



## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2021**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – February 17, 2021 “A Brief Overview of Islam”**

**Presented by: M. Ishfaq Hussain, MD President of Islamic Society of Evansville (ISE)  
Kate Mehrzad, Former Principal of ISE Sunday School**

They will offer information about the practices and core beliefs of Islam, dispel common misconceptions, and discuss how the Islamic faith influences the social life of its followers. There will also be time allotted for Q&A at the end.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – June 16, 2021 “Immigrant Families”**

**Presented by: Juliet Aura, Doctoral Candidate & Instructor, School Psychology Program,  
Stephen F. Austin State University**

Research shows that the face of America is changing, with Immigrant-origin children being the fastest growing population segment. These families present with various strengths. However, they also face various challenges and often require emotional and psychological support. The purpose of this seminar is to provide an overview of the profiles of immigrant families and some challenges they face. Finally, some points to consider when working with these families and Best Practice in assessment and treatment of immigrant families will also be reviewed.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – August 19, 2021 “Hispanic and Latino Families”**

**Presented by: Dr. Roselia Juan, Psychology Resident, Deaconess Midtown  
Erik Barrera, University of Southern Indiana, Communications Major**

:A brief overview into the Latinx culture as well as common stereotypes and barriers faced in modern society. Considerations for medical and mental health professionals will be discussed.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – November 17, 2021 “Diversity Issues in Education”**

**Presented by: Dr. Vincent Jay Harper**

**Co-founder, Harper Educational Resources Incorporated**

Society is placing greater responsibility on educational and social service institutions to provide programs and services that give greater access and inclusion to marginalized populations. Unfortunately, professionals tasked with designing these programs and interventions frequently rely on traditional physiological theories that present bias representations of these persons. Many of the so-called ‘innovative’ practices found in scholarly literature, in reality, replicate or help reinforce deficit perspectives that misrepresent members of low-socioeconomic status, persons of color, and individuals with disabilities. During this session, participants will engage in collegial discussions that challenge traditional physiological theories and considers alternative psychological and theological approaches to better inform practitioner decision-making.

## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2022**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – January 19, 2022 “Affirmation: The Key for Making a Positive Difference in the Lives of Local LGBTQ People”**

**Presented by: Jerusha VanCamp**

**Children and Youth Director, First Presbyterian Church, Evansville  
President and Founder of Greater Evansville Youth**

Through personal stories and experiences, Jerusha shares the journey of acceptance, inclusion and the power of affirmation to change lives.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – April 20, 2022 “Jewish Faith and Culture”**

**Presented by: Gary Mazo, Rabbi**

In this presentation, Rabbi Mazo will highlight contemporary and traditional Jewish sources which speak to “diversity” and being created - each of us - exactly as God intended. The presentation will cover Jewish traditions, sources and practices with regards to inclusion, diversity, sexual identity, physical and mental challenges, etc.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – July 20, 2022 “Lebanese History, Culture and Related”**

**Presented by: Rana Zayek, faculty member of the Department of Psychology & Wellness**

Lebanon is a country grown from a rich, complicated history that embodies much of the human experience. Although sadly known for its longstanding political strife and sectarian conflict, Lebanon is a place where culture and landscape come together in a unique way. With snow-topped mountains and pristine beaches less than an hour from each other, it is a locale of great beauty. Yet much of the beauty of this region lies in the diversity of its people and its cultures, which continues to evolve to this day. With arguably one of the best cuisines in the world and a nightlife second to none, pleasure, passion, and artistry run from the main streets of Beirut to the ancient locale of the Cedar in Bcharre. This presentation is designed to illuminate the past and present of this much misunderstood land, and bring an authentic look at what makes Lebanon and its people like no other.

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – November 17, 2022 “Masculinity Socialization and Men's Mental Health”**  
(ZOOM/VIRTUAL)

**Presented by: Jesse A. Steinfeldt, Ph.D., CMPC**

**Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**

What does it mean to be a man? In this presentation I will provide attendees with a better understanding of the dynamics of masculinity socialization and its impact on men's mental health. Drawing from literature in the psychological study of men and masculinities, I will lay out specific models (i.e., Gender Role Conflict; Conformity to Masculine Norms) of assessing and understanding nuances of men's socialization process, and we will discuss ways that these models have been empirically connected to a host of outcomes, including depression, anxiety, help-seeking and others, as well as on-field and off-field outcomes for male athletes.

## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – February 15, 2023 “Obtaining Accurate Information from Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Forensic Setting”**

**Presented by: Kristina Todorovic, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology**

**University of Southern Indiana**

Children's forensic reports typically represent the primary or even sole evidence in child maltreatment investigations. A main concern in these cases is how to best communicate with children to gather the most accurate and complete reports while avoiding methods that elicit false information. To date, several evidence-based interview protocols have been developed and refined based on developmental science. Yet these protocols have been developed based on research with neurotypical children. Forensic interview methods may need to be tailored to promote accurate and complete reports in children with ASD while avoiding methods that elicit false reports. Children with ASD who have average intelligence tend to remember less information in their free recall narratives, but the information recalled is as accurate as neurotypical children. One way to combat this difficulty of retrieving specific episodic memories is by providing additional support during the interview. Taken together, children with

ASD can be reliable witnesses, but investigative interviewing techniques may need to be modified when questioning this vulnerable population to bolster the amount of accurate information provided.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – April 19, 2023 Racial Reconciliation**

**Presented by: Ubi Nweto, LoCK United President**

Makers of Racial Reconciliation is a 60 minute workshop designed to equip participants to think, talk and engage in both racial and ethnic issues in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus. The reconciliatory work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is used as a template for addressing racial tension and racism. Additionally, The MoRR Workshop prepares the church to address the racial tension in a manner that nurtures the ethnic unity of the church.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 “Neurodiversity: Origins, Current State, and Implications for Practice”**

**Presented By: Jamie Gaither, Ph.D., NCSP**

The neurodiversity movement has its roots in social justice and a movement from Autistic adults to reclaim a voice they feel was silenced via traditional understanding of disability (i.e., the medical model of disability). Increasingly, providers are confronted with treatment and/or diagnosis of children and adults who are neurodivergent. The focus of this talk is twofold: (a) to provide the historical context regarding the social model of disability and the origins of the neurodiversity movement and (b) to discuss the implications of this movement in clinical work for a range of presenting problems. Attendees of this talk will be able to describe the main components of the social model of disability, explain the origins of the neurodiversity movement, and name at least one recommendation or area of further study for psychological practice related to neurodiversity.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – November 15, 2023 *Decolonizing the Supervisory Relationship***

**Presented by: Warrenetta C. Mann, Psy.D. (she/her)  
Director, Wake Forest University Counseling Center**

“APA suggests that *health service psychology* is defined as the integration of psychological science and practice in order to facilitate human development and functioning” (APA, 2018 Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology). Modern training programs, and the demands of contemporary clients in practice, dictate that this integration include a lens that accurately represents the established role that systems of power, oppression and privilege have played in the mental and emotional distress of marginalized populations. Supervisory relationships can be critical to helping students integrate the science and practice of psychology that is most beneficial to deconstructing

systems that sustain psychological impairment. Supervisors have an obligation to help emerging professionals to:

- Understand the historic impact of systemic oppression on the development of psychological education and practice
- Identify the role of the supervisory relationship in the development of competencies for anti-oppressionist practice
- Identify ways in which supervision can use an anti-oppressionist lense to mitigate the impact of systemic oppressions on individual clients and practitioners”

## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2024**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – March 20, 2024 “Students with Visual Impairments”**

**Presented by: Phoebe Okungu, PhD**  
**Associate Professor,**  
**College of Education, RM #226**  
**Department of Special Education**  
**Texas Tech University**

Visual impairment (VI) is one of the low incidence disabilities that also present unique challenges to teachers in inclusive settings; hence, the need for the teachers to receive special training that will enable them to address the limitations that come with this disability. This presentation will highlight the definitions of VI, causes, prevalence, effects on learning and development, instructional considerations, accommodations in the classroom, and suggestions for inclusive education practices. We will also address/discuss questions that may arise.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – May 15, 2024 “Essentials of diversity for the work of helping professionals in community-based organizations”**

**Presented by: Lasheka D. Allen, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist Wake Forest University**

This diversity talk aims to create a safe space for honest introspection and reflection regarding diversity through the following four guiding principals

1. **Establishing a Safe Environment:** Foster an atmosphere where individuals feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences related to diversity without fear of judgment.
2. **Expanding Ideas on Diversity:** Encourage discussions that broaden our understanding of diversity beyond traditional definitions, incorporating various perspectives, backgrounds, and identities.
3. **Valuing Ongoing Conversations:** Emphasize the significance of continuous dialogue around diversity, recognizing it as an evolving topic that requires regular attention and engagement.

4. Sparking Positive Change: Motivate individuals and organizations to commit to actionable diversity initiatives, promoting an inclusive culture that supports growth and understanding.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – August 21, 2024 “Big Families In America: Important Considerations for Providers.”**

**Presented by: James F. Schroeder, Ph.D., HSPP and Amy Schroeder, BS**

The average household in the United States today has under two children, which is a significant reduction from prior generations in the 20th century and before. However, over the last decade, there has been a slight upswing in preference for larger families. This presentation takes a deeper look into the demographic factors and motivations/influences related to larger families. Focus is also placed on important considerations in working with large families in order to provide for the most effective, empathetic atmosphere. Finally, the presenters share some of their own experiences and perspectives as it relates to being parents of eight children.

