

MULTICULTURAL CONSULTATION (MCC) TEAM

Fall 2025 Newsletter



ABOUT US

THE MULTICULTURAL CONSULTATION (MCC) TEAM IS COMPOSED OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND.

OUR MISSION IS TO CULTIVATE AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY AND FACILITATE THE CONDUCT OF CULTURALLY-INFORMED, INCLUSIVE, AND EQUITABLE RESEARCH, TEACHING, SERVICE, AND CLINICAL PRACTICE. WE SUPPORT STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF AS THEY BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND IMPLEMENT MULTICULTURALISM INTO THEIR WORK.

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?



Teaching (e.g., review of syllabi, input on best classroom practices)



Research (e.g., recruitment strategies, selection of psychological tests or questionnaires)



Supervision (e.g., groundwork for culturally competent supervision, ways to address cultural differences in supervisory relationships)



Mentorship (e.g., resources for power differentials, input on recruitment and retention of diverse students)

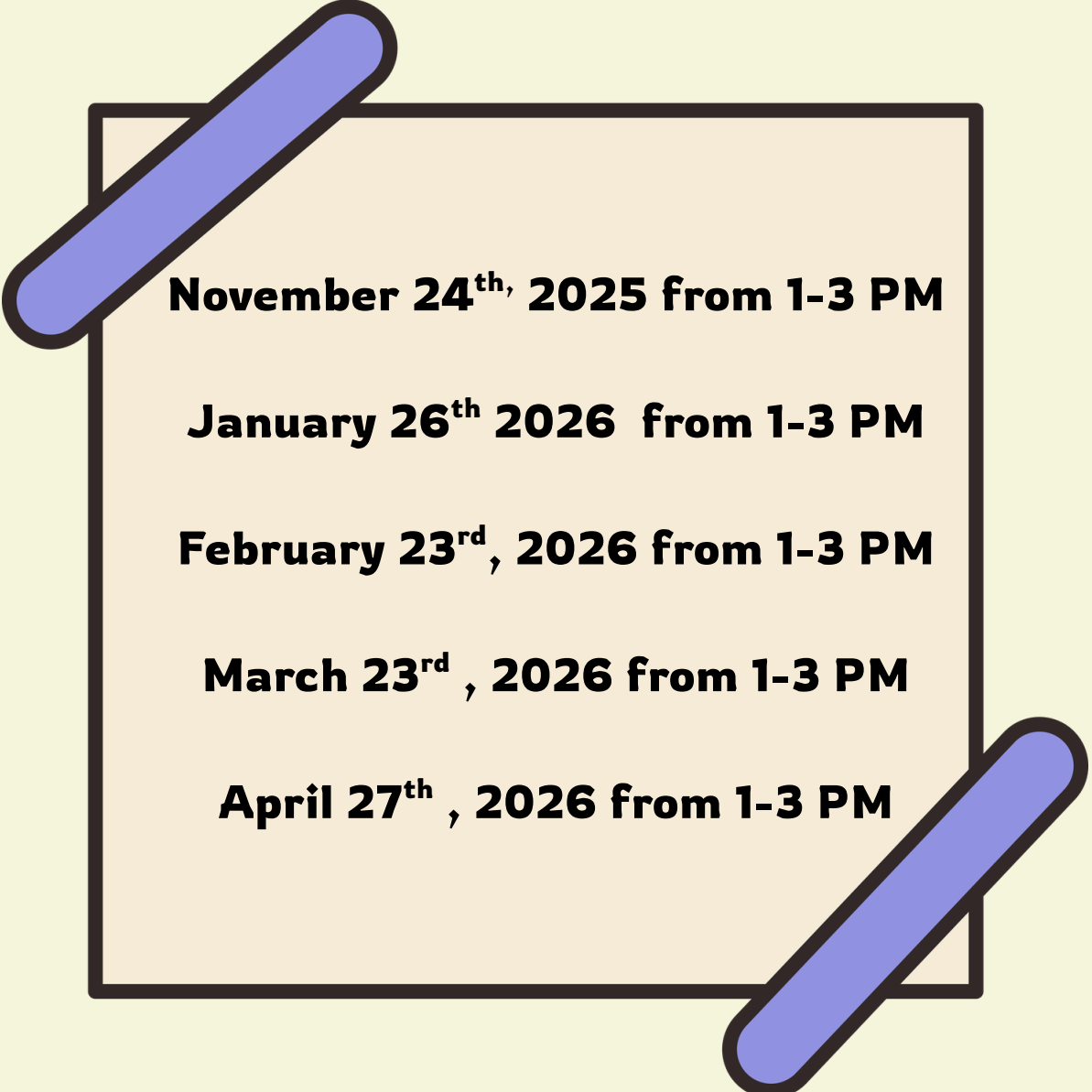


Practice (e.g., culturally competent best practices, suggestions for culturally competent training opportunities, resources for working with interpreters in mental health settings)

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) is a collaboration of faculty, staff, and graduate students who are committed to cultivating a department environment that promotes inclusive excellence. Members engage in critical conversations and select thoughtful actions during monthly meetings. All are welcome!

