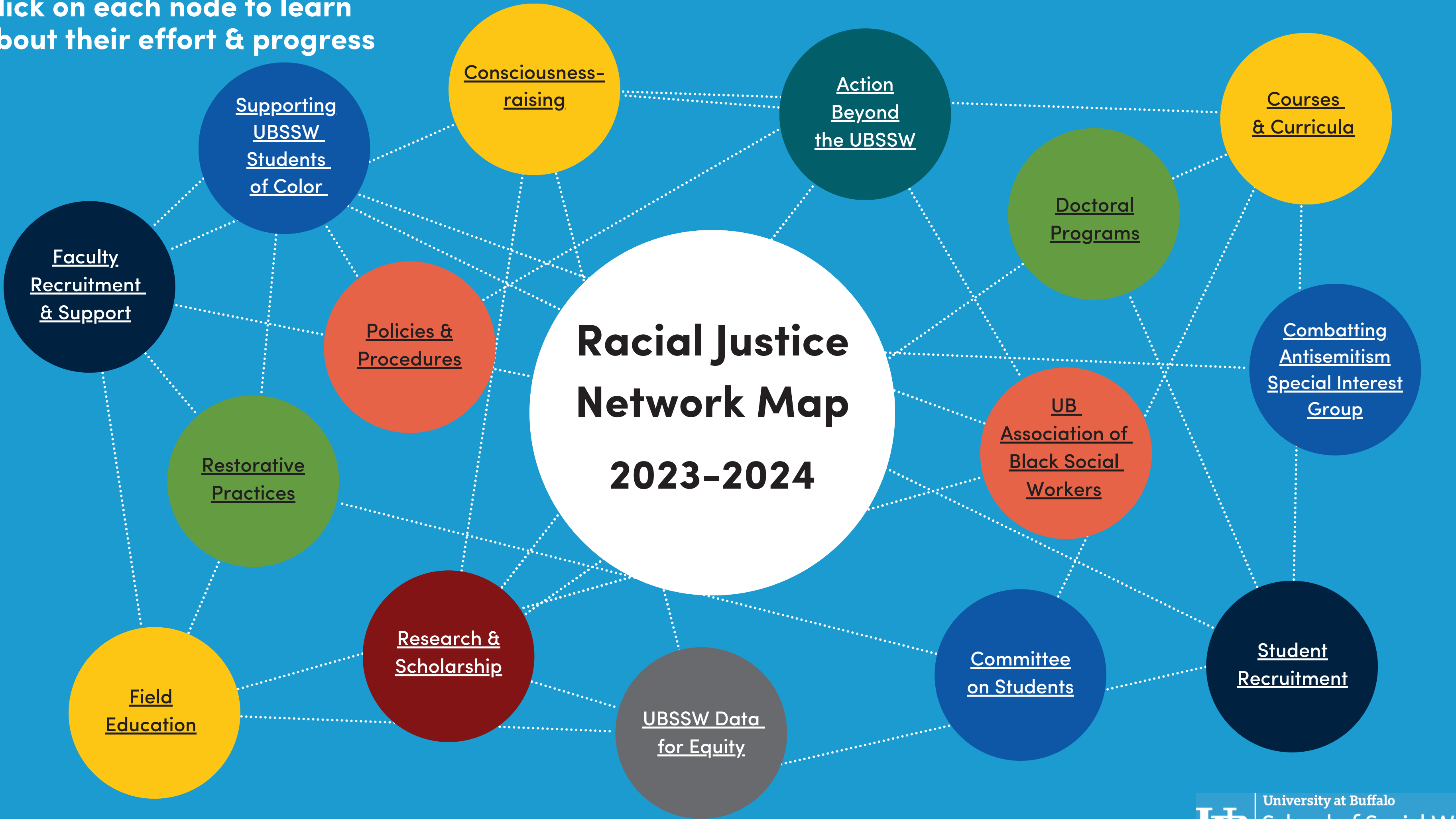


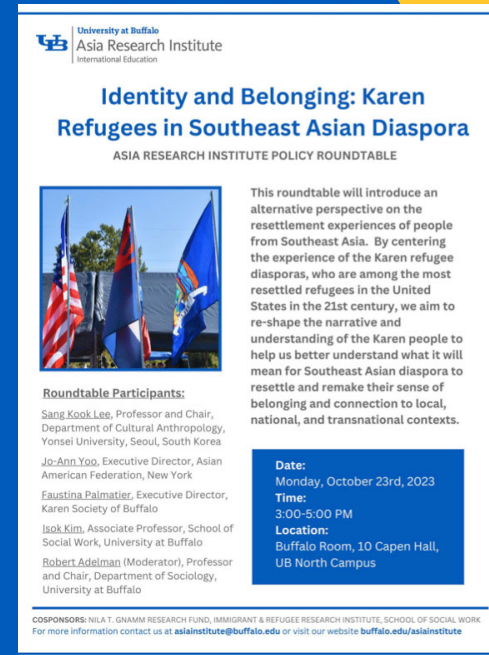
Click on each node to learn about their effort & progress



Consciousness-Raising

Identity & Belonging: Karen Refugees in Southeast Asian Diaspora

UBSSW's Immigrant & Refugee Research Institute partnered with UB's Asia Research Institute to host a roundtable discussion on the resettlement experiences of people from Southeast Asia. The event featured several participants, including the SSW's Dr. Isok Kim, and Faustina Palmatier, UBSSW alumna & current executive director of the Karen Society of Buffalo.



[For more information about this event, click here](#)

[To learn more about Faustina Palmatier's story as a member of Buffalo's refugee community, click here](#)

"How Racial Trauma Fits into the UBSSW's TI-HR Framework"

Presentation given at Fall Teaching Summit for UBSSW Faculty by Dr. Filomena Critelli (Associate Professor, Interim Associate Dean for DEI, UGS Director) and Dr. Lisa Butler (Associate Professor)

"The Trauma Informed-Human Rights Framework and DEIA"

Presentation given to UBSSSW Faculty and Staff at Final Strategic Planning Meeting by Dr. Filomena Critelli, Interim Associate Dean for DEI

Reimagining Social Work's Social Justice Strategy

The UBSSW partnered with [Social Workers for Justice](#) for a workshop on collective action, sources of power, and the campaign to change NYS social work licensure requirements in the wake of evidence that found racial biases in the outcomes of the licensure exam. More information on the event can be found by clicking [here](#)

Global to Local Racial Justice Series



[To watch Dr. Roberts' full presentation, click here](#)

Action Beyond the UBSSW

Faculty Affairs

Nancy J. Smyth, PhD, LCSW, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, has been working with the Office of Faculty Affairs to review the promotion and tenure recommendations from the President's Advisory Commission on Race (PACOR).



