

# ALISA OSUNFUNKE ORDUÑA

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## Professional Profile

Dr. Alisa Osunfunke Orduna is a scholar-practitioner, systems strategist, and community development leader whose work bridges public policy, participatory research, depth psychology, and community transformation. For more than three decades, she has partnered with nonprofit organizations, local governments, philanthropic institutions, and community leaders to address complex social challenges, including homelessness, racial inequity, and barriers to belonging. Her work is grounded in the belief that lasting systems change requires both technical expertise and a deep understanding of the social, cultural, and psychological forces that shape human experience.

Dr. Orduna is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Florence Aliese Advancement Network (FAAN), LLC, a strategic advisement, research, and facilitation practice dedicated to advancing equitable systems, community wellbeing, and transformational leadership. Through FAAN, she partners with cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and cross-sector collaboratives to design and evaluate homeless response systems, facilitate stakeholder engagement processes, conduct community-based participatory research, and support organizational and systems transformation. Her approach centers racial and gender equity, lived expertise, and authentic community partnership to address historical harms and cultivate cultures of belonging.

As a critical interdisciplinary scholar-practitioner, Dr. Orduna's work explores the intersection of race, homelessness, human rights, belonging, and collective healing. She is the creator of Òşun Consciousness™, an interdisciplinary framework and research methodology rooted in African indigenous cosmology, depth psychology, and liberation-centered practice. Through this work, she examines how cultural memory, ancestral wisdom, land, and community can inform leadership, research, and systems transformation.

Dr. Orduna currently serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy, where she teaches graduate students in social justice and public policy, and as an inaugural faculty member of the Santa Monica College Homeless Services Work Certificate Program, preparing emerging professionals for careers in homelessness services and community wellbeing. She is committed to translating practitioner knowledge into academic learning environments that encourage critical inquiry, ethical leadership, and community-centered action.

## Areas of Teaching, Research, and Practice

Dr. Orduna's work explores the intersections of race, homelessness, belonging, public policy, and collective healing. Her teaching and research focus on systems transformation, community-based participatory research, Afro-Diasporic and Indigenous knowledge systems, liberation psychologies, housing justice, and leadership practices that cultivate equitable and thriving communities.

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.** Pacifica Graduate Institute, Depth-Psychology with emphasis in February 2021  
Community, Liberation, Indigenous, Eco-Psychology  
Dissertation: "Òṣun Consciousness: Unearthing Anti-Black Biases in the Los Angeles Homeless System Soul as reflected in the Sacred Histories of the African American Experience"  
Committee: Dr. Nuria Ciofalo, Chair, Dr. Fanny Brewster, Dr. Diedre Badejo,
- MA** Pacifica Graduate Institute, Depth-Psychology with emphasis in May 2015  
Community, Liberation, Indigenous, Eco-Psychology  
Concept Paper: " 'Race talk': A critical conscious cross-cultural dialogue on the meaning of race from the 'inside out'"  
Advisor: Dr. Susan James
- MPIA** University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and December 1995  
International Affairs, Economic and Social Development concentration  
Advisor: Dr. Harvey White
- BA** Xavier University of Louisiana, English May 1994  
Graduated Cum Laude  
Minored in Business Administration

## COMMUNITY PRAXIS

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- Santa Monica College, Homeless Services Work Certificate**  
**Adjunct Faculty** **2024-Present**
- Instruct the *Introduction to Workforce Training with the Homeless Response System*, a course to prepare learners to enter the workforce within the homeless response system and the overall nonprofit ecosystem. The course examines housing policies at the federal, state, and local levels. The students also learn the history of evolution of homelessness in Los Angeles and current philosophical best practices.
- University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy**  
**Adjunct Faculty** **2023-Present**

Instruct a graduate seminar course: PPDE 664 Social Justice and Public Policy each spring semester since 2023. The course examines the intersection of public policy and structural drivers of homelessness among multiple subpopulations and identities of unhoused community members including race, gender, physical and mental health, geography, and climate change.

### **Florence Aliese Advancement Network, LLC Client Projects**

- **Tres Lunas Consulting, LLC, Long Beach, CA**

2024 - Present

A strategic planning consultant, embedding Indigenous knowledge systems and research approaches into the processes for design, delivery, and drafting of the final strategic plan document. In partnership with Tres Lunas Consulting, LLC, clients include:

- Sacred Place Institute
- The Relatives Homes Collaborative (American Indian/Alaskan Native Housing Collaborative)

- **Conrad Hilton Foundation, Agoura Hills, CA**

2024 - As Needed

Facilitate executive leadership retreats with homeless response system sector leaders around visioning, alignment, and organizational restructuring through a racial equity and belonging-centered approach.

- **Linc Housing, Long Beach, CA**

2023- Present

Co-designing comprehensive culturally relevant and trauma-informed community engagement strategies to educate, solicit feedback, and build authentic relationships with local community leaders, residents, and organizations in support of the Robert K. Ross Center for Hope & Healing and New High Village community development projects.

