

Agenda

UB/CBU Social Work Research Conference (ISWRC)

Theme: *Courageous Conversation: Advancing Social Science Research*

Date: May 7, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Location: Grand Resort & Residences, Belize City, Belize

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Registration

9:00 AM - 9:40 AM | Conference Opening & Welcome

National Anthems

- Welcome Address – **President Dr. Vincent Palacio**
- Opening Remarks
 - University of Belize, **Dean Lydia Thurton**, Faculty of Health Sciences
 - California Baptist University, **Dr. Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW**
- Special Address
 - **Minister Thea Garcia Ramirez**, The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support & Gender Affairs
 - **Minister Oscar Requena**, The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Conference Overview – Azalia Gongora Larrieu, MSW

9:40 AM - 10:15 AM | Morning Honorary Remote Keynote Address

Honorary Keynote Contributor: Ambassador Assad Shoman

Facilitator: Rolando Cocom, Director of NICH-ISCR

Keynote Paper Contribution to be discussed

[*Topic: Decolonizing Belize: Culture, Racism, and the Societal Shadows of Colonialism*](#)

Plenary

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM | Breakout Session A

- **Workshop Room 1- Blue Hole:** Dr. Sayida Peprah-Wilson, PsyD (Virtual) – *Strengthening Cultural Humility, Dismantling Implicit Bias*
- **Workshop Room 2 - Bayview:** Dr. Erica McIntosh DSW, LCSW – *The Impact of Marginalized Identities and the Essential Role of Culturally Responsive Interdisciplinary Approaches to Preventative Care*

- **Research Presentation Room 3 - Sea Breeze:** Dr. Leolin Castillo, PhD – *Role of Sibling Relationships in Children's Experience of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)*
- **Research Presentation Room 4 - Coral:** Frederico Gianelli SJ - Communication in Palliative Care: Breaking Down Bad News

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Coffee Break

11:20 AM - 12:05 PM | Breakout Session B

- **Research Presentation Room 1- Blue Hole:** Dr. Viola W Lindsey, PhD – *Building Trust through a Culturally Responsive Approach: Celebrating Differences, Honoring Distinctiveness in Research*
- **Workshop Room 2 - Bayview:** Dr. Kristcha De Guerre, PhD – *Coloring Outside the Lines: Trauma-Informed Arts-Based Research Methodologies with Marginalized Communities*
- **Research Presentation Room 3 - Sea Breeze:** Dr. Danladi Chiroma Husaini, PhD – *Do the (Perceived) Strong Among Us Still Have Voices? Assessing Mental Health Awareness and Knowledge Among the BDF*
The Silent Voices of Populations Challenged with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Can the Bushman Restore Hope?
- **Research Presentation Room 4 - Coral:** Tahra Fairweather, 4th year BSW Student Presentation, *Listening to Survive: Exploring the Lived Realities of Marginalized Clients through Research and Reflection*

12:10 PM - 12:55 PM | Breakout Session C

- **Workshop Room 1 - Blue Hole:** Dr. Charles Lee-Johnson, D.Min – *Pathways to Prosperity: Innovative Strategies for Poverty Alleviation*
- **Research Presentation 2 - Bayview:** Sr. Gianna Marie Short, SOLT – *Hearing the Silenced Speak: Stories of Contraception*
- **Research Presentation Room 3 - Sea Breeze:** Soraya Papayoute, MSW, LCSW – *Unpacking the “Strong Black Woman” Syndrome: Impacts on the Mental Health of Women of Color*
- **Workshop Presentation Room 4 - Coral:** Dr. Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW - Recognizing Bias: Tools to Help Professionals Overcome Challenges.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch Break

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM | Afternoon Keynote Address

Speaker: Dr. Gwen Nunez Gonzalez, Ed.D

Topic: Belizean Culture – A Tapestry of Diversity and the Voices of Minority Cultures

