



Fourth Biennial Conference

*Opportunities and Challenges in Making
Transitions: A Multicultural Perspective*

Hosted by the
Multicultural Research and Training Lab
Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Pepperdine University

Saturday, October 27, 2012

Program

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are in Room 203

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast Served

9:00 a.m.

***Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Via Strong, Psy.D. Student
Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology***

9:10 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

***Keynote Speaker: Ilan H. Meyer, Ph.D.
“Minority Stress and the Health of Sexual Minorities”***

10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Break

10:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Session I Presentations
(See Schedule of Sessions for Room)

11:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Break

11:40 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Session II Presentations
(See Schedule of Sessions for Room)

1:00 p.m.

Buffet Lunch

1:30 p.m.

***Closing: Silvia Liu, Psy.D. Student
Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology***

Schedule of Sessions

Session I: 10:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Session I-A: ***Consultation with Dr. Meyer*** **ROOM 203**

Session I-B: ***Multicultural Considerations and Psychological Transitions*** **ROOM 339**

Presenter: **Kristina Laura Rodriguez** (krodrig@clunet.edu)
Affiliation: California Lutheran University
Presentation title: *The Utilization of Reflective Functioning with Hispanic Intimate Partner Violence Survivors*
Abstract: In working with Hispanic survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), values such as familism, marianisimo, and machismo may impact the development of Reflective Functioning (RF), i.e., reflection of one's own mental state and the state of others. This presentation examines the cultural values that best account for RF among Hispanic survivors of IPV.

Presenter: **Hollis Tsoi** (htsoi@alliant.edu)
Affiliation: Alliant International University, Los Angeles
Presentation title: *Stressors of Older Chinese Adults*
Abstract: This presentation focuses on the stressors that older Chinese adults experience as they age. The likelihood of increased involvement of immediate and extended family members in the lives of older Chinese adults and the growing Westernization of traditional Chinese values among family members may introduce stressors that affect the quality of life of the older Chinese individual. Awareness of such stressors would assist clinicians in more effectively working with the population.

Presenter: **Nicole Moshfegh** (nicole.moshfegh@pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *Well-Being in Middle Eastern Populations*
Abstract: This presentation provides background information on demographic, historical, sociopolitical, and cultural contexts of Middle Eastern populations in the United States; highlights the conceptual and empirical literature pertaining to the mental health of Middle Easterners; and discusses the implications for understanding and facilitating well-being in this population.

Session I-C: ***Navigating Cultural Transitions*** **ROOM 340**

Presenter: **Chinsun (Jin) Lee** (chinsun.lee@pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *Japanese Expatriate Youth and Developing Peer Relationships in U.S. Schools: Is Bullying Part of Their Subjective Experience?*
Abstract: Many Japanese corporations send their employees overseas temporarily, and the employees often relocate with their immediate family, which includes children. This

presentation offers a review of the literature relevant to developing peer relationships among Japanese expatriate youth who attend U.S. middle schools and how their Japanese values, beliefs, and behaviors influence the adjustment process. Preliminary findings from interview data will also be presented.

Presenter: **Neil Andrew Cortez** (neil_cortez@fuller.edu)
Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology
Presentation title: *Inang Simbahan (Mother Church): The Local Migrant Filipino Christian Church as Good-Enough Mother and Transitional Object*
Abstract: One common experience of transition in today's global society is that of migration. Utilizing Winnicott's concepts, it is argued that a local Christian Filipino church can function as both a good-enough mother and a transition object for the Christian Filipino migrant.

Presenter: **Joe Nee** (jnee@alliant.edu)
Affiliation: Alliant International University, Los Angeles
Presentation title: *The Multifaceted Process of Ethnic Development in Bicultural Chinese American Adolescents*
Abstract: The ethnic development of bicultural Chinese American adolescents is a multifaceted process that demonstrates the parallel struggles of acculturation and enculturation. Chinese American youth are expected to find a balance between two very different cultures. Raising awareness of this tension is an important step towards building a foundation of cultural sensitivity among individuals who work with this population.

