CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The 12th Annual Diversity Challenge
What to Do About Race and Culture and Violence
Sponsored by the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture
Boston College
OCTOBER 19-20, 2012
Proposal Submission Deadline: April 20, 2012

The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture at Boston College invites you to join us for the Institute's twelfth annual national conference in the suburbs of Boston, a city known for its struggles and efforts to address issues of racial and ethnic cultural diversity in U.S. society. The Institute was founded in 2000 at Boston College, under the direction of Dr. Janet E. Helms, to promote the assets and address the societal conflicts associated with race and culture in theory and research, mental health practice, education, business, and society at large. The Institute solicits, designs, and distributes effective interventions with a proactive, practical focus. Each year the Institute addresses a racial or cultural issue that could benefit from a pragmatic, scholarly, or grassroots focus through its Diversity Challenge conference.

The theme of Diversity Challenge 2012 is What to Do About Race and Culture and Violence

Areas of Emphasis:
- Abuse
- Discrimination
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Law and Social Policy
- Hate Crimes
- Trauma
- Racism
- Education
Conference Focus

What to Do About Race and Culture and Violence

Whether from the perspective of the victim or the perpetrator, individual persons or entire cities, within the borders of the United States or outside of them, images of violence assail us on a daily basis. Dramatic images of violence that have captured public awareness and driven the national conversation include police officers across the country brutally attacking Occupy Protestors, politicians threatening to make Black American schoolchildren clean toilets rather than attend classes, and rebels in Egypt, Libya, and Syria fighting for their freedom from harsh dictators or religious persecution. Yet missing from our imagery is the portrayal of everyday violence that occurs in the lives of people simply because they are members of disfavored racial and/or ethnic cultural groups as defined by society. Such violence may occur at the individual level in the form of microaggressions, or at the institutional level in the form of laws or social policies, or as assaults on one culture by a more dominant culture. Violence of any kind may be experienced directly or only witnessed. In education, mental health services, and social policy, very little is known about the consequences of violence in whatever form to individuals, families, or communities of Color or non-dominant ethnic cultures. For that matter, there is no focus on the consequences of violence to White people as White people rather than as universal symbols of everyone’s experiences.

Violence may be intrapersonal, either in the form of doing harm to oneself or by internalizing other people’s assaults; it may be interpersonal, which includes intimate partner violence and child abuse and exploitation; as well as systemic, which includes bullying in schools, sexual harassment in work settings, and put downs in everyday life. Although physical and mental violence may be experienced by anyone, historically, African Americans, Latino/Latina Americans, Asian/Pacific Islander Americans, Native Americans (ALANAs), and related immigrant groups, as well as a variety of ethnic cultural groups have experienced violence, focused on maintaining their disenfranchised status in society on multiple intersecting levels. However, mental health practitioners, researchers, teachers, media, and policy makers have often failed to recognize violence stimulated by racial or cultural factors as unique and in need of focused interventions for educating or treating individuals effectively, as well as for eradicating the catalysts for violence.

In some ways, the negative mental health and social consequences of individual violence may never have been more apparent than they are today. Increased media exposure of suicidal and self-harm responses to person-level violence has triggered recent initiatives. For example, a great amount of attention has been placed on teen suicide and domestic violence. Celebrities frequently appear on television promoting “It Gets Better” advertisements for anti-gay (LGBT) bullying. Dr. Phil regularly dedicates his television program to “End the Silence on Domestic Violence.” Although it is clear that women, men, boys and girls, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors and colleagues are affected individually by such violence, perhaps in different ways, most recent attention has focused primarily on the experiences of White people without acknowledging that they are members of a racial group and, therefore, represent only one race-specific focus.