Buffalo Chapter

UBSSW members of SWAA and our alum are getting back to our radical roots, with racial justice on the agenda

socialwelfareactionalliance.org

Media

UBSSW in the News

Dr. Wooksoo Kim was quoted in a Buffalo News article about employment amongst the refugee and immigrant populations in WNY:

[Click here to read the full article](#)

Buffalo Emergency Preparedness

In 2023, UBSSW alumna Samantha Williams worked with the UB Center for Urban Studies on a project that analyzed the Emergency Management Plans of cities around the USA to identify gaps in these plans that have resulted in racially marginalized groups being disproportionately affected by adverse weather, as was seen in Buffalo during the December Blizzard of 2022.

As of Fall 2023, Ms. Williams has also been working on creating and distributing emergency preparedness kits for the residents of Buffalo's East Side

For more information or to make a contribution to these kits, email Samantha Williams at sw94@buffalo.edu



Courses & Curricula

New undergraduate courses with Racial Justice Focus are currently in development & will be part of the interdisciplinary Prison Studies certificate program

Revision of SW500 to Address the Whitewashing of Social Work History

The UBSSW History and Policy course has been revised and divided into 2 courses with the goal of presenting an inclusive and equitable history of social work that honors the contributions of BIPOC social activists and social work founders and reformers. These changes were developed by Dr. Annahita Ball, Chair of Curriculum Committee, and Dr. Filomena Critelli, Chair of Diversity and Policy Sequence, and were voted into implementation by UBSSW faculty.

SW974: Social Work in the Black Community

This course will be taught by Dr. Noelle St. Vil & Dr. Chris St. Vil. Course objectives include “exploration of issues that disproportionately impact the Black community, and how to think about social work in the Black community.”

