

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Welcome to the 2023 SSWR Board of Directors Elections

The SSWR 2023 Board of Directors elections are now open. This year, there are open positions for one (1) Vice President-Elect, two (2) Directors-at-Large, one (1) Early Career Director-at-Large and one (1) Student Director-at-Large.

Nominees for this year's elections are:

Vice President-Elect:	Rocío Calvo, PhD, Boston College Hyeouk "Chris" Hahm, PhD, LCSW, Boston University
Director-at-Large:	Venera Bekteshi, PhD, MSW, University of Oklahoma Joan Blakey, PhD, MSW, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities David J. Brennan, PhD, MSW, University of Toronto Karen Bullock, PhD, LICSW, APHSW-C, FGSA, Boston College Orion Mowbray, PhD, MSW, University of Georgia Liliane Cambraia Windsor, PhD, MSW, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Early Career Director-at-Large	Justin Harty, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Arizona State University Kristen Ravi, PhD, LMSW, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Student Director-at-Large:	Fatima Mabrouk, MSW, New York University Yadira Tejada, MSW, Washington University in St. Louis

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

November 20, 2023: The Proxy election site is open and closes on December 20, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST.

HOW TO VOTE IN 2023 BOARD ELECTIONS (ONLINE DEADLINE: 12/20/2023) & 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 27th day of December 2023, at 12:00 PM EST.

There are three ways to vote:

- 1. ONLINE:** Members may vote in the 2023 Board of Directors Election online by December 20, 2023. 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 27, 2023, Special Meeting of the Members of SSWR, Dr. Joe will report the number of proxy votes received as of the December 20, 2023 deadline.
- 2. VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:** Members may attend the virtual Special Meeting of the Members via ZOOM and cast their live vote on the 27th day of December 2023, at 12:00 PM EST. Please register for the meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUzfumpqDosG9XpRYK8axbZ9hUw9y0iv1B0>.
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 27th day of December 2023, at 12:00 PM EST. If you plan on attending in person, please RSVP to Kristen Reamy at kristen@sswr.org by December 20, 2023.

If you have 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!

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Descriptions of Open Board Positions (terms start February 1, 2024)

Vice President-Elect (Three-year term: February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2027)

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, 2024 – January 31, 2027)

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 (Three-year term: February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2027)

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.

Student Director-at-Large (Two-year term: February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2026)

The Student Director-at-Large shall serve as Chair of the Doctoral Student Committee and represent student interests on the Board of Directors. The Student Director-at-Large serves on the Conference Committee and plans the student panel and luncheon at the annual conference. Note that this position is currently reserved for a doctoral student. Nominees should have a minimum of two years remaining in their doctoral studies.

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.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

The Nominees – Photos, Biographies, and Vision Statements

Vice President-Elect Nominee – Rocío Calvo, PhD



Rocío Calvo, PhD
Boston College, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Rocío Calvo is a Professor of Global Practice, the Assistant Dean for Equity, Justice, and Inclusion, and the Founding Director of the Latinx Leadership Initiative (LLI) at the Boston College School of Social Work. The LLI trains bilingual and bicultural social workers to transform outmoded care systems, practices, and programs in service of Latinx populations nationwide. Under Calvo's leadership for the past decade, the LLI has supported the professional development of early-career Latinx professors, doctoral students, and professional social workers.

Using a community-centered approach to design and implement interventions that address the needs identified by the community, Professor Calvo's research focuses on understanding how to improve access to social services for diverse Latinx populations.

She has been awarded extensive federal and state research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Calvo's research has also been supported by a variety of foundations and healthcare organizations, including Boston Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General Brigham, and the Russell Sage Foundation.

Calvo has been involved with the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) for over two decades, helping to create and serve as Co-Chair of the Latinx-Focused Research Cluster, serving as a regular reviewer for the annual conference, and organizing and facilitating the Latinx-Focused Special Interest Group.

Calvo has received numerous recognitions for her innovative interventions to improve the well-being of Latinx communities and her impact on the profession. In 2019, she received the Distinguished Recent Contributions to Social Work Education Award from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In 2020, the LLI was selected as a National Example of Excellence in higher education for Latinos in the United States. In 2022, Calvo received the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award for inspiring former students to create highly respected interventions that catalyze sustainable change in Latinx communities.

Vision Statement

There is an urgent need in our country to advance and disseminate bold, path-breaking research that embraces equity, justice, and inclusion, promotes sustainable change, and addresses the nation's most pressing social challenges. To advance our collective position as catalysts of social transformation, during my service as Vice-President elect, I will focus on five interrelated priorities:

1. Increase the diversity of social work research by ensuring that all scholars' interlocking identities are affirmed and represented.
2. Strengthen the pipeline of underrepresented scholars by leveraging their life experiences as strengths to the profession rather than as deficits.
3. Advance and disseminate rigorous, high-quality social work research that responds to the needs identified by the communities most affected by systemic inequities.
4. Promote research conducted by first-generation and underrepresented scholars at the annual conference.
5. Foster collaborative sessions during the conference among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to enhance the dissemination of research findings that respond to real-world problems.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Vice President-Elect Nominee – Rocío Calvo, PhD, Continued

SSWR's mission to advance research that addresses complex problems to promote a diverse, just, and equitable society aligns with an essential part of my career as an innovative leader who has harnessed the power of social work education, scholarship, and practice to knock down barriers that have prevented communities from accessing crucial services to improve their lives. It will be my honor to serve in this position and work with the Board to give back to our profession and to future generations of social work scholars.

