



## *Onsite Workshop Session Descriptions*

### NACSW Convention 2022

*Chicago, IL*  
October 27-30, 2022

## **Convention 2022 Onsite Poster Information**

The following presents a preliminary listing of onsite poster presentations that will be included in NACSW's Convention 2022 with abstracts and presenter's bios. The workshop sessions are sorted alphabetically by presenter's last names.

*Please note that views expressed by poster presenters are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect those of NACSW. Being selected to present a workshop at this convention in no way implies NACSW's endorsement or certification of a presenter's qualifications, ability or proficiency to practice social work or integrate faith and social work.*

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**Poster Title:** Living Spiritually in the Material World: America's Forgotten Wisdom

**Poster Presenters:** Lewis Andrews, Ph.D.

**Poster Abstract:** From 1636 to the 1920s, America's early college presidents (almost all Christian clergy) taught a seminar that combined history, theology, philosophy and psychology into a spiritual therapy. This workshop reviews the enormous impact of this seminar on US history, its basic principles, and its reemergence in modern psychology.

**Workshop Description:** From 1636 to the 1920s, America's early college presidents (almost all Christian clergy) taught an upper-class seminar on "Living Spiritually in the Material World." Typically called "The President's Seminar," it combined history, theology, philosophy and eventually psychology to prepare budding ministers to counsel parishioners and other students to serve God in their business and professional lives. It is hard to overstate this seminar's influence. Popularized by bestselling books, it inspired the founding of many social service organizations, including the YMCA, The American

Branch of the Salvation Army and the precursors of programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. Even hospitals were persuaded to end their historically callous warehousing emotionally troubled patients and adopted an approach called "moral treatment." Despite its influence, the President's Seminar fell out of favor in the early 20th century, although it never completely disappeared. Later incarnations included the Emmanuel Movement, the Pastoral Counseling Movement, the Jacoby Clubs, Oxford Group Movement and most recently, the 12-Step Programs. The wisdom of President's Seminar is today resurfacing in many therapeutic areas. Modern research has shown that people live by the old-time presidents' spiritual principles are less prone to depression and anxiety, are less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, are more resilient to life setbacks, and even have above average immunity to physical diseases. In line with this year's convention theme ("Inspired by Our Roots: Innovating for Our Future"), this presentation will describe the forgotten history of the President's Seminar (20 minutes), elaborate the therapeutic principles developed by America's early college presidents (20 minutes), and explain why modern social science is returning to them (20 minutes).

**Bibliography:** Andrews, L., "Rebirth of America's Spiritual Psychology " Part II, New Oxford Review (December, 2020), pp. 24-28. Andrews, L., "Rebirth of America's Spiritual Psychology " Part I," New Oxford Review (November, 2020), pp. 22-26. Andrews, L., Living Spiritually in the Material World. New York, Fidelis Books, 2020. Andrews, L., "Our Pain in Isolation Presents a Chance for Spiritual Awakening," The Federalist. (June 20, 2020). Andrews, L., "America's Early College Presidents and the Coronavirus," The Christian Post (March 31, 2020).

**Presenter Bio (s):** Dr. Lewis M. Andrews is president of the Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation ([www.ceoct.org](http://www.ceoct.org)). Previously, he was the executive director of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy at Trinity College, Hartford. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Princeton, a master's in communication research from Stanford, and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the Union Institute. He has been a Research Fellow at Yale University and a Visiting Scholar at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business. Dr. Andrews has authored many popular and professional works, including *Requiem for Democracy?* (Holt), *Man Controlled* (Free Press), *To Thine Own Self Be True* (Doubleday), *Living Spiritually in the Material World* (Fidelis Books), and the science fiction novel *Gomorrah*. Over the years he has lectured at more than 100 churches, universities, and hospitals worldwide.

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**Poster Title:** Immigration-A Sensitive Approach

**Poster Presenters:** Robert Barr, M.Div., LSW

**Poster Abstract:** Immigration today is a major problem. Current attempts to deal with it are failing and the situation is continuing to deteriorate because those responsible for solving it are more intent on achieving financial or political gain than solving the problem. The solution must be both political and humanitarian.

