

JESSICA SABA

534 Cherry St. Lansing, MI 48933 | sabajess@msu.edu | 818-282-0636

EDUCATION

Michigan State University

Ph.D., School of Social Work

East Lansing, MI

August 2019- Present

University of Southern California (3.91 GPA)

Master of Social Work

Concentration: Mental Health

Sub- Concentration: School Settings (PPSC)

Dean's Leadership Scholar, Dean's Honorable Mention

Los Angeles, CA

May 2016

University of California, Berkeley (3.86)

Bachelor of Arts, Peace and Conflict Studies; Minor in Arabic

Magna Cum Laude, McNair Scholar

Berkeley, CA

May 2013

Languages: Proficient in basic conversational Arabic; Proficient in conversational Spanish

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

Research Topic: "The Experiences of Youth of Color in Participatory Action Research: Fostering Critical Reflection and Positive Class Climate"

Berkeley, CA

Jan. 2013-Aug. 2013

Faculty: Dr. Emily Ozer and Dr. Iris Lavi

Youth Participatory Action Research in Aida Refugee Camp

Faculty: Dr. Marcie Coulter-Kern

Bethlehem, Palestine

Oct 2013- July 2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

Saba, J., Al-Zoughbi, Lucas. (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.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Psychiatric Social Worker, Los Angeles Unified School District

Los Angeles, California

Oct. 2016- Feb. 2019

- Provide case management and individual and group mental health services for elementary and high school students many of whom are in foster care, facing homelessness and poverty, and experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Utilize best practice interventions to address a variety of issues including behavioral issues, grief and loss, trauma, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and crises
- Facilitate various counseling groups (social skills, restorative justice, anxiety and depression support, grief and loss, and Families Overcoming Stress (FOCUS) resilience skill building)
- Coordinate services to provide students with school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, mental health services, prescription eyeglasses, and other services as needed
- Present professional development trainings (Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Psychological First Aid) to school staff
- Provide mental health consultation and participate in multidisciplinary teams (Student Success Team (SST), School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS), School Side Council)

Founder and Director, Girls Rise

Bethlehem, Palestine
Jan.2012-Present

- 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 Sun Valley, California

Aug. 2015-June 2016

- Provided case management and individual and group therapy for students ages 4 to 18 years old from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, linguistic, and differently-abled backgrounds including students in foster care, facing homelessness, in probation, and at-risk of dropout at a high-need elementary school and high school
- Utilized best practice interventions to address a variety of issues including behavioral problems, grief, substance use, symptoms of depression and anxiety, and self-injurious behavior
- 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 (LSS)

Canoga Park, California
Sep. 2014-April 2015

- Provided individual therapy, group therapy, and case management for veterans, homeless, and low-income individuals dealing with depression, alcohol abuse, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities
- Worked with clients to assess eligibility and complete Rider Relief Transportation Program (RRTP) application which provides fare subsidy coupons
- Provided community resources including utility bill assistance, food pantries, and shelters
- Produced new agency policy to improve client intake and service procedures

Research and Youth Program Intern, Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center

Bethlehem, Palestine
June 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

Coordinator, UC Berkeley Restorative Justice Center (RJC)

Berkeley, CA
Sep.2011-Aug. 2012

- Aided in the formation of the Restorative Justice Center
- Facilitated a dialogue circle between students about the Israeli Palestinian conflict 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
- Co-facilitated "How to Facilitate Talking Circles: An Experiential Workshop" workshops at UC Berkeley's Social Justice Symposium

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
- Worked one-on-one with inmates on a range of topics from elementary mathematics and English to college level science and history courses in the prison's educational department

Student Instructor, UC Berkeley DeCal (Democratic-Cal) Program

Berkeley, CA
Jan. 2012-May 2012

- Co-facilitated a DeCal class called Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice Training where I taught students about Restorative Justice (RJ) and trained them in implementing RJ practices

GRANTS

- 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

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Dean's Honorable Mention, University of Southern California 2016
- Social Innovation Award (\$1000), University of Southern California 2016
- Dean's Leadership Scholar, University of Southern California 2014
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Malta Scholarship 2012
- Deans List (top 4%), University of California, Berkeley Fall and Spring 2010

TRAININGS

- Motivational Interviewing (MI), University of Southern California 2015
- 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
- Psychological First Aid, Los Angeles Unified School District 2017
- Restorative Justice, University of California, Berkeley & Los Angeles Unified School District 2011, 2012, 2018
- Intercultural Leadership, University of California, Berkeley Spring 2012

- Multicultural Mediation, University of California, Berkeley
- Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS)
(Data Based Decision Making, Bully Prevention and Restorative Practices, and Social Emotional Learning)

Spring 2011

2017-2018