Associate Professor of Social Work | Scholar-Practitioner | Oral Historian specializing in immigration, racial equity, transnational parenting, and narrative practice.
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***EDUCATION***

Ph.D. in Social Welfare

**The Graduate School and University Center of New York, NY**

MSW in Social Work

**Silberman School of Social Work, New York, NY**

BA in Sociology

**St. John’s University,** **Jamaica, Queens, NY**

## *PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE*

**2017-Present, University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT**

 Associate Professor, MSW Program

**2001- 2017, Administration for Children's Services (ACS), New York, NY**

2012-2017, Senior Advisor for Child Welfare Policy and Training Implementation

2005-2012, Executive Deputy Director for Professional Development and In-Service Training

## *CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS*

* **Case Study: Moving the Needle on Organizational Culture** (2024 – present) IRB#24-002
* **Beyond Borders: Educating Migrant Children in U.S. Schools** (2024- present) IRB#24-003
* **V-Simulation Project** **Evaluation** (2025-2026).
* **Exploring Student Learning in Social Work Practice with Immigrants** (2025-2026) IRB#25-018.

## *COMMUNITY-BASED SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE WORK*

**Podcast: Creator and host of** [**Inside Out/Outside In**](https://www.christianabest.com/podcast) **(2020 - present)**

**Historical Timeline:** [**ACS Child Welfare Historical Timeline**](https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/racial-equity-cultural-competence.page) **– Exhibit Curator**, **2017- 2019**

**Oral History Project: Rising from the Waves: Carriacou’s Stories of Survival and Strength**

A 12-month oral history project documenting the lived experiences of Carriacou residents before, during, and after Hurricane Beryl, with an emphasis on cultural memory, climate resilience, and Caribbean storytelling traditions.

### *REFEREED PUBLICATIONS*

Best-Giacomini, C. (2024).[Teaching While Black: A Call to Decolonize the Social Work Curriculum](https://reflectionsnarrativesofprofessionalhelping.org/index.php/Reflections/issue/view/146/21)*.* A Call for Social Work Educators to Confront and Dismantle Systemic Racism WITHIN Social Work Programs.*Reflections*: Narratives of Professional Helping. Vol. 30, No. 1(2024). Pp. 12-29.

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Best-Giacomini, C. (2017). [Transnational Parenting: The Hidden Costs of the Search for a “Better Life.”](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319566015_13_Transnational_Parenting_The_Hidden_Costs_of_the_Search_for_a_Better_Life_The_Power_and_Possibility_of_Story) In A. Burack-Weiss, et al. (Ed.), Narrative Social Work Practice: The Power and Possibility of Story. Columbia University Press.

Best-Giacomini, C. Howard, A. Ilian, H. (2016). [A Racial Equity Staff Development Strategy for Public Human Service Organizations](https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2017-11935-016). In A. Carten (Ed.), Transforming Health and Human Services: An Antiracist Strategy. Oxford University Press.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2015). [Transnational families](https://books.google.com/books?id=kRwzCwAAQBAJ&pg=PA1619&lpg=PA1619&dq=Transnational+Families+by+Christiana+Best+Cummings&source=bl&ots=7Nw8xVzXD4&sig=ACfU3U2y6_0ug8ldjUnNGV1jQGxw2G70Tw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi2p7S5rdmEAxXqm4kEHZ24B_s4FBDoAXoECAgQAw#v=onepage&q=Transnational%20Families%20by%20Christiana%20Best%20Cummings&f=false). The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society. SAGE Publications. pp. 1617-1619.

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Best-Cummings, C. (2009). [The Long Goodbye: Challenges of Transnational Parenting](https://www.ebay.com/itm/255255773815). VDM

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Best-Cummings, C. & Gildner, M. A. (2004). [Caribbean women’s migratory journey:](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J191v02n03_06)

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Carten, A. J., Rock, L., & Best-Cummings, C. (2002). [Dimensions of Child Abuse and](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J191v01n02_03)

[Neglect Among Native and Immigrant Caribbean Families](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J191v01n02_03). Journal of Immigrant and

Refugee Services; vol. 2, no. 3. The Haworth Press, Inc.

### *MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW*

Best-Giacomini, C. (Submitted Feb. 2025). A Nation Betrayed: When Freedom Fails the Immigration Promise. *Reflections*: *Narratives of Professional Helping*.

Best-Giacomini, C. (Submitted March 2025). The Gift of Being Seen: A Letter to My Mother. *Reflections*: *Narratives of Professional Helping*.

Best-Giacomini, C. (Submitted July 2025). Black Mecca, Living Archive: Harlem’s Role in Our Collective Struggle. *Journal of African American Studies*.

### *POPULAR MEDIA ARTICLES*

Best-Giacomini, C. (Spring/Summer 2025). [When Justice Falters: The Social Work Response to Immigration Policy in a Time of Crisis](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGoAChs1DY/KLVhNE-J59Y0p_Yr5YyWnA/view?utm_content=DAGoAChs1DY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h8cebfd4e97#35). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.

