

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 ELECTIONS

Welcome to the 2022 SSWR Board of Directors Elections.

The SSWR 2022 Board of Directors elections is now open. This year, there are open positions for one (1) President-Elect, one (1) Vice President-Elect, one (1) Secretary, three (3) Directors-at-Large and one (1) Early Career Director-at-Large.

Nominees for this year's elections are:

President-Elect:	Ramona Denby-Brinson, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Philip Hong, PhD, LCSW, University of Georgia
Vice President-Elect:	Michal Grinstein-Weiss, PhD, MA, Washington University in St. Louis Mary Ohmer, PhD, MSW, MPIA, University of Pittsburgh
Secretary:	Anita Barbee, PhD, MSSW, University of Louisville David Becerra, PhD, MSW, Arizona State University
Director-at-Large:	Tamara Cadet, PhD, LICSW, MPH, University of Pennsylvania Kelli Canada, PhD, LCSW, University of Missouri Hanni Flaherty, PhD, Yeshiva University Shuang Lu, PhD, The University of Hong Kong Neely Mahapatra, PhD, University of Wyoming Philip Osteen, PhD, University of Utah
Early Career Director-at-Large:	Autumn Asher BlackDeer, MSW, University of Denver Christian Vazquez, MSW, The University of Texas at Arlington

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 28, 2022, at 11:59 PM EST.

HOW TO VOTE IN 2022 BOARD ELECTIONS (ONLINE DEADLINE: 12/28/2022) & NOTICE OF SSWR MEMBER SPECIAL MEETING.

As per the SSWR Bylaws, a special meeting of the members of the Society for Social Work and Research, Inc. (SSWR) will be held at 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200, Fairfax, Virginia, on the 29th day of December 2022, at 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

There are three ways to vote:

- 1. ONLINE:** Members may vote in the 2022 Board of Directors Election online by December 28, 2022. If you need access to the online voting system, please contact Kristen Reamy immediately at kristen@sswr.org for instructions. As required by the bylaws, this is a "proxy" vote system. When you vote online, you give SSWR president Sean Joe authorization to finalize the elections based on your online proxy vote. During the December 29, 2022, Special Meeting of the Members of SSWR, Dr. Joe will report the number of proxy votes received as of the December 28, 2022 deadline.
- 2. VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:** Members may attend the virtual Special Meeting of the Members via ZOOM and cast their live vote on the 29th day of December 2022, at 2:00 PM Eastern Time. Here's the Zoom access info:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83752187559?pwd=SkZaUnJNSsyczB3L3hvRHg5Mkg5QT09>
(Meeting ID: 837 5218 7559 and Passcode: 850476)
- 3. IN PERSON:** Members may vote in-person during the Special Meeting of the Members at SSWR headquarters at 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200, Fairfax, Virginia, on the 29th day of December 2022, at 2:00 PM Eastern Time. Face masks and social distancing are required.

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 (kristen@sswr.org). Thank you for your participation!

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Descriptions of Open Board Positions (terms start February 1, 2023)

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. He/she 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, he/she may be asked by the President to represent SSWR at national meetings. As President, he/she 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. As President, this individual 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 standing and ad hoc committees. As necessary, the President chooses future sites for the annual conference in consultation with the Board and works toward contracting these sites. As Immediate Past-President he/she 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: February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2026)

The Vice President-Elect shall serve a one-year term as Vice President-Elect. The Vice President-Elect will 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 serves a one-year term and chairs the conference program planning committee, which plans and coordinates the annual conference program. 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 until the office of President is filled according to the procedures applicable to filling vacancies among the officers. The Vice President serves on the executive committee. Immediately following a Vice President's term as Vice President, such person shall serve a one-year term as Past Vice President. The Past Vice President shall assist the Vice President in their duties and shall fulfill such other duties as directed by the Board.

Director-at-Large (Three-year term: February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2026)

A Director-at-Large may be asked to serve in the following capacities, i.e., chair or co-chair of the following committees: nomination and election committee, awards committee, committee on publications, communications committee, fund 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.

Early Career Director-at-Large (Two-year term: February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2025)

In addition to the Director-at-Large responsibilities the Early Career Director-at-Large shall serve as co-chair of the Research Capacity Development Committee. The Early Career Director-at-Large shall have completed their PhD no longer than four years prior to the start of their term.

Secretary (Three-year term: February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2026)

The Secretary shall serve a three-year term as Secretary. The Secretary shall: record, maintain and distribute minutes of all membership meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors; maintain the Society's corporate records; and fulfill the other responsibilities that pertain to the office of secretary. The Secretary serves on the executive committee.

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.

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The Nominees – Photos, Biographies, and Vision Statements

President-Elect Nominee – Ramona Denby-Brinson, PhD



Ramona Denby-Brinson, PhD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Ramona Denby-Brinson is the Dean and Kuralt Distinguished Professor of Public Welfare Policy and Administration in the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During her more than 30 years of experience in social work education and 18 years in administration, she has served as the research dean of two large R1 universities and has supported the professional development of numerous early career professors, postdocs, and graduate students.

Her scholarly interests include policy, programming, and treatment issues relevant to children and families; child welfare; children's mental health; and culturally specific service delivery. Denby-Brinson is a nationally recognized expert in culturally adapted child welfare services, who has substantially advanced the literature on kinship care and the mental health and well-being of African American children involved in the foster care system.

She has been awarded extensive funding for research on child and family well-being from many federal sources, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - U.S. Children's Bureau, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Institutes of Health, and National Institute of Mental Health. She has disseminated findings from this research via peer-reviewed journal articles, books, chapters, technical reports, issue briefs, media presentations, and professional papers and presentations at state, regional, and national juried conferences. She remains consistently active in several national social work professional associations: the National Association of Social Workers, Council on Social Work Education, and the Society for Social Work and Research.

Denby-Brinson has received numerous accolades for her scholarship and impact on the field. She received the 2014 Harry Reid Silver State Research Award for highly respected research that exemplified the benefits of being responsive to the needs of local and national communities.

Denby-Brinson completed her Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. Prior to her academic career, Denby-Brinson served children and families in various social service settings. She has been a licensed social worker since 1989. Simply put, Dean Denby-Brinson cares deeply about people and their well-being and has carried this value with her from practice to research, faculty, and leadership levels.

Vision Statement

There is a clear and urgent need for social work leadership in our country today, as we draw on our collective knowledge and strengths to transform systems, practices, and policies that affect the everyday lives of millions of people. To strengthen our national position, my time in service to you as SSWR President will pursue four interrelated efforts:

Elevating social work science. Who are we? How does our research impact society? We must actively and relentlessly define what social work researchers do and share the far-reaching effects of our scholarship to national audiences. Harnessing our collective solutions across universities to tell the story of how systems and practice can be improved through research is much more powerful than any solo endeavors. My efforts will involve translating our research impact and innovations by developing a multi-faceted marketing campaign with national reach.

