

CURRICULUM VITAE

Christiana Best, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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](#) (2020 - present)

Historical Timeline: [ACS Child Welfare Historical Timeline](#) – 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](#). 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.
- Best-Giacomini, C.; Holt, C.; & Matthews, L. (2022). [Navigating the Immigrant Identity in the American Workplace: Microaggression and the Caribbean Diaspora](#). *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*.
- 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.”](#) 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](#). In A. Carten (Ed.), *Transforming Health and Human Services: An Antiracist Strategy*. Oxford University Press.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (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.

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](#). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.

Best-Giacomini, C. (Spring/Summer 2025). [In Community and Resistance: A Letter to Immigrant Educators](#). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.

Best-Giacomini, C. and Hassan, J. (July 2025). [Commentary: Sinners: A Reflection on Belonging, Resistance, and Liberation](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. (June 2025). [Commentary: The Reluctant Landlord](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. (May 2025). [Commentary: Echoes of Her Voice: Reclaiming Family, Memory, and Identity Through Oral History](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. (April 2025). [Commentary: Black Women are Resting](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus

Best-Giacomini, C. (February 2025). [Commentary: The Price of Advocacy: Balancing Immigration, DEI, and Self-Preservation](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. (February 2025). [Commentary: The Criminalization of Belonging: How Restrictive immigration Policies Target Long-Term Residents](#). Caribbean Magazine Plus.

Best-Giacomini, C. & Levin, L. (January 2025). [Upholding Social Work Values Amid Trump's Immigration Orders](#). 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](#). NASW-NYC.

Best-Giacomini, C. (2023). [America's Migrant Issue](#). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter

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

Best-Giacomini, C. (2023). [What if We Worked Together to Make Harris Our Democratic Candidate in 2024?](#) Black Westchester Magazine.

Best, C. (2020). [Closing the Door on Transnational Parenting: A letter to my immigrant mother](#). WomensActivism.NYC.

Best-Giacomini, (2020). [History of Affirmative Action Policies Show How White People Have 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](#). Hartford Courant Op-Ed.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2020). [Awaiting a Vaccine for Racism](#). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed. Reprinted in the [Seattle Times](#)
- Best, C. (2020). [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](#). The Hartford Courant Op-Ed.
- Levine, E. & Best-Giacomini, C. (2019). [Immigration and Global Social Work: A Moral Mission](#). NASW-NYC CURRENTS Newsletter.
- Best-Giacomini, C. (2017). [Self-Care in the Aftermath of the 2016 Presidential Election](#). NASW-NYC.
- Best-Cummings, C. (2012). [Dreams Deferred. NASW-NYC Connections](#). CURRENTS Newsletter.
- Best-Cummings, C. (2011). [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](#)
- 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](#). 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.