Vice President-Elect Nominee – Hyeouk "Chris" Hahm, PhD, LCSW



Hyeouk "Chris" Hahm, PhD, LCSW
Boston University, School of Social Work

Biography

Hyeouk "Chris" Hahm, a Professor and Associate Dean for Research at Boston University School of Social Work, is the first Asian American who was promoted to full professor at BU, School of Social Work. She is dedicated to reducing health disparities with a particular emphasis on building empirical evidence of health risk behaviors among the underserved population.

Dr. Hahm, a SSWR fellow, bridges epidemiology, theory building, and intervention development/dissemination to better understand the factors related to depression, self-harm, and suicidal behaviors among the children of immigrants. She has pioneered "AWARE" and "Youth AWARE," culturally grounded interventions successfully introduced in educational institutions. Additionally, her team has created the AWARE Online Certificate Program, offering scalable and sustainable training for clinicians in treating Asian Americans.

Dr. Hahm initiated the "CARES: Covid-19 Resilience Study for Young Adults," study to assess COVID-19's impact on young adults' health and mental health in the U.S. Her research has received funding from NSF, NIMH, NIAAA, and NICHD. Her work has gained recognition in media outlets like NPR, USA Today, Boston Globe, Washington Post, GBH, and The Economist.

She earned her Masters and Ph.D. in Social Work from Columbia University, NY, and completed an NIMH Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley.

Vision Statement

I am deeply honored for the opportunity to run for the Vice President-Elect position on the SSWR Board. My journey with SSWR began in 2000 as a doctoral student at Columbia University. Over the years, I have engaged in numerous roles within SSWR, including conference abstract reviewer, invited speaker, member of the nominating committee, and SSWR fellow. Now, 23 years later, I remain inspired by the leadership and members of SSWR and their unwavering commitment to using research to foster an inclusive, just, and equitable society.

My primary vision for this position on the board involves serving our members to enhance research capabilities across all career stages, (MSW and doctoral students to senior researchers). I aim to bolster the research knowledge and skills of early career scholars through ample opportunities for grant writing, mentoring, and exploring innovative research methods. Concurrently, my vision includes supporting mid-career and senior scholars in advancing and refining their research expertise. Overall, my goal is to build a community of researchers within SSWR in which all members are enthusiastic about their research endeavors and view SSWR as a resource for their trajectory.

Second, I am committed to serve our members by elevating the standard of excellence in Social Work research by supporting rigorous, innovative, and ethical studies. A key aspect of this commitment involves advocating for increased federal and foundational funding for social work researchers. Specifically, I plan to build more sustained relationship with project officers from NIH, NSF, CDC, and various foundations, who will be instrumental in educating our membership about various funding priorities, opportunities, and mechanism. In turn, funders will develop a better understanding of the latest advancements of social work research.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Vice President-Elect Nominee – Hyeouk "Chris" Hahm, PhD, LCSW, Continued

Third, I aim to build capacity of the organization to effectively disseminate social work research to a wide audience, including consumers, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. In keeping with the rapid advancements in technology, this will include effective use of suitable social media platforms. Broader engagement will strengthen the impact of social work research findings with diverse constituencies.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Venera Bekteshi, PhD, MSW



Venera Bekteshi, PhD, MSW

The University of Oklahoma, Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

Biography

Escaping the Kosovo war at age 16, Dr. Venera Bekteshi resettled first in the United States and later in the United Kingdom. Early encounters with social injustice, ethnocentrism, and gender discrimination deeply influenced her commitment to addressing diversity and health disparities among vulnerable communities. Quadrilingual in Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Albanian, and English, she holds an MA in Political Science, an MPA, and an MSW in Global Social Work, in addition to a Ph.D. in Social Work. Professionally, Dr. Bekteshi's clinical reach is broad and varied, ranging from directing a non-profit focused on immigrant communities in New York City to overseeing a substantial homeless prevention initiative. She has worked directly with vulnerable populations, including those experiencing domestic violence, cultural integration issues, and employment difficulties. In addition to being featured in the Albanian American Success Stories project as one of the most successful Albanian women in academia, she also received a Mayor's Award in New York City and an honorary title from the Albanian American Women's Organization for her outreach activities in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. She has excelled in dynamic academic environments, including the University of Bath and the University of York in the United Kingdom, as well as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Bekteshi's research integrates a variety of disciplines, influenced by her studies at Boston College and postdoctoral work at Washington University in St. Louis. At the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Bekteshi is currently an Associate Professor specializing in health disparities. Her research, particularly her award-winning Lucha project, examines the social determinants of health disparities among Latina women. Her groundbreaking research models, designed to encapsulate the contextual nuances influencing holistic health—mental health included—have been cited in high-impact journals like *The Lancet Global*. Whether engaging with vulnerable communities in rural settings or crafting culturally sensitive research methodologies, Dr. Bekteshi consistently emerges as a staunch advocate for social justice and empowerment. Her mission is clear: to pioneer research in health disparities among immigrant women and be an advocate for social justice and vulnerable populations.