**Poster Description:** Immigration today is a major problem in the United States. Current attempts to deal with it are failing and the situation is continuing to deteriorate because those responsible for solving it are more intent on achieving financial or political gain than solving the problem. The solution must be both political and humanitarian. As Christians, we are concerned about helping them achieve their highest capacity. (10 min.) Unrestricted immigration is hurting the immigrants. The promise of riches in the United States draws people who are poor and struggling to leave their homes, risk starvation, thieves, and disease, to travel to the United States in search of riches that most will never find because they will be here illegally and cannot move openly. In addition, most of them will not have the skills needed to compete in an industrialized economy. Those working with them find them very difficult to assimilate into society. (10 min.) It is also hurting the United States. It allows the free flow of people with no control over who enters. It opens the door to criminals, terrorists, drug dealers, gun runners, and slave traders who take advantage of the flow of immigrants to hide their activities. Immigration officers are overwhelmed by the flow of immigrants and do not have time to pursue the rest. (10 min.) Native pastors tell me it is also hurting the families and their communities as it tears the families apart and drains those of working age out of the community. (10 min.) Any solution must begin with a political solution. Politicians must stop promising them that all they have to do is walk across the border to get a free pot of gold. In addition, we must better control the border crossing so they realize crossing the border will not be easy. (10 min.) Any permanent solution will require humanitarian help to them in their home country to enable them to better their lives and their communities so they will not be tempted to throw away their life savings and risk their life to follow a dream they will probably never be able to achieve. (10 min.)

**Bibliography:** "Dr. Dobson's Visit to the Border" by Dr. James Dobson in Dr. Dobson's July Newsletter copyright 2019 "Texas Pushes Back on Biden Border Crisis" by Ken Oliver in The AMAC Magazine Vol. 15, Issue 6, Dec., 2021 "Living in Limbo" by Harvest Prude in World Magazine Vol. 36, Number 10, May 22, 2021 "Practical Thoughts on Immigration" by Heather MacDonald in Imprimis published by Hillsdale College Vol. 44, Number 2, Feb. 2015 "Immigration in the National Interest" by Tom Cotton in Imprimis published by Hillsdale College Vol. 46, Number 10, Oct. 2017

**Presenter Bio (s):** Rev. Robert Barr, B.A. from Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, 1969. M.Div. from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, 1984 Ordained pastor-Evangelical Church Alliance, Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in Ohio certified in Senior Population and Employment counseling Have presented 4 previous times at national NACSW conferences, 1996 Detroit, Mi, 1998 Toronto, Can., 2000 Columbus, Oh, and 2015, Grand Rapids, Mi. Presented at Ohio Regional Conference 1997, Ashland, Oh. Assessor/Case Manager, Ohio #5, Area Agency on Aging 6 ?" years, Social Worker Salvation Social Services 13 years, Adjunct faculty (Sociology) Owens Community college 6 years

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**Poster Title:** Improving Difficult Interactions from a Reformed Christian Perspective  
*Possible Pre-Recorded Session*

**Poster Presenter:** Morgan Braganza, PhD, MSW

**Poster Abstract:** Social work scholars have developed approaches for better encountering persons holding contentious differences. Neglected in this scholarship, however, are Christian approaches. This workshop offers recommendations from a Reformed Christian perspective. The implications of using this approach in various social work settings will be discussed.

**Poster Track:** Research and Practice w/Ethnically Diverse Populations

**Poster Description:** Canadian society is diversified such as by first language, visible minority and immigration status, religion (Statistics Canada, 2013) and sexual orientation (Statistics Canada, 2016). Multidisciplinary research suggests that such differences can evoke discomfort and even aggression (Reference removed for blind review; Frantell et al., 2019). People struggle to positively encounter those who hold difficult differences, even within social work education and practice (Reference removed). Encounters are defined as purposeful or accidental face-to-face or virtual meetings between individuals or small groups of people (Reference removed). In response, social work scholars have developed or studied approaches for better encountering persons holding contentious differences. Contentious differences are defined as disagreeable differences that evoke strong negative reactions (Reference removed). Two of the most popular approaches in social work are the anti-oppressive practice (AOP) and inclusion/exclusion frameworks (van Wormer, 2005). AOP was inspired by a commitment to resolving the micro- and macro- level oppression that inhibits encounters (Baines, 2011; Dessel & Ali, 2015). The inclusion/exclusion framework seeks understanding about why diverse groups and/or persons become excluded so that they might be inclusively encountered (Sheppard, 2006). Both Christian theologians (e.g., Nouwen, 1986) and social work scholars (e.g., Hodge, 2011) argue that while secular frameworks offer important contributions to improving difficult encounters, Christian ways of thinking have been neglected. Christian frameworks, however, can provide social work educators, professionals, and students with unique considerations for more positively navigating encounters (Reference removed). I responded to this gap in scholarship by systematically gathering and reviewing literature produced by Reformed Christian scholars in order to study their pragmatic and theological recommendations for approaching small scale encounters across contentious differences. In my poster, I will discuss this research. To provide a foundation and rationale for this research, I will begin with an overview of social work's two most popular frameworks: the AOP and inclusion/exclusion frameworks (2 minutes). This discussion will include a summary of their strengths and limitations in relation to encountering persons holding contentious differences. Then, I will discuss my data collection and analysis strategies (4 minutes). Then, I will discuss my initial findings (2 minutes). More specifically, I will discuss the theological, conceptual, and pragmatic recommendations offered by Reformed Christian scholars for more positively navigating

difficult encounters. Throughout the discussion, I will offer examples of how the insights derived from this research might be applied by social workers in various Christian and non-Christian social work contexts (2 minutes).

