

PERSONAL DATA

Jessica Dillard-Wright lives, works, and plays in Augusta, Georgia with her/their beautiful family, which includes Devi, Atticus, Oscar, and Tallulah Dillard-Wright. Jessica is faculty at Augusta University College of Nursing and director for the College's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In addition to Jessica's academic work, she/they is also involved in activist work to foster a more just, equitable future for people, communities, nursing, healthcare, everyone. She/they is an organizing member of the Radical Nurses Collective, the Nursology Theory Collective, the Compost Collaborative, Nursing Mutual Aid, and the Transform Nursing Reading to Action Initiative. She/they also knits relentlessly.

EDUCATION

2015, Master of Science in Nursing – Community-Based Nurse-Midwifery,
Frontier Nursing University
2009, Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader Program,
Medical College of Georgia
2006, Master of Arts in Women's History
Sarah Lawrence College
2004 Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Culture,
Georgia Institute of Technology

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Valderama-Wallace, C. & **Dillard-Wright, J.** Reading to Action Initiative: *Teaching to Transgress* Twitter chat and Zoom workshop (September 2020)

Shields-Haas, V., **Dillard-Wright, J.** Magabo Perez, J. (co-facilitators). Nursing Solidarity: A Story Circle (Radical Nurses Collective, June 11, 2020).

Brown, B., Hopkins Walsh, J. & **Dillard-Wright, J.** Nursing for the Chthulucene: Rhizomatic Thought, Just Episteme, Liberatory Pedagogy, Emancipatory Nursing (Nursing Mutual Aid, Twitter, March 30, 2020).

Shields-Haas, V. & **Dillard-Wright, J.** Nursing with the People: Imaging Postcapitalist Nursing (Nursing Mutual Aid, Twitter, March 30, 2020).

Dillard-Wright, J., Hopkins Walsh, J., & Brown, B. Posthumanization: Living and Dying on a Deteriorating Planet [podium presentation] (KING Collaborative Conference, Washington, DC, November 14-15 2019).

Dillard-Wright, J. Feminism and Nursing: A Radical Reconsideration and History of the Present [podium presentation] (International Philosophy of Nursing Society, Victoria, BC, August 18-20, 2019).

Dillard-Wright, J. Doing Historical Discourse Analysis: Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network and History of the Present [poster]. (Augusta University Graduate Research Day, April 2, 2019).

Dillard-Wright, J. A Nursing Justice Framework [podium presentation] (Nursing Theory: A 50-Year Perspective, Past and Future, March 21 & 22, 2019).

Dillard-Wright, J. Whose Caring, Whose Knowledge? Emotional Labor, Knowledge, and Power in Nursing [Podium presentation] (International Philosophy of Nursing Society, Galway, Ireland, August 23-25, 2018).

Dillard-Wright, J. Nurse as Knowledge Worker: A Conceptual Framework to Guide Nursing Research [Poster] (Augusta University Graduate Research Day, March 23, 2018).

Dillard-Wright, J. Remote Control: Panopticism as a Tool of Control over Nurses [Poster] (Augusta University Graduate Research Day: March 9, 2017).

RESEARCH AWARDS & GRANTS

2020 "Global Hero" Award, GLMA Nursing Summit, Nursing Mutual Aid
2020, featured article for *Advances in Nursing Science*, INANE Virtual Journal Special Edition

2020-2021, Nursing Educational Foundation Scholar

2019, Dr. and Mrs. David Jerram Scholarship recipient

2019, Excellence in Research award recipient, College of Nursing, Augusta University Graduate Research Day

2018, Excellence in Research award recipient, Augusta University College of Graduate Studies, Augusta University Graduate Research Day

2016-2018, Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar, cohort V

RESEARCH

Principal Investigator. "Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network: Feminism, Nursing, and History for the Present" College of Nursing, Augusta University, Augusta, GA. 2018-2020.

PUBLICATIONS

Dillard-Wright, J., Walsh, J. H., & Brown, B. B. (2020). We Have Never Been Nurses: Nursing in the Anthropocene, Undoing the Capitalocene. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 43(2), 132-146.

Hopkins Walsh, J., & **Dillard-Wright, J.** (2020). The case for "structural missingness:" A critical discourse of missed care. *Nursing Philosophy*, 21(1), e12279.

Dillard-Wright, J. (2019). Electronic health record as a panopticon: A disciplinary apparatus in nursing practice. *Nursing Philosophy*, 20(2), e12239.

DISSERTATION TITLE: Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network:
Feminism, Nursing, and History for the Present

**The Graduate School
Augusta University**

ABSTRACT

As the last light of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) faded in 1982, a group of radical feminist nurses coalesced around their shared outrage at nursing's disciplinary failure to engage deeply with feminist causes. The 1982 American Nurses Convention coincided with this last gasp of the ERA, held in a hotel in Washington, D.C. where thousands of nurses, overwhelmingly womxn, converged for professional development and camaraderie. And although the city outside the hotel roiled in protest, the Convention unfurled with nary a mention of the constitutional amendment that would secure legal equality irrespective of gender. Incensed by this omission, and with nursing's general resistance to political engagement, these radical nurses descended on the hotel bar and began organizing what would become Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network. Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network ("CASSANDRA" hereafter, in the convention established by the organization in their newsjournal) was an activist network active from 1982 until 1991. This study used historical research methods to document CASSANDRA's legacy while unpacking the complex interrelationship between nursing and feminism. This includes examining the influences of race, gender, and sexuality, influences that shapes normative understandings of nursing from its Victorian origins to the present. CASSANDRA was unusual in its overt affiliation as a nurses' organization with a radical feminist allegiance during an era when feminism and nursing were frequently at odds. As a decentralized, radical feminist "web," the aim of CASSANDRA was to "create and develop a group that would truly provide an open forum for feminist nurses from all walks of life and how to avoid the usual male-oriented hierarchy and rigidity of most national organizations" (LaGodna, 1982, p. 1). In unfurling the nuances of gender and sexuality that CASSANDRA navigated, it is clear that the work of CASSANDRA envisioned a radical space for collective resistance and connection, reflecting the normative expectations in nursing that stemmed from nursing's Victorian imaginary. Even while CASSANDRA's work around gender and sexuality was bold and transgressive, their engagement with race was poorly articulated. Because of this, the organization's work reinforced white normativity. Ultimately, like mythological Cassandra, CASSANDRA would eventually quiet to a whisper. What understanding the thrums of CASSANDRA, of nursing's rich and complex history can do is provide a clear view of nursing's disciplinary history. This is a fundamental prerequisite for a more just, equitable nursing future.

Keywords: feminism, gender, sexuality, race, nursing

Final Oral Examination

for

JESSICA SUSAN DILLARD-WRIGHT

For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**Thursday, October 29, 2020
1:00 P.M.**

**College of Nursing
Online**

COMMITTEE

Advisor: Julie K. Zadinsky, PhD, MSS, RN, CIP

Angela R. Bratton, PhD

Lucy Marion, PhD, RN, FAAN

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