Vision Statement

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the position of Director at Large on the SSWR Board of Directors. While I am continuously inspired by the Society's current work, I hope to augment its mission with a vision that includes four key pillars:

Human-Centric Research: Beyond mere statistics, data represents the complex tapestry of human lives marked by challenges and resilience. Building on the Society's rich legacy, my intent is to bring a more participatory approach to research. Involving marginalized communities directly in our studies not only enriches the data but also fosters a sense of empowerment among those we aim to serve.

Global Connectivity: With a proven track record in international social work, notably in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Balkans/Europe and language skills, I bring a global perspective that could significantly extend the Society's reach. I have firsthand experience navigating diverse cultural and social norms, and I aim to leverage these experiences to facilitate international research collaborations, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and cross-border partnerships. Just as importantly, I seek to amplify the international research contributions of our current members, giving their invaluable work the platform and recognition it deserves. Through this, the Society can evolve into a globally recognized leader in social work research.

Methodological Innovation: I envision expanding the Society's already diverse research methodologies to inspire collaborations across sectors

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Director-at-Large Nominee – Venera Bekteshi, PhD, MSW, Continued

and cultures. My experience in various international settings allows me to introduce novel research techniques that are sensitive to cultural nuances, thus enriching our collective research approach.

Policy Translation: Given my past successes in community engagement and policy implementation, particularly in diverse and international contexts, I aim to serve as a conduit to turn research findings into actionable policy initiatives with real-world implications.

In summary, I aspire to leverage my unique set of skills—rooted in academic rigor, clinical practice, and most importantly, international experience—to enhance the Society for Social Work Research's existing contributions. I see a future where the Society is not just a leader in the United States but an influential global entity driving impactful research, policy changes, and social justice initiatives. With your support, I pledge to make this vision a reality.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Joan Blakey, PhD, MSW



Joan Blakey, PhD, MSW

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Blakey is the Director of the School of Social Work and Gamble Skogmo Endowed Chair at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities School of Social Work. She received her doctorate from the University of Chicago's School of Social Administration (the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice). She also attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, receiving a Bachelor of Science in African American Studies, Sociology, and Youth Studies and a Master of Social Work degree.

Dr. Blakey's research agenda primarily focuses on two main areas. Her first area of research focuses on Black women who have experienced interpersonal trauma and become involved with the child protection and criminal justice system. Her research aims to help more effectively serve Black women with histories of substance abuse, often resulting from complex trauma, who become involved with the child protection and criminal justice system. She has sought to understand the prevalence of trauma among women involved with these systems, the process of healing from trauma, creating trauma-informed systems of care, and testing the effectiveness of trauma-informed interventions.

Dr. Blakey's most recent research focuses on understanding the experiences of Black students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher educational settings. Her work consistently has been about creating and fostering a sense of belonging and equity through transforming systems to recognize and embrace peoples' full humanity where Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and other marginalized populations can excel and thrive.

Vision Statement

I am excited and honored to be considered for the Director-at-Large position with the SSWR Board of Directors. I intend to work in partnership with the other members to work towards realizing and furthering the vision and mission of SSWR.

In the role as Director at Large, my vision for SSWR is to:

- Nurture the next generation of scholars and researchers.
- Advance innovation in social work research methods and scholarship that promotes the design and implementation of practices and policies that further racial equity, inclusion, and belonging.
- Break down barriers across social work organizations and support one another in the work each does.
- Champion racial, equity, and social justice within and across the organization
- Creative problem-solving and crafting solutions that propel the organization forward

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Director-at-Large Nominee – Joan Blakey, PhD, MSW, Continued

I am committed to building the SSWR organization, its membership, and the impact it has on the social work profession. My nomination is a way of deepening my involvement and leadership in social work research and scholarship. My values and major accomplishments in the field align with the mission and strategic priorities of SSWR to advance, disseminate, and translate social work research and scholarship by uplifting, supporting, and encouraging the next generation of scholars and using social work research to advance and promote a more just and equitable society.