Plenary

2:50 PM - 3:35 PM | Breakout Session D

- **Workshop Room 1 - Blue Hole:** Dr. Angela Flowers-Jones, DSW – *Changing the Face of Mental Health through Education: Taking Action for Better Mental Wellness Advocacy for Children and Adolescents*
- **Workshop Room 2 - Bayview:** Dr. Joyanne De Four-Babb, Ed.D – *Beyond Interviews and Observations: Using Visual Research Methods to Amplify Marginalized Voices*
- **Research Presentation Room 3 - Sea Breeze:** Dr. Marcella Smith, PhD, Dr. Lavelle Hendricks Ed.D. – *Silent Struggles: The Emotional Toll of Microaggressions on African American Faculty*
- **Workshop Presentation Room 4 - Coral:** Uchenna Ohaeri, BA, CBU, Master Level Student: *The Nine V's of Vinta9e: Promoting Healthy African American Relationships to Prevent Violence*

3:40 PM - 4:40 PM | Breakout Session E

- **Workshop Room 1 - Blue Hole:** Azalia Gongora Larrieu, MSW, CCTS-I – *From Bureaucracy to Empathy: How Trauma-Informed Leadership Transforms Human Services & Boosts Corporate Success*
- **Workshop Room 2 - Bayview:** Dr. Carol Babb, Ed.D and Dr. Kendra Carter Flores, DSW – *Money Maker: Nurturing Mental Wellness Through Financial Health*
- **Research Paper Room 3 - Sea Breeze:** Dr. Olusola Oladeji, PhD, Juliet Simmons, MA – *Barriers to and Facilitators of Access to Mental Health Services Among Pregnant Adolescents and Young Mothers in Belize*

4:45 PM - 5:30 PM | Closing Keynote Address & Day 1 Conference Closing

Speaker: Dr. Dretona Maddox, DSW, LCSW

Plenary

Closing Remarks: Dr. Kendra Carter Flores, DSW

Plenary

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Networking Cocktail & Informal Discussions

Balcony Patio

Thank you for joining us at #ISWRC 2025

We hope this conference inspires impactful research and fosters courageous conversations that drive social change.

UB/CBU Social Work Research Conference (ISWRC)

Day 2 Agenda – Cultural & Ecological Immersion Experience

Theme: *Courageous Conversation: Advancing Social Science Research*

Date: May 8, 2025

Location: El Ben Cabanas, Caye Caulker, Belize

Attire: Comfortable beachwear, swimwear, sun protection, water shoes

Agenda – Day 2: Eco-Cultural Immersion on Caye Caulker

8:00 AM | Departure from Grand Hotel & Residences – Belize City

- Please gather at the dock by 7:45 AM for check-in and boarding.
- Ferry departs promptly at 8:00 AM

9:15 AM | Arrival at Caye Caulker – El Ben Cabañas

- Welcome and orientation by local hosts at El Ben Cabañas
- Light refreshments on arrival

9:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Marine Immersion Excursion – Hol Chan Marine Reserve

- Guided snorkeling experience at Hol Chan Marine Reserve
- Learn about Belize's coastal ecosystems and marine conservation efforts
- Snorkeling gear provided. Participants must complete a safety briefing before departure.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM | Beachside BBQ Lunch at El Ben Cabañas

- Enjoy freshly grilled seafood, Belizean sides, and tropical beverages
- Vegetarian options available
- Informal reflection circle: Connecting land, sea, and social responsibility

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Cultural Tour of Caye Caulker

- Brief presentation by BTIA- Caye Caulker
- Guided walking and golf-cart tour led by local cultural ambassadors
- Visit artisan shops, community centers, and historic landmarks
- Engage with local perspectives on sustainability, heritage, and community resilience

3:00 PM | NGO School Visit

3:30 PM | Regroup at Caye Caulker Dock for Departure

- Time for a quick rinse, refreshments, and farewells

4:00 PM | Ferry Departure – Caye Caulker to Belize City

- Return to Grand Resort & Residences
 - Estimated arrival: 5:15 PM
-

Thank you for joining us for Day 2 of #ISWRC 2025!

We hope this cultural immersion experience sparks deeper reflection and connection between people, place, and purpose.

