

IN THE LOOP

PhD in Social Welfare, The Graduate School and University Center
City University of New York

<https://socialwelfare.commonsgc.cuny.edu>



Winter 2023

Happy Holidays to our PhD community! This academic year has started strong with opportunities to be together in community through our coffee connections, attendance at professional conferences, and through co-sponsored events with Critical Psychology and Urban Education. We also celebrate Dr. Tyese Brown, Dr. Justin Cabrera, Dr. Craig Holden, Dr. Cameron Rasmussen, and Dr. Britton Williams for their successful completion of their dissertations. Let's end the semester strong with an "End of Semester" party on Thursday, December 14th from 6-8pm at the GC. Then, enjoy the winter break where you rest, relax, connect with friends and family, and restore.

- Barbra Teater, Executive Officer

October Coffee Connection



FEATURING:

- Important Dates
- News on Conference Funding
- Student Achievements
- Updates from Mikalya Hubert, MSW Intern with the PhD Program
- The Virtual Town Square : CSWE 2023
- Student Spotlight: Yaneth Lombana

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/4 - 1pm - Coffee Connection - Psychology Lounge, 6th floor
- 12/5 - 2pm - Coffee Connection - Psychology Lounge, 6th floor
- 12/6 - Virtual Open House - 5:30-7pm, [Register here](#)
- 12/14 - End of semester celebration, 6pm-8pm, Room 6304.01
- 12/31 - Application deadline for 2024 admission
- 1/31/24 - Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) deadline

Student Achievements: October & November



Ryan Savino (with Assistant Professor **Jim Mandiberg**) had their article "[The persistence of the homeless shelter as an institutional form: NYC's response to homelessness and COVID through an organizational lens](#)" published in *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, & Governance*. Ryan was also featured in The Graduate Center's news, which you can read here: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/news/mission-alleviate-homelessness>.

Haein Son published an article "'Responses and implications of US mental health policy to the post-COVID19 mental health crisis: Focusing on New York State" (in Korean) in the Fall 2023 issue of *The Global Social Security Review* of the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs.



Evelyn Bautista Miller's organization, *Tender Steps of New York*, executed a vision board workshop for Rockland County community youths, including the Spring Valley Police Initiative. This event presented youths with opportunities for knowledge exposure, and avenues for learning and betterment.

Jamie Borgan and **Kiani Oro** have been hired to be part of the *Growing Strong* research team, a research project to assess the impact of a cash transfer and peer support program on shelter stays for families with children in the shelter system.

Jamie's article (with **Tuka Al Sahalni**) "Distant reading in a social welfare practicum course" was accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*.



Ian Williams and **Jamie Borgan's** presentation "Developing a Technology Inventory for (and With) Social Work Students: A Tool For Participatory Exploration of Affordances, Constraints, and Risks" and **Ian's** workshop "Critical Making with AI Imagery: (Re)evaluating the Role of Visual Communication in Social Work" were accepted into the *European Conference for Social Work Research 2024* in Vilnius, Lithuania.



Ian was also hired to help complete the Graduate Center Digital Initiatives' Digital Humanities Resource Infrastructure for Teaching Technology (DHRIFT), and teach a workshop on HTML and CSS for the [2024 GC Digital Research Institute](#).



Updates from Mikayla Hubert, MSW Student Intern

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The Mission and Vision Task Force, comprised of PhD in Social Welfare students, is spearheading the effort to create a shared mission statement and program vision. Their main focus areas are designing and facilitating focus groups & surveys, communication/outreach, and qualitative data analysis.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

For students and faculty - Register for the next open task force meeting on Monday, December 4th at 11:45am using [this link](#)

For faculty - Schedule the best time for faculty focus group using [this link](#)

For students - Register to participate in a focus group using [this link](#)

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

OCT 6	Conceptualization meeting with Mikayla, Barbra, and Ian
OCT 11	Discussion on the program identity lead by Barbra at the October Faculty and Student representative meeting
OCT 24	Community outreach to engage students and faculty and see who is interested in joining task force
NOV 9	Task force assembled using online survey
NOV 10	First Task Force Meeting. Student focus groups scheduled for Saturday, 1/6/24 at 10:30am and Thursday, 1/18/24 at 6:30pm



The Virtual Town Square

Dispatches from #CSWE23 and #PITUN23

Ian Williams
Social Media Fellow
[@igraywill](#)

This October, I went to two conferences:

