



GENERATING KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATING ADVOCATES FOR
INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

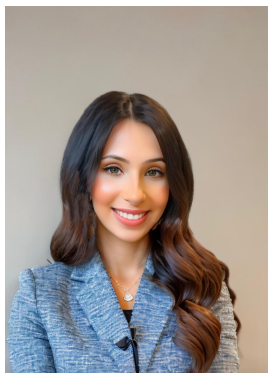
MSWwp News School of Social Work Fall 2023

We acknowledge that The University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. We respect the longstanding relationships with First Nations People in this place in the 100-mile Windsor-Essex Peninsula and the straits - les détroits of Detroit.

Hello! On behalf of the MSWwp Team, we all look forward to seeing everyone advance their education and profession. We love to see our students succeed, so please enjoy this newsletter featuring news and updates, plus student and staff accomplishments!

Alumni Spotlight

Racha Rkein



Racha is a dedicated social worker, psychotherapist, writer, and passionate mental health advocate. She comes from Lebanese and Indian heritage, and her upbringing in Lebanon, marked by political turmoil, inspired her to seek a better life in Canada with a strong desire to make a positive impact.

Her personal experience with mental health challenges and witnessing the effects of racism and discrimination in a war-torn country ignited her passion for social work. She is driven to provide support to marginalized communities that often go unheard due to stigma, particularly in Lebanon where such services are lacking.

Racha's primary focus is assisting individuals dealing with complex conditions like dissociative

identity disorders, psychosis, trauma, and chronic illnesses. In her thriving private practice, she offers compassionate guidance and evidence-based interventions to empower her clients on their journeys to recovery.

Her journey began in Lebanon while volunteering at a humanitarian organization called "Relief International" where she helped deliver psycho-social support to people in the most fragile settings. She then worked at the Distress Crisis Line in Toronto, a starting point that laid the foundation for her career in social work. Over time, she expanded her expertise by working with the Red Cross in disaster management, aiding those facing addiction in shelters in British Columbia, and providing assistance to survivors of human trafficking. Currently, she plays a vital role at the Canadian Mental Health Association, helping clients in hospitals transition smoothly after receiving new diagnoses. Racha's dedication to evidence-based practice was acknowledged during her advanced placement at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH). She received the prestigious "Arnold Morrissey Award" for her clinical paper titled "Treating Depression with Psychotic Features Using Evidence-Based Practice," a testament to her commitment to enhancing the field of mental health.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Racha embraces her role as a dog mom, she has a passion for travelling, baking, yoga, and contributing informative articles to mental health publications. She aims to demystify conditions like schizophrenia and dissociative disorders through her work and social media presence, fostering a sense of understanding and community among peers as well as dismantling barriers that often isolate individuals on their mental health journey.

Racha's overarching goal is to break down barriers and create a supportive environment for individuals on their mental health journey. Through her efforts, she aspires to foster empathy and connection, making a lasting impact on those navigating the complexities of mental well-being.

Student Spotlight

Valéry Brosseau



Valéry is a passionate mental health speaker, writer and consultant who has been building her business for the last five years. She is pursuing her MSW here at the University of Windsor in the hopes of furthering her skills and knowledge, and being able to serve her clients better.

She began working in the mental health field over a decade ago, beginning as a volunteer responder for a crisis helpline and then moving into leadership and training positions. Since then, she has held positions such as case manager, program coordinator, peer counsellor and crisis responder. She continually seeks out new opportunities to learn and better herself.

Her passion for mental health comes from her personal lived experience with mental illness, suicide and recovery.

Now, with her business, she offers speaking engagements, keynote addresses, training and workshops to corporations, community agencies and educational institutions on various mental health topics. Some of her topics of interest and expertise include borderline personality disorder and suicide prevention.

One of her current projects, and something she is extremely proud of, is an online course she has been developing and creating since 2021. She has launched an online course titled "Supporting and Communicating with your Teen: A Master Class". It is a 9-module online course that is empathy-based and offers concrete skills and strategies parents and guardians can use to connect with their teen and support with various challenges such as substance use, bullying and thoughts of suicide. The unique perspective of this course is that she shares her lived experience along with the information provided, to help parents understand better. After two years of working, writing and filming, it is finally available to the public.

She has many other projects and continues to work arduously to expand her business. She writes for various publications and guests on various podcasts, always looking for new platforms to share her message of recovery and hope.

Meet our new MSWwp Faculty Members!

Dr. Riham Al-Saadi



Dr. Riham Al-Saadi completed her Ph.D. studies in Social Work at the University of Windsor, with her dissertation focusing on immigrants and refugees' acculturation; the process of maintaining one's heritage and actively participating in the larger, Canadian society.

Dr. Al-Saadi has been a Sessional Instructor at the School of Social Work since 2016 teaching Bachelor, Master, and Ph.D. courses. Her research portfolio includes collaborations with faculty from both the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology where she explored studies of immigrant and refugee populations; Arabs' experiences in Canada and the United States; and well, recently the concept of presence (online vs. physical presence) and its impact on professional practice and learning environments.

