

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 ELECTIONS

Welcome to the 2020 SSWR Board of Directors Elections.

The SSWR 2020 Board of Directors elections is now open. This year, there are open positions for one (1) President-Elect, (1) Vice President-Elect, and two (2) Directors-at-Large.

Nominees for this year's elections are:

President-Elect:	Laura S. Abrams, PhD, MSW, University of California, Los Angeles Sean Joe, PhD, MSW, Washington University in St. Louis
Vice President-Elect:	Mary E. Collins, A.M., PhD, Boston University Jeremy T. Goldbach, PhD, LMSW, University of Southern California
Director-at-Large:	Suzanne Brown, PhD, MSW, Wayne State University Gina E. Miranda Samuels, PhD, MSSW, University of Chicago Katherine E. Sanchez, PhD, LCSW, University of Texas at Arlington Linda S. Sprague Martinez, PhD, MA, Boston University

Each nominee has supplied a biographical sketch and vision statement which we encourage you to read carefully before you cast your vote.

The Proxy election site is open now and closes on December 21, 2020, at 11:59, PM EST.

If you have any questions or problems while casting your proxy electronically, please use the help form on the login page to send a support request directly to SSWR (lewis@sswr.org).

Thank you for your participation!

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Descriptions of Open Board Positions (terms start February 1, 2021)

President-Elect (four-year term including one year as President-Elect, two years as President, and one year as Immediate Past President)

The President-Elect is expected to be a leader in the profession. The President serves on the conference planning committee and the executive committee. The President-Elect shall fulfill the duties of the President in case of the President's absence, incapacity, or resignation. On occasion, the President-Elect may be asked by the President to represent SSWR at national meetings.

The President is responsible for all aspects of leadership of the Society, serves on committees of the Board as specified in the Bylaws, chairs the executive committee, oversees the selection of the winner of the SSWR Distinguished Career Achievement Award, works closely with the program chair and the conference program planning committee and makes a report to the membership each year as to the state of the Society and its likely future direction. The President arranges for the SSWR Presidential Plenary at the annual conference, represents the Society with federal and other agencies, and (as prescribed by the SSWR By-Laws) appoints board directors-at-large to their respective responsibilities on committees and task forces. As necessary, the President chooses future sites for the annual conference in consultation with the Board and works toward contracting these sites. The Immediate Past-President serves as a full, voting member of the Board and advises it on all matters of concern to the Society.

Vice President-Elect (Three-year term in total: February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2024)

The Vice President-Elect shall serve a one-year term as Vice President-Elect. The Vice President-Elect shall assist the Vice President in the Vice President's role as chair of the Conference Committee. Immediately following the Vice President-Elect's term, the Vice President-Elect shall ascend to the office of Vice President.

The Vice President-Elect serves as a member of the program committee, plans and coordinates the pre-conference methodology workshops, and provides direct support to the Vice President in planning the annual conference. The Vice President-Elect serves on the executive committee. The Vice President-Elect becomes the Vice President in the second year of their term. The Vice President chairs the conference program planning committee, which plans and coordinates the annual conference program. The Vice President becomes the Past Vice President in the third year, serving as a member of the conference program planning committee. During periods when there is no President-Elect, the Vice-President shall serve as President in the event of the President's resignation, lengthy absence, or incapacity. The Vice President serves on the executive committee.

Director-at-Large (Three-year term: February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2024)

A Director-at-Large may be asked to serve in the following capacities, i.e., chair or co-chair of the following committees: nominations and elections committee; awards committee; committee on publications; communications committee, funding development committee, membership committee, social policy committee; research capacity development committee; volunteer coordinator for the annual conference; and members of ad hoc committees and task forces which support the work of the Society's Strategic Plan. Nominees should be prepared to take on one or more of these roles if asked by the President.

In addition to the above tasks, Board members are expected to be available for Board meetings before and during the annual conference, a two-day, meeting in the spring, and monthly conference calls throughout the year.

Qualifications sought in Board nominees include:

- Leadership;
- Support for and commitment to SSWR and its mission;
- Experience and stature as a researcher;
- Communication skills;
- Availability and ability to fulfill commitments as a Board member.