Advancing our members' careers. The success of any professional organization hinges on the strength of its membership. Working with SSWR leadership and listening to members, I will establish three initiatives: building pathways for research and career development,

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especially for early career and diverse researchers; supporting fellowships and a research training academy; and creating SSWR-sponsored social justice impact grants for community-engaged researchers.

Sustaining our financial portfolio/shoring up development activities. To continue responding to the changing needs of our members and of social work practice and research communities nationally, we must strengthen our organization by diversifying our revenue base. While prior strategic work has successfully supported the financial health of SSWR, I will lead fundraising and development efforts, investments, and other strategies that build our revenue.

Creating a policy, practice, and advocacy division. To harness the collective power of social work programs nationally, we need a permanent infrastructure that enables SSWR members to advance the policy and practice paths revealed in our research discoveries. I plan to establish a permanent and full-time staffing structure that enables the translation of our research into public policy and practice.

It would be my honor to serve you in support of what I know to be our noble and vital profession. Thank you for your support.

President-Elect Nominee – Philip Hong, PhD, LCSW



Philip Hong, PhD, LCSW
University of Georgia, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Philip Hong is the Dean and Professor at University of Georgia (UGA) School of Social Work. Prior to joining UGA, he served on faculty at Saint Louis University for 3 years and Loyola University Chicago (LUC) for 16 years. Dr. Hong was awarded the Lucian and Carol Welch Matusak Professorship at LUC School of Social Work where he also served as the director of the Ph.D. program and the Associate Dean for Research. He is a Faculty Associate of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at Washington University in St. Louis. He was the founding director of Center for Research on Self-Sufficiency (CROSS), a community-engaged, federally and privately funded research center that led local, national, and global initiatives and public-private partnerships on strengthening self-sufficiency policies, programs and systems. His scholarship contributed to long-range, bottom-up solutions to promote individual and system empowerment and social and economic inclusion through innovative research collaboration with diverse urban African American and Latinx and rural Native American communities.

Dr. Hong earned his MSW and PhD in Social Work at the Brown School of Washington University in St. Louis and he also holds an MA and PhD in Political Science from University of Missouri–St. Louis. He developed the Transforming Impossible into Possible (TIP) model that was recognized as the winner of the University of Chicago's Social Innovation Challenge and as one of the top 100 ideas for the Chicago Innovation Awards. He recently joined the MIT Solve's incubator program called Unbundle Policing: Reimagining Public Safety Challenge to help center social work in deescalating community violence and strengthening social inclusion.

Dr. Hong serves as the Associate Editor of *Social Development Issues* and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Poverty and Public Policy* and completed his terms on the editorial boards of *Social Work Research and Families in Society*. He is a member of Chicago Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinating Committee and a consulting advisor for the Poverty and Development Division (recently renamed the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Vision Statement

It is my true honor to be nominated for the position of President-Elect of SSWR. My vision of "transformative social work research to lead social innovation" in a polarized global, social, economic, and political environment aligns with SSWR's strategic vision and mission. SSWR's vision that "Social work research is critical to building an inclusive, just, and equitable society" requires centering social work research among its interdisciplinary peers to advance racial, social, economic and political justice and the wellbeing of our Society. I am fully

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committed to SSWR's mission—"SSWR is a catalyst for excellence in developing, implementing, and translating research that advances social work practice and social policy that improves human well-being"—that uplifts SSWR's integral and unique role in defining and strengthening what "excellence" means in current times of divide and uncertainties.

I hope to help build upon the legacies of all our previous SSWR leaders and members who have sacrificially given their talent and gifts over many years in their commitment to "excellence" and contribute to a renewed path to social innovation and community-engaged social justice research. SSWR can lead a culture of purpose-driven, community-engaged, and socially responsible transformative research into an age of social innovation for the greater good. Social innovation is the process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and often systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress. It rests on the spirit of human-centered values and collaborative relationships. SSWR can lean on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to promote research based on authenticity, humility, empathy, and unity under its shared vision to advance the mission and values.

Trust and courage can be the foundational principles for strengthening participant-centered knowledge development and it can provide the roadmap for SSWR to lead by actions (research) to speak loudly for words (realities of structurally generated injustices, oppression, and exclusions) that cannot adequately be visible if left in the state of unresearched. I would like to contribute to bringing social work to the core of the 4th Industrial Revolution in leading innovation through its command of genuine "empathy" needed in the design thinking process.

Vice-President-Elect Nominee – Mary Ohmer, PhD, MSW, MPIA



Mary Ohmer, PhD, MSW, MPIA
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work

Biography

Mary L. Ohmer is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Community, Organization, and Social Action Specialization in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Ohmer conducts community based and participatory research with community partners, youth, and adults to build capacity to address substantive neighborhood issues, including violence and equity. Her current funded research includes a 5-year collaborative study among county government, community-based organizations, residents, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, to address community violence and trauma through multi-level violence prevention interventions focusing on community resiliency, child and youth thriving and collective efficacy. The programmatic components are funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Dr. Ohmer is also the Co-PI for a rigorous evaluation of the collective efficacy intervention that is part of this larger study, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has also received funding from AmeriCorps to foster civic engagement, advocacy and organizing among youth and adult residents to address equitable development and equity issues in collaboration with Equitable and Just Greater Pittsburgh.

Dr. Ohmer, a SSWR fellow, has been involved with SSWR for over two decades, helping to create and serve as Co-Chair of the Community and Neighborhood Research Cluster, serving as a regular reviewer for the annual conference, and co-facilitating the Community and Neighborhood Research Special Interest Group. Dr. Ohmer is an Editor for the *Journal of Community Practice* and is just completing her term on the board of the Association for Community Organization and Social Action. She has been a reviewer and co-track chair for CSWE and serves on the Internal Advisory Council for Pitt's Community Engagement Center Initiative. Dr. Ohmer received her master's degrees and her PhD with distinction from Pitt.

Vision Statement

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to run for the Vice President-Elect position on the SSWR Board. I have the deepest respect for the many social work scholars and leaders I have had the privilege of meeting, learning from, and collaborating with at the annual SSWR conference, which I've attended almost every year since I was a doctoral student.