Advocacy efforts focused on violence experiences and outcomes for ALANAs and immigrants seemingly have not risen to the forefront of practitioners’ and researchers’ attention. Existing evidence suggests that ALANA and immigrant women experience high levels of physical violence from their partners, but do not seek and receive treatment or other types of support due to mental health stigmas and immigration barriers. Moreover, ALANAs’ efforts to deal with violence may be met with faulty legal, mental health, and educational services due to stereotypes of victims as well as perpetrators. Thus, it is important to identify, recognize, investigate, and include racial and cultural perspectives of service providers across a wide variety of societal domains in addition to considering the experiences of the victims and perpetrators of violence and the racial and cultural contexts in which they occur.
Both victims and perpetrators of violence are vulnerable. Experiencing, witnessing, or perpetrating violence can lead to or be the result of negative mental health outcomes such as anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Moreover, hostile racial and cultural climates may stimulate violence and influence the ways in which violence is manifested. Insensitive practitioners, researchers, and educators may re-traumatize survivors of violence or make their situations worse if they do not understand the many ways that violence intersects with racial or cultural personhood and contexts. Therefore, research, education, and training are needed to help practitioners and scholars sensitize themselves to the unique racial and cultural manifestations of violence and mental health concerns. Moreover, given that a collectivistic orientation characterizes many ALANAs and immigrants, the focus of research, practice, and policy should not be limited to individuals, but also should focus on families and communities. Furthermore, it is important to discover what types of risk and protective factors contribute to positive or negative outcomes of exposure to violence.

Examining contextual factors (e.g., policies, socioeconomic and social barriers) can lead to a better understanding of how to eradicate racial and cultural violence. Systemic barriers perpetuate stigmas associated with disclosing violent acts and advocating for personal rights and dignities. Victims of domestic violence, immigration practices (e.g., undocumented citizens), discrimination (e.g., religious, sexual identity and racial) and harassment are often subjected to limited social, political, and economic resources. Advocating eradication of chronic and acute violence through racial and cultural frameworks should be a priority for researchers, educators, practitioners, and political leaders.

Suggestions for Proposals

We invite proposals from multiple disciplines that seek to address violence from individual, community, or structural frameworks with an emphasis on racial and/or ethnic cultural perspectives. In an attempt to discover how best to recognize, treat, and eradicate violence and its consequences, we encourage researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and educators to advance the focus on violence by (1) sharing efforts to increase advocacy research, practice, and policies that promote awareness; (2) illustrating the importance of acknowledging violence in a variety of domains; (3) investigating the psychological, health, and/or educational impacts of violence at the person, institutional, or cultural levels; and (4) highlighting educational programs, support groups, and networks that facilitate collaboration among allies to better serve diverse communities.

Although many topics are germane to the Diversity Challenge theme of discovering what to do about race and culture and violence, some examples, which merit an explicit racial or ethnic cultural focus, are:

- Racism or Ethnoviolence
- Intimate Partner/Domestic Violence
- Bullying
- Self-harm
- Gang Violence
- Political Violence
- Protective Factors or Institutions
- Therapy or Psychoeducational Interventions
- Mental Health Symptoms and Outcomes
- Multicultural Competence or Racial Responsiveness
- Work Settings (e.g., military, factories, offices)
- Demographic Group-Focused Violence (e.g., sexual harassment, ableism, ageism)
- Religious Persecution
Conference Program Formats

**Workshop** (90 minutes) - An intensive presentation intended to share specific research, educational, social policy, or mental health experiences and/or skills, or empirically based knowledge about racial and cultural factors in treatment, research, and policy with an interactive and experiential focus.

**Symposium Panel** (90 minutes) - Three to five participants present individual papers with a shared racial and cultural theme from different perspectives. Symposium proposals typically have a chair and discussant.

**Individual Presentation** (15 to 30 minutes) - Formal presentation of theoretical, practical, policy issues, or research related to program development, mental health issues, community and school initiatives, and overcoming systemic barriers as experienced by individuals of all ages. Papers may be grouped together around similar themes by the conference organizers. Typically, 3-4 presentations will share a 90 minute block.

**Structured Discussion** (45 minutes) - Conveners present a theme relating to some aspect of racial or cultural factors and facilitate group discussions intended to generate new ideas and solve related problems.

**Poster** - Presenters display information with a racial or ethnic cultural focus intended to share information, interventions or research skills, or other experiences relevant to racial or cultural dynamics.

- For queries, including submission questions, registration and other administrative issues, please email isprc@bc.edu
- For up-to-date information about the Challenge, visit our website http://www.bc.edu/isprc
General Submission Requirements
You may submit up to two proposals as the first author.  
In order to ensure anonymity during the review process, please identify presenters and institutions only on the proposal cover sheet.

1. Proposal Cover Sheet (1 copy) - See presentation format specific guidelines for cover sheet.  
   Please include the name and address for EACH presenter who will be attending the conference.