Meetings are in Chafee 150 and are Zoom-accessible!



November 24th, 2025 from 1-3 PM

January 26th 2026 from 1-3 PM

February 23rd, 2026 from 1-3 PM

March 23rd , 2026 from 1-3 PM

April 27th , 2026 from 1-3 PM



2025-2026

JEDI Lecture Series

Career Pathways for Underrepresented Scholars: Diverse Career Trajectories

Thursday September 25, 2025 4:30-5:30pm

Dr. Fred Duong, Senior Research Manager, More in Common

Thursday October 23, 2025 3-4pm

**Dr. Alvin Akibar, Director, Center for Social Justice Research, Policy,
and Advocacy, Urban League Twin Cities**

Monday November 17, 2025 4-5pm

Dr. Erin Thomas, Head of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Upwork

Monday February 23, 2026 4-5pm

Dr. Courtney Bonner, Senior Research Psychologist, RTI International

Thursday March 12, 2026 3-4pm

Dr. Sarah Vidal, Program Officer National Institutes of Health

Thursday April 16, 2026 12-1pm

Dr. Patricia Simon, Vice President, Oui Therapeutics

Supporting International Students Through the Visa Process

A guide for URI staff and faculty

Tuesday, November 18
12 - 1 PM ET
via Zoom

Register here:

https://uri-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/51dEtCR9SOix_0oYMq8_4A

Presented by the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS)
Questions? Email: issoff@etal.uri.edu

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Queer, Uniting, Inclusive Leaders (QUIL)

Monthly QUIL meetings serve as a platform and safe space for LGBTQ+ graduate students in the Psychology Department to discuss experiences and issues that might be affecting them.

For information, email Mikayla (mverpault@uri.edu) and Liam (liam-rozum@uri.edu).

Students of Color

Meetings serve as a platform and safe space for graduate students of color to discuss experiences and issues that might be affecting them in and outside of the program. Meetings are held monthly.

For information, email Diana at hodiana@uri.edu.

Student Accessibility and Support

The Student Accessibility and Support space is for all students who identify as neurodiverse and/or disabled. While this space was paused last year, meetings may resume if there is interest.

If interested in participating, email Michelle at michelle.stage@uri.edu



SUBCOMMITTEES: STANDING ACTIONS



Support for International Students

The IDC International Support Group fosters a welcoming environment for international graduate students by providing emotional support, cultural exchange opportunities, and resources such as workshops and community-building activities. The group helps members navigate cultural transitions, overcome challenges, and build belonging.

Representative: Mariyam Abbas



Student Accessibility

Student Accessibility provides guidance for students in the Psychology Department with disabilities who seek to obtain reasonable workplace accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We have developed and will continually update a guide for graduate students to provide information about the process (Accessibility for Graduate Teaching Assistants: A Guide to Obtaining Accommodations).

Representative: Michelle Stage



Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Lecture Series

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Lecture Series is a monthly talk series focusing on topics related to equity, bias, power, privilege, resilience, and social justice, bringing together faculty, students, and administrators to explore best practices for inclusive teaching, research, and practice in psychology and related fields.

Representatives:

Gabby Epshteyn & Sabrina Todaro



Experience Coordination

The Experience Coordination team is responsible for arranging for IDC gatherings outside of our typical meeting times. This includes events such as end-of-semester celebrations or coordinating attendance at local events such as rallies.

Representative: Anna Sherman



SUBCOMMITTEES: TIME-BOUND ACTIONS

Town Hall

Town Hall is a focused community discussion on a critical and timely topic relevant to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity in our department. Topics are selected by IDC members. All faculty, graduate students, and staff in the department are invited to participate.

Representatives: rotating

Interview Day

IDC representation during Interview Day communicates the goals of IDC to prospective applicants and answers questions about activities such as justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity in our department and at URI. IDC Support Spaces coordinate meetings for prospective students with shared identities.

Representatives:

Mollie Ruben & Nicole Weiss

Thriving in Rhode Island

Thriving in Rhode Island is a yearly "life orientation" designed to help new students acclimate to moving to Rhode Island. Orientation leaders gather information from current graduate students regarding their recent life management (housing, utilities, food insecurity, extracurriculars), and provide this collective knowledge to incoming students via a virtual summer orientation.