Director-at-Large Nominee – David J. Brennan, PhD, MSW



David J. Brennan, PhD, MSW
University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Biography

Dr. David J. Brennan joined the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto in 2007 and currently serves as Professor & Associate Dean, Research. Dr. Brennan is the founder and director of the CRUISElab, an interdisciplinary, community-based social work research lab dedicated to addressing the sexual, mental, physical, and emotional health of gay, bisexual, Two-Spirit, cis- and trans-gender men who have sex with other men (GB2M) and other sexual and gender minorities. Professor Brennan has been a social worker for 36 years and directly involved in the HIV epidemic since 1983 in numerous social work roles, including case manager, clinical supervisor, psychotherapist, program manager, educator and researcher.

Dr. Brennan's community-engaged research focuses on HIV and STBBI risk and resiliencies for GB2M. He examines the ways in which GB2M who are marginalized by sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, HIV status and other social identities and lived experiences, access health and social services information and care. His studies have examined resilience among Two-Spirit gay and bisexual men living long term with HIV, the intersection of racism and body image among racialized GB2M, psychosocial factors affecting people living with HIV as they age, and the health needs of GB2M who use mobile apps for socio-sexual and educational/informational reasons. His work is driven by a commitment to social inclusion and equity, and the principles of community-based research. He is regarded as one of Canada's top HIV social science researchers engaged in community-based research.

David was previously awarded an **Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) Research Chair** and recently held an **OHTN Endgame Leadership Chair** in Gay and Bisexual Men's Health (Social Work). He was the 2018 recipient of the **Excellence in Research Award (Social Sciences)** from the Canadian Association for HIV/AIDS Research and the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR). He received the **2008 Alumni of the Year Award** from his alma mater, the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Dr. Brennan's research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, the University of Toronto Connaught Community Partnership Research Program, OHTN, and CANFAR.

Vision Statement

My association with SSWR is more than just membership; it's a testament to my deep-rooted commitment to the advancement of social work research that enhances wellbeing and social justice. Since my SSWR beginnings as a doctoral student volunteer in 2003, my journey with SSWR has been intertwined with my growth and accomplishments as a social work academic. The connections, collaborations, and profound insights I've garnered through SSWR have been pivotal in shaping my career. Today, as I hope to serve on the Board, it's not just an honor but an excellent opportunity to give back to an organization that has given me so much.

SSWR isn't just an organization; it's a critical component of the social work field, that has broad implications well beyond social work. Our collective efforts, characterized by impactful scholarship and research, are crucial to the sustenance and progress of the field of social work and

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Director-at-Large Nominee – David J. Brennan, PhD, MSW, Continued

the realization of equity, inclusion, and social justice. I am ardently driven to amplify SSWR's mission – "to be the catalyst for excellence in developing, implementing, and translating research that advances social work practice and social policy that improves human wellbeing."

Witnessing SSWR's evolution into a leading entity in our field has been immensely gratifying. My desire to serve as Director-at-Large is underpinned by a deep dedication to fortifying and advancing SSWR's strategic vision and its new strategic plan. As a member of the board, I pledge to:

- Amplify and highlight the voices of our members, especially those who have been traditionally marginalized in academic and research structures, as we pursue our mission and new strategic plan.
- Promote the essence of social work through research that upholds our core values, including social justice, racial equity, human dignity, and the sanctity of human relationships.
- Accentuate the transformative power of social work research, underscoring its significance in reshaping policies and optimizing social and health services, especially for the underserved and marginalized.
- Champion SSWR as a dynamic hub for celebrating and disseminating exceptional research, fostering knowledge exchange, and nurturing talent, leadership, and mentorship across diverse career stages.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Karen Bullock, PhD, LICSW, APHSW-C, FGSA



Karen Bullock, PhD, LICSW, APHSW-C, FGSA
Boston College, School of Social Work

Biography

Karen Bullock is the Louise McMahon Ahearn Endowed Professor of Social Work at Boston College. She is a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar and a licensed independent social worker (LICSW) with mental health practice experience and research expertise in health disparities, health equity, serious illness care, aging and gerontology. She holds interdisciplinary appointments in Global Public Health at Boston College, Harvard Medical School and Dana Farber Cancer Institute in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Supportive Care.

Vision Statement

I am pleased to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). My interest in serving as a Director at Large aligns with the mission, vision and strategic priorities of SSWR. In particular, the fostering of a trans-disciplinary, inter-professional support network of investigators conducting and engaged in research on social work practice and policy is an area in which I have strengths to contribute to the Board. I have demonstrated commitment to advancing research in the areas of health disparities, equity and inclusion, in mental health and serious illness care research and practice. Moreover, I have successfully secured funding to design and implement workforce development training and education for social workers on interdisciplinary teams. The evaluations of these programs documented the need to expand mechanisms and opportunities for developing social work-led research agendas, consultations, collaborations, and mentoring. As a Director at Large, I can effectively contribute to capacity building and collaboration.

I currently mentor faculty in schools of social work, schools of medicine and schools of nursing. In addition, I have interdisciplinary appointments in public and private healthcare agencies that help foster the preparation of master and doctoral students. I would bring this expertise to the SSWR Board and contribute to research training and mentoring SSWR members throughout their social work research careers.