The Nominees – Photos, Biographies, and Vision Statements

President-Elect Nominee – Laura S. Abrams, PhD, MSW



Laura S. Abrams, PhD, MSW
University of California, Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs

Laura S. Abrams earned her MSW and PhD from the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare. She is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Welfare at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Professor Abrams' scholarship centers on improving the well-being of youth and young adults with histories of incarceration. Using primarily qualitative methods, her research has examined young people's development in the context of the juvenile justice system, the construction of identities in residential correctional institutions, and the experience of community reentry alongside the transition to adulthood. Dr. Abrams has also written extensively about domestic and global youth justice policies such as the minimum age of juvenile justice jurisdiction, fair sentencing for juvenile "lifers", and decarceration for commercially and sexually exploited youth. Her research in the state of California contributed to a landmark 2018 law barring youth under age 12 from juvenile justice jurisdiction.

Professor Abrams is the author of two books: *Compassionate Confinement: A Year in the Life of Unit C* (2013) and *Everyday Desistance: The Transition to Adulthood Among Formerly Incarcerated Youth* (2017); two edited volumes: *The Voluntary Sector in Prisons* (Palgrave, 2016) and *The International Handbook of Youth Imprisonment* (Palgrave, forthcoming); and over 80 peer-reviewed articles. Her opinions have been cited in a range of news media including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *National Public Radio*. She has received numerous scholarly awards, including the SSWR best scholarly book award (2020) and the Frank R. Bruel prize for the best-published article in *Social Service Review* (2013).

Dr. Abrams is a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW). From 2016-2019 she served on the board of directors of SSWR and from 2013-2016 was the Vice-President of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE). She serves on the editorial boards of *Social Service Review* and *Qualitative Social Work* and is an Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Social Welfare*. She is an active member of NADD, CSWE, the St. Louis Group, and the Grand Challenge Network to Eliminate Racism.

Vision Statement

As a dedicated SSWR member, fellow, and former Board Member-at-Large, I am honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect. SSWR's position as the premiere social work research organization situates us for strong national and global impact in the coming years. Social work science is unique in that the evidence we bring to bear on social issues is grounded in the voices and communities of those who are most affected by social inequities. Recognizing the deep racial disparities that permeate our major social institutions (e.g., healthcare, criminal justice, education, child welfare), social work research must make a substantial investment in dismantling structural racism- our 13th grand challenge. SSWR can serve as a hub for anti-racism research, providing a bridge between related academic societies, allied social work organizations, policy makers, and practitioners. Now is the time for us to meet this challenge head-on.

As an organization, our support for doctoral students, junior faculty, first-generation scholars, and scholars from underrepresented groups must be unwavering. As President-Elect, I will work to expand successful SSWR initiatives that

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connect new scholars with mentors and provide a platform for doctoral student networking. This is especially important given limited opportunities for in-person convening in the coming months and the need for creative ways to maintain our special interest groups and opportunities for connection.

As President-Elect, I will seek to fortify our social justice research mission and our visibility with funders and with community-driven movements and organizations. We have many exciting opportunities ahead and I believe we can drive forward our mission of research dissemination in the pursuit of a just society while we honor the diversity of methodologies and epistemologies among our membership. I look forward to leading SSWR as we enter a new wave of knowledge production and public impact scholarship.

President-Elect Nominee – Sean Joe, PhD, MSW



Sean Joe, PhD, MSW

Washington University in St. Louis, George Warren Brown School of Social Work

Dr. Sean Joe is the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at the Washington University in Saint Louis. He is Principal Director of the Race and Opportunity Lab. Dr. Joe's research which has been supported by NIH, William T. Grant Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as well as other government and foundation sources, focuses on suicidal behavior among blacks, family-based interventions to prevent urban black adolescent males from engaging in multiple forms of self-destructive behaviors (e.g., suicidal behavior, HIV risk), and place-based community science interventions to support black male upward mobility. He has published extensively in the areas of ethnicity and suicide, firearm-related violence, and mental health services.