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Best-Giacomini, C. and Hassan, J. (July 2025). [Commentary: Sinners: A Reflection on Belonging, Resistance, and Liberation.](https://www.caribmagplus.com/commentary-sinners-a-reflection-on-belonging-resistance-and-liberation/) Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. (June 2025). [Commentary: The Reluctant Landlord. Caribbean Magazine Plus](https://www.caribmagplus.com/commentary-the-reluctant-landlord/).

Best-Giacomini, C. (May 2025). [Commentary: Echoes of Her Voice: Reclaiming Family, Memory, and Identity Through Oral History](https://www.caribmagplus.com/commentary-echoes-of-her-voice-reclaiming-family-memory-and-identity-through-oral-history/). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

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Best-Giacomini, C. (February 2025). [Commentary: The Criminalization of Belonging: How Restrictive immigration Policies Target Long-Term Residents](https://www.caribmagplus.com/commentary-the-criminalization-of-belonginghow-restrictive-immigration-policies-target-long-term-residents/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLfcDlleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETFDQm5JTnhyVW1wVlFJcTRhAR7O4EcnioeRKVVH_PCSi0nakAVg9m73wgQrQo6jgrl2VZdAJORaEO29CVkVOQ_aem_ppS1HcA_tkbBoV1hul26_A). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. & Levin, L. (January 2025). [Upholding Social Work Values Amid Trump’s Immigration Orders](https://naswnys.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Statement-Response-to-Trumps-Immigration-Executive-Orders.pdf). NASW-NYS/NYC.

Bragin, M., Best-Giacomini, C., Eckardt, E., Aboni, E. (2024). [Policy Brief and Recommendations Regarding NYC’s Ongoing Response and Delivery of Service to Migrants](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naswnyc.org/resource/resmgr/statements_and_important_news/2023_/final_policy_brief_0n_a_mode.pdf). NASW-NYC.

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Best-Giacomini, (2020). [History of Affirmative Action Policies Show How White People Have Benefitted](https://ibw21.org/editors-choice/history-of-affirmative-action-policies-show-how-white-people-benefitted/). Hartford Courant Op-Ed. Reprinted in IBW21.ORG.

Best-Giacomini (2020). [When Looking at Social Unrest and Riots, Remember the History of White Violence Against Black Americans](https://www.courant.com/2020/07/03/when-looking-at-social-unrest-and-riots-remember-the-history-of-white-violence-against-black-americans/). Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2020). [Awaiting a Vaccine for Racism](https://www.courant.com/2020/05/24/awaiting-a-vaccine-for-racism/). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed. Reprinted in the [Seattle Times](https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/while-coronavirus-ravages-the-nation-were-still-waiting-on-a-vaccine-for-racism/)

Best, C. (2020). [Hate Crimes on College Campuses and in Higher Education Spaces](https://jbhe.com/2020/01/hate-crimes-on-college-campuses-and-in-higher-education-spaces/). The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Best, C. (2019). [Why We Don’t Need to Reenact Slavery](https://www.courant.com/2019/11/24/why-we-dont-need-to-reenact-slavery/). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Levine, E. & Best-Giacomini, C. (2019). [Immigration and Global Social Work: A Moral](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naswnyc.org/resource/resmgr/currents/2019/currents_feb_219.pdf)

[Mission](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naswnyc.org/resource/resmgr/currents/2019/currents_feb_219.pdf). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2017). [Self-Care in the Aftermath of the 2016 Presidential Election](https://cdn.ymaws.com/sites/naswnyc.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/currents/2017/Currents_Apr_17_web.pdf). NASW-NYC.

Best-Cummings, C. (2012). [Dreams Deferred. NASW-NYC Connections](https://naswnyc.wordpress.com/2012/08/09/dreams-deferred/). CURRENTS Newsletter.

### Best-Cummings, C. (2011). [My Story: Our Story](https://msmagazine.com/2011/09/29/my-story-our-story/), Ms. Magazine

### *RECENT PRESENTATIONS*

Best-Giacomini, C. (2025, May). Speech - A Reading to the MSW Class of 2024. USJ MSW Hooding Ceremony. The University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2025, April). Navigating Social Work Practice with Immigrants in Today’s Shifting Landscape. [The 2025 NASW-NYC/NYS Immigration Series](https://naswnyc.site-ym.com/page/immseries)

Best-Giacomini, C. (2025, Feb/March). Social Work Practice with Immigrants, Webinar – MSW Field Education Program (Preceptors & Students), University of Saint Joseph.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2024, October). Panel Moderator: [SHIFT Everybody’s Work Documentary Screening](https://www.laurensimonepubs.com/blogs/news/dr-melissa-sue-john-joins-insightful-panel-at-shift-everybody-s-work-documentary-screening). University of Saint Joseph.

Best-Giacomini, C., Levine, E., & Levin, L. (2024, October). Immigration 101. Fall 2024 NASW-NYC Immigration Series.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2024, May). Speech - A Reading to the MSW Class of 2024. USJ MSW Hooding Ceremony. The University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2023, April). Keynote Address for USJ Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society – Leading the Path-Leaning into your power. The University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2024, Feb.) Moderator – Documentary film: The March - The Story of the Greatest March in American History. MLK Week at the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.