My vision is to see SSWR increase training opportunities for early career scholars while engaging senior/independent research scholars in collaborative networks advancing team science, disseminating community-engaged, equity focused research.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Director-at-Large Nominee – Karen Bullock, PhD, LICSW, APHSW-C, FGSA, Continued

Thus, I commit to:

- Engaging in collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders to improve the quality of research and practice.
- Expanding mechanisms and opportunities for members to network, develop research agendas, consult, collaborate, and mentoring.

As a Director at Large on the SSWR Board, I commit to the shared values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person. Through the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion, I aim to foster rigorous research for social justice, addressing structural and systemic barriers to building research capacity among racial, ethnic and culturally diverse faculty research scholars.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Orion Mowbray, PhD, MSW



Orion Mowbray, PhD, MSW
University of Georgia, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Orion Mowbray is a Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Georgia School of Social Work. He is the current Editor for the Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work. Dr. Mowbray received his PhD in Social Work and Psychology from the University of Michigan. As a SSWR member since 2004, he has contributed to SSWR in multiple roles as cluster co-chair (Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Addictive Behaviors), abstract reviewer, moderator, roundtable panelist, and presenter. His research examines mental health and substance use services embedded within existing social systems involving vulnerable persons. A consistent theme from his work is that many disenfranchised groups such as persons in criminal justice systems, older adults, and foster care-involved youth experience unique risk and protective factors associated with substance use and mental health problems, which have direct implications for the services many do, or do not receive. Across these areas of research, Dr. Mowbray has established multiple interdisciplinary research partnerships and a track record of funding from the NIH, BJA, HRSA and SAMHSA. His research has been disseminated in many avenues, including publication in high-impact journals relevant to social work, social science, and medicine. His research has also been featured in multiple media outlets, including local news, Sirius XM radio, and NPR. In the role of Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Mowbray has provided leadership and support for increased access to funding opportunities, growth in research outputs, and improved visibility of research efforts from faculty and students.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated as Director-At-Large. I have a deep commitment to SSWR and approach my role in advancing social work research with dedication. If elected, I will collaborate closely with the SSWR Board and others to advance the visibility, stature, and impact of social work research. Additionally, I will work to strengthen the organizational health of SSWR by creating optimal platforms for showcasing our work. Specifically, my vision is to:

Emphasize the impact of social work by promoting its rich tapestry of research. The social issues outlined in our Grand Challenges are complex, demanding diverse approaches to solve them. Therefore, it is critical we broaden avenues to feature our research while celebrating the breadth of our field. As a Board member, I will collaborate with others to develop these avenues, including expanding the reach of SSWR media platforms that are accessible to the public.

Support innovative cross-field collaboration. Social work is inherently interdisciplinary, drawing strength from collaborative knowledge. The synergy of interdisciplinary work is our most potent tool for impact by turning innovation into practical actions to address social issues. If elected, I will work with the Board and others to strengthen the interdisciplinary focus within SSWR through its next strategic plan and associated priorities, which will provide a solid foundation for fostering collaboration with other academic fields.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Director-at-Large Nominee – Orien Mowbray, PhD, MSW, Continued

Improve the organizational health of SSWR. As a Board member, I plan to address the increased costs associated with SSWR participation through advocacy to expand the travel award program, reduce fees for presenters, and consider travel costs in conference site selection, among other actions. If elected, I also plan to work with others to improve the reporting process and consequences for anti-harassment violations to enhance safety at SSWR conferences. Finally, I will advocate for a post-conference reporting process that provides information on annual acceptance rates, attendance rates, and award/recognition decisions to ensure our organization represents its members in an inclusive and equitable manner.

Director-at-Large Nominee – Liliane Cambraia Windsor, PhD, MSW



Liliane Cambraia Windsor, PhD, MSW
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work

Biography

Liliane Cambraia Windsor, Ph.D., MSW is Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Social Work at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Windsor's research focuses on the application of critical consciousness theory to the development of multi-level interventions designed to promote health equity in the fields of substance use disorders treatment, infectious disease, and the criminal legal system in marginalized communities. Dr. Windsor follows community based participatory research (CBPR) principles and the multiphase optimization strategy (MOST). She utilizes a variety of scientific methodologies including ethnography, randomized experimental controlled trials, measurement development, meta-analysis, and online survey. She is the founder and chair of the Critical Consciousness Collaborative, a group of researchers, service providers, and consumers who partner with marginalized communities to develop evidence-based health interventions with real world impact. Dr. Windsor is currently the principal investigator in two large randomized controlled trials funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to optimize the COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment Cascade. Dr. Windsor is a 2019-2020 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow with a placement in Senator Dick Durbin's office. Born and raised in Brazil, Dr. Windsor received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from FCH-FUMEC, Brazil, in 1998. She moved to Texas in 2000 to pursue her Master of Science and doctoral degrees in Social Work from The University of Texas at Austin.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be considered for the Director at Large role at SSWR, with a fervent commitment to advancing its mission and vision. My vision is to expand SSWR's reach and impact, particularly in the pursuit of social justice. I pledge to:

- Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): I will center marginalized voices and research within an equity framework, fostering inclusivity and justice within SSWR.
- Support Social Work Grand Challenges: Collaborating with practitioners through the Grand Challenges initiative to drive positive change in communities.
- Enhance Research Dissemination: Develop accessible mechanisms for researchers to maximize their work's impact on policy and practice.
- Facilitate Mentorship: Strengthen mentorship opportunities for BIPOC scholars and future social work researchers.
- Foster Networking: Create robust networking opportunities to connect SSWR members, policymakers, and the public for effective knowledge dissemination.