Dr. Joe has significant administrative and executive leadership experience as an Associate Dean and through his membership on multiple Boards of Directors for national and local non-profit organizations, several with annual budgets over \$17 million. He has also served as program chair for the American Association of Suicidology 41st Annual Conference. With a strong, early commitment to SSWR beginning in 1995, Dr. Joe has held roles as a doctoral student leader, conference abstract reviewer, and reviewer for the excellence in research, dissertation, and Aaron Rosen awards. He was an Associate Editor for JSSWR and other social work journals, and his service and leadership have been recognized when inducted into the inaugural class of SSWR Fellows in 2014. He was the 2nd recipient of SSWR's Deborah K. Pageant Award for early career achievement. He has more than 25 years of membership and service to SSWR. As both student and faculty leader, Dr. Joe has been a staunch leader for advancing equity in the social work science and diversity of the scientific workforce. Towards these goals, he founded and directed for 16 years, the Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network, a national interdisciplinary and multi-ethnic professional development network for early-career social and behavior scientists.

Dr. Joe is a recognized national social work leader as exhibited by his 2018 induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, and experience as a member of SSWR board of directors from 2013-2016, chairing the Membership and National Research Capacity Committees. During this tenure on the SSWR board, he conceived and led the creation of the SSWR Social Policy Committee and with colleagues launched the SSWR Annual Policy Forum and Social Policy Award in 2016.

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Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect of SSWR. The grand challenges of our nation are compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and a rise in overt displays of systemic-racism. Now more than ever, there remains a place in our local and national dialogue for the moral courage and excellence of social work science. If selected to serve as President-elect, I stand ready to continue the remarkable progress of the SSWR board outlined in the strategic plan.

However, I will center my leadership to advance with colleagues, SSWR's critical voice, and influence by first, advancing opportunities for SSWR members as thought leaders offering transformative models for systems change and social policies at the national and local levels. Using our Policy Forum to fostering our relationships with think tanks (e.g., Brookings Institute), government agencies, and non-profit foundations (e.g., Sage, Ford, Kellogg, RWJF) for the purpose advancing our science and its impact. Given that today's political climate undoubtedly calls for courageous leadership to critically extend the reach of social work science to inform national debates about equity and future of the nation, I seek to strengthen SSWR's ability to influence local, state, and federal legislative decisions regarding matters of equity. Specifically, this vision requires that SSWR earn the reputation among community and legislative leaders as a reputable source of information, which means providing SSWR members with the training and resources for effectively communicating our impactful science to agency, community, and legislative leaders.

My presidency will also focus on what can be done to strengthen and sustain the community impact of the transdisciplinary scholarship prepared by faculty and service completed by students at Schools of Social Work across the country. SSWR members include hundreds of faculties in well over 250 social work schools and programs that annually release an outstanding army of about 60,000 students in field placement advantageously located in every state in our nation. In sum, SSWR is primed to build on our natural resources (faculty & students) to be an effective incubator of social innovations and policy solutions to complex problems at the local and state level. I will work with SSWR members and the board on how to feasibly leverage our critical human capital in support of progressive community impact.

I believe my current and prior leadership experiences, scholarship record, as well as my enduring commitment to equity and social justice well, positions me to lead the Society for Social Work Research to implement this vision by fully engaging our members, staff, board of directors, and working with representatives of government and other professional academic associations (e.g., AASSW, CSWE, NASW, APHA).

Thank you in advance for considering me for this important position of SSWR President-Elect.

Vice President-Elect Nominee – Mary E. Collins, A.M., PhD



Mary E. Collins, A.M., PhD
Boston University, School of Social Work

Mary Elizabeth Collins is Professor and Department Chair of Social Welfare Policy at Boston University School of Social Work where she has been a faculty member since 1997 and held several administrative positions: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (2014-2018), Director of the Dual-Degree Program with Theology (2016-2018), and Director of the Ph.D. Program (2003 to 2009).