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – October 16, 2024 “Beyond the Stereotype: The Influence of Culture on Perception and Identity”**

**Presented by: Sophia Okotah, Professor of Art and Design, Department of Art and Design, University of Southern Indiana**

Reflecting on an encounter that I had with a caterpillar over the Summer of 2020 during a turbulent period in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I learned the lessons of close-looking and empathy. This sparked my interest in the social ideals of diversity and equality among humans and how such inform our perception of the other on the grounds of difference.

Through my work, therefore, I seek to increase awareness and appreciation of the significance of diversity and equality. I call my audience’s attention to the afore- mentioned social issues by applying a cultural, symbolic, and figurative representations that force the individual to slow down and perceive, and to process information carefully and consciously before fully understanding the true essence of what is seen. I encourage the viewer to find beauty and meaning in unfamiliarity, realize the whole rather than the parts, and establish connections at deeper levels, to build more informed perceptions.

## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – April 9, 2025 “Bridging Communication Gaps: Psychologists Working with Latine Families and Medical Interpreters”**

**Presented by: Diana Rodríguez Quevedo, PhD, Associate Professor of Spanish, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Director, Eykamp Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Evansville**

Effective communication is essential when providing psychological care to Latinx families with child patients, particularly when language and cultural differences present barriers to

treatment. This presentation will explore best practices for working with medical interpreters to enhance therapeutic relationships, improve patient outcomes, and foster cultural sensitivity. We will discuss common challenges, such as interpreter role boundaries, confidentiality concerns, and cultural nuances that impact mental health care. Attendees will learn strategies to build trust with Latinx families, ensure accurate interpretation, and create an inclusive therapeutic environment that supports the well-being of both the child and their family.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – July 16, 2025 “Immigrants and Access to Higher Education in Indiana”**

Presented by: **César D. Berríos, Ed.D., Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office, University of Southern Indiana**

To earn a college degree is the dream of many American students. A college degree provides endless opportunities to grow, and it opens doors to various career opportunities. It is also a step toward upward mobility for many individuals, but what happens when a certain population’s access to higher education is restricted? How do immigrant students in Indiana who have gone through our K-12 system continue with post-secondary education? Are they able to? As the topic of immigration/immigrants continues to be a hot topic in our state and the nation, this presentation will explore the current landscape, challenges, and potential solutions regarding immigrants’ access to higher education in Indiana.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – December 10, 2025 “Faith, Culture, and Mental Health in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)”**

Presented by: **Darci Weaver, Postdoctoral Fellow**

This presentation explores the beliefs, practices, and cultural contexts of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (“LDS” or “Mormon” faith) and their relevance in clinical work. Participants will gain an understanding of the core framework of the LDS faith, clarify common misconceptions, and examine how spiritual beliefs intersect with mental health, identity, and help-seeking behaviors. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing both the strengths and challenges that may arise for LDS clients within therapy. The session aims to enhance cultural competence and promote sensitive, inclusive care when working with clients from this faith background.

## **DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES 2026**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – April 10, 2026 “Decolonizing Therapy”**

Presented by: **Juliet Aura, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, University of Evansville**

Historically, the field of mental health has been shaped primarily by Western and Eurocentric ideologies, influencing what is defined as “normal,” “healthy,” or clinically appropriate. These

frameworks have often minimized or marginalized non-Western cultural perspectives and contributed to the stigmatization of mental health within historically marginalized communities. This session examines how colonial histories and Eurocentric assumptions continue to shape psychological assessment and therapeutic practice. Moving beyond cultural competence, the presentation explores decolonization as a clinical and ethical framework that emphasizes power, positionality, and the potential for harm within Western mental health models. Participants will be introduced to practical, culturally informed strategies for assessment and treatment that promote ethical, responsive, and contextually grounded care.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – May 13, 2026 “The World Built Our Neighborhood”**

**Presented by: Ely Sena-Martin, Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center Executive Director**

Immigration and immigration policy have been central topics of public discussion over the past year and a half. While some of this conversation is grounded in accurate data, much of what is often presented as fact reflects persistent myths and biases about a population that has long played a vital role in the success of the United States. This presentation will provide an overview of relevant data on immigrants at the national, state (Indiana), and regional levels, along with a summary of recent policy changes and their impact on our neighbors. It will examine immigrants’ economic and demographic contributions, as well as the challenges many New Americans currently face. Finally, the presentation will offer practical ideas for how individuals, organizations, and communities can work together to ensure that all residents—regardless of country of origin—have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our region’s continued prosperity.