



# Multicultural Consultation Team Newsletter

*Fall 2021 Issue*

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: 1) cultivate an inclusive community and support students, faculty, and staff as they build knowledge and implement multiculturalism into their work and 2) facilitate the conduct of culturally-informed, inclusive, and equitable research, teaching, service, and clinical practice.

Please email [psychmcc@etal.uri.edu](mailto:psychmcc@etal.uri.edu) to schedule an appointment!

## 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/questionnaires)

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

**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)

# Upcoming Events

## **Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) 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 to join our meetings and they are being held virtually this year!

Next meeting: Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm

Future meeting: Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm

## **IDC Brown Bag Series**

All talks will be held in Chafee 150 at 3pm; participants are welcome to join virtually.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 3-4pm: Dr. Sycarah Fisher will present on risk and resilience for mental health and substance use for African American adolescents as well as implementation of expanded school mental health services and substance use interventions in low-income minority serving schools.

Future meeting: Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-4pm: Dr. Airin Martinez will present on how immigration enforcement policies create psychosocial distress among Latinx mixed-status families.

## **Students of Color Meetings**

The Students of Color meeting serves as a platform and safe space for 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 the Students of Color Meeting, email Alexa at [Raudales@uri.edu](mailto:Raudales@uri.edu).

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm

Future meeting: Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm



## Good Reads

**“Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents”** by Isabel Wilkerson – A nonfiction Oprah's Book Club read, the book describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system – a society-wide system of social stratification characterized by notions such as hierarchy, inclusion and exclusion, and purity.

**“Dying of Whiteness”** by Jonathan M. Meltz – This nonfiction book based on years of research examines right-wing backlash policies including how racial resentment has fueled pro-gun laws in Missouri, resistance to the Affordable Care Act in Tennessee, and cuts to schools and social services in Kansas. The book outlines these policies' costs including increasing deaths by gun suicide, falling life expectancies, and rising school dropout rates.

## Student Spotlight



**Silvi Goldstein** is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student working with Dr. Nicole Weiss at the University of Rhode Island. Her program of research focuses on substance use, multicultural factors, community psychology, and trauma, with specific interest in harm reduction interventions for underserved communities. She was recently awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (F31) from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The project will consist of secondary data analysis from a NIAAA randomized control trial that examined Harm Reduction Treatment with Pharmacotherapy among people experiencing homelessness with severe alcohol use disorder (AUD). The study found that behavioral harm reduction treatment combined with extended pharmacotherapy significantly reduced alcohol use and improved quality of life outcomes. Silvi's study will examine whether these improvements are similar across race and sex groups. She aims to discover whether treatment outcomes vary for underserved populations.

## Methodological Corner: Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

When working with underserved or marginalized communities, CBPR is a recommended collaborative approach. CBPR is “a partnership approach to research that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives, researchers, and others in all aspects of the research process, with all partners in the process contributing expertise and sharing in the decision-making and ownership.” This strategy helps give communities the power to ensure ethical research is being conducted within their communities. It can also increase the validity of findings and may better benefit the community while simultaneously decreasing burden. The process of engaging in CBPR may include establishing and/or consulting with an already existing Community Advisory Board (CAB) to discuss research ideas, best practices, etc. It also involves disseminating results back to the community before publishing agreed-upon findings.