Dr. Collins is an internationally recognized expert on youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Her research program focuses on vulnerable young people, the systemic inequities they face, and the policy and program support that

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can facilitate a positive life trajectory. Currently, she is researching the employment and training systems available to vulnerable youth including the opportunities for young people to have voice in policy decisions. Throughout her research career, she has mentored numerous early and mid-career scholars, PhD and MSW students from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Collins is the author of *Macro Perspectives on Youth Aging out of Foster Care* and over 80 published articles and chapters. Additionally, she engages in occasional and strategic public scholarship in relevant media regarding needed improvements in child welfare, promoting more compassionate public policy, and most recently, policy support for vulnerable populations in the context of COVID-19. Dr. Collins has been Principal Investigator of studies funded by government agencies, private foundations, and other entities. In 2011-2012 she was a Fulbright Scholar in Vietnam. She has also been a visiting scholar in Northern Ireland, Switzerland, and Ethiopia, and has continuing collaborations with scholars in these countries.

Within SSWR, she is currently Co-Chair of the Cluster on Work, Family, and Family Policy and has routinely been an abstract reviewer for the annual conference. She served CSWE as a member of the Council on Leadership Development (2016-2019) and the Commission on Global Education (2012-2015) and GADE as a steering committee member (2006-2010). She was also Chair of the Program Planning Sub-Committee for the 15th National Conference on Child Abuse/Neglect (2004-2005).

Dr. Collins received her A.M. and Ph.D. from University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and her B.A. from University of Illinois at Chicago.

Vision Statement

Thank you for the honor to run for the VP-elect position on the SSWR Board. I have been affiliated with SSWR for nearly two decades since I attended the 3rd annual conference in Austin in 1999. The organization, and particularly the annual conference, has been a part of my own development as a social work researcher. As SSWR has grown, I have benefited in many ways from the conference's visionary plenary sessions, methodology workshops, shared learning within specific sessions, and numerous networking opportunities.

I share SSWR's mission regarding the role of research to promote a more just and equitable society; I have conducted my own research with this goal. SSWR, with its orientation toward impactful research, is uniquely capable of advancing social justice through knowledge production, linkage of research to practice, dissemination of best policies and practices, and engagement of the next generation of social work scholars. Reflecting on the SSWR strategic plan my vision includes the following:

- (1) Enhancing the impact of social work research to achieve needed change toward racial and other forms of justice by, for example, expanding interdisciplinary linkages to a new range of partners; developing post-conference activities to facilitate dissemination of relevant research findings; and supporting efforts that examine best practices in utilization of social work research.
- (2) Expanding the range of conference opportunities to meet the needs of various groups. The COVID experience, and resulting shift toward the virtual world, offers a unique moment to learn potential new strategies for the conference -- and other training opportunities -- that may be more inclusive.
- (3) Strengthening support for mentoring of social work scholars at all levels and from diverse backgrounds, particularly those in mid-career.
- (4) Promoting research that links social justice with the wide range of rigorous research methods, specifying the role of structural forces in promoting or impeding social justice within practice and policy, and engaging the real-world organizational settings of social work practice in research.

I will aim to enact this vision in partnership with the SSWR Board and members while utilizing evaluation data from past conferences and initiatives to inform new efforts.

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Vice President-Elect Nominee – Jeremy T. Goldbach, PhD, LMSW



Jeremy T. Goldbach, PhD, LMSW
University of Southern California, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Jeremy Goldbach is an Associate Professor, Chair of the USC Social Behavioral IRB, and Director of the Center for LGBT Health Equity at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. Before leaving the real world for an academic career, Goldbach oversaw a large community-organizing project in Texas that funded 32 community coalitions to reduce substance use concerns through environmental, policy-based strategy.

Jeremy joined the faculty after completing both his master's and doctoral degrees in social work at The University of Texas at Austin. Relying upon theories of developmental psychopathology and minority stress, much of his work has focused on LGBT children and adolescents and funded by the NICHD, NIMHD (1R21HD082813; 1R01MD012252; 1R21MD013971; 1R21MD015945), and through Foundations. He has also successfully implemented this framework in studies of active duty LGBT service members (W81XWH-15-1-0699) and to understand HIV risk among African American and Latinx sexual and gender minority youth (2U01DA036926). Dr. Goldbach's perspective on stigma as fundamental to health across populations culminated in the paper, "The Grand Challenge of Reducing Inequality by Addressing Social Stigma" (Goldbach, Amaro, Vega, & Walter, 2016) which was chosen by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare as part of the Grand Challenges for Social Work (Achieve Equal Opportunity and Justice).