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I share SSWR's values, including grounding my own scholarship in ways that promote rigorous, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research that promotes social justice and capacity building. SSWR's role is critical in furthering the creation and dissemination of knowledge to address today's most challenging social issues and to advance a diverse, just, and equitable society. My vision supports SSWR's values and strategic goals in the following ways:

- Building research capacity by increasing training opportunities and mentorship for junior scholars (students and early career faculty) to explore their research interests, including structured mentorship programs, funding to attend and participate in the SSWR annual conference, and mechanisms for networking and collaboration.
- Continuing to create spaces for scholars at all levels to share research and collaborate with like-minded scholars, including providing support for Special Interests Groups to connect at the conference and through virtual platforms throughout the year.
- Enhancing communication and dissemination of research findings among social work scholars and practitioners, community partners, funders, and policy makers during the conference through collaborative sessions to share findings and develop strategies for influencing practice and policy, as well sharing research findings with a wider audience beyond the conference.
- Increasing knowledge sharing and dissemination with community practitioners and partners in ways that increase their ability to access and use research findings, including supporting their ability to attend and present alongside academic partners at the annual conference.
- Furthering supports for and providing vehicles at the annual conference to promote research conducted by BIPOC and first-generation scholars.

I pursued a PhD in social work after many years working as a community practitioner and organizer because I wanted to contribute to the evidence base for community research. I feel strongly about ensuring that interventions, strategies, and approaches used in community work are grounded in best practices and current research. SSWR has provided a vehicle for me to learn and grow as a community researcher and scholar. I would be honored to work with the SSWR Board to continue to provide a place for social work scholars and partners to explore, learn and grow and work together to ensure that impactful social work research advances social justice and equity.

Vice-President-Elect Nominee – Michal Grinstein-Weiss, PhD, MA



Michal Grinstein-Weiss, PhD, MA
Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work

Biography

Michal Grinstein-Weiss is the Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor at the Brown School. She serves as director of the university-wide Social Policy Institute at Washington University. Professor Grinstein-Weiss is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow in Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution.

Dr. Grinstein-Weiss is an influential voice in the design of innovative social policies to address inequalities in health, financial security, education, and housing. Her work helps develop evidence-based programs that inform policies to promote equity among vulnerable populations through cross-sector partnerships. Dr. Grinstein-Weiss has been credited with policy innovation in both the United States and Israel, including pioneering the tax-time savings field which was adopted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Intuit, and H&R Block. In Israel, Dr. Grinstein-Weiss spearheaded the creation and implementation of the Saving for Every Child legislation, which establishes a seeded savings account for all children born in Israel effective 2017. Most recently, she provided evidence to advocacy groups, policymakers, and government officials in the United States and Israel, including Knesset, on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

The relevance of Professor Grinstein-Weiss' research is reflected in the agencies, foundations and corporations that support her work. For example, her research has been supported by the Israeli National Insurance Institute, Ministry of Social Affairs, U.S. Department of Treasury, and U.S. Department of Education. In addition, her research has won the support of philanthropic foundations such as the JPMorgan Chase

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Foundation, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She also collaborates with industry partners, including Fortune-500 partners Mastercard, Intuit Inc., and Centene Corporation.

Dr. Grinstein-Weiss has been involved with SSWR for over two decades. She was awarded the SSWR Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award and served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research. She served as a SSWR abstract reviewer for several years in addition to organizing many symposiums.

Dr. Grinstein-Weiss received her Ph.D. in social work from the Brown School, a master's in economics from the University of Missouri—St. Louis, and a master's in social work and a bachelor's of arts from Haifa University, Israel.

Vision Statement

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to run for the Vice President-Elect position on the SSWR Board. Ever since SSWR was founded in 1994, I have admired how SSWR serves as a convener to promote social work research across the U.S. and globally. SSWR's vision to build an inclusive, just, and equitable Society guides my work every day. Social work research is unique because it can cross disciplines and inform policy makers, academic scholars in diverse fields, industry leaders, and practitioners. I aspire to build upon SSWR's 2018 – 2022 strategic plan to ensure SSWR serves as a catalyst to improve human well-being through innovative social work research.

If given the privilege to serve as SSWR Vice President, one of my key priorities will be supporting SSWR members in fostering interdisciplinary and innovative cross-sector partnerships. Collaboration amongst researchers, practitioners, and community stakeholders has been a long-held focus of SSWR. I will help organize plenary lectures, roundtable discussions, and/or capability building training programs to help researchers identify avenues to promote their important work to have the greatest impact possible. This may include hosting discussions about identifying a private sector champion who is aligned with your research goals or publishing white papers, blogs, and policy briefs to disseminate research findings widely and in an accessible manner.

One of the greatest opportunities SSWR provides is the professional network for faculty, research staff, and students alike. I am passionate about increasing global participation among our colleagues at SSWR. Additionally, I will work closely with the SSWR Doctoral Student Committee to ensure doctoral students' needs are reflected in annual programming. I aspire to build upon SSWR's peer mentorship programs to pair junior and senior faculty to provide junior faculty with guidance on topics such as research study design, potential collaborators, and securing funding.

SSWR has been an essential part of my career and was a cornerstone in ensuring I began my research career on a strong trajectory. I am eager to give back to SSWR and work with the Board with complete excitement, dedication, and passion in the upcoming year.

Secretary – Anita Barbee, PhD, MSSW



Anita Barbee, PhD
University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work

Biography

Anita P. Barbee, PhD, MSSW received her BA in Psychology and English from Agnes Scott College, MA and PhD in Social Psychology with a specialization in Child and Family Development from the University of Georgia and an MSSW from the University of Louisville. She is currently Professor, Distinguished University Scholar and Director of the PhD Program at the University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work and Family Science. She has two major lines of research: child welfare system reform- particularly in changing organizational culture and climate, installing, and evaluating evidence-based practices, and shoring up the workforce to enhance better outcomes for the children, youth, and families served. She also studies interpersonal relationship formation and maintenance including the impact of relationship education on improving communication and conflict resolution skills and reducing violent and risky sexual behavior particularly among youth involved in foster care and juvenile justice systems. Dr. Barbee is lead evaluator for the Children's Bureau Quality

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Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) to conduct RCT and quasi-experiments testing the efficacy of various workforce interventions to enhance worker well-being and reduce turnover at six state, one county and one tribal child welfare agency. Her latest venture is serving as lead evaluator for the Annie E. Casey funded Truth Telling initiative being facilitated by Lisa Merkel-Holguin and Kevin Campbell to unleash the creativity and wisdom of 50 stakeholders in child and family well-being from across the nation- most of whom have lived experience with the system, are from communities that have been marginalized and oppressed, and/or desire to see the system drastically shrunk or eliminated altogether- to test and develop a framework for truth telling that will not only lead to acknowledgement and reconciliation but to concrete structural, legal, policy and practice changes in the US approach to child and family well-being. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (since 2016), APA's Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (since 2000), and the Society for Experimental Social Psychologists.

