IN THE LOOP

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

The Office of Career Planning & Professional Development

The Graduate Center’s Office of Career Planning & Professional Development provides career advisement that can help you:

- Develop a career planning strategy
- Take career assessments
- Edit your job documents (e.g., CVs, resumes, cover letters)
- Prepare for job interviews
- Troubleshoot individual concerns

The services to GC students involve:

- Talking to a career advisor through individual appointments or the virtual walk-in meetings
- Access to professional development webinars
- Access to the podcast, Alumni Aloud

Individual appointments can be made through GC Connect or by emailing careerplan@gc.cuny.edu.

Virtual walk-in meetings are held via Zoom on:

- Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm, with Don Goldstein
- Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm, with Emily Seamone

FEATURING:

- The Office of Career Planning & Professional Development
- Mental Health during Difficult Times
- Student Achievements
- Important Events & Deadlines
- Students who Successfully Defended their Dissertations
- Student Spotlight

"Tend to Your Spirit, Body, and Mind": Ways we Students Can Keep Well in Difficult Times

PhD in Social Welfare candidate and Wellness Center Clinical Fellow Yasmine J. Awais shares four tips for managing stress and staying productive amid the pressures of grad school plus war abroad and a lingering pandemic. View Article Here
Student Achievements: February & March

**Adashima Oyo**, has been invited to give a talk at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). Adashima will draw on her dissertation research and discuss how schools of public health can support goals of health equity and workforce diversity by examining their recruitment and admission practices for Black and Latinx applicants.

**Katrina Hannan** had her co-authored paper (with Barbra Teater), "Social workers' use of theories and methods in practice: Identifying what informs social work practice in New York City" accepted for publication in the Journal of Social Work Education.

**Ian Williams** was invited to write a guest post, "Language, meaning-making, and wrangling text as data: A social worker’s perspective" for the GC Digital Fellows blog, Tagging the Tower, about his participation in the GC Digital Research Institute.

**Tiffany Younger** is one of over 40 Black women who contributed to two vital new policy resources: a congressional report titled An Economy for All: Building a Black Women Best Legislative Agenda, and the accompanying Black Women Best Seal of Approval Scorecard (found on p. 108 of the report; an infographic will be available soon).

**Dennis Torres** had his paper, "Religion and activism in LGBTQ+ elders of color" published in the Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships, 8(3), 47-68.

**Kerry Deas** and **Ruben Mina** had their paper, "Training human service professionals: Using intersectionality as a strategy for eliminating anti-black racism" accepted for publication in the Journal of Teaching in Social Work.

**Ariunsanaa Bagaajav**

**PhD Candidate**

Recipient of the International Fellowship of the American Association of University Women

Ariunsanaa is a sixth-year social welfare doctoral student working on her dissertation titled "Recognizing elder abuse in Mongolia: Experiences of Family Physicians". She is also an adjunct lecturer at York College, CUNY. Before joining the doctoral program, she was a full-time faculty member at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences.

International Fellowship of AAUW provides support for women pursuing full time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States to women who are not U.S citizens or permanent residents, and who intend to return to their home country to pursue a professional career.

Interested in applying? See: **AAUW**
Upcoming Events & Workshops

**Library Workshops:**
- 4/4 (1 -2pm) "Copyright & Fair Use for Nonfiction Authors" ([Registration](#))
- 4/4; 4/11; 4/18; 4/25; 5/2; 5/9 (1 - 2pm) "Zotero Drop-In Help" ([Registration](#))
- 4/5; 4/12; 4/19; 4/26 (1 - 3pm) "Dissertation Office Drop-In Hours" ([Registration](#))
- 4/12 (2 - 3pm) "Data Management Drop-In" ([Registration](#))
- 4/13 (1 - 2pm) "Grants & Funding" ([Registration](#))
- 4/18 (11am - 12pm) "Evaluating Journal and Avoiding Predatory Publishers" ([Registration](#))