Jeremy has a strong commitment to school, university, and national service. In addition to serving on the Health Disparities and Equity Promotion (HDEP) scientific review panel of the NIH, he has also been actively involved in leadership for all three professional social work organizations, with Board membership for the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR; 2014-2017), as the Chair of the addictions track for The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE; 2014-2016), on the Council for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (CSOGIE; 2015-2018), and as a part of the NASW Committee on LGBT Issues (2014-2017). While on the SSWR Board, he focused heavily on early career advancement, where he 1) helped to formalize the volunteer coordination process and develop more leadership opportunities for students; 2) co-led an initiative to develop the annual diversity travel scholarship program we have today; 3) helped to coordinate the doctoral and post-doctoral programs; and 4) championed the policy to have a specific early career member-at-large- position on the SSWR board.

Vision Statement

In July of 2020, Lawrence Mead published an article in *Society*, "Poverty and Culture", advancing a racist framework that poverty is caused by a cultural lens held by minority communities. Some asked, how could this happen in 2020? However, given the ways that the academy has been used to advance the colonizing history of the U.S., I asked, are we really surprised?

Then, Ido Levy rightfully pondered in his article, "Eugenics and the Ethics of Statistical Analysis": "*while statistics has contributed to scientific advancements, the origins of this discipline are surprisingly dark. What is the place of ethics in statistical analysis?*"

It is with this lens that I seek to advance the SSWR vision to "...promote a diverse, just and equitable society". As Vice President, I will advance an agenda that both examines the impact of eugenics on our work (i.e., the use of statistics to

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perpetuate marginalization) and prioritizes work that seeks to interrupt these systems of oppression at the conference and beyond. My tenure as Vice President will be guided by two key questions:

1. **How is eugenics being reinforced in our studies and scientific training?** Social Work must lead in approaches to decolonize research and advancing novel and complex methods. For example, while we all now recognize that gender is a complex spectrum, we continue to teach gender as a binary variable in our first-semester statistics courses because it is “easy”. Similarly, while we can readily speak socially on the impact of racism on our study participants, we tend to favor studies that explore more simple measures of “poverty” or “education,” rather than more sophisticated methodologies that can better understand racism and how it effects outcomes across a spectrum of lived experiences. As VP, I will seek to promote scientific methods at our annual convening that disrupt the status quo and promote an anti-eugenics perspective.
2. **How can we disrupt the effects of eugenics in the academy itself?** Academic institutions reinforce eugenics through a historical and ongoing prioritization of studies that are built upon an inherently flawed framework. Building upon the success of my time as a Member at Large (2014-2017), I will seek to identify and implement tangible ways of disrupting a hierarchical system to better serve the future of our profession. This will include new opportunities for bringing underserved scholars to the conference, supporting career development for students and junior faculty, building a more resilient set of SSWR networks that can exist outside of the annual conference, and the inclusion of special sessions on complex methodologies that can cast a sharper focus on the ethical conduct of scientific inquiry.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Suzanne Brown, PhD, MSW



Suzanne Brown, PhD, MSW
Wayne State University, School of Social Work

Dr. Suzanne (Sue) Brown is an Associate Professor with tenure at Wayne State University’s School of Social Work in Detroit. She received her PhD in 2012 from Case Western Reserve’s Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and her MSW in 1994 from the Smith College School for Social Work. She is co-lead for the Grand Challenge to Eradicate Social Isolation and contributed to CSWE’s *Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice*.

Dr. Brown’s research focus is on women with substance use disorders (SUD) and trauma histories-specifically the role of social support and social networks in ameliorating parenting stress and trauma symptoms and enhancing quality of life for women with SUD. She is Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on two federally funded grants in the areas of SUD and trauma-informed integrated healthcare, and a consultant on multiple state-funded grants to evaluate substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. Dr. Brown actively engages in multidisciplinary collaborations with colleagues in Nursing, Psychology, Education, and Pharmacy. She has 38 peer-reviewed publications and 7 book chapters in the areas of SUD, trauma, social support, neurobiology of trauma, gay and lesbian families, and clinical practice.

