

SAKARA WAGES, MSW

Curriculum Vitae

Doctoral Candidate, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison

School of Social Work
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Education

- Ph.D.** Sandra Rosenbaum University of Wisconsin-Madison Expected 2023
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare
Advisor: Dr. Tova Walsh
- MSW** University of Wisconsin-Madison May 2020
Master of Social Work
Specialization in Child, Youth, & Family Welfare
- B.S.** University of Wisconsin-Platteville May 2017
Bachelor of Science in Psychology with High Honors

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 CJ4530: Social Welfare Policy University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI	Spring 2020-2023
Lecturer SW650: Social Work Research Methods University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI	Summer 2021-2022
Lecturer ES3010: Race, Gender, and Class in the United States University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI	Summer 2021-2022
Lecturer CJ4540: Social Work with Individuals, Groups, and Institutions University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI	Fall 2020-2022
Lecturer Intro to College Life: Subversive Study Skills University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI Responsible for two sections.	Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant SW205: Introduction to Social Work University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI Responsible for two sections.	Fall 2020
Peer-Assisted Learning Leader University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI Created lesson plans for weekly discussion sessions to support the following courses:	Fall 2015 - 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Gerassi, L.B., Cruys, C., **Wages, S.** (in progress). How do people with lived experiences of sex trading and homelessness become social service leaders?

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. (In progress). Strategies for Assessing Family Strengths in Efforts to Predict Future CPS Involvement: A Focus on the Strengths of Black Families.

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	December 2016
Psychology Independent Study Award	September 2015-May 2016
Rosemary McNally Award	January 2015
College of Liberal Arts and Education Scholarship	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>