

JESSICA SABA, LLMSW
she/her/hers | sabajess@msu.edu | (313) 744-3649

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy , Michigan State University School of Social Work	East Lansing, MI Expected May 2024
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduate Certificate , Michigan State University Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion	East Lansing, MI May 2022
Graduate Certificate Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities , Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters	East Lansing, MI May 2022
Master of Social Work , University of Southern California Concentration: Mental Health Sub-concentration: School Settings (Pupil Personnel Services Credential)	Los Angeles, CA May 2016
Bachelor of Arts , University of California, Berkeley Peace and Conflict Studies; Minor in Arabic	Berkeley, CA May 2013

LANGUAGES

- Spanish—Professional Working Proficiency
- Arabic— Limited Working Proficiency

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, East Lansing, MI Aug. 2019–Present
Primary project: Debt as a Control Tactic in Abusive Marriages: Its Characteristics, Legal Remedies, and Effects.
PI: Dr. Adrienne Adams Co-PIs: Dr. Angie Kennedy & Dr. Angela Littwin

- Conduct literature review
- Deliver quantitative interviews utilizing the Life History Calendar
- Analyze qualitative interviews utilizing grounded theory method
- Advisor: Dr. Angie Kennedy

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Fellow, Berkeley, CA Jan. 2013–Aug. 2013
Research Topic: The Experiences of Youth of Color in Participatory Action Research: Fostering Critical Reflection and Positive Class Climate

- Thematically analyzed and coded 11 focus groups and 2 interviews of students in a school based participatory action program in San Francisco utilizing Atlas.ti software
- Advisors: Dr. Emily Ozer and Dr. Iris Lavi

Practitioner Research Project, Bethlehem, Palestine Oct. 2013–Jul. 2015
Research Topic: Participant experiences in the Girls Rise program in Aida refugee camp

- Created semi-structured questionnaires to explore impacts of the Girls Rise program from the perspective of participants and participants' mothers
- Administered and analyzed the Child and Youth Resilience Measure

- Interviewed 10 participants pre and post program and 10 mothers post program
- Thematically analyzed and coded interview transcripts
- Advisor: Dr. Marcie Coulter-Kern

PUBLICATIONS

Kennedy, A. C., Meier, E., & **Saba, J.** (2021). Sexual violence within intimate relationships. In C. Bradbury-Jones, J. Devaney, S. Holt, R. Macy, & C. Øverlien (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of domestic violence and abuse*. London: Routledge.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Saba, J., & Al-Zoughbi, L. (2016, June). *Participant experiences in the Girls Rise program in Aida refugee camp*. *Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development*, Seoul, South Korea.

Saba, J. (2016, March). *Self-care for activists*. Manchester University Students for Justice in Palestine Conference, North Manchester, Indiana.

Saba, J. (2013, August). *The experiences of youth of color in participatory action research: fostering critical reflection and positive class climate*. Paper presented at the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement National Conference, Berkeley, CA.

Bradley, J., Sandel, Y., **Saba, J.** (2012, February). *How to facilitate talking circles: An experiential workshop*. The Graduate School of Social Welfare's Social Justice Symposium, Berkeley, CA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- Connect and Replenish: A Healing Space for Palestine Activists, Students United for Palestinian Rights, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, June 4, 2021 Co-facilitator: Lucas Al-Zoughbi [Online Workshop]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Therapist, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, East Lansing, MI Aug. 2020-Present

- Provide therapy to individuals, couples, and families in person and via telehealth in Michigan
- Co-create treatment plans with clients
- Utilize emotionally-focused, dialectic behavioral, and cognitive behavioral therapies to tailor interventions to clients' needs

Psychiatric Social Worker, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA Oct. 2016-Feb. 2019

- Provided individual therapy, group therapy, and case management services for elementary and high school students at high needs schools
- Facilitated various counseling groups (social skills, restorative justice, anxiety and depression support, grief and loss, and Families Overcoming Stress (FOCUS) resilience skill building)
- Coordinated services to provide students with school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, mental health services, prescription eyeglasses, and other services as needed
- Presented professional development trainings (Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Psychological First Aid) to school staff
- Provided mental health consultations and participated in multidisciplinary teams (Student Success Team (SST), Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), School Side Council)