**The Wellness Center Workshops & Groups:**
- Mondays (11:00am - 12:15pm) "First-Generation Graduate Student Group"
- Mondays (1:45 - 3:00pm) "Graduate Parent Academic Support Space"
- Monday afternoons "Grief Support Group"
- Tuesday afternoons "Asian Graduate Student Academic Support Group"
- Wednesdays (3:15 - 4:45pm) "Awareness of Self & Others: An Interpersonal Process Group"
- Monday or Wednesday afternoons "Academic Support Group for Black-Identified Students"
- (*Email wellness@gc.cuny.edu to register for a group)

**Meet the Professor Series:**
- 4/13 (6:30 - 7:30pm) Come have an informal conversation with [Dr. Mayra Lopez-Humphreys](#) (Zoom: ID: 882 2508 6126; PW: Professor; [Link](#))
- 5/12 (6:30 - 7:30pm) Come have an information conversation with [Dr. Vicki Lens](#) (Zoom: ID: 865 7417 6042; PW: Professor; [Link](#))

**Lunch & Learn:**
- 5/19 (12 - 1pm): CVs, resumes, and cover letters (Presented by The Office of Career Planning and Professional Development. Watch out for further details and the Zoom link)

Congratulations on the Successful Defense & Deposit of Your Dissertation!

"Strategies Anti-Racist Supervisors use to Disrupt Racism in Social Work Practice"
- **Sarah Bussey**

"Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome and Promotion of Maternal Caregiving: Missing Voices of Mothers in Medication Assisted Treatment."
- **Hedi Levine**

*Photo taken by Beth Latimer*
Student Spotlight: Dennis Torres

Let's Have a Conversation with Dennis!

Why did you apply to the PhD in Social Welfare? - After working within the veteran's community for several years, I witnessed the effects of historical, social injustices experienced by vulnerable populations. I wholeheartedly believe that research and practice may address social injustices experienced by military veterans and their families. Therefore, I chose the Ph.D. in Social Welfare program due to its passionate dedication to social justice and progressive change.

What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why? - The courses that I've taken so far have been great! Taking elective courses has helped me expand my understanding of other academic disciplines and the importance of inter-disciplinary collaboration. Professor Vicki Lens taught the course that stands out in my mind. She instructed the second-year Qualitative Research Methods course, which helped me see how a qualitative approach can open up new insights into social welfare. Her passion for this subject showed through every discussion we had together!

What do you want to do after you graduate? - I want to continue working within the military veteran community while enhancing the well-being of student veterans within the CUNY system. I would also like to utilize intersectionality to create a course that accurately depicts the veteran experience to break down the binary of all veterans being either "Captain America" or the "Damaged w/ PTSD."

What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY? - I am currently an Associate Director overseeing the Office of Veterans Support Services at CUNY's - Queens College (QC) campus. Our mission is to assist military personnel, student veterans, and their family members in pursuing their academic degrees at QC. I've served on the following institutional committees - QC's -Strategic Plans; 2015-2020 & 2021-2026; Middle States Accreditation 2017; Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee -Trainer 2016-2018; Professional Staff Congress – Higher Education Officer screening committee -current.

What's something that people would be surprised to know about you? - I have nine nieces and nephews and just had my first child. My daughter was born on February 9, 2022, making her the tenth grandchild within our family. Stevie was born at 10:10 PM in birthing room #10 at Lenox Hill Hospital, Manhattan. I think that it's safe to say that #10 should be her lucky number.

What is the focus of your research? - Veterans within higher education; exploring policies that have systemically limited equitable access to higher education amongst vulnerable populations. Findings may inform the development of veteran cultural competencies among social work educators and administrators within higher education.

What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to? - I'm reading "This Idea Must Die: Scientific Theories That Are Blocking Progress" by John Brockman, a series of essays from scholars across academic disciplines. The pieces range in length from a single paragraph to several pages and cover a broad range of topics within the medical and social sciences. I am currently listening to Latin reggaeton artist Bad Bunny - prepping myself for his world tour concert at the Barclays Center.

What’s something we should ask you? What’s your answer? - Are you published? This winter, I published my first ever journal article within the Journal of Black sexuality and relationships, “Religion & Activism in LGBTQ+ Elders of Color.” A proud moment in what will surely be an exciting academic journey.