In summary, my vision for SSWR centers on inclusivity, collaboration, and excellence with real world impact. By expanding research reach, addressing critical issues, and upholding DEI principles, SSWR can be a transformative force within social work.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee – Justin Harty, PhD, MSW, LCSW



Justin Harty, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Arizona State University, School of Social Work

Biography

Dr. Justin S. Harty is a scholar in child welfare, fatherhood, and social work history, emphasizing the dismantling of racism and colonialism within the profession. Dr. Harty is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University, with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work. He holds bachelor's degrees in sociology and philosophy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MSW focused on children and families from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Harty's research explores the challenges and needs of young fathers aging out of foster care, father involvement in child welfare, and the history of father-related social services in social work.

Dr. Harty's commitment to social justice is unwavering, as he actively looks to dismantle the pervasive issues of racism and colonialism within the social work profession. Using Black social work history as a foundation, he directly confronts white supremacy, racism, and colonialism. Drawing inspiration from the rich African traditions of self-help and mutual aid, Dr. Harty empowers both social workers and communities of color to resist oppression and inequality within social work. Dr. Harty serves on the leadership team of the Social Welfare History Group, where he collaborates on bibliographies addressing social work's reactions to pressing issues like pandemics and police violence. Additionally, he started a Legacy Series spotlighting the contributions of social workers and communities of color.

Dr. Harty's recent historical research highlights the considerable influence Black organizations and social movements have exerted in challenging colonialism and racism within the profession of social work, especially during divisive sociopolitical times. As the nation grapples with the legacy of white supremacist symbols and debates the removal of colonialist and racist monuments, Harty urges a profound introspection within the social work profession. He questions whether certain elements, such as social work syllabi, courses, research methodologies, interventions, and practices, might also be lasting symbols of white supremacy. Harty's ongoing mission is to propel social work forward by critically re-evaluating these components, ensuring a steadfast commitment to opposing white supremacy, racism, and colonialism.

Vision Statement

It is a profound privilege and responsibility to be nominated for the role of SSWR Early Career Director-at-Large. With a strong commitment to unearthing and honoring the rich tapestry of our profession's history, especially the contributions of social workers of color, I'm poised to bring a critical and inclusive perspective to this role. If elected, I'll tirelessly work towards integrating these foundational histories into our present and future. There are three visions that fuel my passion and commitment towards steering our profession towards an antiracist and anticolonialist future:

1. Historical research in our profession has frequently overlooked the invaluable contributions and narratives of social workers of color, as well as the significant stories of resistance from communities of color. These omissions hinder our understanding and confrontation of the deep-seated racism and colonialism within social work. If elected as SSWR Early Career DAL, my primary objective will be to recenter and prioritize this crucial historical research within SSWR. I'm committed to amplifying these narratives, shaping contemporary research, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable research agenda for SSWR.
2. The end of affirmative action intensifies our profession's ongoing challenge of achieving diversity and addressing the diverse needs of our clients. This has implications for our ability to effectively combat racism and colonialism, risks marginalizing Indigenous knowledge, and dilutes intersectional approaches. Further, it threatens institutional trust, jeopardizes community partnerships, and weakens advocacy efforts for marginalized communities. If elected as Early Career DAL, I'm committed to profoundly integrating these challenges into our research, emphasizing a simultaneous addressal of racism and colonialism. My goal is to ensure our profession is proactive, fostering genuine equity, understanding, and inclusivity.

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee – Justin Harty, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Continued

3. Amidst the rise of anti-DEI and anti-democratic challenges, I passionately believe in harnessing social work history as a critical tool for counteraction. Delving deep into our profession's roots offers insights and strategies to robustly address these pressing issues. As potential Early Career DAL, my goal is to amplify SSWR's emphasis on historical research, leveraging its depth to combat these contemporary challenges. By anchoring ourselves in our history, I envision social work championing inclusion, equity, and democratic values.