[For more information about the course, click here](#)

Some of these courses are planned to begin in Spring 2024-Fall 2025, including the courses below:

SW 350: Restorative Justice

Developed by Dr. Filomena Critelli

Mass Incarceration & Direct Practice

Developed and will be taught by Dr. Michael Applegarth

SW 130: Black Lives Matter

Instructor: Cheney Brockington

SW 199: Valuing Diversity

Instructor: Tonya Myles Day

SW 199: When We Fight We Win

Instructor: Laura Lewis

Doctoral Programs

DSW & PhD Implicit Curriculum:

DPC will look at ways to strengthen the support for faculty mentors of doctoral students.

Admissions and Recruitment:

DPC partnered with the UBSSW Admissions team to strengthen recruitment and admissions for Fall 2022, using an equity lens. UBSSW also removed the GRE requirement for admissions to the PhD and DSW programs.

DPC will host a sharing session in spring to explore this topic more broadly, using a racial equity lens.

Doctoral Programs Committee (DPC) Process:

DPC has added on on-going agenda item to each meeting related to racial justice.

- DPC meetings are public and transparent:
- agenda is shared with faculty, staff, and students;
 - all are welcome to attend and/or share ideas

UB Association of Black Social Workers

[RETURN TO MAP](#)



ubuffaloabsw@nabsw.org

Click & watch to learn about UBABSW:



Gloria James, MSW Student, Founder UB ABSW Chapter

UBABSW Vice President Tyrone Reese hosted a Virtual Meet & Greet to introduce new E-board and meet with current & prospective members at the beginning of the semester (flyer below); President Vanity Withrow also tabled at orientation for incoming MSW cohort

'23-'24 Executive Board

- Vanity Withrow- President
- Tyrone Reese- Vice President
- Jamil Elison- Treasurer
- Jennifer Ray- Secretary

Member Recruitment

Trivia Night

Alumni Collaboration Initiative

UBABSW is continuing to work on their Alumni Collaboration Initiative to connect current ABSW members with ABSW alumni that are currently working in the field



WNY Alzheimer's Association Walk



UBABSW President Vanity Withrow (left) and UBABSW Secretary Jennifer Ray (right) hosted a trivia event entitled "Melanin Mayhem: Black Card Reclaimed" to engage with current members and recruit new members in a fun way

UBABSW took part in the WNY Alzheimer's Association Walk, which aims to raise funds and enhance support for those impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia in the WNY community. Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by these conditions, and often face discrimination in care settings. The event flyer and a photo of UBABSW members at the event has been included on the left.





Recruitment & Marketing

- Inclusive recruiting efforts with organizations and geographic areas that are more likely to elicit diverse applicants (e.g., TRIO, McNair scholars, National Idealist Fair)
- Fostering educational partnerships through direct communication with specific undergraduate institutions (e.g., HBCU)
- Establishing UBSSW admissions awards supporting diversity among the student body
- Advising applicants on eligibility for application fee waivers
- Advocating across UB departments for greater flexibility in recruitment

Student Recruitment

Admissions Review Process

- Maintaining a consistent, fair, and equitable review process
- Supporting and assisting faculty reviewers to review applications in accordance with our policies and procedures
- Requiring multiple application reviews for each applicant
- Promoting a holistic application review approach, while maintaining fair and equitable discussion of applicants' materials
- Continued quality improvement regarding application eligibility, requirements, and review process

Application Policies & Procedures

- Computing stats for diversity of applicant pool
- Maintaining a consistent, replicable, and equitable application process
- Provide coaching and offer opportunities for guidance with applications
- Assisting applicants with steps to application completion and deadlines
- Live and virtual information sessions



