

Restorative Practices Initiative at Marquette



**Office of
Research and
Innovation**

Summary

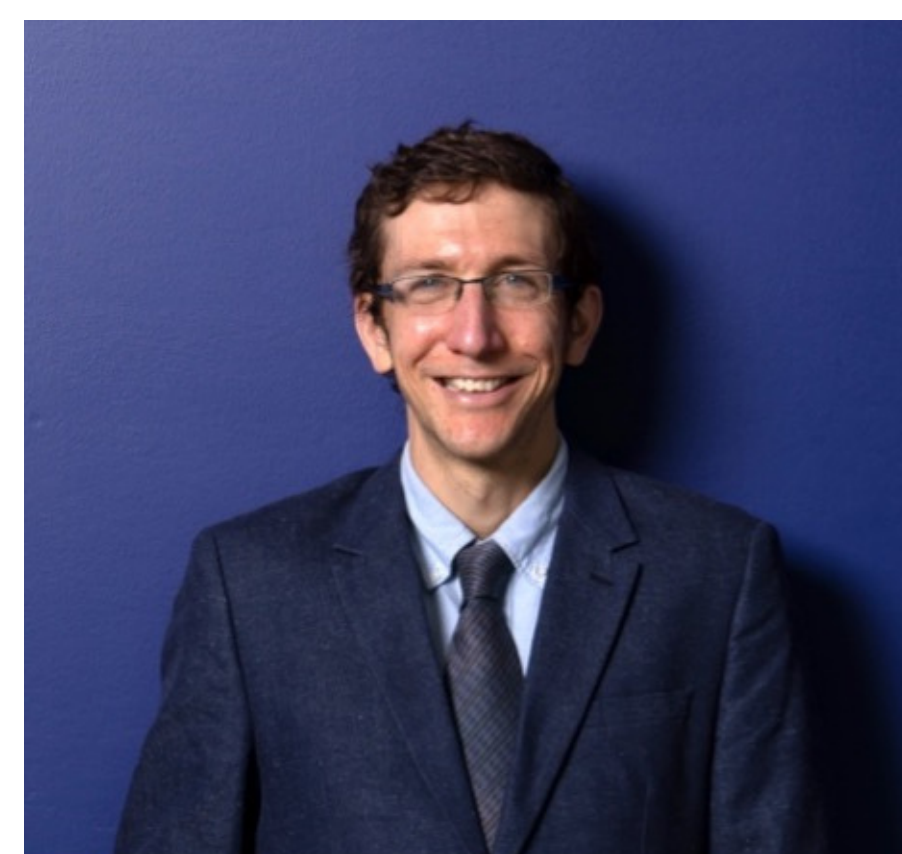
Our project supports the institutional development, centering, and strategic deployment of Restorative Practices at Marquette University drawing on existing university resources. This innovative, multi-pronged initiative will aim to increase MU's institutional capacity for promoting a culture of inclusion and restorative conflict resolution. We will accomplish this through the engagement, training, and deployment of a diverse set of campus wide stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and students. We will develop on-campus leaders to serve as an advisory group for the initiative and build their skills and capacities in restorative practices. From this foundation, we will continue to offer campus-wide trainings in restorative practices in order to institutionalize a concrete, sustainable resource team that can be called upon to assist in restorative conflict resolution and climate improvement across campus. Another aspect of the project involves developing an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Restorative Practices, eventually with a community engaged component. Finally, we will develop short- and long-term institutional programming, including a conference that engages MU scholars and practitioners of restorative practices and those within the larger Milwaukee community, embedding restorative justice within campus life, and providing resources for Milwaukee at large.

Beyond Boundaries

This project is innovative because it builds and institutionalizes new restorative practice resources for our Marquette community, including: restorative practice teams for conflict resolution and climate improvement; growing the size of MU community members trained in restorative skills; and building a restorative practices minor. It works with diverse on-campus stakeholders and community partners to be inclusive, widespread, and sustainable. It leverages and synergizes existing capacities, while synthesizing them within one clear initiative. The project incorporates multiple perspectives in order to enhance university-wide buy in and provide a strong foundation for sustainability. This project also innovatively draws on teaching, research, and service, the three cornerstones of university life for faculty.

About Our Team

- Louise Cainkar is a Professor of Social Welfare and Justice and Sociology in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences as well as Director of the Interdisciplinary Major in Peace Studies.
- Gabe Velez is an Assistant Professor in Educational Policy and Leadership in the College of Education, as well as the faculty director of the Black and Latino/a Ecosystem and Support Transition (BLEST) Hub.



Milestones

Year One

- Build an MU Restorative Practices Advisory Committee.
- Train the Committee in Restorative Justice Practices.
- Develop an Interdisciplinary Minor in Restorative Practices within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Year Two

- Advisory committee works to institutionalize a sustainable Restorative Practices Conflict Resolution and Climate Improvement Team at MU in coordination with the Office of Student Development (OSD), the Office of Residence Life, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI), the Division of Student Affairs, and other relevant MU structures.
- Recruit new faculty, staff, and student partners for Restorative Justice Practices training for Year Three.
- Advisory Committee considers strategies for the sustainability of the training program beyond Year Three.
- Advisory Committee Issues a Call for Papers to MU faculty, staff, and students, as well as to Milwaukee at large, for a Restorative Practices Conference at MU.

Year Three

- Train new faculty, staff, and student partners in Restorative Justice Practices.
- Advisory Committee begins implementing project sustainability.
- MU hosts Restorative Practices Conference.
- Project evaluation by co-PI's.