

VOL. 3, ISSUE 5 | APRIL 2024

# IN THE LOOP

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

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



## Social Welfare Springing into Action

Social Welfare continues to spring into action at the GC. Last month, we held our first “Social Welfare Spring Symposium” where eight students presented their scholarly activities and ideas. The event brought together Social Welfare students from across six cohorts and doctoral students from other disciplines at the GC further strengthening our interdisciplinary reach. We also celebrate Dr. William C. Bell (alum, 2010) who will receive the GC President’s Alumni Medal at the 2024 Commencement. Dr. Bell will graciously join us for our next Coffee Connection on April 9th. Last, but most certainly not least, we are in the beginning stages of securing a home for Social Welfare at the GC for Fall 2024 in 6203.02. As this issue of our newsletter will demonstrate, we continue to grow strong and mark our presence at the GC and beyond! - Barbra Teater, Executive Officer

## Social Mobility Lab - Call For Proposals

The Colin Powell School at City College of New York has launched [The Social Mobility Lab](#), an initiative to support research and events about social mobility nationally and in higher education. They are inviting proposals from full-time faculty and doctoral students. Selected projects will be supported with up to \$10,000.

[The application deadline is May 6, 2024. Apply here.](#)

## FEATURING:

- Important Dates
- Student Achievements
- Updates from Mikalya Hubert
- Quant Corner
- The Virtual Town Square
- Spring Symposium Photos
- Student Spotlight: Ashleigh Washington

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2024
- [Abstract submissions](#) - April 15th
- Coffee Connections
  - April 9th - 1:30 - 3pm
  - May 7th - 1:30 - 3pm
- Social Welfare Dissertation Showcase Open House
  - May 21st - 6-8pm
- Commencement
  - June 7th - Lincoln Center

# Student Achievements: February & March



**Evelyn Bautista Miller** organized a bilingual English-Spanish parent and youth conference at Rockland Community College. This is the first conference organized by Evelyn's non-profit, Tender Steps of New York, Inc.

Evelyn also served as a panelist at Lehman College providing encouragement and expertise in her field as a district social worker and founder and director for Tender Steps of New York, Inc.

**Jamie Borgan** received the 2023-2024 Provost's Innovation Grant for her project (co-authored with Ian Williams) "Developing a technology inventory for (and with) social work students: A tool for participatory exploration of affordances, constraints, and risk". The funds will support additional focus groups and the development of an Open Educational Resource component of the project. Jamie and Ian will present on the project on May 22nd at the Graduate Center Digital Showcase.



**Shermira Busby** was awarded the Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) in Round 19 to collaborate with Dr. Paul Archibald, Dr. Mayra Humphrey, and Dr. Maria Torre on a Community-Based Participatory Action Research project. The project's objective is to assess the access to mental health services for individuals living in NYCHA public housing developments on Staten Island. As part of the fellowship, the research team plans to co-facilitate group sessions to educate the NYCHA fellows about culturally appropriate wellness practices.

**Julie Glickman** co-authored an article with Dr. Adam Brown:

Brown, A. and **Glickman, J.** (2024). What Master of Social Work students with a child welfare focus need to know about youth who sexually harm. *Child Welfare*, 101(5).



**Patrick Schelle** moderated an invited guest lecture at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, featuring Jonathan Alvarez CEO & Founder of 914 United came to speak to social work students about his lived experience, work as a credible messenger, and development of Westchester County's primary youth diversion organization. The lecture emphasized the urgency of social work education looking beyond traditional "Evidence Based Practice", acknowledging and uplifting lived experience and grassroots community initiatives into the realms of social work and the criminal justice system.

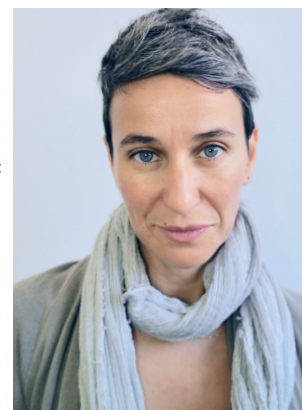


# Student Achievements: February & March



**Brie Scolaro** was invited to speak on a panel at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health on ADHD for Disability Awareness Month, along with other CUNY scholars and experts, on April 10th from 12 pm - 1 pm. The event will be hybrid. [Register here.](#)

**Cara Silva** presented “Regulating hunger: The historical interplay of US food access and social work” at the Food History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research of the School of Advanced Study, University of London.



**Ashleigh Washington** was accepted to the Intersectional Qualitative Research Institute for Advanced Doctoral Students (IQRMI-ADS) at The University of Texas.

Ashleigh’s abstract was accepted for the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Congress in Sweden. She will present on her research, “Calculated risks: Do algorithms expand or diminish power among families of color?”

**Ian Williams** was accepted into the EMES International Research Network's Summer Training School, "Developing transdisciplinary research capacities to advance the Social Enterprise field in the face of multidimensional crises," University of Trento, Italy.

Williams, I. (2024). On tools and ploughshares: A review of “Chapter 7: Power” in Kate Crawford’s “Atlas of AI: Power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence”. [HASTAC Scholars Collaborative Book Review.](#)

Williams, I., O'Hana, S., Rivera Alfaro, S., & Krisel, R. (2024). "Human sides of open data: Bridging digital humanities and public interest tech". NYC School of Data 2024. CUNY School of Law.

