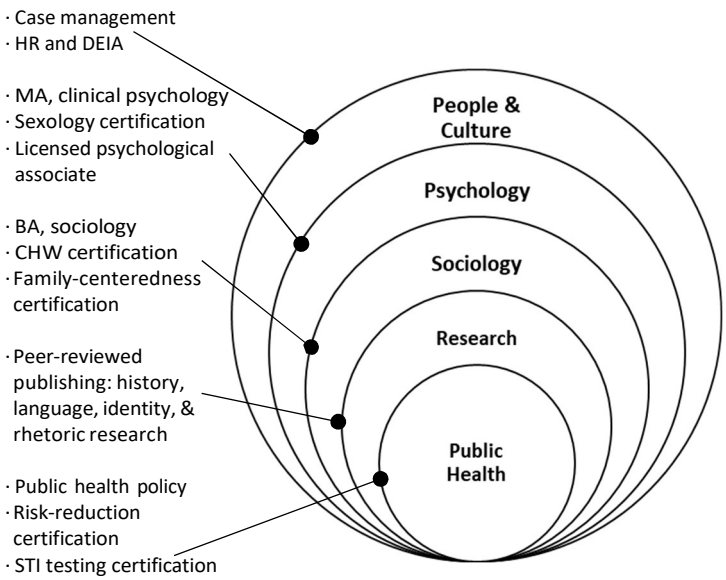
Cristan Williams

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Introduction



Professional and Academic Motivations

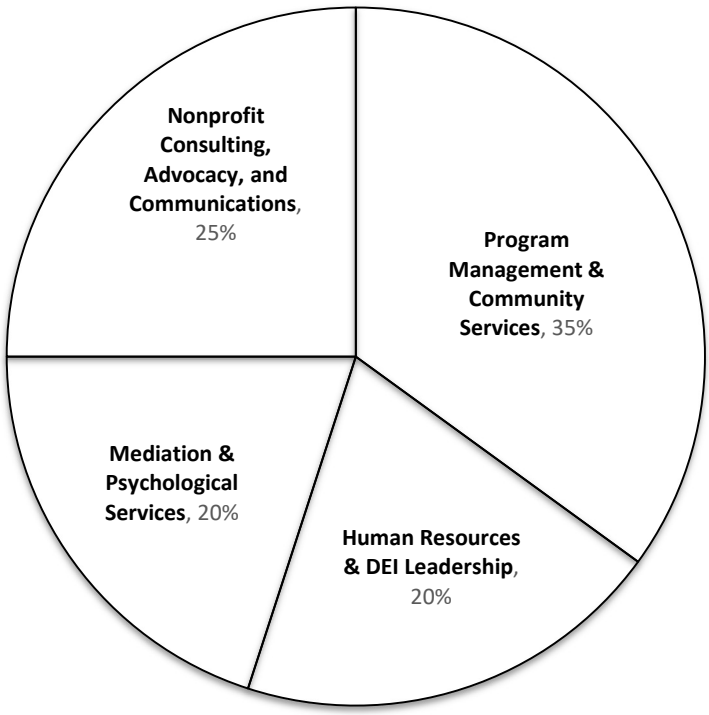
Cristan Williams brings decades of experience addressing the practical needs of underserved populations, with deep expertise in social determinants of health, public policy, and nonprofit management. She has founded and led numerous social service programs, established community centers, and earned multiple awards for her community work. Cristan has presented at universities across the country, served on public health and executive boards, and contributed as a founding member of the Transgender Foundation of America and the Bee Busy Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. She is a registered psychology associate, certified sexologist, community health worker, and Superior Court mediator. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's in clinical psychology, and is completing her second master's in applied psychology and a PhD in clinical psychology.