**Poster References:** Baines, D. (2011). An overview of anti-oppressive practice: Roots, theory, tensions. In D. Baines (Ed.), *Doing anti-oppressive practice: Social justice in social work* (2nd ed.) (pp. 1-24). Fernwood. Braganza, M. E. (2018). Introducing a hospitality framework to encounter diverse others in professional social work. *Social Work and Christianity*, 45(2), 33-56. <https://www.nacsw.org/publications/journal-swc/> Braganza, M. E. (2020). Improving encounters with people who hold contentious differences: An exploration. [Unpublished doctoral dissertation]. Wilfrid Laurier University. Braganza, M. E. (2022). Introducing a conceptual framework for assessing existing models, frameworks, and approaches for navigating encounters across difficult differences. *Social Work & Christianity*, 49(1), 10-25. <https://doi.org/10.34043/swc.v49i1.274> Dessel, A., & Ali, N. (2015). Social justice education through intergroup dialogue: Purpose and pedagogy. Workshop offered at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Frantell, K. A., Miles, J. R., & Ruwe, A. M. (2019). Intergroup dialogue: A review of recent empirical research and its implications for research and practice. *Small Group Research*, 50(5), 654-695. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1046496419835923> Hodge, D. R. (2011). Toward a learning environment that supports diversity and difference: A response to Dessel, Bolen, and Shepardson. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 47(2), 235- 251. <https://doi.org/10.5175/JSWE.2011.201100035> Nouwen, H. J. M. (1986). *The three movements of the spiritual life: Reaching out*. Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group. Sheppard, M. (2006) *Social work and social exclusion: The idea of practice*. Ashgate. Statistics Canada. (2013). *Immigration and ethnocultural diversity in Canada: National Household Survey, 2011*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-010-X2011001. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.pdf> Statistics Canada. (2016). *Same-sexed couples and sexual orientation...by the numbers*. [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dai/smr08/2015/smr08\\_203\\_2015](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dai/smr08/2015/smr08_203_2015) Tan, A. M., & Braganza, M. E. (2022). Introduction to special issue: How might we encounter others well? *Social Work & Christianity*, 49(1), 3-9. <https://doi.org/10.34043/swc.v49i1.288> van Wormer, K. (2005). Concepts for contemporary social work: Globalization, oppression, social exclusion, human rights, Etc. *Social Work and Society*, 3(1), 1-10. <https://ejournals.bib.uni-wuppertal.de/index.php/sws/index>

**Presenter Bio:** Morgan E. Braganza is an Assistant Professor in the Social Work Bachelor of Arts degree program within the Department of Applied Social Sciences at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. She earned her PhD from Wilfrid Laurier University's Faculty of Social Work in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada in 2020. She earned her MSW from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2009. Her program of research focuses on encountering persons who hold contentious differences. She has several published and forthcoming articles on integrating religion in social work education and practice. She has led research and program evaluation projects covering topics such as collaboration, poverty, and violence against women.

**Poster Title:** Contributing Factors to Racial Disparities in Home Removal Processes

**Poster Presenters:** La Cena Jones, M.S., MPA, LMFT, DSW-C

**Poster Abstract:** The focus of this research is identifying contributing factors to racial disparities in the home removal processes by child welfare agencies among African American or black identifying families and children of color; the goal is to label contributing factors that are representative of policy, programming, and biases perpetuating racial disparities.

**Workshop Description:** This presentation will discuss the scoping review performed and transition into future implications and current calls to action to reduce disparities through innovation in assessment and screening at the entrance and other decision-making points during service provision by child welfare agencies. The presentation will seek to complete the following tasks: identify types of disparities in home removal processes (3 minutes); identify specific theoretical approaches to explaining contributing factors in removal processes(3 minutes); list specific contributing factors to disparities in home removal processes(3 minutes); the responsibility of faith-based organizations in reducing disparities in home removal processes (3 minutes); research currently informing the scoping review (3 minutes); future implications of research that looks to cultural competence and ethical practices rooted in understanding implicit bias (3 minutes).

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<https://doiorg.libproxy.calbaptist.edu/10.1093/sw/swy042>

**Presenter Bio (s):** La Cena Jones Chief Executive Officer Bachelors- Criminology, Sociology, English- Upper Iowa University Fayette, IA Masters-Marriage Family Child Counseling- University of Phoenix, Gardena, California Masters- Public Administration- University of Phoenix, Pheonix, Arizona Doctoral-Social Work (pending)- I am currently a Doctoral Candidate, at California Baptist University, Riverside, California I am a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist in California and Texas. I presented at the Midwest Institute of Students and Teachers of Psychology, I have presented training and curricula across settings and teach at the University level in a Master's Degree Program.