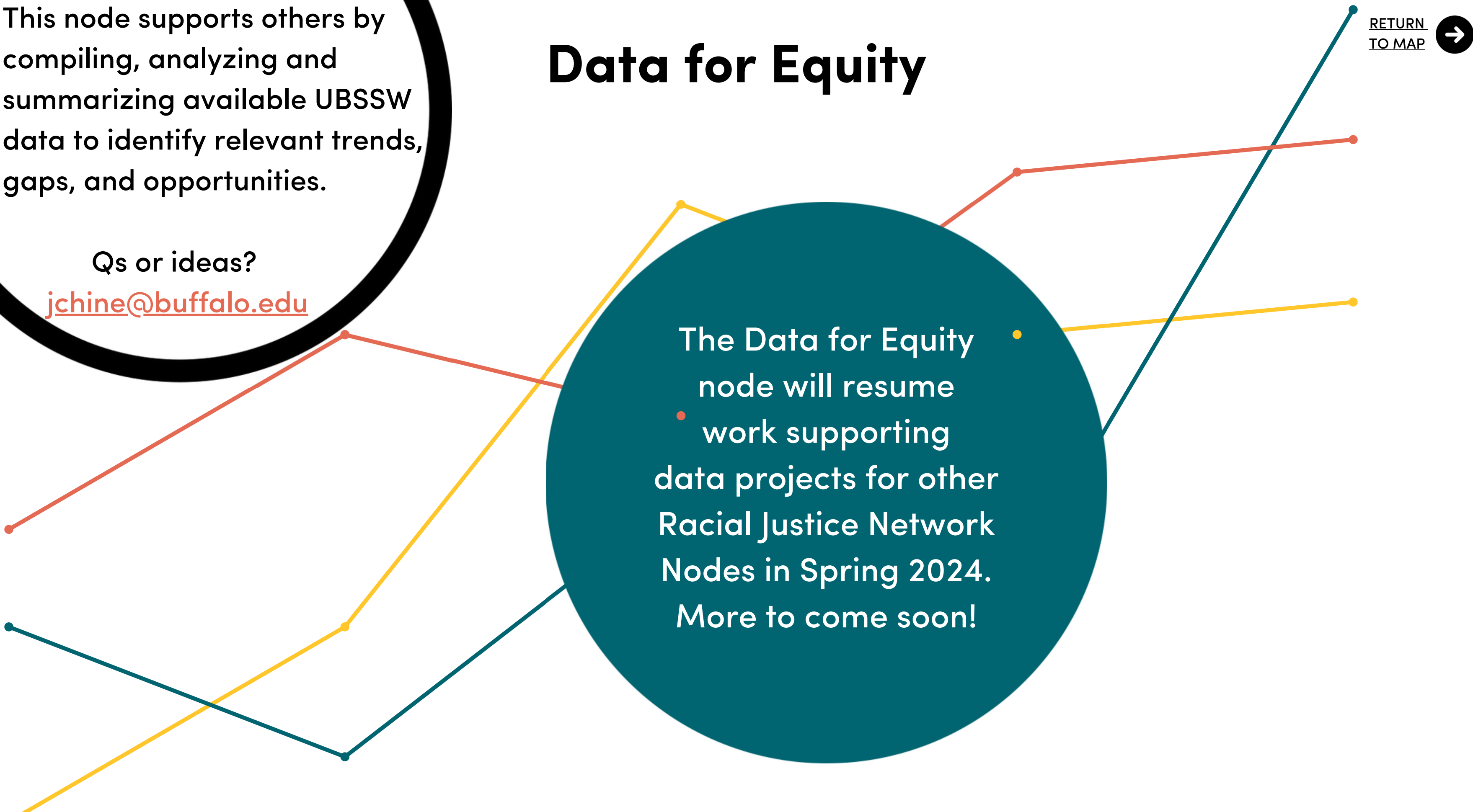
Data for Equity

This node supports others by compiling, analyzing and summarizing available UBSSW data to identify relevant trends, gaps, and opportunities.

Qs or ideas?

jchine@buffalo.edu

The Data for Equity node will resume work supporting data projects for other Racial Justice Network Nodes in Spring 2024. More to come soon!



