, V.** (2021, April). *Co-Conspirators: Interrogating the Role of Schools within the Foster Care Industrial Complex*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Virtual

Allmang, S., Plummer, J., **Copeland, V.** (2021, Jan). *Covid 19 and Youth Engagement in Politics: An Intersectional Approach*. Roundtable at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Virtual

Tulley, B., **Copeland, V.**, Mickell, D. (2021, Jan). “*I Wanna Give Her Her Space*”: An exploration of how young adults exiting foster care navigate living with family after foster care. Paper presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Virtual

Zink, D., Barchard, K., San Miguel, L., **Copeland, V.**, Allen, D. (2016, Nov). *Factor Structure of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Fourth Edition Spanish in a Clinical Sample of Puerto Rican Children*. Poster presentation at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference, Seattle WA

Lee, B., **Copeland, V.**, Allen, D. (2015, Nov). *Meta-Analytic Investigation of Neuropsychological Performance in persons with Schizophrenia and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders*. Poster presentation at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference, Austin TX

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Spring 2021, **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Undergrad.  
Spring 2020 Social Problems and Social Change.

Fall 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Undergrad.  
People, Organizations, and Systems.

## **Guest Lecture Presentations**

**Copeland, V.** (2022, April). *Family in the U.S.* Identity Politics, UVA Batten School of Public Policy-Grad.

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

**Copeland, V.** (2022, Jan). *Policing of Families*. UC Berkeley Law, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.** (2021, Oct). *The Impact of Child Welfare or Family Policing*. Policy with Children and Adolescents, Lewis University-MSW, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.** (2021, May). *Care of Coercion? Questioning Care Ethics of Child Welfare*. CHDV Family Stress and Resilience: Cultural Considerations, California State University Long Beach-Undergrad, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.** (2021, May). *Abolitionist Reflections*. Gerontology Cluster, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Undergrad, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.** (2021, Feb). *Surveillance and Data Proliferation in Child Welfare*. People, Organizations, and Systems, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Undergrad, Virtual.

### **Invited Training Presentations**

**Copeland, V.,** Asher BlackDeer, A. Harty, J., & Ludeke, R. (July 2022). *Child Maltreatment BIPOC Scholar Panel*. LEAD Pre-Doctoral Institute, Washington University.

**Copeland, V.,** Kwan Jin Yao, Brock-Petroshius, K., Jordan, S. (2021, May). *Advancing to Candidacy*. Professional Development Series, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Ph.D, Virtual.

**Copeland, V.** (2021, Feb). *Developing Theory*. The Craft of Social Welfare Scholarship. UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Ph.D. Virtual.

**Copeland, V.,** Jordan, S., & Mickell, D. (2021, Feb). *PAR Methods*. Qualitative Methods, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Ph.D, Virtual.

**Copeland, V. &** Mueller-Williams, A. (2021, Jan). *Preparing for and Passing your Written Comprehensive Exam*. Second-Year Ph.D Students, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Ph.D, Virtual

### **COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE**

2020- **Founding Member**, *University of California Survivors + Allies*, California.  
Responsibilities: Collaborate with community-based and UC-wide organizations and individuals to create and advocate for policy recommendations regarding sexual violence on and off campus. Facilitate anti-carceral conflict resolution

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

trainings with members. Convene with the UC Office of the President, Title IX, and CARE offices to advocate for implementation of various changes to current policy. Conduct research including quantitative and qualitative methods for advocacy.

Campaigns: Increased transparency in reporting, trauma-informed syllabi language shifts, improved training on reporting.

- 2019- **Member, *Let's Get Free LA Coalition***, Los Angeles, CA.  
Responsibilities: Collaborate with community-based organizations to advise on and create policy recommendations for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and state legislature regarding criminal justice fines and fees in Los Angeles County and the state of California. Attend meetings with deputy chiefs of Supervisors to present policy recommendations. Analyze and revise Board motions.  
Campaigns: Eliminating criminal justice administrative and program fees, elimination of fees for phone calls and commissary for incarcerated individuals and families, SB71 Support for Expanding Community Service Options.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Sept 2021- **Senior Policy Analyst**, Upturn: Toward Justice in Technology, Washington DC.
- 2021- **Consultant**, UpEND, The Center for the Study of Social Policy and the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work.
- 2018 **Community Organizer and South Central Youth Empowered thru Action (SCYEA) Wellness Intern**, Community Coalition, Los Angeles CA.  
Responsible for holding one-on-one wellness check-ins with SCYEA staff to promote health and organizational success. Conducted research with all staff to propose formal recommendations for the organization. Completed community organizing training to better support SB10 Bail Reform. Created bail survey questionnaires for formerly incarcerated. Created sheriff election report for multiple grassroots organizations. Completed asset map of South Los Angeles and helped build Prevention Network database.
- 2017 - 2018 **Care Management Intern**, WISE & Healthy Aging, Los Angeles CA.  
Responsible for conducting intakes and assessments for Benefits & Enrollment, Information & Referral, and Care Management for older adults 65 years and older as well as dependent adults 18 and over. Trained in biopsychosocial assessments, crisis response, and trauma-informed care.
- 2016 – 2017 **Juvenile Justice Advocate**, Youth Advocate Programs, Las Vegas NV.



