

SAKARA WAGES, MSW, Ph.D.,

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Education

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| Ph.D. | Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin-Madison Dissertation: "Remembering, Relating, and Recording the Legacy of Black Women Social Welfare Providers" Committee: Tova Walsh (chair), Kristen Slack, Lara Gerassi, Carolina Sarmiento | 2023 |
| MSW | Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison Concentration: Child, Youth, and Family Welfare | 2020 |
| B.S. | Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville | 2017 |

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of Wisconsin-Platteville Fall 2020-Current
Courses: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies; Psychology of Human Sexuality; Psychology of Women and Gender; Social Work with Individuals, Groups, and Institutions; Social Welfare Policy; Social Work Research Methods; Race, Gender, and Class in the US; Intro to College Life: Subversive Study Skills.

Instructor of Record, University of Wisconsin-Madison Summer 2021-2022
Course: Social Work Research Methods

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Fall 2020
Course: Introduction to Social Work

Peer-Assisted Learning Leader University of Wisconsin-Platteville Fall 2015-Spring 2017
Courses: International Relations, Introduction to Political Science, Introduction to Experimental Psychology

Practice and Professional Experience

Project Assistant Sept 2022- Current
Partnership: UW-Madison HEAL, Cultural Practices that are Relevant (CPR), and Nehemiah
Assisted with the planning, execution, and evaluation of the 2023 Black History Education Conference and a symposium focused on the history of people of African descent in what became the state of Wisconsin.

Programs, Operations, and Evaluations Assistant May 2020-Current
Progress Center for Black Women, Madison, WI
Collecting, tracking, and analyzing data, then creating, designing, and disseminating collateral and data briefs. Manage projects and campaigns. Designing intake assessments and operations workflow. Occasional direct practice, assisting clients with diverse personal and professional needs.

- Founding Director** May 2020-Current
 Subversive Social Work, Platteville, WI
 Providing institutional social work service to underserved communities. Overseeing 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 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, AP 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.

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.

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?

Invited Talks, Workshops & Presentations

Wages, S., Payne, J. (2024, January). "F-ck it, I'll do it." -Black Women. Presented at the 2024 Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference in Madison, WI.

Cruys, C., Wages, S., Gerassi, L. B. (2023, January). *Centering People with Lived Experiences As Social Service Leaders in Sex Trafficking, Sex Trading, and Youth Organizations: A Qualitative, Community-Engaged Study*. Presented at the 2020 Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, DC.

Barbarin, I., **Wages, S.**, Aguirre Mtanous, N. (2023, January). *Centering Disability Justice*. Presented at the 2023 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*. A workshop was 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.

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

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| <i>Owner</i> | Our Spot Platteville |
| <i>Advisor</i> | Black Student Union, University of Wisconsin-Platteville |
| <i>Member</i> | MSW Admissions Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| <i>Student Representative</i> | Faculty Search Committee, University of Wisconsin-Platteville |

Professional Affiliations

Society for Social Work and Research
National Association of Black Social Workers
Institute for Research on Poverty
Psi Chi: International Honor Society

Awards and Honors

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| UW-Platteville LAE Professional Achievement Award | October 2023 |
| 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

Madison365 on Our Spot, a community space for marginalized folks opens in Platteville (2022). <https://madison365.com/our-spot-to-open-as-community-space-for-marginalized-folks-in-platteville/>

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

Channel 3000 on organizing the Social Workers Confronting Injustice Conference (2021). https://www.channel3000.com/news/local-news/social-workers-confronting-racial-injustice-conference/article_8da46b09-e70d-52c5-9b92-af57cff09dc2.html

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 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/>