

SAKARA WAGES, Ph.D., MSW

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Education

- August 2023 **Ph.D.**, Social Welfare, Sandra Rosenbaum University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dissertation Title: *“Remembering, Relating, and Recording the Legacy of Black Women Social Welfare Providers”*
Committee: Tova Walsh (chair), Kristen Slack, Lara Gerassi, Carolina Sarmiento
- May 2020 **M.S.W.**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Concentration: Child, Youth, and Family Welfare
- May 2017 **B.S.**, Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Professional Experience

- Project Assistant Sept 2022- Current
Partnership: UW-Madison HEAL, Cultural Practices that are Relevant (CPR), and Nehemiah
Assist with the planning, execution, and evaluation of the 2023 Black History Education Conference and a symposium (Spring 2024) focused on the history of people of African descent in what becomes the state of Wisconsin.
- Programs, Operations, and Evaluations Assistant May 2020-Current
Progress Center for Black Women, Madison, WI
Assist clients with diverse personal and professional needs. Manage projects and campaigns. Design intake assessments. Collect, track, and analyze data. Create and disseminate design collateral and data briefs.
- Founding Director May 2020-Current
Subversive Social Work, Platteville, WI
Provide institutional social work service to underserved communities. Oversee business operations and community mutual aid fund. Support historically excluded communities access resources.
- Family Group Conferencing Spring 2019
Dane County Human Service, Madison, WI
MSW Intern. Accepted referrals and coordinated staffing with the social work team. Trained to facilitate family meetings that allow families to make decisions about their children’s welfare. Trained to negotiate and manage family conflict, liaise, and mediate conflicts between individuals, families, and agencies.
- Independent Living Social Work Intern Fall 2018
Dane County Human Services, Madison, WI
Served the needs of youth aging from foster care. Supported young adults in pursuing their employment, education, and life skills. Assessed, counseled, and referred residents to resources and support services as appropriate. Attended interdisciplinary team meetings and individualized education plan meetings.

Patient Access Representative Summer 2017
Southwest Health, Platteville, WI

Trained to assess and respond to emergencies. Attended weekly meetings to ensure data security and HIPAA compliance. Received intensive training on Medicare/Medicaid policies and EPIC software. Gained proficiency in insurance claims management. Offered comfort and support to families during emergencies.

Student Support Services Tutor Fall 2016
Student Support Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Provided academic support to diverse populations, including first-generation college students. Provided one-on-one academic support in Statistics, Political Science, and Psychology. Initiated a campaign to research, measure, and raise professor awareness of program services.

DRIVEN Program Assistant Fall 2016
Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Supported a retention program for historically underserved populations. Planned and managed student events. Assisted with designing and facilitating academic workshops and training programs to address concerns and foster academic success.

Treatment Coordinator Intern Summer 2016
Grant County Courthouse, Lancaster, WI

Supported 25-40 participants in DUI Court and Drug Court caseload. Participated in weekly interdisciplinary team meetings involving court members and mental health professionals. Attended court sessions and assisted with the coordination of weekly treatment court. Analyzed data to help with grant writing.

Academic Advising Intern Summer 2016
Psychology Department, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Reviewed placement test scores, A.P. credits, and transfer courses to assist incoming first-year students and potential psychology majors in registering during new student registration. Assisted students with selecting courses that aligned with their possible career paths. Ensured that students met general education course requirements.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer Fall 2023
Psychology of Human Sexuality
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Lecturer Spring 2020-2023
CJ4530: Social Welfare Policy
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Lecturer Summer 2021-2022
SW650: Social Work Research Methods
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Lecturer Summer 2021-2022
ES3010: Race, Gender, and Class in the United States
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Lecturer Fall 2020-2022
CJ4540: Social Work with Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

Lecturer Fall 2020
Intro to College Life: Subversive Study Skills
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI
Responsible for two sections.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2020
SW205: Introduction to Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Responsible for two sections.

Peer-Assisted Learning Leader Fall 2015 - 2017
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI
Created lesson plans for weekly discussion sessions to support the following courses:

- POLISCI 1130: Introduction to Political Science (Fall 2015, Fall 2016)
- PSYCH 1130: Introduction to Experimental Psychology (Spring 2016)
- POLISCI 2360: International Relations (Spring 2016, Spring 2017)

Government Reports

Slack, K.S., **Wages, S.**, Reilly, A., Abbot, M., Berger, L., (2020). Flash Survey on Child Welfare Work Satisfaction in the State of Wisconsin. Report prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Lee, H., **Wages, S.**, Slack, K.S., Pac, J., Berger, L. (2020). YASI Readiness Survey of Youth Justice Workers: Preliminary Evaluation of Cohorts 1 and 2. Memorandum prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Wages, S., Slack, K.S., Walther, A., Pac, J., Berger, L. (2019). Best Practices in Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Human Services Workforce. Memorandum prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Berger, L.M., Slack, K.S., **Wages, S.**, Abbott, M. (2019). Continuum of care in out-of-home placement. Memorandum prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Invited Talks, Workshops & Presentations

Barbarin, I., **Wages, S.**, Aguirre Mtanous, N. (2023, January). *Centering Disability Justice*. Presented at the 2021 Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference in Madison, WI

Kirk, R., Jackson D., Isbister, D., **Wages, S.**, Garza, G.(2021, April). *Growth Starts at the End of Your Comfort Zone*. Presented at the 2021 Resistance and Reimagination: Gender, Change, and the Arts Conference, Madison, WI.