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**Poster Title:** Cultural Self-Awareness as a Tool for Effective Change

**Poster Presenters:** Jesse Ross, CFRE

**Poster Abstract:** This workshop helps change agents explore their own cultural patterns and behaviors and links identity awareness to our capacity to make new and different choices to achieve equity or inclusion goals.

**Workshop Description:** If cultural competence is about bridging across differences that make a difference, then the work must start with a focus on self. Our identities and cultures inform our beliefs, values, assumptions and biases and thus influence the ways we think about behave when working and relating across differences. This workshop helps change agents explore their own cultural patterns and behaviors and links identity awareness to our capacity to make new and different choices to achieve equity or inclusion goals.

**Bibliography:**

**Presenter Bio (s):** Jesse is a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant, executive coach, and international speaker who has delivered over 400 speaking engagements at colleges, conferences, corporate and nonprofit companies, with a large number of Fortune 500 companies. Jesse offers trainings, workshops, evaluations, assessments, and strategy development for your school, business or organization. Jesse has been engaging his audience with his Morning Minute call-to-actions on his Instagram and LinkedIn page since before our world went into civil unrest.

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**Poster Title:** Perceptions of NC Social Workers Towards Syrian Women with Refugee Status

**Poster Presenters:** Kayte Thomas, PhD, LCSW

**Poster Abstract:** This poster presents an overview of doctoral research looking at the perceptions of North Carolina social workers towards Syrian women with refugee status. This exploratory study considers the relationship between aspects such as faith, gender, political affiliation, and attitudes of acceptance towards this population.

**Poster Description:** The field of social work is uniquely poised to address issues pertaining to refugees due to its intervention focus at multiple levels within society, understanding of intersectionality, anti-oppressive stance, and commitment to cultural humility. Many social workers are both unaware of their client's refugee status and unprepared to meet their client's opportunities for change. This is particularly problematic for the newer wave of Syrians in the United States who are here during a time when anti-Arab and Islamophobic sentiments are on the rise. For the Christian social worker, there are both Biblical and professional directives to welcome refugees and thus it is important to reflect on potential biases which may affect our welcome. While there is research on the perspectives of Syrians regarding their refugee journey, there is a paucity of research and literature on the perceptions of social workers towards and willingness to welcome Syrians into their practice. Some studies indicate that Syrian women are more easily welcomed, though, than their male counterparts. Therefore, this exploratory study seeks to understand more about the perceptions of social workers in North Carolina towards Syrian women with refugee status. It considers aspects such as faith, gender, and political affiliation on attitudes of acceptance towards this population and offers insight for future studies.

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Yigit, I. H., & Tatch, A. (2017). Syrian refugees and Americans: Perceptions, attitudes and insights. *American Journal of Qualitative Research*, 1(1), 13"31.

**Presenter Bio (s):** Dr. Kayte Thomas (she/hers) is an Assistant Professor of social work at Carroll College. As an LCSW, her expertise lies in trauma and resiliency and she has focused much of her social work career on refugee issues. Her BSW internship was completed in refugee resettlement which led to employment in job development for refugees. Her MSW capstone was a program evaluation of rapid employment with refugees, and her doctoral research was focused on issues pertaining to Syrian women with refugee status. Dr. Thomas earned her BSW from Meredith College in 2012, her MSW from North Carolina State University in 2013, and her PhD from Baylor University in 2021. This is her second presentation at an NACSW conference.

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**Poster Title:** The Role of The Church in Community

**Poster Presenters:** Nicole Wideman BSW candidate

**Poster Abstract:** Using the ABCD model to assess the community of Harvey, Illinois, this project summarizes the role of The Church (as an institution) in community advocacy, activity, and change.

**Poster Description:** The Asset-Based Community Development model of macro social work practice looks to assess the strengths of a community at three levels: individual, associations, and institutions. One such institution is The Church. As a part of a semester's work in the community of Harvey, Illinois, this poster summarizes the observations, stories, and experiences of Harvey residents, church-goers, and church leadership around the central question, "What is the role of The Church in the Harvey community?" Recognizing the value of religion and spirituality as a strength in the lives of individuals and communities, this poster seeks to foster conversations about the ways churches can do even more to positively contribute to the lives of communities and residents.

**Bibliography:** Kretzman, J. P. & McKnight, J. L. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets*. ACTA Publications: Chicago, IL. Brooks, J. (2018). *Church forsaken: Practicing presence in neglected communities*. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL.

**Presenter Bio:** Nicole Wideman is a BSW student in her senior year at Trinity Christian College. This project is a part of her capstone honor's work. She is deeply interested in the intersections between The Church and Community Change