Williams, I. Chen, K., & Mandiberg, M. (2024). "Governing the planetary commons on and off-chain: Elinor Ostrom's principles applied to climate-focused DAOs". Cutting-Edge and Age-Old: Commons Governance Design and Web3. Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop - Commons, Polycentricity, & Democracy: Building upon 50 years of Ostrom Governance Research. University of Indiana - Bloomington.



## Dr. William C. Bell (Class of 2010) To Receive President’s Alumni Medal



The CUNY Graduate Center will award its President's Distinguished Alumni Medal to **Dr. William C. Bell** (Ph.D. '10, [Social Welfare](#)), President and Chief Executive Officer of Casey Family Programs and a leader in the human services field, at its [58th Commencement](#) on June 7, 2024.

Read more about the announcement [here.](#)



# Updates from Mikayla Hubert, MSW Student Intern

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GC Room 6304.25

Monday, Tuesday, and Friday

## The Mission and Vision Task Force Progress Report



Assemble student task force to determine project timeline.



Gather community insights via focus groups and interviews.



Analyze qualitative data to uncover themes.



Author draft of program mission statement based on community insights.

So far, community participation has included...

6

ALUMNI

21

CURRENT STUDENTS

2

FACULTY



## Quant Corner

Becca Cadoff

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The Quant resources website has been integrated into the PhD Program in Social Welfare's CUNY Academic Commons. I'll be posting weekly resources on Tuesdays, so check it often.



<https://socialwelfare.commonsgc.cuny.edu/quant-resources/>



## The Virtual Town Square

Ian Williams

Social Media Fellow

iwilliams1@gradcenter.cuny.edu

It's been a busy and exciting semester. We are moving forward with having space for Social Welfare. The Spring Symposium was a resounding success, in large part due to the efforts of Mikayla, and funding we received through a grant from the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DGSC). Which reminds me, elections are open through May 1st, so please take a few minutes and vote!

Have you checked out HASTAC website recently? This year's HASTAC Scholars activity has been rather fruitful. I sat down to think through some questions about my scholarly journey and involvement with the PhD program.

Check it out below, and drop me a line if anything speaks to you:

<https://publishing-archives.hastac.hcommons.org/2024/02/21/scholar-spotlight-ian-g-williams/>





**Sabretta Alford**

PHD PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WELFARE

# SPRING SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 25, 2024

Photography by Melissa Minnich



**Ian G. Williams**

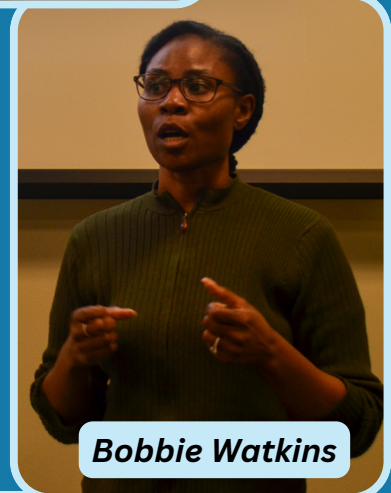


**Samantha Norris**



**Ian G. Williams**

**Jamie Borgan**



**Bobbie Watkins**



**Ryan Savino**



**Carla Silva**



**diana ballasteros**

**Responsibilities**

- Independent Living Plan\*
- Applying for employment/safety net assistance\*
- Refraining dangerous acts
- Possession, sales or use of alcohol or drugs, weapons, contraband
- Arrest for criminal activity\*

**Possibility Meditation**  
Alexis Jemal

toward the questions we ask,  
the relationships we cultivate,  
and the conversations we have,  
into awareness, we develop  
manifest the solutions we imagine,  
and worlds when given the time, opportunity  
ring our whole, divinely created selves on the  
they of possibility.

ing with Spiritual Work Practice"



# Student Spotlight: Ashleigh Washington

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

*The PhD is my way of honoring practice-based evidence, the learning I acquired from working with women of color throughout my social work career. After 15 years in the field, I felt a sense of responsibility to amplify knowledge from voices that are often missing from research and evidence-based practices. Beyond that I love education and I wanted to pursue this field and learn at the highest level.*

## What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why?

*I have so many favorites, but there are three that really shaped my research. Dr. Warde's policy course was the most pivotal for my research identity and focus. Dr. Mandiberg's theory course helped me to re-imagine my research approach and gave me the confidence to do something different. Lastly, Dr. Bianca Williams' Black Feminist Praxis course helped to refine my research identity and (re)introduced me to so many revolutionary thinkers.*



## What do you want to do after you graduate?

*Dance, celebrate, rest, and turn my research into a book. I also see myself continuing to teach in community-based and public settings.*

## What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY?

*Currently I am focused on my dissertation, but from 2020-2023 I taught Human Behavior in the Social Environment as an adjunct lecturer.*

## What's something that people would be surprised to know about you?

*I love dance. In another life it would be my profession.*

## What is the focus of your research?

*My research focuses on the use of predictive risk models in the child welfare system and the racialized surveillance of families of color.*

## What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to?

*I am always watching Abbott Elementary and listening to soca. I am currently reading Except for Palestine by Marc Lamont Hill.*

## What's something we should ask you? What's your answer?

*What are some of your recent accomplishments? I was recently awarded the Graduate Center 25th Anniversary Fund Dissertation Fellowship, a Doctoral Student Research Grant, and a grant from the Future's Initiative at CUNY.*

*I am recruiting participants for my dissertation. I am looking for Black parents who have experienced child welfare intervention in NYC any time after 2017. You can see the flyer [here](#) that you can post on social media or email within your networks. I would appreciate it!*