Dr. Brown has more than 20 years of clinical practice experience and actively translates her research and practice experience to train students and practitioners. She has established relationships with state substance abuse treatment

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programs in the greater Detroit area and has offered workshops and training to practitioners on interventions for SUD, trauma-informed interventions, and attachment-based parenting interventions.

Dr. Brown became a SSWR member in 2009, during her doctoral education, and has presented at SSWR's annual conference yearly since then, including mentoring PhD students to present at SSWR. She has served as an abstract reviewer in the areas of substance misuse and mental health and as a reviewer for SSWR's Dissertation Fellowship award. Dr. Brown co-leads the Social Isolation SIG and is a member of the Maternal and Infant Mental Health SIG. She became a SSWR Fellow in 2019.

Vision Statement

I am honored and excited to be nominated for the position of Director at Large. SSWR has been a central part of my development as a social work researcher, scholar, and academic. Consistent with social work's social justice imperative, and in light of current and historic assaults on marginalized populations it becomes especially important that we elevate social work research to impact structural inequalities.

As Director at Large, I will work to strengthen our research capacity and the translation of that research into the larger social discourse. The areas that I am especially interested in are:

1. *Building social work research capacity:* Research capacity is enhanced by strong networks of both intra- and inter-disciplinary collaborators. I am committed to increasing member engagement throughout the year as well as during annual conferences. Through scheduled remote events and activities throughout the year, we can increase opportunities for members, and colleagues from other disciplines, to network, develop research agendas and develop strong research teams and collaborations with one another.
2. *Mentoring:* Mentoring is central to research success across the professional life-course. SSWR has built robust mentoring structures for doctoral students and early career scholars. I will support these endeavors while also building mentoring opportunities for mid-career scholars. My focus will be on enhancing mentoring skills for mid-career scholars and creating mentorship opportunities for mid-career scholars to help them balance the competing demands of mid-career service, research, and teaching/mentoring.
3. *Dissemination, Translation, and Impact:* Social Work research is vital for a just society. However, frequently our research is disseminated only to other scholars. I will work to expand SSWR's role as a conduit through which social work research is disseminated and translated to a larger audience of practitioners, policymakers, and those outside our professions to increase our societal impact. This will include increasing the use of social media and print platforms to disseminate research findings and increasing opportunities for SSWR members to gain knowledge of alternative methods for research dissemination and opportunities for public scholarship.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Gina E. Miranda Samuels, PhD, MSSW



Gina E. Miranda Samuels, PhD, MSSW
University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration

Gina E. Miranda Samuels joined the Faculty at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration (SSA) in 2002, where she currently serves as Associate Professor and Clinical Chair. She is also a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for

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the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. Across 25 years of social work practice instruction and research, Dr. Miranda Samuels has formally mentored over 40 doctoral students and teaches anti-oppressive social work practice, family systems theory, and critical interpretive research methods. Her prior social work practice spanned the areas of child welfare, juvenile probation, and Africentric models of community- and school-based social work.

Dr. Miranda Samuels' scholarship uses critical interpretive methods to explore belonging, identity, and kinship particularly among young people with histories of displacement through adoption, foster care, and home loss. This has led to the development of conceptual and empirical work grounded in emic perspectives on identity, "relational permanence," "survivalist self-reliance," intrafamilial racism, the ambiguous loss of home, and the meaning of family and a homeplace beyond physical, biological, or legal dimensions.