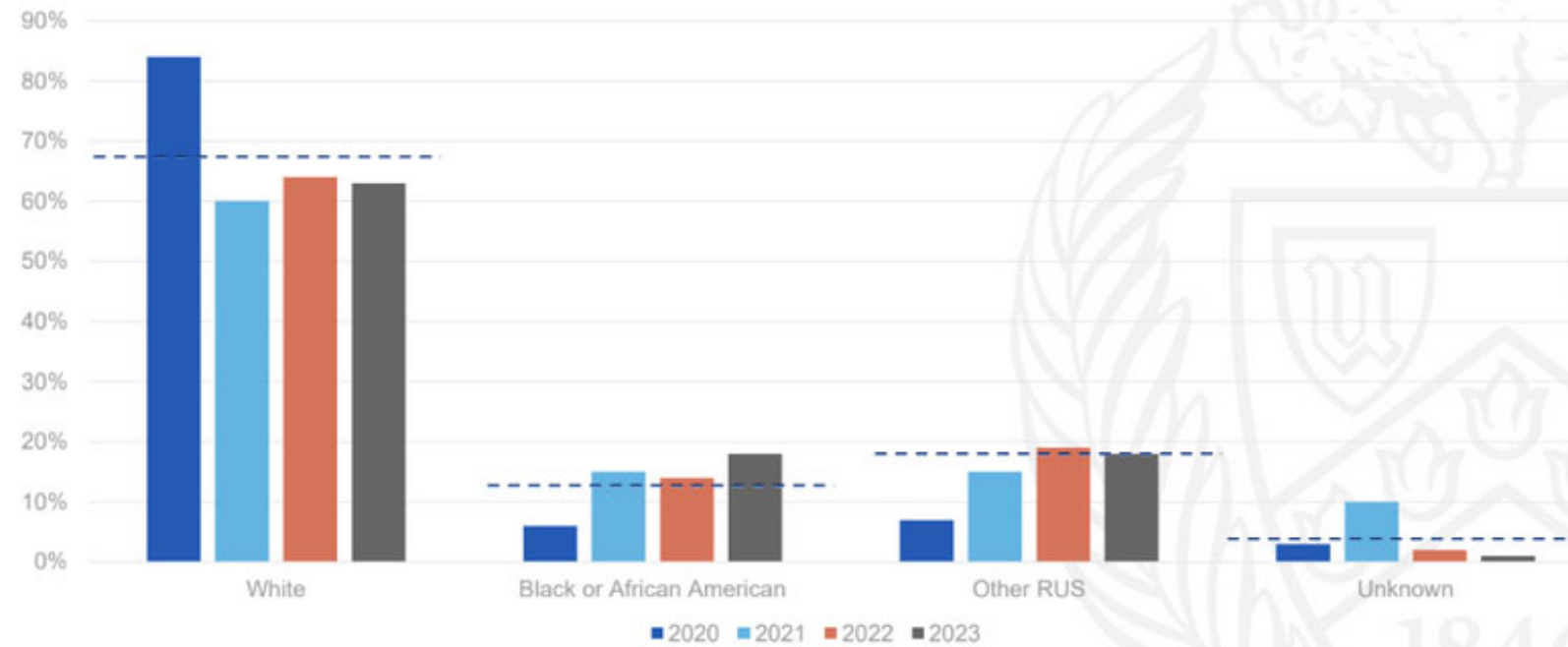


Data comes from "Race/Ethnicity" as self-reported* by students in HUB.

