CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 15th Annual Diversity Challenge

Race, Culture, and Social Justice

Sponsored by the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture
Boston College

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

Proposal Submission Deadline: April 17, 2015

The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture at Boston College invites you to join us for the Institute's 15th 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 2015 is Race, Culture, and Social Justice

Areas of Emphasis:

- Mental Health
- Racism
- Immigration
- Gender Equality
- Political Justice
- Discrimination
- Violence
- Public Policy
- Community Intervention
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Acculturation
Conference Focus

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 that they appear.

Ending social injustices requires recognition that injustice perpetuates suffering and inhibits growth at the individual, population, and community levels not just for the victims of the injustices, but also for the perpetrators. Racism and ethnoviolence committed against individuals, because they are visible members of racial or ethnic groups, may leave the offenders traumatized, hopeless, angry, and/or disengaged from their communities. Anti-immigrant laws and hate rhetoric may leave ethnic populations highly vulnerable to racial profiling, exposure to violent crime, neighborhood raids, and placement in detention facilities or the child welfare system. Related symptoms of injustice may go undiagnosed if one fails to recognize that underlying within-group violence, school disengagement, unsafe communities, and poor mental and physical health may be chronic experiences of social injustice.

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.

Moreover, large-scale action can play an important role in creating social justice. Community interventions may serve the needs of marginalized communities or foster relationships between privileged and marginalized groups. The development, implementation, and evaluation of interventions across multiple levels can foster positive change. Innovative and creative approaches are critical for addressing inequalities in urban education. Research may also act as a tool for providing evidence of change as well as provide a space for students, teachers, and administrators’ voices to be heard. Policy can also be a meaningful avenue for changing the ways our social systems maintain oppression.

Of course, it should be noted that social justice is not merely an issue for individuals and communities that are disadvantaged by injustice; it also should be a focus of intervention for those in privileged positions who directly or indirectly maintain socially unjust systems. Anti-racism and advocacy interventions that examine the race-related social justice experiences of the privileged are strategies for focusing on the power dynamics of social justice, but there must be more.

Suggestions for Proposals

We envision an interdisciplinary forum in which researchers, practitioners, educators, and social activists explore a variety of social justice perspectives and issues and interact with each other while addressing mutual concerns related to race, ethnic culture, and social justice defined in various ways. We invite proposals from any discipline that addresses some aspect of treating, teaching, studying, or intervening to understand or promote social justice among individuals, communities, or systems. Presentations should focus on developments in research, professional
practice, education, community activities, and activism pertaining to race or ethnic culture and social justice. Creative conceptual papers and models are encouraged. Our goal is to stimulate dialogue and action with respect to racial or cultural factors and social justice. Thus, strongest consideration will be given to proposals that focus directly on the 2015 Diversity Challenge theme, Race, Culture, and Social Justice.

Presentations may focus on virtually any aspect of social justice, but should address implications for individuals at any phase of the lifespan, communities as broadly defined or social policy. Specific topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Mental health research and treatment for symptoms resulting from social injustice, such as race-based trauma, PTSD, or school truancy
- Community interventions focused on changing socially unjust practices, such as anti-racism training, anti-hate workshops, or wrap-around school health initiatives
- Investigations of use of social justice principles to promote health and psychological well-being
- Implications of racial and/or ethnic segregation patterns on academic achievement
- Use of aspects of racial or ethnic theories, such as critical race and racial identity, to develop social justice interventions
- Highlights of programs, support groups, and networks that facilitate collaboration among allies to better serve diverse communities
- Studies of law enforcement as it pertains to communities of Color or minority religious status. Examples might include focuses on racial profiling or jury decision-making
- Evaluations of the effectiveness of community based programs/interventions
- Research, treatment, or practice with a focus on advocacy as it pertains to individuals, communities, and policies

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
- Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Institute-for-the-Study-and-Promotion-of-Race-and-Culture/109955092653

~ ISPRC, Boston College, Lynch School of Education, Campion 318, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 ~
Boston College
Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture
15th Annual Diversity Challenge
October 23-24, 2015

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 - See presentation format specific guidelines for cover sheet. Please include the name and address for EACH presenter who will be attending the conference.
   Note: All presenters are required to register and pay for the conference.
2. Proposal - 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 - 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 OR a valid email address 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.
Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture
Boston College, 318 Campion Hall
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Tel: 617-552-2482
Fax: 617-552-1003
Email: isprc@bc.edu
Website: www.bc.edu/isprc

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 upload your written proposal document and abstract to the form.
Only the primary presenter will be notified via email upon receipt and after proposal review.

*Preferred and Most Commonly Used Option

Proposals should be submitted by April 17, 2015

Proposal Review and Selection Process
Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent in late June, 2015. Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of quality and contribution to the study of racial or ethnic discrimination across the lifespan. 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, 2015.
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 ____ Poster

____ Individual Presentation ____ Structured Discussion

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.

____________________________________________________________