Dr. Samuels is regarded as a leading scholar particularly in aging out of foster care, transracial adoption, multiraciality, and relational approaches to practice. Her recently co-authored book (Jackson & Samuels, 2019) advances a cultural attunement model for practice with multiracial persons and families. It stands as the only book within our field to directly address white supremacy, monoracism, and racial essentialism targeting multiracial families and persons and is the only practice book which does so using an anti-racist social justice framework. Dr. Miranda Samuels is also a Co-PI on the national policy-research initiative *Voices of Youth Count*, and is lead-researcher of the component "Pathways through Housing Instability." This national qualitative study is the largest of its kind and uses critical and narrative life course methods to interview 215 young people about housing instability and the social ecologies that shape their experiences. This study formed the basis of congressional testimony for the reauthorization of federal policy guiding services to young people experiencing homelessness.

Vision Statement

As a career-long and committed SSWR member, I see this nomination as deepening my involvement and leadership in social work generally, and in social work scholarship specifically. The following draws upon commitments that align with the values, mission, and strategic priorities of SSWR, which I also practice through my social work scholarship and teaching. I believe the following commitments could serve to mobilize SSWR membership in more fully realizing our profession's existing priorities and to collectively pursue our more transformational aspirations:

- 1. Social Work Science as Social Justice Praxis:** If elected to the board, I will commit to strengthening pathways and creating spaces for social workers practicing science and research, regardless of methodological tradition, to learn, engage in, and disseminate scholarship that brings our social justice values to life within the research we do. Producing scholarship that is, by design and outcome, innovative and transformative is essential to SSWR's value of high quality, rigorous research to enable a just and equitable society.
- 2. Building Learning Communities Among BIPOC Scholars:** Much of my career has been dedicated to supporting the growth and development of social workers and scholars who identify as black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). My vision for SSWR board membership would include supporting more formal mechanisms of lifting up existing scholarship, and developing novel approaches to scholarship, especially work that is engaged in transformation, abolition, and reimagining anti-racist and anti-oppressive systems, theories, methods, and models of practice.
- 3. Advancing Epistemological Justice:** As an interpretive and qualitative scientist, I have a strong commitment to supporting SSWR researchers who are trained in a host of methods and methodology. I believe this necessitates advancing high-quality non-positivist research methods particularly those informed by critical, constructivist, liberatory, and indigenous episteme. Our field is in dire need of mechanisms that advance and hold up existing scholars, alongside emerging scholars, who seek to engage anti-oppressive and socially just methodologies, theories, and methods of dissemination.

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Director-at-Large Nominee – Katherine E. Sanchez, PhD, LCSW



Katherine E. Sanchez, PhD, LCSW
University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work

Katherine Sanchez, PhD, LCSW is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work. She has an additional appointment at Baylor Scott and White Health System, Center for Applied Health Research in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Sanchez practiced as a bilingual clinical social worker for 15 years, primarily in medical settings with monolingual Spanish-speaking populations before getting her PhD. Dr. Sanchez aims to advance the scientific knowledge around eliminating mental health disparities through an integrated care approach and promote sustainability of the model through behavioral health services which expand the capacity of primary care. Dr. Sanchez has developed a robust, well-defined research agenda and a steady funding trajectory including several federal grants from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Dr. Sanchez is a current fellow of the 2019 Implementation Research Institute (IRI) at Washington University in St. Louis which has facilitated her segue from a research agenda focused on small scale interventions in primary care to testing Implementation Science strategies for reducing mental health disparities through efforts at the health delivery system level. Dr. Sanchez seeks to examine system-level interventions to understand the adoption of evidence-based practices, organizational barriers, and facilitators to uptake in practice guidelines, and examine the structural determinants of health which perpetuate disparities. Her current NIH R01 proposal holds high promise for reducing the mental health treatment gap through implementing evidence-based collaborative care in low-resourced settings which results in high impact, innovative strategies to better address mental health at the individual and the health care system level.

Vision Statement

It is an honor to be nominated and considered for the SSWR Board of Directors. I believe that scientific inquiry will be strengthened by diverse skill sets and perspectives that harness creativity and innovation. Academic social work is in a unique position to grow the ranks of talented scientists and diversify the research workforce at the highest levels of success with our innately diverse pool of scholars. Underrepresented groups, including women, typically receive less mentoring and are more likely to be ignored by mentors than white men. Lack of mentorship reduces access to funded projects, limits career advancement, and leads to workforce attrition. I see an opportunity for SSWR to contribute to the recruitment and mentorship of persons from historically underrepresented groups and to strengthen capacity and infrastructure for training qualified scientists. I believe that my established program of research, my record of federal funding, and my experience at a research emerging school would inform such an effort.

