Mid-Semester Library Supports

We are six weeks into the Fall semester and many of you are making your way through the readings on the course syllabi, preparing and working on papers, exams or dissertation proposals, and collecting, analyzing, and writing up your dissertation findings for that final document. In the midst of this process, do not forget that the Mina Rees Library has many resources and supports to assist you as you progress, including a live 24/7 chat, and one-on-one consultations with a librarian.

Contact a Librarian

Call for Student Funding

We are pleased to announce a call for funding for all registered students. The funding can help support your presentation at an academic conference taking place this Spring 2022, or can be used to support you in your completion of data collection and/or data analysis (e.g., transcription costs; services of an editor). If you are interested in applying for funding, please complete the application form at: Call for Funding. Deadline is October 22, 2020.

STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER & SELF-CARE IN GRADUATE SCHOOL:

- The Wellness Center reception area is now open Tuesdays 11-3, and Thursdays 9-2 to serve you in person.
- Upcoming workshops are listed on p. 3
- Read: "A doctoral student's guide to self-care"
The GC Student Counseling Center Clinical Fellowship is open to students in the PhD in Social Welfare program and in clinical and counseling psychology programs in NYC. Fellows work part time providing short term psychotherapy services to GC students, and co-facilitate workshops and groups. The Fellowship is 15 hours weekly and runs from the end of August through the end of May.

Interested in applying?
See: GC Clinical Training

**Yasmine J. Awais, MPhil, LCAT**

**PhD Candidate**

Recipient of a Grad A through the GC Wellness Center for the 2021-22 Academic Year

Yasmine has joined the GC Wellness Center this academic year as a Clinical Fellow. Yasmine is a PhD Candidate and is a licensed creative arts therapist, with board certification and registration in art therapy (ATR-BC) and is a certified art therapy supervisor (ATCS). As part of her fellowship, Yasmine will be providing individual counseling and co-facilitating a group for Asian identified students and will co-facilitate a workshop on navigating race based trauma on October 21st at 5:30pm.

**Anila Duro** provided a workshop, "Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia and the Gulf" with the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center, National Defense University, DC. She also presented "Experiences of Albanian Women in the US: Understanding Abuse & Coercive Control," based on her community project (PAR), focused on DV and Albanian Women residing in the US.

**Tabashshum (TJ) Islam** has published two creative writing pieces that revolve around forced migration, human trafficking and child labor exploitation. Their short story, River Girl, Outer World (pgs. 124-137), has been published in the Gagosian Quarterly. Gagosian describes it as a story exploring "matters of displacement, returning home, and labor, all with a surreal twist." The first few chapters of a children's book, Rookie & The Djinn have been published in Guernica. The story is about a young South Asian orphan who has been removed from her orphanage by outside forces. She comes to discover a mysterious connection to djinns (i.e., supernatural creatures also known as genies). It is an adaptation of Diana Wynne Jones’ Earwig and the Witch.

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**Student Achievements: August & September**

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Upcoming Events & Workshops

• **Library Workshops:**
  - 10/1 (2 -3pm) "Introduction to Grants & Funding" ([Registration](#))
  - 10/12 (1 - 2pm) or 12/6 (11 - 12pm) "Predatory" Journals and Conferences: What to Know about the Faux" ([Registration](#))
  - 10/20 (1 - 2pm) "Research Metrics: What They Mean and What They Don’t" ([Registration](#))
  - 10/26 (1 - 2pm) Or 11/8 (2 - 3pm) "Open Access Explained: Best Practices for Finding Others’ Research and Publicly Sharing Yours" ([Registration](#))

• **The Wellness Center Workshops & Groups:**
  - 10/21 (5:30 - 7pm) "Coping with Race Related Stress and Trauma" ([Registration](#))
  - 10/27 (12:30 - 2pm) "Managing your Procrastination in Graduate School" ([Registration](#))
  - Tuesday afternoons "Asian Graduate Student Academic Support Group"
  - Monday & Wednesday afternoons "Academic Support Group for Black Identified Students"*
  - Monday afternoons "Grief Support Group"*
  - Mondays (11am - 12:15pm) "First-Generation Graduate Student Support Group"*
  - (*Email wellness@gc.cuny.edu to register for a group)

