GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION PREVIEW

Savannah State University | MSW II • Field Seminar III

THE LAW CHANGED. DID THE GAZE?

Policy, Identity, Professionalism, Bias & Social Work Practice

Dr. Dana Bazemore-Jolly

Doctor of Social Work | Justice-Centered Scholar • Educator • Advocate • Dream-Builder

About the Guest Speaker

Dr. Dana Bazemore-Jolly is a Doctor of Social Work, justice-centered scholar, educator, advocate, and social work leader whose work focuses on policy, identity, equity, professionalism, and the lived experiences of Black women. Her doctoral research examined the CROWN Act and the experiences of Black women who wear their natural hair, with particular attention to the distance between formal legal protection and everyday workplace and social realities. Her professional background includes social work education, field instruction, clinical leadership, supervision, and advocacy.

About the Session

This interactive guest lecture examines what happens when policy, identity, power, and professional culture collide. Using findings from Dr. Bazemore-Jolly's study of 32 Black women, the session explores hair discrimination, the CROWN Act, perceptions of professionalism, and the gap between legal protection and lived belonging. Students will connect these issues to social work practice, supervision, organizational culture, advocacy, and field education.

Questions to Consider Before We Meet

- Who gets to define what looks "professional," "polished," or "appropriate"?
- Can an organization be legally compliant and still feel culturally unsafe or exclusionary?
- What responsibility do social workers have when bias operates through unwritten norms rather than formal policy?

Content Note

The discussion includes topics related to identity, bias, discrimination, policy, and professional practice. Some material may be emotionally difficult. Students are encouraged to engage in the way that best supports their learning and well-being.

October 1, 2026 • 7:00–8:00 PM ET • Microsoft Teams