

BUSSW Equity and Inclusion Committee

2024-2025
Outcomes Report



Equity and Inclusion Leadership



Dawn Belkin Martinez
Associate Dean, Equity &
Inclusion
Co-Chair of E&I
Committee (Spring
2025)



Ellen DeVoe
Associate Dean,
Academic Affairs
Co-Chair of E&I
Committee (Spring
2025)



Layla Khayr
Lecturer
Co-Chair of E&I
Committee (Fall 2024)



Margaret Lombe
Associate Professor
Co-Chair of E&I
Committee (Fall 2024)

Committee Members 2024-2025

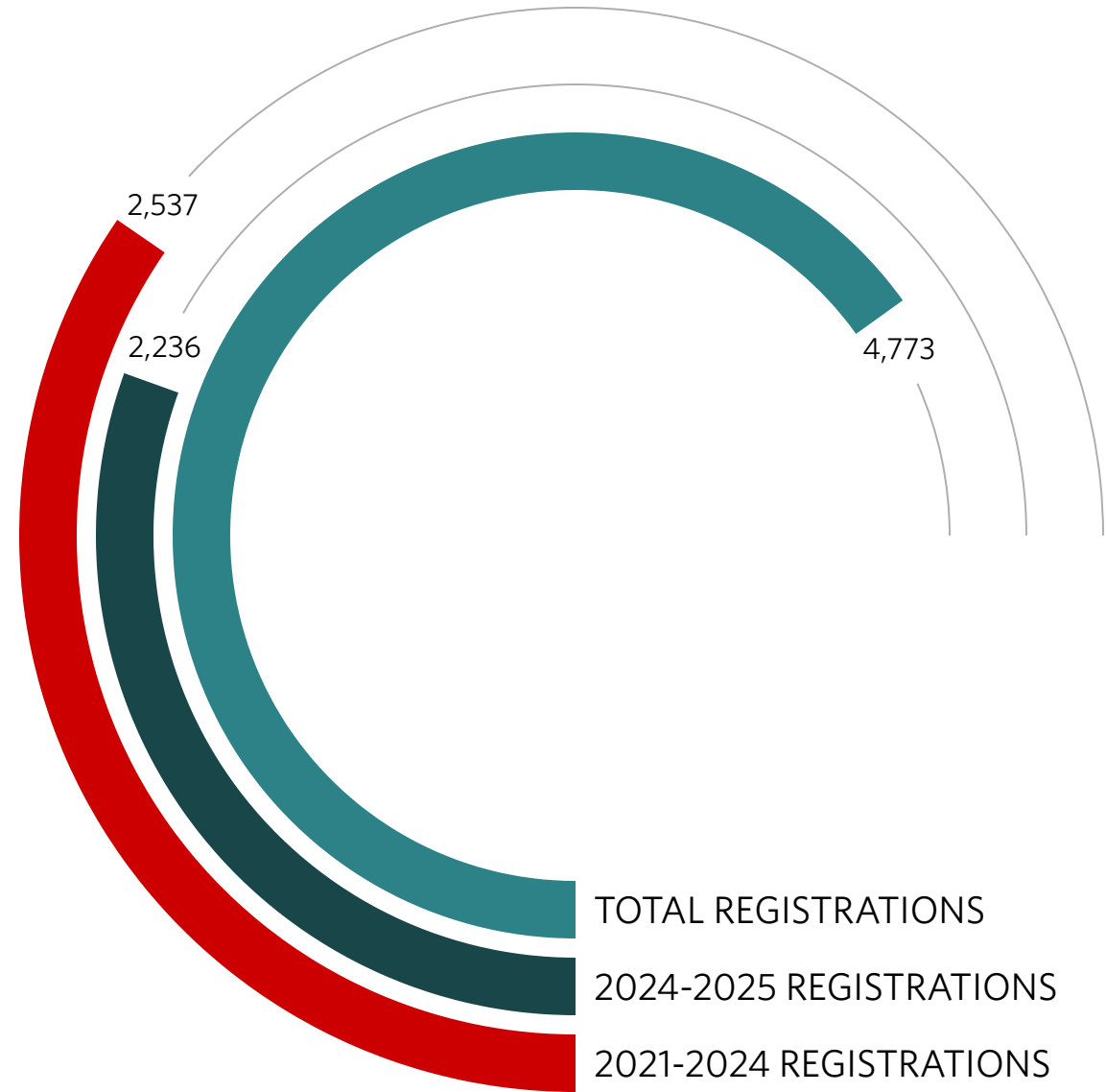
- Angela Yarde
- Beth Klein
- Cynthia Bramble Daley
- Dana Benton
- Dawn Belkin Martinez
- Deb Berglin
- Deborah Chassler
- Diane Crowley
- Ellen DeVoe
- Emily Philips
- Jennifer Gómez
- Julia DeAngelo
- Junior Peña
- Kanako Okuda
- Layla Khayr
- Lyndsey McMahan
- Marcus Shaw
- Margaret Lombe
- Michele Walsh
- Robbie Sanders
- Sarah Amkieh
- Tami Gouveia
- Daniel Jacobson López
- Judith Scott