1. **The Council on Social Work Education's 2023 Annual Program Meeting** in Atlanta. I went to support our many colleagues who presented, meet with some long-time collaborators from the [Social Work Innovation Network](#) face to face for the first time, connect with faculty, recent graduates, and doctoral students from other universities, and see some old friends and professors from my time as an MSW student at The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. You can also connect with CSWE members by joining CSWE Spark (<https://spark.cswe.org/home>).
2. **The Public Interest Technology University Network's (PIT-UN) 2023 Convening** at Boston University. I ran into a few CUNY folks and had some fascinating discussions about technology, ethics, the public interest, social justice, and a range of topics that are highly relevant to our field. Check out more here: <https://pitcases.org/>

Check out some photos below and follow our newly created Instagram account during SSWR 2024 for stories and live posts ([instagram.com/gcsocialwelfare](https://www.instagram.com/gcsocialwelfare)).





Quant Corner, With Becca Cadoff

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Hey Everyone! Don't forget about me as a resource for all your quantitative needs.

Thinking about maybe, potentially, don't really know yet, but possibly using quantitative methods in a project (of any size), but don't really know where to begin? Send me an email to set up a consultation and we can chat!

Also, keep your eyes open in the spring semester for an online portal of resources.

If you have ideas for what you want to see in this newsletter or on the website in the future, drop a line! Happy Quanting!

P.S. If you want to freshen up on some basic statistics, you can check out my youtube playlist from teaching an undergrad intro to stats class here:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2XCeUZypqi1ECAytlU2BfLNrh6nIESrz>

Recentering & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science

JANUARY 10-14, 2024 WASHINGTON, DC

SSWR 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE VISIT WWW.SSWR.ORG FOR INFO



sswr.confex.com/sswr/2024/webprogram/meeting.html

Thursday, January 11

- Miguel Rodriguez (with Melanie Sonsteng-Person, PhD, Victoria Copeland, PhD, & Josh Lown, MSW), "The necessity of action: Following through on the promise of action in participatory action research", 3:15pm-4:45pm, Independence BR A, ML 4

Friday January 12

- Brie Scolaro (with SJ Dodd, PhD), "Examining mental health practitioners' comfort with sex and sexuality", 2-3:30pm, Marquis BR Salon 6, ML 2
- Ian Williams (with Marissa Kaloga, EdD, Melissa Singh, PhD, & Gokul Mayandam, PhD), "Centering a social innovation lens: Formalizing the future of global social work science", 2-3:30pm, Treasury, ML 4

Saturday, January 13

- Katrina Hannan (with Barbra Teater, PhD), "Social workers explicit and implicit use of theory and methods in practice: A pilot study", 2-3:00pm, Marquis BR Salon 6, ML 2
- Jamie Borgan and Katrina Hannan, "PhD student expectations", 8-9:30am, Marquis BR Salon 6, ML 2

Sunday, January 14

- Ryan Savino, "From homelessness to hotel living during the COVID-19 pandemic", 8-9:30 AM, Marquis BR Salon 13, ML 2

Student Spotlight: Yaneth Lombana



Let's Have a Conversation with Yaneth!

Why did you apply to the PhD in Social Welfare? -

As an immigrant, it's sort of embedded in us by our parents and community, that if we grow up here, we are supposed to achieve the highest level in our field. I had thought about it for a long time. However, it was being the only Spanish-speaking Latine providing culturally responsive psychotherapeutic services at my place of work that helped me realize the lack of representation we face and that I could be part of the solution. I want to produce work that speaks to others like me.

What do you want to do after you graduate? - *I want to continue teaching social workers at Hispanic Serving Institutions.*

What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why? - *English 89000: Introduction to Engaged Teaching and Transformative Learning in the Humanities and Social Sciences taught by Professors Cathy Davidson and Eduardo Vianna. The course helped me prepare for teaching which was something that I was very nervous about. It was very interactive and having a Latine professor co-teach the course made it very special for me as I hadn't had that experience in any of my graduate courses.*

What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY? - *I am currently a full-time Substitute Lecturer at Lehman College. I teach master-level social workers and I am part of the Hispanic Serving Institution Committee. One of the courses I enjoy most teaching is the Bilingual Fieldwork and Seminar course.*

What's something that people would be surprised to know about you? - *I recently got married (in the middle of the semester). We had a sort of DIY wedding that we planned in a month and a half. It was fun and nerve-wracking at the same time. We are still beaming with joy.*

What is the focus of your research? - *The intersection of mestiza spirituality and psychotherapy for Latine clinical social workers in the US.*

What are you currently reading, watching or listening to? - *I am currently reading lots of student papers, lol. For fun I am reading *El hombre que movía las nubes* by Ingrid Rojas Contreras. It's the story of three generations of healers within a Colombian family.*