

Newsletter

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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inclusion and Diversity Committee

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 to join our meetings!

Spring 2024 Meetings (in Chafee 150 or via Zoom):

3/25/24 at 1 PM

4/22/24 at 1PM

IDC Brown Bag Series

2/12/24 at 3 PM via Zoom

Dr. Emily Edwards presented on cultural adaptations of Dialectical Behavior Therapy for forensic populations.

3/20/24 at 1 PM via Zoom

Dr. Astrea Greig is presenting on guidelines for practice with people who are low income and experience economic marginalization.

4/18/24 at 4:30 PM via Zoom

Dr. Hyeouk Hahm is presenting on culturally grounded interventions for Asian American women.

Students of Color

The 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 more information about Students of Color Meetings, email Diana at hodiana@uri.edu. The group email is: psy-soc-group@uri.edu.

Next meeting:

3/4/2024 at 1:30 PM in SSRC Room 148

Queer, Uniting, and Inclusive Leaders (QUIL)

These meetings will 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 within and outside of the department. Meetings occur monthly each semester. The QUIL email is: psy-quil-group@uri.edu.

Next meeting: TBD

First meeting of Spring was 2/16/2024

IDC SUBCOMMITTEES

*If you are interested in joining a subcommittee,
please contact the listed representative.*

Accessibility and Student Support

Irena: irenamikhalyuk@uri.edu

Advancing Recruitment and Retention (ARR)

Aradhana (Ara): asrinagesh@uri.edu

Conflict Resolution

Dr. Amy Stamates: astamates@uri.edu

Multicultural Consultation (MCC)

Alexa: raudales@uri.edu

Queer, Uniting, and Inclusive Leaders in Psychology (QUIL)

Mikayla: mverpault@uri.edu

Liam: liam-rozum@uri.edu

Social Justice

Noam: noam_newberger@uri.edu

Students of Color

Diana: hodiana@uri.edu

Check out the IDC Website:

<https://web.uri.edu/psychology/student-resources/inclusion-and-diversity-committee/>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mariyam Abbas - EGRA Award



This project focuses on exploring bidi smoking behavior among daily wage laborers in India, aiming to address the underlying motivations and reasons behind bidi smoking in this population. Factors such as socioeconomic status, cultural influences, and access to healthcare resources are considered. The study involves the development and adaptation of the Modified Reasons for Smoking Scale to comprehensively assess bidi smoking behavior among daily wage laborers. Employing a cross-sectional quantitative approach, the research design includes exploratory factor analysis and multivariate statistical techniques to analyze the data. The project aims to shed light on the unique circumstances driving bidi smoking behavior among daily wage laborers, contributing to public health understanding and offering concrete insights that can drive evidence-based policy initiatives to improve health outcomes among vulnerable populations.

Gabriella Epshteyn - Program Development Project



This program offers jail-diversion options to individuals eligible facing drug related criminal charges in Westchester County, NYC. Our focus is on program development/evaluation work to restructure the five Westchester County Drug Treatment Courts which now support the removal of punitive policies that criminalize substance use disorders. There is a focus on implementing trauma-informed evidence based practices to support providing individually tailored wraparound support services. One of our major pushes is to implement policies that prioritize equitable practices in admission/sentencing to address racial and ethnic disparities in communities that have historically faced discrimination within the criminal justice system.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Viviane Fornasaro Donahue - EGRA Award