Vision Statement

I believe in the power of professional organizations to foster collaboration, encourage the growth and development of new scholars, and to serve as conduits for dissemination of scholarship, and recognition of excellence. These are the activities I have routinely supported in several multi-disciplinary professional organizations throughout my career. I am among the first 100 members of SSWR and have been actively involved in SSWR conferences over the past three decades as an abstract reviewer, presenter, moderator, and attendee. I am dedicated to the mission of SSWR to promote social work research that addresses issues of social work practice and policy to create justice, equity, and inclusion in a growingly diverse society. In support of the SSWR mission, I have been engaged in several service activities in recent years. I have served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Society of Social Work Research* since 2017, was a member of the Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee from 2016-2020 and currently serve as Chair of that committee (since 2021). I hope to bring my wealth of experience to SSWR based on my service on the boards of other professional organizations including the role as Secretary-Treasurer (International Association for Relationship Research, 1994-1998), President-Elect, President and Past-President (IARR 2016-2022), Member-at-Large (APHA's National Staff Development and Training Association 2016-2018), Conference Co-Chair (IARR 1999, 2013; National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium 2017), Associate Editor (*Training and Development in Human Services* 2011-2017; *Personal Relationships* 2008-2012) and Editorial Board member (*Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 1991-2000; 2020-present, *Journal of Loss and Trauma* 1995-2012; *Journal of Public Child Welfare* 2004-present, *Personal Relationships* 2016-present; *Social Service Review* 2017-present, and *Families in Society* 2018-present).

Secretary – David Becerra, PhD, MSW



David Becerra, PhD, MSW

Arizona State University, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. David Becerra is an Associate Professor, Southwest Borderlands Scholar, and the Director of the Office of Latino Projects in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. Prior to his appointment at Arizona State University, Dr. Becerra served three years as an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Colorado State University. His scholarship focuses on social justice and wellbeing among Latinos. He has been co-principal investigator on several federal, state, and local grants to examine and address issues affecting adolescents and young adults in Mexico as well as Latinos in the Southwestern United States. Dr. Becerra is a nationally recognized expert on the impact of U.S. immigration policies on Latino immigrants. He aims to generate research that promotes social justice for Latino immigrants and their families. In addition to presenting his work at numerous regional and national conferences, his work has also been cited in numerous court decisions and briefs related to the adverse consequences that U.S. immigration policies have on Latino immigrants. His current research examines the impact of immigration detention on Latino immigrants and their families, as well as the cultural, spiritual, and familial resilience of those impacted by inhumane U.S. immigration policies.

Dr. Becerra has been a SSWR member since his doctoral program. He is currently a SSWR Fellow and has previously served SSWR in a variety of capacities including, as a Program Cluster Co-Chair for the Immigrants & Refugees cluster, as well as serving on the Excellence in Research Committee, the Nominations Committee, and as an abstract reviewer.

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Vision Statement

As a long-standing member of SSWR, I am deeply honored to be nominated for the position of Secretary. Social work researchers and SSWR as an organization, need to promote social justice more effectively, and ensure research does not perpetuate the systemic oppression of individuals from diverse populations and identities.

If elected, I will focus my contributions toward supporting SSWR's mission, with particular emphasis on the following aims and objectives in

SSWR's Strategic Priorities:

- **Expand the social justice focus of social work research.**
- **Increase the diversity of SSWR membership in terms of race, ethnicity, nation, institutional structure, research setting, degree, gender identity, and sexual orientation.**
- **Communicate and disseminate high-quality social work research to internal and external stakeholders in order to inform solutions to real-world problems.**

As a national organization, SSWR is instrumental in promoting research that addresses systemic racism and oppression. In addition, as an organization, SSWR needs to do more to mentor and support students and faculty from diverse backgrounds and identities throughout all aspects of academia. I hope to bring my knowledge and experience to promote equity, inclusion, and social justice within the organization, and through the work we do collectively as social work researchers.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Tamara Cadet, PhD, LICSW, MPH



Tamara Cadet, PhD, LICSW, MPH
University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice

Biography

Tamara Cadet, MSW, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Social Policy and Practice with a secondary appointment at the School of Dental Medicine. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and the Associate Director of Penn Cancer Center for Innovation and Director of the Program in Community Engagement Innovation. Prior to her appointment at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Cadet was on faculty at Simmons University where she also completed her doctoral training. At Simmons, she learned to view her 25 years of social work experience as a direct service practitioner and community organizer in the fields of substance use, adoption, mental health, schools, health care, and oncology with children, adults, families, and older adults, through a scientific lens.

Dr. Cadet's overall research focus is to advance efforts to develop health promotion interventions with underserved and underrepresented populations and communities, and to translate research to practice. Her current work focuses on health disparities of older people, particularly around cancer screening and cancer care. Her work is at the intersection of health and social work, spanning the areas of evidence-based health promotion interventions, facilitators, and barriers to reducing disparities in preventative health behaviors, and health care service utilization among vulnerable populations. Dr. Cadet's work is funded or has been funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Aging, and the Health Resources Services Administration.

Dr. Cadet has a motto that if she is not thinking about the underserved or under-represented client or patient, then she has forgotten the most important part of conducting research. This commitment to social justice permeates every aspect of her research. Her scholarship reflects her desire to more than ensure that communities will benefit from her innovative and impactful research and that students will learn about evidence-based practices that support underserved and underrepresented populations, recognizing all the biases they bring to the work to ensure they are helping not harming.

Dr. Cadet received her Bachelor's degree from Tufts University and her Master's in Public Health and Social Work from Boston University.

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Vision Statement

It is truly an honor and privilege to be nominated for the position of Director at Large on the SSWR Board of Directors. I am and have been committed to the vision and mission of SSWR since I learned about SSWR as a doctoral student. The importance of producing, promoting, and disseminating high quality rigorous research that includes collaborators from other disciplines, practitioners, and stakeholders cannot be overstated to promote and build an inclusive, just, and equitable society. I have focused my research and scholarship with this vision and mission and will continue to do so in a role as Director at Large. Specifically, I am interested in the strategic aim of communicating and disseminating high-quality social work research to internal and external stakeholders in order to inform solutions to real-world problems.

My vision is for SSWR to continue to work towards becoming the organization that includes all stakeholders relevant to social work research to ensure that high quality rigorous research includes different perspectives, even those that have historically been excluded. Thus, I commit to:

- Increasing timely dissemination of social work research findings in multiple venues that include social work educators and researchers, non-social work researchers, social work and non-social work practitioners, and community members.
- Improving access to research about evidence-informed social work interventions by helping to develop partnerships with organizations that include social work educators, non-social work researchers, practitioners, and community members.

