IN THE LOOP

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

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You're Nearly There...Reflect & Self-Care

We are three weeks away from the end of the Fall 2022 semester and I want to congratulate you all on successfully navigating and completing the semester - whether this is your first semester or you have many under your belt! Wow...what an accomplishment. I also want to acknowledge the milestones some of you have achieved, such as passing exams, defending your proposals, or depositing dissertations. Despite your tenure and experience on the PhD program, we all need to take a step back and pause to reflect on our journey - where we began, where we are, and where we are going up ahead. Take time to reflect on your journey, your personal and professional accomplishments, your values, purpose, and "why", your team that support and hold you, and then plan on how you will engage in self-care to restore yourself over the winter break. You are worth it. - Barbra

The mission of the Doctoral Student Research Grant Program is to foster a research-oriented academic culture among Ph.D. students by:
(a) providing incentives for students to model and meet, early in their careers, the requirements for succeeding in the competition for funds by clearly defining a problem, a project, and a realistic budget; (b) providing an occasion for faculty-student mentoring relationships that are oriented around the concrete problems of proposing, planning for, and executing research; and (c) furthering student professional progress by providing funds for pre-doctoral research publications, presentations, and professional networking. Applicants may submit a budget between $250 and $1,500. If you are a second through sixth year student, you are eligible to apply! For more information about the grant, check out the DSRG guidelines here. The deadline to apply for the DSRG is January 31, 2023!

FEATURING:

- Student Funding Opportunities
- Student Achievements
- Save the Date for a Program Townhall
- Social Media Updates
- Presenting at CSWE’s APM
- Student Spotlight

Social Work Education: The International Journal is pleased to offer grants for PhD students who have had an abstract accepted by a recognised social work conference. The abstract can be based upon a completed or partially completed PhD and is open to both full and part time students. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and the limit of each award will be £750. More information here.

International Journal award for PhD research dissemination
Social Work Education
The 100HWGF is open to Latina students that demonstrate leadership qualities, active participation in public/community service, and commitment to the mission of 100 Hispanic Women Inc. Receiving the award requires a commitment to participate in two annual workshops and the award ceremony. Recipients obtain up to $2,500 per academic year and gain access to a network of fellow Latinas engaged in a variety of sectors. The deadline to apply for the upcoming fellowship opportunity is January 13, 2023. Interested in applying? Go to https://100hispanicwomen.org/

Yaneth Lombana, MPhil, LCSW, PhD Candidate
Recipient of the 100 Hispanic Women Graduate Fellowship Program (100HWGF) for 2019 – 2021

Yaneth is a trauma-focused psychotherapist who has been providing culturally responsive services in Spanish to crime victims for over five years at Safe Horizon. She currently has a private practice where in addition to providing therapy to children and adults, she offers supervision to therapists, and training for organizations looking to provide services to the Latinx community.

Save the Date
PhD in Social Welfare Community Town Hall
Thursday, December 15th, from 5:30 - 6:15pm
Let's discuss the recent external review of our program, recent developments within the PhD program, and developments and current issues within the Graduate Center.

What does this all mean for us?
Zoom: 879 6733 0022; 121522
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87967330022?pwd=dElzWWFKVDZCEN0O0dLdC9jQWFZUT09
One tap mobile +16469313860,,87967330022#,,,,*121522# US


Becca Cadoff (with John Jay co-authors Chris Thomas, Kevin Wolff, and Preeti Chauhan) published "How do the consequences of pretrial detention on guilty pleas and carceral sentences vary between misdemeanor and felony cases?" in the Journal of Criminal Justice.
Our digital presence is not just about marketing our program - it's about cultivating online communities. To answer the above questions, we've worked on developing a digital content strategy, brainstorming campaigns, creating social media accounts, connecting with associated institutions and individual users, and generating content for our program. This coincides with our program's 10-year external review, where we took a deep dive to clarify our program's mission, purpose, vision, values, and priorities among contemporary issues. One of those priorities is digitalization, a process already underway, and one we want to move forward with consciously and with clear intent. We are transforming.

This Fall, we focused on some nuts and bolts of establishing a digital presence: creating accounts on multiple platforms, advertising our program's information sessions for potential applicants, promoting events and opportunities at The Graduate Center, sharing research activities of faculty and staff, and fundraising for a Giving Tuesday/#CUNYTuesday campaign for scholarships to help PhD Candidates in our program defray tuition costs.

In the Spring semester, we will launch a CUNY Academic Commons page for the program. We plan to promote more student content, connect with more alumni, and involve you in generating content about your amazing work. We also want to offer opportunities to help you develop your digital presence, connect with other scholars, and share your own expertise in this domain.

What do you want to see? Have an idea for some content or a story? Email us your questions and ideas at gcsocialwelfare@gmail.com

Social Work & Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generated Art

Since our last newsletter, AI-generated art continued to take #SocialWorkTwitter by storm (or at least, the #SWTech community). It's shown up in other spaces, too. One example is the Fall class for Interactive Technology & Pedagogy I, which several of our Social Welfare peers are in. Inspired by Donna Haraway's classic feminist text, "A Cyborg Manifesto", we made images that are now hosted on Wikimedia Commons.