Education

Degree	University	Graduation
Bachelor's Degree (BA)	Southern New Hampshire University *Sociology*	2020
Master's Degree (MA)	Saybrook University *Clinical Psychology*	2024
Master's Degree (MS)	Walden University *Applied Psychology*	2027
Doctoral Degree (PhD)	Walden University *Clinical Psychology*	2028

Specialization	University	Conferred
Culture-Driven Team Building	University of Pennsylvania	2024
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace	University of South Florida Muma College of Business	2024

Employment



Top Experience Types by Frequency

As a Child Custody Recommending Counselor for the Humboldt Superior Court, Cristan functions as a court-appointed mediator, conducts comprehensive parental assessments, and issues findings with custody and visitation recommendations for the court's consideration. As a registered psychology associate, she provides clinical mental health services to diverse populations. In Texas, as the Chief Human Resources Officer at Family Service Center, she developed HR strategies and expanded DEI initiatives. Her prior roles include Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director and a long tenure as Program Director and Manager at the Transgender Foundation of America, where she established and directed community programs and managed service delivery. Cristan also brings years of consulting experience in nonprofit advocacy, grant writing, and digital campaigns, as well as program management roles for community-based service providers, where she managed staff, ensured program deliverables, and advanced clinical services and housing models for underserved communities.

NEST Psychology & Associates: Registered Psychological Associate **2026 – Current**

Provides thoughtful, collaborative therapy for people navigating identity, belonging, meaning, life transitions, and the social conditions that shape personal authenticity.

Humboldt Co. Superior Court: Child Custody Recommending Counselor 2025 – Current

As an Officer of the Court, facilitates the resolution of child custody and visitation disputes for the Superior Court's Family Court Services Division through mediation sessions. These sessions assist parties in developing parenting plans that serve the child's best interests, and recommendations are submitted for the court's consideration.

Family Service Center: Chief Human Resources Officer 2023 – 2024

Responsible for developing and implementing HR strategies that advance FSC's values, mission, and vision, including the establishment of a comprehensive HR data management framework. Oversees two organizational development grants, supporting the expansion of DEIA initiatives and the adoption of best practices in family services across all levels.

Family Service Center: Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Director 2022 – 2023

In an interventionist capacity, advance and implement the institution's commitment to justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Consultant 2015 – 2022

Developing digital campaigns for a range of nonprofit advocacy and fundraising initiatives; conducting policy research and providing consultation; preparing and reviewing grant applications; managing media relations and advancing issue advocacy; drafting press releases and other written content; and editing podcasts and videos.

TFA: Program Director 2010 – 2022

Oversaw all aspects of service delivery, secured funding for and established several programs, managed staff and volunteers, coordinated community center activities, and ensured the fulfillment of grant deliverables.

TFA: Program Manager 2008 – 2010

Provided intensive, individualized, client-centered individual and group counseling, risk-reduction interventions, and case management, while overseeing all volunteer initiatives.

Houston Area Community Services: Program Manager **2004 – 2008**

Managed staff and ensured the achievement of program deliverables. Provided risk-reduction counseling and case management in a clinical setting. Conducted comprehensive STI rapid-response and phlebotomy testing in both field and clinical settings. Oversaw organizational quality improvement, secured FQHC clinical status, and helped establish the South's first federally funded Housing First model for non-cisgender individuals.

CATS: Program Manager **1997 – 2004**

Provide case management services to underserved gender-expansive communities; prepare grant proposals; coordinate fundraising and volunteer recruitment initiatives; and oversee the organization's online presence.

Certifications & Licenses

License	Issuer	Expiration
Registered Psychology Associate	California Board of Psychology *License 94029536*	February 2027
Community Health Worker	Texas Health and Human Services *Credential ID 9499*	June 2027
Notary Public	Texas Secretary of State *Credential ID 130598922*	July 2027
Prevention Counseling and Partner Elicitation Counselor	Texas Health and Human Services *Credential ID 412*	NA
Sexologist	American Board of Sexology *Credential ID 24196*	September 2027

Community Service

Mayor's Council on Drug Abuse ..... *1989 - 1990*
Alvin, TX

Transgender Foundation of America, Board (Founding Member) ..... *1997 – Present*
Houston, TX

HBIGDA International Symposium Organizing Committee ..... *1999 - 2000*
Galveston, TX

Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group ..... *2004 – 2017*
Houston, TX

Transgender Archive ..... *2007 - Present*
Houston, TX

Houston ARCH ..... *2008 - 2015*
Houston, TX

Bee Busy Wellness Center, FQHC Board (Founding Member) ..... *2009 – 2015*
Houston, TX

Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services ..... *2010 – 2016*
Washington, DC

Ryan White, Comprehensive Plan and Special Populations Committees ..... *2010 - 2017*
Houston, TX

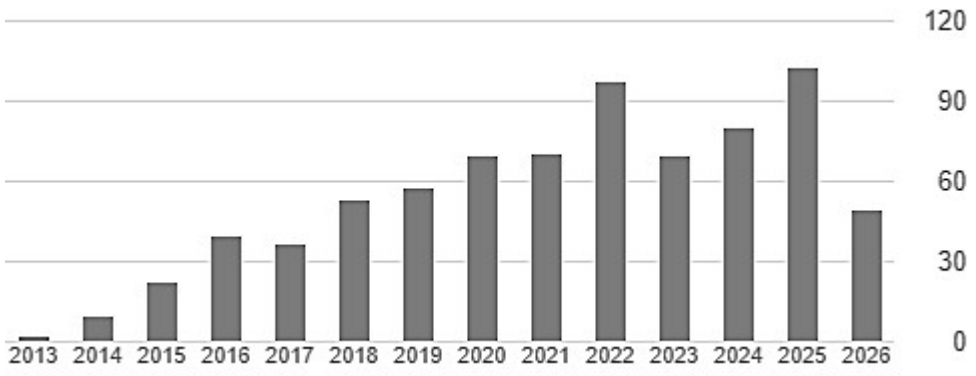
TransAdvocate.com, Editor ..... *2011 - Present*
Houston, TX

National HIV Prevention Conference, Track Chair *2015*
Atlanta, GA

Trans Disaster Relief Fund ..... *2017 - 2023*
Houston, TX

Election Judge *2020*
Harris County, TX

Publications



Citations by year

Chapters

Williams, C. (2014). Alpha Male. In *The Queer South: LGBTQ Writers on the American South* (pp. 276-278). Little Rock: Sibling Rivalry Press.

Williams, C. (2021). Women's movement, trans inclusion in/exclusion from. In A. Goldberg, & G. Beemyn (Eds.), *The sage encyclopedia of trans studies* (Vol. 2, pp. 912-913). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Williams, C. (2021). TERFs. In A. Goldberg, & G. Beemyn (Eds.), *The sage encyclopedia of trans studies* (Vol. 2, pp. 823-825). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Williams, C. (2022). A Letter to Young LGBTQI Activists. In A. Bongiovanni, A. Andrews, D., *Stonewall Riots: Making a Stand for LGBTQ Rights* (p. 117). New York, NY: First Second Books.

Journal Publications

Rawson, K., & Williams, C. (2014). Transgender*: the rhetorical landscape of. *Present Tense*, 3(2).

Williams, C. (2014). Transgender. *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, 1(1-2), 232– 234.

Williams, C. (2016). Radical Inclusion. *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, 3(1-2), 254–258.

Williams, C. (2020). The Ontological Woman: A History of Deauthentication, Dehumanization, and Violence. *The Sociological Review*, 68(4), 44-60.

Impact: Selected Citations of My Research in Books

The following selection of published books cites my research, demonstrating its scholarly impact, interdisciplinary reach, and contribution to contemporary academic discourse.

Amato, V. (2016). *Intersex narratives: Shifts in the representation of intersex lives in North American literature and popular culture*. Transcript Publishing. (p. 299)

Baumle, A. K. (Ed.). (2013). *International handbook on the demography of sexuality*. Springer, Dordrecht. (p. 5)

Beck, D., **Habed, A. J.**, & **Henninger, A.** (Eds.). (2024). *Blurring boundaries – "anti-gender" ideology meets feminist and LGBTIQ+ discourses*. Verlag Barbara Budrich. (p. 233)

Beilby, J. K., & **Eddy, P. R.** (Eds.). (2019). *Understanding transgender identities: Four views*. Baker Academic. (pp. 1–3)

Bianco, M. (2023). *Breaking free: The lie of equality and the feminist fight for freedom*. PublicAffairs. (p. 11)

Bird, J. (2020). *Sorted: Growing up, coming out, and finding my place (a transgender memoir)*. Simon & Schuster (Simon Element). (p. 217)