To build and support an inclusive, just, and equitable Society requires all stakeholders to be part of social work research. Social work researchers can conduct the research but if that research is only shared in journals and not translated to practice or translated for community members to respond and use, then we will not be as successful as we could be. SSWR is in the unique and ideal position to support and sustain impactful social work research that improves practice and transforms communities.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Kelli Canada, PhD, LCSW



Kelli Canada, PhD, LCSW
University of Missouri—Columbia, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Kelli Canada is an associate professor and Associate Director of Research at the University of Missouri—Columbia, School of Social Work. Dr. Canada is currently the chair of the University's Family Friendly Campus Committee and a member of Faculty Council (i.e., the elected representative organization for faculty). Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Canada worked as a clinical social worker in Chicago in medical social work and community mental health where she served individuals and families and advocated for programming and policy change. Dr. Canada is a member of the editorial board for *Criminal Justice & Behavior* and has been an active member of SSWR since 2011.

Dr. Canada's research focuses on policy and programmatic interventions for people with mental illnesses who become involved in the criminal-legal system. Her research is interdisciplinary and solution-focused with an aim to promote health, mental health, and justice. Dr. Canada uses community-engaged research strategies to co-create innovations with people directly impacted by the mental health and criminal-legal systems. Dr. Canada's research is funded by federal grants, foundations, and state funding. Her work is published in over 70 peer-reviewed publications and chapters and one forthcoming edited book, *Community-Engaged Research for Resilience & Health*.

Dr. Canada is dedicated to supporting students within and outside of the university. She mentors doctoral students from social work, nursing, psychology, and financial planning as well as undergraduates through the McNair Scholars program. In 2014, she created a learning lab for clinical social work students called the Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic (IBHC). She is currently co-Director of the IBHC and oversees the clinic's research activities. To date, IBHC students have provided free services to over 500 people experiencing barriers to mental health care. For the past four years, Dr. Canada has also advocated for expanding college programming in the state's prison system for people living and working in prison.

She received her Bachelor's degree from DePauw University, MSW from Columbia University, and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

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Vision Statement

Thank you for taking time to learn about my vision and how I can help support SSWR's mission. If elected, I will lead with social work values which, for me, translates into timely communication, transparent decision making, hearing and integrating stakeholder voices, learning from mistakes, leaning into the uncomfortable, and keeping a clear and consistent focus on social justice.

SSWR leadership and members have moved social work scholarship forward in many important ways in the nearly 30 years since it was founded. SSWR is well positioned for this work particularly with expanded efforts aimed at creating an inclusive atmosphere of respect for the many different approaches that social work scholars use to advance knowledge and produce high-quality research. To strengthen SSWR's impact, I would love to work with SSWR colleagues on:

- **Funding Innovations.** Important scholarship does not always align with federal funding priorities. SSWR is an important vehicle for identifying innovative funding sources and advocating for expansion of federal priorities.
- **Create, Identify, & Curate Doctoral Research Funding.** Many doctoral students struggle to identify funding for their dissertation research. SSWR is an important resource for our doctoral students. Identifying ways to support early funding opportunities may help promote successful funding throughout their careers.
- **Supporting University-Community Partnerships.** A major strength of social work research is the rich tradition of meaningful collaboration with community partners. Community-engaged research can be challenging and time consuming. SSWR programming could expand to include a mentorship program with senior faculty paired with junior faculty who are interested in pursuing this approach to research.
- **Increasing SSWR's Connection to Communities.** One SSWR strategic priority is to increase member engagement and service. SSWR could make important strides with this priority at the annual conference with listening or innovation sessions hosted by the Board and SSWR members. A service component could also be integrated into the annual conference as an option for attendees to connect more with local communities hosting the conference.

It's an honor and privilege to be on this ballot. If given the opportunity, I look forward to working to continue advancing social work scholarship and SSWR's strategic priorities.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Hanni Flaherty, PhD



Hanni Flaherty, PhD
Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Hanni Flaherty joined the Faculty of Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University in 2018, where she currently serves as Assistant Professor and Chair of Advanced Clinical Practice. She has completed her Ph.D. and MSW at New York University Silver School of Social Work. Prior to returning to NYU for her Ph.D., Dr. Flaherty practiced clinical social work for over ten years specializing in adolescent high-risk behaviors, and she continues to work clinically in private practice at a multidisciplinary, evidence-based mental health and wellness multi-group practice of which she is a Founder and Clinical Director of Social Work. Dr. Flaherty's academic training, research, and years of clinical social work experience have uniquely positioned her to be an effective teacher of social work education and a researcher informed by her rich clinical experience. Dr. Flaherty's career has focused on reducing the stigma of mental health issues, increasing access, and improving mental health services through education, research, and clinical practice.

In her previous positions as Associate Director of the Doctoral Program and Associate Director for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation of the Doctoral Program at WSSW. Dr. Flaherty has mentored numerous doctoral students in clinical research, implementation research, and multiple research methodologies, including single-subject design, data mining, and simulation-based research. Dr. Flaherty is especially interested in

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improving the rewarding and valuable mentoring relationship for doctoral students and early career professionals to foster the next generation of scholars.

Dr. Flaherty's scholarship focuses on two domains. First, improving assessment and developing interventions for high-risk adolescent behaviors specify non-suicidal self-injury. Second, exploring the barriers to implementing new technologies in social work practice, research, and education to improve experiential learning and methodologies. Dr. Flaherty's current research looks at the role of technology in improving social work education and clinical practice. She was awarded the Yeshiva University Faculty Research Fund Grant to support her research which aims to explore the impact of artificial intelligence and immersive media technology on student experience and academic success in online social work classrooms. She just completed a study examining the use of technology to enhance experiential learning and a study exploring the shared traumatic stress experience of MSW students during COVID-19. Dr. Flaherty has always focused on bridging the gap between practice and research by conducting and teaching practice-informed research and research-informed practice.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated and considered to serve as a member of the SSWR Board. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute more profoundly to SSWR and to advancing social work research. I feel strongly committed and personally connected to SSWR, and its vision as SSWR has been essential to my development as a social work researcher. I am honored to be able to help shape and support the next generation of academic scholars.

As Director at Large, I will work to strengthen, support, sustain and disseminate impactful research that improves mental health, transforms communities, and saves lives. I plan to build research capacity guided by the values, mission, and strategic priorities of SSWR. To advance, disseminate, and translates research that addresses issues of social work practice and policy and promotes a diverse, just, and equitable society, which I also practice through my social work scholarship, teaching, and clinical work. As Director at Large, I will work to strengthen our research capacity and the transmission and dissemination of that research to practitioners, policymakers, and educators.

