DIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Race, Culture, and Social Justice

Friday & Saturday
October 23 & 24, 2015

The Fifteenth in an Annual Series of Conferences Sponsored by The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch School of Education
You are invited to attend the 15th Annual Diversity Challenge: *Race, Culture, and Social Justice*, a conference sponsored by the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture at Boston College.

The Institute was founded in 2000 at Boston College by 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 generally. 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, and/or grassroots focus through the Diversity Challenge conference. **The theme of Diversity Challenge 2015 is: Race, Culture, and Social Justice.**

What is social justice with respect to race and ethnic culture? It is easier to say what social justice is not than it is to say what social justice is because it seems like social injustice is much more visible wherever one looks than is social justice. Racial and ethnic injustice comes in many forms and touches various aspects of people’s lives. Sometimes social injustice stimulates massive street protests of police killings of unarmed citizens of color, or it shows up as a prison system that incarcerates African Americans at nearly six times the rate of Whites, or as terrorists who abduct hundreds of African school girls with no consequences. Sometimes social injustice appears as an educational system that relegates people of color and/or minority ethnic cultures to second rate educations or forbids girls of color to obtain an education. Sometimes social injustice is retaliating against religious adherents for hate crimes they did not commit. Sometimes social injustice is not having enough food to eat or a safe place to sleep. Social justice should promote the well-being of all individuals and communities in society and, thereby, end social injustices in whatever form they appear.

Bringing social justice to individuals within populations and communities requires health care providers to develop mental health interventions that support the individual while also considering the effects of the unfair environments in which they live. Educators, police officers, policy makers, and community activists must be challenged to temper their reactions to traumatized populations by acknowledging their roles in perpetrating injustice. Researchers and scholars should be engaged in bringing meaning to the concept of social justice.

This year’s Diversity Challenge will explore a variety of social justice perspectives and issues and address mutual concerns related to race, ethnic culture, and social justice defined in various ways. Our goal is to stimulate dialogue and action with respect to racial or cultural factors and social justice.

**FEATURED INVITED SPEAKERS**

**Yveline Alexis, Ph.D.** Oberlin College, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies. A graduate of Cornell University, where she earned a degree in history and Africana studies, Dr. Alexis received her master’s degree and her Ph.D. in history and Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work examines race, diplomacy, gender, and memory studies in the United States, Haiti and the African diaspora. She is working on a book, Haiti Fights Back, about Haitian resistance to imperialism.

**Angela M. Borges, Ph.D.** Simmons College, Counseling Center. Dr. Borges has done counseling with underrepresented groups since 2007, specializing in the effects of trauma across the lifespan and the psychological impact of societal oppression. She has experience working with depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress, food and substance addiction issues, and many other mental health challenges. Previously, Dr. Borges worked as a domestic violence victim advocate. She is the co-author of a number of peer-reviewed publications on violence prevention and intervention and the intersection of social justice and mental health issues and has worked as a consultant on these issues with local colleges and agencies.

**Sylvia Chan-Malik, Ph.D.** Rutgers University, Assistant Professor of American and Women’s and Gender Studies. Dr. Chan-Malik’s research examines the intersections of race, religion, gender, and sexuality through critical frameworks of American transnationalism and comparative ethnic studies, with a specific focus on the history of Islam in the United States. Chan-Malik received her Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California at Berkeley in 2009, her M.F.A. in creative writing from Mills College in 2001, and her B.A. in English and ethnic studies from the University of California at Berkeley in 1998.
CRYSTAL EMERY, URU, The Right to Be, Inc., Executive Director. Ms. Emery has more than 25 years professional experience in the entertainment industry, having produced, written, directed and worked on productions throughout the United States and Europe. Ms. Emery holds a B.F.A. from the University of Connecticut, attended NYU Film School and completed cinematography classes with Briamne Murphy at UCLA. As executive director of URU, She has created a thriving non-profit organization that utilizes the arts to foster communication and understanding among diverse racial, social and economic groups about issues that affect urban communities. URU’s focus includes race relations, HIV, breast cancer education, disability rights, and world ecology.

CHONG-SUK HAN, PH.D., Middlebury College, Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology. Dr. Han attended college at the University of California, Berkeley and received his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Washington. His areas of expertise are race and sexuality, particularly the ways that categories of race and sexuality are socially constructed and multiple identities intersect. Before becoming an academic, Dr. Han was an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in both national and local magazines and newspapers. He served for three years as the editor-in-chief of the International Examiner, the oldest continuously publishing pan-Asian American newspaper in the United States.

LUIS RIVERA, PH.D., Rutgers University, Assistant Professor of Psychology. Dr. Rivera received a B.A. in mathematics from Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York, and a Ph.D. in psychology with a specialization in experimental social psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His research focuses on the implicit social cognitive processes that underlie the expression of stereotyping and prejudice and how such processes affect stigmatized individuals’ self-concept and health.

RODERICK WATTS, PH.D., CUNY Graduate Center, Professor of Social Welfare and Psychology. Dr. Watts holds a Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology from the University of Maryland. Dr. Watts’s work encompasses liberation psychology, manhood development, and sociopolitical development theory. For the past few years he has been investigating the connection between a person’s awareness of injustice and his or her willingness to act on this awareness. Trained in clinical and community psychology, he has worked with many nonprofit and community-based organizations, in particular in the area of African American youth development, and has been continuously involved in men’s group work for twenty years.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

8:15-9:00  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION
9:00-9:15  WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS
9:30-11:00  CONCURRENT SESSION
11:00-11:10  BREAK
11:10-11:15  OPENING REMARKS
11:15-12:45  INVITED PANEL
12:45-1:45  POSTER SESSION LUNCHEON
2:00-3:30  CONCURRENT SESSION
3:30-3:45  BREAK
3:45-5:15  INVITED PANEL
(SAT, OCT. 24 ONLY)
5:30-7:00  CLOSING CELEBRATION AND CATERED RECEPTION

Over 150 Presentations, Including . . .
• Political Justice and Cultural Diversity: The Student Activist Narrative
• Social Justice Education: Aligning Disciplinary Syllabi to Achieve Diversity Course Goals
• KEEP Calm and Rock the Boat: Mindfulness, Multicultural Training and Social Change

HOW TO REGISTER:

Online – at www.bc.edu/isprc

Mail – download a registration form at www.bc.edu/isprc and mail to:
Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture
Boston College, Campion Hall, Room 318
140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

For More Information – Email us at isprc@bc.edu or visit www.bc.edu/isprc
Campus Map, Hotel Recommendations, and Directions are available on our website.
THE 15TH ANNUAL
DIVERSITY CHALLENGE
Race, Culture, and Social Justice

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2015
BOSTON COLLEGE
CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS