

## Chesney Jones Ward, LCSW, MSW

Ph.D. Candidate  
Curriculum Vitae

---

University of Tennessee, College of Social Work  
Henson Hall, Knoxville, TN, 37996  
[cward59@vols.utk.edu](mailto:cward59@vols.utk.edu)  
Phone: 248-989-8487  
[linkedin.com/in/chesney-jones-ward1024](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chesney-jones-ward1024)

### **Education**

---

- 2024      Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work (Expected)  
University of Tennessee College of Social Work,  
Dissertation: *Examining Readiness for End-of-Life Care Discussions, Perceived Level of Spiritual Support and Implementation of Faith-Based Health Programs in Predominantly Black Christian Churches*  
Committee: Mary Held (chair), Courtney Cronley, Andrea Joseph-McCatty, & Joel Anderson
- 2015      Master of Social Work  
Tulane University School of Social Work, New Orleans, LA
- 2013      Psychology with a Minor in Social Work  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL

### **Research Interests**

---

Successful aging; end-of-life care, healthcare access and disparities; minority healthcare; rural populations

### **Teaching Interests**

---

Qualitative Research Methods, Interpersonal Practice with Adults, Assessment and Evaluation, Clinical Social Work Practice, Professional Ethics, Social and Cultural Aspects of Aging

### **Research Experience**

---

- 2023-Present      **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Strand, College of Social Work,  
Center for Veterinary Social Work  
Projects:
- Examining animal depopulation effect on human beings
  - Co-authoring book chapter on DEI in Veterinary Medicine
  - ASPCA qualitative data analysis
  - Industry trust dairy project
  - Mixed Methods data analysis (Dedoose)
  - Mixed methods data cleaning

- Literature reviews
- Manuscript preparations
- Case analysis

2022-2023

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stan L. Bowie, College of Social Work  
Projects:

- Religion and social bonds
- Animal companionship and human bonds
- Data cleaning and data input (Excel)

2021-2023

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Patricia Bamwine, College of Social Work  
Projects:

- Religious trauma and spiritual abuse
- Fear of harm
- Youth impacted by gun violence
- Mass shooting loss
- Trauma, loss, and coping
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis (Dedoose, SPSS)
- Systematic review, literature reviews, coordination with inter-disciplinary teams
- Manuscript preparation

**Senior Research Coordinator**

Co-Investigators: Dr. Sean Joe, Washington University at St. Louis; Dr. Patricia Bamwine, UTK College of Social Work

Projects:

- Trauma Loss and Coping 2.0
- Exploring the impact of unexpected death (homicide, suicide, covid-19) on Black families in multiple major cities.
- Systematic review
- Coordination with inter-disciplinary teams

**Project Coordinator**

PI: Dr. Patricia Bamwine, UTK College of Social Work

Projects:

- A Multi-Level Approach to Violence Prevention
- Community-based participatory research examining a pilot grief support group for teens who have been impacted by gun violence in collaboration with youth-serving organizations.
- Identifying stakeholders and recruiting participants
- Qualitative observations and completing fidelity documents
- Coordination with university-community interdisciplinary teams
- Manuscript preparation

## Teaching Experience

---

- Fall 2023                    **Adjunct Professor** Western New Mexico University: Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice
- Developed course lecture materials
  - Developed audio-visual discussion boards (Voice Thread)
  - Offered occasional synchronous sessions
  - Graded discussion posts and article presentation
- Asynchronous web-based course
- Spring 2023                **Teaching Assistant** University of Tennessee: Human Development in Context: Young Adulthood through Older Adulthood
- Developed course lecture materials
  - Created reading reflection quizzes
  - Graded individual article presentation assignments
  - Assisted in creating learning activities for students
  - Assisted in building course shell in Canvas
- In-person course
- Fall 2022                    **Teaching Assistant** University of Tennessee: Epistemological Processes & Methods in Advanced Social Work Practice
- Developed assignments
  - Assisted with grading assignments
  - Assisted with building course shell in Canvas
  - Held informal office hours for student questions
- Synchronous web-based course

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

---

### *Manuscripts Accepted*

**Ward, C.,** Thomas, V., & Bowie, S.L. (2023). Assessing the impact of religious values on social bonds among African American adults: Implications for social work practice. *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought* 42(3),1-20. DOI: 10.1080/15426432.2023.2200363

### *Manuscripts Under Review*

**Ward, C.,** Johnson, I., Bamwine, P. & Light, M. (Under Review) The pet paradox: Uncovering the role of animal companions during the serious health events of people experiencing homelessness. *Anthrozoos*.

Hnilica, B., Bamwine, P. Joseph-McCatty, A., **Ward, C.,** & Nugent, W.R. (Under Review) A call to action: Allocating ESSER funds for outdoor teaching and learning. *International Journal of School Social Work*.

**Ward, C., & Montgomery, K.L.** (Under Review) End-of-life planning and socioeconomic status among Black communities: A systematic review. *Perspectives on Social Work*.

Garrett, K. **Ward, C., & Chaffin, K. M.** (Under Review) Title: Won't You Celebrate with Me? A Conceptual Framework for Mentoring Black Women Pursuing Research Doctorates. *Journal of Social Work Education*

### ***Manuscripts in Preparation***

**Ward, C., Ravi, K., Montgomery, K., Mitchell, D., Battle, J.T., Bamwine, P.** (In Preparation) Adolescent homicide bereavement support in urban Appalachia: A case study. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*

**Ward, C.** (In Preparation) A call to action: Engaging young and middle adults in advance care planning using continuity and successful aging theoretical frameworks. *Journal of Aging and Social Change*.

Strand, E., Bamwine, P., **Ward, C., Cannon, Peirson & Webb.** (In Preparation) Understanding and supporting human beings during animal depopulation: A primer for mental health professionals.

### **Non-Peer Reviewed Publications**

---

**Ward, C.J. (2020).** A Small Crack in the Foundation of Hospice Care. *The Bridge*. Volume 5, 19-21

**Ward, C.J. (2019).** Ethics and Advocacy in Hospice Care, *The Bridge*. Volume 7, 13-14

### **Peer-Reviewed Presentations**

---

Garrett, K. & **Ward, C., & Chaffin, K.M.** (2023, October) Decreasing Attrition Rates for Black Female Ph.D. Students via Interdisciplinary Peer Mentoring. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. (E-Poster)

**Ward, C., Kapur, I., Huslage, M., Nugent, W.R., & Ely, G.E.** (2023, September). Routine health behaviors and HPV vaccine uptake in a sample of women living in the Appalachian region of the United States. *17<sup>th</sup> Vaccine Congress*, Glasgow, Scotland. (Oral Presentation)

**Ward, C., Johnson, I., Bamwine, P., Light, M.** (2023, September). *Healing and Hindering: Highlighting the Complex Role of Animal Companionship When Homeless and Seriously Ill*. Aging and Social Change Interdisciplinary Conference. Polytechnic University of Marche. Ancona, Italy (Oral Presentation)

**Ward, C & Montgomery, K.L.** (2022, November). *End-of-life Among African Americans: Systematic Review*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, California. (E-Poster)

**Ward, C. & Montgomery, K.L.** (2022, September). *End-of-life Among African Americans: Systematic Review*. Aging and Social Change Interdisciplinary Conference. Jagiellonian University, Krakow Poland. (E-Poster)

**Bamwine, P. & Ward, C.** (2022, June). *Homicide Bereavement and Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth: Implications for Research, Practice, and Policy*. National Organization of Forensic Social Workers. New Orleans, LA (Oral Presentation)

**Bamwine, P. & Ward, C.** (2022, April). *Homicide Bereavement: A University-Community Approach to Violence Intervention*. Association for Death Education and Counseling 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. St. Louis, MO. (Oral Presentation)

**Ward, C. & Montgomery, K.L.** (2022, April). *End-of-life Among African Americans: Systematic Review*. The University of Memphis 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Symposium. Memphis, TN. (Oral Presentation)

### **Invited Presentations**

---

Fall 2022                      **Ward, C.** (2022, September). *End-of-Life Care Planning Presentation and Q&A Session*. Office of Neighborhood Empowerment for the City of Knoxville

### **Guest Lecturer**

---

Spring 2023                      Human Development in Context: Young Adulthood through Older Adulthood (University of Tennessee SOWK 516)  
Guest lecture: Social work practice with older adults in hospice care  
In-person course

Spring 2022                      Applied Assessment Skills in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse (University of Michigan SOWK 610)  
Guest lecture: Social work practice with adults in hospice care, mental health  
Synchronous web-based course

Spring 2022                      Psychological Development and Mental Health in Later Life (University of Tennessee SOWK 555)  
Guest lecture: Social work practice working in hospice and healthcare systems and working with older adults, ethical considerations  
Asynchronous & Synchronous web-based course

Fall 2021                         Interpersonal Practice Intervention in Integrated Health, Mental Health,

and Substance Abuse (University of Michigan SOWK 602)  
Guest lecture: Hospice and ethical considerations, the mental health of older adults and their caregivers  
Synchronous web-based course

Fall 2017                      Interpersonal Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups  
(University of Michigan SOWK 521)  
Guest lecture: International social work, death and dying rituals across the globe, hospice care with adults  
In-person course