The areas that I am especially interested in are:

1. **Building Research Capacity Through Mentorship.** To enlist the SSWR network to develop more mentorship opportunities across all career levels, particularly for doctoral students and early career researchers. I aim to connect early career scholars with established researchers and develop a platform to support the mentors in their roles. With particular focus on early career scholars who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who experience the added strain of injustice and racism while often lacking support from mentors with similar experiences. If elected to this position, I would not only like to be involved in further developing mentorship opportunities to build capacity and enhance member engagement but also create an infrastructure to support the mentors as they take on this essential role.
2. **Member Engagement, Experiences, and Services.** Technology can assist with the goal of both increasing the diversity of SSWR membership as well as increasing services and opportunities for members to increase engagement in Society. No longer shackled to time and place, we can use technology to create a stronger community nationwide. If elected, I would bring my knowledge from my research and experiences in creating an online community in educational settings through implementing technology.
3. **Communication and Dissemination.** This is another area where technology can be of assistance. We can now communicate and disseminate high-quality social work research to internal and external stakeholders to inform solutions to real-world problems in new ways. If elected, I would like to develop further communication and dissemination methods based on cutting-edge technologies in global multimedia communications.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Shuang Lu, PhD



Shuang Lu, PhD
University of Hong Kong, Department of Social Work and Social Administration

Biography

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Director-at-Large. I am currently an assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong, Department of Social Work and Social Administration. I received my MSW and PhD from Rutgers University, School of Social Work. My research adopts an international and interdisciplinary perspective to address the complex challenges faced by children and families due to structural oppression that comes from migration, urbanization, and globalization.

My research addresses two questions: 1) How do socioeconomic inequalities impact children's social-emotional well-being, and 2) how do school- and community-based interventions promote resilience and well-being in disadvantaged families? I have achieved this through collaboration with scholars from diverse fields in North America and East Asia and by working with populations from various cultural backgrounds, including Latinx adolescents in North Jersey, rural migrant children living in Beijing, and low-income immigrant youths in Hong Kong.

Having taught in the U.S. and Hong Kong, I am experienced in mentoring students from diverse backgrounds. I am currently chairing seven doctoral and master's dissertation committees and serving as a member on five doctoral committees. Among my publications are 11 articles that involve student coauthors. I also direct the Youth Wellbeing Lab, which trains doctoral and undergraduate students to conduct child mental health intervention research.

My leadership experience includes serving on the Executive Committee of the Center on Behavioral Health, the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Director of Social Sciences Summer Program at the university. As the department's Equal Opportunity Advisor, I am dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion and leading anti-stigma initiatives on campus. I also serve on conference review panels and editorial boards, including regular reviews for the SSWR Annual Conference.

Vision Statement

As a Director-at-Large, I am committed to 1) facilitating international research collaborations and increasing the visibility of social work research in global contexts; 2) promoting the interdisciplinary impact and organizational partnership with other fields; and 3) strengthening mentorship and methods training for junior scholars, particularly for those from underrepresented groups. I believe these approaches are even more crucial to building an inclusive and just society during challenging geopolitical times.

1. Promoting collaboration and visibility of international research. As urbanization and globalization expand, many social work professionals and students are entering the field with an interest in serving and studying social challenges in global contexts. Drawing from my cross-cultural research experiences, particularly in developing country contexts, one of my goals is to increase prospects of engaging researchers in diverse global communities. This includes coordinating regular workshops and seminars led by scholars worldwide, connecting with international networks (e.g., the European Conference for Social Work Research), and potentially organizing SSWR regional special topic meetings overseas.
2. Increasing interdisciplinary impact. The uniqueness of social work research lies in its diversity and interdisciplinarity. I will work with the board of SSWR and organizations in other fields to deepen the policy impact of social work research. This includes providing in-person/virtual networking opportunities for SSWR and other organizational members (e.g., the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action) who share similar research interests; and a talk series that involves experts with assorted experiences, such as advocating policy changes and communicating research findings through the media.
3. Strengthening mentorship and methods training. Based on my previous involvement as an international student and current experience as a female Asian scholar, I am deeply influenced by the mentorship I have received throughout my doctoral training. If provided the opportunity to join the SSWR board, I would work hard to foster mentorship for junior researchers, particularly those

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from underrepresented groups. This includes potentially developing a paired mentor–mentee review system to involve doctoral students in the SSWR Annual Conference abstract assessment panels, increasing mentorship for early career scholars from non-mainstream cultural backgrounds, and coordinating virtual cutting-edge methods training (e.g., social network analysis, big data analytics) among the SSWR community.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Neely Mahapatra, PhD



Neely Mahapatra, PhD
University of Wyoming, Laramie, Division of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Neely Mahapatra, MSSW (University of Texas – Austin), PhD (University of Texas at Austin). She is currently an Associate Professor in the Division of Social Work at University of Wyoming, Laramie. At UW, she has taught, 'Research Methods' (BSW, MSW), 'Introduction to Social Work,' 'Human Behavior in the Social Environment I & II,' 'Social Work Policy,' 'Domestic Violence,' 'International Interpersonal Violence,' and 'International Social Work: A British Perspective' (a study abroad course). Her research interests are in three clearly defined areas: (1) collaboration and development of best practices with women and victimization, facilitate multidisciplinary research in the field of interpersonal violence and victimization against minority women (primarily immigrant South Asian women), and refugees and immigrant populations. She is committed to research that leads to the development of prevention program/strategies to end violence against women in South Asian communities in the U.S., the Indian subcontinent and South Asian diaspora in other countries; (2) to collaborate and develop best practices that address the needs of victims/survivors of human trafficking in Wyoming and the U.S., and; (3) international social work that extends from her teaching to her research interests as well, particularly in the area of violence against women, and more recently, exploring factors related to work-family conflicts and its impact on intimate relationships and parent-child relations among highly-skilled South Asian immigrants in the U.S.

Leadership Interests: Two goals related to her research and scholarship agenda are: (1) mentoring a new generation of social workers who are well-equipped with a global understanding of issues and policies, including a strong commitment to mentoring the next generation of social work researchers, and (2) contributing to the expansion of knowledge of international social work through research and teaching. To that end, she has led several international collaborative efforts. Most recently, she collaborated with a group of international scholars to study the effects of the pandemic on mental health of individuals in a longitudinal study. The team includes researchers from Canada, Singapore, S. Korea and the U.S. examining this important issue. The goal of this longitudinal study was to explore families' coping mechanisms in dealing with social isolation, distancing and quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the study focused on the impact of COVID-19 on family dynamics/relationships (e.g., functioning and experiences of abuse), health and mental health of families and individuals (e.g., experiences of stress, including financial strain and changes in employment status), and perceived support systems and resiliency amidst the pandemic.

