

CURRICULUM VITAE

Christiana Best, Ph.D.

Cell: (917) 557-8450; Work: (860) 231-5508

Email: Cbest@usj.edu

Website: www.christianabest.com

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, NY

CLINICAL TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

Psychoanalytic and Psychotherapy (1992-1994)
The Training Institute of Mental Health, New York, NY
Private Practice, New York, NY (1994-2000)

RESEARCH PROJECT

Microaggression and the Caribbean diaspora research study (2019-21).

Inside Out/Outside In (IOOI) Podcast Transcript Research Study

PODCAST PROJECT

Creator and host of Inside Out/Outside In (launched on Fall 2019)

<http://www.insideoutsidepodcast.com/>

CHILD WELFARE HISTORICAL TIMELINE EXHIBIT

ACS Child Welfare Historical Timeline – Exhibit Curator, 2017- Present,

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/timelineexhibit.page>

DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

(2021 – pending)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-Present,	Associate Professor, MSW Program The University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT
2001- 2017, 2012-2017,	Administration for Children Services (ACS) Senior Advisor for Child Welfare Policy and Training Implementation

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

2001-2005, Project Manager of the Common Core Training Program

1997-2001, Deputy Division Director of Congregate Care – Brooklyn/ Staten Island

1995 - 1997, Graham Windham Families and Children Services

Director of the Homeward Bound Foster care program

1991 - 1995, Harlem Dowling West-Side Center for Children and Family Services,

Director of Training

1984 - 1991, Child Welfare Administration (CWA)

Child welfare staff developer: Child Protection – supervisor & caseworker

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- Best-Giacomini, C.; Ilian, H. (submitted 2022). Microaggressions in the workplace as experienced by immigrants of the Caribbean Diaspora. *Race and Social Problems*.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (in press). Teaching While Black: A Call to Decolonize the Social Work Curriculum. In the special issue on *Racial Injustice & Systemic Racism in Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*.
- Best-Giacomini, C.; Holt, C.; Matthews, L. (2022). [Navigating multiple identities in the American Workplace: Microaggression and the Caribbean Diaspora](#). *Qualitative Social Work*.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2020). [I Too Am DACA: Awakened Childhood Memories](#). *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*. Volume 26, No. 3, pp. 34-40.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2017). Transnational parenting: The hidden costs of the search for a “better life.” A. Burackweiss, 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. In A. Carten, Siskind & Pender Greene (Eds.), [Strategies for Deconstructing Racism in the health and human services: An antiracist strategy](#). Oxford University Press.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (December 2015). Transnational families. [The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society](#). SAGE Publications. pp. 1617-1619.
- Best, C. (April 2014). Kinship care and transnational parenting: The intersection of cultural values and practices. [Journal of Family Social Work](#), 17:2, 119-135.
- Best, C. (2014). Transnational parenting in the African Caribbean community. In L. Mathews (Ed.), [English-speaking Caribbean immigrants: Transnational identities](#). New York: University Press of America, Inc.

Best-Cummings, C. (2009). [The long goodbye: Challenges of transnational parenting](#). VDM Verlag Dr. Muller.

Best-Cummings, C. & Gildner, M. A. (2004). Caribbean women's migratory journey: An exploration of their decision-making process. [Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Services; vol. 1, no. 2](#). The Haworth Press, Inc.

Carten, A. J. Rock, L. & Best-Cummings, C. (2002). Dimensions of child abuse and neglect among native and immigrant Caribbean families. [Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Services; vol. 2, no. 3](#). The Haworth Press, Inc.

OP-EDS & ESSAYS

Best-Giacomini, C. (Jan. 2023). Commentary: Haitian Excellence: A Black Female Trailblazer. [Caribbean Magazine Plus](#).

Best-Giacomini, C. (Dec. 2022). What if we worked together to make Harris our President for 2024? [Black Westchester Magazine](#).

Best, C. (August, 2020). Women's Activism.NYC. <https://womensactivism.nyc/stories/5331>.