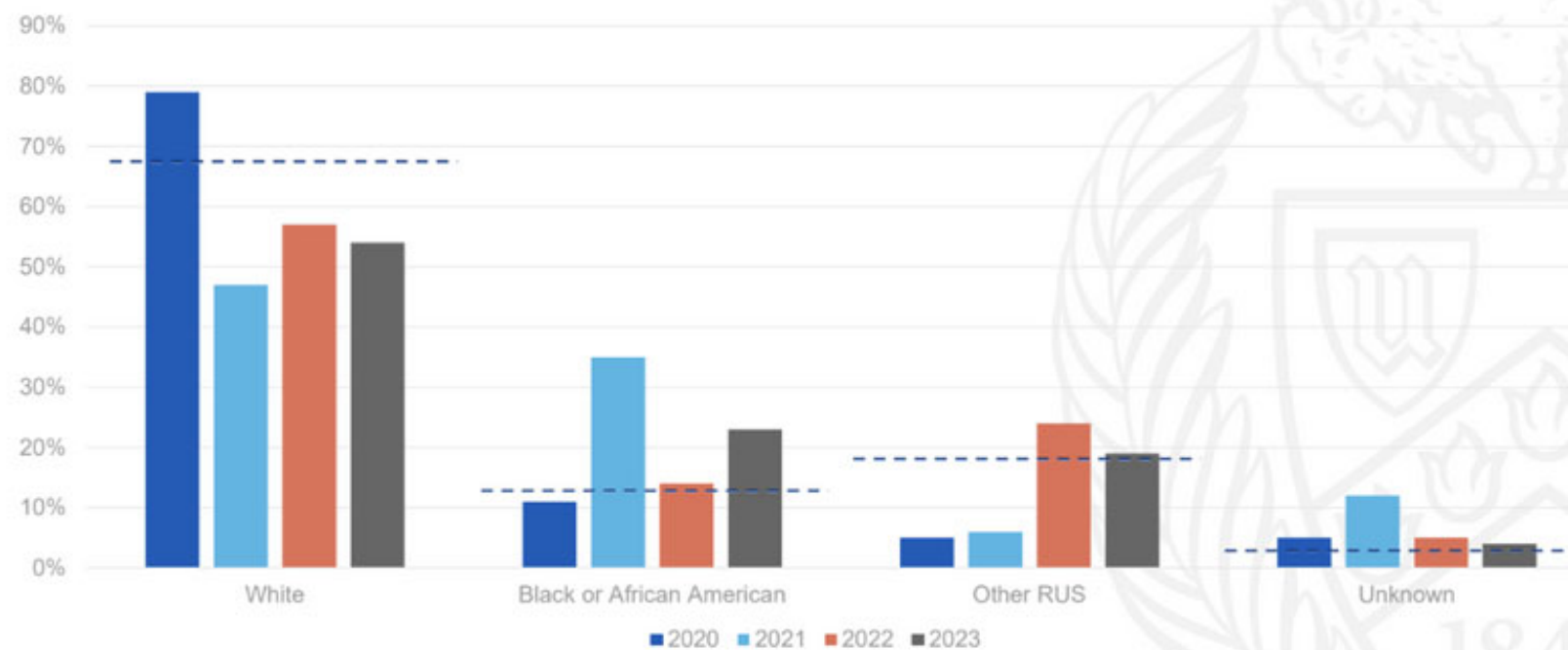
For the purposes of this review, data is presented in the following groups:
White, Black or African American, Other Racially Underrepresented Students (RUS) (including Asian students), and Unknown.

*A small percentage of students do not have a reported race/ethnicity.

Nominations by Race/Ethnicity



Winners by Race/Ethnicity



Research & Scholarship

[RETURN
TO MAP](#)



UBSSW Racial Justice Research Spotlight:

Dr. Noelle M. St. Vil, Assistant Professor, has published an article with colleagues, [Perspectives on a Couples-Based, e-Health HIV Prevention Toolkit Intervention: A Qualitative Dyadic Study with Black, Heterosexual Couples in New York State.](#)

For more on her research on strengthening Black male-female relationships, see [here.](#)

Buffalo Center for Social Research (BCSR) Climate:

- The BCSR Grants Team has incorporated racial equity in the grant consultation process.
- The BCSR is committed to supporting racialized faculty and student scholars through
- training and mentoring programs.
- The BCSR Research Advisory Committee is examining the current Research Awards
- process to ensure a racial equity lens is used to identify excellence in research.

Field Education

2023-2024

Goals and Progress

Field Educator & Field Liaison Training

The Field Education Office is currently begin to assess the need for specific training modules for Field Educator and Faculty Liaison Orientations that address matter of racial justice in field settings and experiences.

UBSSW's Michael Lynch, Katie Stalker, and Katie McClain-Meeder published an article on equity in employment-based field placements

[Click here to read the full article](#)

The Field Education Office is also working to create updates for student Learning Contracts for the Fall 2024-Spring 2025 academic year, in addition to updating and adding to Field Seminar curriculum.



Restorative Practices at the UBSSW

Michelle Fortunado-Kewin presented to UB's NEAR Mentors on "Supporting Students using a Restorative Justice Lens" on Wednesday, November 9, 2022

To learn more about her research,
[CLICK HERE](#)

Send Qs to: fortunad@buffalo.edu

Michelle Fortunado-Kewin presented a modified version of her DSW Capstone Presentation, "Using Restorative Practices to Address Students' Experiences of Racism and Oppression" at CSWE APM's Conference on November 11, 2022




Faculty Recruitment & Support

To learn more about UB's VITAL Scholar program, & to see the full list of 2023 VITAL Scholars, click here

VITAL Scholar Program


The UBSSW had the honor of hosting four scholars to present their work as part of UB's VITAL Scholar program, which aims to help UB increase the number of faculty it employs that are members of racially underrepresented populations

 University at Buffalo
School of Social Work


UB VITAL SCHOLAR TALKS

As part of UB's Visiting Future Faculty Week, join us to welcome PhD candidates from across the country to the UB School of Social Work — and hear about their impressive research.