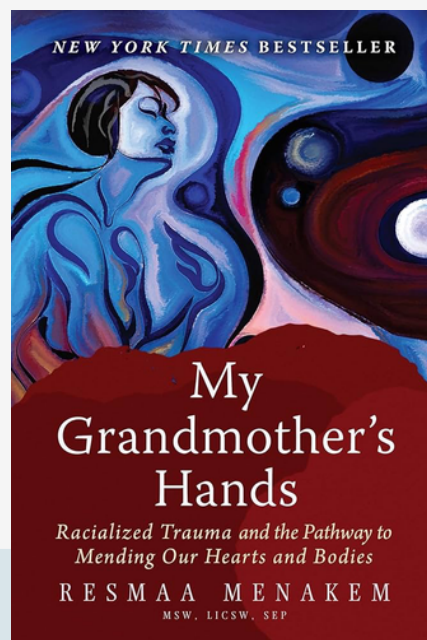
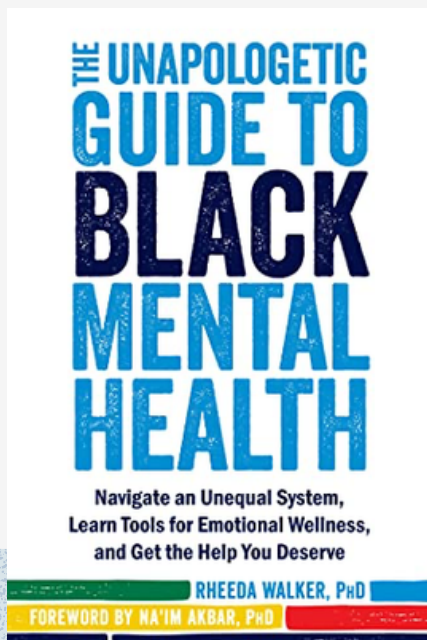
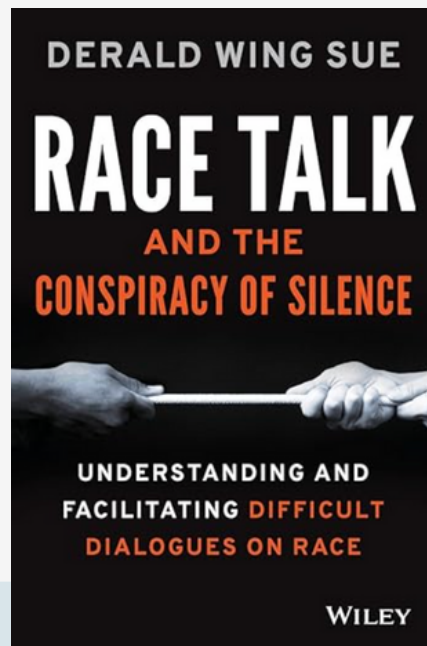
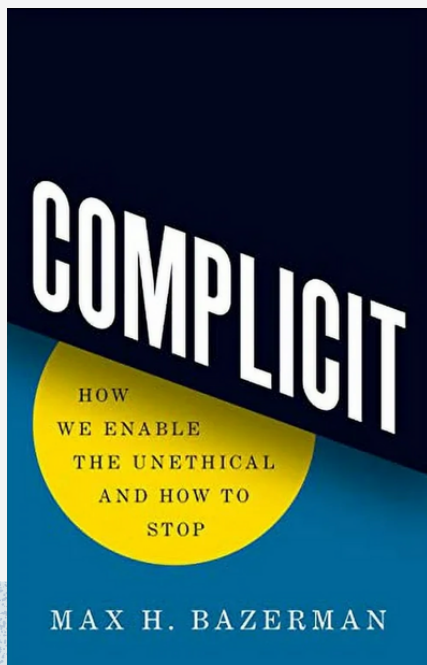
The project, "A Hispanic-Latino Centered Approach to Obesity Treatment for Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery (MBS) Patients," focuses on understanding the obstacles to obesity treatment among Hispanic-Latino individuals. Despite the clear health benefits of MBS treatment, very few Hispanic-Latino patients pursue the procedure compared to non-Hispanic white patients. Viviane plans to conduct qualitative interviews to explore socio-cultural factors influencing the reluctance towards MBS in the Hispanic-Latino community, followed by revisions to informational tools to better cater to this population's needs and testing their effectiveness. The project, supported by the EGRA, aims to address health disparities and improve outcomes for Hispanic-Latino individuals by enhancing accessibility to obesity treatment.

Rachel Girard - Thesis Defense



The purpose of this study was to explore the role of cultural affiliation on the relationship between family disapproval of substance use and substance use among American Indian (AI) adolescents. Aligned with Indigenous communities' call for greater integration of culture in discussions of substance use, results of this study underscore the importance of involving family members in prevention efforts targeting adolescent substance use and having families discuss both the importance of AI culture (emphasizing accurate aspects of culture and addressing stereotypes and myths like the Firewater Myth) and how substance use can negatively affect their adolescent.

GOOD READS



MUST WATCH



During Black History Month, well-known educator Zarretta Hammond speaks about how we can teach Black History in culturally relevant ways.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQHpZkISKn4>



In these polarizing times, Mogahed asks us to fight negative perceptions of her faith in the media and to choose empathy over prejudice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQHpZkISKn4>

MCG TEAM

MARIYAM ABBAS, M.A.

ALANA EGAN, M.A.

GABRIELLA EPSHTEYN, M.A.

BURGU KAPLAN, M.A.

ALEXA RAUDALES, M.A.

ARADHANA SRINAGESH, M.P.H., G.H.E.S.

EMMANUEL THOMAS, M.A.

CATHERINE TRINH, M.A.

**Not sure what other services we provide?
Just ask!**

**To schedule an appointment, please
visit our website:**

<https://web.uri.edu/psychology/about/inclusion-and-diversity-initiatives/multicultural-consultation-team/>