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee – Kristen Ravi, PhD, LMSW



Kristen Ravi, PhD, LMSW
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work

Biography

Kristen Ravi, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee and the assistant director of the Child and Youth Development Lab. She holds a B.S.W. from The University of Arkansas, an M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Ravi is an expert mixed methodologist with publications ranging from psychometrics to grounded theory. She has experience with both big data and community-engaged scholarship, and her research centers on how intimate partner violence (IPV) impacts survivors and their children, IPV help-seeking, and, more recently, protective factors that may mitigate the consequences of IPV. She utilizes an innovative, interdisciplinary team-science approach in her research. Her expertise has been sought by IPV service providers in Knoxville. Dr. Ravi received the 2023 Early Career Research Award from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work.

Dr. Ravi is a trauma-informed social work educator and scholar who strives to ensure that her teaching and research practices align with the principles of safety, trustworthiness, transparency, collaboration, and mutuality, empowering voice, and choice. Dr. Ravi is passionate about mentoring social work doctoral students and has been sought out for external mentorship from a range of disciplines. She was selected to participate in the JSSWR early career reviewer program in 2020-2022. Dr. Ravi developed a SSWR abstract mentoring team with the University of Tennessee College of Social Work Students. She served as a junior faculty fellow for the provost from 2021-2023, representing and advocating for junior faculty in the College of Social Work. Dr. Ravi recently served on a panel hosted by the University of Tennessee's Commission for women for graduate students about academic motherhood, where she discussed her experiences as a social work doctoral student and early career scholar and provided support to graduate students who are mothers navigating academia.

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.

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Early Career Director at Large for SSWR. I am committed to social work research and mentorship of other early career researchers and doctoral students. I am passionate about developing research capacity and professional development in the following ways, which align with SSWR's strategic plan.

1. Increasing training opportunities- As an organization, SSWR must continue to invest in and develop its members, especially early career members, to ensure a pipeline of rising scholars into rigorous, funded social work that advances social justice. If elected as an early-career director at large, I will advocate for continued research training to promote the growth and development of early-career scholars that includes innovative research methods. It is critical that research trainings are accessible through the use of technology

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Early Career Director-at-Large Nominee – Kristen Ravi, PhD, LMSW, Continued

and offered throughout the year. It is also important for SSWR to develop early career researchers' grant writing capacity to create funding sustainability.

2. Development of research capacity and professional development of doctoral students: Providing doctoral students with professional development opportunities and additional research training shows the investment in the future of social work research. If elected, I will work collaboratively with partners in GADE and CSWE to create additional learning opportunities for doctoral students at various stages of their programs, such as when they are acculturating to academia, especially for students who are parents and caregivers and those returning after a practice career, advancing into the dissertation phase, and entering and succeeding in the job market.
3. Expand collaboration and mentoring opportunities- I am passionate about mentoring. I have experienced the benefits of mentoring as a doctoral student and an early career faculty member. It is imperative that SSWR continues and advances its mentorship programs throughout the year. SSWR has established excellent programming during the SSWR conference meeting, such as meet-the-scientist lunches, coffee with a scholar, and the innovation incubator program. If elected, I would advocate for SSWR to facilitate these relationships long term and provide networking and mentorship events beyond the annual meeting.

Student Director-at-Large Nominee – Fatima Mabrouk, MSW



Fatima Mabrouk, MSW
New York University, Silver School of Social Work

Biography

Fatima Mabrouk is a dedicated PhD student enrolled at NYU's Silver School of Social Work. She holds the esteemed title of NYU's Urban Doctoral Fellow and is a dedicated social worker and equity advocate. Her fervor lies in empowering historically underrepresented Black/African American women professionals. Fatima's research specializes in helping individuals who experience racial microaggressions in behavioral healthcare settings and is interested in studying the stressful effects of microaggressions. In addition to her academic pursuits, Fatima plays a pivotal role as a Peer Advocate and Consultant within NYU Silver School of Social Work's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) office. In this capacity, she diligently supports students and faculty of color in their academic journeys. Fatima brings a wealth of experience in clinical practice and social science research to the table. She has also shared her knowledge through teaching courses at NYU, Hunter, and Columbia, shedding light on mental health, policy issues within social work, workplace discrimination, and institutional equity. As she continues her doctoral journey at NYU Silver School of Social Work, she remains resolutely committed to utilizing her research to advance institutional equity and combat workplace discrimination.

Vision Statement

I am deeply honored and enthusiastic about the prospect of serving as the Student Director at Large on the SSWR Board of Directors. I firmly believe that my unwavering passion, unyielding dedication, and demonstrated leadership abilities make me exceptionally well-suited to contribute significantly and be an invaluable asset to the SSWR Board and the wider community of doctoral students in schools of social work. In the event of my election, my vision for this role encompasses a set of fundamental commitments:

1. **Pioneering Innovative Professional Development Opportunities:** I envision not only building upon the progress that has been made but also taking it to the next level. My goal is to provide pioneering professional development opportunities for students that are at the cutting edge of our field. This involves not only increasing student representation within SSWR but also forging entirely new and inventive pathways for students to engage with scholars and excel in the highly competitive job market. I'm dedicated to creating a dynamic sense of community among students and mentors, fostering a supportive environment that leads to a diverse range of opportunities within our field.
2. **Enhancing the Reach and Visibility of the Doctoral Student Committee:** To better serve our community, I propose the establishment of a robust online and conference presence for the Doctoral Student Committee. This strategic move will significantly enhance the

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTIONS

Student Director-at-Large Nominee – Fatima Mabrouk, MSW, Continued

dissemination of crucial resources and elevate networking opportunities. By effectively utilizing social media and active participation in relevant conferences, to ensure a higher degree of engagement, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among students.