- **The ChangeWell Project, Los Angeles, CA**

2021-2026

A senior consultant on a statewide technical assistance team developing materials and delivering trainings to county system-leaders engaged in their local homeless response system on topics including advancing equity and development of regional collaborations. Select engagement and technical assistance clients include:

- Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing
- Los Angeles County Department of Housing for Health

- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services - Harm Reduction Division
  - California State Department of Social Services - Homeless and Housing Division
- **Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Los Angeles, CA**  
2022 -2023

Engaged over 100 community residents, service providers and public sector staff in a two-phase community outreach and engagement strategy to identify, define, and prioritize a slate of health-focused recommendations in the creation of the Skid Row Action Plan, an initiative led by Supervisor Hilda Solis.
- **Sacramento Steps Forward, Sacramento, CA**  
2022-2023

Convened the local Continuum of Care (CoC), County, and City of Sacramento to develop a three-year homeless action plan. This was the first coordinated plan of its kind with shared responsibilities across local jurisdictions.
- **Your Way Home Continuum of Care, Montgomery County, PA**  
2021

Engaged local stakeholders to evaluate the local homeless response system's coordinated entry system for racial biases and attitudes through the design and implementation of an online and paper survey in English and Spanish, the facilitation of focus groups, and conducting in-depth one-on-one interviews; and made system-level recommendations.
- **USC Homeless Policy Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA**  
2021

Supported the integration of a racial equity lens in the development of a 3-year homeless research agenda led by Abt Associates, by facilitating focus groups and one-on-one interviews with people experiencing homelessness and other community stakeholders.
- **Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Committee, Englewood, CO**  
2021

Engaged over 50 local stakeholders including elected officials and homeless service providers to develop a collaborative homeless action plan for the cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan.
- **Downtown Women's Center, Los Angeles, CA**  
2021

Researched and developed a community-level trauma-informed piloted intervention strategy that engaged emerging leaders with living experience of homelessness in Skid Row to guide future initiatives on cultivating an awareness of trauma-informed practices among homeless service providers and community at-large in Skid Row.

### **Recent Courses**

**Seminar, “Social Justice and Social Policy,”** University of Southern California (Spring 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026)

**Introduction to Workforce Training within the Homeless Response System,** Santa Monica College (Fall 2024 and Spring 2026)

**Lecture, “How do we accompany the phenomenon of Black People Experiencing Homelessness in pursuit of liberation?”** Institute for the Development of Human Arts Spring Training Session Class #4: Toward Psychology of Liberation: Visions for a Global Future with Dr. Mary Watkins, June 2021

**Lecture, “Let’s Talk About Homelessness in Los Angeles,”** Otis College, November 2020

**Lecture, “Public Policy and Urban Homelessness: Strategy, Controversies, Solutions.”** UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Department of Public Policy, Los Angeles, CA February 2020

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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#### **Books**

Orduña, Alisa. *Oshun Consciousness: Unearthing the Anti-Black Biases in the Los Angeles Homeless System Soul as reflected in the Sacred Histories of the African American Experience*, Pacifica Graduate Institute: Carpinteria, CA 2020  
<https://www.proquest.com/openview/dd0ee30bb5c69e866667d0eac3f873a8/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Orduña, Alisa. *Unearthing the Feminine*, Blurb Press: Los Angeles, CA 2020

Orduña, Alisa. *Oshun’s Calabash: Dancing across Cuba into the memory of the embodied African soul & finding home*, Self-Published: Los Angeles, CA 2018

Orduña, Alisa. “Stepping into Forest: Incorporating the Lost Girl Back into Self” in *Seeing in the Dark: Wisdom Works by Black Women in Depth Psychology*, Ed. Sharon D. Johnson, PhD, Malibu Press: Los Angeles, CA 2016

#### **Professional Trade Publications**

“Beyond the Built Environment: Dr. Alisa Orduña on Homelessness Strategies & the Fight for a Continuum of Care,” The Planning Report, 6 September 2023

“Santa Monica's Alisa Orduña: Pandemic Compounds Urban Homelessness Challenges,” The Planning Report, 26 March 2020.

“Santa Monica leaders are aligned,” The Planning Report, 10 June 2019

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

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### **California Community College Association for Occupational Education Leadership Academy, January 2026**

Thirty-hours of training to explore the Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership and strengthened ability to lead through influence, innovation, and service regardless of title or position.

### **Housing Policy Leadership Academy, September – November 2020**

A 10-session program that provides participants with the knowledge and skills to advance pro-housing policy proposals hosted by Global Policy Leadership Academy.

### **Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality Summer School, African American Policy Forum, July 2020**

Examined CRT's emergence as an outgrowth of institutional and collective struggles surrounding the terms of integration in a post-segregationist America. Debated concepts of meritocracy, knowledge-production, and the law that challenged the rise and fall of race-conscious affirmative action initiatives throughout society, and the vision of racial injustice that framed racism, meritocracy, and racial power in narrow terms.

### **Government Alliance on Race and Equity, Race Forward 2019**

A year-long training in developing a racial equity framework and action plan for the City of Santa Monica as part of a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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**Member, Association of American Psychology, 2021-Present**

**Member, Society for Community Research and Action, 2015 – Present**

**Member, National Association of Black Psychologists, 2013 - Present**

**Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, 1991 to Present**

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Board Chair, Los Angeles Commons, 2025 - Present**

**Member, Board of Directors, Confluence Rising, 2026 -Present**

**Member, California Interagency Council on Homelessness Advisory Council, 2022-2025**

**Member, Racial Equity Committee, Homelessness Policy Research Institute, USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation, 2021-Present**

**Member, Black People Experiencing Homelessness Implementation Steering Committee, Los Angeles County CEO Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, 2021-2024**

## **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Native Language

**Spanish:** Intermediate Listener, Novice Speaker

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

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**Applications:** Micro-Soft Office Suite; Google Suite

**Platforms:** Micro-Soft, Google, MS Teams, Zoom, Cisco Webex, Facebook, Instagram, Chat GPT, Notebook LM

## **REFERENCES**

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**Available Upon Request**