Education and Training

Understanding Structural and Institutional Racism

Free Online Course (3.5 CEs)



“I have engaged in many different anti racist workshops over the past couple of years and this was definitely one of the best. The plethora of resources at the end of each section is much appreciated. I'm looking forward to using those in my work with clients, my organization, my students, and sharing with my wider network.”

“Thank you for putting together this comprehensive course. I am planning to look at all the suggested materials, so I really appreciate you putting the time and effort into compiling those. What a great resource!”

“I am grateful to have found this course, number one. That it is offered at no charge is incredible, but it is of such high quality at no charge seems unbelievable. After having completed it, I can honestly say that I would have paid for such a great course as this. I can only say thank you to all involved.”

E&I Speaker Series

In the words of Dean Barbara Jones, the E&I Speaker Series is a jewel of our school. Our Equity & Inclusion team produces free virtual events on topics related to social justice, equity and inclusion, and social work. All Speaker Series events are free and open to the public and provide free CE credits. Here is the [link](#) to view past Speaker Series sessions.

Number of Events

5

Live Participants

341

Unique Users

1,128

Page Views

2,306

E&I Speaker Series Fall 2024



Queering the Climate Crisis: LGBTQ+ Livelihoods, Public Health & Disasters

Speaker: Brandon Rothrock

Date: October 17, 2024

Number of Attendees: 38



Politics of the Mind: Marxism and Mental Distress

Speaker: Dr. Iain Ferguson

Date: December 12, 2024

Number of Attendees: 117

E&I Speaker Series Spring 2025



Ecological Justice
Requires More Than
Caring for Our
Common Home

Speaker: Sister Sharon
Zayac, OP

Date: January 23, 2025

Number of Attendees: 68



Global Reproductive
Justice & Solidarity
Therapy

Speaker: Sahar Pirzada

Date: February 27, 2025

Number of Attendees: 56



Exploring the
Intersection and
Impact of the Social,
Political, and
Commercial
Determinants of
Health

Speaker: Alyssa
Benalfew-Ramos

Date: April 24, 2025

Number of Attendees: 62

Anti-Oppressive Practice Labs

These virtual events covered a variety of topics including navigating challenging conversations, confronting white supremacy in academia, and employing Liberation Health practice techniques. The discussions were engaging, generative, and provided a space for BUSSW faculty, staff, and students to reflect on case examples as well as their own experiences.

Number of Labs

6

Total Live Participants

40

Average Number/Lab

5-10

Total Registrations

70

Anti-Oppressive Mentoring

These virtual events covered a variety of topics including navigating challenging conversations, confronting white supremacy in academia, and employing Liberation Health practice techniques. The discussions were engaging, generative, and provided a space for BUSSW faculty, staff, and students to reflect on case examples as well as their own experiences.

32 sessions

Equity and Inclusion Resource Page

Immigrant Communities Section

Curated comprehensive range of local and national resources to support immigrants and migrant justice across legal, health, educational, and social service domains

LGBTQ+ Section

We made substantial updates to the LGBTQ+ section with special attention to trans-specific resources.

Native/Indigenous Section

Expanded and refined resources to better reflect Indigenous sovereignty, cultural safety, and community-specific needs

Helplines & Warmlines Section

We created the Helplines & Warmlines section to guide users toward crisis and non-crisis support that is trauma-informed and, where possible, police-free — addressing urgent mental health needs with a focus on accessibility and harm reduction.

[Link to Website](#)
618 page views
403 unique users



Equity and Inclusion Everywhere

E&I Student Gatherings

This year BUSSW's Equity and Inclusion student research team hosted about 20 student gatherings for students to inspire mutual aid by discussing strategies and providing advice for how to navigate resources. These gatherings also provided a safe space for students to share testimonies and receive encouragement about challenges they face.