Another important project aligning with the internationalization efforts is her study abroad course that she has developed and leads with a social work colleague. 'International Social Work: A British Perspective.' Taught in the U.S. and London, it is a bi-yearly program that offers students at UW (in Social Work and other disciplines) to experience and understand the philosophical underpinnings and historical development of social work as a helping profession in mid-century England and its ramifications in the 21st century. Knowledge acquired through this project incorporates into other practice, policy, human behavior and social environment and diversity courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The experience allows students to broaden their perspective of international social work practice and policy, especially global problems and the role of social work professionals in addressing these issues. The aim is to engender life-long learning for students even after the completion of the study abroad travel by improving their intercultural knowledge, skills, competence and interacting with an increasingly diverse classroom and global Society. Interest in global engagement has led to the development and presentation of faculty workshops and also research into the impact of these experiences on student participants, such as their intercultural competence.

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Vision Statement

I am honored and excited to have been nominated for the position of Director at Large for SSWR and the opportunity to support its mission and shared values. If elected, my commitments will include but not limited to the following:

1. **The mentoring of the next generation of social workers and social work researchers:** Having mentored several graduate and doctoral students and junior faculty, including South Asian faculty, I would like to continue and expand this work. Given SSWR's strategic priorities of building research capacity across the career lifespan of social work scholars and doctoral students, I would invest my time in both supporting and developing strategies to enrich the experiences of these emerging scholars and researchers.

Additionally, if elected, I would like to expand training sessions, particularly for graduate and doctoral students who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), by creating opportunities to engage in ongoing conversations related to advancing professional careers and fostering supportive networks. For example: creating mentoring programs to provide support and encouragement by assisting with identifying workable dissertation topics that align with students' interests and goals, assembling doctoral committees, acquiring funding and other resources, conducting dissertation research, and identifying post-doctoral and job opportunities for their academic success.

2. **Rural social work research and focus:** As a representative of a rural/frontier university, I would like to create avenues to not only showcase rural scholars and their work but also create opportunities for engaging scholars, including rural scholars, in collaborative efforts with rural communities to enhance research that addresses current social problems. Since rural communities account for the largest part of the U.S. geography, it is very important to continue to support research activities that are crucial to the rural and frontier community, including health care, mental health, substance use, and social justice where solutions are not restricted to local communities but are equally essential to the global communities.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Philip Osteen, PhD



Philip Osteen, PhD
University of Utah, College of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Osteen is an associate professor and the interim dean in the College of Social Work at the University of Utah; he was also the associate dean for academic affairs and director of the Social Research Institute (SRI) at the University of Utah. Dr. Osteen graduated from the University of Denver in 2009 with a PhD in social work and a PhD in quantitative research methods/statistics.

Dr. Osteen has served on several academic and research initiatives and committees locally and nationally, including the CSWE Commission on Research. He is also a reviewer and/or editorial board member for numerous journals such as *JSWE*, *JSSWR*, *RSWP*, and *AJPM*. He has been an executive member of several BODs within the LGBTQ community and has served as treasurer, secretary, and president of the BOD, as well as member-at-large.

Dr. Osteen is a nationally recognized researcher in the field of suicide prevention and intervention and has engaged in impactful work to reduce suicide in the U.S. with a significant funding portfolio of federal, state, and foundation support. His research, scholarship, and practice coalesce within the domains of health and behavioral health. He has more than 25 years experience providing community-based health and mental health services, and that practice experience shapes and guides his research. Dr. Osteen has been the fortunate recipient of research and teaching awards, including induction as a 2021 SSWR Fellow.

He actively supports the work of the Grand Challenges of Social Work through a commitment to dialogue and action by engaging the local and national audiences through speaker panels, professional training and development, curriculum development, and research evolution. He is further advancing the critical work to increase access to higher education for Native American and indigenous students. He is also implementing

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research and training to increase the number of linguistically and culturally trained school social workers, as well as designing and implementing an online bilingual MSW program.

Within his own College, he is working with internal and external stakeholders to implement an IDEAS (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and sustainability) framework geared at anti-racism and decolonized curriculum, critical evaluation of culturally and linguistically adapted evidence-based practices, support for research methodologies and diverse ways of knowing, and a renewed focus on community-grounded scholars and scholarship.

Vision Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to present myself as a candidate for a Director-at-Large position on the SSWR BOD and for your consideration of my biography and vision. It is my hope that my vision for SSWR resonates with you and garners your support.

My overarching vision lies in my IDEAS (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and sustainability) framework and specifically what that means within the context of social work research. I am advocating that we critically reflect on the definition of "high quality, rigorous research" and how that shapes our knowledge of practices and policies that may improve human well-being.

The value and importance of intervention research, often defined as "rigorous" based on methodological design and decisions, continues to serve as a gold standard in the development of scientific knowledge, but it is also a privileged position of who decides what qualifies as "knowledge" or how it is weighed in the discourse of social work research. The resources required to engage in this level of research are simply beyond the reach of most social work researchers; access to significant grant and contract funding is limited, and even when available, not aligned with many of the types of questions social workers ask or the methodologies we have at hand to answer them.

Even as we strive to increase the capacity and competency of social workers to engage in "high quality, rigorous research," it is my belief and goal to strive to increase the acceptability and value of other types of research. As an example, how long has the social work research community argued over whether "evaluation" is "real research"? How often does federal funding support the use of qualitative methods and culturally and linguistically informed ways of knowing, both emergent and historic. It is my belief that SSWR can serve an integral role in championing the value and validity of these diverse sources of knowledge and advocate for their use in answering questions of great importance to social work and Society.

As the leading body of influence on social work research, I would use the opportunity on the SSWR BOD to push for open and critical reflection on ways of knowing that embrace IDEAS.

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee –Autumn Asher BlackDeer, PhD



Autumn Asher BlackDeer, PhD
The University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Biography

Autumn Asher BlackDeer is a racial equity scholar with an emphasis on Indigenous tribal sovereignty and is deeply committed to decolonizing the academy. As a queer decolonial scholar from the Southern Cheyenne Nation, Dr. BlackDeer serves as an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. She earned her MSW from The University of Oklahoma – Tulsa and her Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. BlackDeer centers Indigenous voices throughout her research by using quantitative approaches and big data as tools for responsible storytelling. Her scholarship illuminates the impact of structural violence on American Indian and Alaska Native communities, addressing multiple manifestations such as mental health disparities, substance use, and reproductive rights. This work has also included advocacy for better data practices to address and resist perpetuating data colonialism.