Session I-D: Moving from Deficit and Positivistic Ideologies to Empowering Multicultural Constructs of Well-Being **ROOM 343**

Presenters: **Barbod Salimi** (barbodsalimi@fuller.edu)
Jeffrey P. Ansloos (jeffreysansloos@fuller.edu)
Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology
Presentation title: *Power and Pathology: A Postcolonial Proposal for Empowering Multicultural Constructs of Pathology*
Abstract: Multicultural research articulates limitations of positivist Western constructs of mental illness. Such constructs of mental illness constitute violence against multicultural identity. Using postcolonialism criticism, we critique this positivist approach and promote an alternative approach that empowers multicultural constructs of pathology. A transitional and developmental clinical application is explored.

Presenter: **Gera Anderson** (gera.anderson@pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *Understanding Well-Being among African American Adolescents*
Abstract: The experience of well-being among African American adolescents is discussed. In addition to family and peers, other factors relevant to the well-being of African American adolescents may include sense of community, positive racial identity, successful coping with racism, and spirituality. A new, multidimensional scale of well-being is examined for its applicability to African American adolescents.

Session II: 11:40 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Session II-A: Gender, Context, and Well-Being

ROOM 339

Presenter: **Nardos Bellele** (nardos.bellete@pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *The Impact of Social and Interpersonal Rejection on the Well-Being of Self-Identified Gay Women of Color: An Introductory Look at Current Research and Possible Future Directions*
Abstract: This presentation looks at the relatively new and burgeoning research on well-being in the lesbian population, exploring current factors associated with social and interpersonal rejection and identifying areas in need of future examination in order to better understand the special concerns for lesbians of color.

Presenter: **Christopher Nahumck** (christophernahumck@fuller.edu)
Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology
Presentation title: *Men, Disposability, and the Role of the Hero*
Abstract: Conceptions of masculinity within the United States are rapidly changing for today's males. The difficulty men face upon entering adulthood can be understood psychologically by examining the push by society of the Hero metaphor and its connection to disposability in the larger culture or society.

Session II-B: Multicultural Considerations in Assessment and Intake Practices

ROOM 340

Presenters: **Sung Kim** (shkim@fuller.edu)
Josephine (Josi) Hwang Koo (josephinehwangkoo@fuller.edu)
Shin Ock (shinock@gmail.com)
Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology
Presentation title: *Differential Item Functioning Analysis of the Asian American Racism-Related Stress Inventory Across Gender Groups*
Abstract: Using item response theory, this presentation examines the differential item functioning (DIF) between Asian American women and men in item responses on the Asian American Racism-Related Stress Scale (AARRSI; Liang, Lee, & Kim, 2004).

Presenter: **Sharon Birman** (sharon.birman@Pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *Clinical Intake Interviewing: Proposing LGB Affirmative Recommendations*
Abstract: The initial therapeutic experience is critical for establishing rapport. This presentation offers some preliminary recommendations for an LGB affirming initial therapeutic experience. The recommendations are based on a synthesis of literature on the historical experiences of this population, the psychological consequences of marginalization, and current psychological theories and practice for working with members of the LGB community.

Session II-C:

***Unique Transitional Challenges Faced by
Adolescents***

ROOM 343

Presenter: **J. B. Robinson** (jamesrobinson@fuller.edu)
Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology
Presentation title: *“Out” on the Streets: Unique Problems of Homelessness in the LGBT Community*
Abstract: Although a minority within the United States, the LGBT community has become both a welcoming refuge as well as a group with unique psychological needs. Specifically, there is growing evidence that suggests LGBT youth are at higher risk of homelessness than their heterosexual peers. This presentation examines the risk-factors that affect the population and offers suggestions for serving the needs of LGBT youth who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

Presenter: **Pamela A. Counts** (pamela.counts@pepperdine.edu)
Affiliation: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology
Presentation title: *Transitioning to Adult Centered Care: A Proposed Psychoeducational Group Program for Pediatric Patients with Sickle Cell Disease*
Abstract: Adolescents with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) have difficulty transitioning from pediatric to adult care. Programs assisting with this transition are scarce and there is limited information about this transitional period. This presentation offers recommendations for supporting adolescents with SCD who are in the process of navigating this transition.

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