Wages, S. (2021, April). *Intersectionality Ain't a Buzzword, Issa Tool*. Presented at LGBTQ Rainbow Conference, Dubuque, IA.

Wages, S. (2020, February). *Living Authentically Black: A Personal Exploration of Code-Switching*. Presented Keynote at the 2021 Ebony Weekend Conference in Platteville, WI.

Wages, S. (2021, January). *Reimagining a Black Feminist Social Work*. Presented at the 2021 Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference in Madison, WI

Wages, S. (2021, January). *Subverting Oppressive Systems is a Superpower*. Presented at Winter YWCA Rock County Lunch and Learn in Janesville, WI.

Wages, S. (2020, March). *Let's Map it Out 2.0: Leveraging Levers*. Workshop conducted to follow up on the 2019 Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference in Madison, WI.

Berger, L., Slack, K., Lee, H., **Wages, S.** (2020, January). *Child Maltreatment and Parental Well-Being Outcomes in an Experimental Economic Support Intervention (CPS)*. Presented at the 2020 Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, DC.

Wages, S., Washburn, C., Kopp, K., & Hill, J. (2017, April). *Religiosity, parental relationship qualities, and depressive symptoms during Emerging Adulthood*. Poster presented at the 2017 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.

Wages, S., Hamer, S. (2017, April). *You be the Judge: The effects of race and mental illness diagnosis on juror judgment*. Poster presented at the 2017 Tristate Psychology Conference in Platteville, WI.

Publications and Manuscripts In-Progress

Cruys, C., **Wages, S.**, Gerassi, L.B. (In progress). Centering People with Lived Experiences As Social Service Leaders in Sex Trafficking, Sex Trading, and Youth Organizations: A Qualitative, Community-Engaged Study.

Payne, J., & **Wages, S.** (2021). *What Joy is, What Joy is Not*. Madison365. Retrieved from <https://madison365.com/what-joy-is-what-joy-is-not/>

Boyd, R., **Wages, S.**, Slack, K., Rollins, T. (In progress). Strengths of Black Families Investigated By Child Protective Services.

Wages, S., (In progress). You Bring Me Joy: A Qualitative Analysis of Parenting Experiences of CPS-Deflected Families.

Lee, H., Berger, L., Slack, K., **Wages, S.** (In progress). Chronic Neglect: A Distinct Form of Neglect or Differences in Family Surveillance?

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant September 2021- January 2022
Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Supervised by Dr. Lara Gerassi

Graduate Research Assistant June 2018-September 2020
Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Supervised by Dr. Kristen Slack and Dr. Lawrence Berger

Undergraduate Research Assistant September 2015-May 2016
Psychology Department, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI
Supervised by Dr. Julie Hill

Professional Development

Participant March 2021-May 2021
Mission Fuel, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI
Completed a 15-week social entrepreneurship program. Trained to identify, develop and implement strategies to diversify revenue streams, become more entrepreneurial, and realize a more stable and self-sustainable future.

Service to the Community, Profession, and University

Advisor (2023) Black Student Union, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI
Member (2021) MSW Admissions Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Social Work
Member (2017) Faculty Search and Screen Committee - Student Representative, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Psychology Department
Owner Our Spot Platteville
Mentor Subversive Social Work

Professional Affiliations

BLKPlattCom Network – Founding Member
Society for Social Work Research
National Association of Black Social Workers
Psi Chi: International Honor Society
Institute for Research on Poverty

Awards and Honors

Distinguished Service Award February 2021
Sheldon D. Rose Memorial Scholarship March 2019
Dorothy M. Pearson Fellowship April 2018
Advanced Opportunity Fellowship September 2017
Lois P. Shimpa Memorial Scholarship June 2017
2017 UWP Commencement Speaker May 2017
University of Wisconsin-Platteville Dean's List May 2017
Psi Chi Travel Award April 2017

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Chancellor's List
Psychology Independent Study Award
Rosemary McNally Award
College of Liberal Arts and Education Scholarship

December 2016
September 2015-May 2016
January 2015
January 2015

Media

Telegraph Herald on acceptance into funded Ph.D. program and beyond (2018).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cognLPjB4sw>

Telegraph Herald on being selected as Commencement Speaker (2018).

<https://bit.ly/THCommencement>

Madison365 on making space on white campuses (2019). <https://madison365.com/making-space-white-people-give-up-seats-to-angela-davis-lecture-so-black-people-can-attend/>

Platteville Journal on co-founding the Black Platteville Community Network (2020).

<https://bit.ly/BlkPlattPvilleJournal>

Madison365 on Racist hate mail sent to church who fundraised for BlkPlattCom (2020).

<https://madison365.com/racist-hate-mail-targets-platteville-church/>

Telegraph Herald on launching community hub (2021). <http://bit.ly/42u2hrP>