Dr. BlackDeer's recent scholarship has called for a critical perspective for social work to reckon with its past complicity in settler colonial agendas and perpetuation of white supremacy. She has also provided important leadership in the field, including co-founding the BIPOC PhD

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Collective as a doctoral student to hold a sacred space for peers to navigate both the shared experience of attending a predominately white institution while also dealing with the great racial justice awakening of 2020 and onset of a global pandemic. As a decolonial scholar, Dr. BlackDeer is well-versed in creating space and mentoring fellow marginalized scholars and those with marginalized areas of scholarship. Through building collective community, Dr. BlackDeer is dedicated to help create more equitable systems and advance social justice.

Dr. BlackDeer is also particularly invested in decolonizing the process of social work research by integrating critical scholarship into teaching, with the goal of making research more accessible and open to multiple ways of knowing and doing. For example, she has developed a Critical and Decolonial Approaches to Social Work Research course, which integrates critical scholarship and Indigenous epistemologies in order to inform a more equitable and reciprocal research practice in social work.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Early Career Director-at-Large for SSWR. I believe my commitment to social work research and critical scholarship are well-suited for this position. I am a strong proponent for critical and decolonial research methods that embrace multiple ways of knowing and doing. If elected, I would strive to increase the viability of SSWR as a vehicle for critical scholarship, develop greater networks for emerging and early career scholars, and center our profession's commitment to social justice in research.

1. After experiencing multiple pandemics, our generation of emerging and early career scholars have continued to push for a more equitable profession. This movement has brought forth previously marginalized areas of scholarship and broadened methodological horizons. Social work research must continue this by striving to make research more accessible, honoring the value of public impact scholarship just as highly scholarship described in peer-reviewed journals. While social work is a broad field, social work research has historically stayed narrow, mirroring other professions rather than setting our own standards around social justice. The future of social work research must embrace interdisciplinary approaches, account for multiple ways of knowing, and embrace the idea that there is more than one right way to do research.
2. SSWR holds great networking potential, both personally and professionally. Emerging and early career scholars are hungry for greater broader, and more critical methodological training and spaces to build collaborative alliances and form networks across our universities and organizations. Serving as co-chair of the Research Capacity Development Committee, if elected as Early Career DAL, I would build upon ongoing work of the RCDC by expanding these spaces and creating new avenues virtually and in-person for a comprehensive development of our scholarship through the power of community and knowledge-sharing.
3. Ultimately, social work research uplifts our profession's goal of centering social justice. We must continue to address ongoing patterns of white supremacy and upholding settler colonialism, learning our past so we can build a better future. Social work research holds great potential to work towards creating better futures for the next generation.

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee – Christian Vazquez, PhD



Christian Vazquez, PhD

The University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work

Biography

I am an Assistant Professor of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington, a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. My research is focused on social determinants and behavioral changes associated with health disparities reduction among Latinx populations. By incorporating a focus on social determinants of health and cross-disciplinary collaborations, my research works to uncover systemic contributors to health disparities so that interventions can target reducing vulnerabilities for high-risk populations, particularly at the intersections of institutional poverty and racism.

As a social work practitioner, I worked with a diverse set of non-profit and government organizations as a bilingual Child Welfare Worker, gaining first-hand experience working with families with scarce physical, financial, and social resources to reduce risks, manage poverty-related

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stressors, and improve health and safety outcomes. This direct practice experience inspired my research career to focus on the role cultural and economic diversities play in accelerating long-term health disparities among individuals in high-risk environments.

During my doctoral program I received several research and fellowship awards from institutions such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and University of Texas at Austin Graduate School. The projects I worked on focused on Latinx health disparities broadly, and my dissertation centered on obesity outcomes among a sample of low-income Latinx Pre-K aged children.

Currently, I work with community-based organizations that serve adult Latinx populations to address prevention and treatment of obesity and diabetes. I serve organizations as an advisory board member as well as partner on grants to conduct community-based research wherein they and their constituents lead the research. I also work with collaborators across various institutions on projects to address eHealth literacy with adults, specifically by tailoring English-language validated measures and evidence-based interventions to the needs of Spanish-speaking U.S.-based adult Latino/as. I currently have a K01 under review at NIA to focus on the implementation of eHealth literacy interventions with underserved Spanish-speaking Latino/as.

My commitment to service is evidenced by the work I have done in my short academic career to date. I mentor doctoral students in and outside of my department/university. I am the co-chair of my department's search committee this academic year (AY 22/23). I serve on the university's Graduate Assembly committee on a three-year term. I am an active member of the Latinx Faculty and Staff Association at my institution. I engage with our Doctoral Student Association by presenting on various topics including research and professional development (i.e., job market). I am also part of a new DEI lecture series in my department.

I earned my PhD in Social Work from The University of Texas at Austin, a MSW focused on Leadership of Health and Human Service Organizations from the University of Michigan, and a BA in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Vision Statement

I understand this position will serve as the co-chair of the Research Capacity Development committee, which aligns with my strengths and interests in further developing research capacity for students and early-career faculty. Within SSWR's Strategic Aim to Build Research Capacity, I believe I can help move three goals forward.

- 1) Grant writing skills are crucial for doctor students to learn and for early-careers faculty to master. However, students and early-career faculty have minimal grant writing training early in their career. Applying for grants to fund our research becomes a daunting task. In my first year as an assistant professor, I participated in several grant writing workshops that many faculty I've spoken to are not aware of, though they are available nationally. I believe we can partner and/or learn from other organizations doing this work effectively to develop programs within SSWR, as well as promote existing programs that our members may not be aware of to offer more opportunities to address this.
- 2) Collaborating with GADE and CSWE to develop and conduct research training and professional development activities for social work doctoral students. Through many conversations with assistant professors and doctoral students, I learned that there is a need of doctoral students to work with early-career faculty on manuscripts and grants. Often, there may not be enough doctoral students for early-career faculty to work with at their institution or students may be one of a couple students under one faculty member and not receive as many opportunities. These are just two of many reasons why establishing connections across universities between students and faculties can fill a critical gap. One way to do this is through an online portal connecting students to early-career faculty with overlapping research and skill development interests. This can be achieved by combining the resources of GADE, CSWE, and SSWR.
- 3) Enhancing the training and mentoring skills of mentors in partnership with GADE, CSWE, and SSWR. In my Bio, I mentioned I am part of a new DEI lecture series in my department, and the topic of my lecture is Mentoring Students of Color. Through this work, I know faculty members across the country who are doing amazing work around mentoring. We can tap into the expertise of those already engaged in this work and combine the resources of GADE, CSWE, and SSWR to bring this expertise to the forefront. These opportunities can be achieved virtually, in-person locally, and in-person at the national conference.

Enhancing research and funding is important because it contributes to increasing the value of social work to those outside of our profession. As an early-career faculty, I look forward to learning more from the senior leadership within SSWR. As mentioned in my Bio, I have several formal and informal service experiences in academia that are a foundation for me to be an active contributing member of the Research Capacity Development committee.