Representatives:

Alana Egan & Rachel Girard

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MICHELLE STAGE



Michelle Stage (she/her), a doctoral candidate in the Behavioral Science Program, will present a poster at the 2025 APS Global Summit late October, titled “Content Analysis of Graduate Medical Education: Applying Objectives of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity from Graduate Psychological Sciences Curriculum” to examine how DEI principles are integrated into graduate-level psychological and medical training. Michelle’s dissertation, “Exploring the Impact of Affirming Environmental Cues and Provider Language on LGBTQ+ Patients’ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Disclosure, Comfort, Concealment, and Satisfaction in Primary Care,” further reflects her commitment to advancing health equity. In recognition of her scholarship, she received both a dissertation grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and the Society for Health Psychology Graduate Research Award (SfHP).

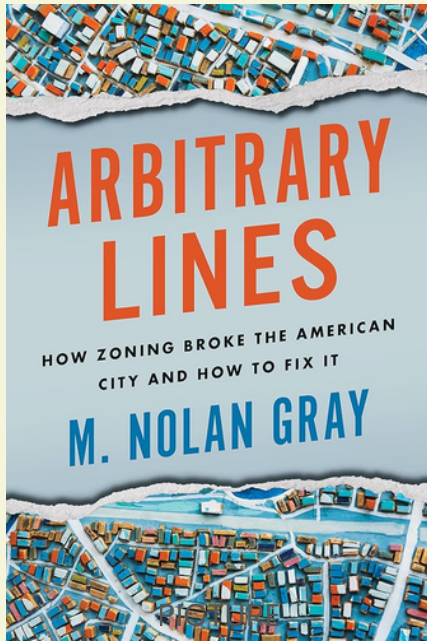
ELAINE RUIZ, PH.D.

Dr. Elaine Ruiz, a post-doctoral fellow at the New England Center for OCD and Anxiety, and Aradhana (Ara) Srinagesh, a pre-doctoral Psychology Resident at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, were selected as Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Change Leaders for the 2025-2027 term. This program is aimed at engaging early advanced students and career professionals in a two-year, leadership development activity with assigned sponsors while ABCT takes active steps to broaden and improve the diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and justice focus of its work. Elaine and Ara will collaborate with existing leadership to make a difference at a systems level within and beyond ABCT.



ARADHANA (ARA) SRINAGESH

GOOD READS



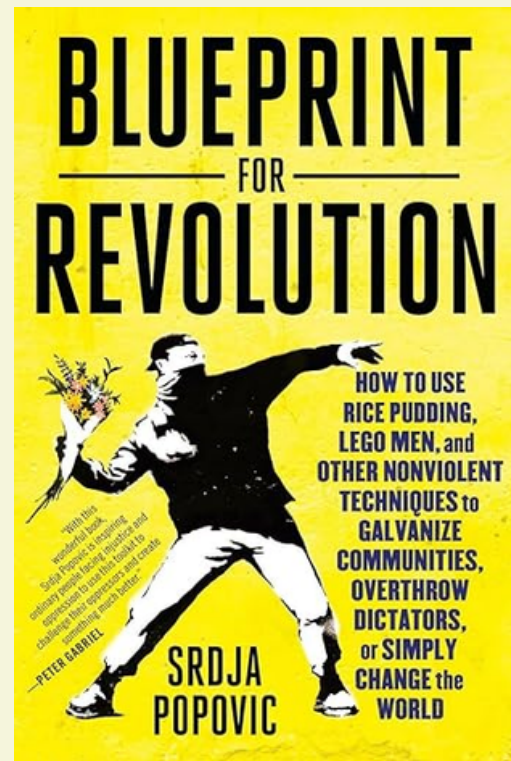
ARBITRARY LINES

What if scrapping one flawed policy could bring US cities closer to addressing debilitating housing shortages, stunted growth and innovation, persistent racial and economic segregation, and car-dependent development?

BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION

Blueprint for Revolution will teach you how to:

- make oppression backfire by playing your opponents' strongest card against them
- identify the "almighty pillars of power" in order to shift the balance of control
- dream big, but start small: learn how to pick battles you can win
- listen to what people actually care about in order to incorporate their needs into your revolutionary vision
- master the art of compromise to bring together even the most disparate groups
- recognize your allies and view your enemies as potential partners
- use humor to make yourself heard, defuse potentially violent situations, and "laugh your way to victory"



MUST WATCH



KATRINA: COME HELL AND HIGH WATER

Twenty years after Hurricane Katrina, survivors reflect on the disastrous storm that forever changed their lives and the systemic inequities it exposed.

SUGARCANE

An investigation into abuse and missing children at an Indian residential school sparks a reckoning on the nearby Sugarcane Reserve.



MCC TEAM



Mariyam Abbas
Alana Egan
Gabriella Epshteyn
Catherine Trinh

**NOT SURE WHAT OTHER SERVICES WE PROVIDE?
JUST ASK!**

EMAIL: MCC-GROUP@URI.EDU

To schedule an appointment,
please visit our website:

[https://web.uri.edu/psychology/about
/inclusion-and-diversity-
initiatives/multicultural-consultation-
team/](https://web.uri.edu/psychology/about/inclusion-and-diversity-initiatives/multicultural-consultation-team/)