3. **Highlighting the Achievements of Doctoral Students in the Field:** I am deeply committed to shining a light on the remarkable achievements of doctoral students in the realm of Social Work. This spotlight will be dedicated to individuals, particularly those who come from historically marginalized backgrounds, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. They have played an indispensable role in reshaping our field. Our discussions will delve deeply into pivotal issues, including but not limited to Racial and Structural Oppression, Whiteness, and the collective vision for an Anti-Racist profession. This platform aims to celebrate these accomplishments and further the dialogue around transformative change.
4. **Championing Innovative Research Methodologies with a Clear Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive Perspective:** I am firmly committed to promoting an Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive approach in the domain of social work education and research, just as my predecessors have. My dedication centers around advancing the mission and objectives of SSWR, particularly in the areas of strengthening social work practice and policies to enhance human well-being while fostering social justice. In this endeavor, my focus extends to exploring and advocating for research methodologies that explicitly address the issues of racial and societal oppression. This will involve engaging with cutting-edge approaches that challenge conventional paradigms, pushing the boundaries of existing research methodologies, and encouraging new ways of understanding and combating systemic inequalities. My belief is that by advancing these research methodologies and theories, we can drive progress in social work that is not only inclusive but also genuinely transformative, leading to a more equitable and just society.

Student Director-at-Large Nominee – Yadira Tejada, MSW



Yadira Tejada, MSW

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

Biography

Yadira (Yadi) Tejada is a third-year doctoral student at the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis (Wash U). Yadi was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She earned her Bachelor's in sociology and Master's in social work from California State University, Northridge. Yadi's field experience includes working as a Child Protective Services (CPS) children's social worker, serving as a field instructor for MSW students interning for CPS, and working with former foster youth at a community college. She has taught an MSW course in Human Behavior at Northridge and is currently a co-instructor for Social Work Practice in Early and Middle Childhood at Wash U. Yadi presently serves as the Social Work Ph.D. Senator for WashU's Graduate Student Senate. As a senator, Yadi voices concerns about improving doctoral education, particularly for students whose narrative is often forgotten.

Yadi had served as a journal peer-reviewer and as a poster reviewer for a research symposium at the Brown School of Social Work. Her research interest focuses on the Latinx population who are involved with Child Protective Services. She uses both qualitative and quantitative research methods, seeking to better understand different approaches to data. Yadi hopes to add the Latinx experience to the field of child maltreatment research to enhance best practices for working with this vulnerable population.

Yadi joined SSWR in 2022 and has been impressed by the connections, webinars, and opportunities offered. Since joining as a member, Yadi has been looking for ways to be more involved with SSWR, including being considered for the Student Director-at-Large position.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Student Director-at-Large. My personal and professional experiences, passion, and leadership align well with SSWR's vision and mission. Policy, practice, and research must be integrated as social workers strive to advance equity. My vision for moving SSWR forward includes:

Student Director-at-Large Nominee – Yadira Tejada, MSW, Continued

Advancing antiracist and anti-oppressive research through the application of research

Social work increasingly embraces antiracist and anti-oppressive perspectives and must apply these perspectives to transform lives. Teaching and research are central, and I am interested in making sure our commitment to antiracism and reducing oppression manifests in better lives for the most vulnerable. In collaboration with other leadership, we will continue to develop opportunities for research focused on prevention and interventions that meet the needs of the communities we serve. For example, webinars can highlight research that has a direct impact on improving people's lives and reducing the effects of oppression.

Advocacy for non-traditional and underrepresented students

As a first-generation Latina doctoral student, I have had first-hand experience with the obstacles of navigating academia. I hope that the lessons I have learned in overcoming these challenges can be applied to help other students. Social work can benefit from embracing all forms of difference, including groups that may be less visible, such as first-generation, undocumented, working, caregiving, or second-career students. Each of these groups experiences their own particular challenges in accessing and benefiting from social work education and research opportunities. Intersectionality also adds complexity. SSWR can benefit from an increased awareness of these complex issues and should start to implement concrete plans to bring about genuine change.

Inclusion of a broader range of schools in SSWR activities and events.

Maximizing inclusion of previously underrepresented and often under-resourced schools at SSWR should be a priority. Empirical knowledge generation is something that social work should do as a whole profession. All schools should be encouraged to participate in and present at SSWR so that our profession can benefit from a broad spectrum of experiences and viewpoints. For example, scholarships for researchers at under-resourced schools for travel expenses could be emphasized.