• **Book Launch:**
  - 10/12 (7 - 8:30pm): Mark Warren's, "Willful Defiance: The Movement to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline" (Zoom details to follow in an email)
  - 10/26 (7 - 8:30pm): Rosa Rivera-McCutchen's, "Radical Care: Leading for Justice in Urban Education" (Zoom details to follow in an email). PhD in Social Welfare student, Evelyn Bautista-Miller, to serve on the student discussion panel

• **PhD in Social Welfare Open House** for Interested Applicants (10/19 from 6:00 - 7:30pm) Please share with those who may be interested in applying to the program!

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Governance: PhD in Social Welfare Student Representatives

Students are nominated to serve on one of three committees in the PhD in Social Welfare program. The initial term is for 2 years and can be renewed if nominated again. Self-nominations are encouraged. In addition to serving on the respective committee, the student reps will meet with the EO once or twice a semester to provide feedback and suggestions. You are encouraged to provide any feedback or suggestions for the PhD in Social Welfare program to one of the student reps to bring to a meeting with the EO.

Your current student representatives are:

**Admissions Committee:** Britton Williams & Diana Melendez

**Curriculum Committee:** Adashima Oyo & Monica Thompson

**Executive Committee:** Sarah Bussey & Ryan Camire

There will be a call for nominations for all six positions next academic year (2022/23). Please consider taking on one of these roles.
Student Spotlight: Adashima Oyo

Let's Have a Conversation with Adashima!

**Why did you apply to the PhD in Social Welfare?** - I applied to PhD programs because I was curious. I also wanted to contribute my voice and experience to the research topic I was planning to explore.

**What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why?** - As one without a social work or social welfare background, all of the core courses for our program was very eye-opening. There were two elective courses that I enjoyed the most for two different reasons. The first course was Intro to Demography with Professor Na Yin! I learned a lot in the class, but what stood out the most for me was Professor Yin encouraging us not to be afraid to reach out to distinguished scholars or experts. She’d say, “just send an email, and see where it goes.” The other class was Intersectionality & Activist Research (M4BL) with Professor Carmen Kynard. For the first time, I felt like I really belonged in my graduate studies. The professor looked like me and shared some of my experiences, almost all of the students in the class were people of color and I liked that Professor Kynard made a point to include several Black scholars in the suggested reading list. The class felt like a safe space. It didn't even really feel like a “class.” It felt more like a community.

**What do you want to do after you graduate?** - When I first applied to The Graduate Center, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. As I near the end, I’m not so sure what I want to do anymore. I want to stay in higher ed and I want to continue doing research, but I’m still trying to figure out the details. I’m okay with not having a specific answer right now. I know that I do not want a tenure-track position, as of right now.

**What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY?** - Before applying for doctoral programs, I worked at seven different CUNY schools in various capacities. For the last 5 years, I’ve been working as an adjunct at Brooklyn College. More recently, I’ve been working as the Interim Associate Director of the Futures Initiative and Director of Programs & Administration at HASTAC.

**What’s something that people would be surprised to know about you?** - I used to be a professional clown... red nose, big floppy shoes and everything else that comes to mind when you think of a clown. I remember riding the trains in full clown attire to get to my gigs.

**What is the focus of your research?** - My dissertation is exploring recruitment and admission practices at schools of public health in the United States. I am working with Professors Michael Lewis and Alexis Kuerbis and some faculty at the CUNY School of Public Health.

**What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to?** - I like listening to WQXR. NYC’s classical music station in the mornings. It’s like musical coffee to get me started.

**What’s something we should ask you? What’s your answer?** - “Are you having more kids?” Maybe 2 more, and I’m done. I enjoying motherhood as much as I enjoy being a scholar. I just wish I wasn’t doing both at the same time; it’s not easy.