Founder and Director, Girls Rise, Bethlehem, Palestine Jan.2012–Sep.2016

- Created curriculum for nine-month Girls Rise program and facilitate yearly summer camp program
- Established partnership with community-based organization Alrowwad Cultural and Theatre Society in Aida Refugee camp
- Raised \$27,200 funds to cover personal and project costs (Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Grant; Shinnyo-en Peacebuilding Leadership Grant; USC's Social Innovation Award)

Pupil Services and Attendance Intern, Los Angeles Unified School District, CA Aug. 2015–Jun. 2016

- Provided individual therapy, group therapy, and case management services for students ages 4 to 18 years old at a high-need elementary school and high school
- Performed Child Welfare and Attendance duties including supporting school-wide attendance incentive campaigns, attendance improvement meetings, conducting parent conferences and home visits, and preparing cases for the School Attendance Review Team (SART) and School Attendance Review Board (SARB)

Social Work Intern, Lutheran Social Services, Canoga Park, CA Sep. 2014–Apr. 2015

- Provided individual therapy, group therapy, and case management services
- Collaborated with clients to assess eligibility and complete Rider Relief Transportation Program (RRTP) application which provides fare subsidy coupons
- Circulated community resources including utility bill assistance, food pantries, and shelters
- Optimized agency policies to improve client intake and service procedures

Research and Youth Program Intern, Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, Bethlehem, Palestine Jun. 2012–Aug. 2012

- Instructed approximately 30 children aged 4 to 15 on English language skills while serving as a camp counselor during Wi'am's summer camp program
- Conducted ethnographic research on Sulha, traditional Arab mediation, by interviewing Sulha practitioners in Bethlehem
- Promoted Wi'am's programs and raised awareness about Palestine by posting pictures and updates on Wi'am Facebook page

Tutor, Teach in Prison DeCal (Democratic Cal), San Quentin State Prison, CA Aug. 2012–Dec. 2012

- Participated in a semester long student led course where we discussed the U.S. prison system, issues affecting inmates, and ways to effectively support their learning
- Tutored inmates on a range of topics from elementary mathematics and English to college level science and history courses in the prison's educational department

Coordinator, UC Berkeley Restorative Justice Center, Berkeley, CA Sep. 2011–Aug. 2012

- Directly supported co-founder and coordinator, Dr. Julie Shackford-Bradley, in establishing the Restorative Justice Center
- Facilitated a dialogue circle between students for the student organization, Olive Tree Initiative (OTI)
- Founded the student organization, Students for Restorative Justice (SRJ) to further connect the RJC with the UC Berkeley student body

Student Instructor, UC Berkeley DeCal (Democratic-Cal) Program, Berkeley, CA Jan. 2012-May 2012

- Co-taught introductory Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice Training Class
- Collaborated with colleagues to develop syllabus and lecture materials

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Doctoral Minority Fellowship Program, Council of Social Work Education 2020-Present

- Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowship, Michigan State University 2019-Present
- Social Innovation Award (\$1000), University of Southern California 2016
- Full Tuition Dean's Leadership Scholar, University of Southern California 2014
- Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Grant (\$25,000) 2013
- Shinnyo-en Peacebuilding Leadership Grant (\$1,000), University of California, Berkeley 2012
- Sultan Endowment for Arab Studies Undergraduate Fellowship (\$1,200), University of California, Berkeley 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Council of Social Work Education
- Society for Social Work and Research
- International Federation of Social Workers

SERVICE

- **BIPOC Writing Support Group Co-facilitator**, East Lansing, MI Feb. 2022- Present
- **Clinic Improvement Team Member**, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, East Lansing, MI Jan. 2022-Present
- **Focus Group Facilitator**, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education March 2021
Michigan State University
- **Doctoral Student Member**, Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence 2019-Present
Michigan State University

TRAININGS

- Healing Trauma in Native American Tribal Communities 2019
- Human Sexuality 2018
- Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting 2018
- Restorative Justice, University of California, Berkeley & Los Angeles Unified School District 2011, 2012, 2018
- Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) 2017– 2018
(Data Based Decision Making, Bully Prevention and Restorative Practices, and Social Emotional Learning)
- Psychological First Aid, Los Angeles Unified School District 2017
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), University of Southern California 2016
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), University of Southern California 2016
- Suicide Prevention and Threat Assessment, Los Angeles Unified School District 2016
- Motivational Interviewing (MI), University of Southern California 2015
- Intercultural Leadership, University of California, Berkeley 2012
- Multicultural Mediation, University of California, Berkeley 2011