Students were able to meet with the administration in the student support services team, the alumni and career services office, the chair of clinical practice program, and the financial aid office.

Students also created red cards and pasted know your rights flyers around public spaces at BUSSW to educate people on ways to thwart ICE's attempts at displacing immigrants and refugees.

Total # of Attendees/Participants: 25+ students over the course of these 20 gatherings

E&I Student Affinity Groups

BUSSW Student Services Support Team offered two student affinity groups this academic year. The goal of these groups was to create a supportive space for students to share their experiences with peers who held similar identities. Facilitated by staff, the groups were specifically designed for BU students who identified as first-generation and for those who identified as LGBTQIA+.

These events were hosted once a month beginning in February of 2025. The program hopes to work with students to identify future activities and programming for next year.

Licensing Preparation & Accessibility Initiative

307 students from all platforms participated in the initiative

15 events were hosted by BUSSW staff between March and November

99 students attended discounted NASW prep courses and 13 students received scholarships to attend

21 students were reimbursed for state licensing application fees and 92% passed the exam on the first try

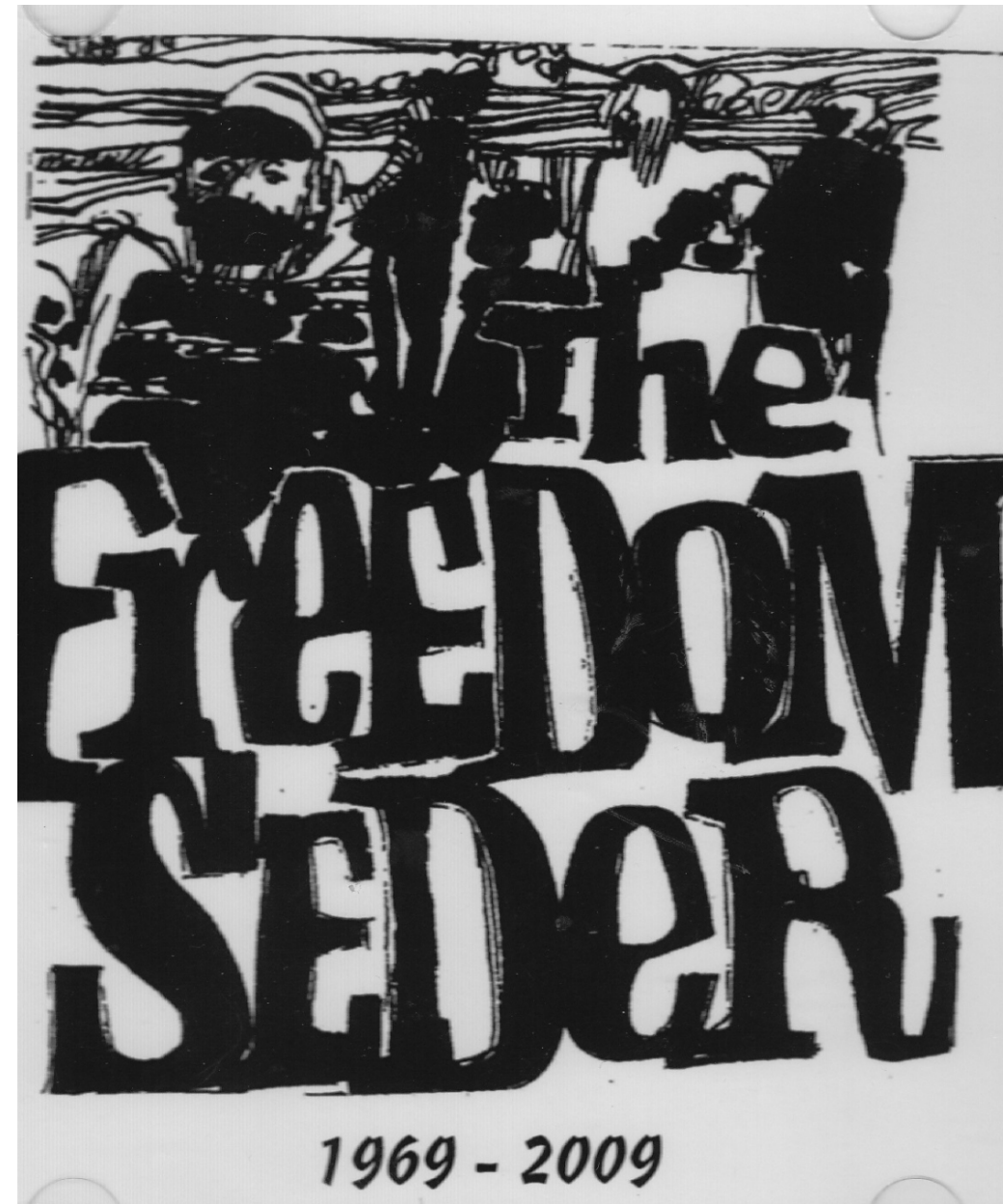
2 new events: "Macro Students: Why Should I get Licensed?" and "Success Mindset for the Licensing Exam: A Workshop Specifically for BIPOC, Latinx, and Non-Native English Speakers"