DATE: October 18, 2023
TIME: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (lunch will be provided after)
LOCATION: 214 Parker, UB South Campus
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/VSI23> (Space is limited)
CONTACT: Filomena Critelli at fmc8@buffalo.edu for questions




Julissa Adames-Torres: Predictors of the use of mental health services among Dominican immigrants in the U.S.
This study analyzes factors that predict Dominican immigrants' use of mental health services in the U.S., specifically systemic and personal factors that predict utilization, initiation, participation, and completion of mental health services.



Chesney Ward: Readiness for end-of-life conversations
This research project examines how faith and perceived spiritual support impact health decision-making when engaging in advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life (EOL) care planning discussions. The study expands on current research that has examined implementing ACP programming in Black churches.



Paigean Jones: Mindfulness and Black maternal health
Black women are disproportionately impacted by adverse health outcomes during the perinatal period. Mindfulness activities are cost-effective techniques with low barriers to entry, empowering participants with stress-relief and coping skills that can in turn improve maternal-fetal health outcomes.



Evelyn Coker: Centering the voices of incarcerated Black girls to create gender-responsive programs
Black girls are overrepresented in the juvenile legal system and have a lack of gender-responsive programmatic support and services. This dissertation study aims to center the voices of incarcerated Black girls to inform the creation of a culturally relevant curriculum for detention settings.

UBSSW 2023 Vital Scholars:

- **Julissa Adames-Torres: Predictors of the use of mental health services among Dominican immigrants in the U.S.**
- **Chesney Ward: Readiness for end-of-life conversations**
- **Paigean Jones: Mindfulness and Black maternal health**
- **Evelyn Coker: Centering the voices of incarcerated Black girls to create gender-responsive programs**

Policies & Procedures

Enhanced Safety

Nancy J. Smyth, PhD LCSW, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, worked with the Dean's Office to add peepholes to office doors around the school to provide more safety for faculty and staff. This was initiated by a request from a school faculty/staff member who requested this addition to increase safety.

More to come in 2023-2024...



Supporting UBSSW Students of Color

Student Support

The SSW is working with Scholars at Risk at the university level and within the school to support scholars who are being targeted/harassed/at risk for their work on racial justice and other social justice issues.



Faculty Liaison for Racially Underrepresented Students Professor Tonya Myles-Day

In this role, Professor Myles-Day will provide support to racially underrepresented students through monthly group support sessions, along with meeting with students individually as needed. Professor Myles-Day will serve as a point of collaboration and connection between students and Student Services, the Field Education Office, and other units relating to student concerns/ideas.

**To avoid workload inequities commonly experienced by faculty/staff who are women, LGBTQ+, and/or people of color, Dr. St. Vil's faculty liaison role takes the place of other school service.*

The UBSSW thanks Dr. Noelle St. Vil for her commitment to this role over the past two years. Dr. St. Vil was the first faculty member to serve as Faculty Liaison for Racially Underrepresented Students, and served as a significant support for racially underrepresented students during that time

For more information about UB School of Social Work's #DEI work, visit: <http://bit.ly/3sWdod4>



The wordcloud above reflects the self-descriptions of some of the UBSSW's students of color. If you identify as a person of color and want to be on a contact list about community-building opportunities: [complete this form](#)

Combating Antisemitism Special Interest Group

According to the annual ADL antisemitism report, antisemitic incidents increased by 36% in 2022 and antisemitic activity reported on college campuses increased by 41%. For the third year in a row, the FBI reported that antisemitic attacks are the highest religious-based attacks in the country - and those are the ones that get reported.

The 2nd meeting took place on May 18, 2023. To join in, please contact either of the Co-Chairs.

**EVERYONE
IS WELCOME!**

We support and stand in solidarity with our Jewish students, faculty, and staff. Our group aims to raise awareness regarding antisemitism on campus and to advocate for inclusivity. Our invited speakers will share their research and discuss ways in which antisemitism affects us all and how we can respond.

Co-Chairs:
Dr. Jennifer Underweiser
(jbunderw@buffalo.edu)
Jacob Bernstein
(Jab24@buffalo.edu)