Chambers, C. (2024). *Freedom and equality: Essays on liberalism and feminism*. Oxford University Press. (p. 34)

Cooper, M. L., & **Popp, A.** (Eds.). (2023). *The business of emotions in modern history*. Bloomsbury Academic. (p. 88)

Corbett, E. (2024). *In transition: Young adult literature and transgender representation*. University Press of Mississippi. (p. 263)

Cornwall, S. (2022). *Constructive theology and gender variance: Transformative creatures*. Cambridge University Press. (p. 107)

Crawford-Lackey, K., & **Springate, M. E.** (Eds.). (2020). *Identities and place: Changing labels and intersectional communities of LGBTQ and Two-Spirit people in the United States*. Berghahn Books. (p. 25)

Dufourcq, A., **Halsema, A.**, **Smiet, K.**, & **Vintges, K.** (Eds.). (2024). *Purple brains: Feminisms at the limits of philosophy*. Radboud University Press. (p. 240)

Eder, S. (2022). *How the clinic made gender: The medical history of a transformative idea*. University of Chicago Press. (p. 2)

Fawaz, R., **Whaley, D. E.**, & **Streeby, S.** (Eds.). (2021). *Keywords for comics studies*. New York University Press. (p. xiii)

Fischer, C., & **Dolezal, L.** (Eds.). (2018). *New feminist perspectives on embodiment*. Palgrave Macmillan. (p. 1)

Ford, V., & **Kling, R.** (2024). *The Advocate Educator's Handbook: Creating schools where transgender and non-binary students thrive*. Jossey-Bass. (p. 34)

Fritsch, K., **O'Connor, C.**, & **Thompson, A. K.** (Eds.). (2016). *Keywords for radicals: The contested vocabulary of late-capitalist struggle*. AK Press. (p. 21)

Geffen, S. (2020). *Glitter up the dark: How pop music broke the binary*. University of Texas Press. (p. 233)

Goins, M. N., **McAlister, J. F.**, & **Alexander, B. K.** (Eds.). (2021). *The Routledge handbook of gender and communication*. Routledge. (p. 18)

Goldberg, A. E., & **Beemyn, G.** (Eds.). (2021). *The SAGE encyclopedia of trans studies*. SAGE Publications. (pp. 1–2)

Gregg, R., & **Villarejo, A.** (Eds.). (2021). *The Oxford handbook of queer cinema*. Oxford University Press. (p. 1)

Hanssmann, C. (2023). *Care without pathology: How trans-health activists are changing medicine*. University of Minnesota Press. (p. 27)

Heyam, K. (2022). *Before we were trans: A new history of gender*. Seal Press. (p. 13)

Houck, J. A. (2024). *Looking through the speculum: Examining the women's health movement*. University of Chicago Press. (p. 193)

Keegan, C. M. (2018). *Lana and Lilly Wachowski: Sensing transgender*. University of Illinois Press. (p. 5)

Langsdale, S. (2024). *Searching for feminist superheroes: Gender, sexuality, and race in Marvel Comics*. University of Texas Press. (p. 202)

Lewis, S. (2025). *Enemy feminisms: TERFs, policewomen, and girlbosses against liberation*. Haymarket Books.

Mackay, F. (2021). *Female masculinities and the gender wars: The politics of sex*. Bloomsbury (I.B. Tauris). (p. 15)

McKinney, C. (2020). *Information activism: A queer history of lesbian media technologies*. Duke University Press. (p. 175)

Michals, D. (2025). *She's the boss: The rise of women's entrepreneurship since World War II*. Rutgers University Press. (p. 216)

Oren, T., & **Press, A. L.** (Eds.). (2019). *The Routledge handbook of contemporary feminism*. Routledge. (p. 1)

Paige, T. P., & **O'Hara, C.** (Eds.). (2025). *Queer encounters with international law: Lives, communities, subjectivities*. Routledge. (p. 187)

Parco, J. E., **Levy, D. A.**, **DePorres, D.**, & **Sandoval, A.** (Eds.). (2023). *Attitudes aren't free: A call to action (Vol. II)*. Enso Books. (p. 48)