Concerned Jewish Faculty and Staff

Jewish Faculty and Staff concerned about the weaponization of antisemitism to attack immigrant students, research funding and academic freedom have organized a group at BU as well as the greater Boston area. The BU group includes a wide swath of people who share the common concern about the way antisemitism is being used to control the university. Group members acknowledge that antisemitism has at times been an issue at BU, but they are in agreement that BU is a good and safe place to be publicly Jewish.

To move forward its agenda, Concerned Jewish Faculty and Staff-BU has met with President Gilliam twice to offer our shared perspective, participated in sending a letter to the trustees, and joined with faculty and staff from other Boston area colleges and universities to host a [Freedom Seder](#), based on the original one held in 1969.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Deborah Chassler at chassler@bu.edu



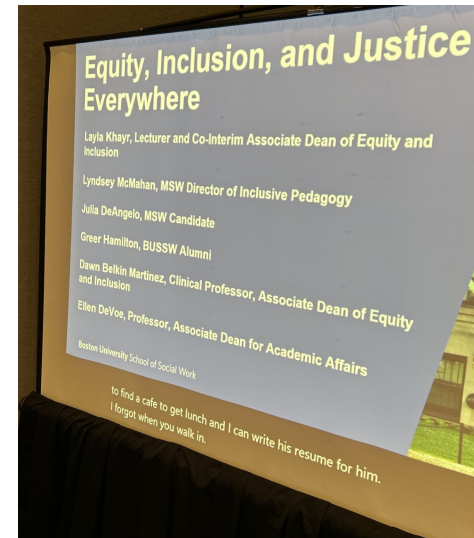
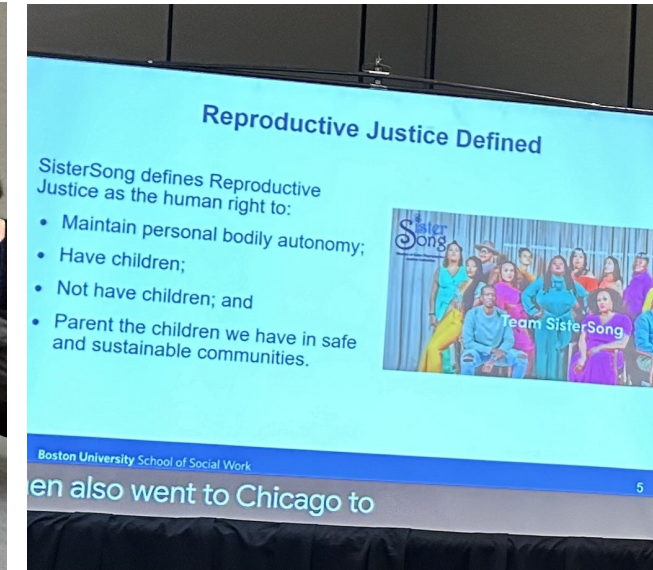
Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting

October 2024

There were two panel presentations related to our E&I work at the Annual Program Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

Panel 1: "Reproductive Justice Course Creation, Learning Community & Future Possibilities in a Changing, Complex Context"

Panel 2: "Decolonizing Social Work Education and Practice: Equity, Inclusion and Justice Everywhere"



Thank You

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our E&I Student Research Assistants. Without their dedication to justice and liberation, our work would be impossible.



Julia DeAngelo
BUSSW Class of 2025



Sarah Amkieh
BUSSW Class of 2025



Marcus Shaw
BUSSW Class of 2026