**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

Responsible for conducting intakes, in-home assessments, and wrap around services for clients ages 15-18 who were currently on probation. Served as liaison between social worker, probation officer, foster parent/guardian, therapist, and client. Formed Individualized Service Plan and completed programs/classes with clients such as Critical thinking courses, Back on Track program, Real Talk seminars, and parenting classes. Trained in trauma-informed care and juvenile court advocacy.

## **SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

- 2022            **Founding Co-Editor**, *Abolitionist Perspectives in Social Work*
- 2022            **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*
- 2021            **Invited Guest Peer Reviewer**, Special Issue of *Child Welfare: Transforming Child Welfare through Anti-Racist Approaches in Child Welfare*
- 2021            **Founding Member**, SPACE: Survivor Photos: A Collaboration for Empowerment.  
Responsibilities: Collaborate with UC students and community members to create a space for victim-survivor healing and empowerment. Created website and prompts for submission using trauma-informed language. Compiled academic and community resources for UC victim-survivors.
- 2020-2022      **Founding Member**, Social Work Anti-Racism Committee, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs-Department of Social Welfare.  
Responsibilities: Collaborated with the Luskin Black Caucus to create recommendations for the social welfare department to address Anti-Blackness and racism embedded within curriculum and culture. Worked alongside faculty to create and disseminate a department wide action plan.  
<https://ucla.app.box.com/s/et3k3c9i2dhwn6xh672fjky55afwnicz>.
- 2020            **Panelist & Mentor**, Luskin Diversity Fair  
Responsibilities: Assist prospective MSW and Ph.D students in applying for the graduate program at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs- Social Welfare.
- 2019,  
2018            **Lobby Days Leader**, NASW Lobby Days  
Responsibilities: Help train social workers to lobby for various bills at the state capitol for NASW Lobby Days. Facilitate legislative meetings with various representatives at the capitol. Bills included: SB10 (Bail Reform), AB186 (Harm Reduction), SB982 (CalWORKs Grants Amounts), AB163 (Group homes), SB 568 (Postsecondary Education).

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

- 2019      **Inaugural Member**, NASW 23-Strong Council
- 2016      **Conference Session Chair**, The National Academy of Neuropsychology Annual Conference.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- 2021      William T. Grant Foundation, Theories of Blackness, Indigeneity, and Racialization in Research to Reduce Inequality in the Lives of Young People Writing Fellowship (\$2,000)
- 2021      UpTurn: Toward Justice in Technology, Washington DC. Summer Fellowship (\$10,200)
- 2021      Black in Artificial Intelligence Grant Program, Black in AI, (\$1,500)
- 2021      Alisa Bierria Graduate Fellowship in Black Feminist Research, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Black Feminist Initiative (\$1,000)
- 2021      Bruin Advocacy Grant (\$1250)
- 2020      UCLA/Alianza UCMX Binational Committee Covid-19 Funding (\$5,000)
- 2020      UCLA Graduate Council Diversity Summer Fellowship (\$8,000)
- 2018      Renee & Meyer Luskin Summer Funding (\$5,000)

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2021      Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. Social Justice Awards
- 2019      UCLA MSW Thesis Award for Outstanding Research
- 2019      UCLA Public Policy Leadership and Management of Nonprofits Competition Winner
- 2017      UCLA Senior Fellows. *Mentor*: Judge Nash, Office of Child Protection
- 2016      UNLV Research Showcase Outstanding Presentation Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Victoria Copeland**  
Upturn, Washington DC  
[copelandvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:copelandvictoria@gmail.com)

---

- 2016 UNLV Psi Chi International Honors Society Poster Competition Outstanding Presentation, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- 2016 UNLV Roosevelt Fitzgerald Outstanding Scholar and Leadership Award
- 2016 UNLV Alliance of Professionals of African Heritage Outstanding Student Award

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2021 Association for Community Organization & Social Action
- 2021 American Educational Research Association
- 2021 Society for Social Work and Research
- 2017 – 2019 National Association of Social Workers
- 2013 – 2016 National Academy of Neuropsychology
- 2014 – 2016 Psi Chi International Honor Society