



Graduate College of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

30TH ANNUAL SSWR CONFERENCE ANNIVERSARY

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Presenters

January 14 - 18, 2026 | Washington, D.C.



Graduate College of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Samira Ali



Anil Arora



Jessica Bagneris



Emily Beebe



Marcus Brown



Jodi Berger Cardoso



Monit Cheung



Robin Gearing



Jesse Hartley



Alexandra Hood



Bec Sokha Keo



Umaira Khan



Patrick Leung



Christina Miyawaki



Susan Robbins



Tanya Rollins



McClain Sampson



Chelsea Sanchez



Edward Scott Jr.



Limor Luss Smith



Katyayani Strohl



Ayesha Tariq



Quenette Walton

VIEW PRESENTATIONS



<https://tinyurl.com/yezjfd>

30TH ANNUAL SSWR CONFERENCE ANNIVERSARY

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Presenters

January 14 - 18, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Congress, ML 4****Presentation: Closing the Gap: Training Graduate Students to Translate Research into Social Work Practice****Presenters:** Jody Gardner, MSW, Katyayani Strohl, MSW, Anil Arora, MSW, Pedro Ortiz, BA**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Independence BR C, ML 4****Presentation: Gender-Based Violence in the Global South: Intersectional Challenges in Research on Sexual Violence Against Women and Sex Workers in South Asia****Presenters:** Samira Ali, PhD, MSW**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Marquis BR 12, ML 2****Presentation: Equity Under Attack: Reflections and Strategies for Moving Social Work Health Equity Research Forward Under Political Suppression****Presenters:** Quenette Walton, PhD, LCSW**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Dogwood, Mezzanine Level****Presentation: Life Review Intervention Delivered By Caregivers of People Living with Dementia Improves Depression: A Mixed-Methods Study****Presenters:** Christina Miyawaki, PhD, MSW, MA, Angela McClellan, LMSW**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2****Presentation: Centering Community Voices through Liberatory Participatory Action Research****Presenters:** Jesse Hartley, MSW, PhD Student
Emily Beebe, BS, PhD Student**1:30PM - 3:00PM | Catholic U, ML 1****Presentation: The persistent power of structural racism: intersectional barriers to maternal care access****Presenters:** McClain Sampson, PhD, MSSW
Quenette Walton, PhD, LCSW**3:15PM - 4:45PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2****Presentation: No Longer Exclusive to Madness: The Impact of Involvement in Mental Health Research on Graduate Research Assistants****Presenters:** Chelsea Sanchez, MSW, PhD Student,
Marcus Brown, MSW, PhD Student, Susan Robbins, PhD, Robin Gearing, PhD**3:15PM - 4:45PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2****Presentation: Stress and Self-Care Practices Among African American Kinship Caregivers: A Mixed Methods Pilot Study****Presenters:** Quenette Walton, PhD, LCSW

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026**3:15PM - 4:45PM | Georgetown, ML 1**

Presentation: *Advancing Health Justice through Equity-Focused Implementation: Strategies to Examine Power and Create More Equitable Processes*

Presenters: Samira Ali, PhD, MSW

3:15PM - 4:45PM | Marquis BR 12, ML 2

Presentation: *Control in the Name of Care: Social Work As a Gendered Intervention to the Carceral State*

Presenters: Jesse Hartley, MSW, PhD Student

3:15PM - 4:45PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: *Mental Health Stigma, Informal Help-Seeking, and Professional Care in Ghana: A Mediation Analysis*

Presenters: Robin Gearing, PhD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026**8:00AM - 9:00AM | Marquis BR 12, ML 2**

Presentation: *Advancing HIV Justice in the U.S. South through Equity-Centered Implementation Exploration: Examining the Compass Initiative Listen in Session Methodologies, Outcomes and Applications*

Presenters: Samira Ali, PhD, MSW

8:00AM - 9:30AM | LIBERTY BR J, ML 4

Presentation: *Improving Vietnamese American Community's Cognitive Health Literacy through University-Community Partnerships*

Presenters: Christina Miyawaki, PhD, MSW, MA, Angela McClellan, LMSW

9:45AM - 11:15AM | Independence BR C, ML 4

Presentation: *The Central American Minors (CAM) Working Group: Community-Based Responses Supporting Immigrant Children and Families*

Presenters: Jodi Berger Cardoso, PhD

2:00PM - 3:30PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: *Understanding Public Perceptions of Mental Illness in Ghana: Implications for Community-Based Mental Health Care*

Presenters: Susan Robbins, PhD, Robin Gearing, PhD

3:45PM - 5:15PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: *Invited Journal Editors Workshop: Forum on Publishing Qualitative Research*

Presenters: Susan Robbins, PhD



FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

5:30PM - 7:00PM | Liberty BR J, ML 4

Presentation: *Enhancing Implementation of a Multi-System AOT Program to Support Positive Mental Health Outcomes for Individuals Living with Serious Mental Illness*