Riseman, N. (2023). *Transgender Australia: A history since 1910*. Melbourne University Press. (p. 233)

Riseman, N., & **Robinson, S.** (2020). *Pride in defense: The Australian military and LGBTI service since 1945*. Melbourne University Publishing. (p. 196)

Rosenberg, T., **D'Urso, S.**, & **Winget, A. R.** (Eds.). (2021). *The Palgrave handbook of queer and trans feminisms in contemporary performance*. Palgrave Macmillanlambdanordica.org. (p. 1)

Rosenberg, T., **Afzal-Khan, F.**, & **D'Urso, S.** (Eds.). (2024). *Milestones in feminist performance*. Routledge. (p. 40)

Samer, J. (2022). *Lesbian potentiality and feminist media in the 1970s*. Duke University Press. (p. 159)

Sandercock, T. (2022). *Youth fiction and trans representation*. Routledge. (p. 7)

Schuller, K. (2021). *The trouble with white women: A counterhistory of feminism*. Bold Type Books. (p. 9)

Segal, L. (2017). *Radical happiness: Moments of collective joy*. Verso. (p. 12)

Stein, M. (Ed.). (2019). *The Stonewall Riots: A documentary history*. New York University Press. (p. 25)

Trueman, C. R. (2020). *The rise and triumph of the modern self: Cultural amnesia, expressive individualism, and the road to sexual revolution*. Crossway. (p. 54)

Vider, S. (2021). *The queerness of home: Gender, sexuality, and the politics of domesticity after World War II*. University of Chicago Press. (p. 233)

Waugh, T., & **Arroyo, B.** (Eds.). (2019). *I confess!: Constructing the sexual self in the Internet age*. McGill–Queen's University Press. (p. 40)

Weekley, D. E. (2017). *Retreating forward: A spiritual practice with transgender persons*. Wipf and Stock (Resource Publications). (p. 17)

Wymer, K. C. (2021). *Introduction to digital humanities: Enhancing scholarship with the use of technology*. Routledge. (p. 48)

Presentations

Homelessness in the Transgender Community *1999*
Covenant House

Transgender 101.....*2000-2001, 2011-2015*
Texas A&M, UTMB, Psi Kappa, Galveston College, Houston Community College

Women in Theravada Buddhism *2006*
The University of Houston, Clear Lake

HIV and the Transgender Community..... *2006*
United States Conference on AIDS

Cultural Competency, Gender Expansive Populations..... *2008 - 2018*
Texas Women's University

Transgender Day of Remembrance..... *2006-2008, 2013-2014*
Holocaust Museum, MCC, University of Houston

Transgender Community and Substance Abuse..... *2014*
Harris County Jail System

Transgender Health..... *2013*
Texas Woman's University

New Articulations in Feminist Research *2015*
The University of Michigan

Inclusive Radical Feminism *2015*
Rice University

Public Health Effect of Hate Speech on Houston's Trans Community *2016*
University of Houston

Critical Discourse: Gender, Sex, and Justice *2016*
Rice University

Honors & Awards

Apogee Award *2002*
Houston Transgender Unity Committee

Diversity Award *2008*
Positive Efforts

Hero Award *2010*
Jenny Jones Foundation

Lifetime Achievement Award *2011*
Houston Transgender Unity Committee

Dee McKeller Merit Award *2002*
Houston Transgender Unity Committee

Favorite Blogger ..... *2011, 2012, and 2013*
Outsmart Magazine

Trans 100 Award *2014*
The Trans 100

Grant Reviews

HIV Prevention Programs *2006*
City of Houston, Dept. of Health: HIV

HIV Prevention Programs *2014*
City of Houston, Dept. of Health: HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis

Professional Membership

Academy of Professional Family Mediators

American Association of Sexuality Educators

American Psychological Assoc., Div. 32: *The Society for Humanistic Psychology*

American Psychological Assoc., Div. 44: *Society for the Psych. of Sexual Orientation & Gender Diversity*

American Public Health Association

American Sociological Association: *Sociology of Sex and Gender*

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

North Coast Association of Mental Health Professionals

Psychedelic Medicine Association

Redwood Psychological Association

World Professional Association for Transgender Health