I seek to marshal the talent and success of SSWR scholars to help developing researchers advance their careers and enrich the existing pool of federally funded social work faculty by pairing investigators from less research-intensive institutions with those from traditionally research-intensive institutions. I seek to complement and expand existing expertise in SSWR, promote potential for collaborative grant development, and develop strategies that support and advance SSWR members' ability to obtain extramural funding. By serving on the board, I hope to bring knowledge and experience gained back to my home institution and to other groups and collaborations, both regionally and nationally, with which I am affiliated.

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I believe the events of the past year have left the United States poised for monumental change. Federal funding agencies are responding with an overhaul of scientific review panels and a deliberate focus on underrepresented groups from diverse institutions. I seek to provide strategic vision and leadership to SSWR's board of directors to fulfill its mission through a specific and intentional focus on developing and mentoring diverse scholars into the academic research pipeline, in the interest of equity and social justice that the social work profession embodies and that social work research can inform.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Linda S. Sprague Martinez, PhD, MA



Linda S. Sprague Martinez, PhD, MA
Boston University, School of Social Work

Linda Sprague Martinez, Ph.D., is an associate professor and chair of the Macro Department at the Boston University School of Social Work where she teaches courses in community planning, assessment, and analysis as well as health equity. She is interested in examining asset-based strategies to tackle health inequities. As such, community-engaged research (CEnR) approaches like community-based participatory research (CBPR) and youth-led participatory action research (YPAR) are central to her work. Having formerly worked in municipal and state governance, and as an adolescent mental health provider, she brings practical expertise in community collaborations designed to engage diverse communities of color and low-income residents in community planning and intervention development. Reflecting her impact, in 2017, she was a Resident Empowerment Honoree of the Boston Housing Authority, Center for Community Engagement and Civil Rights, and Resident Empowerment Coalition.

Dr. Sprague Martinez has an active community and youth-engaged research portfolio that has been supported by federal agencies as well as foundations. Her work has been featured by local, national, and international media outlets. She is the Co-Director of Community Engagement for the Boston University Clinical Translational Science Institute (UL1TR001430) and for the HEALing Communities Study, Massachusetts (M1DA049412). In addition, as part of an interdisciplinary research collaborative focused on transportation-related air pollution (TRAP) and environmental justice, which is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Science (NIEHS). She is studying community processes that facilitate with TRAP-related public health action and intervention (R01ES026980 & R01ES030289). In addition to her funded research, Dr. Sprague Martinez serves as an External Evaluator for the Boston Public Health Commission's Boston Youth Resiliency and Recovery Collaborative, in initiative supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Dr. Sprague Martinez completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science at the University of New Hampshire. She then pursued graduate studies in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Rivier College and her doctoral degree in Social Welfare Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. A first-generation college student, she grew up in Southern New Hampshire and has spent the last 17 years living in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood with her partner, Nilson. They have two sons ages 13 and 10 who keep them on their toes.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a member of the SSWR Board. As a dedicated member of SSWR since 2015, I have found like-minded colleagues, who have since become valued collaborators and friends. At this time in my career, I am excited about the opportunity to give back to the organization through board service. If elected to the SSWR Board, I will bring extensive community and research leadership experience, and strong support for and commitment to SSWR's

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mission and strategic priorities. My vision of service to SSWR centers on capacity building, guided by the goals of elevating equity and inclusion. Specifically, I am deeply committed to broadening opportunities for member engagement and networking that support the development of early-career faculty and doctoral students as well as MSW students interested in research careers. I envision exciting opportunities to explore funding for training and career development programs that engage and support early-career social work scholars. Social justice and racial equity are central to my work. I will faithfully collaborate with board members to implement strategic and sustainable practices by which to elevate the role of social work research in advancing racial equity. In addition, I am interested in promoting inclusion and equity-focused research at the annual conference as well as the representation of diverse forms of knowledge creation.