Best-Giacomini, (August, 2020). [History of affirmative action policies show how white people have benefitted](#). Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Best-Giacomini (July 2020). [When looking at social unrest and riots, remember the history of white violence against Black Americans](#). Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2020, May). [Awaiting a Vaccine for Racism](#). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Best, C. (2020, Jan.). [Hate crimes on college campuses and in higher education spaces](#). The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Best, C. (2019, Nov. 24). [Why we don't need to reenact slavery](#). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed.

Levine, E. & Best-Giacomini, C. (2019, Feb.). [Immigration and Global Social Work: A Moral Mission](#). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.

Best-Cummings, C. (Aug. 2012). [Dreams Deferred](#). NASW-NYC Connections. Currents.

Best-Cummings, C. (Sept. 2011). [My Story: Our Story](#), Ms. Magazine.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Best, C. (2022, August). Race Power and Privilege. Workshop; MSW Orientation; Department of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice. University of Saint Joseph.

Best, C. (2022, May). Understanding Implicit Bias in Recruiting & Hiring Practices. Workshop; XPERI; virtual presentation.

Best, C. (2022, May). Microaggressions in the Workplace. Workshop for XPERI; virtual presentation.

Best, C. (2022, May) Social Work Charge. USJ MSW Hooding Ceremony). Speech – The University of Saint Joseph. Connecticut.

Best, C. (2022, April). Moderator for the NYC- NASW Bold Talk. The Children are our Future: Protecting and nurturing immigrant children; New York Chapter of National Association for Social Workers; New York City.

Best, C. (2022, April). Microaggressions in Schools. Connecticut IB Academy. Workshop; East Hartford, Connecticut.

Best, C. (2022, March). Keynote Social Work Month 2022. The Time is Right for Social Work. The Village for Families & Children; Connecticut.

Best, C. (Sept.2021). Beyond the Ivory Tower: Using podcasting to educate, build relationships and inspire change. The Agora Series. Center for Student Research & Creative Activity. USJ.

Best, C. (2021, August). Open Words/Remarks for SISH Annual Retreat. USJ – School of Interdisciplinary Health Science Faculty and Staff Meeting. The University of Saint Joseph; Connecticut.

Best, C. (2021, July). Keynote. Decolonizing Child Welfare: Refining your voice, finding your seat at the table. NYC Administration for Children's Services Workforce Institute Virtual Kickoff Retreat.

Best, C. (2021, May). Moderator. USJ MSW Capstone Virtual Forum: A collaboration of the Departments of Social Work & Pharmacy

Best, C. (2021, April). Moderator. Civil Rights Film Series: Fannie Lou Hamer's America. Panel discussion. USJ.

- Best, C. & Howard, A. (2021, February). Keynote. Black History Month: My journey to becoming an anti-racist practitioner in child welfare. Bronx South; NYC Administration for Children's Services.
- Best, C. & Ilian (2020 November). Microaggression in the Workplace among Caribbean & Central American Immigrants. CSWE 2020 Annual Program Meeting.
- Best, C. (2020, Nov.). Moderator. The West Indian experience in America. Virtual event. Fall 2020 Diversity Event. USJ.
- Best, C. (2020, September 13th). Moderator. Welcoming World Voices in West Hartford webinar. Hello West Hartford.
- Best-Giacomini, (2020, Aug.26th). Keynote. NYC Department of Records – Women's Activism.NYC Write-In.
- Best, C. (2020, March). Introduction for the performance "An American Songbook" at the Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities.
- Best, C. (2020, Feb.). Panel Discussion - Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.
- Patterson, Y.; Best-Giacomini, C.; Vernal, F. (2019, April). Faculty Symposium. Social Trends Among Caribbean Populations: Framing broader issues and research themes. Central Connecticut State University. Hartford; Connecticut.
- Lawrence, L.; Burack-Weiss, A.; Mijangos, L.; Best-Giacomini, C. (2019, March). Narrative in Social Work Practice Panel Discussion: American Association of Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work Biennial Conference. Clinical Writing Workshop. Durham, North Carolina.
- Best-Giacomini, C. & Rosich, G. (2019, March). Making the Invisible Visible: Microaggression in Academic Settings. Faculty Development Workshops. Teaching and Learning Center; University of Saint Joseph; West Hartford; CT.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2019, March). Women of Color, Women of Industry Panel Discussion: Women's Month Series. NYC Department of Records. New York, New York.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2018, December). [Connecting the Dots: Social Work with Immigrants and Refugee Families](#). Continuing Education Workshop. Columbia University School of Social Work. New York, New York.
- Best-Giacomini, C. & Miller, M. (2018, December). Mental Health and Trauma Workshop: 70 Years of Human Rights Advocacy: Social Workers Building Towards a Just Future. Fordham University Lincoln Center. New York, New York.