These topics and more continue to shape Dr. Al-Saadi's interests. Dr. Al-Saadi has also been a practitioner for over 10 years working in private practice, directing mental health support to individuals and families, working with immigrant and refugee populations as well as in palliative care. Dr. Al-Saadi continues to serve on multiple professional and academic committees, enabling her to respond to diverse populations and advocate for the enhancement of social justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Kristen Lwin



Kristen is very excited about teaching in the MSW working professionals program. She has been an Assistant Professor in Social Work at the University of Windsor since 2019 and has social work practice, research and program evaluation, and knowledge translation and mobilization experience over the past 20 years.

Prior to her current academic position, Kristen served as the Executive Director of Practice and Research Together for six years. Kristen's teaching and research focus on understanding whether child welfare worker characteristics play a role in their decisions and practice and how Evidence-based or -informed Practice plays a role in social work education and delivery.

Dr. Carol Wade



Carol Wade is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Windsor. Dr. Wade has over 25 years of experience in social work practice, social work education and community engagement. Her experience includes working in various capacities within the child welfare sector (Frontline worker, Management, Cooperate Coordinator and OACAS trainer).

In addition to teaching various social work courses at both the undergraduate and master's levels, through her community engagement, Dr. Wade has developed and facilitated workshops and other training opportunities for youth workers and social workers with a focus on centring Black youth wellbeing, family engagement and self-reflexivity practice.

Dr. Wade is passionate about equity practice integration and uses critical theories and pedagogies to deconstruct and challenge oppressive practices to support the best possible outcomes for young people and families. Her research, practice and lived experiences inform her teaching approach, which focuses on integrating theory into practice and learning that moves from transformational knowledge to transformational action.

New Program Administrators

Clarissa Campigotto, MSW, RSW



Clarissa is very excited to join the MSWwp team! Clarissa graduated from the University of Windsor with her MSW in 2009. Clarissa has worked in a variety of roles, including counselling, crisis, and case coordination, currently seeing clients in private practice. Clarissa began teaching as a sessional instructor at the University in 2017 and began working as the BSW Academic Advisor in 2022. Outside of work, Clarissa can be found chasing her three kids between hockey and dance practices.

Kelly Dixon



Hi there! I am the Program Administrator, Recruitment and Field Education, for the MSWwp program. I am a proud Odette alumni at the University of Windsor. And now, I am so very proud to be a part of the School of Social Work. Grateful for my wonderful and talented work family!

Some fun facts: I love to eat. Carbs is the answer, no matter the question. Send noodles ;) Also, music is on 24/7, don't mess with my playlist. I just might add DJ to my skills. But most importantly, my motto in life: Attitude of Gratitude!

It's been great getting to know many of our students. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Have a fantastic MSWwp journey. All the best to our amazing students!

Faculty and Student Awards

University Diversity, Indigeneity, and Anti-Racism Professional Development Fund, 2023 Recipients **Dr. Riham Al-Saadi**

Riham's project is titled Antiracism Approaches in Embracing the Exponentially Increasing Diverse Population: Enhancing the Immigrant and Refugee Integration through Support and Education. It aims to contribute to curriculum development to enhance knowledge and understanding of Social Work practice with diverse populations; bridge the gap between the community and university through knowledge exchange, allyship, and commitment to learning the immigrant and refugee story; and equip students/future Social Workers with the knowledge, skill set, and space to directly engage in critical learning opportunities to support the ever-growing diverse community. Congratulations Dr. Riham Al-Saadi!

MSWwp Student, Receives Arnold Morsey Award **Racha Rkein**

Congratulations to Racha Rkein on being the successful recipient of the Arnold Morsey Award from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto! Racha completed her MSW placement through the MSWwp Program at CAMH during the winter 2023 semester. The application process for the award was open to all Social Work students at CAMH. To apply for the award,

students needed to submit an academic paper (maximum 11 pages) for consideration. Racha submitted a paper titled, "Treating depression with psychotic features using evidence-based practice". Racha's interests during her placement were working with patients with treatment-resistant mood disorders and who had experienced psychosis. Racha stated, "I found that psychosis was one of the experiences that is often misunderstood and stigmatized in society so I had a passion for understanding the modalities and treatment options that can best help our patients lead a fulfilling life."

Congratulations Racha!

NEW Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice - OCSWSSW

The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (the College) is excited to share that the revised Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice were approved by the College Council and are now available for you to view on the College's website

The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice were revised following a robust consultation process to ensure that updates reflect societal changes and the current practice landscape. We appreciate everyone who provided us with their insights on the proposed revisions. The feedback helped to refine and revise the minimum standards of practice for professional and ethical care in Ontario, ensuring that the revisions were informed by different lenses, perspectives and lived experiences.

The updates include a greater focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, as well as simplified language and clarification on some topics. The new website version of the revised Standards of Practice also includes links to relevant resources to further support registrants in their practice. We encourage you to share this news with your students, as the changes affect every registrant, and future registrants, regardless of area of practice.

To learn more about the revisions to the Standards of Practice and address frequently asked questions, you are invited to attend a webinar.

If you have any questions about the revised Standards of Practice, contact the Professional Practice Department at practice@ocswssw.org

Connect With Us!



If there are any further questions, please contact us at msw@uwindsor.ca

Check out our new and improved website!

Visit Our Website

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MSW for Working Professionals

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