Dr. Robert W. Turner
Faculty Research Associate, University of Maryland

Dr. Robert W. Turner II holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from The Graduate Center, CUNY. Currently, Robert is Research Fellow in the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland, College Park. After graduating from James Madison University, Robert played football professionally for three leagues over a four-year span. Robert is developing a manuscript for Oxford University Press entitled The NFL means Not For Long: Fame, Fortune, & Equal? This ethnographic project offers a description and analysis of the social worlds of professional football players based on the author’s personal experience, interviews with current and former players, archived resources that discusses the socialization of young athletes, the relationship between the NFL and the NFL Players Association, and how athletes transition from the NFL to life after football. In the fall of 2014 Robert began collecting preliminary data for a series of studies on the topic of youth sport concussions. The research has two primary aims: 1) to explore how socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, gender, and cultural norms account for variations in both health-seeking behavior and attitudes and practices related to state-mandated protocols for athletes, parents, coaches, and officials, and (2) to investigate potential inconsistencies between culture (norms and values around dealing with concussions) and climate (policies, practices, and
procedures for treatment of concussions) around the prevention and treatment of youth sports-related concussions.