- Best-Giacomini, C. (2018, August). Facilitated, the Racial Justice Student Personal Experience Panel (PEP); Faculty Development Day Seminar. University of Saint Joseph. West Hartford; CT.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2017). Narrative social work practice: The power and possibility of story. Columbia University Social Work Common Day Panel Presentation.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2016, June). Humanizing child welfare using task-oriented group. International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc.; Annual Conference - NYU.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2016, September). Social Justice: Racial Disproportionality and Disparity in Child Welfare. Administration for Children's Services. Social Workers Matter 1st Annual Symposium.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2015, July). Reunification of transnational families: African Caribbean mothers' narrative. Paper presented at the 12th Biennial Caribbean & International Social Work Educators, Grenada; West Indies.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2014, March). All people matter: A guided discussion of social work values and beliefs for social work interns, at the NYC chapter of the National Association of Social Work.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2014, April). Child abuse prevention month-seminar presentation at NYC Administration for Children's Services. Queens Borough Office in collaboration with preventive provider agencies for Child Abuse Month.
- Best-Cummings, C. (2012, October). Transnational parenting: A story of resilience and empowerment. Workshop presentation at the New York State Educators Association, Saratoga, New York.
- Best-Cummings, C. (2012, October). Racial equity: An introduction. Workshop presentation at the New Jersey State-wide Systems of Care Conference. Rutgers, New Jersey.
- Best-Cummings, C. Howard, A. and McKnight, J. (2010, May). The power of change: Reducing disproportionality. Workshop presentation at the Black Administrators in Child Welfare National Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
- Best-Cummings (2009, September). Reducing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system. Panel discussion at People's Institute for Survival and Beyond: New York City.
- Mason, S., Best-Cummings, C., LaPorte, H., Tempel, L. & Howard, A. (2008, September). The child welfare field education model initiative. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), 54 Annual Conference.

Best-Cummings, C., Howard, A., Cohen, C., Warde, B., Gordon, S. (2007). A group work model in child welfare in response to a child fatality. 29th International Symposium in Advancement of Social Work with Groups.

GRANTS AWARDED

2019 USJ-Teaching and Learning Center Grant, \$4,400.00 (awarded, Dec. 2018)
2020 USJ-Teaching and Learning Center Grant, \$5,000.00 (awarded, Dec. 2019)
2020- Hartford Consortium of Higher Education Grant, \$1,700.00 (awarded, 2019)
2020-USJ Teaching and Learning Center Grant, \$5,000 (Awarded October 2020)
2021-2022 – The National Endowment for the Humanities Fund, \$4,860 (awarded)

USJ COMMITTEES

- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2019 & 2020-present)
- Social Work Department Curriculum Committee (2019- present)
- Undergraduate Records Review Committee (2021- present)
- USJ Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2019 – present)
- Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice Search Committee (2022)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

National Association of Social Workers (NASW), NYC chapter-Vice President (2014-19)

Co-chair of the Immigration and Global Social Work Committee (2017- Present)

CUNSLTING EXPERIENCES

Erie County Family Wellness Program – Racial Equity – Social Justice Consultant (10/2022-2023).

NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) Workforce Institute. Historical Child Welfare Timeline Exhibit: A Transformational Experience (4/2020 to 2022).

XPERI American Technology Company- Microaggressions in the workplace & Understanding Implicit Bias.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

University of Massachusetts Amherst - Heroes into Health Care Grant (2015-2017)

Curriculum development and seminar facilitation for the diversity & racial equity institute.