

JESSICA SABA, LCSW
she/ella/ هي | sabajess@msu.edu

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy**, School of Social Work, Michigan State University Expected 2025
Dissertation title: Palestinian Women's Everyday Resistance to Settler Colonialism and Patriarchy:
Tactics, Motivations, and Outcomes
Chair: Dr. Angie Kennedy; Committee: Dr. Hyunkag Cho (Social Work), Dr. Lekie Dwanyen
(Human Development and Family Studies), Dr. Stephen Gasteyer (Sociology)
- Graduate Certification in College Teaching**, The Graduate School, Michigan State University Expected 2025
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduate Certificate**, Office of Institutional Diversity, and Inclusion, Michigan State University 2022
- Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities Graduate Certificate**, College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University 2022
- Master of Social Work**, University of Southern California 2016
Concentration: Mental Health, Sub-concentration: School Settings (Pupil Personnel Services Credential)
- Bachelor of Arts**, University of California, Berkeley 2013
Peace and Conflict Studies; Minor in Arabic

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Saba, J.**, Nestor, D., Hernandez, N., & Brade Stennis, K. The shoe on the other foot: Considering oppression for BIPOC social workers. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2023.2291657>
- Irish, K. & **Saba, J.** (2023). Bots are the new fraud: A post-hoc exploration of statistical methods to identify bot-generated responses in a corrupt data set. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 213. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2023.112289>
- Kennedy, A.C., Prock, K., Adams, A., Litwin, A., Meier, E., **Saba, J.**, & Vollinger, L. (2023). Can this provider be trusted? A review of the role of trustworthiness in the provision of community-based services for intimate partner violence survivors. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. Advance online publication. 10.1177/15248380231168641
- Saba, J.** (2023). "No free homeland without free women:" Tal'at's Indigenous feminist movement [Special Issue] *Affilia Critical Social Work* (pp.1-10). Advance online publication. 10.1177/08861099221148157
- Kennedy, A.C., Meier, E., & **Saba, J.** (2021). Sexual violence within intimate relationships. In C. Bradbury-Jones, J. Devaney, S. Holt, R. Macy, & C. Overlien (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of domestic violence and abuse* (pp. 203-219). Routledge.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Hereth, J. E., Kennedy, A. C., Garthe, R. C., Durand, B., Morein, L., Lunger, L., De Smet, L., Thornton, L., Blackburn, A. M., & **Saba, J.** (in press). Using the life history calendar to examine victimization, mental health, and seeking and attaining help among transgender women: An example of a culturally relevant adaptation. *Journal of Interpersonal*

Violence.

Al-Zoughbi, L.A. & **Saba, J.** (in press). A practical guide to solidarity tourism in Palestine. In L.A. Sharif, J. L. Kelly, & S. Sen (Eds.), *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Palestine*. Duke University Press.

Saba, J., Hernandez, N., Ramirez, J., Mohr-Avitia, G. (Manuscript under invited revision). Voices of solidarity: Challenging censorship in social work discourse on Palestine during an ongoing genocide.[Special Issue] *Journal of Social Work Education*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Hereth, J. E., Kennedy, A.C., Garthe, R.C., Durand, B., De Smet, L.E., Thorton, L.E., Blackburn, A.M., **Saba, J.** (Manuscript in preparation). Life history calendars as a tool to examine victimization, mental health, help-seeking, and help-attainment among transgender women: An example of a culturally relevant adaptation.

Saba, J., Qaraqe, M., Odeh, M., & Al-Zoughbi, L. (Manuscript in preparation). Sumud in practice: A reflection on girls' action research in Aida Refugee Camp.

Saba, J. (Manuscript in preparation). Palestinian women's everyday resistance: A scoping review.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship (\$38,000), Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University 2023-Present
- United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship (\$7,500), Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University 2023
- Doctoral Minority Fellowship (\$76,992), Council of Social Work Education 2020-2023
- Best Graduate Paper (\$500), Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase, Michigan State University 2023
- Rita S. Gallin Award (\$300), Center for Gender in the Global Context, Michigan State University 2022
- Social Innovation Award (\$1000), University of Southern California 2016
- Full Tuition Dean's Leadership Scholar (\$80,000), University of Southern California 2014-2016
- Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Grant (\$25,000) 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, East Lansing, MI 2023–Present
Project: Counting MENA In: Middle Eastern and North African American Community Experiences at MSU
PI: Dr. Rebecca Karam (Sociology) Co- PIs: Dr. Najib Hourani (Anthropology), Dr. Stephen Gasteyer (Sociology), Dr. Salah Hassan (Director, Global Studies)
Distribute and manage Qualtrics survey, assist with data management and analysis, manage web presence, facilitate focus groups, assist with writing final report.

