



**THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND  
PROMOTION OF RACE AND CULTURE**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Challenge**

# **Race, Culture, & WHMP: Survival, Resistance, and Healing in the Current Social Climate**

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

**OCTOBER 25-26, 2019**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: April 19, 2019**

The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture at Boston College invites you to join us for the Institute's 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2019 is Race, Culture, and WHMP\*:  
Survival, Resistance, and Healing in the Current Social Climate**

\*White Heterosexual Male Privilege

### **Areas of Emphasis:**

Mental Health  
Discrimination  
Education

Racism  
Academics  
Medicine

Intervention  
Prevention  
Migration/Immigration

Public Policy  
Mentorship  
Xenophobia

## Conference Focus

### Race, Culture, and WHMP: Survival, Resistance, and Healing in the Current Social Climate

There was a time in the US and worldwide when only the fulfillment of the needs of White (presumably) heterosexual males of privilege (WHMPs) mattered and a small group of them held all of the economic and sociopolitical power. To protect their illegitimate power, WHMPs developed laws and policies that supported neo-Nazis and Klansmen, “citizen” anti-immigrant border patrols, hate crimes, ideology, and violence against Black, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ communities. Violations of Indigenous people and their communities were rampant. As marginalized peoples and their allies began to assert that their lives mattered, it appeared that small steps toward redistribution of power might be occurring, until WHMP reasserted themselves. Now, in addition to the versions of oppression and disempowerment that worked before, WHMP appears in the form of White supremacists and Eurocentric policies banning immigration from predominantly Muslim countries, government kidnapping and imprisonment of Latinx children at the southern border, debasement of African countries, and enslavement of government workers. Moreover, continued attacks on the sacred lands of Indigenous peoples, the disappearance of Indigenous women, and harassment of Indigenous elders, mean the wounds from previous mass relocations and genocide cannot heal. Clearly in such a climate the physical and mental well-being of non-WHMPs are at risk.

This year’s Diversity Challenge focuses on identifying strategies for surviving, resisting, and healing from the rejuvenated hostile racial and cultural climate. Social media outlets, such as “Headspace” and “Calm Center” reveal that users are living with heightened fear, anxiety, and pessimism. Educators are reporting higher rates of school violence, bullying and racism, and disengagement. Health care providers are reporting higher rates of negative mental health symptomatology, including general anxiety, depression, chronic fear, and trauma reactions among their service recipients. Thus, one goal of Diversity Challenge is to discover what strategies and interventions educators, health providers, and policymakers are using to survive themselves and to diminish the harmful effects of nationalism, racism, ethnoviolence, heterosexism, and classism on the people they serve across the lifespan.

Nevertheless, not everyone is succumbing to feelings of fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. History shows that Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian, and LGBTQ+ communities find ways not only to survive hostile climates, but also to resist them and heal through spaces and practices that promote positive racial identity and cultural pride, such as religious rituals/organizations, community agencies, and the co-creation of art. Critical thinking, political activism, and resistance to internalized oppression have also been highlights of these groups individually and as communities. The availability of a multiplicity of resistance options often provides buffers against experiences of discrimination, systemic oppression, and the daily exhaustion of living in a WHMP dominant society. Organizing across artifactual group boundaries typically had led to the greatest social change, yet very little attention has been given to resistance efforts of individuals, interventions, or organizations in the mental health and educational fields. Thus, the second goal of this year’s Diversity Challenge is to increase awareness of resistance strategies and practices.

We envision an interdisciplinary forum in which researchers, mental health practitioners, social activists, educators, and government officials explore issues and interact with each other, to address mutual concerns related to race, ethnic culture, and surviving, resisting, and healing in our current political and social climate. We invite proposals from any discipline, modality, or persons with a relevant viewpoint. Potential areas of interest include: (a) mental, physical, and spiritual health at all levels of society; (b) educational opportunities and options for students and teachers; (c) community and national level activism; (d) cost-benefit analysis of activism; (e) perspectives on organizing for community, country, or global action. Especially welcome are existing or proposed interventions that can be implemented at multiple levels (i.e., individual, community, and national).

Presentations should focus on developments in research, professional practice, education, community activities, or activism pertaining to race or ethnic culture and surviving, resisting, or healing in our current climate. Creative conceptual papers and models are encouraged. Our goal is to stimulate dialogue and action with respect to racial or ethnic cultural factors. Strongest consideration given to proposals that focus directly on the 2019 Diversity Challenge theme, “Race, Culture, and WHMP: Survival, Resistance, and Healing in the Current Social Climate.”

## **Suggestions for Proposals**

Although many topics are germane to the Diversity Challenge theme, some examples that merit an explicit racial or ethnic cultural focus are:

- Exploration of the contributions of self to the marginalized others
- Coping with one’s own marginalization
- Mental health interventions focused on treating racism and ethnoviolence
- Self-care and wellness in reaction to the hostile social climate
- Educational opportunities focused on healing, resistance, and survival of students and teachers
- Transnational perspectives on healing and self-preservation
- Narratives/personal stories and observations of the effects of the current political atmosphere on communities
- Community development of resistance and strategies in response to oppression
- Community-based interventions and modes of healing
- The intersectionality of acculturation and racialization of immigrants as a form of marginalization
- Community responses to xenophobia
- Spiritual health programming/interventions
- Creative conceptual models of activism, healing, resistance, and survival
- Resistance strategies on the individual, community, and/or national levels

## Conference Program Formats

**Workshop** (90 minutes) - An intensive presentation intended to share specific research, educational practices, 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, 2-3 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. Structured Discussions (SD) may be paired with another SD or IP with a similar theme and share the 90-minute block.

**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.

- **Please Note:** All accepted presenters must register and pay for the conference by September 18, 2019 to be included in the conference program and receive Early Bird registration rates.
- For queries, including submission questions, registration and other administrative issues, please email [isprc@bc.edu](mailto:isprc@bc.edu)
- For up-to-date information about the Challenge, visit our website [www.bc.edu/isprc](http://www.bc.edu/isprc)
- Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ISPRC/>



**Boston College**  
**Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Challenge**  
**October 25-26, 2019**

## **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 email address for EACH presenter who will be attending the conference.** Do not include authors who are not planning to attend the conference. Names should not be included on the proposal document or abstract in order to ensure an anonymous review.
2. Proposal – A 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. Conference Proceedings Abstract - A 120-word APA style abstract to be published in the official conference proceedings

**Note: Proposals are considered only after all materials are received.**

## **Submission Options**

Option 1. (Most common method) - Use the online proposal submission form found on our website: [www.bc.edu/isprc](http://www.bc.edu/isprc). Please Note: You will be asked to attach your proposal document and abstracts to the submission form. **Only the Primary Presenter is notified via email upon receipt and after proposal review.**

Option 2. Download the proposal submission form from our website: [www.bc.edu/isprc](http://www.bc.edu/isprc). Email completed form with proposal document and abstracts to our email address: [isprc@bc.edu](mailto:isprc@bc.edu).

**Proposals should be submitted by April 19, 2019**

## **Proposal Review and Selection Process**

An anonymous review of conference proposals is conducted by a minimum of two reviewers. Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance is in late June 2019 via email to the Primary Presenter. **You must submit your email address with your proposal.** Proposals are reviewed on the basis of quality and contribution to the study of race and culture with particular consideration given to proposals focusing on this year's theme: Race, Culture, & WHMP: Survival, Resistance, and Healing in the Current Social Climate.