Presenters: Robin Gearing, PhD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

7:00AM - 8:00AM | Marquis BR 12, ML 2

Special Interest Group: *Qualitative Methods*

Presenters: Edward Scott Jr., PhD

8:00AM - 9:30AM | Marquis BR 7, ML 2

Presentation: *Building Capacity for Transformative Change: Enhancing Implementation Leadership in Southern HIV Service Organizations*

Presenters: Samira Ali, PhD, MSW, Katyayani Strohl, MSW, PhD Student

9:45AM - 11:15AM | Liberty BR I, ML 4

Presentation: *Who Counts As a Victim? A Critical and Interpretive Policy Analysis of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and Its Reauthorizations*

Presenters: Chelsea Sanchez, LCSW, PhD Student

9:45AM - 11:15AM | MARQUIS BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: *The Impact of Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Meta-Analysis*

Presenters: Jessica Bagneris, PhD

9:45AM - 11:15AM | Liberty BR K, ML 4

Presentation: *Enhancing Social Work Research and Evaluation through Public Impact Scholarship: Lessons and Strategies from the Sustain Center at the Collective for Community Action*

Presenters: Bec Sokha Keo, PhD, MSW, Samira Ali, PhD, MSW, Alexandra Hood, MSW, Alejandra Avilés, MSW, MPH

12:30PM - 1:30PM | Supreme Court, ML 4

Special Interest Group: *Strength-Based Approaches to Studying Black Male Youth: Implications for Social Work Practice*

Presenters: Edward Scott Jr., PhD

AWARDS

2:00PM - 2:30PM | Independence BR D/E, ML 4

SSWR Fellow 2026 Inductee: Samira Ali, PhD



SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

4:15PM - 5:45PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2, 685P

Presentation: Transforming Social Work Research through the Leadership of Black Trans Women in the US South: Phase 1 Findings and Reflections from the TAC-SAGES Team

Presenters: Bec Sokha Keo, PhD, MSW, Samira Ali, PhD, MSW

4:15PM - 5:45PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: "Who Else Is Going to Come Do This?": The Human Cost of Harm Reduction Work within the Non-Profit Industrial Complex

Presenters: Samira Ali, PhD, MSW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

8:00AM - 9:30AM | Marquis BR 8, ML 2

Presentation: Yes, the Child Welfare System Is Oppressive: More Than an Intellectual Endeavor

Presenters: Tanya Rollins, MSW, PhD Student

8:00AM - 9:30AM | Liberty BR I, ML 4

Presentation: Identity Construction in Emerging Adults with Serious Mental Illness: Examining Identity Exploration, Self-Sufficiency, Self-Stigma, and Mental Health

Presenters: Limor Luss Smith, LMSW, PhD Student
Robin E. Gearing, PhD

8:00AM - 9:30AM | Liberty BR N, ML 4

Presentation: Feasibility and Pilot Testing of a Team-Based Psychosocial Intervention for Young Adults Transitioning from Homelessness to Housing

Presenters: Umaira Khan, MSW, PhD Student, Pedro Ortiz, BA, MSW Student, Marcus Brown, MSW, PhD Student

11:30AM - 1:00PM | Liberty BR N, ML 4

Presentation: Mental Health Flash Talk Session 2

Presenters: Quenette Walton, PhD, LCSW

11:30AM - 1:00PM | Independence BR F, ML 4

Presentation: Lifelong Memories That Alleviate Depressive Symptoms of People Living with Early-Stage Dementia: A Mixed-Methods Study

Presenters: Christina Miyawaki, PhD, MSW, MA

9:45AM - 11:15AM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2

Presentation: Beyond Dementia-Friendly Training: What Shapes Dementia Awareness in the Workplace? Evidence from a Multi-Sector Study of Dementia-Friendly Businesses

Presenters: Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026**11:30AM - 1:00PM | Supreme Court, ML 4****Presentation: Studying Political Participation in a Time of Turmoil and Vulnerability****Presenters:** Jesse Hartley, MSW, PhD Student
Emily Beebe, BS, PhD Student**11:30AM - 1:00PM | Mint, ML 4****Presentation: A Structural Trauma-Informed Approach to Emotional and Behavioral Disorders****Presenters:** Umaira Khan, MSW, PhD Student,
Mary Louise Jean Knatchbull Hugessen, MSW, PhD Student,
Ayesha Tariq, MPhil, PhD Student**11:30AM - 1:00PM | Congress, ML 4****Presentation: Cultural Values to Promote Trans-Generational Resilience Among Immigrant Families from Central America****Presenters:** Jodi Berger Cardoso, PhD**11:30AM - 1:00PM | Marquis BR 6, ML 2****Presentation: Parents Engaging in Justice Advocacy: "Sexual Conviction Record Check" Access in Hong Kong****Presenters:** Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW,
Patrick Leung, PhD