Research Assistant, East Lansing, MI 2019–2024
Primary Project: Debt as a Control Tactic in Abusive Marriages: Its Characteristics, Legal Remedies, and Effects
PI: Dr. Adrienne Adams (Community Psychology) Co-PIs: Dr. Angie Kennedy (Social Work) & Dr. Angela Littwin (Law)
Conduct literature reviews, deliver quantitative interviews utilizing the Life History Calendar, and analyze qualitative interviews utilizing grounded theory.

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Fellow, Berkeley, CA 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 (Public Health) and Dr. Iris Lavi (Psychology)

Practitioner Research Project, Bethlehem, Palestine

Oct. 2013–Jul. 2016

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 and thematically analyzed and coded interview transcripts. Advisor: Dr. Marcie Coulter-Kern (Psychology)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Saba, J., Nestor, D., Hernandez, N., & Brade Stennis, K. (2023, October). *The shoe on the other foot: Considering oppression for BIPOC social workers*. Paper presented at the 69th Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA (Presented by Nestor, D., Hernandez, N., & Brade Stennis, K.)

Irish, K. & **Saba, J.** (2023, January). *Bots are the new fraud: A post-hoc exploration of statistical methods to identify bot-generated responses in a corrupt data set*. Poster presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research, Phoenix, AZ. (Presented by Irish, K.)

Saba, J. (2022, November). *"No free homeland without free women": Tal'at's Indigenous feminist movement*. Poster presented at the 68th Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, CA.

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

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.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Resilience and Resistance in Community Healing with Ghazal, S. & Sanjana, A. Spartan Shifa & Arab Cultural Society (ACS), Michigan State University, MI Feb. 2024

Easier Said Than Done: Critical Feminist Praxis in Social Work with BlackDeer, A.A., Mehrotra, G., Mountz, S., & Soronsen, B. Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work and University of Pittsburgh, PA. [Virtual] Nov. 2023
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh52ziP_TMI

Teach-in: Understanding Palestinian Perspectives on Gaza with Barghouti, V., El-Rayes, W., Gasteyer, S., Khalil, M., & Mukhal, H. Muslim Studies Program, Michigan State University, MI. [Virtual] Oct. 2023

Connect and Replenish: A Healing Space for Palestine Activists with Al-Zoughbi, L. Students United for Palestinian Rights, Michigan State University, MI. [Virtual] June 2021

Self-Care for Activists Workshop. Students for Justice in Palestine Conference, Manchester University, IN. March 2016

How to Facilitate Talking Circles: An Experiential Workshop with Bradley, J. & Sandel, Y. The Graduate School of Social Welfare's Social Justice Symposium, University of California—Berkeley. Feb. 2012

MEDIA

Saba, J. (April 8, 2021). Honoring Arab American heritage: Recognition and justice. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Article. <https://www.cswe.org/news/newsroom/honoring-arab-american-heritage-recognition-and-justice/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Psychology, Michigan State University Summer 2023, 2024
PSY317: Sexual Assault: Context, Interventions & Prevention [Online Asynchronous]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Therapist, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, East Lansing, MI Aug. 2020-Sep. 2023
Provided therapy to individuals, couples, and families in person and via telehealth in Michigan. Utilized 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. Awarded \$27,200 for project (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.

SERVICE

- **Outreach Representative**, USA Palestine Mental Health Network 2024- Present
- **Journal Reviewer**, *Gender, Place and Culture* 2024- Present
- **Doctoral Student Member**, Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence, Michigan State University 2019-Present
- **BIPOC Writing Support Group, Founding member & Co-facilitator**, East Lansing, MI Feb. 2022- May 2023

- **Clinic Improvement Team Member**, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, East Lansing, MI Jan. 2022-Aug. 2022
- **Focus Group Facilitator**, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Michigan State University March 2021
- **Mentor to MSW students**, Minority Fellowship Program, Council of Social Work Education 2020

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS)
- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)

ADDITIONAL METHODS TRAINING

- **Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods Institute for Advanced Doctoral Students Certificate**, 2024 Latino Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin
- **Certificate in Mixed Methods Research**, School of Social Work, University of Michigan 2024