This December, a group of social work academics is experimenting with daily Twitter threads based on social work themes, using the hashtag #SocialWorkAIArt. Each day, the host will pick a theme, generate imagery, and start a thread for sharing images on Twitter. Our Program Social Media fellow, Ian Williams, is hosting Wednesdays on his account @igraywill. See more about it here. Check it out, follow, and join if you want to.

Samples images: Ian wrote text prompts based on social work themes selected by other hosts, then fed them into DALL-E 2 and Stable Diffusion 2.
"The world of social work is quite large. Social work beyond New York City looks quite different. I've enjoyed listening to the many different topics outside of my 'bubble' and making many new and meaningful connections with people within my 'bubble.' I now have new friends in the IDD world who live in Michigan, Idaho, Alabama, and Kentucky! Who knew?? It was such a wonderful experience!" - Sabretta Alford, 3rd year PhD Student

Watch Sabretta's Presentation here

"I attended the 68th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in Anaheim, CA, from Nov. 10 to Nov. 13, 2022. This year’s theme was Leading Critical Conversations: Human Rights are Global Rights. As a first-year doctoral student, it was my first time attending the CSWE conference. My session topic was ‘Understanding Korean Americans’ Mental Health.’ The conference was a great place to meet outstanding and passionate scholars and educators, build a network with them, and learn about research trends and current issues in the social work field. E-poster sessions were an engaging and interactive learning experience for me, as I was able to directly ask the presenters questions. This experience has certainly helped me in preparing for an independent research career. I want to thank Dr. Teater and the Social Welfare Program of the Graduate Center for their financial support and encouragement.” - Haein Son, 1st year PhD Student

"CSWE’s APM was full of contradictions. First, it was exciting to have a proposal accepted as a first-year PhD student, and disheartening to have been scheduled at the very last session of the conference when most attendees were gone and exhibitors packing up. The experience was a lesson in perseverance, humility and resolve. I engaged any and every person that walked past my poster stand. Most, like my research revealed, had limited understanding of food justice beyond addressing acute hunger (food insecurity). I am grateful for the few people that I was able to connect with and practice my talk. Second, it was incredible to meet many PhD candidates and recent graduates from across the country eager to embark on their new academic chapters full of energy and emergent research. However, it was distressing to learn about their experiences on the market and institutions’ hiring practices. Third, there was astonishing indulgence at nightly institution-sponsored events that were imperative networking opportunities, especially for the community members on the market, countered by the collective acknowledgement that social work/welfare programs are under-funded, faculty inadequately compensated, and students accumulating tremendous debt. Lastly, social work is a profession rooted in social justice. This tenet calls many of us to the field as change agents, tirelessly working for justice and equity. Yet this year’s conference was a space that included sexual harassment and exclusionary practices, and the subsequent failure to address harms (to learn more and sign the collective statement demanding accountability, visit: http://tinyurl.com/SWAactsAPM). Overall, I am appreciative to have attended. The experience was enlightening and afforded me critical insights for my own professional trajectory". - Carla Silva, 2nd year, PhD Student
Student Spotlight:
Keri Mabry

Why did you apply to the Ph.D. in Social Welfare? As an MSW student at Silberman, I was fortunate enough to take a class with Dr. Amy Castro Baker, who encouraged me to consider a PhD. A few years later, one of my good friends, Emily (now Dr. Emily Campbell!!), was in the sociology PhD program at the Graduate Center and suggested that I consider the social welfare program. I had a wonderful experience at CUNY, so I only applied to the Graduate Center. I knew it was the only place I wanted to continue my education.

What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why? My favorite course was probably Urban Poverty and the City with Dr. Van Tran because he’s such an engaging and passionate professor. I would gladly listen to him talk about almost anything. I also really enjoyed Capitalism and Crisis with Dr. Roslyn Bologh, in part because it was the first time I read Marx at length, which filled a large gap in my knowledge. I can’t believe I waited so long to dive into Marx’s work, but I’m grateful to have had Dr. Bologh as a guide.

What do you want to do after you graduate? I’ve loved my experiences teaching at CUNY, so I would like to pursue becoming a professor and continue working with students.

What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY? I taught at the Silberman School of Social Work and am in my third year of teaching at Lehman College.

What’s something that people would be surprised to know about you? When I’m not working on academic writing, I’m doing creative writing. I was the editor-in-chief of a humor publication in college and studied sketch writing at the Upright Citizens Brigade. I’m a comedy super nerd and it makes me happy to create things that make people laugh.

What is the focus of your research? My research focuses on managerialism in legal services and attorneys’ perceptions of their workplace experiences. In particular, I’m eager to discover what draws attorneys to public interest organizations and how the reality of the job aligns with their expectations.

What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to? I recently finished My Heart is a Chainsaw by Stephen Graham Jones and I’d recommend it to any horror film fan. It’s bursting with references and quotes that make for fun Easter eggs, and it strikes a great balance between horror and humor.

What’s something we should ask you? I don’t know exactly how the question would be phrased, but I lived in Arizona as a kid and I saw the Phoenix Lights (for anyone curious about UAPs, look it up!). I’m a big skeptic, but I like to think the experience fueled a thirst for knowledge and discovery that led me to where I am today.