2. Proposal (5 copies) - Each packet should contain the following:  
   - 500-word overview or summary that includes:  
     - Title  
     - Program format  
     - Purpose, goals, and objectives  
     - Methodology, conclusions, and/or questions raised  
     - Structure of presentation

3. Program Abstract (1 copy) - A 50-word synopsis to appear in the program

4. An electronic 120 word APA style abstract to be published in the official conference proceedings  
   Please send via email to isprc@bc.edu.

5. Envelopes: Two (2) self-addressed stamped standard-size envelopes for notification of receipt and acceptance/non-acceptance of proposal

Note: Proposals will only be considered once all materials are received.

Send Hard Copy Proposals to:  or  Online Submission Options:

Janet E. Helms, Ph.D.
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Tel: 617-552-2482
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Option 1. Download all proposal forms from our website: www.bc.edu/isprc. Email all completed forms to our email address: isprc@bc.edu. *No envelopes required
Option 2. Use the online proposal form found on our website. Please note: You will be asked to attach your written proposal document and abstract to the forms. (most common method)
Only the primary presenter will be notified via email upon receipt and after proposal review.

Proposals should be submitted by April 20, 2012

Proposal Review and Selection Process
Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent in late June, 2012. Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of quality and contribution to the study of race or culture with violence. An anonymous review of conference proposals will be conducted by a minimum of two reviewers.
Proposal Cover Sheet Instructions

On a separate piece of paper, please provide all of the information outlined below for your chosen presentation format.

Workshops / Individual Presentations / Structured Discussions / Posters:
- Title of Proposed Program (12 word limit)
- Each Presenter’s information, identify the primary presenter (include only those attending the conference)
  - Name
  - Title & Degree
  - Affiliation
  - Mailing Address
  - Telephone (home) & (work)
  - Email address
  - OK to print address in program? _____ Yes  _____ No

Symposium *:
- Title for Symposium (12 word limit)
- Title of each Presentation (12 word limit) with Presenter information (include only those attending the conference)
  - Title of presentation
  - Name
  - Title & Degree
  - Affiliation
  - Mailing Address
  - Telephone (home) & (work)
  - Email address
  - OK to print address in program? _____ Yes  _____ No

*Please Note: Symposium proposals require the following:
- A 500-word summary for the entire symposium and a 50 word program abstract is required as part of your proposal.
- Each symposium presenter must provide a separate 500 word summary/proposal. Please see general submission requirements.

Provide information for Chair and/or Discussant:
- Name
- Title & Degree
- Affiliation
- Mailing Address
- Telephone (home) & (work)
- Email address
- Identify one or both:  □ Chair  □ Discussant
- OK to print address in program? _____ Yes  _____ No

FOR ALL PROPOSALS / PRESENTERS:
- Only the primary presenter will be notified of the proposal’s acceptance/non-acceptance.
- Failure to include the above required information means that your submission will not be in the program.

REGISTRATION:  All presenters are required to register and pay to attend the conference no later than October 1, 2012.
Please complete and return with your proposal cover sheet(s) and proposal.

AWARENESS OF DIVERSITY CHALLENGE: Please tell us how you heard about Diversity Challenge:

- ISPRC Mailing
- Attended last Challenge
- Other (explain): ___________________
- Listserv (please state which listserv): ___________________
- Word of Mouth

PLEASE VERIFY:

- Neither I nor any co-presenters are under sanction by a licensing/certifying body in any state. (Please explain if this is not the case).
- I have permission from my employer/institution to submit the present application.
- Permission to submit this application is not required by my employer/institution.

PROGRAM FORMAT:

- Workshop
- Symposium or Panel
- Individual Presentation
- Structured Discussion
- Poster

FORMAT CHANGE:
If your program is not accepted in your requested format, will you accept an invitation to present in a different format?

- Yes
- No

AUDIOTAPING or VIDEOTAPING:
If your session is selected for audio taping or videotaping, do we have your permission to tape?

- Yes
- No

ATTENDANCE RESTRICTIONS:

- None
- Maximum # ______
- Minimum # ______
- Other (explain): __________________________________________________________________________

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS: Please note that several sessions are scheduled concurrently. If you or any of your co-presenters are submitting more than one proposal, please provide title(s) so that we can avoid conflicts in scheduling.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Please describe any special requirement, restrictions on scheduling (by day and hour), or other information not included above.