### **Honors and Awards**

---

2023                      Accepted into University of Buffalo Visiting Future Faculty (VITAL) Program (\$1000 stipend)

2023-2024                Awarded SEC Emerging Scholar Fellowship (\$25,000)

2023                      Selected for Summer Mentoring Workshop for Advanced Doctoral Students: **Michigan Center for Urban African American Research/Program for Research on Black Americans (MCUAAAR)**

2023                      Awarded Anti-Oppressive Scholarship Award: **Ph.D. Student Excellence Award**

### **Practice Experience**

---

2019-2022                **Medical Social Worker & Volunteer Coordinator**  
Comfort Care Hospice, Springfield, TN

- Completed initial psychosocial assessments and provided weekly visits, bereavement support, and end-of-life counseling to patients and families.
- Provided quarterly in-service education and training to staff on the We Honor Veterans Program and provided community resources to patients and families.
- Provided supervision, training, and annual evaluations to all volunteers/interns who were employed with Comfort Care Hospice Middle Tennessee to meet CMS standards.
- Recruited and retained volunteers for our volunteer program and completed monthly and annual cost savings reports.

2019                      **Primary Therapist**  
Journey Pure, Clarksville, TN

- Served as the primary Therapist and Group Facilitator for Eating Disorder Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services.
- Facilitated groups for Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services.
- Completed biopsychosocial assessments for incoming substance abuse, mental health services, and eating disorder patients for Outpatient Treatment Services.
- Provided individual therapy sessions for substance abuse, primary mental health, and eating disorder patients.

2016-2018 **Medical Social Worker**

Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care, Troy, MI

- Completed initial psychosocial assessments, routine and bereavement visits/calls, and collaborated with the Interdisciplinary Team.
- Provided supportive services as the lead social worker for General Inpatient patients at Ascension Crittenton Hospital.
- Facilitated a weekly bereavement group at Sinai Grace Hospital for the Detroit community.
- Provided end-of-life support and community resources to patients and families.

2016 **Psychiatric Social Worker**

Garland Behavioral Health, Garland, TX

- Completed psychosocial assessment and discharge planning assessments.
- Facilitated group therapy and individual therapy for clients in the hospital.
- Provided outpatient resources to patients and families and facilitated discharge planning.
- Collaborated on an Interdisciplinary treatment team to provide evidence-based treatment and therapy.

2015-2016 **Medical Social Worker**

Holy Savior Hospice, Dallas, TX

- Completed initial psychosocial assessments and routine visits.
- Provided patients with community resources and assisted families with end-of-life preparation.
- Evaluated patient needs and advocated for patients and their families.

2015 **Graduate Social Work Intern**

Hospice Compassus, New Orleans, LA

- Performed psychosocial assessments and routine visits.
- Evaluated patient needs and provided grief counseling services.
- Provided patients and families with resources in the community and collaborated on an Interdisciplinary Team.

**Institutional & Disciplinary Service**

---

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2022- 2023 | <b>Mentor-</b> Coalition of Black Social Workers, University of Tennessee   |
| 2022- 2023 | <b>Roundtable Co-Facilitator-</b> University of Tennessee College of Social Work Anti-Racism Learning Collaborative |
| 2021-2022  | <b>Ph.D. Committee Student Representative-</b> University of Tennessee-Knoxville Ph.D. Program Committee            |
| 2021       | <b>Volunteer Abstract Reviewer-</b> Gerontological Society of America   |

2023 **Volunteer Abstract Reviewer-** Gerontological Society of America

### **Training and Certifications**

---

2022 Certification in Inclusive Teaching- University of Tennessee  
2022 Certification in Experiential Learning- University of Tennessee  
2022 Certification in Course-Based Assessment-University of Tennessee  
2022 Critical Conversations Training- University of Tennessee  
2021 Citi Training for Behavioral Health and Human Subjects- University of Tennessee  
2015 Certification in Family Practice- Tulane University

### **Professional Affiliations**

---

2022 – Present Aging and Social Change Research Network: **Member**  
2022 – Present Gerontology Research and Scholarship (GeRAS) Group: **Member**  
2022 - Present Coalition of Black Social Workers: **Mentor and Member**  
2021 - Present Gerontological Society of America: **Member**  
2017- Present National Association of Social Workers-Michigan Chapter & Middle Tennessee Chapter: **Member**  
2021 – Present Lunch and Learn Leadership Team – National Association of Social Workers-Middle Tennessee Chapter: **Leadership Team Member**  
2017 – 2021 Aging and Gerontology Work Group – Michigan Chapter, NASW: **Member**

### **Clinical License**

---

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, #7023  
*Tennessee Board of Social Work*